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PSOs suspended for fiscal irregularities

GUWAHATI, Oct 8: Assam Police has suspended two personal security officers (PSOs) of singer Zubeen Garg after detecting financial transactions worth over Rs 1.1 crore in their bank accounts, a senior official said on Wednesday.

PSOs Nandeswar Bora and Prabir Baishya, who had been attached to Garg for a decade after a death threat from the banned ULFA outfit, were suspended following an internal probe, the official said.

"We found financial irregularities in their bank accounts. One PSO's account shows Rs 70 lakh, while Rs 45 lakh was detected in the other's account. This amount of financial transaction is much above their known salary income," CID Special DGP Munna Prasad Gupta told PTI.

Accordingly, both the PSOs have been suspended and departmental proceedings are being initiated, he added.

The duo was interrogated several times in the last few days in connection with Garg's death.

Garg died under mysterious circumstances in Singapore on September 19 while swimming in the sea. He had gone to the Southeast Asian nation to attend the 4th edition of the North East India Festival. Earlier, North East India Festival chief organiser Shyamkanu (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Assam Police arrest Zubeen kin Sandeepan

Boko-Chhaygaon police official gets 7-day police remand

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Oct 8: In a significant development in the investigation into the mysterious death of renowned Assamese singer Zubeen Garg, his cousin and Assam Police officer, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Sandipan Garg, was arrested and remanded to seven days' police custody by the Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) Court in Kamrup Metropolitan district on Wednesday.

The arrest marks the fifth in the high-profile case, which has deeply impacted Assam's cultural and artistic fraternity.

Sandipan Garg, who was present with Zubeen Garg on a yacht in Singapore on September 19, the day the singer tragically drowned while swimming, was interrogated by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) multiple times over the past week before being taken into custody.

The SIT, constituted under the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of Assam Police on the directive of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, is probing the case to conduct a transparent and time-bound investigation into the cir-



cumstances of the singer's death. CID Special DGP M. P. Gupta, heading the SIT, said that while the police had sought 14 days' custody, the court allowed seven days.

He added that Singapore-based Assamese national Rup Kamal Kalita appeared before the SIT for the second consecutive day for questioning, and that fresh summons would be issued to other NRI individuals who were part of the yacht gathering, subject to the legal framework under the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) between India and Singapore.

Gupta declined to provide further details as the investigation is ongoing. Sandipan Garg, an Assam Police Services officer of the 2022 batch, reportedly posted on social media earlier this week asserting that he had "fully cooperated" with the investigation and responded to every query during the "marathon interrogation session."

A senior officer told PTI on condition of anonymity that Sandipan is likely to be placed under suspension while the department verifies whether he had obtained proper government permission for his travel to (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Himanta to meet Singapore ambassador to India later this month

Zubeen case chargesheet to be ready within 3 months: CM

GUWAHATI, Oct 8: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday said the chargesheet in the investigation into the death of singer Zubeen Garg will be submitted within the stipulated period of three months.

"The Assam government will 'definitely ensure justice to him'," Sarma asserted.

"The inquiry is proceeding on expected lines. We have made one arrest after the other, and I am sure that the Assam Police will submit the chargesheet within the stipulated time frame," he said on the sidelines of a programme in Dibrugarh.

"We are duty-bound to provide

justice to him and we will not spare anybody in that context," he said.

All the accused will be taken to court, and usually a time of three months is given to submit the chargesheet, the CM said.

"We will not take more time than that to ensure that after the investigation, the court can give justice," Sarma said.

There have been some issues as the Assam Association members in Singapore, who were with the singer during his last moments, have not come yet, barring one, though they have been summoned by the SIT, he said.

"We are working on how to bring them back, and are making

the necessary arrangements in this regard. We need to have patience and if we lose it, no one will get justice," the chief minister said.

On the Assam Police going to Singapore, Sarma said they cannot go to that country, "just like their police cannot come here to investigate" a case.

"We are, however, sure that the Singapore Police will help us. We do not need much, but the video footage of the hotel where he stayed, the yacht and the statements of the two persons who operated it," he said.

The CM said he will meet the Singapore ambassador to India later in (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Tea tribe workers in Assam take out rally to press for ST status

HT Correspondent

TINSUKIA, Oct 8: Thousands of tea community workers staged a massive protest rally in Tinsukia town on Wednesday, demanding Scheduled Tribe (ST) status, land ownership rights, and an increase in daily wages for tea garden workers.

The demonstration, organised jointly by the Assam Tea Tribe Students' Association (ATSA), All Adivasi Students' Association of Assam (AASAA), Assam Chah Mazdoor Sangha (ACMS), Assam Chah Janajati Chhatra Sanstha, women's groups, and other local organisations, coincided with Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's visit to the town.

The protesters blocked roads at Thana Chariali and raised slogans highlighting the government's inaction on long-pending demands.

They accused the state administration of failing to fulfil promises made over a decade ago regarding ST status for tea tribes and five other indigenous communities, wage increases, and land patta.

Placards and banners carried by demonstrators called for recognition as Scheduled Tribes, issuance of land deeds, and enhancement of

daily wages, citing the inadequacy of current wages to meet basic living expenses.

Addressing the rally, ACMS secretary (Panitola Branch) and former MLA Raju Sahu criticised the government for neglecting socio-economic concerns of tea garden workers.

He highlighted issues including the sale of several estates, understaffed tea garden schools, inadequate health facilities, and rising prices making nutritious food unaffordable, leaving many workers underweight. Sahu warned that the agitation would continue and intensify if the government failed to meet the demands of ST recognition and economic upliftment.

Protest leaders later submitted a memorandum to District Commissioner Swapneel Paul, addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging urgent intervention to expedite the process of granting ST status and ensuring land rights for the tea community.

The organisers emphasised that the protest was peaceful and democratic, aiming to draw attention to decades of neglect and secure the socio-economic rights of tea garden workers. (With inputs from PTI)

CM's wife files criminal defamation case against Akhil Gogoi

GUWAHATI, Oct 8: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's wife Riniki Bhuyan Sarma on Wednesday filed a criminal defamation case against Rajior Dal chief Akhil Gogoi for alleging that one of her firms had participated in the North East India Festival in Singapore, where singer Zubeen Garg died.

Bhuyan Sarma filed the case against the Sivasagar MLA at the Kamrup Metro Chief Judicial Magistrate's court for making 'false and unfounded allegations that the Golden Threads of Assam had participated in a fashion show organised during the festival in Singapore.'

Besides Gogoi, a case has also been filed against the director of news portal 'Pratibimba Live', her lawyer Kishore Dutta said here.

Dutta said Bhuyan Sarma and her company have no relation with the festival or its organiser, and they did not participate in any event organised by them.

Gogoi had alleged that she participated in the fashion show even after the singer had died and the festival was officially cancelled.

Zubeen Garg died in Singapore while swimming in the sea on September 19. (PTI)

Police seize contraband fertilizer worth nearly ₹ 15 lakh in Dima Hasao

HT Correspondent

HAFLONG, Oct 8: Dima Hasao police have seized a large consignment of contraband fertilizer from a truck at Kalachand, under Maibang police station in the district.

According to police, the incident occurred on the evening of October 5 when a truck bearing registration number WB-65-E-1581 was involved in a minor collision while standing by the roadside.

A quarrel ensued between the truck occupants and the other vehicle's driver, prompting police intervention.

The truck, along with its driver and handyman, was brought to Maibang police station.

However, under the pretext of having a (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Suspected poacher killed in midnight encounter at Orang National Park

HT Correspondent

DALGAON/TEZPUR, Oct 8: In a dramatic escalation in Assam's fight against wildlife crime, forest officials at Orang National Park successfully thwarted an attempted poaching raid in the early hours of Wednesday, resulting in the death of a suspected poacher.

According to officials, the incident occurred around 12:30 AM near the Rahmanpuri Anti-Poaching Camp, when a patrol team detected suspicious movements and flickering lights approaching the park.

The rangers called out for identification, but the intruders opened fire, prompting security



personnel to retaliate in self-defense. The exchange of gunfire lasted several min-

utes amid heavy rain, dense forest cover, and near-total darkness.

Orang National Park Director Pradipta Baruah confirmed that the alert had been raised following information about poachers intending to target the one-horned rhinoceros.

He said a thorough search was conducted at dawn with the help of nearby camp elephants and additional personnel.

The operation uncovered the body of an unidentified individual at approximately 8:30 AM at GPS coordinates N26°34'03.4"E 92°17'54.3", along with a backpack. Baruah noted that the adverse (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Lurinjoti must listen to Zubeen's earlier comments regarding his party: Himanta

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Oct 8: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday launched a scathing attack on opposition leaders like Lurinjyoti Gogoi, Akhil Gogoi for their stand on Zubeen Garg's death probe.

Sarma told reporters here, "Lurinjyoti Gogoi has been doing politics ever since Zubeen Garg died on September 19 in Singapore. This is not acceptable and I would advise him to listen to Zubeen's comment regarding Lurinjyoti's political party while the singer was alive. I believe once Lurinjyoti Gogoi hears that, he will stop making unnecessary comments in the whole matter."

The Chief Minister also questioned Lurinjyoti's demand to see the postmortem report of Zubeen Garg.

"The death probe of Zubeen Garg is related to government, his family and fans. As a political person, Lurinjyoti Gogoi should not have any interest in the autopsy report," he added.

Sarma also criticised Akhil Gogoi and

said, "The Sivasagar MLA has been also doing nasty politics using Zubeen Garg and it is extremely pathetic to use the death of an individual for political benefits. The opposition MLA has not done any development work in the Sivasagar assembly constituency in the last five years and yet he is dreaming to win elections for another time basking on people's emotions regarding Zubeen Garg's death."

The Chief Minister further alleged that Akhil Gogoi showed bad gesture while paying last respect to Zubeen Garg when his mortal remains were kept in the Sarusajai sports complex.

"When we pay respect to the mortal remains of an individual, we generally bow down before the individual's feet; however, I have seen that when Akhil Gogoi went to Sarusajai sports complex, he was raising his hand after paying floral tribute to Zubeen Garg. I have those videos and I believe this was a pure disrespectful act towards a late person," Sarma said.

Kaziranga University clarifies Shyamkanu Mahanta no longer a governing body member

HT Correspondent

JORHAT, Oct 8: Assam's Kaziranga University at Korakhowa, on the outskirts of Jorhat, has clarified that Shyamkanu Mahanta, recently arrested in connection with the Zubeen Garg death case, is no longer a member of the university's Governing Body (GB).

In response to media reports suggesting that Mahanta remained a GB member, the university issued a statement on Wednesday evening, stating that his membership was officially terminated with effect from February 8, 2025, following a resolution passed during the Governing Body meeting on February 7, 2025. The statement noted that Mahanta had rarely attended GB meetings during his tenure and was not actively involved in any university functions in any capacity.

The university reaffirmed its commitment to a transparent and accountable governance structure.

The Governing Body continues to function effectively under the leadership of its active members, ensuring that all decisions are made in the interest of academic excellence and institutional growth.

Zubeen's death: Police to issue fresh summonses to 10 Assamese NRIs

GUWAHATI, Oct 8: The police will issue fresh summonses to 10 people associated with Assam Association Singapore in connection with singer Zubeen Garg's death as they failed to appear before the investigating agency within the deadline, a senior officer said on Wednesday.

Altogether 11 NRIs from the state were earlier issued notices, asking them to appear before the Assam Police by October 6, but only one of them came to record his statement, he said.

"We are going to issue fresh summonses to all of them who have not come yet. We will move ahead as per the legal processes," CID Special DGP Munna Prasad Gupta told reporters here.

Of the total 11 people, Rupkamal Kalita came to the CID office on Tuesday, and he has been interrogated for more than 24 hours till now, he

said.

Garg died in Singapore on September 19 while swimming in the sea. He had gone to the Southeast Asian nation to attend the 4th edition of the North East India Festival.

A yacht was booked by a few office bearers of the Assam Association Singapore, and they were present when Garg allegedly drowned.

Earlier, North East India Festival chief organiser Shyamkanu Mahanta, the singer's manager Siddharth Sharma, and his two band members - Shekhar Jyoti Goswami and Amrit Prabha Mahanta - were apprehended. They are now in police custody.

Zubeen's cousin and Assam Police DSP Sandipan Garg was also arrested on Wednesday and sent to seven days of police remand, the officer said.

He was present on the yacht during the alleged drowning incident in the island country. (PTI)

Scientists win 2025 Nobel Chemistry Prize for pioneering work on metal-organic frameworks

Susumu Kitagawa, Richard Robson, Omar M Yaghi win Nobel Prize in chemistry for molecular work

STOCKHOLM, Oct 8: Scientists Susumu Kitagawa, Richard Robson and Omar M Yaghi won the Nobel Prize in chemistry on Wednesday for their work in the development of metal-organic frameworks that dates back to 1989.

The Nobel committee said that the three laureates "have developed a new form of molecular architecture".

"They have created molecular constructions with large spaces through which gases and other chemicals can flow," the committee said.

Hans Ellegren, secretary-general of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, announced the chemistry



prize in Stockholm. It was the third prize announced this week.

"These constructions, metal-organic frameworks, can be used to

harvest water from desert air, capture carbon dioxide, store toxic gases or catalyse chemical reactions," the Nobel Committee said

in a statement.

Robson, 88, is affiliated with the University of Melbourne in Australia, Kitagawa, 74, with Japan's Kyoto University and Yaghi, 60, with the University of California, Berkeley.

The chemists, working separately but adding to each other's breakthroughs with research that dates back to 1989, devised ways to make stable metal organic frameworks — which may be compared to the timber framework of a house.

These structures can absorb and contain gases inside these frameworks, with many practical applications today — such as capturing carbon (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Opportunities waiting to be seized under India-UK FTA unparalleled: Starmer

MUMBAI, Oct 8: The opportunities waiting to be seized under the India-UK free trade agreement are "unparalleled", British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said on Wednesday as he kick-started his first visit to India after assuming charge.

Starmer said the trade deal is a "launchpad for growth" with India set to be the third biggest global economy by 2028.

The British leader, accompanied by a delegation of 125 of the UK's most prominent business leaders, entrepreneurs and university vice chancellors, landed in Mumbai this morning on a two-day visit.

Starmer and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold wide-ranging talks on Thursday to explore ways to further expand bilateral ties.

"We signed a major trade deal



with India in July — the best secured by any country — but the story doesn't stop there," the British prime minister said.

"It's not just a piece of paper, it's a launchpad for growth. With India set to be the third biggest economy in the world by 2028, and trade with them about to become quicker and cheaper, the opportunities waiting to be seized are unparalleled," he said.

Starmer said growth in India

means more choice, stability and jobs at home for the British people.

His visit to India comes two-and-half months after the two countries inked the landmark free trade pact that will increase market access, cut tariffs and double bilateral trade by 2030.

The landmark trade deal was signed during Modi's visit to London in July.

A British readout on Starmer's India trip said it seeks to build on the momentum from the UK-India trade deal as it will open access for British businesses to one of the fastest-growing economies in the world.

Following the signature of the landmark UK-India trade deal in July, which will lower tariffs on British (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Stock markets halt 4-day rally on selling in blue-chips RIL, HDFC Bank



MUMBAI, Oct 8: Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty closed lower on Wednesday, snapping their four-day rally following selling in blue-chip stocks Reliance Industries and HDFC Bank.

In a volatile session, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 153.09 points or 0.19 per cent to settle at 81,773.66. During the day, it hit a high of 82,257.74 and a low of 81,646.08, gyrating 611.66 points.

The 50-share NSE Nifty dropped 62.15 points or 0.25 per cent to 25,046.15.

Profit-taking in auto, real estate, and banking

shares dragged the markets down, analysts said. Among Sensex firms, Tata Motors, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bharat Electronics, UltraTech Cement, Trent, Sun Pharma, Power Grid and Reliance Industries were the major laggards.

However, Titan, Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, HCL Tech and Tech Mahindra were among the biggest gainers.

"Key indices witnessed a volatile session, tempered by profit booking after a sharp rally. Investor caution dominated ahead of the Q2 earnings season, as market participants reassessed valuations and growth prospects,"

Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited said.

"Markets traded sideways on Wednesday and ended with a mild downtick, taking a breather after the recent surge. After a quiet start, the Nifty moved within a narrow range for most of the session and eventually settled near the day's low at 25,046.15," Ajit Mishra – SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

The BSE midcap gauge declined 0.74 per cent and smallcap dipped 0.42 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, realty dropped 1.88 per cent, power by 1.49 per cent, auto by 1.35 per cent and utilities by 1.29 per cent.

However, BSE Focused IT surged 1.67 per cent, IT index jumped 1.50 per cent, teck (1.34 per cent) and consumer durables (0.37 per cent).

As many as 2,434 stocks declined while 1,740 advanced and 156 remained unchanged on the BSE.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) turned buyers on Tuesday, as they bought equities worth Rs 1,440.66 crore, according to exchange data.

In Asian markets, Japan's Nikkei 225 index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index settled lower. Markets in China and South Korea were closed for holidays.

Markets in Europe were trading higher. US markets ended lower on Tuesday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude jumped 1.16 per cent to USD 66.21 a barrel.

On Tuesday, the Sensex went up by 136.63 points or 0.17 per cent to settle at 81,926.75. The Nifty edged higher by 30.65 points or 0.12 per cent to 25,108.30. (PTI)

Sohani TVS hosts grand lucky draw event

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Oct 8: Sohani TVS, the authorised TVS three-wheeler dealership at Lokhra, Guwahati, organised a grand lucky draw event on Wednesday for its valued customers.

One of the leading outlets of TVS Motor Co. Ltd. in the Northeast, Sohani TVS has been serving customers with quality products and services since its establishment in 2019.

The event is being held exclusively for customers who have purchased TVS petrol, CNG, or electric autos.

TVS petrol and CNG autos, powered by Durafite engines, are widely recognised for their superior mileage and strong performance, while the TVS electric auto EV MAX offers an impressive range of 179 km and a top speed of 70 km per hour.

As part of the draw, one lucky participant will win a special prize of 25 grams of gold, while other attractive prizes — including televisions, laptops, mobile phones, and several exciting gifts — are also on offer.

Customers taking test drives or booking new autos during the event will be eligible for additional rewards. The scheme remains valid for all customers purchasing TVS autos until October 31, 2025.

NAME CORRECTION

I, Mrs. Agnes Angami wife of Mr. Aja seb Rengma resident of Rengma Baptist Church Complex, Diphu would like to mention that, My surname in my Birth Certificate is wrongly written as Agnes Rengma, the correct name is Agnes Angami. Agnes Rengma and Agnes Angami are the same person.

Sd/-

Fakharul Islam

AFFIDAVIT

I, Fakharul Islam, S/o. Akher Uddin Ahmed, Vill.-Jogipara, P.O.-Balabari, P.S.-Dhula, Dist.-Darrang (Assam), affirm and declare that my actual and correct name is Fakharul Islam. But, my name has wrongly been recorded in my Passport Vide No. M8483296 as 'Mohammed Fakharul Islam' and my HSLC certificate Roll N4-296 No. 14, year 1994, and other educational documents as 'Md Fakharul Islam' instead of 'Fakharul Islam'. Actually, Fakharul Islam/Mohammed Fakharul Islam/Md Fakharul Islam are the same and one person i.e. myself.

Sd/-

Fakharul Islam

AFFIDAVIT

I, Hasna Bhanu, W/O-Mahar Ali, R/O-Vill.-No. 1 Mazgaon, P.O. Daipam, P.S. Dalgaoon, Dist. Darrang (Assam) do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that I am a permanent resident of above mentioned address and citizen of India by birth. My actual and correct name is Hasna Bhanu. That my name has been recorded in the Bank Passbook of Assam Gramin Vikash Bank vide A/C No. 7356029012252 under Bechimari Branch as Hasna Begum in place of Hasna Bhanu. That Hasna Bhanu and Hasna Begum are the same and one person who is myself.

Sd/-

Hasna Bhanu

Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles goes live on Amazon, expands online reach across 40+ cities



HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Oct 8: Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles has taken a major step in transforming the way premium motorcycles are purchased in India.

Following its pioneering launch of classic bikes on Flipkart in October 2024, the brand is now live on Amazon, covering more than 40 cities, with plans to expand to over 100 cities this festive season.

Jawa Yezdi was the first to explore the potential of online retail for premium 350cc motorcycles, creating a benchmark for the e-commerce segment.

The Flipkart debut not only introduced high-performance classic motorcycles online but also set a record conversion rate in the first month, doubling the previous industry best for online two-wheeler sales.

Sharad Agarwal, Chief Business Officer of Classic Legends, said that if young consumers can book holidays or buy cars online, they should be able to own a Jawa or Yezdi the same way.

Starting with Flipkart and now expanding to Amazon, the company is making the ownership journey seamless while keeping the soul of motorcycling intact.

The brand's end-to-end digital

initiative complements its extensive offline network of over 450 dealer touchpoints nationwide, ensuring buyers benefit from the full GST 2.0 advantages.

Customers can complete the entire purchasing process online, from model selection to booking, and pay the on-road price at the authorised dealership, which also manages registration and insurance.

Amazon is offering easy EMI options and five percent cashback for Prime customers using Amazon Pay ICICI co-branded credit cards. Flipkart provides a 24-month no-cost EMI and five percent cashback of up to Rs 4,000 on co-branded credit cards such as Flipkart Axis and Flipkart SBI cards, along with exclusive motorcycle finance and insurance facilities.

All Jawa and Yezdi motorcycles are backed by the comprehensive 'Jawa Yezdi BSA Ownership Assurance Programme,' an industry-first initiative in this segment.

The programme provides a four-year or 50,000 km standard warranty, with optional extended warranty coverage of up to six years.

Riders can also avail of a two-year anytime warranty within six

years of ownership and one year of complimentary roadside assistance, extendable up to eight years.

Additionally, a five-year comprehensive AMC package ensures hassle-free servicing with predictable costs, offering a smooth and worry-free ownership experience.

The models available on both Amazon and Flipkart include the Jawa 350, 42, 42 FJ, 42 Bobber, Perak, and Yezdi Adventure Single Headlight, while Amazon has also listed the Yezdi Scrambler.

More than 40 dealers across over 30 cities are live on the platforms, with additional locations expected in the coming weeks.

Cities serviced by Amazon include Bengaluru, Belagavi, Gulbarga, Hubli, Madurai, Hyderabad, Sangareddy, Mahabubnagar, Nizamabad, Delhi, Jaipur, Bikaner, Saharanpur, Shamli, Azamgarh, Aligarh, Mathura, Rewari, Ambala, Bathinda, Srinagar, Dehradun, Durgapur, Malda, Angul, Baluagon, Bhubaneswar, Raipur, Jamshepur, Guwahati, Imphal, Pune, Rajkot, and Jamnagar.

Flipkart dealers operate in Bengaluru, Belagavi, Gulbarga, Madurai, Hyderabad, Mahabubnagar, Nizamabad, Visakhapatnam, Delhi, Kanpur, Azamgarh, Ballia, Mathura, Saharanpur, Bathinda, Jaipur, Sikar, Dehradun, Malda, Durgapur, Jamshepur, Jeyapore, Baluagon, Angul, Bhubaneswar, Imphal, Rajkot, and Pune.

By leveraging its success on Flipkart and expanding to Amazon, Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles has established a robust e-commerce framework for premium motorcycles in India, combining digital convenience with extensive dealer and after-sales support.

Design products and services that are easy to use, accessible for all, RBI Gov tells fintech firms



MUMBAI, Oct 8: Reserve Bank Governor Sanjay Malhotra on Wednesday asked fintech firms to design products that are easy to use and accessible to all to help India achieve financial inclusion and become a developed nation by 2047.

Addressing the Global Fintech Fest 2025 here, Malhotra also flagged the issue of growing digital frauds and made a strong case for making efforts to curb the menace.

Quoting Apple founder Steve Jobs, Malhotra said, "Get closer than ever to your customers, so close that you tell them what they need well before

they realise it themselves."

Adopt a customer-first approach, he said, adding, "design products and services that are easy to use, accessible for all, with assistive technologies, ensuring that the vulnerable groups such as the senior citizens, individuals with limited digital literacy and the specially-abled are not left behind."

He also urged the sector to prioritise trust and compliance as well as embed strong data protection, transparency and safeguards for consumers into every product and service.

Besides, he exhorted them "to think global while you anchor local. Engage with international partners, share learnings, adopt global best practices and strengthen India's role in shaping the future of digital finance."

By embracing these principles and building on India's unique strengths of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), he said, a vibrant ecosystem, a digitally connected population, enabling policies and a very deep tech talent, FinTech can bridge digital divides, foster healthy competition and drive innovation.

"In doing so, the FinTechs will not only secure their own growth and prosperity but also play a very vital and pivotal role in driving the growth and progress of our country and contributing to the vision of Visit Bharat 2047," he said.

Observing that India has a vibrant fintech ecosystem and the fintech industry has made it possible to deliver financial services at scale and affordable cost, he said, the country has close to 10,000 entities with more than USD 40 billion of investments over the last decade. (PTI)

Ather Energy marks production of 5,00,000th electric scooter

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Oct 8: Ather Energy Limited announced a major production milestone with the roll-out of its 5,00,000th electric scooter from its manufacturing plant in Hosur, Tamil Nadu.

The milestone vehicle is Ather's flagship family scooter, Rizta, which has quickly become a key growth driver for the company since its launch last year.

Speaking on the occasion, Swapnil Jain, Co-founder and CTO of Ather Energy, said that crossing 5,00,000 scooters is a major achievement for the company.

"From our very first prototype to today, our journey has been about

building not just vehicles, but a scalable, reliable, and consistent manufacturing ecosystem. This milestone reflects years of focused engineering, rigorous testing, and meticulous attention to quality at every stage of production. It also highlights the dedication of teams across the company and the trust and support of our owner community, who have been with us throughout this journey," he said.

Ather has developed a strong portfolio of performance and family scooters, with the Rizta emerging as a core pillar of growth, accounting for over one-third of total production volumes. The company has recently expanded its presence across Middle

and North India, focusing on tier 2 and tier 3 cities, alongside major metropolitan markets.

Ather currently operates two manufacturing facilities in Hosur, Tamil Nadu, one dedicated to vehicle assembly and the other to battery production, with a combined annual capacity of 4,20,000 scooters.

To meet growing demand, the company is setting up its third manufacturing facility, Factory 3.0, in Bidkin, AURIC, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Maharashtra.

The facility will be developed in two phases and built on Industry 4.0 principles, integrating advanced digital technologies into the manufacturing process.

Contd. from Page 1...

PSOs suspended for

Mahanta, the singer's manager Siddharth Sharma, and his two band members - Shekhar Jyoti Goswami and Amrit Prabha Mahanta - were apprehended. They are now in police custody.

Assam Police DSP Sandipan Garg, who is the singer's cousin, was arrested on Wednesday and sent to seven-day police remand. He was present on the yacht during the alleged drowning incident in the island country. (PTI)

Assam Police arrest

Singapore, as public servants are required to do under service rules. Earlier arrests in the case include Zubeen Garg's manager Siddharth Sharma and North East India Festival organiser Shyamkanu Mahanta, both apprehended on October 1 upon returning from Singapore and booked on charges of culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

Subsequently, two of Zubeen Garg's close bandmates, Shekhar Jyoti Goswami and Amritprabha Mahanta, were also taken into custody and remanded to 14 days of police custody.

More than 60 FIRs have been lodged across the state against Mahanta, Sharma, and ten others, including the two band members.

Sandipan Garg, who was serving as co-district in-charge superintendent of Boko-Chhaygaon in Kamrup district, comes from a family with public service background, his father being an officer in a PSU fertiliser company in Namrup, Dibrugarh district.

The SIT continues to question all involved and gather evidence as it works to unravel the events leading to the untimely demise of one of Assam's most cherished cultural icons. (With inputs from PTI)

Zubeen case chargesheet

October and "considering the relationship that Assam has with that country, I am sure of getting their help." "The Singaporean authorities have already sent the forensic report, and it will not be difficult for us to submit the chargesheet," he said.

Sarma said the investigation is progressing step by step, and if "we proceed in this manner without making any mistake, we will get justice".

"We are emotional people, but let emotion stay in its own place and allow police to work according to its methodology. If we lose the case in court, people will accuse us that this happened as the police had hurried, not taking all aspects into consideration," he said.

Five persons, including the celebrated singer's cousin Sandipan Garg, his manager Siddhartha Sharma, musician Shekharjyoti Goswami, Singer Amritprava Mahanta and North East India Festival organiser Shyamkanu Mahanta, have been arrested and are currently in police custody.

Zubeen Garg died in Singapore while swimming in the sea on September 19. (PTI)

Suspected poacher killed

weather conditions, heavy rain, and dense forest allowed the other members of the poaching gang to escape. Authorities said the incident underscores the ongoing threat to wildlife in the park and the vigilance of forest staff in protecting endangered species. (With inputs from PTI)

Police seize contraband

meal, both the driver and handyman fled, abandoning the vehicle. Suspicious of the circumstances, police inspected the truck and discovered it was loaded with fertilizer, although the accompanying documents falsely stated it contained rice.

In total, authorities seized 666 bags weighing 29,970 kilograms, with an estimated market value of Rs. 14,98,500.

Maibang Sub-Divisional Police Officer, Vaibhav Rawat, said investigations are underway and legal action will be initiated against those responsible for the illegal consignment.

Opportunities waiting to

goods being imported into India, the "door is now open" for British businesses to "turbocharge" their trade with one of the fastest growing economies in the world, it said.

Top executives of major companies such as Rolls Royce, British Telecom, Diageo, London Stock Exchange and British Airways are part of Starmer's delegation.

"We've shown there is no limit on our ambition to grow trade with India... in less than a year we've gone from restarting talks on a deal, to bringing 125 brilliant business leaders to its commercial capital," said Peter Kyle, the UK's Business and Trade secretary.

The deal is the best any country has ever secured with India and places British businesses at the front of the queue to access a huge and ever-growing market, he said.

"Now we are hitting the ground running and using every means necessary to ready businesses to take full advantage of the massive wins we've secured once the deal comes into force so we can deliver growth, jobs, and prosperity at home," he added.

India's average tariff on British products will drop from 15 per cent to three per cent. This means British companies selling products to India, from soft drinks and cosmetics to cars and medical devices, will find it easier to sell to the Indian market, according to the readout.

It said whisky producers will particularly benefit from tariffs being reduced immediately from 150 per cent to 75 per cent, and then dropped even further to 40 per cent over the next 10 years that will give the UK an advantage over international competitors.

On talks between Starmer and Modi, the readout said it will strengthen the UK-India relationship further, including through the Technology Security Initiative originally signed a year ago.

In recognition of technology as an engine for growth in the UK and beyond, the two leaders will aim to enhance bilateral cooperation across artificial intelligence, telecoms and defence technology to create new opportunities for businesses to invest and grow, while bolstering national security, the readout mentioned.

India is fast becoming one of the world's most significant technology players with the tech sector expected to be valued at one trillion pounds by 2030, it said.

Sean Doyle, chairperson and chief executive of British Airways, said the airline's ties with India were established over 100 years ago and it today has around 2,500 British Airways staffers in the country.

"The Free Trade Agreement with India will boost economic momentum between our two countries and British Airways really sits at the centre of that activity, acting as an enabler for increased trade," he said.

"As the airline that offers the biggest network of any European carrier into the North Atlantic, we also help connect India to the US and beyond, so when you add this factor into the mix, there's a lot to be excited about for our two connected economies," he said, according to the readout.

Manchester Airport will also launch a new direct route to Delhi operated by IndiGo, adding to its existing Mumbai service and making it the only UK airport outside London with connections to both cities, it said. (PTI)

Susumu Kitagawa, Richard

dioxide from the atmosphere or sucking water out of dry desert air. "Metal-organic frameworks have enormous potential, bringing previously unforeseen opportunities for custom-made materials with new functions," Heiner Linke, chair of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry, said in a news release.

Olof Ramström, a member of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry, described the trio's discovery as similar to Hermione Granger's enchanted handbag in the fictional "Harry Potter" series: small on the outside but very large on the inside.

Kitagawa spoke to the committee, and the press, over the phone Wednesday after his win was announced. "I'm deeply honoured and delighted that my long-standing research has been recognised," he said.

There have been 116 chemistry prizes given to 195 individuals between 1901 and 2024.

The 2024 prize was awarded to David Baker, a biochemist at the University of Washington in Seattle, and to Demis Hassabis and John Jumper, computer scientists at Google DeepMind, a British-American artificial intelligence research laboratory based in London.

The three were awarded for discovering powerful techniques to decode and even design novel proteins, the building blocks of life. Their work used advanced technologies, including artificial intelligence, and holds the potential to transform how new drugs and other materials are made.

The first Nobel of 2025 was announced Monday. The prize in medicine went to Mary E Brunkow, Fred Ramsdell and Dr Shimon Sakaguchi for their discoveries concerning peripheral immune tolerance.

Tuesday's physics prize went to John Clarke, Michel H Devoret and John M Martinis for their research on the weird world of subatomic quantum tunnelling that advances the power of everyday digital communications and computing.

This year's Nobel announcements continue with the literature prize Thursday. The Nobel Peace Prize will be announced Friday and the economics prize next Monday.

The award ceremony will be held Dec 10, the anniversary of the death of Alfred Nobel, who founded the prizes. Nobel was a wealthy Swedish industrialist and the inventor of dynamite. He died in 1896. (AP)

Initiative aims to create 'Lakshpati Baideus': Over ₹ 14.30 crore disbursed to support women entrepreneurs in rural and urban areas

CM distributes ₹ 10,000 each to 14,301 women under MMUA

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Oct 8: In a significant step towards women empowerment and rural livelihood promotion, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday distributed cheques of ₹ 10,000 each to 14,301 women under the Mukhya Mantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyan (MMUA) in the Tinsukia Assembly constituency. The disbursed amount, totalling over ₹ 14.30 crore, is aimed at supporting grassroots women entrepreneurs in both rural and urban areas—10,654 from rural and 3,647 from urban pockets of the district.

Speaking at the event in Tinsukia, the Chief Minister said that Assam has nearly 4 lakh self-help groups (SHGs) with about 40 lakh women members. These SHGs, he noted, have transformed the lives of many women who earlier were engaged solely in household responsibilities but are now contributing to family income and the state's economy. He highlighted the success of the earlier Kanaklata Mahila Sabalakaran Scheme, under which ₹ 25,000 was provided to each SHG as revolving funds, helping them to access bank credit and start income-generating activities.

Elephant electrocuted at Jorhat tea estate

HT Correspondent

JORHAT, Oct 8: A female elephant, estimated to be 6 to 7 years old, was electrocuted at the Dholi Samaguri Tea Estate in the Titabar subdivision of Jorhat district during the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday.

According to an official from the Titabar Forest Division, a herd of elephants entered an unoccupied tea garden quarter. The security personnel on duty fled upon seeing the herd. It is suspected that the elephant bit into a 220-volt wire connected to a submersible pump, leading to electrocution, though this has not been officially confirmed.

The garden employees informed the Forest Department at around 5 am on Wednesday. By the time officials arrived, the herd had already left the area. The exact time of the elephant's death remains unknown.

Former student leader Rantu Sarma passes away

HT Correspondent

NAGAON, Oct 8: Rantu Sarma, a former leader of the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) and a prominent figure in Nagaon's student movement, passed away on Wednesday at the age of 50.

Sarma, a resident of Puranigudam Bishayachuk in Nagaon district, was a former organising secretary of AASU and advisor to the All Nagaon District Students' Union.

During his tenure, he played a significant role in strengthening the students' union and was actively involved in various student movements.

His demise has sent shockwaves across Nagaon district, where he was known for his contributions to social and cultural activities in the Puranigudam area.

The news of his passing was met with condolences from various quarters, including the All Assam Students' Union, All Nagaon District Students' Union, and other student organisations in the district.

AASU president Utpal Sarma, General Secretary Samiran Phukan, Finance Secretary Gouri Sankar Saikia, and other leaders paid their respects to the departed soul. The All Nagaon District Students' Union, led by president Simanta Bora and general secretary Kankam Jyoti Baruah, also expressed their grief over the loss.



CM Sarma underlined Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of creating 'Lakshpati Baideus'—women earning ₹ 1 lakh annually—as a means of driving social and economic transformation. He stated that more than eight lakh SHG members in Assam have already reached this milestone through various enterprises such as preparing traditional food items, Bhut Jolokia cultivation, weaving gamochas, and garment manufacturing. Some women, he added, have even managed to earn up to ₹ 10 lakh, becoming 'Maha Lakshpati Baideus.'

The Chief Minister said the ₹ 10,000 distributed under MMUA is only the beginning of a three-year plan. Beneficiaries who use the funds productively will be eligible for ₹ 25,000 in the second year and ₹ 50,000 in the third year. The scheme's goal is to make every SHG member in the state financially self-reliant. The government plans to invest ₹ 4,000 crore for the first phase and ₹ 10,500 crore for the second phase of the scheme.

Responding to criticism from the opposition, CM Sarma contrasted the BJP-led government's

initiatives with those of the previous Congress government. "Earlier, people were given lungis and blankets. Today, we provide free rice, free medical care up to ₹ 5 lakh, free college admissions, bicycles for students, and monthly financial assistance under Orunodoi," he said. He also announced that from November 1, ration cardholders will receive pulses, salt, and sugar at subsidised rates in addition to rice.

The MMUA initiative also encourages women to take up various livelihood activities. In Tinsukia, 1,771 women applied for poultry farming, 1,559 for goat farming, 1,130 for pig farming, 1,087 for chicken farming, and 856 for duck farming—each receiving support proportionate to their plans. These projects are expected to boost the rural economy and create sustainable income sources for women.

The event was attended by Industries and Commerce Minister Bimal Bora, Labour Welfare Minister Rupesh Gowala, MLAs Sanjay Kishan, Suren Phukan, Bhaskar Sharma, Terosh Gowala, Director of Assam State Rural Livelihood Mission Kuntal Moni Sarma Bordoloi, and other dignitaries.

JCI Guwahati Hunar inaugurates classrooms in memory of Zubeen Garg

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Oct 8: In a heartfelt tribute to the late singer Zubeen Garg, JCI Guwahati Hunar inaugurated two new classrooms and a toilet block at Dhirenpara Primary School in Guwahati under its flagship project 'Prerna Se Ankur Tak.'

The inauguration was graced by JFS Ankur Jhunjhunwala, National President of JCI India 2025, as the Chief Guest, along with Zone President JC Gunjan Haralka. Prominent sponsors Padam Chand Patni and Suresh Kumar Bakliwal, accompanied by their families, also attended the event.

President Neha Gupta extended a warm welcome to the guests. In his address, Ankur Jhunjhunwala emphasised the importance of education and holistic child development. He noted that the improved infrastructure would provide a safer and more supportive environment for students.

Jhunjhunwala also highlighted JCI Guwahati Hunar's ongoing contributions to the school, including a previously constructed assembly hall, computer room, drinking water facilities, toilet blocks, and a playground.

The event saw the presence of several dignitaries including ZVP Sumit Poddar, Past Zone president Rajesh Gangwal, Zone Advisor Amit Patni, Chartered president Amit Kala, Past president Esha Gangwal, Zone Community Development Director Paras Saraf,



Secretary Ravi Kundalia, Treasurer Amit Bakliwal, JJ Wing Chairperson Navya Jain, and Project Chairpersons Ashu Gupta and Vikash Agarwal, along with Pinky Jain and other members.

A musical tribute to Zubeen Garg by a school teacher added emotional depth to the occasion. The school's headmistress commended JCI Guwahati Hunar for its consistent support and development efforts.

The program was anchored by Dr Pratibha Pasari, and a press release was issued by Project Chairperson JC Sneha Bakliwal.

IIT Guwahati's AI school graduates first batch

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Oct 8: The Mehta Family School of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence at IIT Guwahati has celebrated the graduation of its first B Tech cohort (2021-2025), marking a significant milestone since its launch in partnership with the Mehta Family Foundation in 2021. 91% of the 22 students were placed with top recruiters like Google, Microsoft, and Warner Bros Discovery. One student is heading to Carnegie Mellon University for higher studies.

Director Prof Devendra Jalihal highlighted the School's early vision in launching the program, which has proven successful in today's AI-driven job market. Rahul Mehta, Founder of MFF, called the achievement a realization of the School's founding vision.

Students worked on real-world projects in areas like deepfake detection, conversational AI, and robotics. Many achieved success in



national and inter-IIT tech competitions.

Head of the School, Prof Ratnajit Bhat-tacharjee, emphasised the diverse career paths of the graduates ranging from research to industry roles showcasing the program's adaptability. The School has over 25 faculty members and collaborations with global advisors from MIT, Purdue, and UCSD. It offers B Tech, M Tech, PhD, and Online BSC (Hons.) programs.

Special camp on Oct 11 to settle unclaimed bank deposits

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Oct 8: In a major citizen-centric initiative, the District Administration of Cachar has announced a one-day special camp on October 11, 2025, to facilitate the settlement of unclaimed deposits and funds lying with various banks and financial institutions. The initiative,

launched in line with a directive from the Government of Assam, Finance Department, is part of a broader statewide campaign aimed at helping citizens reclaim long-pending financial assets.

According to an official release, the camp will be held from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at multiple loca-

tions across the district, including the Old Conference Hall of the DC's Office in Silchar, the Co-District Office in Dholai, Sonai Revenue Circle, and the Block Development Offices in Lakhimpur, Katigora, and Udharbond. These venues have been strategically selected to ensure accessibility for cit-

CM inaugurates automated Vehicle Fitness Centre

State-of-the-art facility aims to enhance road safety, eliminate manual intervention in fitness certification

HT Correspondent

DIBRUGARH, Oct 8: A new milestone in Assam's transport modernisation was achieved on Wednesday as Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurated an Automated Vehicle Fitness Testing Centre near Lakhawal Polytechnic in Dibrugarh.

Launched under the state government's contactless transport service initiative, the fully automated facility is a joint venture between the Assam State Transport Corporation (ASTC) and Applus Iteuve India. The centre is designed to offer a transparent, corruption-free, and efficient system for issuing vehicle fitness certificates—eliminating the need to visit the District Transport Office or undergo manual checks.

Built at a cost of ₹ 12 crore, the cutting-edge centre

is equipped with automated systems to ensure accurate and standardised fitness assessments.

Chief Minister Sarma emphasised that improper vehicle fitness is a major factor in road accidents across Assam. "This facility is a step forward in improving road safety and ensuring compliance with vehicle standards," he said.

The centre also includes a mobile testing unit to provide on-site fitness certification for three-wheelers, enhancing accessibility for vehicle owners.

The inauguration was attended by Minister Prashanta Phukan, Jogen Mohan, Bimal Borah, MP Pallab Lochan Das, MLA's Binod Hazarika, Punakon Baruah, Taranga Gogoi, Chakradhar Gogoi, and other dignitaries.

Seed museum and sprinkler system inaugurated at AAU

HT Correspondent

JORHAT, Oct 8: In a move to promote seed resource conservation and sustainable agricultural practices, the Assam Agricultural University (AAU), Jorhat, inaugurated a Seed Museum and a modern Sprinkler Irrigation System at its campus on Wednesday. Both facilities were launched under the AICRP on Seed (Crops) at the Department of Plant Breeding & Genetics.

The inaugural ceremony was led by Dr Bidyut Chandan Deka, Vice-Chancellor of AAU, Jorhat, in the presence of Dr Sanjay Kumar Chetia, Director of Research (Agri.), Dr Mrinal Saikia, Associate Director of Research & Nodal Officer, AICRP on Seed (Crops), and Dr R K Saud, Associate Director of Extension Education.

The newly opened Seed Museum houses 386 seed samples collected from across Assam, showcasing the state's rich genetic diversity and traditional crop varieties. It is expected to be a valuable resource for students, researchers, and farmers interested in seed biodiversity and conservation methods.

Alongside, the Sprinkler Irrigation System, set up at the Quality Seed Production Plot, covers an area of 0.5 hectares. The system is designed to enhance water use efficiency, improve the quality of seed production, and serve as a model for advanced irrigation techniques.

The event was attended by a host of dignitaries, including Dr Kishore Kr Sharma Head, Department of Plant Breeding & Genetics, Dr Kalyan Pathak Head, Department of Agronomy, Dr Hiranya Kumar Borah Chief Scientist, AAU-ZRS, Shillongani and Dr Bharat Chandra Nath, Dr Abhilisa Mudoji, Scientists under AICRP on Seed (Crops), along with faculty members, departmental staff, and farm managers from the ICR Farm, AAU.

The inauguration marks a significant step in AAU's ongoing commitment to blending traditional conservation with modern innovation to strengthen agriculture in the region.



FIR filed against CM for alleged remarks against ST women

HT Correspondent

KHERONI, Oct 8: Charisma Rongpipi, Media Chairperson of the Karbi Anglong District Congress Committee (KADCC) and media panelist of the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC), along with other Congress members, filed a First Information Report (FIR) against Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma at Diphu Police Station on Wednesday around 2 PM.

The FIR alleges that remarks made by the Chief Minister during his speech at the launch of the Arunodoi 3.0 scheme in Khanapara on October 7 "outraged the modesty of women" and amounted to "intentional insult and humiliation of Scheduled Tribe women who are Congress workers and their mothers."

Titled "Complaint against Himanta Biswa Sarma, Chief Minister of Assam, For Outraging the Modesty of Women, Intentional Insult and Humiliation of Scheduled Tribe Women who are Congress Workers, and their Mothers," the FIR was lodged under relevant legal provisions.

Congress leaders condemned the remarks as "derogatory and disrespectful towards women," demanding strict legal action. Police have confirmed receipt of the FIR and stated that it is currently under preliminary examination. Further developments are awaited.

Elephant attack during morning walk leaves woman dead

HT Correspondent
MORIGAO, Oct 8: In a tragic incident, a woman lost her life following an attack by a wild elephant in the Habirangabari area of Assam's Morigaon district on Wednesday morning.

The victim, identified as 55-

year-old Swarnali Devi, was reportedly out for her regular morning walk when the elephant attacked her. She was immediately rushed to Morigaon Sahid Tilak Hemram Gunabhiram Civil Hospital, but sadly succumbed to her injuries during treatment.

The incident has sparked panic among local residents, who have raised concerns over the growing presence of wild elephants in the region. They have urged forest officials to implement effective preventive measures to avoid such tragedies in the future.

Private clinics to register under Clinical Establishments Act

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Oct 8: In a bid to ensure accountability, transparency, and adherence to quality standards in the private healthcare sector, the District Administration of Cachar, in coordination with the District Health Society, has issued a strict directive mandating all private health establishments in the district to register under the Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010.

As per the directive, the Act enforced in Assam since December 10, 2015 requires compulsory registration of all clinical establishments operating in the state. Non-compliance will attract penalties ranging from ₹ 50,000 to ₹ 5 lakh, based on the severity of the violation.

Despite earlier notices, officials have found that several private hospitals, nursing homes, diagnostic centres, pathological labs, and doctor chambers continue to function without valid registration—an outright breach of the law. The latest order from the Joint Director of Health

Services, Cachar, issued on Wednesday, mandates that all such establishments—including those operating from residential or commercial premises, such as pharmacies with attached doctor chambers and dental clinics must register immediately.

The order also extends to practitioners of all recognized systems of medicine, including Allopathy (Medical and Dental) and AYUSH disciplines like Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, Homoeopathy, Yoga, Naturopathy, and Sowa Rigpa. They must register their establishments within 15 days from the date of issuance of the directive.

Dr Shibananda Roy, Joint Director of Health Services, Cachar, stated that the registration process is vital for ensuring that healthcare units meet minimum prescribed standards of infrastructure, equipment, and manpower. "The initiative is not punitive but reformative. It seeks to protect patient rights and ensure uniform quality healthcare delivery across the district," he said.

CSIR-NEIST launches India's first decaffeinated black tea

Indigenous technology developed in Jorhat to meet growing demand for caffeine-free tea

HT Correspondent

JORHAT, Oct 8: India's first decaffeinated black tea, developed using indigenous technology by scientists at the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - North East Institute of Science and Technology (CSIR-NEIST), Jorhat, was recently launched by Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh.

According to a press communiqué issued by CSIR-NEIST, the tea was unveiled during the two-day 'CSIR Super Model Store' event held from September 24 to 26 at Dilli Haat, New Delhi, as part of the 84th CSIR Day celebrations. The event showcased and sold products from various entrepreneurs and industries across India based on CSIR technologies.



Caffeine, a key component of tea, can cause health issues such as sleep disturbances, anxiety, cardiovascular concerns, and diuretic effects. The decaffeina-

tion process developed by CSIR-NEIST removes most of the caffeine content while preserving beneficial polyphenols, making it a healthier alternative for tea drinkers. With increasing demand for caffeine-free beverages, this technology addresses a significant market need.

During the event, the decaffeination technology was officially transferred to two parties in the presence of Dr Jitendra Singh, CSIR Director General Dr N Kalaiselvi, CSIR-NEIST Director Dr Virendra M Tiwari, New Delhi MP Bansuri Swaraj, and INSA president professor Ashutosh Sharma.

The dignitaries lauded CSIR-NEIST's innovation and contribution to scientific research, particularly in developing consumer-centric technologies with potential health benefits.

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NOTICE

In continuation this to Commission's advertisement No.SLRC-G-III/91/Advertisement/2023/2, dated 30/10/2023 and subsequent notices, this is for information of all concerned candidates who had appeared in skill tests under the State Level Recruitment Commission for Class-III Posts that the results will be declared on **10th October, 2025** and the candidates can view their provisional results by logging into the official website of Assam State School Education Board (ASSEB), Div-I sebaonline.org and Assam Govt. website www.assam.gov.in with their application number and password from **2.00 P.M.** onwards.

For technical support, candidates may call help desk number- **9582390056 (Monday to Saturday: 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM).**

Sd/-
Secretary,
State Level Recruitment Commission for Class-III Posts
AASC, Khanapara, Guwahati-22.

DIPR /D/HLT/192/9-Oct-25

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Zeal will do more than knowledge
—William Hazlitt

Demand for two LS seats from Ladakh

The leaderships of Shia-dominated Kargil and Buddhist-dominated Leh district usually don't have much in common. However, nowadays, the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) have joined hands. They are supporting one another against what is perceived by most of the leaders of these two conglomerates as a common adversary, the Central government. Right from 1947 till 2025, the present era, the two districts have existed as distinctly different regions, in ethos and in politics. In the year 2002, such was the stranglehold of the Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA) that its front Ladakh Union Territory Front (LUTF) vetoed assembly elections in Leh. It virtually nominated Nawang Rigzin Jora as MLA from Leh and Sonam Norboo as MLA from Nubra and no candidate dared fill forms against them. Jora and Norboo were elected unopposed from the two seats of Leh district. Before that, Tsetan Namgyal of the National Conference (NC) had won from Nubra in 1996 and was a Minister of State (MoS) in Dr Farooq Abdullah's ministry. One of the main demands of those who are leading the agitation in Ladakh at present is regarding two Lok Sabha seats for the two districts. What it means is that Kargil district should have one MP and Leh another. Presently, Kargil and Leh district together elect one Lok Sabha MP. In most of the past Lok Sabha elections, the tussle has been between candidates of the two districts. Kargil district has almost always backed a Shia from the district while Leh gravitates towards a Buddhist.

The Leh Lok Sabha seat was allotted to the Congress in 2024 and a Leh Buddhist Tsering Namgyal became its candidate. The BJP fielded Tashi Gyalson, also from Leh district, another Buddhist like Namgyal. The Shia leadership of Kargil revolted against this decision of the National Conference (NC) to concede the seat to the Congress. In that election, Independent Mohamad Haneefa, someone who had lost the councillor election for Ladakh Autonomous Hill District Council (LAHDC). Under 84th Constitutional amendment, passed during Atal Behari Vajpayee's tenure as Prime Minister, enacted in 2001, the constitutional freeze on delimitation was extended. As such, the number of Lok Sabha seats cannot be increased. This was done until the first census after 2026, with the intention of not penalizing states that controlled their population growth. This amendment aimed to maintain the existing population-based representation in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies and was intended to allow population control measures to take effect without immediately impacting political representation.

As such, the increase in the number of Lok Sabha MPs in the Ladakh region, in isolation as being sought by Kargil and Leh leaders, is not possible. Much like the impractical demand for statehood with a legislature, the demand for two MPs also seems such that cannot be conceded.

Zubeen Garg: A life in music and humanity

By: Satyabrata Borah

The words of Zubeen Garg, a legendary figure in Assamese music, resonate deeply with those who cherish his artistry: "People listen to my songs casually now, but after my passing, they will understand them and find me in my music." These words, spoken with the childlike innocence that defined his persona, reveal a profound foresight, almost as if he were a prophet of his own legacy. Indeed, Zubeen Garg, with his extraordinary talent and boundless empathy, seems to have understood the timeless impact his work would have. Today, in the wake of his departure, his songs have become more than melodies; they are vessels carrying his spirit, his emotions, and his vision for a better world. Each lyric, each note, feels like a conversation with the man himself, stirring hearts to tears and awakening a deeper appreciation for his artistry. His music videos, watched with unwavering attention, evoke a sense of closeness, as if Zubeen is still present, singing directly to the soul. His songs have become a sanctuary where fans find solace, rediscovering him time and again within the melodies that echo his essence.

Zubeen Garg was not just a singer; he was a humanitarian, a beacon of compassion whose life's work seemed dedicated to the downtrodden, the overlooked, and the suffering. His music transcended entertainment, becoming a medium through which he connected with the masses, regardless of caste, class, or creed. In his absence, the void he has left is palpable, not just in Assam but across the hearts of those who were touched by his voice and his values. The entire Assamese community feels orphaned, grappling with the loss of a man who was more than an artist—he was a symbol of unity, justice, and humanity. Zubeen's life was a testament to breaking barriers, whether social, economic, or cultural. Through his music, he sought to foster peace, fairness, and togetherness, weaving these ideals into the fabric of his songs. Today, the people of Assam are beginning to grasp the depth of his intentions, realizing that his work was not merely about melodies but about planting seeds of compassion and unity in society.

Zubeen Garg's legacy is woven into the very heartbeat of Assam. His songs are not just music; they are lifelines that connect generations, emotions, and aspirations. To listen to his voice is to be transported—to fall asleep to the soothing strains of his ballads or to greet the dawn with the uplifting energy of his anthems. His music is a journey, one that carries listeners through moments of joy, sorrow, love, and reflection.

In every chord, in every word, Zubeen lives on, immortalized in the hearts of those who find him in his songs. His ability to touch the soul was not limited to his performances on stage or screen; it extended to his interactions with people, his humility, and his unwavering commitment to the marginalized. He was a man who sang for the voiceless, who used his platform to advocate for those who could not speak for themselves. His concerts were not just musical events but gatherings where people from all walks of life came together, united by the power of his voice and the sincerity of his message.

The universality of Zubeen's music lies in its simplicity and its sincerity. He had an uncanny ability to capture the human experience, its joys, its pains, its struggles, and its triumphs in a way that resonated with everyone. Whether it was a soulful ballad about unrequited love or an ener-

getic anthem celebrating life, his songs carried an authenticity that spoke to the heart. His lyrics were poetry, his melodies were stories, and his performances were acts of love. He sang not for fame or fortune but for the people, for the shared human experience that binds us all. This is why, even after his passing, his music continues to hold such power. It is not just about the notes or the rhythms but about the emotions they evoke, the memories they stir, and the sense of connection they foster. To listen to a Zubeen Garg song today is to feel his presence, to hear his laughter, to see his smile, and to remember the man who gave so much of himself to his art and his people.

Zubeen's contribution to Assamese culture goes beyond music. He was a cultural icon, a figure who embodied the spirit of Assam while embracing the diversity of the world around him. His songs were steeped in the traditions of Assam, drawing from its folk melodies, its rhythms, and its stories, yet they carried a universal appeal that transcended regional boundaries. He sang in multiple languages, collaborated with artists from different backgrounds, and brought Assamese music to a global stage. But more than that, he brought people together. In a world often divided by differences, Zubeen's music was a bridge, a reminder of our shared humanity. His concerts were a celebration of this unity, where rich and poor, young and old, stood side by side, swaying to the rhythm of his voice. His performances were not just about singing; they were about creating moments of collective joy, moments where differences melted away, and all that remained was the music.

The grief that has enveloped Assam since Zubeen's passing is a testament to the depth of his impact. He was not just a celebrity but a beloved son, a brother, a friend to millions. His childlike spirit, his infectious laughter, and his genuine kindness endeared him to everyone he met. He was a man who wore his heart on his sleeve, who lived with passion and purpose, and who never shied away from standing up for what he believed in. His music was an extension of this spirit, a reflection of his love for life, his empathy for others, and his unwavering belief in the power of art to heal and unite. In his songs, he poured his soul, leaving behind a legacy that will continue to inspire and uplift for generations to come.

Today, as we listen to Zubeen's songs, we are reminded of the man he was and the values he stood for. His music is a mirror, reflecting the beauty and pain of the human experience. It is a reminder to live with kindness, to love without prejudice, and to find joy in the simple things. His songs are not just melodies but lessons such as lessons in compassion, resilience, and hope. They teach us to cherish the present, to honor the past, and to dream of a better future. In every note, Zubeen Garg lives on, guiding us, comforting us, and reminding us of the power of music to transcend time and space.

His voice is eternal, a beacon of light in moments of darkness, a source of strength in times of weakness. As we listen to his songs, we find him not just in the music but in the emotions they stir, in the memories they evoke, and in the unity they inspire. Zubeen Garg may no longer be with us in body, but his spirit lives on in the hearts of the Assamese people, in the melodies that echo through the hills and valleys of Assam, and in the love that binds us all. His songs will continue to be our lullabies, our anthems, and our solace, ensuring that Zubeen Garg, the heartbeat of Assam, remains forever alive in our souls.

The power of Mother tongue in education

Educational equity also hinges on preserving minority and tribal languages. UNESCO warns that half of the world's estimated 7,000 languages face extinction by century's end. Each lost language erases unique ways of knowing, traditional ecological insights, and oral literature that no translation can fully capture

Language is the invisible architecture of the mind. From the moment a child utters their first word, their mother tongue becomes the lens through which they interpret the world, internalize concepts, and express their deepest thoughts. In classrooms across the globe, the medium of instruction profoundly shapes learning outcomes, emotional well-being, and cultural identity. Recognizing the power of mother tongue in education is not an abstract ideal; it is a practical necessity for forging confident, capable learners and preserving the rich tapestry of human heritage.

Decades of cognitive research affirm that children learn most effectively when taught in the language they speak at home. When complex ideas are conveyed in familiar terms, students can build mental models with clarity and speed. Conversely, when instruction is delivered in an unfamiliar tongue, learners devote mental energy to decoding language rather than grasping subject matter. This cognitive overload undermines comprehension and saps motivation. Studies by UNESCO and other educational bodies consistently show that mother-tongue instruction in early grades produces stronger foundations in literacy and numeracy, which in turn support higher-order thinking skills and lifelong learning.

The academic dividends of mother-tongue education extend far beyond the primary years. When learners establish fluency and confidence in their first language, they develop robust reading and writing habits that carry over to second and third languages. Research in multilingual contexts—from parts of Africa to Southeast Asia—demonstrates that a solid grounding in a native tongue accelerates the acquisition of additional languages by up to 40 percent. In practical terms, this means that students who read Shakespeare or solve algebraic equations in their mother tongue encounter fewer barriers and achieve deeper mastery than peers thrust prematurely into a foreign medium.

Equally significant are the emotional and psychological benefits of native-language education. A child's first language is bound up with family histories, folk tales, and shared memories. When schools honor that language, students experience a sense of belonging and respect that bolsters self-esteem. Conversely, a curriculum that sidelines the mother tongue can alienate young learners, leaving them feeling unmoored from both home and classroom. In regions where colonial legacies elevated foreign languages above local ones, generations of students internalized the idea that their native speech was inadequate or inferior. Reversing this mindset begins in the ear-

liest school years, when recognition of a child's linguistic heritage lays the groundwork for positive self-image and resilience. Beyond individual growth, mother-tongue education strengthens social cohesion and equity. In multilingual societies, a shared medium of instruction can either unify or fracture communities. When governments enforce a single, often urban-centric language, rural and marginalized groups suffer disproportionately. Dropout rates climb as children struggle to follow lessons in a language they seldom use. By contrast, providing education in regional languages empowers communities to participate fully in civic life and local governance. India's Northeast, with its mosaic of Assamese, Bodo, Karbi, Mising, and more, offers a compelling case: schools that teach in local tongues report higher attendance, lower dropout rates, and stronger engagement among tribal and rural students.

Yet the promise of mother-tongue education is tempered by formidable challenges. Developing high-quality curricula, textbooks, and assessment tools in multiple regional languages demands substantial investment. Translating specialized subjects—physics, economics, medicine—into vernacular idioms requires collaboration among linguists, subject experts, and pedagogues. Teacher

DEGREE OF THOUGHT
By: Himangshu Ranjan Bhuyan

training presents another hurdle: many educators lack the certification or confidence to teach in languages other than the national or global lingua franca. Overcoming these obstacles calls for strategic policymaking and community involvement, with governments, universities, and NGOs pooling resources to create repositories of open-access materials and train cohorts of bilingual teachers.

Societal attitudes present a subtler but equally potent barrier. Across India and beyond, English remains synonymous with opportunity and prestige. Parents, anxious to secure their children's upward mobility, often favor English-medium schools despite steep tuition fees and the strain of unfamiliar instruction. Shifting this deep-rooted perception demands evidence and advocacy. Success stories from Finland and the Netherlands illustrate that starting education in the mother tongue

does not preclude English proficiency. In Finland, primary students learn exclusively in Finnish before gradually adding English; Finnish youth consistently rank among the world's top performers in global assessments of both mathematics and foreign-language skills. These examples prove that linguistic pride and global competency are not mutually exclusive.

Policy frameworks are beginning to catch up with research insights. India's National Education Policy 2020 explicitly recommends mother-tongue instruction through at least Grade 5, and preferably until Grade 8, before transitioning to Hindi, English, or other languages. The challenge now is implementation. States must allocate budgets for textbook production, support digital learning platforms with content in regional tongues, and incentivize teacher training institutes to offer language-specific pedagogy courses. Civil society and community groups can accelerate progress by producing localized storybooks, audiovisual materials, and mobile apps that celebrate regional languages and cultures.

Digital technology offers a particularly promising avenue. E-books, interactive learning modules, and AI-driven language apps can deliver customized lessons in dozens of local dialects at a fraction of traditional printing costs. In Bangladesh, the government's e-learning initiative in Bengali has reached millions of rural students, dramatically narrowing urban-rural achievement gaps. Similar projects in Assam—a state with over thirty recognized mother tongues—could harness mobile connectivity to bring quality instruction to remote hamlets, where teacher shortages and infrastructure deficits have long constrained learning.

Educational equity also hinges on preserving minority and tribal languages. UNESCO warns that half of the world's estimated 7,000 languages face extinction by century's end. Each lost language erases unique ways of knowing, traditional ecological insights, and oral literature that no translation can fully capture. Incorporating endangered languages into school curricula revitalizes them, transforming classrooms into incubators of cultural revival. Programs in New Zealand to teach Māori in primary schools have led to a resurgence of the language among youth, spurring community pride and intergenerational transmis-

sion. Economic considerations further underscore mother-tongue education's importance. Workers who master technical skills in their first language enter the labor market more competently and innovatively. Germany's vocational training system, conducted primarily in German, produces highly skilled tradespeople whose expertise underpins the nation's status as an industrial powerhouse. In Assam, integrating Assamese language instruction with training in agriculture, handloom, and sustainable tourism could spur entrepreneurship rooted in local knowledge, generating livelihood opportunities while driving economic growth.

At its core, mother-tongue education is a statement about human dignity. It asserts that every child deserves to learn in a language that resonates with their identity, history, and aspirations. It rejects the notion that global languages must supplant local ones, advocating instead for a multilingual landscape where every tongue has its place. By strengthening the voices of the many, rather than amplifying only the few, societies cultivate creativity, innovation, and social harmony.

As India charts its educational future, Assam and other linguistically diverse states have an opportunity to lead a quiet revolution. By embracing mother-tongue instruction, investing in resources and training, and showcasing success stories, they can demonstrate that linguistic diversity is not a barrier but a bridge to inclusive development. Parents, teachers, policymakers, and community leaders must converge around a shared vision: classrooms where the language a child speaks at home is the language that empowers them to explore, question, and excel.

In an era of unprecedented global interconnectedness, the power of the mother tongue may seem counterintuitive to some. Yet it is precisely this rootedness that enables learners to soar. A child fluent in their native idiom possesses the cognitive tools, emotional confidence, and cultural grounding to navigate the complexities of the modern world. When education systems honor that first language, they nurture citizens who are both proud of their heritage and ready to engage with the wider globe. That is the transformative power of mother tongue in education—and it is an investment in humanity's shared future.

India's opposition to Trump bid to take over Bagram Airbase has special significance

By: Nitya Chakraborty

Just forty eight hours within the external affairs minister Dr. S Jaishankar's candid statement that Trump has to respect red lines drawn by India at trade talks, Indian officials joining China, Russia, Taliban government of Afghanistan and even Pakistan denouncing President Trump's bid to take over Bagram air base in Afghanistan, is a game changer in the evolving diplomacy of the Narendra Modi government since the beginning of the tariff war launched by the maverick President of the USA.

The joint statement issued in Moscow on Tuesday after the seventh meeting of the Moscow Format Consultations on Afghanistan has a definite tone against the Asian security policy of Trump since the U.S. President is desperate to get back the Bagram air base, earlier developed by the US defence forces during their tenure in Afghanistan. So far, India has never been so specific in criticizing any action of Trump related to the issue of security of Asia-Pacific. The diplomatic observers of the west, including the think tanks of the US are assessing in depth India's evolving position since the SCO summit in China on August 31 and September 1 and the rigid positions shown by the Indian negotiators at the last round of India-US trade talks in Washington last month.

The timing of the joint statement is also has ramifications as Prime Minister Narendra Modi is due to host the four nation QUAD summit this year in India. In the earlier meetings, PM Modi was quite enthusiastic in endorsing the declaration of QUAD summits where US played the dominant role in recommending its security strategy for Asia-Pacific directed mainly at China. India has been a willing participant of the US geo political strategy in Asia-Pacific so far, but now, in the wake of Trump's tariff war against India and Trump praising Pakistani leaders sky high in the recent weeks, PM Modi has been forced to give a fresh look at the Asia-Pacific strategy of the US pursued through QUAD. Japan and Australia are two other members, but their stakes are not that high as are India's at the moment.

The U.S. strategists are also analyzing two other possibilities. First, the statement against Bagram air base bid by Trump, is the second occasion in the last six weeks when India was a signatory along with Russia and China. The first was at the SCO meet joint declaration on September 1 when all the SCO members including India, Russia and China lambasted the unilateral tariff hikes by the

U.S. President and resolved to work for a rule based trade environment.

The US officials are worried about the possibility of a troika of Russia, China and India taking shape and emerging on a long term basis. This will be most disturbing for the American strategy in the Asia-Pacific in 2025 as in the earlier years, especially beginning 2019, the US found in the Indian PM an active partner in pursuing its Asia-Pacific strategy aimed at combating China. If this India-US collaboration cracks, that will be a big defeat for the US security strategy in Asia-Pacific.

The US think tanks including the right wing Heritage Foundation, have been warning India not to fall in Chinese trap and avoid working for a pro-active



troika. Their advice is that the present irritants in India - Relations are temporary and PM Modi should take US as India's natural and strategic partner as he did even in February this year at the White House meeting with Trump within a month after the inaugural ceremony on January 20.

From US perspective, the Bagram air base's position is very crucial for the Pentagon to strengthen its military position by overseeing the activities of others in the region including China, Russia, India, Pakistan and the West Asian nations. Bagram air base is capable of handling military aircraft including Lockheed Martin. The US forces developed it taking into account their security requirements. So Trump is desperate to get it. But the Taliban government is determined to keep the air base as it is within its sovereign nation's territory. The Americans got a developed Bagram base as it was built by the Soviet forces during their occupation. Later, Americans developed it further but on August 15, 2021 when Taliban took over complete control of Kabul and other regions, the Bagram base went to the control of Taliban.

Situated on the site of the ancient town of Bagram at an elevation of 1,492 metres (4,895 ft) above sea level, the air base has two concrete runways. The main one measures 3,602 by 46 metres

(11,819 ft × 151 ft), capable of handling large military aircraft, including the Lockheed Martin C-5 Galaxy. The second runway measures 2,953 by 26 metres (9,687 ft × 85 ft). The air base also has at least three large hangars, a control tower, numerous support buildings, and various housing areas. There are also more than 13 hectares (32 acres) of ramp space and five aircraft dispersal areas, with over 110 revetments.

During a state visit to the United Kingdom in September 2025, U.S. President Donald Trump disclosed that the United States was "trying" to take back possession of the airfield. Sources said discussions about returning the base to U.S. control had been underway for at least 6 months. But the Taliban rejected the idea out of hand. On Truth Social, Trump issued a threat recently that, "If Afghanistan doesn't give Bagram Airbase back to those that built it, the United States of America, BAD THINGS ARE GOING TO HAPPEN!!!!". The Taliban hit back by saying that it is their sovereign right to keep Bagram air base.

India has made a breakthrough in establishing relations with Taliban government in Afghanistan in recent days. The Afghanistan foreign minister Muttaqui will be in Delhi later this week. This will be the first visit of any senior Afghan minister. That way this bilateral meeting soon after the Moscow format consultations will be of crucial importance to both India and Afghanistan. India is expected to reiterate the position on Bagram base and offer economic assistance to the Taliban government for infra development.

After all these developments, what is the fate of QUAD summit? As things stand now, there has not been any serious discussions on holding the summit. Indian officials are not busy with any preparations. President Putin is expected to visit India on December 5 and 6 this year. The officials are busy with that. President Trump has not mentioned anything about the visit to India to attend QUAD summit.

Earlier in February this year, Trump himself mentioned of the possibility of visiting India during QUAD summit. Japan is busy with its nomination of new Prime Minister. Only Australia is waiting for the dates. But with no movement from India and US sides on QUAD summit at the present moment, it is unlikely to be held this year. The question is with the present swing in the position of his friend Narendra Modi, will Trump be at all interested to hold the summit in India? All these are relevant in the current interesting times for Indian diplomacy. (IPA Service)

The 2025 Nobel Prize in Physics and the Dawn of Macroscopic Quantum Mechanics

By: Dipak Kurmi

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has bestowed the 2025 Nobel Prize in Physics upon three exceptional scientists whose groundbreaking work in the mid-1980s fundamentally changed our understanding of quantum mechanics at macroscopic scales. John Clarke, Michel H. Devoret, and John M. Martinis have been recognized for their discovery of macroscopic quantum mechanical tunnelling and energy quantisation in an electric circuit, achievements that have profound implications for both theoretical physics and practical applications in emerging quantum technologies.

The significance of this award extends far beyond mere academic recognition. These experiments, conducted nearly four decades ago, demonstrated that the bizarre and counterintuitive properties of quantum mechanics, typically confined to the microscopic realm of individual particles, could manifest in systems large enough to hold in one's hand. This revelation challenged conventional wisdom about the boundaries between quantum and classical physics, opening new avenues for research and technological development that continue to influence modern science.

At the heart of quantum mechanics lies a fundamental peculiarity that distinguishes it from our everyday experience of the physical world. In the realm of individual particles, the rules governing behavior are radically different from those governing objects we can see and touch. One of the most striking quantum mechanical phenomena is tunnelling, a process that allows particles to pass through barriers that classical physics would deem impenetrable. Imagine throwing a ball at a wall and occasionally finding it on the other side without breaking through. While this never happens with actual balls, it is a routine occurrence for electrons and other quantum particles encountering energy barriers at the atomic scale.

The question that had long intrigued physicists was whether quantum mechanical effects could survive at larger scales involving vast numbers of particles acting in concert. Common experience suggests they cannot. The ball bouncing off a wall contains an astronomical number of molecules, each composed of numerous atoms, and collectively they behave in entirely classical ways. The quantum properties that govern individual atoms seem to wash out when large numbers of particles interact, leaving behind only the familiar physics of Newton and his successors. This transition from quantum to classical behavior, often called decoherence, has been one of the most profound puzzles in modern physics.

The experiments that earned Clarke, Devoret, and Martinis the Nobel Prize directly addressed this puzzle. Working at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1984 and 1985, they constructed an electrical circuit built from superconductors, remarkable materials that conduct electricity without any resistance when cooled to extremely low temperatures. The key to their experimental design was the Josephson junction, a component consisting of two superconductors separated by a thin insulating barrier. This configuration, named after Brian Josephson who received the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1973 for his theoretical predictions about such junctions, creates conditions where quantum mechanical phenomena can emerge at scales far larger than individual particles.

Superconductivity itself represents a fascinating quantum phenomenon that provided

the foundation for these experiments. When certain materials are cooled below critical temperatures, individual electrons that normally push their way through conductors in a disorganized manner begin to pair up, forming what are called Cooper pairs in honor of Leon Cooper, who along with John Bardeen and Robert Schrieffer developed the comprehensive theory of superconductivity that earned them the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1972. These Cooper pairs behave fundamentally differently from ordinary electrons. While individual electrons maintain strict separation from one another due to quantum mechanical principles, Cooper pairs can occupy identical quantum states, merging into a single collective quantum system described by a unified wave function encompassing all the pairs throughout the superconductor.

This collective behavior creates what physicists call a macroscopic quantum state, where enormous numbers of particles move in perfect synchronization, behaving as if they were a single giant particle filling the entire circuit. In the laureates' experiments, this macroscopic particle-like system became trapped in a state where current flowed through the circuit without generating any voltage, held there as if behind an insurmountable barrier. According to classical physics, the system should remain trapped indefinitely unless given enough energy to overcome the barrier. But quantum mechanics offers another possibility through tunnelling.

The experimental setup required extraordinary precision and careful shielding from external interference. Clarke, who had established his research group at Berkeley after completing his doctorate at Cambridge, brought decades of expertise in working with superconductors and Josephson junctions. Michel Devoret joined the group as a post-doctoral researcher after earning his doctorate in Paris, while John Martinis contributed as a doctoral student. Together, they meticulously refined every aspect of their electrical circuit, measuring and controlling all its properties to achieve the sensitivity needed to observe quantum phenomena at macroscopic scales.

Their experimental procedure involved feeding a weak current into the Josephson junction and monitoring the voltage across it. Initially, as expected, the voltage remained at zero because the quantum mechanical wave function describing the system was confined to a state that prohibited voltage from arising. The researchers then measured how long the system remained in this zero-voltage state before quantum tunnelling allowed it to escape, suddenly generating a measurable voltage. Because quantum mechanics inherently involves probability and chance rather than deterministic certainty, the team performed numerous measurements and analyzed the statistical distribution of results, much like measuring the half-lives of radioactive atomic nuclei by observing many decay events.

The successful demonstration of tunnelling proved that the synchronized dance of Cooper pairs throughout the circuit truly behaved as a single quantum mechanical entity. The system escaped from the zero-voltage state by tunnelling through the energy barrier, exactly as quantum mechanics predicted for microscopic particles. This was not a collection of individual quantum effects adding up to a macroscopic result, but rather a genuinely macroscopic quantum phenomenon involving vast numbers of particles acting as one.



The laureates obtained further confirmation of the quantum nature of their system by demonstrating energy quantisation, the phenomenon that gave quantum mechanics its name. Quantum mechanics was originally developed to explain why energy in microscopic processes comes in discrete packages called quanta rather than varying continuously. The researchers introduced microwave radiation of various wavelengths into their circuit while it remained in the zero-voltage state. They discovered that certain wavelengths were absorbed, boosting the system to higher energy levels. When the system absorbed this additional energy, it escaped the zero-voltage state more quickly through tunnelling, precisely matching quantum mechanical predictions. The system behaved exactly like a microscopic particle trapped behind a barrier, with energy levels that could only take on specific discrete values.

The theoretical significance of these experiments extends into profound questions about the nature of quantum mechanics and its relationship to the everyday world we experience. Anthony Leggett, who received the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2003 for his theoretical work on macroscopic quantum phenomena, had predicted that macroscopic quantum tunnelling should be observable in Josephson junctions. His work inspired the experimental efforts of Clarke, Devoret, and Martinis. Leggett has compared their macroscopic quantum system to Erwin Schrödinger's famous thought experiment featuring a cat that would be simultaneously alive and dead if quantum mechanical principles applied at macroscopic scales without decoherence.

Schrödinger, who received the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1933, intended his cat paradox to highlight what he saw as the absurdity of applying quantum mechanics to everyday objects. The special properties of quantum mechanics typically vanish at macroscopic scales, preventing us from ever observing a cat in a quantum superposition of life and death. However, the experiments by Clarke, Devoret, and Martinis demonstrated that under carefully controlled conditions, systems involving enormous numbers of particles can indeed exhibit quantum mechanical behavior as a unified whole. While their superconducting circuit remains many orders of magnitude smaller than even the tiniest kit-

ten, it measures quantum mechanical properties applying to the entire system collectively, making it philosophically similar to Schrödinger's imaginary cat from a quantum physicist's perspective.

This achievement has opened remarkable opportunities for both fundamental research and practical applications. The macroscopic quantum state created in these experiments can be viewed as an artificial atom on a large scale, one equipped with cables and connections that allow it to be incorporated into various experimental setups or technological devices. These artificial atoms serve as platforms for simulating other quantum systems that are difficult to study directly, helping physicists understand complex quantum phenomena.

The practical implications have proven particularly significant for quantum computing, an emerging technology that promises to revolutionize information processing by harnessing quantum mechanical phenomena. John Martinis himself later pursued experiments in quantum computing, directly utilizing the energy quantisation he and his co-laureates had demonstrated. He employed superconducting circuits with quantised energy states as quantum bits, or qubits, the fundamental units of quantum information. The lowest energy state represented zero while the first excited state represented one, creating a quantum analog of the classical bit. Superconducting circuits have become one of the leading approaches in the worldwide effort to construct practical quantum computers, with major technology companies and research institutions investing heavily in this technology.

Beyond quantum computing, the laureates' work has enabled progress in quantum cryptography, which promises unbreakable encryption based on quantum mechanical principles, and quantum sensors capable of measurements with unprecedented precision. Quantum sensors exploiting macroscopic quantum effects can detect magnetic fields, gravitational waves, and other phenomena with sensitivities impossible for classical instruments. These technologies represent the next generation of quantum applications, building on the foundation laid by Clarke, Devoret, and Martinis.

Olle Eriksson, Chair of the Nobel Committee for Physics, captured the dual significance

of this work when he noted that it is wonderful to celebrate how century-old quantum mechanics continually offers new surprises while remaining enormously useful as the foundation of all digital technology. The transistors in computer microchips exemplify established quantum technology that already surrounds us in everyday life, relying on quantum mechanical principles governing electron behavior in semiconductors. The 2025 Nobel Prize recognizes work that extends quantum technology into new domains with transformative potential.

The historical context enriches appreciation of this achievement. Quantum tunnelling was first understood in 1928 when physicist George Gamow realized it explained certain types of radioactive decay in heavy atomic nuclei. The strong nuclear force creates a barrier holding nuclear particles together, yet occasionally a small portion of the nucleus splits off and appears outside this barrier, transforming one element into another. Without tunnelling, this type of nuclear decay simply could not occur. While tunnelling at the level of individual particles and atomic nuclei had been well established for decades, the laureates' demonstration that tunnelling could occur for a macroscopic system involving countless particles acting collectively represented a conceptual breakthrough.

The path to this discovery involved decades of development in both theoretical understanding and experimental technique. Josephson's theoretical predictions about junctions between superconductors provided crucial conceptual tools, while advances in superconductor fabrication and measurement technology made the experiments technically feasible. The ability to cool materials to temperatures near absolute zero, shield circuits from electromagnetic interference, and measure voltages with extreme precision all contributed to success.

Looking forward, the implications of this work continue to unfold. As researchers push toward ever-larger quantum systems and more sophisticated quantum technologies, the principles demonstrated by Clarke, Devoret, and Martinis remain foundational. Each advance in quantum computing, sensing, and cryptography builds on the understanding that quantum mechanical properties can persist in carefully prepared macroscopic systems. The boundary between quantum and classical physics, once thought to be sharply defined by system size, now appears more nuanced and controllable than previously imagined.

The 2025 Nobel Prize in Physics thus honors both a historic achievement and an ongoing legacy. The experiments conducted in Berkeley during the mid-1980s revealed quantum physics in action at unprecedented scales, demonstrating that the strange and wonderful properties of the quantum world need not remain forever confined to the microscopic realm. Through brilliant experimental design, meticulous execution, and deep physical insight, John Clarke, Michel H. Devoret, and John M. Martinis showed that quantum mechanics continues to surprise us with possibilities that challenge our intuitions while offering practical tools for technological advancement. Their work exemplifies how fundamental scientific research, driven by curiosity about nature's deepest principles, ultimately yields benefits extending far beyond the laboratory to shape the technologies that will define our future. *(The writer can be reached at dipakkurmipltd@gmail.com)*

Empowering Girls: Assam's child marriage revolution

By: Satyabrata Borah

Assam, a state in northeastern India, has emerged as a beacon of hope in the fight against child marriage, a deeply entrenched social issue that has long plagued the region. Through a combination of stringent legal enforcement, innovative financial schemes, and community-driven awareness campaigns, the state has made remarkable strides in reducing child marriage rates, setting a model for the rest of the country. The Assam government's multifaceted approach, led by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, has not only resulted in an 81 percent decline in child marriages across 20 of its 35 districts between 2021-22 and 2023-24 but has also ignited a broader conversation about empowering young girls and dismantling systemic inequalities. This transformative journey reflects a blend of policy innovation, grassroots engagement, and unwavering commitment to eradicating a practice rooted in poverty, lack of education, and cultural norms.

The scale of the challenge in Assam cannot be understated. Child marriage has been a rural issue, particularly in peral areas such as Dhubri, Borphukan, and Morigaon, where poverty and limited access to education

have perpetuated the practice. According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5), nearly 30 percent of marriages in these districts involved girls aged 14 to 17. This statistic paints a stark picture of a society where young girls are often denied their fundamental rights to education and health, instead being pushed into early marriage and motherhood. The consequences are dire: child brides face higher risks of domestic violence, health complications, and limited economic opportunities, perpetuating cycles of poverty and gender inequality. Recognizing this, the Assam government has taken bold steps to address the issue head-on, with a clear goal of eliminating child marriage by 2026.

One of the cornerstones of Assam's strategy has been its aggressive legal crackdowns. Since Chief Minister Sarma assumed office in 2021, the state has adopted a zero-tolerance policy toward child marriage, invoking the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO). In February 2023, a massive state-wide operation led to the arrest of over 3,000 individuals, including parents, religious leaders, and others facilitating underage marriages. This was followed by another

significant crackdown on Gandhi Jayanti, resulting in 916 arrests and 706 First Information Reports (FIRs). More recently, in the third phase of the campaign, Assam police arrested 416 people and registered 345 cases. These actions sent a clear message: child marriage is not only illegal but also a violation of human rights that will face severe consequences.

The impact of these legal interventions has been profound. A report by India Child Protection, titled "Towards Justice: Ending Child Marriage," revealed an 81 percent reduction in child marriage cases across 20 districts between 2021-22 and 2023-24. The data, drawn from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) and surveys conducted in 1,132 villages with a total population of 21 lakh, including 8 lakh children, underscores the effectiveness of Assam's approach. In 30 percent of these villages, child marriage has been completely eradicated, while 40 percent have reported significant declines. The report also highlighted strong community support for legal action, with over 90 percent of respondents in 12 out of 20 districts believing that arrests and FIRs are effective deterrents. This shift in public perception is critical, as it indicates a growing awareness of the harm caused by

child marriage and a willingness to embrace change.

Assam has recognized that legal enforcement alone cannot address the root causes of child marriage. Poverty and lack of education often drive families to marry off their daughters early, viewing it as a means of economic security. To tackle this, the state government launched the Nijut Moina scheme, a financial support initiative aimed at empowering girls through education. The first phase of the scheme, introduced in 2024, provided financial assistance to girls to continue their schooling, reducing the pressure to marry early. The second phase, Nijut Moina 2.0, launched in August 2025, expanded the program to cover over 4 lakh girls, offering them the resources to pursue higher education and vocational training. Chief Minister Sarma has described the scheme as a source of hope for parents facing financial constraints, emphasizing that it gives girls the opportunity to dream beyond the confines of early marriage.

The Nijut Moina scheme is more than just a financial aid program; it is a strategic intervention designed to shift societal norms. By investing in girls' education, the government is addressing the stark disparity Sarma has often highlighted: the

coexistence of two Assams—one where 22-year-old women pursue higher education and another where 14-year-old girls are forced into marriage. The scheme aligns with the state's broader commitment to universal free education, ensuring that every child, regardless of gender, caste, or religion, has access to quality schooling. This focus on education is critical, as it empowers girls to make informed choices about their futures, breaking the cycle of poverty and dependency that child marriage perpetuates.

Assam's efforts have not gone unnoticed. During the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) Chief Ministers' conclave in May 2025, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the state's campaign against child marriage was lauded as a national model. Modi urged other states to emulate Assam's approach, suggesting that officials visit the state to study its strategies firsthand. The India Child Protection report, released on World Day for International Justice in July 2024, further reinforced Assam's success, describing its legal interventions as a proven model for the country. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) chairperson, Priyanka Kanoongo, praised the state for showing the way forward in the fight against child

marriage.

Community engagement has also played a pivotal role in Assam's battle against child marriage. In November 2024, the state joined the Government of India's Bal Vivah Mukta Bharat (Child Marriage Free India) campaign, organized by the Just Rights for Children (JRC) alliance. This initiative saw participation from 3,900 villages across 28 districts, with events such as awareness drives, candlelight marches, and public pledges to end child marriage. These grassroots efforts have been instrumental in changing mindsets, particularly in rural areas where traditional norms often hold sway. By involving local leaders, schools, and community organizations, the campaign has fostered a sense of collective responsibility, encouraging communities to take ownership of the fight against child marriage.

Child marriage is deeply rooted in social and cultural practices, and changing entrenched norms requires sustained effort. The India Child Protection report noted that while Assam has made significant progress, the national pendancy rate of child marriage cases in trial courts remains high, suggesting that judicial processes need to be streamlined to maintain momentum. Additionally, ensuring that schemes like Nijut

Moina reach the most marginalized communities, particularly in remote areas, is critical to achieving the 2026 goal of complete eradication. The government must also continue to address the socioeconomic factors that drive child marriage, such as poverty and lack of employment opportunities for women.

Assam's journey to rewrite the story of child marriage is a testament to the power of coordinated action. By combining legal enforcement with financial empowerment and community engagement, the state has created a blueprint for change that balances deterrence with opportunity. The 81 percent reduction in child marriage cases is not just a statistic; it represents thousands of girls who now have the chance to pursue education, build careers, and shape their own futures. As Chief Minister Sarma has vowed, the state will not rest until child marriage is eradicated entirely. This commitment, coupled with the tangible results already achieved, positions Assam as a leader in the fight against child marriage, offering hope and inspiration to other states and nations grappling with similar challenges. The story of Assam is one of resilience, determination, and a vision for a future where every girl can thrive, free from the shackles of early marriage.

Myanmar's military strikes village in glider raid, killing at least 24 people including children

'More than 50 others were wounded, including himself'

BANGKOK, Oct 8: Myanmar's military carried out a paraglider strike on a village that killed at least 24 people including children, and wounded more than 50 others, according to a member of a resistance group, villagers and media reports.



The Monday night attack was carried out by a motorised paraglider, and targeted a village in the country's central Sagaing region that was celebrating a Buddhist festival that included a rally calling for the release of political prisoners held by Myanmar's military government, the reports said.

Myanmar is in a civil war that began after the army seized power in February 2021 from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi. Much of the country, including the village of Bon To village where the attack took place, is under the control of resistance forces. The area is about 90 kilometres west of Mandalay, the country's second-largest city.

"The sickening reports emerging from the ground in central Myanmar following a nighttime attack late on Monday should serve as a gruesome wake-up call that civilians in Myanmar need urgent protection," the human rights group

Amnesty International said in a statement.

More than 100 people from Bon To and nearby villages had gathered at the village's primary school compound Monday evening for an oil lamp lighting ceremony to mark the end of Buddhist Lent and to call for the release of political prisoners including Suu Kyi, said a member of a local resistance group who attended the event.

A motorised paraglider dropped two bombs at about 7:15 pm, killing an estimated 20 to 40 people, including children, villagers and members of local political activist groups and armed anti-military groups, said the resistance fighter, who spoke to The Associated Press on Wednesday on condition of anonymity to safeguard his personal security.

More than 50 others were wounded, including himself, he added. The resistance fighter said an alert had been issued through a network of mobile phones and walkie-talkies that had tracked the paraglider from the army's north-western military command in Monywa, about 25 kilometres north of Bon To village.

A local resident who also attended Monday's ceremony said the crowd began to disperse after

hearing reports of an approaching paraglider, but it arrived sooner than expected and dropped bombs while people were still in the school.

The resident, who helped in rescue efforts after the attack, said at least 24 people were known to have been killed, though the death toll could be higher as the victims' family members and rescue workers worked independently to collect the bodies. Both witnesses said the paraglider returned to the scene around 11 pm and dropped two more bombs without causing additional casualties.

The military has not acknowledged carrying out an attack in the area. More than 7,300 people are estimated to have been killed by security forces since the army's 2021 seizure of power, according to figures compiled by nongovernmental organisations.

Myanmar's military also uses Chinese and Russian-made combat aircraft and helicopters, but since late last year has stepped up the use of low-tech motorized paragliders in what is believed to partially be an effort to save money. Resistance forces lack effective defences against any kind of air attacks. (AP)

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Lt Col, Major among 11 soldiers killed in clashes with TTP militants in Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Oct 8: At least 11 military personnel, including a Lt Colonel and a Major, were killed in clashes with the Taliban militants during an intelligence-based operation in Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, bordering Afghanistan, the army said on Wednesday.

In a statement, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) - the media wing of the military - said that 19 terrorists of the 'Fitna al-Khawarij' were also killed during the operation in Orakzai district on Tuesday night.

The Pakistan government last year notified the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) as 'Fitna al-Khawarij', a reference to a group in earlier Islamic history which was involved in violence. The intelligence-based operation was conducted by the security forces on the reported presence of terrorists belonging to 'Fitna al-Khawarij' on the intervening night of October 7-8, the ISPR statement said.

During the "intense" exchange of fire between security forces and the militants, 19 terrorists "were sent to hell", the statement said.

It said that 39-year-old Lt Col Junaid Tariq, who was leading his troops from the front, and his second-in-command, 33-year-old Major Tayyab Rahat, were killed along with nine of their men. A sanitisation operation is being conducted to eliminate any other terrorists in the area, the statement added. In a statement, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed grief over the killing of the soldiers, saying the sacrifices of the fearless sons of the security forces



will never go in vain.

Sharif said Pakistan will crush the nefarious intentions of terrorists. "We will not allow elements that harm Pakistan's integrity to succeed," he added.

He said the government was determined to eradicate the menace of terrorism from the country.

President Asif Ali Zardari paid tributes to the "courageous action of security forces in the Orakzai district". Zardari expressed heartfelt sympathy with the families of the soldiers, praying that they bear their loss with patience and courage, a statement issued by the presidency said. "The entire nation stands as a lead wall with its armed forces," the statement quoted him as saying. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur expressed heartfelt condolences and sympathy with the families of the deceased soldiers.

"The security forces have written an immortal chapter of bravery and sacrifice in the fight for peace," he added. "The sacrifices of our soldiers will not go in vain."

"These sacrifices further strengthen the nation's resolve to eradicate terrorism," Gandapur affirmed. Pakistan has seen a surge in militant attacks, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces, after the banned TTP called off its ceasefire with the government in November 2022 and vowed to target security forces, police, and law enforcement agencies.

According to the latest statistics issued by the Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was the worst-hit region in the country in the third quarter of 2025. It suffered nearly 71 per cent (638) of the total violence-linked fatalities, and over 67 per cent (221) of the incidents of violence.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan — both of which share a porous border with neighbouring Afghanistan — faced the brunt of the terrorism incidents, accounting for more than 96 per cent of the total violence across the country. (PTI)

In historic development, California designates Diwali as state holiday

NEW YORK, Oct 8: In a historic development for the Indian diaspora, California has designated Diwali as an official state holiday, becoming the third state in the US to officially recognise the Indian festival of lights as a holiday. California Governor Gavin Newsom Tuesday announced that he has signed a bill by Assembly member Ash Kalra designating Diwali as a state holiday.

In September, the bill titled 'AB 268' to designate Diwali as an official state holiday had successfully passed both houses of the legislature in California and was awaiting final action by Newsom. "California is home to the largest population of Indian Americans, and designating Diwali as an official state holiday will uplift its message to the hundreds of thousands of Californians that celebrate and help introduce it to many throughout our diverse state," Kalra had said last month. "Diwali brings communities together with the message of goodwill, peace, and shared sense of renewal. California should embrace Diwali and its diversity, not keep it hidden in darkness," he added. In October 2024, Pennsylvania became the first state to officially recognise Diwali as a state holiday, followed by Connecticut this year. In New York City, Diwali has been declared a holiday for public schools. Community leaders and leading diaspora organisations welcomed California's announcement of designating Diwali a state holiday.

Nonprofit organisation Indiaspora said that with California, the most populous state in the nation, officially recognising Diwali, "Indian Americans celebrate a major milestone in the ongoing journey toward greater cultural inclusion and visibility. This recognition reflects not just the vibrancy of Diwali, but the enduring impact of the Indian American community across the United States."

Indiaspora Founder and Chairman MR Rangaswami said in a statement that this historic decision honours generations of Indian Americans who have contributed to California's growth and success.

"Governor Newsom's leadership reflects the inclusive spirit our nation needs today. Recognising Diwali as a state holiday affirms that diversity is truly our strength," Rangaswami said as he congratulated Kalra and Assembly member Dr Darshana Patel, the joint-authors of the bill. Hailing the "landmark legislation" as a "historic" moment for Indian-Americans, especially in California, Indiaspora said this is a "powerful recognition of the community's rich cultural heritage and longstanding contributions to the Golden State." "For the more than one million Indian Americans who call California home, this is a moment of immense pride and joy. Indian Americans have been instrumental in shaping California's vibrant and diverse landscape—contributing to the economy, serving in government, enriching the arts, sciences, and civic life, and uplifting communities across the state," the organisation said, adding that California, in turn, has welcomed the community with open arms.

"Declaring Diwali a state holiday affirms that Indian Americans are not just participants in California's story—they are woven into the very fabric of its identity," it said. Indiaspora noted that New York City took a "groundbreaking" step by mandating public school closures for Diwali, with November 1, 2024, marking the first time schools were officially closed for the festival. Several school districts across New York State, beyond New York City, will also observe Diwali as an official holiday.

Prominent Silicon Valley entrepreneur, philanthropist and former advisor to President Joe Biden, Ajay Bhutoria, said the announcement is a "radiant milestone" in California's journey toward true inclusivity and cultural celebration. "Diwali, our cherished Festival of Lights, embodies the eternal victory of hope over hardship, unity over division, and knowledge over ignorance—a message that resonates deeply with the nearly one million South Asians who call California home and contribute immensely to its innovation, economy, and spirit," Bhutoria said.

He added that this recognition is more than a holiday. "It's a powerful affirmation of the Indian diaspora's enduring legacy in the Golden State. From tech trailblazers in Silicon Valley to healthcare heroes in Southern California, our community has woven threads of resilience and diversity into the fabric of American excellence," Bhutoria added.

By granting state employees paid time off and empowering schools to observe this sacred day, the legislation ensures families can fully embrace traditions like lighting Diyas, making Rangoli, and sharing stories of renewal—without the shadows of work or deadlines, he said. (PTI)

KARBIANGLONGAUTONOMOUS COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT OF WORKS
KAAC:: BRANCH SECRETARIAT
HAMREN-782486

Dated: 07/10/2025

NO.KAAC/HRN/W-151/2025-26/

SHORT TENDER NOTICE

It is for general information to all the concerned that Tender Notice issued vide **Memo No.KAAC/HRN/W-151/2025-26/132(A) Dated: 05/09/2025** for scheme under Development of Hambi ground has been extended upto **21st October 2025 at 4:00 PM** for the following mentioned schemes list and will opened on the same date, place in presence of the tenderers or their authorized agencies if any.

Others terms & conditions remain the same.

Sl. No.	Name of Works	Tender Amount	A/A Amount	Earnest Money	Time allowed for completion
1	Development of Hambi Kapathu ground with pitches at 9 different constituencies of West Karbi Anglong, i.e. Amreng, Amri, Bithung Rengthama, Chinthong, Duar Amla, Hamren, Kopili, Rongkhang, Socheng @ Rs. 10,00,000.00 each constituencies	Rs. 90,00,000.00	Rs. 90,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	60 days

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (Work)
KAAC Branch Secretariat
HAMREN

Memo No. KAAC/HRN/W-151/2025-26/ Dated:07/10/2025

KARBIANGLONGAUTONOMOUS COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT OF WORKS
KAAC:: BRANCH SECRETARIAT
HAMREN-782486

Dated: 07/10/2025

NO.KAAC/HRN/W-138/2025-26/167

SHORT TENDER NOTICE

It is for general information to all the concerned that Tender Notice issued vide **Memo No.KAAC/HRN/W-138/2025-26/146(A) Dated: 12/09/2025** for schemes under Kopili Constituency has been extended upto **21st October 2025 at 4:00 PM** for the following mentioned schemes list and will opened on the same date, place in presence of the tenderers or their authorized agencies if any.

Others terms & conditions remain the same.

Sl. No.	Name of Works	Tender Amount	A/A Amount	Earnest Money	Time allowed for completion
1	Construction of 2 nos. Wacath tower at Chengbong.	Rs. 41,50,000.00	Rs. 41,50,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	60 days
2	Construction of 20 nos. RCC Ring Well at different places of Chengbong areas.	Rs. 50,00,000.00	Rs. 50,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 days
3	Construction of Boundary Wall with Iron Gate at Crematorium Ground at Chengbong.	Rs. 14,00,000.00	Rs. 14,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 days
4	Construction of Thiri Shed at Chengbong Crematorium ground.	Rs. 7,00,000.00	Rs. 7,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	45 days

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (Work)
KAAC Branch Secretariat
HAMREN

Memo No. KAAC/HRN/W-138/2025-26/167(A) Dated:07/10/2025

Cabinet clears unified media policy, hydro power ventures, and Panchayat reforms under 'Cabinet Aapke Dwar' at Miao

Arunachal cabinet approves key reforms for governance, media, hydro power

HT Correspondent

MIAO, Oct 8: In a landmark Cabinet meeting held under the "Cabinet Aapke Dwar" initiative at Miao in Changlang district, the State Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Pema Khandu approved a series of major policy reforms, infrastructure development projects, and welfare initiatives aimed at strengthening governance, boosting local development, and promoting inclusive growth.

Among the key decisions, the Cabinet approved the Arunachal Pradesh Print and Digital Media Advertisement Policy, 2025, which consolidates and replaces the earlier separate policies for print and electronic media. The unified framework centralises all government advertisements under the Directorate of Information & Public Relations (DIPR), introduces fixed advertisement rates for empanelled local media, and prioritises support for local media houses in alignment with the "Atmanirbhar Bharat" vision.

Further, the Cabinet approved the "Recruitment to the post of Director (Information and Public Relations), Rules 2025," replacing the 1981 recruitment rules to streamline the appointment process for this Group 'A' Gazetted post. Additionally, Section 3(2) (a) of the Arunachal Pradesh Staff Selection Board (APSSB) Act, 2018, was amended to revise the eligibility criteria

for the post of Chairman, bringing in more administrative experience and accountability.

A major focus of the meeting was on empowering grassroots democratic institutions. The Cabinet approved amendments to the Arunachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj (APPR) Act, 1997, and the Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly (Prohibition of Defection) Act to strengthen Panchayats. Gram Panchayats will now have the authority to enforce sanitation and water management rules by penalising violators and villagers can now report encroachments directly to Circle Officers instead of traveling to the SDO office. Significant electoral reforms were also introduced for Panchayat elections, including the use of EVMs, disqualification of Zilla Parishad and Gram Panchayat members for anti-party activities, rejection of nomination papers if an election agent holds an office of profit, early arrival requirements for polling agents, and the introduction of NOTA (None of the Above) in Zilla Parishad elections.

The Cabinet also granted pensionary benefits of ₹ 60,000 per month to Ex-Council Members and Ex-MLAs under an amendment to the Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly Act, 1983, recognising their contributions even for partial terms served.

In the energy sector, the Cabinet ap-



proved the formation of two major joint ventures: NHPG Arunachal Green Energy Limited for the Kamala (1,720 MW) and Subansiri Upper (1,605 MW) projects, and NEEPCO Arunachal Hydro Power Corporation Limited for the Tato I, Tato II, Heo, Naying, and Hirong projects. These ventures mark a critical step under the "Decade of Hydro Power (2025-2035)" initiative to generate 19 GW of clean energy, boost employment, and contribute to India's

net-zero carbon goals.

Other reforms included the approval of the Recruitment Rules, 2025, for key posts under the Directorate of Prosecution to establish a clear hierarchy and strengthen justice delivery. Recruitment rules were also amended for Assistant Engineers, as well as for Scientist-B and Scientific Assistants in the Directorate of Forensic Science, aligning them with new national criminal laws emphasizing the role of forensic evidence.

In a progressive move for inclusive education, the Cabinet gave in-principle approval for establishing a state-of-the-art Special School for Children with Special Needs (CWSN). This institution will offer comprehensive education, therapy, and healthcare services, and will reflect the government's deep commitment to dignity and equity for every child, irrespective of their abilities.

The Agriculture Department also saw vital reforms. Facing a critical shortage of field officers, the Cabinet approved promotions to fill 42 vacant posts ranging from Director to District Agriculture Officers.

These promotions will create new entry-level vacancies for Agriculture Development Officers (ADOs), offering new employment opportunities for agriculture graduates.

The Arunachal Pradesh Agriculture Service Rules, 2005, were amended to address structural and promotional bottlenecks in the department.

As part of the Cabinet Aapke Dwar's region-specific focus, major administrative upgradations and infrastructure announcements were made for Changlang district. These included the upgradation of Khimiyang EAC HQ to ADC HQ (Independent), the creation of a new Circle HQ at Rajanagar covering 25 villages under Bordumsa Sub-Division,

and the upgradation of Yatdam EAC HQ to SDO HQ. A Power Section will be established at Kantang Circle, and a new Fire Station will come up at Bordumsa.

To bolster physical infrastructure, the Cabinet approved the construction of an office and staff accommodation for the RWD Division at Jairampur, a Circuit House and an Open Stadium at Changlang District HQ, and a motorable bridge over the Noa-Dihing River connecting Miao to Pisi village. These infrastructure projects aim to improve mobility, service delivery, and public amenities in remote areas.

Furthermore, to enhance administrative infrastructure under the ADC, Miao Sub-Division, development works worth ₹ 8 crore were approved. These are aimed at improving office facilities and ensuring smooth governance in one of the state's key border regions.

The Cabinet meeting at Miao marks a significant milestone in Arunachal Pradesh's journey toward Viksit Arunachal by 2040. With a focus on decentralisation, youth empowerment, inclusive education, justice delivery, digital media reforms, and green energy, the decisions made reflect the government's commitment to bringing governance closer to the people and ensuring equitable development across all corners of the state.

Media bodies hail adoption of Arunachal Pradesh Print & Digital Media Advertisement Policy 2025

HT Correspondent

ITANAGAR, Oct 8: The Arunachal Publishers and Broadcasters Guild (APBG) and the Arunachal Electronic and Digital Media Association (AEDMA) have jointly expressed their profound appreciation to the State Government led by Chief Minister Pema Khandu, Minister for Information and Public Relations (IPR) Nyato Dukam, Secretary IPR, and the entire IPR Department team for formulating and adopting the landmark "Arunachal Pradesh Print & Digital Media Advertisement Policy, 2025."

The two media bodies lauded the government's visionary step to

enhance advertisement rates for print media and introduce a new policy framework for digital media—a decision that addresses the long-pending demands submitted by APBG and AEDMA through several memoranda. They said the move reflects the government's commitment to supporting and sustaining the media ecosystem in the State.

The newly approved policy replaces the 2018 and 2020 advertisement policies, introducing a unified, transparent, and efficient framework for disseminating government advertisements.

Under the revised system, all official advertisements will be routed through the Directorate

of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) to ensure uniformity, transparency, and accountability.

Welcoming the policy, both APBG and AEDMA noted that the initiative would empower local media houses by prioritizing state-based organisations, ensuring fiscal prudence through fixed advertisement rates, and improving fund utilisation.

They further stated that the government's proactive engagement with the media fraternity and its responsiveness to their concerns mark a significant milestone in strengthening government-media collaboration in Arunachal Pradesh.

Arunachal govt bans sale of Coldrif cough syrup

ITANAGAR, Oct 8: The Arunachal Pradesh government has banned the sale and use of Coldrif cough syrup in the wake of death of 14 children in Madhya Pradesh, linked to consumption of the medicine, an official said on Wednesday.

The Arunachal Pradesh Drugs Control has issued an advisory prohibiting the sale, distribution and stock of Coldrif cough syrup, manufactured by Sresan Pharmaceutical, the official said.

The advisory has been issued following reports linking the cough syrup to child deaths in other states, including Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, and general advisory for rational use of the cough syrup in paediatric population by the Director General of Health Services, Government of India, Arunachal Pradesh Drugs Controller Dr Komling Perme said.

The Health department has directed stockists/retailers that the product should not be purchased, sold or stocked for public consumption.

If the stockists/retailers are in possession of the product, they must report it to the local drugs control authority immediately, the official said.

The advisory also directed physicians in both government and private hospitals to be on vigil while prescribing cough syrup to children.

Meanwhile, the department has advised the general public to avoid consumption of the cough syrup. (PTI)

ARDSF raises concern over road construction anomalies, plans state-wide awareness campaign

HT Correspondent

ITANAGAR, Oct 8: The Arunachal Road Development and Safety Forum (ARDSF) has alleged widespread anomalies and irregularities in road construction projects across the state, citing recurring loss of lives and property due to poor road conditions.

The organisation announced plans to launch a series of road safety awareness camps across Arunachal Pradesh to sensitise the public on the issue.

Addressing reporters at the Arunachal Press Club on Tuesday, ARDSF Convenor said that the NGO has been engaged in various awareness activities since its establishment but continues to witness poor quality road construction and inadequate maintenance despite repeated public appeals.

"We are deeply dissatisfied with the condition of many roads constructed for the people of the state.

Although funds and provisions exist for repair and maintenance, proper upkeep is not carried out even after repeated requests from citizens and media reports," the Convenor said.

Termining road connectivity as the "mother of all development," the Convenor cited examples of the Itanagar-Hollongi road and other stretches that have remained in poor condition for years.

"Despite continuous repair work, these roads fail to meet the standards prescribed under the four-lane guidelines of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH). Missing signage and road signals have contributed



to numerous accidents, resulting in the loss of hundreds of precious lives," he added.

The ARDSF team recently inspected the NH-415 stretch from Hollongi to Banderdewa and claimed to have found multiple construction faults, attributing them to frequent accidents.

The Convenor alleged that sub-standard materials, poor supervision, and lack of monitoring during construction have caused the roads to deteriorate rapidly, particularly during the monsoon season.

"Frequent damage is a result of compromised quality and absence of timely maintenance. If proper care was taken at the initial stage, roads would not deteriorate so fast," he said.

The Convenor emphasised the need for improved safety measures and stricter enforcement of traffic rules to reduce accidents. "Essential road safety features are missing at several points. Drivers and commuters must

follow rules such as wearing helmets, using seatbelts, avoiding drink and drive, using dippers at night, and preventing underage driving," he said, adding that "one should always remember that loved ones are waiting at home—life should not be lost on the road."

Announcing the forum's upcoming initiatives, the Convenor said ARDSF would soon begin an extensive awareness campaign starting from the Itanagar Capital Complex and gradually expand to other districts.

The programme will involve traffic authorities, police, and media personnel to promote responsible driving and collective road safety awareness among citizens.

"Our goal is to make every commuter—whether a driver or pedestrian—aware of safety measures and ensure that road safety becomes a shared responsibility across the state," the ARDSF Convenor added.

Seva Aapke Dwar camp brings governance to the doorstep of villagers in Tirap

HT Correspondent

KHONSA, Oct 8: The Tirap district administration on Wednesday organised a "Seva Aapke Dwar" (SAD) outreach camp at Tutnu village under Lazu Administrative Circle, bringing an array of government services directly to rural residents. The programme was graced by Secretary (Rural Development & Panchayati Raj) Dr Sonal Swaroop, IAS, and saw the participation of a large number of villagers and officials.

According to an official statement, a total of 1,653 beneficiaries from Tutnu, Upper Kolam, Lower Kolam, Nogna, Thungiang, and Kuthung villages availed themselves of various services and schemes during the day-long camp. The event was also attended by Assistant Commissioner-cum-I/c EAC Lazu, NL Naam, heads of departments, Panchayati Raj representatives, and other dignitaries. Deputy Commissioner Tirap, Techu Aran, who attended the programme, described Seva Aapke Dwar as a true manifestation of "governance in action," emphasizing that the initiative has significantly improved service delivery in remote and border areas.

"The programme reflects the government's commit-

ment to inclusive governance by ensuring that every citizen, regardless of geographical constraints, can access essential public services," Aran said.

He also lauded Secretary Dr Sonal Swaroop for visiting one of the most remote corners of the district to oversee the camp and interact directly with villagers.

Highlighting the growing impact of the initiative, the Deputy Commissioner noted that the camps have enhanced public awareness about government welfare schemes and strengthened coordination among departments.

"We can see tangible results—more people are coming forward to avail benefits, and inter-departmental efficiency has reached new heights," he added.

Addressing the gathering, Secretary (RD & PR) Dr Sonal Swaroop informed that since 2018, the State Government has been conducting Sarkar Aapke Dwar, Prashasan Aapke Dwar, and Seva Aapke Dwar camps across Arunachal Pradesh with the objective of delivering essential services and disseminating information about State and Central flagship programmes at the grassroots level.

AOA hails Cabinet nod for ₹130 crore Phase-II development

HT Correspondent

ITANAGAR, Oct 8: The Arunachal Olympic Association (AOA) has extended its deep gratitude to chief minister Pema Khandu and the State Cabinet for approving the ₹130 crore Phase-II infrastructure development of the State Sports Academy at Miao, Changlang district. The approval was accorded during the Cabinet meeting held under the "Cabinet Aapke Dwar" initiative at Miao. Describing the decision as a landmark step towards transforming the sporting landscape of the state, the AOA said it reflects the Government's steadfast commitment to promoting sports and nurturing young talent across Arunachal Pradesh. The association also conveyed its heartfelt appreciation to Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Kento Jini for his dynamic leadership and continued efforts in strengthening the state's sports ecosystem. Under the visionary leadership of chief minister Pema Khandu, Arunachal Pradesh has witnessed remarkable progress in sports infrastructure and athlete development in recent years.

The establishment of modern multipurpose stadiums, Khelo India Centres, and the successful conduct of major events such as the Arunachal State Games and Sansad Khel Spardha have positioned the state as an emerging sporting hub in the Northeast. Enhanced training facilities, improved infrastructure, and focused athlete support have enabled sportspersons from Arunachal to achieve outstanding results at regional and national levels, earning accolades and medals across multiple disciplines.

Reaffirming its commitment to the Government's vision of empowering youth through sports, the Arunachal Olympic Association pledged to continue working closely with the Department of Sports and Youth Affairs to realize the shared goal of producing Olympians from the state.

BRTF conducts special cleanliness drive

ITANAGAR, Oct 8: The Border Roads Task Force (BRTF), Project Vartak conducted a special cleanliness and food hygiene drive at an old age home in Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang district, a defence official said.

The drive was conducted at Mahabodhi Positive Living Society - an old age home dedicated to the care and well-being of senior citizens at Teli in Tawang from September 21 to October 7, the official said.

Defence PRO Lt Col Mahendra Rawat on Wednesday said the focus of the initiative was on food hygiene, as it plays a vital role in maintaining the immunity and health of the elderly.

A nursing assistant briefed the residents and staff on hygienic cooking, safe food handling, and the importance of clean surroundings in preventing infections, the official said. (PTI)

DBT-APSCS&T CoE for BRSD organises symposium in Ziro to advance bioinformatics and computational biology in healthcare research

Symposium on Emerging Trends in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology held

HT Correspondent

ZIRO, Oct 8: The DBT-APSCS&T Centre of Excellence for Bioresources and Sustainable Development (CoE for BRSD), Kimin, successfully organized a symposium on "Emerging Trends in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology for Healthcare Practices" at the Indira Gandhi Technological and Medical Sciences University (IGTAMSU), Ziro, on Wednesday.

The event is part of a series of awareness programmes being conducted by the CoE for BRSD across its centres in Kimin, Pasighat, and Namsai, aimed at promoting the application of Bioinformatics and Computational Biology in biological research and healthcare innovation in Arunachal Pradesh.

The inaugural session began with a welcome address and programme overview by Dr Debashis Panda, Scientist-B, DBT-APSCS&T CoE for BRSD, Kimin.

He highlighted the immense potential of these emerging disciplines in advancing high-throughput research on the state's diverse bioresources.

Dr Siddharth Shankar, Vice Chancellor of IGTAMSU, Ziro, who graced the occasion as the guest of honour, lauded the efforts of the CoE for BRSD in promoting scientific



learning and awareness.

He encouraged students to take full advantage of the symposium to expand their technical knowledge and research capabilities.

The technical sessions featured expert lectures from distinguished scientists. In the first session, Dr Debashis Panda

presented on "Basic and Advanced Applications of Bioinformatics and Computational Biology in Healthcare Practices," explaining how computational tools are transforming biomedical research and diagnostics.

The second session featured a keynote address by Dr Mangala Hegde from the Cancer Biology Laboratory, Department of

Biosciences and Bioengineering, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati.

Dr Hegde spoke on Medical and Translational Biotechnology, elaborating on cancer biology and the molecular mechanisms driving cancer cell proliferation.

The symposium saw enthusiastic participation from students of Government Higher Secondary School, Hija, Frontier School, and undergraduate students and faculty members from IGTAMSU.

In total, 99 students and 7 faculty members from Ziro and surrounding areas attended the event, gaining valuable exposure to modern computational approaches in life sciences and healthcare research.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr Bidyandana Singh, Head of the Department of Medical Laboratory Science, IGTAMSU, who expressed gratitude to the dignitaries, speakers, and participants for making the symposium a success.

Reaffirming its commitment to scientific advancement, the DBT-APSCS&T CoE for BRSD stated that it will continue to foster interdisciplinary collaboration, capacity building, and sustainable bioresource research for the holistic development of Arunachal Pradesh.

Ayurvedic cough syrups, home remedies are safe and effective for children: Expert



NEW DELHI, Oct 8: Amid concerns regarding the quality of cough syrups being administered to children, experts say Ayurvedic remedies are a completely safe and effective alternative.

Dr R P Parasher, the national president of All India Doctors Association of Indian System, on Tuesday said that Ayurvedic cough syrups, herbs and home remedies can be given to children over two years of age without fear.

The remarks amid the recent deaths of several children in Madhya Pradesh, allegedly due to consumption of contaminated cough syrup.

On October 3, the Director General of Health

Services (DGHS) issued an advisory to all states restricting prescription of cough and cold medications to children aged below two years.

The advisory mentioned that cough syrups are generally not recommended for children aged below five years. For those aged above five years, any administration of the drug should follow careful clinical evaluation with close supervision and strict adherence to appropriate dosing, the shortest effective duration and avoiding multiple drugs combinations, it said.

The advisory also reiterated judicious and rational prescription and dispensation of cough

syrups for children.

Dr Parasher said that in case of cough, cold or chills in children aged under six months, their chest should be massaged with slightly warmed ghee or oil.

"Mothers of such children should refrain from consuming foods that are cool in nature and increase 'kapha' and 'dosha' in the body. Children aged above six months could be fed milk boiled with basil, ginger, cloves, black pepper and dates, and then filtered," he said.

This milk will boost their immunity and provide immediate relief from coughs and colds, he

said.

Ayurvedic cough syrups are made from herbs such as basil, amaranth, licorice, kakasingsi, bharrangi, pushkarmool, baheda, mint, long pepper, black pepper, cinnamon, bay leaf and talispatra. These have no side effects on children, Dr Parasher explained.

Additionally, children can be given Sitopaladi powder and Talishadi powder mixed with honey, or prescribed medicines like Vasavaleha and Agastya Haritaki. All these medicines are completely safe and effective for children, he added. (PTI)

Op Sindoor restored rightful place of offensive air action in national consciousness: IAF chief

HINDON, Oct 8: The Indian Air Force's execution of Operation Sindoor has proved to the world how air power can be effectively used in shaping military outcomes in just a few days. Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal A P Singh said on Wednesday.

Singh also said his force's "bold and precise" attacks on enemy targets during the operation restored the rightful place of offensive air action in the national consciousness.

The air chief marshal was addressing air warriors on the occasion of the 93rd Air Force Day at the Hindon air base. The Indian Air Force (IAF) was officially established on October 8, 1932.

Singh also awarded citations to a number of IAF units, including a Rafale squadron, for their stellar performances during the operation.

Hailing the success of Operation Sindoor, he called upon the air warriors to "remain prepared" for future security challenges, emphasising that the IAF's planning must be "innovative, practical and adaptive", and its training must be based on the principle of "train like we fight".

"Our performance in Operation Sindoor fills us with professional pride. We proved to the world how air power can be effectively used in shaping military outcomes in just a few days," he said.

The Chief of Air Staff described Operation Sindoor as a shining ex-



ample of what can be achieved through "meticulous planning, disciplined training and determined execution".

"India's bold and precise attacks restored the rightful place of offensive air action in the national consciousness," he said. "Our robust air-defence architecture and offensive employment of long-range surface-to-air missile systems limited the adversary's ability to operate and ensured the safety of our vital assets," he said.

"The outstanding performance of the indigenously-developed and integrated weapons, which delivered precise and devastating blows deep inside enemy territory, vindicates our faith in home-grown capabilities," he said.

In response to the April 22 Pa-

halgamm attack, India launched Op-

eration Sindoor on May 7, using air power to destroy several terror infrastructures in territories controlled by Pakistan.

The strikes triggered four days of intense clashes that ended with an understanding on stopping the military actions on May 10. Last week, Singh said at least a dozen Pakistani military aircraft, including US-origin F-16 jets and Chinese-origin JF-17s, were destroyed or damaged in Indian strikes during Operation Sindoor.

In his remarks, the air chief marshal also noted that the increasing pace of integration of new systems, weapons and equipment into the IAF's operational plans has been a "significant success".

"I can see that there is an increased culture of accountability, safety and security amongst the air

warriors and this is directly reflecting in our reduced incidents and accidents," he said.

"At all levels, leaders are leading from the front, demonstrating exceptional vision and empathy. They are ensuring that every individual is empowered with the necessary training and is motivated," he added. The Chief of Air Staff also underlined the need for the IAF to remain prepared for any contingencies and called for "effective teamwork".

"As we celebrate our triumphs and success, we must remain prepared for the future. Our planning must be innovative, practical and adaptive. Our training must be based on the principle of 'train like we fight'. Hence, it should continue to be honest, rigorous and relevant to the emerging challenges," he said.

The air chief marshal also called for the IAF to leverage its "collective strength" and "foster synergy" not only within the force but also with other defence services.

"We must recognise that victory comes with effective teamwork. We have to leverage our collective strength, foster synergy and promote interoperability, not only within the Indian Air Force but also with other defence services and organisations so as to achieve national goals," he said.

The Chief of Air Staff also referred to his force's role during various national crises. (PTI)

Uproar in Kerala Assembly over Sabarimala gold row, UDF stages boycott

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, Oct 8: Kerala Assembly witnessed a massive uproar on Wednesday as opposition UDF members, who have been protesting seeking the resignation of the Devaswom minister over the Sabarimala gold-plating row, engaged in a scuffle with watch-and-ward personnel and boycotted the House proceedings later.

The opposition announced in the Assembly in the morning that they would not cooperate with the House proceedings until Minister V N Vasavan resigns over alleged irregularities linked to the reduced weight of gold-plated coverings on 'Dwarapalaka' idols at the Lord Ayyappa temple.

The unruly scenes began when the Congress-led UDF legislators, who were protesting in the well of the House with placards and a banner, tried to barge into the Speaker's podium, and the watch-and-ward personnel blocked them.

Seeing the scuffle between the opposition MLAs and the guards, the members of the treasury benches, including Minister Saji Cheriyan, rushed to the well and engaged in heated arguments with the UDF members.

The scuffle broke out when General Education Minister V Sivankutty was speaking during the question hour.

In his address, Sivankutty expressed strong displeasure over the opposition protest in front of the Speaker's podium and the raising



of a banner, thus blocking him from seeing the members.

As the uproar continued, Speaker A N Shamsheer cancelled the question hour midway and temporarily stopped the proceedings. When the session resumed after some time, Leader of Opposition V D Satheesan said it was not the first time that the opposition had staged a protest in the House, but deploying watch-and-ward guards to handle them was not usual.

The LoP accused Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan of deliberately "provoking" the protesting opposition legislators and alleged that Ministers Saji Cheriyan and Mohammed Riyas were the ones who first trooped to the well of the House during their protest.

However, Speaker Shamsheer objected to his remarks and said the ministers didn't do so. Visibly upset over it, Satheesan

accused Shamsheer of "lying" and announced that the UDF is boycotting the further proceedings of the House.

With the opposition members marching out of the House, Parliamentary Affairs Minister M B Rajesh made a scathing attack against them and said the boycott was part of their pre-planned agenda.

Countering the LoP's allegation that it was the CM who provoked them, Rajesh said Satheesan sent UDF members A P Anil Kumar and T Siddique to "attack" Vijayan in the House. Terming the incident as "unprecedented", he claimed that the ruling benches did nothing to provoke the opposition.

He also accused the LoP of using Thrikakara MLA Uma Thomas, who is still under treatment after recovering from a major accident, as a "human shield" during the protest at the well of the House. (PTI)

Communal Harmony Day observed under Anuvrat Address Week in Delhi



NEW DELHI, Oct 8: The Anuvrat Samiti Trust, Delhi, in collaboration with the Anuvrat Vishwa Bharati Society, organised a Sarva Dharma Prarthana Sabha (All-Faith Prayer Meeting) at Oswal Bhawan, Vivek Vihar, to mark Communal Harmony Day under the ongoing Anuvrat Address Week.

The programme was held in the holy presence of Munishri Udit Kumar Ji, disciple of Acharya Shri Mahashraman Ji, and brought together distinguished representatives from various faiths to promote peace, unity, and non-violence.

Addressing the gathering, Munishri Udit Kumar Ji said that religion has always played a vital role in the evolution of human civilization.

"The glorious achievements of religion are evident in art, music, literature, philosophy, and moral values. The essence of all religions is mutual brotherhood, compassion, and understanding," he said.

He emphasised that while sects serve as identities, true religion lies in inner transformation.

"Acharya Shri Tulsi, through the Anuvrat movement, gave the message that the real essence of religion is restraint, morality, and humanity. The present Anuvrat Anushasta, Acharya Shri Mahashraman Ji, has carried forward this noble work through his Ahimsa Yatra dedicated to non-violence, goodwill, and freedom from addiction," he added.

Representatives from major religions also spoke at the event, stressing that the development of society and the nation is only possible through interfaith harmony.

Among the participants were Parsi Guru Marajban Nari-man Jaiwala B, Japanese Buddhist monk Junsei Terasawa, Father Rev Sunil Solomon Gajan from Saint Martin Church, Pt Arvind Bhardwaj representing Hinduism, Athar Saeed representing Islam, Jaswinder Kaur and Taran Preet Kaur representing Sikhism, Brahma Kumari Divya Didi, and Dr Narendra Vidyalkana from Arya Samaj.

Each speaker highlighted the universal values of peace, tolerance, and brotherhood inherent in their respective faiths.

Welcoming the dignitaries, Babul Golchha, President of Anuvrat Samiti Trust, Delhi, said that the Anuvrat movement, founded by Acharya Shri Tulsi, transcends all divisions of caste, creed, and color.

"The movement upholds the ideals of morality, self-restraint, and humanity. Though Acharya Tulsi was a sectarian leader, his message was universal — 'First human, then Hindu or Muslim,'" Golchha said, recalling Acharya Tulsi's inclusive vision.

The event was attended by several eminent personalities, including Sukhraj Sethia, President of Delhi Terapanthi Sabha; Kamal Bagani, Patron of Anuvrat Samiti Trust; former Chairman Shantilal Patavari; Co-Minister Shripavan Gidia; Publicity Minister Dinesh Sharma; and Working Committee Members Kamal Sethia, Raj Gunecha, Sangeeta An-chalia, Mati Indu Singhi, Kalpana Sethia, and Anshu Jain.

Religious tolerance in-charge Sushil Bangani, along with Sanjay Bhai, Mahendra Chordia, Pradeep Chouradia, Rajendra Singhin (Chairman, Shahdara Sabha), Nirmal Chhalani (Chairman, Gandhinagar Sabha), and Mangala Kundalia (President, East Delhi Mahila Mandal), were also present.

All religious leaders and representatives were felicitated with shawls, mementos, and Anuvrat Patka as a mark of respect. The programme began with the Anuvrat prayer followed by prayers from all religions, symbolizing unity in diversity.

KARBI ANGLONG AUTONOMOUS COUNCIL DEPARTMENT OF WORKS KAAC:: BRANCH SECRETARIAT HAMREN-782486

NO.KAAC/HRN/W-127/2025-26/168

Dated: 07/10/2025

SHORT TENDER NOTICE

It is for general information to all the concerned that Tender Notice issued vide Memo No.KAAC/HRN/W-127/2025-26/125(A) Dated:29/08/2025 for schemes under Socheng Constituency has been extended upto 21st October 2025 at 4:00 PM for the following mentioned schemes list and will be opened on the same date, place in presence of the tenderers or their authorized agencies if any.

Others terms & conditions remain the same.

Sl. No.	Name of Works	Tender Amount	A/A Amount	Earnest Money	Time allowed for completion
1	Construction of Boundary Wall with iron gate at Hamren Govt. Higher Secondary School, Hamren.	Rs. 21,35,000.00	Rs. 21,35,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	60 days
2	Construction of entrance gate at Hamren Govt. Higher Secondary School.	Rs. 10,00,000.00	Rs. 10,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	60 days
3	Pavers Block road at Hamren Govt. Higher Secondary School.	Rs. 7,00,000.00	Rs. 7,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	60 days
4	Extension of Hemphu Bidya English School Hamren under Socheng Constituency.	Rs. 22,95,000.00	Rs. 22,95,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	60 days
5	Renovation of Hemphu Bidya English School, Hamren under Socheng Constituency.	Rs. 27,00,000.00	Rs. 27,00,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	60 days
6	Construction of public toilet facilities at Hamren New Market.	Rs. 9,40,000.00	Rs. 9,40,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% GENERAL=2%	60 days

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (Work)
KAAC Branch Secretariat
HAMREN

Memo No. KAAC/HRN/W-127/2025-26/ 168(A)

Dated:07/10/2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

No.Dy.Dir/Dpu/Tender/69/2025-26/255 Dtd.06/10/2025. :Sealed tender affixing non-refundable Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council money receipt worth Rs. 10/- (Rupees Ten) only are hereby invited from intending Tenderers/party/ firm for leasing out of *Tourist Entry Gate at Kaipholangso Tourist Spot, Karbi Anglong under Duar Bagori MAC Constituency.*

The tender will be received up to 1.00 PM 27th of October, 2025 and shall be opened on the same day in presence of tenderers or their authorized agents. If the office remains close due to any reason on that day, the tender will be received and open on the next working day 2.00 PM (IST).

The tender application form and detailed particulars of the items may be collected from the office of the undersigned during office hours from 7th of October 2025. The intending tenderers shall have to pay Rs.500/- (Rupees Five Hundred) only against the cost of tender application form for leasing out of Tourist Entry Gate at Kaipholangso Tourist Spot, Karbi Anglong.

Sd/-
Dy. Director of Tourism,
Karbi Anglong, Diphu.

TMC leaders meets DGP over security concerns

Party delegation visits Tripura after alleged attack on party office

HT Correspondent
AGARTALA/ KOLKATA, Oct 8: A high-level delegation of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) on Wednesday left for Tripura to express solidarity with party workers following the alleged vandalism of its state headquarters in Agartala by BJP's youth wing members.

The incident, which occurred on Tuesday evening at the Chittaranjan Road office, has triggered sharp political reactions and renewed tensions between the ruling BJP and the TMC in the northeastern state.

The five-member delegation from West Bengal comprised TMC general secretary Kunal Ghosh, state minister Birbaha Hansda, MPs Saayoni Ghosh and Pratima Mondal, and party spokesperson Sudip Raha. Rajiya Sabha MP Sushmita Dev joined the team at Agartala airport.

Upon arrival at Maharaja Bir Bikram Airport (MBB), the delegation alleged that their movement within the city was deliberately obstructed. Kunal Ghosh claimed that vehicles arranged for their transport were blocked at the airport and drivers were threatened, preventing them from reaching the party office.

"Drivers meant to take us to our office were stopped and intimidated. Such tactics show how democracy is being under-



mined," Ghosh told reporters.

MP Saayoni Ghosh said that the obstruction reflected "a deeply troubling political climate."

"Preventing us from reaching our own office highlights the fear of political competition and the collapse of democratic norms," she added.

Despite the hurdles, the team later reached the party office in Agartala under

tight security.

The delegation subsequently met Tripura Director General of Police (DGP) Anurag to lodge a formal complaint regarding the alleged attack and to seek enhanced security for TMC leaders and party infrastructure in the state.

"We have discussed past incidents, including the attack on Abhishek Banerjee's convoy in 2021. The DGP assured us that

necessary action would be taken," Ghosh said.

According to party sources, the TMC has also sought an appointment with Tripura Governor Indra Sena Reddy Nallu to apprise him of the situation and raise concerns about political freedom and safety in the state.

Before departing from Kolkata, Kunal Ghosh had said, "We are ready to face any consequence. But we have to go there, as such attacks on opposition parties in the presence of police should be protested and resisted peacefully."

TMC MP Saayoni Ghosh added that the attack on BJP leaders in flood-hit north Bengal earlier in the week "was not carried out by TMC workers but by common people angered over remarks that central funds would be blocked under the 100-day work scheme."

She reiterated that the party condemned any assault on elected representatives.

TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee strongly condemned the alleged vandalism, posting on X, "Unable to defeat the Trinamool Congress at the ballot box in Bengal, BJP has unleashed its full machinery to provoke violence in states where they hold power. Their karyakartas attacked and ransacked our

party office in Tripura under the watchful eyes of the police, revealing their vindictive mindset."

He further stated, "This is not an isolated incident. In Tripura alone, our leaders and workers have repeatedly faced assaults. Intimidation, violence, and vendettas will never silence us. Democracy and law will prevail over BJP's brute politics."

In Kolkata, senior TMC leader and state minister Sashi Panja described the Agartala incident as "pre-planned" and accused BJP MLA from Bishalgarh, Sushanta Dev, and BJP's youth wing vice president Vikki Prasad of leading the attack.

"Former Tripura chief minister and BJP's West Bengal in-charge Biplab Deb is trying to regain relevance after being sidelined within his own party. He is behind this deep-rooted conspiracy," she alleged.

The TMC has condemned the incident as a direct assault on democratic values, while the BJP has not issued an official statement in response.

The party delegation in Tripura said it would continue to assess the situation and stand "in full solidarity" with its workers amid what it termed "an increasingly hostile political environment." (With inputs from PTT)

2,500 vehicle owners penalised



NONGPOH(MEGHALAYA), Oct 8: Meghalaya's Ri Bhoi District Police penalised 2,500 vehicle owners for various traffic violations and collected ₹ 8 lakh in fines, officials said on Wednesday.

Around 2,500 vehicles were penalised for offences such as not wearing helmets or seat belts, driving without valid documents, using the wrong lane, overspeeding, driving under the influence of alcohol, and illegal vehicle modifications, they said.

The traffic violation drive started at 7 pm on Tuesday and ended on Wednesday morning.

The drive was launched in the wake of a spate of recent accidents in the district.

"Residents are urged to follow traffic rules diligently. Photo or video evidence of violators may be shared with the police on WhatsApp at 6909300160 for necessary action," the administration said in a statement. (PTT)

Nagaland signs MoU with Capacity Building Commission to build competent civil service

HT Correspondent
DIMAPUR, Oct 8: The Nagaland government and the Capacity Building Commission of India signed a memorandum of understanding in Kohima on Wednesday to build a competent and future-ready civil service that works collectively to ensure effective and efficient public service delivery and equity.

Addressing the programme, Nagaland chief secretary Sentiyanger Imchen expressed his gratitude to Capacity Building Commission of India for introducing and conducting orientations for the officials of the state on various aspects of Mission Karmayogi. He hoped that the signing of the MoU will mark the beginning of a long and fruitful partnership in strengthening governance and capacity building in Nagaland.

Stating that the Mission Karmayogi was launched by the Government of India in 2020, Imchen said most states have entered into a partnership with the Capacity Building Commission to train and build the capacity of their officials.

He said it was only recently that the personnel and administrative reforms department and the Administrative Training Institute started training programmes for government officials, describing it as a right step for capacity building of government servants.

Imchen stressed that regular and need-based training empowers officers with updated knowledge, functional skills and the right attitude to handle complex governance issues.

He said the registration and training modules will be through a digitalised platform called the iGOT Karmayogi, while calling upon all the officers of the state to constantly keep updating their skills and knowledge.

He also pointed out that since many of the officers are unwilling to attend training courses in other parts of the country, the use of platforms like iGOT online will enable them in remote districts to access quality learning resources, making capacity building inclusive, attractive and impactful.

Congress alleges discrepancies in Jal Jeevan Mission in Manipur, seeks court-monitored probe

NEW DELHI, Oct 8: The Congress on Wednesday alleged that there were discrepancies in the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in Manipur and demanded a court-monitored investigation into it.

The opposition party also claimed that "recurring discrepancies" across districts suggest possible large-scale misuse of public funds, lack of accountability and failure to monitor mechanisms by the implementing agencies.

There was no immediate reaction from the Centre over the allegations.

Congress MP from Inner Manipur, A Binol Akoijam, said he wants the nation to know that a "huge scandal" is taking place under the JJM in Manipur.

"I have been following this as part of the DISHA committee meeting. In the Lok Sabha, I asked the minister to provide the details of how many houses have been provided with water connections."

"The reply mentioned that before the scheme was launched in August 2019, there were around 26,000 (5.74 per cent of the rural households) that had tap water connections in Manipur. After the launch of this scheme, it grew to 3,33,539 additional rural households with tap water connections," he said at a press conference at the Congress' Indira Bhawan head-

quarters here. Thus, as of July 28, 2025, out of 4,51,619 rural households in the state, the provision of tap water supply is available to 3,59,459 (79.59%) rural households, he said.

"I also asked for a district-wise breakup and how much money was spent on these, and they responded by mentioning that Rs 1,202 crore has been utilised, of which the central share utilised is Rs 1,078.82 crore and the state's share is Rs 124.03 crore," he said. Akoijam alleged that during his field visits, he discovered that in every village visited, not a single household reported having a functional tap water supply, contradicting official claims.

"I have moved a case in the Manipur High Court, as this is a huge scam. I want the nation to know that such a huge scandal is taking place under the Jal Jeevan Mission in Manipur," the Congress MP said.

Akoijam claimed that he visited several villages, including Toubul, Nachou, Phubala, Patsoi Part-II, Kiyamegi and Yurebam.

In every village visited, not a single household reported having a functional tap water supply, contradicting official claims, the party said in a statement.

The MP noted that this is not an isolated case but points to a "sys-

temic issue of data manipulation and fund misappropriation under the Jal Jeevan Mission in Manipur".

Before these visits, numerous complaints from the districts of Senapati, Chandel and Ukhrul had highlighted similar irregularities — where villages were marked as "fully covered" under JJM despite irregular water supply, JJM infrastructure left defunct, incomplete, or non-operational, the Congress said.

These recurring discrepancies across districts suggest possible large-scale misuse of public funds, lack of accountability and failure to monitor mechanisms by the implementing agencies, it said.

Taking cognisance of these discrepancies, Akoijam has filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the Manipur High Court, seeking a court-monitored investigation into the implementation of the JJM in the state.

The PIL seeks a district-wise comprehensive audit of funds sanctioned and utilised under JJM, verification of household tap water connection claims made by the state and recognition of access to safe drinking water as part of the fundamental Right to Life under Article 21 of the Constitution, with a minimum guarantee of two hours of daily tap water supply per household across Manipur. (PTT)

Tripura CM slams TMC, Says party has 'no real presence' in state

HT Correspondent
AGARTALA, Oct 8: Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha on Wednesday lashed out at the Trinamool Congress (TMC), accusing the party of trying to divert national attention from the ongoing flood crisis in North Bengal.

He claimed that the TMC has no significant presence in Tripura apart from a few signboards.

Addressing reporters, Saha said, "The way the Trinamool Congress is running their government is beyond comment. In North Bengal, the situation is extremely serious due to floods and landslides, and many people are suffering. Our MPs and MLAs, including Khagen Murmu and others, went there to distribute relief materials. However, TMC-backed individuals launched a violent attack, leaving some of



our workers injured and hospitalised."

He added that people across Tripura were outraged by the incident. Referring to a rally held in Agartala on Monday, the chief minister remarked that the TMC's activities in the state are superficial.

"In Tripura, the Trinamool Congress exists only through signboards. Some angry youths staged a protest, and although the police were present, they couldn't do much. Taking advantage of the situation, a few people from Kolkata came here — I don't know what they intend to achieve. They are free to come, but it won't help them," Saha said.

Accusing the TMC of attempting to shift public focus away from the North Bengal crisis, he asserted that such tactics would backfire.

"They will gain nothing from it; in fact, their vote bank will shrink. I only pray that they gain some common sense and focus on maintaining law and order in West Bengal instead of creating unrest elsewhere," he added.

BJP scared of Trinamool's six-member delegation to Tripura: Kunal Ghosh

AGARTALA, Oct 8: Trinamool Congress leader Kunal Ghosh on Wednesday alleged that the ruling BJP in Tripura is "scared" of the arrival of the party's six-member delegation from Kolkata in the wake of the attack on TMC's office in the northeastern state.

The delegation, scheduled to visit the party headquarters, was stuck at Maharaja Bir Bikram (MBB) airport for over three hours after four vehicles parked for their use were allegedly chased away by BJP-backed supporters, the party claimed.

To protest the delay, the Trinamool leaders

staged a demonstration inside the airport and expressed anger over the role of the state government, Ghosh said.

"We landed around 11 am and were set to move towards the city to visit our party headquarters, which was vandalised by BJP-backed goons on Monday. Unfortunately, the vehicles parked at the airport were chased away, forcing us to stay here for hours," Ghosh told reporters.

He claimed that when the delegation offered to proceed to the party office by auto-rickshaws or on foot, police denied permission.

Justice Soumen Sen sworn in as Chief Justice of M'laya High Court

SHILLONG, Oct 8: Justice Soumen Sen was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court at a ceremony at the Raj Bhavan's Darbar Hall here, officials said on Wednesday.

The oath of office was administered by Governor CH Vijayashankar. Sen succeeds Justice Sanjib Banerjee, who retired on September 5. The ceremony was attended by Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma, Leader of

the Opposition Mukul Sangma, Deputy Chief Minister Prestone Tynsong, Chief Secretary Shakil P. Ahamed, and other dignitaries. CM Sangma said, "Justice Sen brings with him a wealth of experience and wisdom, which will undoubtedly guide the judiciary in serving the people of Meghalaya with integrity and fairness. Wishing him a successful and impactful tenure in this esteemed role." (PTT)

Two militants arrested in Manipur

IMPHAL, Oct 8: Security forces arrested two militants, belonging to separate proscribed outfits, for their alleged involvement in extortion activities in Manipur's Imphal West and East districts, police said on Wednesday.

A 37-year-old cadre of the banned People's Liberation Army was apprehended from his residence at Kwakeithel in Imphal West district on Tuesday for allegedly extorting money from the public, a senior officer said.

He also said a 25-year-old member of the outlawed Kangleipak Communist Party (PWG) was arrested from Kongpal Khaidem Leikai in Imphal East district on Monday for alleged extortion activities. Security forces have been conducting search operations in Manipur since ethnic clashes broke out two years ago.

More than 260 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in ethnic violence between Meiteis and Kuki-Zo groups since May 2023.

The Centre had imposed the President's rule in Manipur after Chief Minister N Biren Singh resigned.

The state assembly, which has a tenure till 2027, has been put under suspended animation. (PTT)

Grand Diwali fair to illuminate Mata Tripura Sundari Temple from October 20

Tripura to ensure uninterrupted power and water supply in interior areas

HT Correspondent
AGARTALA, Oct 8. The much-awaited three-day Diwali Fair and Festival is all set to dazzle at the Mata Tripura Sundari Temple from October 20 to 22, officials announced on Wednesday.

The festival promises a vibrant blend of devotion, culture, and community spirit.

Preparations for the grand event were meticulously discussed during a meeting of the Diwali Fair and Festival Committee, held today at the conference hall of the Gomati district administration.

The meeting was chaired by State finance minister Pranajit Singha Roy, who emphasised the importance of ensuring a smooth, safe, and enjoyable experience for pilgrims and visitors alike.

Minister Singha Roy called for effective coordination among all departments and organisations to make the celebrations truly memorable.

He also highlighted that the festival will feature a colorful cultural program with performances by renowned artists from both within and outside the state.

In addition, stalls showcasing developmental initiatives by various government departments will be set up at the venue.

"The Mata Tripura Sundari Temple will be adorned with spectacular lights, and comprehensive security arrangements have been planned. To ensure the smooth conduct of the fair, a monitoring commit-



tee has been formed under the chairmanship of MLA Abhishek Debroy, supported by 14 sub-committees overseeing different aspects of the festival," the minister said.

Prominent attendees of the meeting included Chairman Debal Debroy, MLA Abhishek Debroy, MLA Jitendra Majumdar, Udaipur Municipal Council Chairper-

son Sheetal Chandra Majumdar, Additional District Magistrate Jayanta Chakraborty, and representatives from various departments.

The district administration has assured residents and visitors that all measures have been taken to ensure the festival is safe, vibrant, and enjoyable, promising a Diwali celebration to remember.

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW RAILWAY RECRUITMENT BOARD BUILDING

E-Tender Notice No. Sr. DEE/LMG/24 of 2025-26; dated: 03-10-2025. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: SN.1; Tender No: ELA/LM/25-26/26; Name of work: At Guwahati, Construction of New Railway Recruitment Board Building (G+1) (Electrical Portion). Tender Value: ₹1,50,892.45; Earnest Money: ₹1,23,000.00. E-tender will be closed at 11:30 hrs. on 24-10-2025 and Opened at 11:30 hrs. on 24-10-2025. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 11:00 hrs. on 26-09-2025 on website <http://www.treps.gov.in>

Sr. DEE/G&CHG, Lumding

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SALE INTIMATION AND PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE OF SECURITIES PLEDGED TO HDFC BANK LTD

The below mentioned Borrowers of HDFC Bank Ltd. (the "Bank") are hereby notified regarding the sale of securities pledged to the Bank, for availing credit facilities in the nature of Loan/Overdraft Against Securities.

Due to persistent default by the Borrowers in making repayment of the outstanding dues as per agreed loan terms, the below loan accounts are in delinquent status. The Bank has issued multiple notices to these Borrowers, including the final sale notice on the below-mentioned date whereby Bank had invoked the pledge and provided 7 days' time to the Borrower to repay the entire outstanding dues in the below accounts, failing which, Bank would be at liberty to sell the pledged securities without issuing further notice in this regard.

The Borrowers have neglected and failed to make due repayments, therefore, Bank in exercise of its rights under the loan agreement as a pledgee has decided to sell/ dispose off the Securities on or after **16th October 2025** for recovering the dues owed by the Borrowers to the Bank. The Borrowers are, also, notified that, if at any time, the value of the pledged securities falls further due to volatility in the stock market to create further deficiency in the margin requirement then Bank shall at its discretion sell the pledged security within one (1) calendar day, without any further notice in this regard. The Borrower(s) shall remain liable to the Bank for repayment of any remaining outstanding amount, post adjustment of the proceeds from sale of pledged securities.

Sr. No.	Loan Account Number	Borrower's Name	Outstanding Amount as on 06 th October 2025	Date of Sale Notice
1	XXXXXXXXXX3793	RHEMBOR G SAIBON	9,95,844.78	07-10-2025
2	XXXXXXXXXX9802	SANTOSH KR TIWARI	40,482.00	07-10-2025

Date : 09.10.2025
Place : MEGHALAYA

Sd/-
HDFC BANK LTD.

No. SCDB/MPLAD/575/2025-26/2297

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed Tender are invited in F-2 Form for the works shown below from (the intending Registered Contractor of class-I and class-II (A, B & C) categories of Assam PWD (Roads & Building)/PHED with affixing Non-refundable court fee of Rs.8.25 (Rupees Eight and twenty five paise) only in a prescribed form for 1 (One) No of construction work under MPLADS fund for the year 2024-25. The Tender will be received on 30/10/2025 up to 2.00 P.M. in the office of the undersigned and will be opened on same day at 2.30 P.M. in the office of the undersigned.

Name of Work	Estimated Amount	Bid Security	Cost of BID document (D/D) @ 0.03% (Approx)
Construction of Aganwadi Centre Salban, Thakrajhora under Sidi Dev. Block	Rs.12,00,000.00	1% on Estimate amount for ST/SC/OCB & 2% for General	Rs.360/-

The details may be seen at Notice Board in the Office of the Block Development Officer, Sidi-Chirang Development Block from 08/10/2025 to 30/10/2025 up to 2.00 P.M.

Sd/-Block Development Officer
Sidi-Chirang Development Block, Sidi

IPR(BTC)/C/2025-26/2959

Craziest, most fulfilling experience: Sanya Malhotra on working with Anurag Kashyap on 'Bandar'



MUMBAI, Oct 8: Actor Sanya Malhotra says working with acclaimed filmmaker Anurag Kashyap on the upcoming feature "Bandar" was a transformative experience and she thoroughly enjoyed "surrendering" to his vision.

Malhotra said Kashyap, known for critical hits such as "Black Friday", "Dev D", "Gangs of Wasseypur" and "Mukkabaz", shares filmmaking sensibilities with Anurag Basu, with whom she collaborated on the 2020 film Ludo.

"He (Kashyap) is so good. I didn't read the script. I had no idea what I was going to be a part of. I truly enjoy that process. The last time it happened was during 'Ludo'. I was quite discombobulated on that set but I did enjoy that whole process. I'm a first bench when it comes to acting. I love to do my homework. I would create backstories for my characters."

"When the directors are like, 'You just have to listen to us, don't think too much'. I like that process as well. I surrendered. We created magic in each and every scene," the actor told PTI in an interview.

Headlined by Bobby Deol, "Bandar" is said to be inspired

by real-life events and follows the story of a fading star accused of rape, shining a light on systemic injustices, silenced voices in courtrooms, and the harsh realities of a deeply flawed legal framework.

Malhotra plays the role of the sister of Bobby's Samar.

Recalling filming for one of the challenging scenes for the movie, Malhotra said she could showcase the raw authenticity in it only because of the environment that Kashyap created on the sets.

"I've all my scenes with Bobby sir... There is a scene in the film where I got so angry that I could not stand, my legs were shaking. My co-actor was literally holding me."

"They could not keep that take... I'm screaming at him and he is crying. We had no dialogues, whatsoever. I don't know how we were able to do this. It was only because of Anurag Kashyap... It's the craziest, the most fulfilling experience ever."

Produced by Nikhil Dwivedi, "Bandar" also stars Saba Azad, and Sapna Pabbi. Kashyap has written the film's script in collaboration with Sudip Sharma of "Paatal Lok" and "Kohrra" fame. (PTI)

RISHAB SHETTY'S 'KANTARA: CHAPTER 1' MINTS ₹ 427.5 CRORE WORLDWIDE IN SIX DAYS



NEW DELHI, Oct 8: Actor-director Rishab Shetty's "Kantara: Chapter 1" has taken the box office by storm, grossing ₹ 427.5 crore worldwide within six days of release, the makers said in a statement.

The movie is a prequel to Shetty's 2022 blockbuster "Kantara", which became a cultural phenomenon for its rooted storytelling, exploration of folklore and divine traditions of coastal Karnataka, and went on to become one of the highest-grossing Kannada films of all time.

Released on October 2 in Kannada, Hindi, Telugu, Malayalam, Tamil, Bengali, and English, the movie is produced by Hombale Films.

In a statement, the makers said the film is on track to reach ₹ 500 crore in its opening week. "In just six days, 'Kantara: Chapter 1' has collected a staggering ₹ 427.5 crore worldwide, emerging as a global phenomenon. With such an extraordinary pace, the film is expected to touch the ₹ 500 crore mark within a week and is steadily inching closer to the historic ₹ 1000 crore milestone."

"The strong word-of-mouth, glowing reviews, and massive buzz across social media are all working in the film's favour," the makers said.

Set in pre-colonial Karnataka during the reign of the Kadambas from Banavasi, "Kantara: Chapter 1" depicts the conflict between the tribals of the Kantara forest and a tyrannical king.

Shetty, who directed, wrote and headlined the prequel, had earlier won the National Film Award for Best Actor as well as Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment for "Kantara". (PTI)

UK PM Starmer visits YRF Studios in Mumbai, bats for deepening film collaboration

MUMBAI, Oct 8: The United Kingdom Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Wednesday visited the Yash Raj Films Studios in suburban Andheri and announced that major Indian production houses including the YRF will make movies across locations in the UK. The UK PM, on a two-day visit to India, was accompanied by a delegation of his country's film industry including representatives of the British Film Institute, British Film Commission, Pinewood Studios, Elstree Studios and Civic Studios. Flying in from London earlier in the day, Starmer drove to the YRF Studios amid heavy police security.

He met several Indian producers including YRF CEO Akshaye Widhwani, YRF chairperson Aditya Chopra's actor wife Rani Mukerji, Dinesh Vijan from Maddock Films, Ritesh Sidhwani of Excel Entertainment and Apoorva Mehta of Dharma Productions, among others, a source said.

"Bollywood is back in Britain, and it is bringing jobs, investment and opportunity, all while showcasing the UK as a world-class destination for global filmmaking. This is exactly the kind of partnership our trade deal with India is destined to unlock - driving growth, strengthening cultural ties and delivering for communities across the country," the UK PM said in a statement. The meeting between Starmer and Indian producers lasted for about 30 to 40 minutes, a source said.

YRF CEO Akshaye Widhwani said they were honoured to host the UK PM. "The UK holds a very special place in our hearts and some of our most iconic films, including 'Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge' were shot in this beautiful and incredibly hospitable country. "We were honoured to host the UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer at YRF today to ink this pact and also had the pleasure to discuss how India and the UK could come together to push the content landscape globally," Widhwani said. (PTI)

Punjabi singer Rajvir Jawanda passes away 11 days after road accident

CHANDIGARH, Oct 8: Punjabi actor-singer Rajvir Jawanda died at a private hospital in Mohali on Wednesday, 11 days after he was seriously injured in a road accident in Himachal Pradesh.

The 35-year-old was declared dead at 10.55 am on Wednesday, hospital authorities said.

"Despite extensive medical support and continuous monitoring by the Critical Care and Neurosurgery teams, he succumbed to multiple organ failure this morning. Our deepest condolences to his family and fans," said a statement issued by the Fortis Hospital.

Jawanda, a big, emerging name in the Punjabi showbiz industry, had been on life support ever since he was brought to the Fortis Hospital in Mohali in an extremely critical condition. He was seriously injured in an accident in Himachal Pradesh's Solan district while going to Shimla on a motorcycle on September 27. The singer sustained head and spine injuries in the accident. He had also suffered a cardiac arrest before being shifted to Fortis Hospital.

Hailing from village Pona in Ludhiana's Jagraon, Jawanda started his singing career with the 2014 sin-



gle "Munda Like Me" and rose to fame with the song "Kali Jawanda Di" in 2016. The singer was praised for bridging folk heritage with new-age Punjabi pop which appealed to younger listeners.

According to a short biography posted on music streaming service Apple Music, Jawanda had aspirations of becoming a police officer growing up. But he abandoned the dream to pursue an artistic life as a singer. Some of his other popular hit songs include "Tu dis penda", "Khush reha kar", "Sardari", "Surname", "Afreem", "Landlord", "Down to earth" and "Kangani".

As an actor, Jawanda appeared in Gippy Grewal-starrer Punjabi movie "Subedar Joginder Singh" in 2018 as well as films such as "Jind Jaan" and "Mindo Taseeldami". Many artists reached the hospital after learning about the demise of the singer. Several artists, including Gurpreet Ghuggi, Guggu Gill, Darshan Aulakh, and politicians also expressed grief over the demise of Jawanda.

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said he was saddened to hear the news of the death of Jawanda. The star of the Punjabi music world has disappeared forever. The voice of Rajvir Jawanda, who ruled the hearts of people through his songs at a young age, will always resonate," Mann said on X. Senior AAP leader Manish Sisodia also condoled Jawanda's demise in a post on X. (PTI)

Regional can also be universal: Kannada star Rishab Shetty on 'Kantara: Chapter 1' success

NEW DELHI, Oct 8: Buoyed by the overwhelming box office success of "Kantara: Chapter 1", actor-director Rishab Shetty on Wednesday said the film's triumph reinforces his belief that regional storytelling can be accepted universally.

Much like its predecessor "Kantara" (2022), which became a cultural phenomenon for its rooted storytelling, exploration of folklore and divine traditions of coastal, the new Kannada film has also earned praise for its narrative and performances.

At the global box office, "Kantara: Chapter 1" has emerged as a runaway success, grossing Rs 427.5 crore within six days of its release. "We began the world of 'Kantara' from the first film and since then we have explored the dynamic between nature and humans. This story is rooted in our

folklore from coastal Karnataka, we want to talk about the tribes, the folklore and deity worship in our film. "Since then I have had a thought that regional can also be universal. This time with this success, that point has once again been proven that our film is being accepted globally," Shetty, who has written, directed, produced and acted in "Kantara: Chapter 1", told reporters here.

The Kannada star was speaking at a success press event along with co-stars Jayaram, Gulshan Devaiah, cinematographer Arvind S Kashyap, costume designer Pragathi Shetty, and Chaulve Gowda of production banner Hombale Films. Set in pre-colonial Karnataka during the reign of the Kadambas from Banavasi, "Kantara: Chapter 1" depicts the conflict between the tribals of the Kantara forest and a tyrannical

king. In addition to Kannada, the movie was also released in Hindi, Telugu, Malayalam, Tamil, Bengali, and English on October 2.

"We have tried to stick to our core this time around, and the audience has appreciated that. I think it has been even more effective than the last part I have heard in the reviews," said Shetty, who earlier won the National Film Award for Best Actor as well as Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment for "Kantara".

Shetty said the film demanded immense effort and praised his entire team for their support.

"We also don't know how we achieved this. It scared us to think about the effort that would go into making the film. As a team, we have managed to achieve this -- from the production boys that got us tea to the production house -- everyone has contributed to this

film." Producer Gowda said the team worked hard to make the film resonate not only with Kannada audiences but with viewers across the world.

"Our vision is to call our films Indian cinema. This film is not just for the Karnataka audience but for pan-Indian audience because now language is not a barrier. We are working with very talented people, so we expect it to reach all audiences... The whole team of 'Kantara' has worked very hard on the film," he said.

Actors Jayaram and Devaiah recalled joining the ambitious project. It marks Devaiah's debut in Kannada cinema while it is veteran actor Jayaram's second film in the regional industry.

"This is my second Kannada movie. Three years ago I got a call from Rishab ji and I was excited, and the excitement remains... I'm

always a student in each one of my films, so this time I am Rishab's student and I'm glad we got to work together," said Jayaram, known for appearing in Telugu and Tamil hits such as "Ala Vaikunthapuramuloo", "Hi Nanna" and "Ponniyin Selvan".

Devaiah said he first Shetty in 2019 and became a fan of the Kannada star.

"I didn't know much about him but (saw) the passion in him to create cinema deeply rooted in his culture. I knew he had the sincerity to tell these stories and I wanted to be a part of that," the actor said.

He also added that the film is special as he too is a "mountain boy" from Kerala and wanted his first film there to be special.

"After they told me the story I knew it would be my mistake to not do it. He gave me a lot of freedom to interpret the character and I

am from Karnataka. So to come back and have this to be the first film I feature in was very special," he said.

Cinematographer Kashyap also gave credit to the entire team in weaving together a story which resonates deeply across Indian audiences.

"The main reason that people like the visuals of the movie is because of the story which has been the basis for this entire phenomenon so I want to thank our writers for giving us this story. "There were a lot of challenges given the backdrop we shot this film in but it has been successful because of Hombale who have supported us and for our director and his energy. The sets, the costumes, everything led to the visuals so when you collaborate to this extent, this kind of film is made possible," he said. (PTI)

India face Singapore in Asian Cup Qualifiers amid messy build-up

SINGAPORE, Oct 8: The build-up marred by several players missing the first half of the national camp, the Indian football team faces a tricky Singapore in a crucial AFC Asian Cup qualifying third round match here on Thursday. Though the talisman Sunil Chhetri has returned to the team after he was rested for the CAFA Nations Cup in August-September, Khalid Jamil's side have trained together for barely a week for such an important match.

India are in the bottom of four-team Group C after having garnered a single point from their first two matches against Bangladesh (0-0) and Hong Kong (0-1). Singapore, on the other hand, are currently at the top of the group with four points from their two games.

Any slip-up on Thursday could jeopardise India's chances of making it to the main tournament in 2027, for which only the group winners will make the cut.

Jamil had named 30 players for the national camp in Bengaluru which began on September 20 but 14 of them, including Chhetri, were not released by the clubs.

Later, most of the players joined the camp towards the end of September, meaning they were with the team for barely a week before their departure on Monday.

A helpless Jamil, who had just two defenders attending the camp in the first half, had urged the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and clubs to find a solution on the age old impasse.

Veteran defender Sandesh Jhingan making it to the final squad of 23 after recovering from a surgery due to cheek bone fracture during the CAFA Nations Cup last month



was a good news for India who are ranked at 134th as against 158th of Singapore. There is nothing much to separate between the two sides as far as head-to-head record is concerned. India have won 12 matches as against Singapore's 11, while four games ended in draws. The last meeting between the two sides ended in a 1-1 draw, with Ashique Kuruniyan cancelling out Ikhshan Fandi's strike in 2022.

At home, though, Singapore have the upper hand with eight wins against India's six, with one match being drawn. The last time

the two sides squared off in Singapore, the Lions came out on top, winning 2-0 in an international friendly in 2012.

Both the head coaches are relatively new to their jobs. Singapore coach Gavin Lee was appointed in interim capacity in June and is yet to win a match, having drawn against Myanmar (1-1), and lost to Malaysia (1-2) last month.

Singapore, however, will be buoyed by the return of captain and defender Hariss Harun, who was injured for the friendlies against Malaysia and Myanmar in Septem-

ber. Singapore also boast of some players who are plying their trade in overseas leagues. The most notable among them is forward Ikhshan Fandi, who has 21 international goals to his name from 41 caps. The 26-year-old plies his trade for Ratchaburi FC in the Thai League 1.

Another overseas player, 19-year-old Jonan Tan plays for Vizela FC in the U23 national league of Portugal. He has earned his maiden Lions' call-up.

Jamil, on the other hand, had begun his stint on a positive note

after his appointment in August. He guided the side without Chhetri to a third-place finish at the CAFA Nations Cup in Tajikistan.

India beat Tajikistan, lost to Iran and drew with Afghanistan in the group stage, and beat Oman on penalty shootout in third-place play-off. India head coach Jamil has made 10 changes from the CAFA Nations Cup squad with the likes of Brandon Fernandes, Sahal Abdul Samad, Farukh Choudhary and Liston Colaco coming in, besides Chhetri.

Jamil highlighted the importance of taking the remaining matches of the qualifiers one at a time. "We are not looking at the overall picture at the moment. There are still four matches to go, and the next one against Singapore is the most important for us right now," he said. "We cannot look too far ahead - we must go one step at a time." After Thursday's away match, India again face Singapore on October 14 in Margao, Goa in the return leg.

Indian Squad:
Goalkeepers: Amrinder Singh, Gurmeet Singh, Gurpreet Singh Sandhu.

Defenders: Anwar Ali, Hmingthannawia Ralte, Muhammed Uvais, Pramveer, Rahul Bheke, Sandesh Jhingan.

Midfielders: Brandon Fernandes, Danish Farooq Bhat, Deepak Tangri, Macarion Louis Nickson, Mahesh Singh Naorem, Nikhil Prabhu, Sahal Abdul Samad, Udanta Singh Kumam.

Forwards: Farukh Choudhary, Lallianzuala Chhangte, Liston Colaco, Rahim Ali, Sunil Chhetri, Vikram Partap Singh.

Match starts: 5pm IST. (PTI)

Salvai scores twice as Juventus beat Benfica in Women's Champions League opener

TURIN, Oct 8: Juventus defender Cecilia Salvai marked the 10th anniversary of her debut in the Women's Champions League with her first two goals in the competition as her team came from behind to beat Benfica 2-1 on Tuesday in the first match of the new-look tournament.

Salvai scored the winner four minutes from time to add to her first-half goal, which canceled out Lucia Alves' early opener.

Defending champion Arsenal was playing record eight-time winner Lyon later, with runner-up Barcelona hosting Bayern Munich. Paris FC was playing OH Leuven.

After the men switched from a group phase to a league-based format last season, the women's tournament made the move, too.

Alves scored the first goal of the revamped competition in the sixth minute, finishing off Nycole Raysla's cross with an emphatic close-range strike.

However, Juventus took control of the match from that point, driven by a lively performance

from Barbara Bonansea down the right.

And the veteran Italy international was key to Juve's equalizer in the 22nd minute, beating two players in the area before lifting the ball across for Salvai to head past Lena Pauels.

It was Salvai's first goal in the competition — 10 years to the day after making her Women's Champions League debut for Verona.

Juventus had numerous chances to take the lead and Bonansea also had a goal ruled out for offside shortly before halftime.

The Bianconere snatched the win in the 86th minute when a corner was flicked on and Salvai stuck out a leg to volley it into the back of the net.

The 18-team league phase ends in December. Teams that finish first to fourth in the standings advance directly to the quarterfinals. Those ranked Nos. 5 to 12 go to a knockout playoff round. The bottom six teams are eliminated. (AP)

Malaysia soccer federation disputes cheating claims and will appeal FIFA sanctions

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 8: The Football Association of Malaysia (FAM) said Tuesday that it would appeal FIFA sanctions after being accused by soccer's governing body of cheating.

In September, FIFA suspended seven overseas-born players who all featured for Malaysia in June's 4-0 win over Vietnam in a 2027 Asian Cup qualifier, for 12 months and fined FAM \$438,000, citing falsified or doctored documentation.

In its full report released Monday, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee said "the original birth certificates indicated a sharp contrast to the documentation provided," referring to papers from the FAM claiming the players all had a grandparent born in Malaysia, making them eligible to represent the country under FIFA rules. The committee reported that the original certificates showed that the said family members had actually been born in the same countries as the players: Argentina, Brazil, the Netherlands and Spain.

"Presenting fraudulent documentation with the purpose of gaining eligibility to play for a national team constitutes, pure and simple, a form of cheating, which cannot in any way be condoned," FIFA said in the report. "Such conduct erodes trust in the fairness of competitions and jeopardizes the very essence of football as an activity founded on honesty and transparency."

In a statement posted on Facebook, FAM disputed FIFA's findings. "Claims that players acquired or were aware of fake documents are baseless as no solid evidence has been presented so far," it said. "FAM would like to assert that the heritage players involved are legitimate Malaysian citizens."

The body said that there had been an administrative error when submitting documents and that it is preparing to appeal the ruling using original documents that have been certified by the Malaysian government.

"FAM will be presenting an official appeal regarding this conclusion, and remain committed to defending the integrity of national football based on facts and authentic documents," it said. (AP)

Defending champion Arsenal lose Women's Champions League opener to Lyon; Barcelona thrash Bayern

HERTFORDSHIRE, Oct 8: Defensive mistakes cost Arsenal again as it kicked off its defense of the Women's Champions League title with a 2-1 home loss to Lyon on Tuesday.

Alessia Russo gave Arsenal an early lead before Melchie Dumornay's quick double turned the match around for record eight-time winner Lyon in the first round of matches of the new-look tournament.

After the men switched from a group phase to a league-based format last season, the Women's Champions League made the move, too. Barcelona, which lost to Arsenal in the final last season, thrashed Bayern Munich 7-1 in one of three other matches on Tuesday.

Arsenal had a tricky start to the domestic season and failed to win its previous three matches but it

took the lead in the seventh minute against Lyon thanks to two of its European Championship-winning players.

Pure persistence from Beth Mead saw her force her way into the area, drawing several players before laying it off to England teammate Russo to fire across into the bottom right corner.

Arsenal gifted the visitors the equalizer in the 18th minute when Daphne van Domselaar controlled a back pass but played it straight to Dumornay. The Arsenal goalkeeper thought she had redeemed herself by saving the attempt but Dumornay slotted the rebound past her and into an empty net.

A defensive lapse cost Arsenal again five minutes later, allowing Dumornay to curl into the top right corner.

Lyon lost to Arsenal in last season's semifinals.

The 18-team league phase ends in December. Teams that finish first to fourth in the standings advance directly to the quarterfinals. Those ranked Nos. 5 to 12 go to a knockout playoff round. The bottom six teams are eliminated.

Substitute Claudia Pina returned from injury and scored a late double to add gloss to the scoreline for Barcelona.

Pina missed Barcelona's last league match with a thigh injury but she was brought on early in the second half. By that point Barcelona was already 4-1 up and Ewa Pajor extended that advantage moments later with her second of the night.

Two-time Ballon d'Or winner Alexia Putellas scored Barcelona's opener with a sublime, curled finish and also weighed in with two assists. Esmee Brugts and Salma Paralluelo netted Barcelona's



other goals, either side of Klara Buhhl's strike for Bayern.

Juventus defender Cecilia Salvai marked the 10th anniversary of her debut in the Women's Champions League with her first two goals in the competition as her team came from behind to beat Benfica 2-1 in the early

US Ryder Cup a mess that not even another task force could fix

NEW YORK, Oct 8: The best news out of the American camp since losing the Ryder Cup again to the Europeans is that no one has suggested another task force.

The path forward is no less muddled than it was leaving Scotland in 2014.

An Indiana club pro — Ted Bishop, the PGA of America president — decided that Tom Watson should be the U.S. captain for those matches at Gleneagles. That didn't go well, ending not only with another loss but with Phil Mickelson in a most awkward takedown of the captain.

That led to the vaunted task force, and Mickelson was far more optimistic five months later when the work was completed.

"We are looking forward to not just 2016 ... but really laying a foundation and a blueprint for the years to follow of continuity and success," Mickelson said.

The Americans have won two of the five Ryder Cups since then — that could be called success considering they had won only two of the previous 10 times.

The continuity? That belongs to Europe, which not only has the Ryder Cup, it practically owns it.

The task force — the official name was the PGA of America Ryder Cup Task Force — was disbanded in 2015 and replaced by a Ryder Cup committee of three PGA Tour players and three PGA of America executives.

The way the system works is for the immediate past captain to

replace his predecessor on the committee — Keegan Bradley is on, Zach Johnson is off.

But there is some sentiment in bringing Bradley back as captain for Adare Manor in Ireland in 2027 (perhaps because he won't be in charge of setting up the course). If that happens, then what? Justin Thomas is on the committee. Jordan Spieth's term is up. Of course, the PGA of America could decide to scrap it and start over.

The one constant in the dysfunctional American camp is the biennial competition of high stakes and even higher revenue when it's played in the United States. But the organization of 31,000 club professionals — as vital as any organization to the game in America — has no direct involvement with players except for the PGA Championship, Don Rea Jr., the president serving a two-year term, suggested otherwise at Quail Hollow in May.

"Don't forget, every PGA Tour member is a member of the PGA of America, so I'm their president, too," he said in a rambling news conference. This is the same president who embarrassingly compared vitriolic comments at Bethpage Black to what could be heard at a youth soccer game. That came in a BBC interview before the Sunday singles, a day after extra security was brought in to handle vulgarity directed at Rory McIlroy. (AP)

The Eager Traveller: Neeraj's Swiss retreat and pursuit of sharper comeback next season

NEW DELHI, Oct 8: It was a "challenging" season but one that Neeraj Chopra is proud of, and as he recovers to come back "sharper" next year, the ace javelin thrower has retreated to Switzerland -- home to some of his most cherished moments in an incredible sporting journey.

In a telephonic interview to PTI from Zurich, the 27-year-old spoke a bit about his hopes for the next season, his love for all things Swiss and the eager traveller in him who doesn't mind giving in to occasionally unplanned wanderlust.

"It's been a really challenging season overall. A lot to be proud of and plenty to learn from. Each competition added to my experience and confidence," he said, reflecting on the year.

"Of course, there's always scope to get better, and that's what keeps me motivated," added the affable Haryana-lad, who touched the 90m peak but ended up medal-less at the World Championships last month, hampered by a nagging back problem.

The 90m strike, which was being awaited ever since he won a gold at the 2021 Tokyo Olympics, was finally achieved at the Doha Diamond League in May.

But the two-time Olympic medallist finished eighth at the Worlds, managing 84.03m while competing with a heavily strapped back and carrying the heavier weight of expectations that came with being the defending champion.

He has moved on from the

mixed results and is focussed on a strong return in 2026.

"The focus now is on recovery and getting stronger for the next season. The body feels good, and with a bit of rest and recovery, I am confident of coming back sharper," he said, brushing aside any major concerns regarding his fitness.

And Switzerland is the place that he loves coming back to for those much-needed recovery sessions, enamoured by the Alps, the lush landscapes and the train journeys that have taken him from Interlaken to Berns to Lausanne over the years.

"I love Lausanne for its landscape and Zermatt for the mountains," he said.

Little wonder then that Switzerland Tourism found a perfect 'Friendship Ambassador' in the trailblazing superstar back in 2022 and honoured him with a plaque at the famous Ice Palace at Jungfrau, known as the #top of Europe, placing him alongside Switzerland's very own Roger Federer and golf ace Rory McIlroy.

"...this trip to Zurich and Murren is also a great way to recuperate both mind and body before getting back to training," he said.

"When you come here in summers, the lush greenery mesmerises you and in winters, the snowfall, the majestic mountains are a sight to behold. I love the mountains here, they are clean, serene, and beautifully managed," he gushed.

There are also the memories that he has made here over the



years, especially the sporting ones.

"I won the Diamond League Trophy in Zurich (in 2022) which is very special to me. I have trained in Magglingen, where you have the Swiss Olympic Training Centre. I trained there before the World Championship in Budapest (2023) where I won a gold medal. So, a lot of my happy memories have a Swiss connection."

"After I won the Diamond League Trophy, I explored the country with my family and friends and that was something that I can never forget. It's a place that has given me so much to cherish," he said. Much like his sporting preparations, which involve meticulous planning, Chopra likes to be organised even

though living out of a suitcase is a routine for him.

From the dusty lanes of Panipat's Khandra village, the cherubic kid who took to sport to shed weight has come a long way and offers a rather philosophical take on the subject of being a constant traveller.

"...COVID (pandemic) has taught us that not everything goes as per plans. kabhi kabhi aap bas musafir ho aur chalte rehna padta hai (Sometimes you have to accept being a traveller who has to keep moving)," he said.

"Obviously you would ideally want things to be planned, organised but then there are times you don't know where your heart leads you."

To drive home his point, he re-

called his time training in Magglingen, which is essentially a picturesque village but has excellent sports training facilities that Chopra has benefited from.

"Sundays used to be my rest days when I was in Magglingen. There were times that the night before, I would sleep late with the plan of lazing around on Sunday."

"But when I would wake up, my mind would drift towards becoming a tourist because public transport is very convenient here and exceptionally punctual. So, you just follow your heart."

"I would ask Switzerland Tourism to help me with the train passes and spend the day exploring on trains. Interlaken and Berns are some of the places that I have been to completely unplanned," he said.

However, despite his deep emotional connect with the country, Chopra stops short of calling it a home away from home.

"It's a place where I know a lot of people, I have trained extensively here. I have competed here a lot. My World Athletics agents are also Swiss. So I have a deep connect with Switzerland."

"Whenever I am in Europe, it's mostly Switzerland that becomes my base. I would not call it my second home but it's a place that I like to frequent."

"I stay out of India because most of my competitions are outside India, mostly in Europe actually. If I base myself in India then travelling and training combined can get very hectic. Logistics are easier to manage here," he said. (PTI)

India eye hefty contribution from top-order batters against South Africa

VISAKHAPATNAM, Oct 8: India's top-order batters will have to shed their diffident ways against a rejuvenated South Africa to instil more momentum into their slow-brewing ICC Women's World Cup campaign here on Thursday.

A glance at the points table will show India's comfortable second position — the hosts can slip to third if Australia beat Pakistan on Wednesday in Colombo — with two wins from as many games.

But beneath that glossy exterior, India have a mounting worry in the lack of runs so far from talismanic Smriti Mandhana, skipper Harmanpreet Kaur and the energetic Jemimah Rodrigues.

The trio faltered against Sri Lanka and Pakistan, forcing India to rely on the second line in Harleen Deol, Amanjot Kaur, Richa Ghosh and Deepti Sharma for the rescue act.

India were 124 for six against Lanka and 159 for five against Pakistan, and each of those situations could have been more perilous if the late order batters

were not able to guts it out in the middle.

A repetition of the script will be disastrous against a more well-equipped side like South Africa, and India need a heftier contribution from their star triumvirate in this game.

If the result does not go in India's favour, it will not only endanger their position on the points table, but will push them to a tighter corner against champions Australia on October 12.

Of course, the Indian management will see the positive side in the outings so far, winning without a major hand from its star batters and might perceive it as the presence of multiple match-winners.

But deep down, they will also accept the need for runs from Mandhana, Harmanpreet and Rodrigues that can be the difference between a good total and winning total against top sides like South Africa or Australia.

WOMEN'S WC



But on the other hand, the bowlers have delivered consistently so far for India.

However, they will have to be aware

that the ACA-VDCA stadium pitch here might not offer a similar level of bite as the tracks in Guwahati and Colombo.

Deepti Sharma tops the wicket-takers' chart with six scalps, while she received splendid support from fellow spinners Sneha Rana and Sree Charani, and pacer Kranti Gaud, who have been quite impressive.

India will also be monitoring the recovery of pace-bowling all-rounder Amanjot Kaur, who missed the match against Pakistan with "illness", and, if fit, she will replace Renuka Singh Thakur in the eleven.

Amanjot also offers a very handy batting option down the order. India will require all their options ready against the Proteas women.

SA powered to a six-wicket win over New Zealand in their previous game to underline the recuperation from their shambolic 69 all out, and the resultant 10-wicket drubbing by England.

Centurion Tazmin Brits and dependable Sune Luus are back among runs, and they will expect skipper Laura Wolvaardt and veterans Marizanne Kapp

and Anneke Bosch to join the party against India.

If their bowling unit consisting of Nonku Mlaba, Ayabonga Khaka, Kapp, Masabata Klaas and Chloe Tryon can summon all its experience, the Indian batting line-up will have an onerous task at hand.

Teams: India: Harmanpreet Kaur (c), Smriti Mandhana (vc), Pratika Rawal, Harleen Deol, Jemimah Rodrigues, Richa Ghosh, Uma Chetry, Renuka Singh Thakur, Deepti Sharma, Sneha Rana, Sree Charani, Radha Yadav, Amanjot Kaur, Arundhati Reddy, Kranti Gaud.

South Africa: Laura Wolvaardt (c), Ayabonga Khaka, Chloe Tryon, Nadine de Klerk, Marizanne Kapp, Tazmin Brits, Sinalo Jafta, Nonkululeko Mlaba, Annerie Dercksen, Anneke Bosch, Masabata Klaas, Sune Luus, Karabo Meso, Tumi Sekhukhune, Nondumiso Shangase.

Match starts at 3 pm. (PTI)

Inspired by Ravindra Jadeja, Harsh Dubey dreams of playing for India

MUMBAI, Oct 8: Harsh Dubey, Ranji Trophy's highest wicket-taker in a season and a Ravindra Jadeja fan, wants to represent India but the Vidarbha spin bowling all-rounder is in no hurry to don the national team jersey.

Dubey created history last season when he went past Bihar's Ashutosh Aman's record in India's premier domestic competition and finished with 69 wickets for most scalps in a season.

While he has been a part of India A's tour of England earlier this year, Dubey says trying to improve every season remains paramount for him as he looks to emulate Jadeja's feats for the national side.

"Since I started understanding cricket, I have been following Ravindra Jadeja and when I started understanding cricket properly, his performance reached its peak," Dubey told the media at the CEAT Cricket Rating Awards here on Tuesday.

"I have been idealising him since childhood. But before that, I used to follow Yuvraj (Singh) sir and Sachin (Tendulkar) sir."

"My focus is always on what mistakes I am making throughout the season and then how can I rectify those and bring out a better version in the next," he said.

For a 23-year-old who has had a taste of the Indian Premier League this year when he played for Sun-



risers Hyderabad, Dubey says red-ball cricket is his favourite format.

"Honestly, I like red ball (cricket) the most but I won't say that I don't like white ball (formats). For me, playing red ball cricket for India will be the biggest achievement of my life," he said.

Dubey, who scored 476 runs in the last Ranji edition with five fifties, said he has been putting in more efforts to improve as a batter in the off-season.

"I started cricket as an opener batsman so I work hard on my batting in off-season," he said.

For a left-arm spin-bowling all-rounder, Dubey is bound to face competition from the likes of Manav Suthar but he does not read much into it.

"Competition is everywhere, but I focus on how much better I am than the last year. I think about how do I improve myself rather than thinking that my competitor is this or that," he said.

Vidarbha's domination with the Ranji Trophy, which they won for the third time last season in 2024-25, continued when they crushed the Rest of India in the Irani Cup

by 93 runs recently. Dubey says compatibility between players has a lot to do with it.

"It's a dream for any cricketer to play domestic cricket, and winning the Ranji Trophy and winning the Irani with it is a great feeling. This lot of players that we are playing with now, we have won at least 2-3 trophies in each age group so we know that it is a winning habit," he said.

Dubey also credited the systems set by Vidarbha Cricket Association for the team's success.

"Even the structure of our off-season camps in the VCA, it makes a lot of difference as to how strong your basics are. Our head coach Usman Ghani has coached most of our players in U-14 and U-19 levels, so he has a very good understanding of the players. The role of our trainers, our physios, is also very important," he said.

Dubey said the exit of India batter Karun Nair from the Vidarbha camp would not have any impact on the defending Ranji champions.

"I read this somewhere that since Karun Nair is not there now, how would Vidarbha win the Irani Cup? We won the Irani (Cup), sir. I don't think there would be any gap with any player leave. We have enough players and even if there's no professional player in the camp, we can do well," he said. (PTI)

India U-19 sweep Australia tour with emphatic win in second Youth Test

MACKAY, Oct 8: India U-19 completed their clean sweep of Australia U-19 in the latter's backyard with a seven-wicket win in the second and final Youth Test, here on Wednesday.

Resuming day two at 114 for seven, India U-19 ended with 171 all out for a 36-run first innings lead over Australia U-19.

The home team was once again

poor with the bat, managing just 119 runs in their second essay to set India U-19 an 81-run target.

India lost their star openers, captain Ayush Mhatre and Vaibhav Suryavanshi, early in the chase but still managed to gun down the target in 12.2 overs.

It was, however, their over-aggressive approach on a testing

pitch that led to the downfall of Suryavanshi and Mhatre. The southpaw, who is the youngest IPL centurion at 14, tried to hit the first ball he faced over the straight boundary but was unsuccessful.

In the very next ball of the following over, Mhatre perished after playing the ball on to his stumps off Kasey Barton.

The writing was on the wall for

Australia U-19, who could not find a way against the Indian attack.

Pacer Henil Patel removed Simon Budge and Zed Hollick off successive balls to leave the hosts reeling at 0 for two in the second over of the second innings. It was all downhill from there for Australia U-19.

India won the red ball series 2-0

after blanking Australia in three Youth ODIs.

Brief Scores: **Australia U19:** 135 all out and 116 all out in 40.1 overs (Alex Lee Young 38/ Henil Patel 3/23).

India U19: 171 all out in 51.4 overs and 84 for three in 12.2 overs (Vedant Trivedi 33 not out; Kasey Barton 2/32). (PTI)



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Decline in Windies Test cricket is 'cancer' which developed long back: Sammy



NEW DELHI, Oct 8: Former captain Darren Sammy didn't mince words when he compared the decline of Test cricket in the West Indies to "cancer" in the system developing over a long period of time.

The two-time T20 World Cup winning captain feels that role models in the shortest format is readily available for Gen-Next due to performances and they can only play with resources that is available to them.

Asked what ails West Indies cricket when it comes to Tests and how it affects him as a person, the eloquent Sammy put forth his perspective in hard hitting words.

"I mean last time we won a Test series in 1983, my mother had me," he said in jest about 42 years of not winning a red ball series in India.

And then he was dead serious. "I know now I'm under the microscope. I'm in the middle, and we're open to criticism, to be criticized by everybody. But, the root of the problem didn't start two years ago. It's something that started way back," Sammy, who also captained in a lopsided 2013 series, said.

"It's like a cancer that's already in the system. If you don't get cancer, you know what happens. And, again, it's breast cancer month. So, it's a good way to put it. That our problems don't lie on the surface. It's rooted deep into our system," said Sammy.

West Indies lost first Test by an

innings and 140 runs and it was lack of fight that had disappointed fans of the regional outfit.

Brian Lara on Tuesday spoke about players not exactly keen on playing the long form.

"We could only work with what we have and who's willing. The inability to match some of the franchises across the world has been an issue," Sammy was honest.

"But what I always tell these guys, if we complain about not having the best facilities, not having enough manpower like the other teams, not having the best technology, all these things which the other teams are superior to us, it's no secret."

The gulf between Big Three and bottom four has become huge.

"The difference in the different teams, the top 3-4 teams in the world versus the bottom four. We've been struggling for finance for a long time."

"That's one of the reasons why Brian (Lara), Shiv (Chanderpaul) they're going to have this event this afternoon. Trying to see if we can get sponsors to help in some of the areas that we need improvement."

For Sammy, all he can do is ask a player if he wants to be available.

"With that said, that has created, I wouldn't say loopholes, but for me as a coach when I call a player and I tell him that he's been selected for West Indies. And I'm hoping that he accepts the selection." (PTI)

Indian ODI squad to leave for Australia in two batches on October 15

NEW DELHI, Oct 8: The Indian ODI squad will depart for Australia in two separate batches on October 15 from the national capital with logistics and ticket availability determining the final travel schedule.

India will play a three-match ODI series followed by a five-match T20I affair Down Under.

According to sources in the BCCI, one group of players will leave in the morning while the second batch is likely to fly out later in the evening, depending on the availability of business class tickets for the long-haul flight.

Former captains Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, along with newly appointed vice-captain Shreyas Iyer, are expected to join the rest of the Test squad members in New Delhi ahead of the team's departure.



"Virat and Rohit will touch down in the capital either on the day of departure or a day prior," a source in the know told PTI.

The team is scheduled to fly to Perth, where the first ODI against Australia will be played on October 19.

If the ongoing domestic or international assignments conclude earlier than expected,

players featuring in the ODI squad could be given a short break to visit their respective homes before regrouping in Delhi.

India are set to face West Indies in the second and final Test here from October 10-14.

In a significant development, Shubman Gill has been named captain of the ODI side, taking over from Rohit Sharma. Despite mounting speculation regarding their long-term ODI futures, both Rohit and Kohli are believed to have expressed their desire to continue until the 2027 ODI World Cup, even though India will play relatively few 50-over games in the lead-up to the marquee event.

Meanwhile, head coach Gautam Gambhir has invited the entire squad for a team dinner at his residence here in Rajinder Nagar, a gesture aimed at fostering camaraderie before the side embarks on the overseas tour. (PTI)

SA captain Temba Bavua won't be surprised with spin-friendly pitches on India tour



MUMBAI, Oct 8: South Africa captain Temba Bavua is expecting India to dish out turning tracks for the two-Test series next month despite the home team's inclination towards playing on balanced tracks under captain Shubman Gill.

India have relied on their spin strength on rank turners to gain points in WTC cycles in the past but Gill has said he wants his side to play on tracks that offer equally to batters and bowlers. WTC defending champions South Africa will play India in two Tests scheduled in Kolkata (November 14-18) and Guwahati (November 22-26).

"In terms of the surfaces in India, (they are) spinner-friendly. We won't be in shock if we get to India and we're playing on spinner-friendly wickets," Bavua told the media during the CEAT Cricket Rating Awards.

"Generally, teams now are always using their conditions to their favour, especially with the World Test Championship cycle and the way that it's been set up, so we won't be surprised from that point of view," he said.

Bavua, who led South Africa to the title win in the 2023-25 WTC cycle, said it will depend on how visiting spinners bowl in India compared to the home team's spinners.

"From my experience, there always seems to be a difference between the way Indian spinners bowl in their own conditions versus spinners outside of India.

"There's always that challenge of foreign spinners adjusting to the conditions. They're either bowling quicker in these conditions (or) bowling flatter," he said.

Bavua said he is ready for a "tough" Indian tour but will look to draw inspiration from New Zealand's 3-0 win in the 2024-25 season.

"Touring India is never an easy one. Looking at the way New Zealand went about their business, (it) was inspiring in a lot of ways. A lot of away teams come to India and haven't been successful," he said.

"I heard Kane Williamson is going to be here. I'll definitely be asking him for tips on how they went about it," he said before the awards ceremony.

Bavua said former India captains Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli have done their part and it was now time for the young generation under Gill to take Indian Test team forward.

"It seems as if the new era has kicked in, if I could say. (The) guys like Rohit, (and) before him, Kohli, they've done their job. They put India really on their mat and they've made India a team to really be feared."

"I'm sure India will continue to dominate. Our job as South Africa is to not allow them to dominate as much..."

Bavua said with South African batters having a lot of knowledge of Indian pitches and conditions given the time they have spent in the country, there will be a lot of

knowledge-sharing.

"(There is) new leadership for India. Myself, first time (I'll be) captaining in Test cricket in India. There's a lot of little sub-stories about it. It can really make the game a lot more beautiful," he said.

Bavua said South Africa's schedule in the current WTC cycle will quash the criticism they faced before the final against Australia. The Proteas made the final having played only 11 Tests in the 2023-25 cycle and without having faced Australia or England.

In the current cycle, South Africa will tour India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka while they will host Australia, England and Bangladesh.

"In the previous cycle, there was criticism around our route into the final, supposedly playing the weaker nations. That's not the case now. For us as players, we look at it with a lot of optimism," Bavua said.

With Quinton de Kock reversing his decision on ODI retirement, Bavua said the wicketkeeper-batter will have to earn his spot.

"I'm quite a little bit biased when it comes to Quinton. I grew up playing with Quinton from school cricket," he said.

"That he's back again, I'm as excited as a lot of fans out there. (But) there's quite a lot of young batters who have put up their name so he's obviously going to have to do what he needs to do from a run scoring point of view." (PTI)