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- PM Modi to unveil initiatives worth more than ₹ 62,000 cr for youth
- Ladakh cannot afford violence, people trying to vitiate atmosphere will not be spared: LG

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- Nagas are the only indigenous people of Nagaland: NSF
- NPCC outraged over death threat to Rahul

Zubeen's death: Two band members get 14-day police remand

GUWAHATI, Oct 3: A court in Assam on Friday sent Zubeen Garg's band members Shekharjyoti Goswami and Amritprabha Mahanta to 14 days of police remand in connection with the death of the singer-composer.

Munna Prasad Gupta, the Special DGP of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), told PTI that the Chief Judicial Magistrate of Kamrup Metropolitan district accepted the plea for further interrogation and sent the duo to 14 days of police remand.

"The interrogation of all the four arrested accused is underway. I cannot share anything more at this moment," he said.

Drummer Goswami and co-singer Mahanta were arrested on Thursday after days of interrogation. The two were present on the yacht in Singapore when Garg died while swimming in the sea on September 19.

Police have already invoked murder charges against Garg's manager Siddharth Sharma and festival organiser Shyamkanu Mahanta, who were nabbed from Delhi on Wednesday. They are also in CID custody for 14 days.

Garg had gone to the Southeast Asian nation to attend the 4th edition of the NorthEast India Festival, organised by Shyamkanu Mahanta and his company.

More than 60 FIRs have been lodged across Assam against Mahanta and around 10 others, including Garg's manager.

Talking about the second post-mortem examination of Garg conducted in Guwahati, the Special DGP said they are awaiting the final report, as the viscera samples have been sent to Delhi.

"We had sent the viscera samples to the Central Forensic Laboratory (CFL) in Delhi for a detailed examination. Once that report is received, the post-mortem report by the Gauhati Medical College and Hospital will be ready and available to us," he said.



Gupta is heading a nine-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe into the death of the singer in Singapore.

Asked about the investigation into an alleged financial scam involving Shyamkanu Mahanta, the senior police officer said: "Our probe is underway. We are analysing every detail, but I cannot share anything more."

The CID had earlier initiated a separate probe against event manager Mahanta for alleged financial crimes and acquiring benami properties through money laundering.

The agency had seized incriminating documents and items from his home during raids on September 25-26, including multiple PAN cards in the name of the same firm, nearly 30 stamp seals of different companies and government officials, and documents related to several benami properties.

Mahanta is the younger brother of former DGP Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta, who is presently the chief information commissioner of the (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Judicial commission to probe Zubeen's death case: Himanta

Shyamkanu moves SC seeking protection, CBI or NIA probe in iconic singer's death case

GUWAHATI/NEW DELHI, Oct 3: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday said a judicial commission will be formed to probe the death of the state's cultural icon Zubeen Garg.

The commission will be headed by Justice Soumitra Saikia of the Gauhati High Court, he said in a Facebook live.

"We will form the commission tomorrow. Now, we request all the people who have any information or videos related to Zubeen Garg's death to come forward and depose in front of the commission," he added.

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 NorthEast India Festival.

The CID is currently probing the case of Garg's death after more than 60 FIRs were lodged across the state.

Meanwhile, a petition has been



filed in the Supreme Court by Shyamkanu Mahanta, chief organiser of the Northeast India Festival, seeking transfer of probe into the death of Assamese singer Zubeen Garg from the state police's SIT to a central agency such as the CBI or the NIA.

Police have invoked murder charges against Garg's manager, Siddharth Sharma and Mahanta,

who were nabbed from Delhi on Wednesday. They are also in CID custody for 14 days.

According to the petition, the Singaporean authorities have initiated their own inquiry, but they have not found any element of foul play or culpability attributable to Mahanta.

Mahanta, in his petition, which was filed through advocate Raj

Kamal on September 30, has made the Centre, Assam government, the state's Director General of Police, the Central Bureau of India (CBI) and the National Investigation Agency (NIA) as respondents.

The plea alleged that Mahanta, who is the brother of Assam's Chief Information Commissioner Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta, has been subjected to a "vicious media trial" and "scapegoating" in connection with Garg's sudden death.

It said that despite this, the Assam Police registered a case under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita for criminal conspiracy, culpable homicide not amounting to murder, and causing death by negligence.

Over 54 FIRs have reportedly been filed against Mahanta across Assam and other northeastern states, it said.

Mahanta contended that he has been unfairly vilified by both the state machinery and the media.

The plea said he was busy organising the three-day cultural festival in (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Three NEIF team members summoned

GUWAHATI, Oct 3: The SIT, probing into the death of singer Zubeen Garg, on Friday interrogated three members of the organising team of North East India Festival (NEIF) with the Special Director General of Police Munna Prasad Gupta asserting that the case will reach 'its logical conclusion'.

The three who had accompanied Garg to Singapore to take part in the NEIF, where he died on September 19, have been remanded to 14 days' police custody, Gupta who heads the SIT told reporters here.

Four people who had gone to attend the NEIF have been arrested so far in the case - the singer's manager Siddhartha Sharma and his musician Shekhar Jyoti Goswami, the festival organiser Shyamkanu Mahanta and singer Amritprabha Mahanta.

The arrested people are being interrogated, Gupta said.

"We will ensure that there will be no lapse on our part during the investigation," the SDGP said.

The aim of the SIT is to ensure that the case 'reaches its logical conclusion,' he added.

Gupta had earlier said that the investigations were 'proceeding on fast track'.

Meanwhile, three members of the NEIF organising team - Panjaj Adhikari, Pritam Talukdat and Krishanu Das - were summoned by the SIT for interrogation.

They, however, did not respond to questions from journalists.

Sharma and Mahanta were arrested in Delhi on Wednesday morning in connection with the singer's death and were also remanded to 14 days' police custody.

The two have been booked under (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

TRAI releases recommendations for roll out of digital radio

NEW DELHI, Oct 3: The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on Friday released the recommendations on the digital broadcast policy that allows analogue FM radio channels to add a digital layer along the same frequency.

The recommendations on 'Formulating a Digital Radio Broadcast Policy for Private Radio Broadcasters' also call for a single technology standard across the country and auction of new frequencies in 13 cities, a move that is considered the first step towards the digital shift of India's FM radio.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) had written to TRAI in April last year, asking

for recommendations for formulating a digital radio broadcast policy.

The first phase of the rollout will cover four A Plus cities - Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai and nine A category cities - Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, Surat, Pune, Jaipur, Lucknow, Kanpur and Nagpur.

TRAI has recommended the auction of two new spot frequencies in each of these 13 cities. The reserve prices have been fixed city-wise. Mumbai (₹ 194.08 crore), followed by Delhi at ₹ 177.63 crore, Chennai at ₹ 146.68 crore and Kolkata at ₹ 79.96 crore.

In the A category, Bengaluru has been fixed at ₹ 87.22 crore,

Hyderabad at ₹ 65.85 crore, Pune at ₹ 41.26 crore, Ahmedabad at ₹ 40.44 crore, Nagpur at ₹ 29.48 crore, Jaipur at ₹ 26.89 crore, Surat at ₹ 25.89 crore, Lucknow at ₹ 24.59 crore and Kanpur at ₹ 20.52 crore.

It has also recommended that India adopt a single digital radio technology standard in the VHF Band II, with the government selecting the standard either through consultations with stakeholders such as broadcasters and receiver manufacturers.

The recommendations state that digital radio services should be commenced in simulcast mode by new broadcasters. The existing analog FM Radio broadcasters should also (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Putin orders govt to soften trade imbalance with India

MOSCOW, Oct 3: Russian President Vladimir Putin has ordered to devise measures, including purchasing more agricultural products and medicines from India, to soften the trade imbalance with New Delhi, which is due to the heavy import of crude by the country.

Speaking at the Valdai plenary session on Thursday, Putin also said that he was looking forward to his trip to India in early December and meeting with "my friend and our reliable partner Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi."

Putin, who will travel to India in early December for an annual summit, lauded India's nationalist government led by PM Modi, calling him a "balanced, wise," and "nationally oriented" leader. Putin said

he feels comfortable in their trustworthy interactions.

When asked about the US threat to impose high tariffs and sanctions on Russia's key partners, Putin said the Indian people will not tolerate their country being bullied into making a decision that contradicts their national interests and priorities, RT news channel reported.

"(India) will never allow itself to be humiliated by anyone. I know Prime Minister Modi, he will also not make any such decisions," he said.

"The losses faced by India due to punitive US tariffs would be balanced by crude imports from Russia, plus it will gain prestige as a sovereign (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Pakistan lost 12-13 aircraft including F-16 during Operation Sindoor: Air Chief Marshal Singh

NEW DELHI, Oct 3: At least a dozen Pakistani military aircraft including F-16 jets were destroyed or damaged in Indian strikes during Operation Sindoor, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal A P Singh said on Friday while describing Islamabad's claim of India's losses as "fanciful stories" (Manohar Kahaniyan).

The Air Chief Marshal also said that the Indian action damaged a large number of military infrastructure in Pakistan that included hangars in three locations, radars in at least four places, command and control centres in two sites and runways in two air bases.

Air Chief Marshal Singh was addressing a press conference days ahead of the annual Air Force Day.



On reports that various terror groups in Pakistan are relocating their bases to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province following the Operation Sindoor, he said it was expected and that the Indian Air Force have the capability to go deep inside to hit their hideouts with absolutely accurate targeting.

He said the IAF has finalised its

plan to expand its combat capabilities under Roadmap 2047 and the force would need 35 to 40 new aircraft including combat jets annually for next two decades to boost its air power.

To questions, he provided details of Pakistan's losses during Operation Sindoor, citing intelligence reports and evidence collected through electronic surveillance.

"What we have gathered from the intelligence report is that because of these strikes, radars at least four places, command and control centres at two places, runways at two places and then three of their hangars in three different stations have been damaged," he said. In hangars as well as on tarmac, we (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

One dead, four injured in fire at Fancy Bazaar

GUWAHATI, Oct 3: At least one person was killed and four others were injured in a fire at a cloth market in Assam's Guwahati on Friday, officials said.

The blaze erupted at a commercial establishment in Fancy Bazaar area of central Guwahati, Fire and Emergency Services Director Surendra Kumar said.

"We received intimation at 4:21 am and immediately our team reached the spot. Altogether, 16 fire tenders were pressed into service," he told PTI.

Kumar said the fire has been contained.

"It was not an easy type of fire to control, as the cloth market had a variety of materials. Our personnel have entered the basement now and are clearing the area," he said. A senior (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Thousands witness Durga idol immersion with grand idol immersion on Vijayadashami

Durga Puja concludes in Diphu

HT Bureau

DIPHU, Oct 3: The five-day Durga Puja festival concluded on Vijayadashami, October 2, with the ceremonial immersion of Durga idols along the riverbanks in Diphu.

Devotees participated in Sindoor Khela, marking the end of the celebrations with vibrant rituals.

In Diphu town, the immersion took place at the Diphu River near the Recreation-cum-Bio-Diversity Park on Diphu-Manja Road.

This year, the immersion commenced earlier than usual.

After performing the final rituals, the idols were loaded onto trucks and taken in a grand procession.

Women smeared sindoor, or vermilion, on the idols and on each other, while men and children joined in the celebratory festivities.



From 1 pm onwards, idols from various puja pandals, including those from Diphu town, Dillaji, and Birla, were brought to the river.

Private vehicles, two- and three-

wheelers, followed the procession, as hundreds of devotees chanted mantras, played traditional drums, blew conch shells, and performed the ulu dhoni ritual as the procession advanced towards the river-

bank.

Police personnel were deployed along the riverbank to ensure smooth conduct of the ceremonies and prevent any untoward incidents. At Jammuna Irrigation Canal (Jammuna Ghat), thousands of people gathered to witness the immersion.

Around 20 Durga idols from different pandals across Bakulia town and neighbouring areas were immersed, with local organisers ensuring proper arrangements for crowd management.

The Bakulia police maintained strict vigil throughout the event.

The festival concluded on a note of devotion and communal harmony, with devotees offering aarti, lamps, coconuts, flowers, and prasad before bidding farewell to the goddess through immersion in the river.

'NESt Fest' 2025 kicks off in Delhi, highlights North-East culture and music

NEW DELHI, Oct 3: The eighth North-East Students' Festival (NESt) began at the Talkatora Indoor Stadium here on Friday, bringing together thousands of students, policymakers and artists for a two-day celebration of culture, youth empowerment and sustainability.

Organised by voluntary organisation My Home India, the two-day festival, whose theme this year is "From Culture to Climate: The Youth Mandate", features sessions on entrepreneurship, sustainability and rainwater harvesting, alongside cultural performances from all eight North-Eastern states, as well as Chhattisgarh and Odisha.

Expected to be attended by 25,000 students, the festival is positioned as both a "celebration of heritage and a platform for dialogue on future challenges".

Folk dances, traditional music

and colourful art forms are being presented to highlight India's diversity and cultural pride.

"NESt. Fest 2025 is a proud tribute to Janajatiya Gaurav Varsh, as envisioned by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji. Our cultural heritage is the strength of our unity, and I believe our youth will lead India into a new era of inclusive and sustainable growth."

"Through NESt. Fest, we celebrate our roots, empower our youth and take steps together towards a Viksit Bharat," Sunil Deodhar, founder of My Home India, said in a statement.

It also boasts a strong musical lineup, with performances by renowned artists including Angelina N Marwein, Rito Riba, Dipakshi Kalita, Ruisang Pakhrin, Lilac & Jacks, Tete Sapam and KL Pamei. The event will also pay tribute to (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Pak must be held accountable: MEA on PoK crackdown

NEW DELHI, Oct 3: India on Friday said Pakistan must be held accountable for its "horrific" human rights violations against innocent protesters in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK).

Several areas in PoK have witnessed widespread protests with people demanding basic rights, justice and an end to what they described as systemic oppression.

"We have seen reports on protests in several areas of Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir, including brutalities by Pakistani forces on innocent civilians," external affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

"We believe that it is a natural consequence of Pakistan's oppressive approach and its systemic plundering of resources from these territories. (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

India a 'stabilising force' in global economy, can withstand external shocks: Sitharaman

NEW DELHI, Oct 3: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said the world is facing "profound imbalances" in trade and energy security, and is undergoing a structural transformation, with India standing out as a 'stabilising force' that can withstand external shocks.

Sitharaman said geopolitical conflicts are intensifying, and sanctions and tariffs are reshaping global supply chains. India must continue to remain vigilant, and there is no room for complacency, she said, speaking at Kautilya Economic Conclave 2025 here.

"Wars and strategic rivalries are redrawing the boundaries of cooperation and conflict. Alliances that once appeared solid are being tested, and new coalitions are emerging. For India, these dynamics highlight both vulnerability and resilience. Our capacity to absorb shocks is strong, while our economic leverage is evolving," she said.

She said the world is facing an era of unprecedented global uncertainty and volatility, and the task before nations is not only to manage uncertainty but to confront trade, financial and energy imbalances.

"The task before us, therefore, is not simply to manage uncertainty but to confront imbalance. We must ask ourselves: how can we build a global order where trade is fair, finance serves productive ends, energy is both affordable and sustainable, and climate action aligns with de-



velopment imperatives?" the minister said, addressing a session on 'Seeking Prosperity in Turbulent Times'.

She said there is a need to work on ways for international institutions to reflect today's realities rather than yesterday's hierarchies, besides ensuring that the voices of developing nations are no longer marginalised in rule-making, and are instead amplified in shaping the future.

Further, Sitharaman said dislocations define this new global era wherein trade flows are being reshaped, alliances are being tested, investments are being rerouted along geopolitical lines, and shared commitments are being re-examined. "Thus, what we face is not a temporary disruption but a structural transformation," Sitharaman said.

She added that the foundations of the global order are shifting as the world that emerged after the end of the Cold War, which led to the

expansion of globalisation, open markets and the pursuit of multilateral cooperation, now appears to be a relic of the past.

For three decades, a contested equilibrium allowed nations to pursue prosperity through integration and interdependence. That equilibrium has inevitably been upended, and the rules of international engagement are being rewritten, she said.

The global economy is currently facing headwinds, from an increase in trade tensions, higher tariffs, heightened global policy uncertainty and the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Sitharaman said the global economy is faced with low investment, high cost of capital, volatile energy prices, and the tension between growth, stability, and sustainability.

In this context, India's rise as a stabilising force is neither accidental nor transient; instead, it results from a powerful combination of factors, she said.

Over the past decade, Sitharaman said, the government has focused on fiscal consolidation, improving the quality of capital expenditure, and reining in inflationary pressures.

"With the steady share of consumption and investment in the overall GDP over the years, India's growth is firmly anchored in its domestic factors, which minimises the impact of external shocks on overall growth. As a result, the Indian economy is resilient and continues to grow sustainably," she said. (PTI)

Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles launches premium limited-edition Yezdi Coffee

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, Oct 3: Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles marked World Coffee Day with the launch of a premium limited-edition single-origin coffee in partnership with Levista Coffee.

The initiative was unveiled during the 2025 edition of its Nomads Brewscape ride in Coorg, Karnataka, which also showcased the newly launched Yezdi Roadster.

The event, titled 'Roots to Routes', began in Mysore, the

birthplace of Ideal Jawa, and concluded in Madikeri, the heart of India's coffee-growing region. National media, enthusiasts and experts joined the ride, which highlighted the brand's focus on combining heritage, community, and coffee subcultures.

Anupam Thareja, Co-founder of Classic Legends, said the launch was in line with the company's emphasis on authentic experiences.

LG Electronics India sets IPO price band at ₹1,080-₹1,140 per share

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, Oct 3: LG Electronics India Limited (LGEIL), a wholly owned subsidiary of LG Electronics Inc., will launch its Initial Public Offering (IPO) on October 7.

The price band has been fixed at ₹1,080 to ₹1,140 per equity share, the company announced. The anchor investor bidding date is scheduled for October 6. The IPO will remain open for subscription from October 7 to October 9. Investors can bid for a minimum of 13 equity shares and in multiples thereafter. Eligible employees will be offered a discount of ₹108 per share in the employee reservation portion.

The IPO consists entirely of an offer for sale of up to 10.18 crore equity shares of face value ₹10 each by the promoter, LG Electronics Inc. The shares are proposed to be listed on the NSE and BSE.

Sensex, Nifty extend gains to 2nd day as metal shares sparkle

MUMBAI, Oct 3: Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty advanced for the second straight session on Friday, powered by buying in metal and telecom stocks following a firm trend in global markets.

After swinging between gains and losses for most of the session, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 223.86 points, or 0.28 per cent, to settle at 81,207.17. During the day, the index touched a high of 81,251.99 and a low of 80,649.57, gyrating 602.42 points.

As many as 2,710 stocks advanced while 1,490 declined and 139 remained unchanged on the BSE.

The 50-share NSE Nifty edged higher by 57.95 points, or 0.23 per cent, to 24,894.25.

On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark climbed 780.71 points or 0.97 per cent, and the Nifty went up by 239.55 points or 0.97 per cent. "After a period of range-bound trading, the market closed on a positive note, supported by gains in metal and consumer durables stocks. Optimism over a potential Fed rate cut in October, a weakening dollar, and stable base metal prices drove the rally in metal indices.

"Consumption stocks are on a buzz led by reforms, a good monsoon and moderation in inflation, upsizing demand as disposable income increases," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

From the Sensex firms, Tata Steel climbed the most by 3.40 per cent, followed by Power Grid, Axis Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Larsen & Toubro, Bharat Electronics and Bharti Airtel. In contrast, Tech Mahindra, Maruti, UltraTech Cement and Bajaj Finserv were among the major laggards.

"The market's move was largely driven by domestic factors. The RBI's recent monetary policy -- holding rates steady while upgrading the growth outlook and lowering inflation guidance -- continued to boost confidence in rate-sensitive sectors, particularly banking. Additionally, earnings updates ahead of the reporting season reinforced the positive undertone," Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

The BSE smallcap gauge jumped 1.09 per cent, and the midcap index went up by 0.78 per cent.

The BSE metal index jumped 1.85 per cent, with companies, such as Lloyds Metals and Energy surging 6.18 per cent, National Aluminium Company (3.10 per cent), and Jindal Stainless (2.87 per cent).

Among other sectoral indices, industrials jumped 1.28 per cent, telecommunication (1.16 per cent), consumer durables (1.15 per cent), commodities (1.12 per cent), capital goods (1.02 per cent) and utilities (0.95 per cent).

"Capital goods sector remained under focus on the back of reiteration from the Finance Minister that the government's commitment to increase capital expenditure to support growth remains intact," Siddhartha Khemka - Head of Research, Wealth Management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

Realty and healthcare were the laggards. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹ 1,605.20 crore on Wednesday, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought stocks worth ₹2,916.14 crore, according to exchange data.

In Asian markets, Japan's Nikkei 225 index settled sharply higher, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng index ended lower. The stock market in China and South Korea's Kospi were closed for a public holiday.

Equity markets in Europe were trading higher in mid-session deals.

US markets ended in green on Thursday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.86 per cent to USD 64.61 a barrel.

"Brent crude prices fell for the third straight session to a 16-week low as concerns over a potential US government shutdown and expectations of higher OPEC+ supply weighed on the market. Lower crude prices ease concerns on India's import bill and inflation, which is positive for domestic equities," Khemka said.

Equity markets were closed on Thursday for Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti and Dussehra. (PTI)

Contd. from Page 1...

Zubeen's death: Two

Assam State Information Commission. Another brother of the festival organiser is Nani Gopal Mahanta, who was the education advisor to the CM before becoming the vice chancellor of Gauhati University. (PTI)

Judicial commission to

Singapore scheduled for September 19-21 and was not present at the site of Garg's death. It said Mahanta last met the singer on September 17, two days before the incident.

The plea sought transfer of the probe from the Assam SIT to the CBI or the NIA, and that it be monitored by a retired Supreme Court judge. It sought a direction to the Assam Police to restrain itself from taking coercive measures against Mahanta, including arrest, detention, or harassment.

It also sought the suspension of the Look-Out Circular against Mahanta and to allow him to return and join the investigations.

Besides, the plea sought preservation of crucial evidence, including Garg's post-mortem report, Singapore investigation records, video footage of the incident, and medical history pointing to the singer's prior health conditions, such as epileptic fits.

It sought the de-sealing of his properties and freezing of bank accounts belonging to him and his family. It also sought a direction to the media and social media platforms to cease prejudicial coverage until investigations are complete.

"The petitioner is a victim of a well-calculated witch-hunt involving irresponsible media reportings, both print and electronic, which seek to create a false narrative with regard to the alleged involvement of the Petitioner in the sad and unfortunate demise of his very dear personal friend, Zubeen Garg," it said.

This is a classic case where the petitioner, who himself is grieving due to the passing away of his personal dear friend, has been made the target of public hate and has not been allowed to even pay his respects at the last rites of the late singer, it said. (PTI)

ED, I-T likely

the chief organiser of the North East India Festival, where the singer had gone to perform, and almost 10 others, including the icon's manager Siddharth Sharma and band members Shekharjyoti Goswami and Amritprabha Mahanta.

Special DGP Gupta is heading a nine-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe into the untimely death of Garg in Singapore. Already, four people have been arrested and sent to 14 days of police remand each.

Shyamkanu is the younger brother of former DGP Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta, who is presently the Chief Information Commissioner of the Assam State Information Commission. Another elder brother of his is Nani Gopal Mahanta, who was the Education Advisor to CM Himanta Biswa Sarma before becoming the Vice Chancellor of Gauhati University.

Another source, on condition of anonymity, said that CID has unearthed more than 20-year-old financial irregularities allegedly committed by Shyamkanu Mahanta when he was working as the Assistant General Manager with the North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd (NEDFi).

"During the course of the investigation, it was found that he, along with two GMS, had given over ₹ 14-crore loan to a company named DSS E-Connect Ltd for opening call centres in Assam. Out of the total amount, ₹ 8.42 crore was disbursed in 2001 and ₹ 6 crore in 2003," he added.

When no call centre was established and no EMI was paid to repay the loan till 2003, an internal probe was initiated by NEDFi in early part of 2004, but it was never completed, the source said.

Prior to the internal probe, the loan to DSS was declared Non-Performing Asset (NPA) on March 31, 2003, he added.

"Mahanta was the project manager of the entire work. In 2004 end, he resigned from NEDFi and joined the Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS) as its Vice President. Later, he left that job too and started his own event management firm, Trend MMS," the source said.

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, organised by Shyamkanu Mahanta and his company.

From the search operation at Mahanta's home last week, the sleuths of the CID seized two PAN cards in the name of his event organising company, 'Trend MMS'.

Further, 28 stamp seals were recovered from his office premises. These included seals in the name of various companies and many government officials.

Several documents were also recovered inside the residence and the office premises of Mahanta, pertaining to the construction of roads under the PMGSY scheme in various districts of Assam as well as in Arunachal Pradesh. (PTI)

TRAI releases recommendations

be permitted to migrate to simulcast mode on a voluntary basis.

The proposed simulcast mode will enable them to broadcast one analog, three digital and one data channel on the assigned spot frequency.

The recommendations state that the sunset date for the analog broadcasting should be decided after evaluating the progress of digital radio broadcasting at a later date. (PTI)

Three NEIF team

various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) for murder, culpable homicide not amounting to murder, criminal conspiracy and causing death by negligence. The CID has also initiated a separate probe against Mahanta for organised financial crimes and acquiring huge amounts of "benami" properties by money laundering. The Assam government had constituted a 10-member SIT to investigate the singer's death in Singapore due to drowning in the sea on September 19.

More than 60 FIRs were filed across the state against Mahanta, Sharma and several others, following which the chief minister directed the DGP to transfer all the FIRs to the CID and to register a consolidated case for a thorough investigation. (PTI)

Putin orders govt

nation." Putin added. He was referring to the additional 25 per cent tariff imposed by President Donald Trump on New Delhi as a penalty for its purchases of Russian oil, taking the total levies imposed on India by the US to 50 per cent.

Putin said Russia may buy more agricultural products and medicines from India to remove the trade imbalance. "More agricultural products may be purchased from India. Certain steps can be undertaken from our side for medicinal products, pharmaceuticals," Putin stated.

The president said he had instructed the Russian government to think of proposals to be made to "Indian friends and counterparts on the most promising areas of cooperation and how Russia can smoothen the imbalance in trade and other areas," according to state-run news agency TASS.

Putin noted the vast potential for economic cooperation between Russia and India but acknowledged the need to resolve specific issues to fully unlock these opportunities.

For comparison, he said, the trade turnover between Russia and India is about USD 63 billion, and USD 50 billion with Belarus. "At the same time, the population is 1.5 billion in India and 10 million in Belarus. It obviously does not correspond to our potential opportunities," Putin stressed. (PTI)

Pakistan lost 12-13

have signs of one C-130 class of aircraft, one AEW&C (Airborne Early Warning & Control) class of aircraft and at least four to five fighter aircraft, most likely F-16, were hit on the ground, he said.

Sharing details of strikes in the air, the Chief of Air Staff said the IAF has clear evidence of one long-range strike with more than 300 km range hitting an AEW&C or SigNit (Signals intelligence) aircraft, along with five high-tech fighters between F-16 and JF-17 class.

"This is what our system tells us," he said.

While there were reports of damages to Pakistan's F-16 jets in a hangar, it was the first time the IAF confirmed hitting the US-manufactured jet in the air. The JF-17 is a Chinese jet.

The details shared by the IAF Chief takes the total number of aircraft lost by Pakistan to 12 to 13. On Pakistan's claim of shooting down Indian aircraft, the IAF chief called that narrative as "Manohar Kahaniyan".

"Let them be happy, as they need to show something to their audience to protect their reputation. It doesn't matter to me," he said "If they think they shot down 15 of my jets, let them think about it. I hope they're convinced about it, and they'll cater for 15 less aircraft in my inventory when they come to fight again," he said.

The Chief of Air Staff declined to divulge details of India's losses during the May 7 to 10 hostilities.

"I won't say anything on what happened, how much damage was done, how it happened, because let them find out," he said.

Air Chief Marshal Singh also questioned the veracity of Pakistan's claim on damages to India.

"Have you seen a single picture where something fell on any of our airbases, something hit us, a hangar was destroyed, or anything like that? We showed so many pictures of their places," he said.

"However, they couldn't show us even a single picture. So, their narrative is 'Manohar Kahaniyan'. Let them be happy," he said. In response to the Pahalgam terror attack, India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, targeting terrorist infrastructure 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. To a question, the IAF chief said all three services have started working on the 'Sudarshan Chakra' air defence system. (PTI)

One dead, four injured

officer of the Guwahati Police said one person died in the fire, while four more were undergoing treatment at Gauhati Medical College and Hospital.

"The deceased has been identified as Salman Qureshi," he said. (PTI)

Pak must be held

which remain under its forcible and illegal occupation," he said. Jaiswal was responding to a question at his weekly media briefing. "Pakistan must be held accountable for its horrific human rights violations," he said. (PTI)

'NESt Fest' 2025 kicks

the late singer Zubeen Garg. Another key highlight is a session titled "Arunodaya", which will focus on sustainable development in the North-East and tribal regions, with student-led ideas and innovations being showcased. The event will conclude on October 4. (PTI)

Name Change

I BHASKARJYOTI BASUMATARY, S/O-BIPUL BASUMATARY, M/O-CHARU BASUMATARY, vill-Bengena-Ati, P.O-Bengena-Ati, Pin-782137,P.S-uluwani, Dist. Nagaon (Assam) but wrongly My birth certificate has been recorded as my Name BHASKER JOTY BASUMATARY, S/O- B. BASUMATARY, M/O-CHARU. Registration no-24/TY/11, Date-07-01-2011.

AFFIDAVIT

I, VIPIN, son of JC-570920X Rank SUB MAJ Hari Kisan R/O village ghari,P.O Showpur, Tehsil Mundawar, Alwar District of Rajasthan PIN 301407 hereby Declare on Affidavit No-3648/2025, Margherita. That, my correct name is VIPIN and from today onwards I shall be known as VIPIN. VIPIN and VIPIN KUMAR is same and one identical person that is myself.

GOVT OF ASSAM DIRECTORATE-CUM-ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER PWD(R&B), HILLS, ASSAM, DIPHU.

No.ACEH/CS/SSA/03/2025-26/14

Date. 03/10/2025.

Cancellation Notice

It is for information to all concerned that the Bids for "Construction of 50 bedded hostel separately for boys & girls" at 66 No's of school under the scheme "Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan" in Karbi Anglong District and West Karbi Anglong District, published earlier vide Press Notice Inviting No.ACEH/CS/SSA/03/2025-26/02, Dated.07-07-2025 is hereby cancelled for the following groups :-

1. Gr. No. 49 Tender ID 2025 KAAC 46559 1 under Amri Block.
2. Gr. No. 50. Tender ID 2025 KAAC 46560 1 under Amri Block.
3. Gr. No. 52. Tender ID 2025 KAAC 46565 1 under Amri Block.

due to non-responsive of all the tenders in the technical bid evaluation. Re-tender notice will be floated for the same shortly.

Sd/-
Director -Cum- Additional Chief Engineer,
P.W.D.(R&B), Hills, Assam,
Diphu.

Memo NOACEH/CS/SSA/03/2025-26/14-(A)

Date 03/10/2025.

Hagrama to be sworn in as BTC CEM tomorrow

Kokrajhar readies for grand ceremony, event to be live-streamed across Bodoland

HT Correspondent

KOKRAJHAR, Oct 3: The Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) is preparing for the swearing-in ceremony of its 5th Executive Council, with elaborate arrangements being made in Kokrajhar ahead of the event on October 5.

The ceremony, to be held at the BTC Secretariat field, Bodofa Nwgr, is expected to witness massive public participation, besides the presence of top dignitaries from the State.

Hagrama Mohilary, who led his party to a decisive victory in the recently concluded BTC polls, will take oath as the Chief Executive Member (CEM). Along with him, members of the 5th Executive Council will also be sworn in.

Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya and chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma will grace the occasion, underlining the importance of the BTC's role in the political and developmental landscape of Assam.

The swearing-in will also be live-streamed across the districts of the BTC to enable people from Chirang, Baksa, Udalguri and Kokrajhar to witness the historic moment.

According to the official programme, Assam chief secretary Ravi Kota will administer the oath of office, affirmation and secrecy to the new Executive Members, while BTC Principal Secretary Akash Deep will administer the oath of office to Tridip Daimari as the Prtem Speaker of the BTC Legislative Assembly.

The day's events will commence with the hoisting of the National Flag at the BTC Secretariat by Akash Deep, followed by solemn floral tributes to Bodofa Upendra Nath Brahma at his tomb in Thulungapuri, Dotma, at the Bodoland Martyrs' Cemetery in Debagaoan, and at the statue of Bodofa in front of the BTC Assembly building. These symbolic acts are aimed at ho-



nouring the sacrifices and vision of the leaders and martyrs who laid the foundation for the creation of the Bodoland Territorial Region.

The BTC elections, which concluded recently, paved the way for the installation of the new council, with Hagrama Mohilary's leadership once again receiving a clear mandate from the people. The resounding victory reaffirmed the people's faith in his leadership and his party's developmental agenda for the region.

The swearing-in is expected to mark a fresh chapter in the democratic journey of the BTC as it looks ahead to consolidate peace, development and good governance across the Bodoland Territorial Region. Security arrangements in and around Kokrajhar town have been tightened in view of the large gathering expected at the ceremony. District authorities are coordinating with police and security forces to ensure the smooth

conduct of the programme. The BTC Secretariat field has been decorated for the occasion, with seating and stage arrangements being put in place to accommodate thousands of attendees. The ceremony is being seen not just as a formal transition of power but also as a reaffirmation of the democratic aspirations of the people of the Bodoland Territorial Region. With the new Executive Council set to assume office, expectations are high that the incoming leadership will address key issues such as infrastructure development, education, employment opportunities, cultural preservation and empowerment of youth and women in the region. Officials and community leaders said the event would mark "a significant milestone" in Bodoland's democratic journey, with the swearing-in symbolising the beginning of a new phase of governance and people's participation in the political process.

BJP-EKADC marks Gandhi and Shastri Jayanti

HT Bureau

DIPHU, Oct 3: The BJP-East Karbi Anglong District Committee (BJP-EKADC) observed Gandhi Jayanti and Lal Bahadur Shastri Jayanti on October 2 with a series of programmes promoting cleanliness, patriotism, and inclusive development.

The day began with a cleanliness drive at Diphu Market, organised by the Tea Morcha, paying tribute to Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri. The drive saw active participation from BJP district president Roland Killing, vice presidents Longsing Tokbi and Robbie Rongpi, general secretary Minroy Teron, secretaries Dilip Ronghang and Dhonsing Kramsa, and BJYM district president Jiten Bey.

Later, a seminar was held at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Bhawan, BJP-EKADC office, near ARTC & S First Gate. The programme started with a prayer to Maa Bharati and floral tributes to both national leaders. General Secretary Sarsing Phangcho delivered the keynote address, stressing Gandhi's Swadeshi movement, the relevance of Khadi, and self-reliance.

Member of Parliament Amarsing Tisso (Diphu, 6th ST) attended the seminar as chief guest, along with Roland Killing. Both leaders spoke on the simplicity, vision, and leadership of Shastri, recalling his



slogan "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan."

At the Sarsing Teron (Langkhung Habe) Memorial Town Hall, as part of the Seva Pakhwada 2025 observance, the ST Morcha of BJP-EKADC hosted an Intellectual Meet focused on the leadership and vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Speakers Karon Hansepi and Sarsing Phangcho highlighted PM Modi's push for Atmanirbhar Bharat, digital transformation, and inclusive development. The event was attended by party leaders including ST Morcha president Rangina Hanse, vice presidents Honder Sing Kramsa, Robbie Rongpi, Lizen Beypi, and leaders from Bhartiya Kisan Sangh and other BJP wings.

A screening of the film NaMo

(Mera Desh Pehle) was also organised by the IT & SM District team.

Meanwhile, a drawing and painting competition was held at the Sarsing Teron Multi-utility Sports Complex in collaboration with Karbi Anglong Fine Arts & Craftsmen Association (KAFACA). The competition, part of the Viksit Bharat initiative, saw the participation of around 50 school children.

The prize distribution ceremony followed, with dignitaries including vice presidents Hundersing Kramsa and Robbie Rongpi, Kisan Morcha president Khorsing Singnar, KAFACA president Satyendra Terang, and other BJP leaders presenting awards and certificates to participants.

577th birth anniversary of Srimanta Sankardev



HT Correspondent

BISWANATH CHARIALI, Oct 3: The 577th birth anniversary of Srimanta Sankardev convened by the Nagsanar regional committee of Srimanta Sankardev Samaj was held with two-day programme at Kamarchuk namghar. The first day programme began with a cleanliness drive on October 1. It was followed by a dihanam competition which was inaugurated by Pradip Saikia.

Earlier to the dihanam competition child artistes Pranalika Saikia, Italy Kalita performed Borgeet while Jyotismita Saikia performed Jhumura. Karabi Saikia and Smritijyoti Hazarika graced the competition as judges. The second-day programme began with hoisting of the religious flag by Deben Saikia, president of Nagsanar regional committee of Srimanta Sankardev Samaj followed by a Bhagawat procession inaugurated by Basav Bhuyan, headmaster of Jamuguri Academy.

The Bhagawat procession proceeded through Kamachuk village to Nagsanar centre and headed to

Deuri Gaon, Solal Sonari, Bebejia, Bahuwakuri, Na-Telia, Mech Gaon, Gogoi Chuk, Purani Telia, Gosain Chuk and ended at Kumarchuk namghar. A total of fifteen hundred devotees joined the Bhagawat procession. Earlier to this Homeswar Saikia offered floral tribute in front of a portrait of the legendary singer Zubeen Garg. After the naam-prasanga, a total of 20 veteran bhaona artistes of the locality were felicitated by the committee with citation and gamosa in the open session.

Deuri Khel Aaimatri team begged the Jogeswar Hazarika memorial first prize, Solal Sonari Khel Aaimatri team won the Niranjan Bora memorial second prize and Gosain Chuk Khel Aaimatri team won the Thaneswar Kalita memorial third prize. Rupa Saikia was awarded with Girish Bora memorial best singers award. All the proceedings were conducted by Putul Bora, secretary of Nagsanar regional committee of Srimanta Sankardev Samaj. Two bhaonas respectively Bhakta Kubalash and Arjunashur were staged tonight.

Assam Valley School employee battles for life



HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Oct 3: A heart-wrenching plea has emerged from a family in Tezpur as 56-year-old Girin Chandra Kalita, a senior employee at the Assam Valley School, Balipara (Sonitpur), battles for his life following a massive brain hemorrhage. Kalita, who is the sole breadwinner for his family of four, is currently in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at Dorika Hospital, Tezpur.

According to medical reports from TIMEs Hospital, Kalita suffered a 5.4 cm-sized sub acute hematoma in the right gangliocapsular region of his brain. His condition remains critical, with doctors warning of the high risk of another fatal stroke if immediate and prolonged treatment is not administered.

The family shared their desperation: "He is the only earning member in the family. The ICU costs are overwhelming—around ₹ 25,000 per day. We simply cannot keep up." The MRI scan reveals severe compression in vital brain areas, further complicating the situation. Kalita's daughter, Jinti Kalita, has taken to social media and public platforms seeking financial support for his ICU treatment and life-saving medicines.

The family has set up an alternate account for donations:

Account Number: 3483136000713, IFSC Code: CNRB0003483, Account Holder: Jinti Kalita.

"We are reaching out with folded hands, requesting support in this most difficult time," Jinti wrote. "Your donation no matter how small can save his life."

Every hour of delay, doctors say, reduces Kalita's chances of survival. The family hopes that with public support, they can keep fighting for his life.

For those willing to help, contributions can be made directly, and even spreading the word may bring the assistance the family desperately needs.

Address for verification and updates: Dorika Hospital, Tezpur, Assam.

Thousands pay tribute to Zubeen Garg in Jorhat

HT Correspondent

JORHAT, Oct 3: Thousands of people from across Assam gathered at Jorhat Stadium on Wednesday to pay homage to legendary singer, composer and musician Zubeen Garg on his 13th-day mangalik anusthan (religious ritual).

Despite overnight showers, the weather cleared up, allowing people from Jorhat and neighbouring districts to join the memorial. The stadium was adorned with large portraits and cutouts of Zubeen, creating an emotional atmosphere for the tribute.

An urn containing Zubeen's ashes, placed in a glass case before a large portrait, became the focal point for floral tributes. Attendees also received prasad during the ritual. The ashes had arrived in Jorhat on September 30 in a flower-decorated red vehicle, brought from Guwahati by some family members and Dhritimala Deka, known for conducting numerous cremations in the state.

The day began with an all-religion prayer at 8 am, followed by a public homage from 9 am. Around 2,000 devotees from various

namghars, including Dhekiakhowa Bornamghar and Moinaporia Namghar, participated in mass prayers, devotional song renditions, and hymn chanting, adding a spiritual tone to the event.

Garima Saikia Garg, wife of Zubeen, attended with family members. The gathering also saw the presence of several state ministers, political leaders, and artistes. Among the dignitaries were Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, and APCC president and Jorhat MP Gaurav Gogoi.

A special tribute came from Abhi Kashyap Sharma, a child musician from Jorhat, who painted a portrait of Zubeen live at the venue. A video of Abhi playing the flute with Zubeen in Majuli had gone viral earlier this year.

The programme was organised by local people with support from the state government and Jorhat district administration. A 48-member steering committee, formed during a meeting chaired by Assam Minister Bimal Borah on September 27, oversaw the preparations.

Speaking to the media, Garima Saikia Garg thanked the people of Jorhat and Assam for their love and support. She expressed regret over not being able to conduct Zubeen's last rites in Jorhat, citing her father-in-law's age and health as reasons for choosing Sonapur.

She vowed to carry forward Zubeen's unfinished projects and appealed for unity among people, highlighting Zubeen's commitment to peace, amity, and environmental causes.

On the ongoing investigation, she expressed confidence in the government, legal system and police, mentioning that Singapore authorities had contacted her recently about the circumstances of Zubeen's death. She stated that both she and the public want the full truth to emerge.

DK Shivakumar, speaking to reporters, said he was present on behalf of Rahul Gandhi and the All India Congress Committee to pay tribute. Calling Zubeen a cultural ambassador of Assam who sang in over 40 languages including Kannada, he said the artiste would remain immortal through his music.

33rd Zonal Karbi Youth Festival concludes in Bokajan

HT Correspondent

BOKAJAN, Oct 3: The 33rd Zonal Karbi Youth Festival (ZKYF), organised by the Borjan Karbi Cultural Society (KCS) in Bokajan Sub-Division, concluded on September 28 at the Bokajan Block playground in Karbi Anglong.

The four-day festival saw the ground divided into reception, camp, competition areas, guest houses, stalls and the reception committee office, drawing large crowds of festival-goers.

The festival was inaugurated with the hoisting of the flag by Janasing Teron, president of Borjan KCS.

Over the course of the event, attendees were treated to concerts, folk dances, traditional ballads and cradle songs.

Competitions were also held, while popular performers including Binong Timung, the band Rok Rak, Samili Terangpi, and Rengsang Engti Katharpi

entertained the audience.

On September 30, Tuliram Ronghang, Chief Executive Member of the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC), visited the festival venue.

The central committee of KCS, led by Secretary Sunil Tokbi, was also present for the closing programmes.

As part of the festival, a beauty contest was conducted, with Rengsang Engti Katharpi winning the title of Miss KYF 2020 and Adwinson Hanse being crowned Mr KYF 2022.

The festival was also attended by Executive Member of KAAC Surjya Rongphar, MLA Numal Momin, and secretary of Karbi Lammet Amei Liladhar Teron, among others.

The festival was widely praised for showcasing Karbi culture, fostering youth participation, and promoting traditional arts and music in the region.

Nine Dimasa workers die in construction site

HT Bureau

DIPHU, Oct 3: A tragic incident has claimed the lives of nine migrant labourers—four from Karbi Anglong and five from Hojai—who were working at the Ennore SEZ Supercritical Thermal Power Project construction site in Ooranambedu, Tiruvallur district near Chennai. The accident occurred on September 30 when a steel arch of an under-construction structure collapsed, killing all nine on the spot. One worker was seriously injured.

All the deceased belonged to the Dimasa community. The four from Karbi Anglong hailed from Dhansiri Misibailam (two workers), Hawaipur, and Uttar Borbil, while the remaining five were from the Kurnakata locality in Hojai district.

In a press statement, the All Dimasa Students Union (ADSU) identified the deceased as Munna Kemprai, Sorbojit Thaosen, Phaibit Phonglo, Bidayum Parbosa, Dimaraj Thaosen, Prayanta Sorong, Paban Sorong, Sumon Kharikapsa, and Dipak Rajiyung.

The ADSU expressed deep sorrow over the tragic loss and called for a thorough investigation into the incident, demanding proper safety protocols to be enforced at such construction sites to prevent future tragedies.

The Dimasa Students Union (DSU) also issued a statement, urging both the Assam and Tamil Nadu administrations to handle the matter with urgency, ensure timely repatriation of the bodies, and provide full support to the bereaved families.

Meanwhile, the Karbi Students Association (KSA), Diphu District Committee, voiced strong condemnation and grief over the incident. The KSA demanded a high-level inquiry and urged the authorities to provide a compensation of at least Rs 25 lakhs to each victim's family along with government jobs as part of rehabilitation measures.

The KSA further blamed the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) and the NC Hills Autonomous Council (NCHAC) for the ongoing unemployment crisis that compels local youths to migrate for work. They accused elected leaders of nepotism, corruption, and failing to create job opportunities in the hill districts, warning that such leadership failures could lead to further crises among tribal communities.

Youth stabbed during Durga idol immersion

HT Correspondent

DIBRUGARH, Oct 3: Tension gripped Dibrugarh town on Thursday evening after a youth was stabbed during a Durga Puja idol immersion procession. The injured has been identified as Ashish Pandey, a resident of Graham Bazar.

Pandey, who sustained injuries in the stomach, was rushed to Assam Medical College and Hospital (AMCH) where he is undergoing treatment.

His condition is reported to be stable.

According to Pandey, he was attacked in the Phoolbagan area by one Sujit Shah during the immersion procession.

"He called me during the procession and spoke with me for a while. Suddenly, he stabbed me. A few minutes later, I realised blood was flowing from my stomach," Pandey told reporters from his hospital bed.

He further alleged that Shah was involved in selling narcotics in the locality.

"Sujit Shah sells ganja and other narcotic items near our area. We had objected to it earlier. Out of grudge, he attacked me," Pandey said.

Following the incident, an FIR was lodged at the Dibrugarh police station.

Former Speaker Pronob Gogoi's wife passes away

HT Correspondent

SIVASAGAR, Oct 3: Mohini Gogoi, wife of former Assam Assembly Speaker, Minister and senior Congress leader Pronob Gogoi, passed away today

at Seukapha Multi-specialty Hospital, Rajabari, following age-related ailments. She was 85.

She is survived by three sons, including Manjeet Gogoi, president of the Sivasagar District Congress Committee. Her demise has been condoned by the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee, Sivasagar District Journalists' Association, ASTC Tinali Durgutsov Committee and several other organisations.



Train services affected due to Sivok-Rangpo project works

Rescheduling, diversion, and regulation of trains announced

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Oct 3: The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has announced that several train services will face rescheduling, diversion and regulation due to Pre-Non-Interlocking works on October 8 and 9 and Non-Interlocking works from October 10 to 15 at Sivok station.

The works are being undertaken for yard re-modelling under the Sivok-Rangpo project of the Alipurduar Division.

As per the notification, Train No. 75714 (Bamanhat - Siliguri Jn.) DEMU of October 8 to 11 will depart at 8 am instead of 5 am, while Train No. 75725 (Siliguri Jn - New Bongaigaon) DEMU of the same dates will depart at 1 pm instead of 10.30 am.

Train No. 75726 (New Bongaigaon - Siliguri Jn) DEMU of October 15 will depart at 9.30 am

instead of 6.30 am and Train No. 75713 (Siliguri Jn - Bamanhat) DEMU of October 15 will depart at 5.30 pm instead of 4.05 pm.

Similarly, Train No. 15621 (Kamakhyā - Anand Vihar Terminal) Express of October 9 will leave at 6 am instead of 5 am.

The departure of Train No. 15483 (Alipurduar Jn - Delhi) Sikkim Mahananda Express of October 10 and 15 has been rescheduled to 1 pm and 3 pm respectively instead of 10.30 am.

Train No. 13247 (Kamakhyā - Rajendra Nagar) Capital Express of October 10 and 15 will now leave at 8 am and 10 am respectively instead of 6.15 am.

In terms of diversions, Train No. 13248 (Ara - Kamakhyā) Capital Express of October 14 will run via Siliguri Junction, New Jalpaiguri Junction, New Coochbehar, New Alipurduar and New Bongaigaon,



with temporary halts at Jalpaiguri Road, Dhuburi, Falakata, New Coochbehar and New Alipurduar.

Train No. 19615 (Udaipur City - Kamakhyā) Kavigur Express of October 13 will run via New Jal-

paiguri Junction, Raninagar Jalpaiguri, Dhuburi, New Coochbehar, New Alipurduar, Samuktala Road and New Bongaigaon, with temporary halts at Dhuburi, New Coochbehar and New Alipurduar.

Train No. 15484 (Delhi - Alipurduar Jn) Sikkim Mahananda Express of October 14 will be regulated suitably at Katihar Division while Train No. 15468 (Bamanhat - Siliguri Jn) Express of October 15 will be regulated suitably en route.

The Northeast Frontier Railway has urged passengers to take note of the changes and plan their travel accordingly.

CORRIGENDUM NO. 05 FOR TENDER NOTICE NO.: CON/2025/AUG/05, DATED, 18-08-2025

Corrigendum -05 for Tender Notice No. CON/2025/AUG/05 has been issued against Tender No. CE-CON-DK-TN-2025-04. For details please visit in website www.ireps.gov.in

Chief Engineer/Con-6, N.F. Railway, Maligaon

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY Construction Organization

Serving Customers With A Smile

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Personally I'm always ready to learn, although I do not always like being taught. - Winston Churchill

SIR opposed in Kerala

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) has hardened its stand on the Election Commission's decision to conduct a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the State in the short run-up to the local bodies' elections later this year and the Assembly polls nearly next year. The CPI(M) State Secretariat said, in a strongly worded statement, that the exercise will disenfranchise as many as 50 lakh voters in Kerala. CPI(M) state secretary M. V. Govindan said the hasty decision is fundamentally flawed. In support of his argument, Govindan said that Kerala's population had increased, in the past 23 years, by 1.57 crore. Similarly, the number of polling booths has also risen by 10,000. Govindan accused the Election Commission of acting at the instance of the BJP. The move has made inclusion on the latest voters' list impossibly difficult for a large section of the population. For instance, the EC, he contended, does not accept Kerala's ration cards as a valid identity. Instead, it has asked the voters to produce a set of 12 difficult-to-get documents, including proof of parentage, nativity and domicile, to be enlisted as a voter. The EC has deliberately introduced extensive red tape, rendering the task of registration extremely difficult. It may be mentioned that, initially, it had refused to accept Aadhaar cards as proof of identity. It changed the stance only after being pulled up by the Supreme Court.

Even the State's Chief Election Commission's word of caution has been ignored by the EC. The exercise would stretch the State's resources thin as it moves into the election mode, he added. The NCR will prepare the ground for categorizing large sections of the people as illegals earmarked for deportation. Govindan also said that the NCR, a Sangh Parivar agenda, is loaded against the minorities, Dalits, tribals, backward classes, refugees, economically disadvantaged sections, and legal immigrants. It is also inextricably linked to the anti-Muslim Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA)," he claimed. The EC's SIR in Bihar, he argued, had disenfranchised an estimated 65 lakh voters majority of whom were Muslims and members of the marginalized and economically disadvantaged sections. The CPI(M) has also signalled its intent on holding a National Seminar on SIR in October, which will be attended by top politicians, jurists, writers, thinkers and intellectuals. The seminar will record its protest against the EC's politically partisan efforts to undermine democracy and destroy the credibility of the elections.

In response to the request of Kerala's political parties, State Chief Electoral Officer R. Kelkar had urged the Election Commission of India (EC) to postpone the SIR until after the local bodies polls in 2025 and include the ration card as a valid identification document.

Transparent administration and effective measures against corruption

Transparent administration is the cornerstone of a society's moral, economic, social, and political progress. When a country's administrative system is transparent, accountable, and just, it enhances the quality of life for the public, ensures equitable distribution of resources, and maintains social stability. However, corruption undermines the very foundation of this system, posing a significant obstacle to societal progress. Corruption leads to the wastage of public resources, diminishes the quality of services, and exacerbates social inequalities. Establishing transparent administration and taking effective measures against corruption is not merely a necessity but an indispensable responsibility. Transparent administration refers to a system where decision-making processes are clear, access to information is open to the public, and accountability for the actions of authorities is ensured. Such a system fosters public trust, which is the foundation of any democratic society. When the public can scrutinize administrative activities and raise questions, the likelihood of misuse of authority decreases. This environment of transparency encourages officials to act ethically and ensures the proper utilization of government resources for public welfare. When the allocation of funds for a government project is disclosed transparently and the public can access related information, the chances of corruption diminish. This leads to improved project quality and increased benefits for the public.

However, corruption disrupts this environment of transparency. Corruption not only causes economic harm but also weakens the moral fabric of society. When the public witnesses authorities engaging in illicit gains, their trust in the administration erodes. This distrust can lead to social unrest, protests, and, in some cases, violent situations. When a portion of funds allocated for a government project is siphoned off through corrupt practices, the project's quality suffers, and the benefits to the public are reduced. This creates frustration among the populace, further damaging their confidence in the administration. Moreover, corruption adversely affects foreign investment. International investors are more inclined to invest in countries with transparent and just administrative systems. In corrupt nations, the potential for investment decreases, hindering economic progress.

The root causes of corruption include abuse of power, lack of administrative accountability, inadequate access to information, weak law enforcement, and a lack of social awareness. Abuse of power is a primary driver of corruption. When authorities wield excessive

power without oversight, they may misuse resources for personal gain. If an official knows there is little chance of punishment for illegal activities, their inclination toward corruption increases. Lack of access to information is another significant factor. If the public lacks accurate information about government activities, they cannot monitor administrative actions, creating opportunities for corruption. Furthermore, weak law enforcement encourages corrupt practices. If stringent measures are not taken against corrupt individuals, it emboldens others to engage in similar activities. A lack of social awareness also contributes to the rise of corruption. When the public is unaware of their rights, they are unable to protest against administrative malpractices.

Addressing corruption requires a comprehensive strategy. Strict enforcement of laws is essential. Even with anti-corruption laws in place, their weak implementation renders them ineffective. A system for swift and impartial investigation of corrupt practices must be established. Punishments should be designed to deter others from engaging in corruption. Some countries have significantly reduced corruption rates by adopting strict punitive measures. For instance, in countries like Singapore, the enforcement of stringent anti-corruption laws has made the administrative system highly transparent and efficient. Singapore's zero-tolerance policy toward corruption ensures that officials refrain from illegal activities. Effective implementation of the Right to Information Act is another powerful tool against corruption. This law enables the public to access information about government activities, enhancing administrative transparency and reducing the likelihood of corruption. In India, the Right to Information Act, 2005, empowers the public to monitor government activities. Through this law, citizens can access details about government project budgets, expenditure records, and other information. However, there are still shortcomings in its implementation, such as delays in providing information or incomplete disclosures. To address these issues, the enforcement process of the Right to Information Act must be strengthened.

Administrative reforms are crucial for ensuring accountability and combating corruption. Establishing a clear code of conduct for administrative officials, regular monitoring of their work, and a transparent recruitment process to appoint efficient and honest personnel are necessary steps. Additionally, reg-

ular training programs for administrative staff should be conducted to foster awareness of ethical values. Training programs focused on ethics and integrity enhance officials' sense of responsibility. Independent auditing institutions also play a vital role in increasing administrative transparency. Such institutions can monitor government activities and reduce the potential for corruption.

The use of technology is a critical step in reducing corruption in the modern era. E-governance enhances the transparency of administrative processes. Online portals for delivering government services reduce the role of intermediaries, thereby decreasing opportunities for corruption. Digital payment systems have increased the transparency of government transactions. Systems like electronic bidding have brought transparency to government contract processes. Additionally, online grievance redressal mechanisms provide citizens with an accessible means to file complaints. In India, the Aadhaar system has facilitated the accurate

distribution of funds for welfare projects, reducing the role of intermediaries and ensuring direct benefits to the public. However, challenges remain in leveraging technology, such as inadequate digital infrastructure, cybersecurity vulnerabilities, and limited internet access in rural areas. Addressing these issues requires improving digital infrastructure, strengthening cybersecurity measures, and promoting digital literacy among the public.

Raising public awareness is an essential aspect of the fight against corruption. If citizens are unaware of their rights, they cannot protest against administrative malpractices. Awareness about the detrimental effects of corruption should be fostered through media, social media, and education. Investigative journalism can expose instances of corruption, while social media platforms can encourage citizens to organize against corrupt practices. Incorporating ethics and integrity into school and college curricula can cultivate awareness among future generations. Civil society organizations and volunteer groups should encourage public participation in anti-corruption efforts.

International cooperation can strengthen the fight against corruption, which is no longer just a national issue but a global one. International organizations like Transparency International have raised global awareness about corruption. Collaboration among countries, including information sharing, confiscation of corrupt individuals' assets, and international

agreements, can bolster anti-corruption efforts. For example, the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) has facilitated increased cooperation among nations, enabling the seizure of corrupt individuals' foreign assets and curbing international money laundering.

The success of the fight against corruption depends on both government action and public participation. Without public vigilance, government measures alone cannot achieve complete success. Therefore, building a transparent administration requires coordinated efforts between the government and the public. The government should facilitate public participation by establishing simple and transparent systems for filing complaints. Additionally, stringent laws to protect whistleblowers are necessary to encourage them to expose corrupt practices.

Establishing transparent administration is not without challenges. Factors such as a lack of political will, resource constraints, and the slow pace of societal mindset change complicate the process. Political interference can stall investigations into corruption, while resource limitations hinder improvements in digital infrastructure or training programs. The slow transformation of societal attitudes also delays the spread of anti-corruption awareness. However, with long-term planning and sustained efforts, these challenges can be overcome.

Successful examples of combating corruption can be seen in countries like Denmark and New Zealand, where transparent administration has kept corruption rates extremely low. These countries' strict law enforcement, open access to information, and high public awareness have made their administrative systems highly efficient and transparent. Other nations can learn from these examples to implement effective anti-corruption measures.

In conclusion, transparent administration and the fight against corruption are essential for a society's overall progress. Strict law enforcement, access to information, administrative reforms, technology utilization, public awareness, and international cooperation can effectively combat corruption. These measures not only enhance administrative transparency but also strengthen the moral and economic foundation of society. Through the coordinated efforts of the government, public, media, and civil society organizations, we can build a society where administration is rooted in transparency, justice, and integrity. These efforts will lay the foundation for a just and healthy society for both the present and future generations.

Bodoland Rises Again

Hagrama Mohilary returns with Five guarantees

By: Zahid Ahmed Tapadar

Hagrama Mohilary's Return: A New Dawn for Bodoland

In a resounding comeback that has reshaped the political landscape, Hagrama Mohilary is set to be sworn in as the Chief of the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) on October 5. His return to power follows a historic electoral triumph, with his party securing 28 of the 40 constituencies in the recently concluded 5th BTC Legislative Council election.

This mandate has not only marked a political revival for Hagrama Mohilary—who earlier held power for 17 consecutive years before a five-year hiatus—but has also reestablished the faith of the people across Kokrajhar, Chirang, Baksa, Udalguri and Tamulpur districts in his leadership. The verdict of September 22 reaffirms the people's trust in his vision and promises, particularly the five guarantees he announced before the elections.

Assuming Office with Reverence and Resolve

The oath-taking ceremony is scheduled for October 5 at 11 AM at the BTC Secretariat Park, Bodofa Nwgr, Kokrajhar. The solemn occasion will be graced by the Hon'ble Governor of Assam, Shri Lakshman Prasad Acharya, and the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma. The Chief Secretary of Assam, Dr. Ravi Kota, will administer the oath of office to Hagrama Mohilary and the members of the Executive Council.

In a deeply symbolic gesture, before assuming office, Hagrama Mohilary and the newly elected members of the Bodoland Territorial Council Legislative Assembly (BTCLA) will pay homage at the tomb of Bodofa Upendranath Brahma at Dotma. They will also offer tributes at the Bodoland Martyrs' Cemetery in Debagarh, followed by floral offerings at the statue of Bodofa U N Brahma in front of the BTC Legislative Assembly building. These acts reflect a reaffirmation of commitment to the ideals of Bodofa and to the sacrifices of those who laid down their lives for Bodoland.

The Five Guarantees: A Roadmap for Development

Hagrama Mohilary has assured the people of Bodoland that his new term in office will be defined by five key guarantees aimed at addressing some of the most pressing issues of the region and ensuring equitable development. These guarantees are not just promises but commitments he has pledged to translate into action at the very



beginning of his tenure.

Land Rights for Eligible and Legitimate Landless People

One of the main commitments of Hagrama is to provide land rights to eligible and legitimate landless families of all communities in the BTC region based on the 2005 voter list. After the formation of the government, a new land survey will be conducted in the BTC region based on the BTC agreement signed on February 10, 2003, and necessary measures will be taken to lawfully provide land rights and leases to eligible and legitimate landless and leaseless individuals of all ethnic groups and communities in the BTC region based on the voter list published in 2005. This initiative will bring long-term stability and social justice for thousands of families. It will also ensure the equitable inclusion of all communities in the region's development journey.

Empowering Youth Through Employment

For unemployed youth and the promotion of self-employment ventures, an annual fund of ₹100 crore will be provided. This initiative is expected to encourage entrepreneurship, skill development, and job creation, offering a ray of hope to thousands of young people striving for economic independence.

Dignity for Senior Citizens and Specially-Abled

In a gesture of inclusiveness, Hagrama has pledged an annual allocation of ₹10 crore to support senior citizens and specially-abled individuals. The scheme will strengthen social security and provide much-needed assistance to some of the most vulnerable sections of society.

Women's Empowerment and Self-Reliance

Recognising the central role of women in shaping society, an annual fund of ₹40 crore will be dedicated to women's empowerment

and self-reliance. The scheme is designed to enhance women's participation in economic activities, encourage self-help groups, and enable financial independence for countless women across the region.

Support for Economically Weaker Sections

An annual provision of ₹50 crore will be made for people belonging to the economically weaker sections. This allocation will serve as direct assistance to improve living conditions, provide social support, and reduce poverty in underprivileged households.

A Vision for Peace and Progress

Throughout the election period, Hagrama Mohilary assured that these guarantees are only the beginning. "I will take decisive steps to resolve the key issues concerning our people, ensuring that Bodoland emerges as a region of peace, prosperity, and sustainable development for all," he said. His words echo a promise of struggle for peace and development in the region.

Stepping into a New Era

As Hagrama Mohilary prepares to take the oath of office on October 5, the moment is being seen as a watershed in Bodoland's political journey. The people's overwhelming support has reestablished his central role in shaping the destiny of the region. With the five guarantees at the core of his new administration-land rights for the landless, support for youth employment, dignity for senior citizens and specially-abled individuals, empowerment of women, and assistance for economically weaker sections-Hagrama's return promises a roadmap towards inclusivity, empowerment, and lasting peace. This return will be a moment of renewal, a reaffirmation of faith, and a promise of progress for Bodoland as it rises once again to embrace a new era of growth and harmony.

Mahatma Gandhi- Apostle of truth, non-violence & peace

By: Prof Jayadeba Sahoo

It is impossible to discuss the subject of non-violence today without referring to the thought and action of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1869-1948), known to the world as Mahatma ("great soul"). The name of Mahatma Gandhi transcends the bounds of race, religion and nation-states, and has emerged as the prophetic voice of the twenty-first century. The world remembers Gandhi not just for his passionate adherence to the practice of non-violence and supreme humanism, but as the benchmark against which we test men and women in public life, political ideas and government policies, and the hopes and wishes of our shared planet.

When Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi went to England to study Law and thereafter started working in South Africa, he was an ordinary man, desirous of making a living for him and his family. But when he returned home, he was a changed man. He practised what he had determined to do in his heart. This made him a great man. What actually happened in between in his life? While working as a lawyer in South Africa, in 1904, Gandhi received a copy of Ruskin Bond's 'Unto This Last', during a train journey from Johannesburg to Durban. In his Autobiography, Gandhi says he could not put the book down till he had read it completely. He was so fascinated by its contents that he could not sleep at all. He writes: "I was determined to change my life in accordance with the ideals of the book." Gandhi summarises what he read in that book:

1. The good of the individual is contained in the good of all.
2. A lawyer's work has the same value as that of a barber in as much as all have the same right of earning their livelihood from their work.
3. The life of labourer – the tiller of the soil and the handicrafts-man, etc. – is also a life worth living."

The above three statements piercingly shed light on one word: 'Equality'. It actually stems from a Universal truth of Fatherhood of God and brotherhood of all human beings. Gandhi rightly understood that we all come from God (through our parents), hence have only one Eternal Father, the Heavenly Father, the Supreme Soul; and all human beings are His children and therefore brothers and sisters. Hence no one is superior or inferior, but all are equal and good in their essence, and should have the dignity they deserve. Such an idea will instantly strike to the one whose sanskar is satvik (ontological)! Gandhi had that sanskar though dormant! So he alludes to this fact, when he writes in his Autobiography that one would receive a Guru he deserves! The book refreshed his sanskar! He could not ignore the plight of his ill-privileged fellowmen and was determined to work for the "the uplift of all" and "the welfare of all". What followed is history. The British Empire came to its knees in front of Gandhi's determined fight for the downtrodden. He set the model of equality of all in his own Ashram so that it could spread to his country and to other nations of the world. He would often declare: "My life is my message."

From equality, follows non-violence, which has now internationally become synonymous

with Gandhi's name. Hence Gandhi Jayanti that is observed every year as a national holiday in our country to commemorate his birthday (October 2, 1869 – January 30, 1948) is also observed by the United Nations as the International Day of Non-violence, which aims to disseminate his philosophy, principle and belief in non-violence through proper education and public awareness. The UN General Assembly, in a resolution adopted on 5 June 2007, reaffirms the universal relevance of the principle of non-violence and the desire to secure a culture of peace, tolerance, understanding and non-violence.

The International Day of Non-Violence is marked on 2 October, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence. The General Assembly, in a resolution adopted on 5 June 2007, established the commemoration, the International Day as an occasion to disseminate the message of non-violence, including through education and public awareness.

Gandhi & Non-Violence

Non-Violence and Truth were his time-tested weapons throughout his life and he had applied them meticulously even in the extreme situations. He lived on a simple vegetarian diet and fasts rigorously for long periods, for both self-purification and protest in support of his justified demands. By means of a hunger strike, Gandhi had helped bring about India's Independence from British Rule, inspiring colonial people to work for their own independence and ultimately dismantle the British Empire. Gandhi's principle of Satyagraha (truth force) has inspired generations of democratic and anti-racist activists including Martin Luther King Junior and Nelson Mandela. He had often stated that his values were simple, drawn from traditional belief – Satya (truth) and Ahimsa (non-violence). Gandhi's philosophies and his ideas of truth and non-violence had the influence of the Bhagavad Gita and the writings of Leo Tolstoy. He was also inspired by Henry David Thoreau's famous essay on Civil Disobedience.

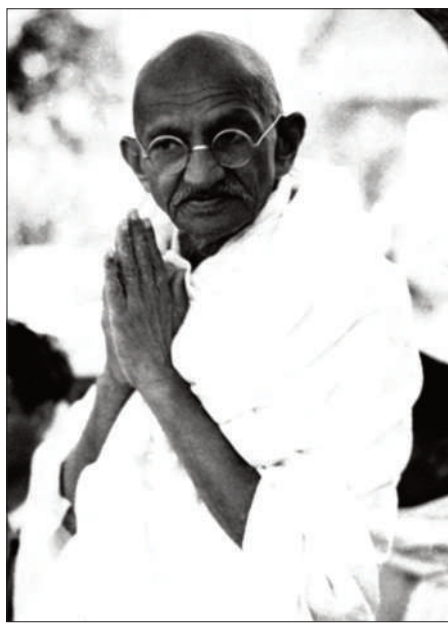
How much India and other countries have adopted his ideals is a different question. What is noteworthy about Gandhi is that he was open to new ideas. When he got the enlightening ideals from another human, his humility helped him to look at what is being said, not who said it. He enjoyed working for those ideals to the best of his ability which made him great to the point that the greatest genius of that time Albert Einstein commented: "Generations to come, it may well be, will scarce believe that such a man as this one ever in flesh and blood walked upon this Earth."

His greatness lies in that he is an example for everyone. Youngsters, in general, think that the problem is with others, and if others change, they will be happy. This is in sharp contrast to what Gandhi felt and did: "Be the change you want to see in the world." He is also an example even for couples. He had the experience of leading a normal and a celibate married life. Comparing the benefits of both, Gandhi says his celibate married life was "more peaceful, sweet and joyous!" He knew very well that lust is "the greatest enemy of the wise." – Gita 3:39 Gandhi was extremely successful because of his determination to practise the lofty ideals he got, and

the way in which he went ahead with that determination. He believed that one's greatest joy will be the awareness of how close one is with his Heavenly Father. No wonder he admits that, he could remember Shrimat Bhagwat Gita chapter 13 by-heart! Two concepts which he always kept close to his heart appear together in one verse in this chapter: "nonattachment, and even mindedness in desired and undesired events." (Gita 13:9). One's even-mindedness in all situations is what makes one a 'supreme devotee' of God, says Gita (18:54).

This chapter helped him to have a balanced approach towards everyone and in every situation in life, as he viewed himself as "a trustee," which means one having neither a sense of possession nor of doer-ship! Hence it was easy for him to declare: "Service is my religion." Gandhi accomplished great things, because he was operating from the realisation that he is a child of God, hence, he possessed infinite potential. His counter-part Nelson Mandela in South Africa, too understood the same fact when he said: "We are powerful beyond measure.... Your playing small does not serve the world." As we let our own lights shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fears, our presence automatically liberates others.... What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead. No doubt, Gandhi displayed simple, attainable qualities that would, if practised, would make everyone better, no matter in what field they may be!

Let us realize before it is too late, that it is RajYoga meditation that removes mental tension, injustice, dishonesty and other kinds of inhuman behaviour. Understanding the theory of the laws of karma, teachers should change their attitude towards the students and their profession by means of spiritual knowledge and world's only open eyed meditation, which is RajYoga Meditation of Brahma Kumaris. One must, therefore, help in this noble task by encouraging more and more people to join Brahma Kumaris, who is selflessly building a better society.



A series of career changes

By: Vijay Garg

We all know that career has not only been a means of earning, it is also the mirror of social status. Being a doctor and an engineer in one day was not just about choosing a profession, it was also about gaining social status. Just like being the founder of a tech startup these days, or in management at a big tech company. Current social status careers have new doctor, engineer and creative career status symbols associated with the tech world such as data scientists, AI experts. Being a great content creator in social media is also status. But the most popular careers come from sports, like cricket and badminton. But when it comes to the solid world of technology, green energy and healthcare sectors are areas where building a career is status symbol.

ICS, the glory of IAS

But all of these careers today weren't in the employment landscape until a decade ago, and even if they were, they didn't have special status. Different careers have been social status symbols in India over the decades since independence. If being a government official from the 1950s to 1960s, especially

ICS and IAS after independence was great not only in terms of career but also respect in society.

Doctor and Professor's reputation

Then in the 1960s, the professions that we could count as the highest in society became doctors and professors. Science, health and education were greatly emphasized in the Nehru era as well as these professions gained a lot of respect. In the seventies, it became much more important to have engineers and professionals in PSU. In fact, the 1970s were a time of heavy industry and public sector. During this period, Bhel, Cell and ONGC public enterprises emerged as four moon-laying enterprises in the country. Being an engineer in these institutions was a social pride, and that was the time when leaving IIT was like being a hero.

Bank manager and railway officer

In the 1980s, being an officer in banks and financial institutions became important. In fact, in the 1980s everyone was taking out loans from banks to fund their business or boost their fortunes. These days, the country has started to build houses on a large scale and also a series of home loans, which made the role

of banks important in society. Prior to 1980, the relationship with banks was hardly 20-25 per cent of Indians, after which 40-50 per cent started joining the bank in some form. Obviously, being a bank officer became important during this period. The demand of the bank manager was greatly increased during that period. Besides, it was great to be a manager in LICs, a senior officer in railways and an engineer in the telecom sector.

Bright career of IT and MBA

Then came the 1990s, when IT and MBA emerged as the most important social status-making careers. IT revolution in India for the first time since liberalization, finding jobs at companies like Infosys, TCS and Wipro became more important than IAS or IPS. Going from IIM to MBA and MNC became a status symbol. NRI has also become a part of the highest reputation in society, especially in America. Corporate management and global careers became the biggest social status symbol among urban, middle class

Start-ups, AI from the creative industry

But the world of startups and creative industries came to light in the 2000s, which led to start-



up founders like Flipkart, Paytm, Ola being known and discussed by everyone in society. Digital media, filmmaking and the fashion industry also became a sym-

bol of status. In addition to corporate lawyers, the profession of Chartered Accountant also became an important social status. While AI, robotics and data sci-

ence took the place of technology and social impact in the 2020s, social media influencers and content creators also began to take notice. In the meantime, Green

Energy and Climate Entrepreneurs' reputation grew. In addition to cricket, successful players were considered important careers during this period.

DECT Assam Recruitment 2025 – 93 Junior Instructor Posts, Online Apply

Last Date: 03/10/2025.

Directorate of Employment & Craftsmen Training (DECT), Assam has released an advertisement for the recruitment of 93 Junior Instructor Posts in different ITI(s) of Assam. Interested and eligible candidates may apply here.

Name of post: Junior Instructor

No of posts: 93 posts

Trade wise vacancy:

Electrician: 11

Wireman: 6

Welder: 11

Fitter: 8

Engineering Drawing: 6

Cutting & Sewing: 6# COPA: 2

Draughtsman-Civil: 2

Draughtsman-Mechanical: 1

Dress Making: 3

IT&ESM: 2

Machinist: 3

Mechanic Diesel: 4

Mechanic Electronics: 3

Mechanic Tractor: 2

Mech. Instrument: 2

Plumber: 2

Secretarial Practices: 2

Refrigeration & Air Conditioning: 2

Mechanic Motor Vehicle: 11

Turner: 6

Scale of Pay: Rs. 14,000/- to 70,000/- PB-2 with Grade Pay of Rs.6800/- plus other allowances as admissible under Rules of the Govt. of Assam.

Citizenship: Candidates must be Indian Citizens as defined in Articles 5 to 8 of the Constitution of India.

Age Limit: The applicant should not be below 18 years and above 40 years of age on 1st January, 2025. Candidates born not on or before 31.12.1984 and not later than 01.01.2007 are eligible to apply.

Age Relaxation: The category-wise age relaxation is as mentioned below.

SC: 5 years

ST: 5 years

OBC/ MOBC: 3 years

Ex-serviceman: 2 years

PWD: 10 years

Educational Qualification:

Passed HSLC or equivalent qualification from recognized Board / Institution.

Passed National Apprenticeship Certificate or National Trade Certificate in appropriate trade.

1 year Industrial/ Teaching Experience desirable.

Employment Exchange Registration: The applicant must have a valid employment exchange registration card of Assam.

Application Fee: Candidates are not required to pay any application fee for submission of their online applications.

Interested and eligible candidates may apply online for these vacancy by visiting official DECT Recruitment Portal. Candidates may follow below mentioned steps to apply online.

Scroll down, go to Important Web-Links section.

Click on the "Online Application Form" and complete the registration process by clicking "New Registration".

In the next stage, click on "Online Application Form" Link and Login.

Fill your all personal and educational details and upload necessary documents.

At the end, submit the form.

Don't forget to take a print out of the application form.

Candidates are required to upload following documents online.

1. A latest passport size photograph.

2. HSLC Admit Card/ HSLC Pass Certificate.

3. Qualifying Examination Certificate and Mark sheet.

4. Scanned Signature

5. Valid Employment Exchange Registration Certificate.

6. Caste Certificate issued by Competent Authority (in case of reserved category candidates).

7. Declaration in Form "A" under rule 5(1) of the Assam Public Services (Application of Small Family Norms in Direct Recruitment) Rules, 2019.

8. Person with Disability (PwD) Certificate issued by Competent Authority (if applicable).

9. Copy of personal ID (Adhar Card/Voter Card/Driving License/Bank Pass Book 1st Page).

Starting Date of online application submission: September 02nd, 2025

Last Date of online application submission: October 03rd, 2025

NEEPCO Recruitment 2025 – 5 Accountant Posts, Online Apply

Last Date: 17/10/2025.

North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited (NEEPCO) has released an employment notification for the recruitment of 5 Accountant Posts. Interested and eligible candidates may apply online here.

Name of post: Accountant, (S1)

No of posts: 5 [UR:4, ST:1]

Location-wise vacancy:

Corporate Office, NEEPCO Ltd, Brookland Compound, Lower New Colony, Shillong - 793003, Meghalaya: 4 posts

NEEPCO Ltd, Assam Gas Based Power Station, Bokuloni, Dibrugarh District, Assam-786191: 1 post

Age Limit: UR: 30 years, ST: 35 years as on 01.06.2025.

Pay: ₹ 29,300-3%-1,19,700/- (IDA)

Essential Qualification: B.Com with Accountancy and Auditing as subjects + ICAI (Inter)/ ICWA (Inter).

Age Relaxation: The upper age relaxation for SCs/STs/OBCs (NCL) /ESM/ PwBDs will be allowed as per Govt. of India guidelines.

Employment Exchange Registration: The applicant should have registered his/ her name in any one of the Employment Exchange detailed as under:

(a) Duliujan Employment Exchange OR

(b) Shillong Employment Exchange, East Khasi Hills District.

Application Fee: The applicant(s) are exempted from paying the application fee.

Interested and eligible candidates may apply for this exam through online mode by visiting official portal of NEEPCO. Candidates may follow below mentioned steps to apply for NEEPCO Recruitment 2025.

Scroll down, go to Important Web-Links section.

Click on the "Online Application Form".

Fill your all personal and educational details and upload necessary documents.

At the end, submit the form.

Don't forget to take a print out of the application form.

Starting date of online application submission: 27th September 2025

Last date of online application submission: 17th October 2025

SSC CPO Recruitment 2025 – 3073 Sub Inspector Posts, Online Apply

Last Date: 16/10/2025.

Staff Selection Commission has released the official notification for Sub-Inspector in Delhi Police and Central Armed Police Forces Examination, 2025.

Through this examination, SSC is going to recruit 3073 Sub-Inspector vacancy in Delhi Police and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF). Interested and eligible candidates may apply online here.

Name of exam: Sub-Inspector in Delhi Police and Central Armed Police Forces Examination, 2025

Name of post: Sub-Inspector

No of posts: 3073 Posts (Tentative)

CAPF-wise vacancy:

Delhi Police: 212 posts

CRPF: 1029 posts

BSF: 223 posts

ITBP: 233 posts

CISF: 1294 posts

SSB: 82 posts

Age Limit: Candidates age must be between 20 to 25 years as on 1st August 2025. Candidate must have been born not earlier than 02.08.2000 and not later than 01.08.2005 to be eligible to apply.

Age Relaxation: Permissible relaxations in upper age limit for different categories are as under:

SC/ ST: 5 years

OBC: 3 years

Ex-Servicemen: 3 years

Educational Qualification: Educational Qualification for all posts is Bachelor's degree from a recognized university or equivalent. The candidates who have appeared in their Bachelor's degree or equivalent examination can also apply; however they must possess Essential Qualification on or before the cutoff date; i.e., closing date of receipt of applications.

Male candidates apply for the post of Sub Inspector in Delhi Police must possess a valid Driving License for LMV (Motorcycle and Car) on the date fixed for Physical Endurance and Measurement Tests (PE&MT) to be eligible for the post of Sub Inspector in Delhi Police. The male candidates who do not have a Valid Driving License for LMV (Motorcycle and Car) are eligible for the post of Sub-Inspector in CAPFs only.

Application Fee: Candidates have to pay a certain amount as application fee depending up on their category. The details are as given below:

Category	Fee
UR	Rs 100/-
OBC/MOBC	Rs 100/-
SC/ ST/ Women	Nil
Ex-Servicemen	Nil

Payment Mode: BHIM UPI, Net Banking, by using Visa, MasterCard, Maestro, RuPay Credit or Debit cards or through cash in SBI Branches by generating SBI Challan.

A candidate must indicate the Centre(s) in the online Application Form in which he/ she desires to take the examination. Here's the list of centres available under North Eastern Region (NER).

Itanagar (5001) Dibrugarh (5102) Guwahati (Dispur) (5105)

Jorhat (5107) Silchar (5111) Kohima (5302)

Imphal (5501) Shillong (5401) Agartala (5601)

Aizawl (5701) Tejur (5112) Dimapur (5301)

Churachandpur (5502)

Interested and eligible candidates may apply online for these vacancy through online mode by visiting official SSC Recruitment Portal. Candidates may follow below mentioned steps to apply for SSC SI recruitment.

Scroll down, go to Important Web-Links section.

Click on the "Online Application Form" and complete the registration process by clicking "New User ? Register Now".

In the next stage, click on "Online Application Form" Link and Login.

Fill your all personal and educational details and upload necessary documents.

Make payment of application fee as per your category and submit the form.

At the end, take a print out of the application form.

Starting date to apply online: 26th September 2025

Last date to apply online: 16th October 2025

Date of application correction: 24th to 26th October 2025

Schedule of Computer Based Examination: Nov-Dec, 2025

PHED Recruitment 2025 – 50 Assistant Engineer Posts, Apply Online

Last Date: 14/10/2025.

Assam Public Service Commission has released two employment notifications for the recruitment of 50 Assistant Engineer Posts in Public Health Engineering Department (PHED), Government of Assam. Interested and eligible candidates may apply online here.

Name of post: Assistant Engineer (Civil/ Mechanical/ Chemical)

No of posts: 50 posts

Branch-wise vacancy:

Civil: 40 posts

Mechanical: 5 posts

Chemical: 5 posts

Scale of pay: Rs 30000/- to Rs 110000/-, Grade Pay Rs 12700/-

Educational Qualification: Candidates must have passed BE/B.Tech. in respective branch of Engineering from any institute recognised by AICTE. OR Part A & B of AMIE India in Civil/ Mechanical/ Chemical Engineering enrolled on or before 31st May 2013.

Age Limit: The candidates should not be less than 18 years of age and not more than 38 years of age as on 01/01/2025.

Age Relaxation: The category-wise age relaxation is as mentioned below.

SC: 5 years

ST: 5 years

OBC/ MOBC: 3 years

PwBD: 10 years

For more details pl read the official notification.

Resident-ship:

(i) The candidate must be a permanent resident of Assam.

(ii) The Candidate must produce PRC issued in Assam for educational purpose as a proof of residency along with the application form

Or

(iii) The candidate must produce Employment Exchange Registration certificate in the state of Assam along with the application form.

Application Fee:

Category	Fee (in Rs.)
General/EWS	297.20
SC/ST/OBC/MOBC	197.20
BPL/ PwBD	47.20

Interested and eligible candidates may apply online for these posts by visiting at official recruitment portal of Assam Public Service Commission. They may follow below mentioned steps.

Scroll down, go to Important Web-Links section.

Click on Online Application Form link.

A new webpage will be opened.

Enter all your personal and educational details as required.

Upload your passport sized photograph and signature and other required documents.

Pay the application fee as per your category and at the end click on submit button.

Don't forget to take a print of submitted application form.

Starting date of submission of online application: 15th September 2025

Last date of submission of online application: 14th October 2025

Charaideo Judiciary Recruitment 2025 – 4 Peon & Driver Posts

Last Date: 24/10/2025.

District & Sessions Judge, Charaideo has released two (2) advertisements for the recruitment of 4 Peon & Driver posts in the office of the District & Sessions Judge, Charaideo. Intending and eligible candidates may apply here.

1. Peon

No of posts: 3 [UR/ STP/ STH: 1 each]

Age Limit: The candidates should not be less than 18 years of age and not more than 40 years of age as on the date of his/her submission of application.

Educational Qualification: Minimum class VIII passed; those who have passed HSSLC (Class XII) or above shall be ineligible to apply.

2. Driver

No of posts: 1 [UR]

Age Limit: The candidate must not be less than 18 years and more than 40 years of age as on the date of his/her submission of application.

Educational Qualification: The minimum educational qualification is HSLC passed and candidate must hold a valid license to drive LMV/four wheeler vehicles.

Employment Exchange Registration Certificate: The candidate must have registered their names in any employment exchange of Assam.

Citizenship: The candidate must be an Indian citizen.

Age Relaxation: The category-wise age relaxation is as mentioned below.

SC: 5 years

OBC/ MOBC: 3 years

Candidates who fulfill the requisite eligibility criteria must submit their applications in the standard form of application published in the Assam Gazette Part-IX.

Filled up "Application Form" along with Age certificate, Educational qualification certificate, Caste certificate from competent authority, up to date Employment registration certificate must be dropped in the "Drop Box for Peon" placed at the premise of office of the District & Sessions Judge, Charaideo. Candidates submitting their applications by post/courier addressed to the Office of the District & Sessions Judge, Charaideo, Sonari, Pin Code-785690, Assam shall be received in the drop box only.

Application shall be written neatly in block letters.

The applications should be addressed to the District & Sessions Judge, Charaideo, Assam, and the name of the post should be clearly mentioned at the top of the envelope as "APPLICATION FOR THE POST OF PEON" OR "Application for the post of Driver."

Candidates should annex copies of their experience certificate, if any, which shall be considered as an added qualification.

The last date of receipt of application is 24.10.2025 till office working hours.

Starting Date of application submission: 27th September 2025

Last Date of application submission: 24th October 2025



PM MODI TO UNVEIL INITIATIVES WORTH MORE THAN ₹ 62,000 CR FOR YOUTH, BIHAR IN FOCUS

'Bihar likely to develop as a centre for skilled manpower'

NEW DELHI, Oct 3: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will unveil various youth-focused initiatives worth more than Rs 62,000 crore on Saturday, his office said, billing the exercise as a landmark initiative for youth development which will give a decisive push to education, skilling and entrepreneurship.

The PMO said Modi will launch PM-SETU (Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs), a centrally sponsored scheme with an investment of Rs.60,000 crore.

The scheme envisages the upgradation of 1,000 government ITIs in a hub-and-spoke model comprising 200 hub ITIs and 800 spoke ITIs.



Each hub will be connected to four spokes on an average, creating clusters equipped with advanced infrastructure, modern trades, digital learning systems and incubation facilities.

Anchor industry partners will

manage these clusters, ensuring outcome-based skilling aligned with market demand, it said, adding that hubs will also house innovation centres, training-of-trainers facilities, production units and placement services, while spokes will focus on

expanding access. "Collectively, PM-SETU will re-define India's ITI ecosystem, making it government-owned but industry-managed, with global co-financing support from the World Bank and Asian Development Bank," it said.

In the first phase of the scheme implementation there will be special focus on ITIs in Patna and Darbhanga in Bihar, the statement added. He will also inaugurate 1,200 vocational skill labs established in 400 Navodaya Vidyalyayas and 200 Eklavya Model Residential Schools across 34 states and Union Territories. These labs will equip students, including those in remote and tribal areas, with hands-on training in 12 high-demand sectors such as IT, automotive, agriculture, electronics, logistics and tourism.

Aligned with the National Education Policy 2020 and CBSE curriculum, the project involves the training of 1,200 vocational teachers to deliver industry-relevant learning and

create an early foundation for employability.

A special emphasis of the programme will be on transformative projects in Bihar, reflecting the state's rich legacy and youthful demographic, the statement said.

Modi will launch Bihar's revamped "Mukhyamantri Nishchay Syam Sahayata Bhatta Yojana", under which nearly five lakh graduates every year will receive a monthly allowance of Rs 1,000 for two years, along with free skill training. He will also launch the re-designed Bihar Student Credit Card Scheme, which will provide interest-free education loans of up to Rs 4 lakh, significantly easing the financial burden of higher education.

More than 3.92 lakh students have already availed loans worth more than Rs 7,880 crore under the scheme. Further strengthening youth empowerment in the state, Bihar Yuva Ayog, a statutory commission for people between the ages of 18 and 45, will be formally inaugurated

by Modi to channelise and harness potential of the state's young population, it said.

The poll-bound Bihar has been at the focus of several development and welfare initiatives of the NDA governments at the Centre and the state. Other Bihar project that the prime minister will inaugurate is the Jan Nayak Karpooi Thakur Skill University, which has been envisioned to impart industry-oriented courses and vocational education to create a globally competitive workforce. Taking forward the National Education Policy 2020 with the vision to make higher education avenues better, he will lay the foundation stone for new academic and research facilities in four universities of Bihar namely Patna University, Bhubendra Narayan Mandal University in Madhepura, Jai Prakash Vishwavidyalaya in Chapra and Nalanda Open University in Patna, under the PM-USHA (Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan). (PTI)

Financial condition of Karnataka worsened due to 'guarantee schemes': Ex-PM Deve Gowda

BENGALURU, Oct 3: Former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda on Friday alleged that the financial condition of Karnataka has worsened due to the 'five guarantee' schemes being implemented by the Congress government.

He also claimed that there is no money to deal with the severe flood situation in six districts of north Karnataka, including Kalaburagi.

The JD(S) patriarch said he would visit Kalaburagi and neighbouring flood-hit regions within a week to assess the ground situation. Maharashtra's release of water from its dams has led to flooding in the Bhima and Krishna rivers. Kalaburagi, Vijayapura, Bidar and Yadgir are among the worst-affected districts.

Apart from crop loss, many houses have been damaged and there has been loss of human lives as well as livestock.

Gowda also said he would meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi to seek compensation for the flood-affected people.

"The financial condition of the state has worsened due to 'guarantees'. It's not me who is saying this, but the Congress MLAs," the former PM said at a press conference.

Pointing to disarray within the ruling party, the 92-year-old JD(S) supremo remarked, "They (Congress MLAs) say there is no money even to deal with such a severe flood situation".

The five pre-poll guarantees are Gruha Jyothi, offering 200 units of electricity free to every household; Gruha Lakshmi, providing Rs 2,000 to every woman head of a family; Anna Bhagya, assuring 10 kg rice to each member of a BPL family every month; Yuva Nidhi, promising Rs 3,000 to unemployed graduates and Rs 1,500 to unemployed diploma holders (aged 18-25) for two years; and Shakti, which allows women in Karnataka free travel on government-run non-luxury buses.

"More than 50 people have lost their lives, and there is a huge loss to livestock. Crops have been completely damaged. Roads, bridges and houses have been destroyed," Gowda said.

"I will visit Kalaburagi to see the ground reality. After visiting there, I will give my view about what the government has done," he said. Pointing out that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had recently conducted an aerial survey of flood-affected areas and reviewed the crop damage, Gowda appealed to district in-charge ministers and officials to visit the spot and understand the woes of people.

On the BJP-JD(S) coalition, Gowda clarified that the alliance would continue. "There is no need to worry about the alliance. It will continue even for Panchayat and Assembly elections," he said.

Emphasising his cordial ties with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Gowda said, "My relationship with Prime Minister Narendra Modi will never change. Show me one instance where I have spoken ill of him in the last 10 years".

The former prime minister also said he has set a target of winning at least 50 to 60 seats in the upcoming Bengaluru Municipal Corporation elections, and would soon hold a meeting in this regard. (PTI)

Army chief warns Pak, says India 'will not show restraint' next time



ANUPGARH/JAIPUR, Oct 3: In a stern warning to Pakistan, Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi said on Friday that the neighbouring country should stop sponsoring terrorism on its soil if wants to retain its place on the world map.

The Chief of Army Staff (COAS) also said the restraint shown by New Delhi during Operation Sindoor would not be repeated in case of a future military conflict and urged Indian soldiers to remain poised for action.

"India, as a country, is fully prepared this time. And this time, it will not show the restraint that it showed during Operation Sindoor 1.0. This time we will take a step forward and act in a manner that will make Pakistan think whether it wants to remain on the world map or not," General Dwivedi said in a sternly worded address to soldiers at Anupgarh in Rajasthan's Sriganganagar district.

He asserted that if Pakistan wants to retain its place on the world map, it will have to stop state-sponsored terrorism.

The Army chief told the soldiers to stay prepared. "Keep yourselves fully prepared now, if god wants, the opportunity will come soon," he said.

Gen. Dwivedi said India has given evidence to the world of the presence of terrorist hideouts in Pakistan during Operation Sindoor. Had India not unearthed this evi-

dence, Pakistan would have hidden all of it, he said.

The Army chief said the entire world stood with India when it launched Operation Sindoor in the wake of the April 22 Pahalgam attack. He said the Indian military hit nine targets inside Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, of which seven were hit by the Army and two by the Air Force.

"We had identified the targets because we only wanted to harm the terrorists. We had aimed to strike their bases. We have no complaints against ordinary Pakistani citizens, so long as their country does not sponsor terrorists. Because terrorists were being sponsored, those terrorist targets were hit," Gen. Dwivedi said.

Replying to a question about his appeal to those living near the international border, he said, "We consider the border population not as ordinary civilians but as soldiers. That means they stand shoulder to shoulder with us in the battle. This is crucial because the coming struggle is the nation's struggle, not just the Army's."

The Army chief said history bears witness that during the 1965 and 1971 wars, ordinary citizens stood shoulder to shoulder with the soldiers. "We would want them to join us in the days ahead as well. I want to thank them -- their zeal boosts the morale of our soldiers," he said. (PTI)

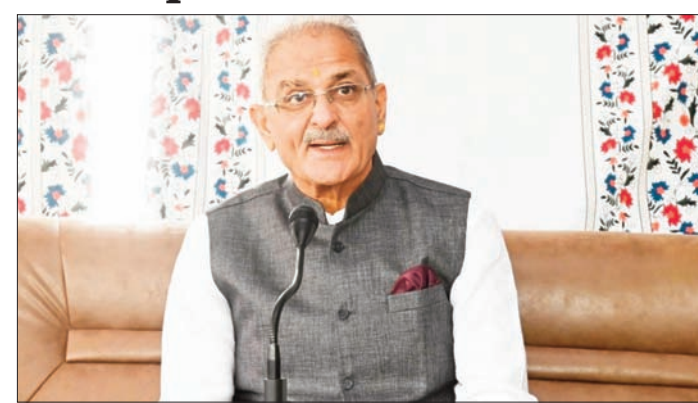
Ladakh cannot afford violence, people trying to vitiate atmosphere will not be spared: LG

JAMMU, Oct 3: Surrounded by Pakistan and China, Ladakh cannot afford violence but some people are trying to vitiate the atmosphere in the Union territory and they will not be spared, Lt Governor (LG) Kavinder Gupta said.

He said a magisterial probe has been launched into the September 24 violence that left four persons dead and scores injured in Leh. He also expressed satisfaction over the fast improving situation in the town, where the authorities eased the curfew for the whole day on Thursday following days of brief relaxations.

Talking to PTI videos here, Gupta said Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita remains in force across Ladakh, prohibiting gatherings of people to avoid a repeat of the incidents of September 24.

"The situation is almost normal with all shops and business establishments open and offices working smoothly for the fourth day today (Friday). Schools up to class 8 also



opened (on Friday) and commercial vehicles are plying. The overall situation is normal with no untoward incident reported from anywhere," the LG said.

However, he said, some people are trying to vitiate the atmosphere, which is evident from the circulation of deepfake videos and appropriate action is being taken against them. "Many people, including those who provoked the mob violence through

elements and we cannot afford violence in Ladakh like what was witnessed on September 24. Our priority is to maintain the unity and integrity of the country and we know the people in Ladakh are peace-loving and nationalists," he said. On the growing demand for a judicial probe into the violence, Gupta said a magisterial probe has already been ordered and no injustice will be done to anyone.

"Had there been no timely action, they (mob) would have burnt everything. We are very sad about the loss of four persons who were also like our own children. My sympathies are with the bereaved families."

"The dead include an ex-serviceman, who was the son of a retired soldier and whose children are studying in army school. These are tragic happenings, whether they were involved (in violence) or not is a secondary question but the mob created such a situation where counter-terrace became imperative," he said. (PTI)

Gold-clad plates of Dwarapalaka at Sabarimala sparks political storm

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, Oct 3: The controversy over the gold-clad plates of the Dwarapalaka idols at Sabarimala triggered a fresh political row on Friday, with allegations flying from both the ruling front and opposition parties.

Leader of Opposition in the Kerala Assembly, V D Satheshan, described the incident as "theft of Sabarimala properties" and called for heightened security for the Ayyappa idol. "In 2019, when the Dwarapalaka plates were removed for replating, they reached the Chennai factory 39 days later. What happened during those 39 days should be thoroughly investigated," he said.

Satheshan demanded a comprehensive probe into all temple inventories to determine what had been lost. "The current investigation focuses only on procedural lapses. We demand a full inquiry into the thefts at Sabarimala," he said.

He alleged that the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) and the

government violated rules by sending the plates for replating outside the temple, with sponsor Unnikrishnan Potty acting merely as a middleman. He called for the resignation of the TDB president and minister, saying, "For self-defence, they are seeking a probe starting from 1998. The TDB president should resign immediately."

All India Congress Committee (AICC) General Secretary K C Venugopal alleged the role of the state government, calling it a misappropriation of gold. "In other words, isn't it gold smuggling?" he asked.

He welcomed the Kerala High Court's intervention and expressed hope that the truth would emerge through the investigation under the court's supervision. Senior Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala termed the incident a major security lapse, highlighting devotees' concerns over temple property. He said two Devaswom Ministers, two TDB presidents, and the Thiruvabha-

ranam Commissioner should answer to the public. "Why has the chief minister not responded yet?" he asked. "People have no confidence in a TDB Vigilance investigation. A comprehensive probe should be conducted under the direct supervision of the Kerala High Court," Chennithala insisted. Taking a dig at the government and the TDB, senior BJP leader V Muraliedharan alleged that there was an attempt to sell the Sabarimala Sreekoil (the sanctum sanctorum). The former minister accused the Pinarayi government of supporting violations of tradition while gold was being looted from the shrine. "By handing over the sacred plates to an unknown person, the government has hurt the sentiments of crores of devotees across the world. Who gave permission to Potty to exhibit the plates outside after removing them from the temple?" he asked.

Muraliedharan said a vigilance probe alone was not enough and de-

manded a detailed investigation.

Devaswom Minister V N Vasavan said he could not comment further on the controversy at this stage. He pointed out that the Kerala High Court had already taken a strong stand by ordering a probe by the TDB Vigilance wing under the supervision of a retired High Court judge. "We will decide future steps based on the High Court's directions after the Vigilance files its report. We also want the people behind this incident to be exposed. How Potty became involved must also be investigated. Let there be a probe into how he handled the gold-clad plates and where he took them," Vasavan said. Meanwhile, CPI(M) senior leader E P Jayarajan warned that those responsible for fraud would be traced and strict action taken. "No one will be allowed to misuse Sabarimala. The recent developments reveal that Potty was used against the Global Ayyappa Sangamam," he said. (PTI)

Cong forgot about khadi after Independence, PM Modi resolved to revive it: Amit Shah

ROHTAK, Oct 3: Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Friday said khadi is not only a dress but also a feeling of 'swadeshi' and 'atmanirbharta', attacking the Congress and saying it forgot about khadi after Independence and did nothing for its promotion. This was the second event that Shah addressed here on Friday. Earlier, he inaugurated the newly constructed Sabar Dairy Plant facility in Rohtak.

Referring to the Congress ruling the country for many decades, Shah said the Congress forgot about khadi after Independence. "They did not pay attention to khadi and did nothing for its promotion," Shah said during the 'Khadi Karigar Mahotsav' event here. "I feel that what work has been done in the past 11 years, and had it been done continuously after Independence, our country would have never faced the problem of unemployment," said Shah in reference to the steps taken for

khadi's promotion by the Narendra Modi government.

Addressing the gathering at the khadi event, Shah said that 'Gandhi Jayanti' was observed on Thursday.

Shah said Mahatma Gandhi used khadi during the country's freedom movement to remove poverty, make the country self-reliant, give "swadeshi" thought to the nation and to make the nation gain Independence.

He said the beginning made by Mahatma Gandhi on khadi transformed the lives of lakhs of weavers in the country. The 'khadi mantra' given by Mahatma Gandhi gave momentum to the freedom movement, he said.

"But after this, the Congress forgot about khadi," he said.

Shah said when Modi was the Gujarat chief minister, he resolved to revive khadi.

Later, as Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, through his 'Mann Ki Baat' programme, gave the mes-



sage to the citizens to use khadi.

And see the result, Shah said, while adding Khadi and Village Industries Commission's (KVIC's) turnover increased to Rs 1.70 lakh crore now from Rs 33,000 crore in 2014-15, and this helps in giving employment to scores of weavers.

Even many companies in the

country do not have such a big turnover, he pointed out.

A good system of khadi's marketing and packaging was made and people were inspired, he said.

"When we wear khadi, it is not just a dress... we do not wear just a cloth, but we adopt and embrace the spirit of swadeshi and at-

manirbharta," he said.

Tool kits to over 2,200 artisans were given during the 'Khadi Karigar Mahotsav' at Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak. The event was organised by the KVIC under the Ministry of Micro, Small, Medium (MSME) and it was themed 'Swadeshi Se Swaavlamban'.

Modern machinery and tool kits were also distributed along with Rs 301 crore as margin money under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) in the event attended also by Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini.

Addressing the gathering, Shah said the idea of 'swaraj' will be incomplete without 'swadeshi' and 'swabhasha' (own language). PM Modi has recently asked 140 crore people to use swadeshi items, he said. Many traders in the country have even resolved not to keep foreign products at their shops and showrooms, he said. (PTI)

Canadian envoy presents credentials to Murmu, year after diplomatic row

NEW DELHI, Oct 3: President Droupadi Murmu on Friday accepted credentials from Canadian High Commissioner Christopher Cooter, who has taken charge of the diplomatic post nearly a year after bilateral ties broke down over the allegations of Indian links in the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

In October last year, India recalled its high commissioner and five other diplomats after Ottawa attempted to link them to the Nijjar case. India had also expelled an equal number of Canadian diplomats.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Canadian counterpart Mark Carney in June this year agreed to pursue "constructive" steps to restore stability in India-Canada ties, including the early return of envoys to each other's capitals.

Following this, both countries appointed envoys to each other's capitals in August, signalling their efforts to mend ties.

While India named seasoned diplomat Dinesh K Patnaik as the

next high commissioner to Ottawa, Canada appointed Cooter as its new envoy to New Delhi.

Patnaik presented his credentials to Canada's Governor General Mary Simon on September 25.

Cooter presented his credentials to President Murmu on Friday.

In a statement, the president's office said envoys of four nations, including Canada and Slovenia, presented their credentials to Murmu.

Those who presented their credentials were Ahmedou Sidi Mohamed, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Christian Biever, Ambassador of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Christopher Cooter, High Commissioner of Canada and Tomaz Mencin, Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia.

Cooter has 35 years of diplomatic experience, having served most recently as Canada's charge d'affaires to Israel and as Canada's high commissioner to South Africa, Namibia, Lesotho, Mauritius and Madagascar. (PTI)

'Indigenity of Nagas to its land cannot be eroded by any factor whatsoever'

Nagas are the only indigenous people of Nagaland: NSF

HT Correspondent

DIMAPUR, Oct 3: The Naga Students' Federation (NSF) asserted that, as far as it is concerned, only the Nagas are the indigenous people of Nagaland and other Naga-inhabited areas.

Reacting to the Rising People's Party's (RPP) statement expressing concern over non-inclusion of non-Naga indigenous tribes in the recruitment in the state police that was advertised on September 30, the inner line regulation commission (ILRC) of the NSF, in a release, said it was flabbergasted by the former's statement.

The ILRC sought to know from the RPP who are the "non-Naga indigenous tribes" in Nagaland.

Stating that it understands that other tribes and communities had also settled in various Naga areas, the NSF, however, said calling migrants indigenous to the land undermines the very sanctity of the peoples who have existed in those



lands since time immemorial.

It said the RPP must understand that the United Nations, as the world's apex organisation, has distinctively defined the term "indigenous" to preserve the distinct status of peoples who are indigenous to the lands they inhabit.

The NSF said the indigenity of the Nagas to their land cannot be eroded by any factor whatsoever. It added that indigenity to land inhabited by the Nagas is intrinsic to the Nagas and no one else.

Calling the Nagaland government's decision on the matter "ap-

propriate", the NSF said the RPP's characterisation of that decision as having "reflected poorly on the policy makers of the state" is devoid of logic.

Instead, it only reflects the utter ignorance of the RPP and amounts to an attempt to diminish the uniqueness of the Nagas in their ancestral homeland, the federation stated.

Acknowledging the existence of non-Nagas who came to Nagaland before December 1, 1963, the NSF urged the government to grant them suitable status so that their presence is recognised legally and officially.

It also appealed to those individuals, tribes, or communities who arrived in the state before December 1, 1963, not to be swayed by unfounded apprehensions, but to register their claims so that newcomers or self-interested individuals do not dilute their original status.

Khandu calls for urgent action against HIV, substance abuse

ITANAGAR, Oct 3: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Friday expressed concern over the growing number of HIV-positive cases in the state, and stressed the need for urgent and effective steps to curb its spread, combat ignorance, and end social ostracism.

In a post on X, Khandu said the state's collective resolve was to "strengthen awareness, prevention, and care measures to protect every life and build a compassionate, informed society."

The chief minister chaired the 3rd State Council on AIDS (SCA) meeting of the Arunachal Pradesh State AIDS Control Society (APSACS) in the day, which was attended by cabinet colleagues, advisors, senior officers, NGOs and community-based organisations.

The rise of HIV cases and the need for integrated strategies linking HIV control with substance abuse prevention were discussed at the meeting, officials said.

According to the Arunachal Pradesh State AIDS Control Society, the number of cumulative HIV seropositive cases is 2,575 as on March 31 this year.

Khandu later chaired the 2nd meeting of the Arunachal Pradesh Psychoactive Substances Control

Authority (APPSCA), which focused on addressing the growing menace of drug addiction in the state.

"The meeting underlined that consumers are victims who need care and support, not punishment. The focus has now shifted towards suppliers and peddlers, the real drivers of this menace," the CM said in another social media post.

He said discussions also stressed strengthening rehabilitation and counselling facilities, intensifying the crackdown on the supply chain, and building a community-driven movement for a drug-free Arunachal.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Biyuram Wahge highlighted the latest data, revealing that HIV/AIDS transmission through infected needles accounted for 66.55 per cent of cases, while unprotected sex contributed 30.55 per cent.

"This underlines the urgent need to tackle drug abuse alongside HIV prevention," Wahge said in a social media post.

The minister said that the authorities resolved to strengthen awareness campaigns on HIV and substance abuse, intensify the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, and build a united, multi-sectoral response to the crisis. (PTI)

Tripura to organise carnival of top Durga pujas today

AGARTALA, Oct 3: The Tripura government will on Saturday organise the fourth edition of 'Mayer Gamon carnival', a procession of Durga idols of top pujas in the state, an official said.

Chief Minister Manik Saha will inaugurate the event, which is likely to witness the participation of at least 40 community pujas.

Apart from trophies and citations, cash awards will be given to the three best pujas, he said.

"The CM will inaugurate the fourth edition of 'Mayer Gamon carnival', a procession by the puja organisations, on Saturday. His cabinet colleagues, MLAs, and elected representatives will remain present at the annual event," Information and Cultural Affairs (ICA) Director Bimbisar Bhattacharya said on Friday. (PTI)

Khandu inaugurates new ATI in Naharlagun, calls it key to grooming future administrators

ITANAGAR, Oct 3: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Friday inaugurated the new Administrative Training Institute (ATI) building at Naharlagun, emphasising that the facility will play a crucial role in preparing administrators to meet the state's unique governance challenges.

The complex comprises a four-storied administrative and academic block, and a six-storied hostel block, each built at ₹20 crore, according to an official statement.

Recalling his first visit to ATI in 2017, Khandu noted that the old building's cramped classrooms and lecture halls had prompted the government to construct new towers for the institute, which trains government officers and employees, the "backbone" of governance.

Noting the complexities of governance due to the state's difficult terrain, dispersed habitations and diverse tribal cultures, he said Arunachal Pradesh requires administrators who are not only skilled but also empathetic, innovative, and committed to trans-

parency, accountability, and public service.

"Institutions like ATI are the crucibles where such officers are shaped," he said.

Khandu said 140 newly recruited Group-A and Group-B officers of the APPSCE 2024-2025 batch, who are scheduled to begin a four-month induction training on October 6, will benefit from the new infrastructure. He said the manpower requirements for ATI would be addressed soon, and four full-time faculty members have already been inducted.

The CM said a major exercise is underway to rationalise manpower across all government departments, directorates, and districts.

"The newly constituted State Commission for Reforms is undertaking a rigorous exercise in this regard, and it is expected to be completed within two years," he said.

The ATI is mandated to train ministerial staff and mid-level officers on office procedures, Arunachal Judicial Service officers, APCS and other administrative officers. (PTI)

3rd Edition of Prime Minister's Youth Camp at Border Area concludes in Tawang

HT Correspondent

TAWANG, Oct 3: The five-day 3rd edition of the Prime Minister's Youth Camp at Border Area 2025 concluded this afternoon at the Kalawangpo Convention Hall in Tawang, bringing together youth and officials from across Arunachal Pradesh. The closing ceremony was graced by MLA Nanggye Tsering as chief guest and deputy commissioner Nanggyal Angmo (IAS) as guest of honour.

Other dignitaries present included i/c Superintendent of Police Tawang Kesang Norbu, Colonel Abhijeet Bhambere, Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion AP NCC, Deputy Director of Secondary Education S Ronrang, Assistant Commissioner Sange Norbu, along with officials from Itanagar and representatives from the 24 participating districts of the state.

A total of 271 participants, including youth and officials, attended the camp, organised by the Department of Education, Government of Arunachal Pradesh. The programme aimed to foster

youth empowerment, leadership, and national integration, particularly in border areas.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Nanggye Tsering urged the youth to strive to become responsible citizens and contribute meaningfully to nation-building. He shared personal experiences to inspire participants to dedicate themselves to society and the country while emphasising the preservation of local traditions, culture, and dialects.

Deputy commissioner Nanggyal Angmo expressed hope that the camp would instill a sense of responsibility, patriotism, and leadership among the participants.

Colonel Abhijeet Bhambere and S Ronrang also addressed the gathering, motivating the youth to pursue excellence and actively engage in community service. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by DDSE Tawang, Hridar Phuntso, who extended gratitude to all dignitaries, participants, and members of the organising team for their contributions in making the event a success.

NPCC outraged over death threat to Rahul

HT Correspondent

DIMAPUR, Oct 3: The Nagaland Pradesh Congress Committee (NPCC) has expressed deep concern and outrage over the recent death threat issued against leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi, during a recent televised debate.

"Such an explicit threat to the life of a senior national leader is unacceptable in a democracy and must be treated with the utmost seriousness," the NPCC media cell said in a release.

It said the threat made by a BJP spokesperson from Kerala cannot be dismissed as casual or emotional rhetoric.

The NPCC termed the threat dangerous and a deliberate provocation that reflects the disturbing trend of normalising threats and violence against political opponents.

The release said the NPCC stands firmly with the All India Congress Committee (AICC) in demanding that Union home minister Amit Shah initiate immediate and decisive action against the individual responsible. It said anything less would signal complicity on the part of those in authority and embolden similar reckless acts in the future.



"As a nation, we have borne our share of the bitter and devastating consequences of political assassinations.

"The tragic loss of leaders such as Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi remains a painful reminder of why such threats to public leaders should be addressed with utmost seriousness and urgency," the NPCC stressed.

It reiterated that political differences must always be resolved within the framework of the Constitution through dialogue, debate, and democratic means.

The NPCC stated that a death threat issued openly against the leader of the Opposition, who represents millions of citizens and their voices, is nothing short of an attack on India's democracy itself.

It urged the central government to not only bring the offender to justice but also set a strong example against such barbaric and homicidal mindsets.

The NPCC further urged every citizen, irrespective of political affiliation, to condemn this dangerous act and uphold the sanctity of our democratic traditions.

Kuki outfit warns Manipur Police after raid in Chandel district

IMPHAL, Oct 3: A Kuki militant outfit on Friday warned Manipur Police that it will not remain a "mute spectator" after the force allegedly conducted a raid to arrest one of its leaders in Chandel district recently.

The United Kuki Liberation Front (UKLF), a group under the Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement, condemned the late-night raid allegedly carried out by Chandel SP Dharmendra Kumar at the residence of one of its leaders in Sajik Tampak area on Wednesday. In a statement, the UKLF said the SP Chandel's act was serious and it would not remain a mute spectator if such action continues. The outfit claimed that after signing the SoO agreement, it had been abiding by the ground rules and working to achieve a "political solution" for the Kuki-Zo people.

Meanwhile, police claimed the operation was conducted to apprehend a suspected drug kingpin. "On Wednesday, acting on credible intelligence, Chandel District Police conducted an operation in T Kotlen village in Sajik Tampak area to apprehend a suspected drug kingpin. However, the person managed to escape," police said. Police claimed that while returning, they were attacked by a mob. The situation was peacefully resolved through dialogue with local leaders with support from the Assam Rifles and CAPF, allowing the team to return safely, police said. (PTI)

Security forces arrest 4 militants including self-styled chief of Kuki outfit in Manipur

IMPHAL, Oct 3: Security forces arrested four militants, including a self-styled chief of a banned Kuki outfit in Manipur, police said on Friday.

Security Forces arrested Paokhonen Guite, the self-styled 'commander-in-chief' of Chin Kuki Mizo Army (CKMA) from S Munuam in Churachandpur district on Wednesday, they said.

Guite was involved in trafficking of weapons and drugs across the India-Myanmar border and also in extortion activities. Two AK-47 rifles, 181 rounds of different types of ammunition, cash of ₹1,00,000 and a car were recovered from his possession.

Security forces arrested two cadres of the banned People's Liberation Army from different places in Imphal West district on Thursday. They were involved in extortion from brick field owners and the public in the valley area.

Police also arrested another member of the outfit from his residence at Yairipok in Thoubal district on Wednesday. He was involved in extortion and collection of money from quarry workers. Members of the PLA had, in September, carried out an ambush on an Assam Rifles convoy at Nambol Sabal Leikai in Bishnupur district, killing two personnel. (PTI)

MoU signed to skill Meghalaya youths in SAP software: Officials

SHILLONG, Oct 3: The Meghalaya State Skill Development Society (MSSDS) on Friday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Sirobilit, a software solutions company, to launch a six-month training programme on an AI-driven enterprise resource planning (ERP) software, officials said. The initiative aims to equip local youth with specialised skills that are in high demand in the digital economy, they said.

The training is expected to prepare them to become proficient professionals capable of contributing to complex SAP implementation projects across industries, according to a senior official of the society.

The programme, SAP S/4HANA, is a next-generation, intelligent ERP suite developed by SAP.

Build on the advanced in-memory database SAP HANA, it integrates artificial intelligence, machine learning and real-time analytics to help organisations streamline business processes, improve decision-making and adapt quickly to market changes, officials said.

"This partnership reflects our commitment to creating a skilled workforce ready for the future of work," the official said. "By offering training on advanced platforms like SAP S/4HANA, we are ensuring that young people from Meghalaya can compete for opportunities not only in the state, but also in national and global markets," they added. (PTI)

Passenger and freight services gain momentum on new Northeast railway routes

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Oct 3: Railways has reported strong passenger and freight traffic following the commissioning of the Bairabi-Sairang railway line in Mizoram and the start of freight operations from Molvom in Nagaland.

Officials said the early response highlights the growing confidence of people and businesses in railways as a vital driver of connectivity and development in the Northeast.

Passenger train services from Sairang, launched on September 13, have recorded heavy bookings.

The Sairang-Anand Vihar Terminal Rajdhani Express registered 162.5 per cent occupancy, while the return service from Delhi to Sairang recorded 158.3 per cent.

The Guwahati-Sairang Express achieved 100.1 per cent occupancy, with sleeper class fully booked, and the return service



maintained almost 100 per cent. The newly introduced Kolkata service also drew high demand.

The Sairang-Kolkata Express recorded nearly 100 per cent occupancy, while the Kolkata-Sairang Express achieved 144.8 per cent,

with sleeper class touching around 144 per cent.

On the freight side, eight rakes were unloaded at Sairang station till September 30.

The first rake, carrying 21 wagons of cement from STAR Cement

Siding near Guwahati, arrived on September 14, followed by consignments of stone chips, automobiles, RMC and sand.

The first parcel consignment from Sairang, comprising Anthurium flowers, was dispatched to Delhi on September 19 through the Rajdhani Express.

Molvom station in Nagaland also began freight operations in September.

Its first inward rake of 41 wagons of cement from Telangana arrived on September 24, followed by the first outward rake on September 29, when 42 wagons of stone chips were loaded for Jirania.

Officials said the surge in both passenger and freight services underlines the transformative role of railway connectivity in the region, bringing economic opportunities, better market access for local products and improved mobility.

Rahul, Jurel and Jadeja's tons put India in complete command against West Indies in Ahmedabad Test

AHMEDABAD, Oct 3: KL Rahul's 11th hundred grounded the West Indies before Dhruv Jurel and Ravindra Jadeja followed the suit with stylish tons with India literally batting the visitors out of the opening Test with a huge lead of 286 runs at the end of second day's play. At stumps, India were 448 for 5 and with the West Indies spinners getting appreciable turn and bounce off the rough, the hosts will like to finish the game by the end of the third day itself and consolidate their position in the World Test Championship points table.

Rahul (100 off 197 balls), Jurel (125 off 210 balls) and Jadeja (104 batting off 178 balls) had their own distinct approach to Test match batting and even interesting ways of celebrations.

Rahul's was for his infant daughter while Jurel's gun salute was for the Indian Army while Jadeja's now familiar sword celebration is something people wait for.

The West Indies bowling was insipid and there was lack of energy on the field which also enabled India to actually increase their stranglehold on the opposition. India through 128 overs scored at 3.50 runs per over which is reminiscent of Test cricket from a bygone era but also hit 45 boundaries and eight sixes -- five of them by Jadeja, same shot in the same region.

While Rahul brought an end to his century drought at home by hitting his second century since December 2016, Jurel brought up his maiden Test century in only his sixth Test for India having made his debut last year.

Jadeja, whose purple patch saw



the venerable all-rounder notching up his seventh score in last six Tests in excess of 50 including two hundreds since the England tour, brought up his sixth century in the format. Jurel and Jadeja put on 206 runs for the fifth wicket for an imposing fifth-wicket stand, but they also narrowly missed breaking the record for highest fifth wicket partnership for India against West Indies, which belonged to VVS Laxman and Sachin Tendulkar who put on 214 runs at Kolkata's

Eden Gardens in October 2002.

The partnership ended when Jurel, who smacked 15 fours and three sixes got an inside edge off Khary Pierre late in the day to be caught behind for the West Indies debutant's maiden wicket in Tests.

On the second day, India opted for a traditional approach with the bat to pile up immense pressure on the West Indies, who, at the best, remained disciplined but could not put pressure back on the hosts.

Gill and Rahul resumed India's

innings at 121 for 2 and by drinks in the first session, the deficit of 41 runs was erased with the two batters going about their jobs with ease.

In the 56th over off Pierre, Rahul reverse-swept a ball for a four which was enjoyed thoroughly by the Indian captain who tried to emulate his partner in the next. However, Roston Chase's (2/90) delivery, which pitched on off, took a leading edge and Justin Greaves in first slip was nimble to

move in direction of the ball to grab an easy catch.

Gill, who added 98 runs for the third wicket with Rahul, fell immediately after completing his half-century. His innings had five boundaries. But Rahul carried on to bring up only his second century at home in nine years and 11th overall. The right-handed batter had scored 199 in the Chennai Test against England in December 2016 and since then a triple-figure score had remained elusive. (PTI)

Women's WC: Spinners call shots as England bundle out SA for 69

GUWAHATI, Oct 3: Left-arm spinner Lindsey Smith led the show with an impressive three-wicket effort as England bowled out South Africa for a woeful 69, their second lowest total in the ICC Women's World Cup here on Friday.

On a pitch that offered a hint of grip to the bowlers, England, who chose to bowl, handed the ball to Smith (4-2-7-3) in the second over itself and the move fetched an immediate dividend.

Smith gave marching orders to SA skipper Laura Wolvaardt in the second ball of the second over through an easy return catch.

Smith returned in the fourth over to jettison Tazmin Brits with a delivery that came in with the angle, and in the sixth over she ousted the experienced Marizane Kapp. Kapp's tentative forward prod did not meet the ball as Smith's delivery crashed onto the stumps.

Pacer Lauren Bell accounted for Sune Luus as South Africa were tottering on 19 for four inside the first six overs, and they never recovered from that point. Once Kapp, Luuk and Brit, SA's most consistent batters, returned to the hut, the pressure was entirely on their middle-order batters to take their side to a respectable total.

But they failed to live up to the task, succumbing to a slightly sluggish track and relentless England bowlers. (PTI)

ASTA congratulates Devajit Saikia on BCCI re-election



HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Oct 3: General Secretary of Assam Sepak Takraw Association, Dr. Bishnu Ram Nunisa, has extended his congratulations to Devajit Lon Saikia on being re-elected as Secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). Dr. Nunisa said, "His remarkable achievement is a matter of great pride for Assam and the entire Northeast. His leadership and dedication to the game of cricket continue to inspire countless talents and uplift Indian cricket to greater heights." Saikia earlier served as Vice President of the Assam Cricket Association (ACA) from 2016 to 2019, and later as Secretary from 2019 to 2022.

Women's World Cup: Sri Lanka face mighty Australia at home

COLOMBO, Oct 3: Sri Lanka will hope to make the most of home conditions and iron out their batting and fielding woes against a formidable Australia in their second match of the ICC Women's World Cup here on Saturday. The hosts bowled well in their opening game against India but paid the price for sloppy fielding and a string of soft dismissals. Despite nine batters reaching double digits, Sri Lanka failed to capitalise on the starts, eventually collapsing to 211 all out in 45.4 overs.

Skipper Chamari Athapaththu and her team will now face a stern challenge in the form of defending champions Australia, who opened their campaign with a dominant win over New Zealand.

Australia showcased their batting depth in the opener, recovering from 128 for 5 to post a mammoth 326 thanks to Ashleigh Gardner's counter-attacking 115 and a valuable lower-order contribution from Kim Garth at No. 9.

With the likes of Beth Mooney, Phoebe Litchfield and captain Alyssa Healy at the top, the Aussies boast an enviable batting line-up that allows them to play with freedom and aggression.

Their bowling unit, too, fired in unison, with pacer Annabel Sutherland claiming three wickets in a single over. Leg-spinner Alana King and left-arm spinner Sophie Molineux can apply pressure during the middle overs, while experienced names like Megan Schutt, Ellyse Perry, Tahlia McGrath and Darcie Brown remain constant threats.

For Sri Lanka, the challenge will be immense, and only a disciplined and consistent effort across all three departments will could them a chance against the seven-time champions.

Having missed out on qualification in the previous edition in 2022, Sri Lanka are eager to make their mark in this tournament, especially with their next four matches sched-



uled at home.

Athapaththu, the pillar of Sri Lanka's batting, will once again shoulder the bulk of the responsibility. The left-hander famously smashed an unbeaten 178 off 143 balls against Australia in the 2017 World Cup — still regarded as one of the greatest innings in women's cricket — and will hope to replicate that performance on Saturday.

The hosts have had a busy lead-up to the tournament, playing 31 matches, with young talents like

Harshitha Samarawickrama, Vishmi Gunaratne and Kavisha Dilhari showing promise. They will form the backbone of the batting unit, and much will depend on their performance against Australia.

Against India, the collapse after the openers departed exposed the middle order, something the team management would be keen to address. In the bowling department, Inoka Ranawera and Udeshika Prabodhani impressed with the ball but lacked support from the other end.

"We are calm. I still have faith in my youngsters because they have won more games for us. If they (Dilhari, Samarawickrama and Gunaratne) can perform, we definitely have a better chance," Athapaththu had said after the loss to India. Sri Lanka may consider bringing in 20-year-old all-rounder Dewmi Vihanga, who impressed in the Tri-Nation Series with 11 wickets, including a match-winning 5/43 against South Africa. (PTI)

Asia Cup row may add pressure, but superior India will handle Pakistan clash calmly: Saba Karim

NEW DELHI, Oct 3: Former wicketkeeper Saba Karim believes the recent Asia Cup row will have a cascading effect on India's ICC Women's World Cup match against Pakistan in Colombo, but said Harmanpreet Kaur's side will not be overly concerned about "outside noise" as the gulf between the two sides is too vast.

India had refused to shake hands with Pakistan during the Asia Cup in the UAE, where the arch-rivals met thrice, including the final. After winning the title, the Indian team also declined to accept the trophy from Mohsin Naqvi, who is both the ACC President and Pakistan's federal interior minister.

Asked if the Indian players would be under pressure heading into Sunday's match, Karim said: "Yes, I think so... that is why India and Pakistan have become a big clash, even in the Women's World Cup. Otherwise, I don't think it would have mattered so much, because India has played against Pakistan before in the past," Karim told reporters during a JioStar programme.

Following the precedent set by the Indian men's cricket team during the Asia Cup, Harmanpreet and her side also will not engage in customary handshakes with Pakistan players in Colombo.

"Because of the so-called controversy that hangs over your



head... I'm sure that the Indian team management and the players would have worked on this kind of simulation so that they're able to perform even when something like this is on top of your mind.

"For India, the best solution would be to try and remove all these outside noises and focus on the game ahead. The kind of experience the Indian side has got, especially the support staff, they will put up a very good performance without really bothering about such controversy," he added.

Asked if the tension could escalate again, the 57-year-old said: "Not to that extent, not to that level. But I think the BCCI has made its stance very clear that the

Indian women's team will also have in the same manner as the Indian men's team did in the Asia Cup. "By which it means that I don't think the Indian women's team will also be shaking hands with the Pakistani cricketers. So that stance has been very clear. And I think India will stick to that.

"Once you are done away with all that controversy and then you concentrate on the game, then it becomes very easy. Initially, maybe a little bit here and there. But I think once you get on to the field, then I think everybody would love to focus on the game," he noted.

Assessing the quality of the two teams, Karim said: "India versus

Pakistan in women's cricket especially, we have seen a huge gulf in terms of quality. Indian women's team is far ahead in terms of resources, in terms of skill set, the kind of support that the Indian women's team receives from BCCI, all that matters in the end.

"I think this huge divide goes to show that India has moved ahead of a team like Pakistan. They are not a threat. But there are worthy opponents. Once you get on to the field, you possibly can't take any team lightly. I think India would be well advised to do their homework." Speaking about key Pakistani players, Karim said: "Sidra Amin is quite an exciting batter. She got back-to-back 100s against South Africa, which is quite an achievement. Then the young captain Fatima Sana has come up with some very good performances. So, India will prepare well against Pakistan." Reflecting on the broader challenges India may face in their World Cup campaign, Karim said: "One, it is a very long tournament, which means for India, the biggest challenge would be to sustain some good form.

"Whether it is from an individual perspective or from a team's perspective. So, for someone like Smriti Mandhana to maintain that kind of form for the entire duration of the tournament, that is going to be a huge challenge." (PTI)

Weightlifting: Mirabai Chanu wins Silver at World Championships

FORDE (NORWAY), Oct 3: Star Indian weightlifter Mirabai Chanu (48kg) clinched a silver medal at the World Championships in the 48kg category here, extending her glittering record in the marquee event where she has been on the podium twice earlier.

The 2017 world champion and 2022 silver-medallist produced a total lift of 199kg (84kg in snatch + 115kg in clean and jerk) to be among the medal winners after moving down from the 49kg division.

Chanu struggled in snatch, failing twice at 87kg, but regained her rhythm in the clean and jerk, successfully executing all three attempts. A former world record holder in clean and jerk, Chanu completed lifts of 109kg, 112kg and 115kg with ease.

The last time she lifted 115kg was at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021 where she won a silver medal. "I'm happy to finish on the podium, it gives me great confidence for the year ahead, especially after my previous performance at the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships in August," Chanu said.

"Every competition is part of my preparation towards the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, and the upcoming Commonwealth Games and Asian Games will be crucial milestones on that journey. I'm focused on working hard, learning from each outing, and giving my best for the country."



Chief coach Vijay Sharma said Chanu's podium finish at the World Championships was a reflection of her consistency and commitment.

"This is just the start of a very important phase in her career, with Commonwealth Games and Asian Games next year serving as key tests before the LA Olympics.

The focus now is on fine-tuning her technique, building strength, and ensuring she peaks at the right time," he said. Sharma had earlier told PTI that the aim of these World Championships was to breach the 200kg mark and also to start lifting weights that Chanu had been heaving in the 49kg.

North Korea's Ri Song Gum won the gold with a commanding 213kg effort (91kg + 122kg), setting new world records in total as well as clean and jerk with her last two lifts of 120kg and 122kg.

Thailand's Thanayathorn Sukcharoen settled for bronze with a total of 198kg (88kg + 110kg). (PTI)

Dhruv Jurel dedicates maiden Test hundred to Indian Army

AHMEDABAD, Oct 3: Wicketkeeper-batter Dhruv Jurel on Friday dedicated his maiden Test hundred against the West Indies to the Indian Army, saying he has always had "respect for what they do on the battlefield".

Jurel struck a neat 125 on the second day of the opening Test against West Indies, helping India reach a dominant 448 for five at stumps after senior colleagues KL Rahul and Ravindra Jadeja also helped themselves to hundreds.

Besides his excellent display with the bat, the 24-year-old Jurel's celebration, after reaching his hundred as well as the half-century, also caught everyone's attention.

The army salute was a tribute to the Indian army and his father, who is a Kargil war veter-

eran. "The salute (celebration) after reaching my fifty was for my father, but for the hundred, it was something that I had in my mind for a very long time because I have been so close to the Indian Army, I've seen my father since my childhood," Jurel said.

"What we do on the ground and what they do on the battlefield is very difficult and you cannot compare that. I will always have my respect and whatever I will do in the future will be for them.

"I will like to dedicate this to them (Indian Army) for what they do. I have seen them closely how it is like and I remain very fascinated in those things. I also used to keep asking my father. I will dedicate it to those who deserve," he said further. (PTI)

India A women's hockey team set for five-match tour of China

NEW DELHI, Oct 3: The India A women's hockey team is all set to embark on a tour of China, where the team will play a five-match series against Liaoning from October 13 to 21.

All the matches will take place at the Liaoning Sports Centre in Dalian and is an important step for the next generation of talent to gain international exposure and competitive match experience. Over eight days, India A will contest against Liaoning on October 13, 15, 17, 19, and 21.

The tour is seen as a key development initiative for the Indian women's program, providing a platform for upcoming athletes to test their mettle in international conditions and adapt to new challenges before moving up the ranks.

The India A women's squad for the tour has been selected to showcase a blend of some experienced players and promising young players, many of whom have earned recognition at the national level recently.

The team will be led by accomplished defender Manisha Chauhan, who brings leadership experience and tactical acumen to the squad.

The squad will be coached by Dave Smolenaars, the analytical coach of the Indian women's hockey team, who will lend his vast experience with tactical innovation and player development

to this tour.

Speaking about the opportunity, Dave Smolenaars said, "We have assembled a strong, young squad with great potential. The series in China provides an excellent platform for players to showcase their abilities, learn in a new environment, and build valuable international exposure.

"I'm confident that with their determination and teamwork, this group will make the most of this wonderful opportunity. It is crucial for the development of Indian women's hockey that players are consistently challenged and given opportunities to compete outside their comfort zone.

"The lessons from this series in China will contribute a lot to their holistic growth and confidence in high-pressure situations."

Squad: GOALKEEPERS: Bansari Solanki, Madhuri Kindo

DEFENDERS: Manisha Chauhan, Akshata Abaso Dhekale, Jyoti Chhattri, Mahima Chaudhary, Anjana Dzungdung

MIDFIELDERS: Sujata Kujur, Deepika Soreng, Ajmina Kujur, Pooja Yadav, Baljeet Kaur, Dipi Monika Toppo

FORWARDS: Albela Rani Toppo, Hritika Singh, Annu, Chandana Jagadeesha, Kajal Sadashiv Atpadkar, Selestina Horo. (PTI)