

6 WORLD Jaishankar inaugurates two new Indian consulates in Russia
8 NATION Al Falah Group chairperson had reasons to flee India: ED
Sathya Sai Baba's teachings showing light to lakhs in 140 countries, says PM Modi

'Cong politicising Zubeen death issue to protect Miyas'

Himanta confident of sweeping 2026 Assam polls

GUWAHATI, Nov 19: Asserting that the BJP will sweep the assembly polls in Assam next year, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma took a dig at state Congress chief Gaurav Gogoi on Wednesday, stating that after losing, he can contest elections in Pakistan.

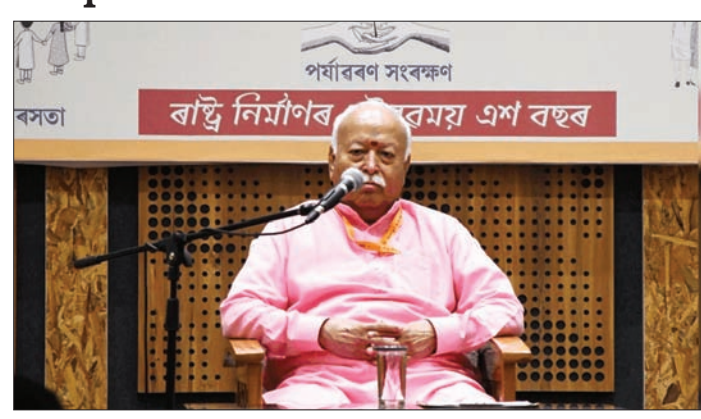


then he can contest the elections in Pakistan," Sarma added. The CM has been attacking Gogoi over the last few months, alleging that he and his wife have a connection with the Pakistani intelligence agency ISI.

"Have Muslims put up Zubeen's photograph in any mosque? But, Hindus have honoured him at Durga Puja pandals and other festivals, including the just-concluded Ras Mahotsav. People are now realising the truth. There is no point in fighting us on these issues, as we have the moral courage to tell the truth. We do not do politics with emotion but with hard work," Sarma said.

Bhagwat urges youth not to form opinion on RSS based preconceived notions

GUWAHATI, Nov 19: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Wednesday appealed to the youth of Assam and the Northeast not to form opinions about the organisation based on preconceived notions or motivated propaganda. Addressing the Youth Leadership Conclave on the final day of his three-day visit to the state, Bhagwat highlighted the principles, ideals, and functioning of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), while addressing debates and discussions surrounding the organisation.



of the Sangh is to make India a 'Vishwaguru' (teacher to the world). "The nation can rise only when society rises and only a united and quality-driven society can be created to lead a progressive nation", he said.

Five declared foreigners ordered to leave Assam within 24 hours

TEZPUR, Nov 19: Five people including four women, who have been living in Assam for several years, were declared foreigners and the Sonitpur district administration on Wednesday issued notices directing them to leave the state within 24 hours, officials said.

Zubeen had not been a habitual drinker: CM 'Chargesheet to detail how Zubeen was made to drink and exploited'

GUWAHATI, Nov 19: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday levelled serious allegations regarding the circumstances that contributed to the late singer Zubeen Garg's prolonged struggles before his death, asserting that the ongoing investigation has uncovered evidence showing he was deliberately intoxicated by people around him to siphon off his wealth.

events and performances by people who stood to benefit financially. Citing a specific incident, the Chief Minister said that during one Bihu programme, a committee paid Zubeen ₹ 5 lakh for his performance, but he was convinced—while in an intoxicated state—that he had received only ₹ 2.5 lakh.

NFR's solar power capacity rises to 11.95 mw

GUWAHATI, Nov 19: The North-east Frontier Railway (NFR) has installed a cumulative rooftop solar capacity of 11.95 mw, a statement said on Wednesday.

CM Khandu calls for regional push toward food self-reliance in Northeast

ITANAGAR, Nov 19: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Wednesday called for a coordinated regional effort to achieve food self-reliance in the Northeast as he chaired a meeting of the high-level task force (HLTF) on milk, eggs, fish and meat production.

Scindia for constituting the HLTF to strengthen productivity and accelerate growth in these key sectors, stating that the initiative was generating the momentum needed for measurable outcomes.

CM reviews final preparations at Swahid Smarak Khetra

GUWAHATI, Nov 19: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday visited the Swahid Smarak Khetra (Martyrs' Column) at Boragaon to review the final stages of construction ahead of its inauguration on December 10, observed as Swahid Divas.

ditorium, a prayer hall, a cycle track and provisions for a sound-and-light show depicting the different phases of the Assam Agitation and the broader history of the state.

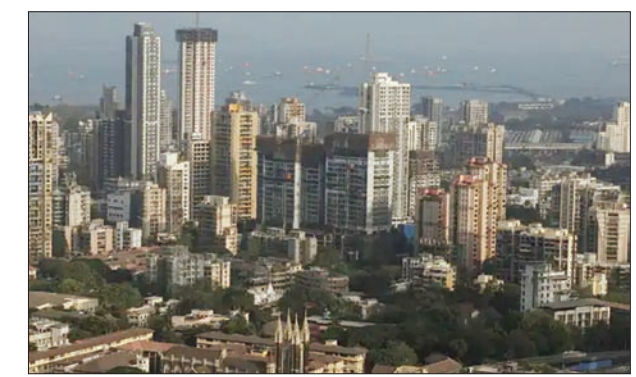
ED carries out searches at 6 locations in Assam, Delhi over fake purchase orders

NEW DELHI, Nov 19: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has carried out searches at six locations in Assam and New Delhi in connection with alleged fake purchase orders issued for two autonomous councils in Assam and recovered ₹ 14.5 lakh in cash and two luxury cars.

'Success or failure of urbanisation in these key countries to shape global development outcomes'

India among 7 countries expected to add over 500 million city residents between 2025 and 2050: UN

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 19: India, along with six other countries, "will shape the future growth of the city population" of the world as they are expected to add more than 500 million city residents between 2025 and 2050, the UN said.



will be concentrated in seven countries: India, Nigeria, Pakistan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Bangladesh and Ethiopia.

global growth of city dwellers by 2050. Taken together, these seven countries are expected to add more than 500 million city residents between 2025 and 2050, accounting for over half of the projected 986 million increase in the global number of city dwellers over that period.

Advertisement for NPS Quest 2.0 by PFRDA. Includes details about the contest, prize categories (50,000, 25,000, 15,000, 12,000, 5,000, 25,000, 10,000), and important dates (Launch: 18th Nov 2025, Submit by: 5th Dec 2025, Awards Ceremony: 10th Dec 2025).

Stock markets rebound on buying in IT, banking shares; Sensex jumps over 513 points

MUMBAI, Nov 19: Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty bounced back sharply on Wednesday, driven by a rally in IT and financial shares and sustained buying by domestic institutional investors amid growing hopes for an India-US trade deal.

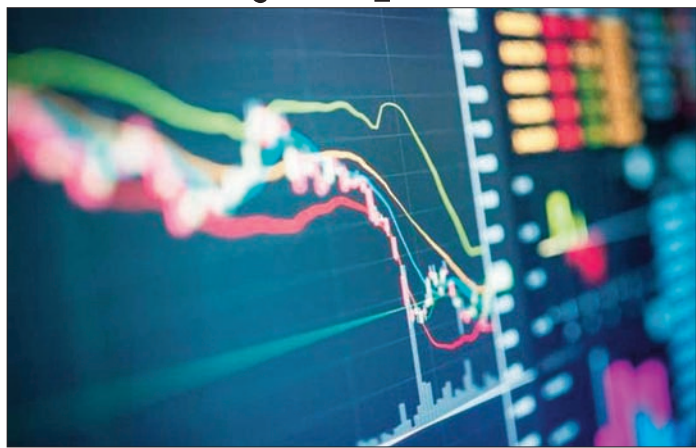
The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 513.45 points, or 0.61 per cent, to settle at 85,186.47. During the day, the benchmark surged 563.75 points, or 0.66 per cent, to 85,236.77.

The 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 142.60 points, or 0.55 per cent, to close near the day's high at 26,052.65. The index hit a high of 26,074.65 in the day trade.

From the Sensex pack, HCL Tech, Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, Hindustan Unilever, Sun Pharma and Titan were among the biggest gainers.

In contrast, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles, Maruti, Adani Ports and Bajaj Finance were among the laggards.

Meanwhile, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday said "you will hear good



news" on the proposed trade pact between India and the US once the deal is fair, equitable and balanced.

Equity benchmarks rebounded on Wednesday after Tuesday's pause, supported largely by strong buying in IT stocks, Gaurav Garg, Research Analyst, Lemonn Markets Desk, said.

"The rally was led by IT names such as Infosys and HCL Technologies, with sentiment improv-

ing after Infosys announced its ₹ 18,000-crore share buyback starting November 20. Expectations surrounding a potential India-US trade agreement also lifted sentiment, while a global shift away from AI-heavy bets steered more flows toward emerging markets like India," Garg added.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Ltd, said that the IT sector rallied on revived hopes of a Fed rate cut, supported

by soft U.S. labour data and currency tailwinds, while PSU banks gained on merger-related news and improving fundamentals. Attention now turns to tomorrow's FOMC minutes for further policy signals. In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index settled lower. In contrast, Shanghai's SSE Composite index ended in the green.

Markets in Europe were trading mostly lower in mid-session deals. US markets ended in negative territory on Tuesday.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹ 728.82 crore on Tuesday. However, domestic institutional investors (DIIs) bought stocks worth ₹ 6,156.83 crore, according to exchange data.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, dipped 0.39 per cent to USD 64.64 per barrel.

On Tuesday, the Sensex declined 277.93 points or 0.33 per cent to settle at 84,673.02. The Nifty dipped 103.40 points or 0.40 per cent to 25,910.05. (PTI)

RBI updates 'alert list' of unauthorised forex trading platforms

MUMBAI, Nov 19: The Reserve Bank on Wednesday added 7 new names to its 'alert list' of unauthorised forex trading platforms, taking the total number to 95.

The alert list contains names of entities which are neither authorised to deal in forex under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) nor authorised to operate electronic trading platform (ETP) for forex transactions, the central bank said.

The new additions are: Starnet FX; CapPlace; Mirror; Fusion Markets; Trive; NXG Markets; and Nord FX. (PTI)

NAME CHANGE

I have changed my name from Mohammed Abdul Sukkur to Abid Sukkur by swearing a notarial affidavit at Srimita Sankardev Nagar, Hojai (assam)

NAME CORRECTION

I Smt. NILIMA SAIKIA Wife of Krishna Kanta Saikia Inhabitant of Sutar Goan Nagoan Assam . In My Some Documents my Name Written LILIMA SAIKIA is Wrong My Correct Name is Nilima Saikia.

NAME CORRECTION

I, JANIF ALI (old name) S/O Late Khattu Mandal (Father's Name) Residing at village Nagajan, POKharupetia, Dist - Darrang, Assam. Shall Henceforth Be known Janif Ali Miya (New Name) recorded in my school certificate of simulakandi LP school vide SL No 20003, Book No. 01 issued as Janif Uddin Miya in place of JANIF ALI . That My name has been recorded in my PRC vide Vide No -438, dated 12/07/1985 as JANET ALI in place of JANIF ALI as declared before the Notary public/first class judicial Magistrate (Darrang) vide Affidavit No 6041 dated 18/11/25. That JANIF ALI (Old Name) and New Name Janif Uddin Miya and Janet Ali (New Name) all are same and one person.Sd- JANIF ALI

NAME CORRECTION

I, Thangjam Ajay Kumar Singha, S/O Late Thangjam Rambabu Singha resident of Dakhin Bidyanga, P.O. Singaribasti P.S. Hojai, Dist-Hojai Assam, do hereby solemnly affirm & declare Via an affidavit executed before Chief Administrative Officer, District and Session Judge, Morigaon on 10-01-2024, that, my actual and correct name is Thangjam Ajay Kumar Singha. But, in my School Certificate like High School leaving certificate my name has been recorded as Th Ajay Kumar Singha instead of Thangjam Ajay Kumar Singha. I declare that both the names Thangjam Ajay Kumar Singha and Th. Ajay Kumar Singha are the names of one and same person i.e mine.

NOTIFICATION

No. E/283/Elect/Re-engagemt/2025 Dated: 19-11-2025
EXTENSION OF LAST DATE FOR RE-ENGAGEMENT OF RETIRED STAFF ON CONTRACTUAL BASIS - ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT, LUMDING DIVISION/ NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

In continuation of this office Notification of even no. dated 16.10.2025 regarding Re-engagement of Retired Staff on Contractual Basis in exigencies of service to work in **Loco Pilot Shunter category of Electrical Department at Lumding Division/Northeast Frontier Railway, the last date for submission of applications is hereby extended by one (01) month in view of administrative requirements.**

Accordingly, the new last date for receipt of applications shall be:

Revised Last Date: 18th December, 2025

All other terms and conditions mentioned in the original notification remain unchanged.

Divisional Railway Manager (P), Lumding

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

"SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE"

TRAI sets firm deadlines for BFSI entities to adopt '1600' series for service, transactional calls

NEW DELHI, Nov 19: TRAI on Wednesday mandated clear deadlines for phase-wise adoption of dedicated '1600' numbering series to be used by regulated entities such as banks, NBFCs, mutual funds and others for making service and transactional calls, in a bid to curb impersonation-based financial frauds perpetrated through voice calls.

Mandating clear completion timelines, it said commercial banks, including public sector banks, private sector banks, and foreign banks, should onboard by January 1, 2026.

"TRAI today issued a direction mandating the last dates by which adoption of the '1600' numbering series should be completed by entities regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), and Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFDA)," TRAI said in a release.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) further the 1600-series direction has been issued to enhance consumer trust, curbing spam, and preventing fraudulent activities perpetrated through voice calls.

It is pertinent to mention that '1600' numbering series has been assigned by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) for allocation to entities in the banking, financial services and insurance

(BFSI) sector, and government organisations to clearly distinguish their service and transactional calls from other commercial communications.

The dedicated series will enable citizens to reliably identify legitimate calls originating from regulated financial institutions, TRAI said.

Adoption of '1600' numbering series for all mutual funds and asset management companies (AMCs) shall be completed by February 15, 2026, while commercial banks (including public sector banks, private sector banks, and foreign banks) shall onboard by January 1, 2026, as per TRAI.

Adoption of '1600' numbering series for all qualified stockbrokers (QSBs) has to be completed by March 15, 2026.

"For the time being, other Sebi-registered intermediaries may voluntarily migrate to the 1600-series after verification of their registration details," TRAI said.

Among RBI-regulated entities, large NBFCs, payments banks, and small finance banks have been asked to onboard by February 1, 2026, and remaining NBFCs, co-operative banks, regional rural banks, and smaller entities are required to onboard by March 1, 2026.

"Central recordkeeping agencies (CRAs) and pension fund managers

shall onboard by February 15, 2026," TRAI said.

Mandating the last date for adoption of '1600' series by the entities in the insurance sector is under discussion with IRDAI, and will be notified subsequently, the regulator added.

TRAI said it has regularly engaged with telecom operators and the BFSI sector regulators for adoption of '1600' series by BFSI entities.

"Consequent to these efforts, about 485 entities have already adopted 1600 series, subscribing to a total of over 2800 numbers. Based on TRAI's interactions with stakeholders, it was considered that time is now ripe to mandate timebound completion of the exercise so that entities continuing to use standard 10-digit numbers for service and transactional calls, also shift to 1600 series numbers to reduce the risk of fraudulent or misleading calls being made in the guise of trusted financial institutions," TRAI said.

The telecom regulator has taken inputs regarding timelines from the regulators of the BFSI sector, following deliberations held during the meetings of the Joint Committee of Regulators (JCoR).

"Based on the consultations held with them, a phase-wise implementation schedule has now been issued," according to TRAI. (PTI)

OPPO launches Find X9 Series in India

HT Bureau

GUAHATI, Nov 19: OPPO India has launched its premium Find X9 Series, comprising the Find X9 and Find X9 Pro, priced from ₹74,999.

The flagship lineup offers a Hasselblad co-engineered camera system, the new MediaTek Dimensity 9500 chipset, upgraded battery performance and ColorOS 16.

The Find X9 Pro (16GB+512GB) is priced at ₹1,09,999, while the Find X9 comes in 12GB+256GB

and 16GB+512GB variants at ₹74,999 and ₹84,999.

Sales begin November 21 across OPPO's e-store, major online platforms and retail outlets.

A Hasselblad Teleconverter Kit will be available for ₹29,999.

OPPO also introduced the Enco Buds3 Pro+, priced at ₹2,099 with a launch offer of ₹1,899.

The company said the new series sets a benchmark in imaging, design and performance, following OPPO's rise to the No 2 position in India's smartphone market

Aliaxis calls India its 'most realistic growth market', steps up capex for eastern expansion

KOLKATA, Nov 19: Global plumbing and water management solutions major Aliaxis has identified India as its "most realistic growth market" worldwide and is stepping up investments to expand its footprint beyond its stronghold in South India, its Global Managing Director Thierry Vanlancker said on

Wednesday. With a global turnover of about 4 billion Euros, the privately held Belgium-based group counts India as its second-largest market after the US.

While the US contributes nearly 20 per cent of Aliaxis' global revenue, India accounts for about 15 per cent, underscoring the country's rising strategic importance in the company's global portfolio.

Aliaxis operates in India through its wholly owned Ashirvad brand, which holds what Vanlancker described as a "very, very strong number one position in the whole southern corner of India".

"The US market is probably 30 per cent bigger than India, but India is clearly the most realistic growth market for us globally," Vanlancker told PTI during an interaction.

Vanlancker, the entire Aliaxis Global Executive Committee, and Ashirvad Managing Director Partha Basu were in the city on Wednesday to inaugurate a series of infrastructure and distribution projects, in-

cluding the first Integrated Distribution Centre in Eastern India at Panchla in Howrah and an upgraded compounding facility at its existing Durgapur plant.

The company plans to expand aggressively across the East, where it currently ranks second, and has committed around ₹ 50 crore along with its partners in manufacturing and a third-party-managed distribution hub. "The East is the most attractive region to expand in," he said. The company aims to grow at "market plus", targeting expansion above the 5 per cent annual increase expected in the pipes and fittings segment. But Vanlancker stressed that the company will not chase market share at the cost of profitability. "What we do not want to do is buy market share," he said. "We rely on investments, innovation and quality products to maintain the bottom line as we are here with a long-term view."

A significant part of the capital budget is flowing into India for two large projects - the eastern expansion centred around the existing

manufacturing plant at Durgapur and the upcoming greenfield Hyderabad plant, expected to go live by mid-next year. On Durgapur, Vanlancker clarified that the current investment is aimed at self-sufficiency or backward integration rather than expanding output capacity.

"This expansion is not to expand capacity but to make it much more self-sufficient in inputs locally instead of shipping them from Bangalore," he said. A second phase, adding pipe extrusion lines, is expected in near future, paving the way for a "modest 10 per cent capacity increase over the next two to three years". The Howrah site will also house a new state-of-the-art distribution centre, the company's second after Ahmedabad. Aliaxis plans a network of five centralised warehouses. The company has three new such integrated distribution centres. On the Jal Jeevan Mission, which has seen delays, Ashirvad MD Partha Basu said funding constraints may persist into 2025 but the outlook improves thereafter. (PTI)

Contd. from Page 1...

Himanta confident of

-- a pejorative for Bengali-speaking Muslims -- through eviction drives, found itself on the back foot as people began to unite across communities. (PTI)

Bhagwat urges youth

that India's greatness lies in respecting linguistic, regional, and belief-oriented diversities, saying, "My path is correct, but in your place, your path is also correct."

Highlighting the importance of diversity, he said those who separated from India, such as Pakistan, eventually lost these traditions.

He claimed that Hindus respect diversity and that building such a society is a primary objective of the RSS. "Until the Bharatiya society is organised and virtuous, the country's destiny will not change," he added.

Bhagwat pointed out that great spiritual leaders like Guru Nanak and Srimanta Sankardeva had full respect for the country's diversity and they spread the messages of unity through their teachings.

"The objective of the Sangh is to develop a non-political and social leadership at the grassroots level. Building individuals leads to transformation of society, and when the society changes, systems also change," he asserted. Bhagwat also invited the youth to experience how the activities in RSS shakhas focus on improving the quality and character of individuals.

Later participating in an interactive session, he said corruption can be eradicated only through character-building and beyond the legal measures for cow protection, a more scientific knowledge at the societal level was necessary for its successful protection.

Bhagwat said the main goal of the RSS was to build a stronger Bharat and once the country becomes stronger, the different concerns regarding the north-eastern region with the rest of India, will automatically diminish.

He also called upon the youth to engage with RSS activities according to their time, interest, space and abilities.

Bhagwat will leave for Manipur on Thursday. (PTI)

CM Khandu calls

across the agriculture, dairy, fisheries and livestock segments. Khandu said Scindia's leadership was helping bridge institutional gaps and bring all actors on a common platform.

"Thank you Shri @JM_Scindia ji for your invaluable leadership and consistent support in strengthening the ecosystem of the Northeast. Your efforts in bringing together all stakeholders, central, state and private, are truly driving transformative outcomes for the region," the chief minister said in a post on X.

He said the task force is now advancing a multi-pronged approach focusing on capacity building and supply-chain infrastructure.

"The coordinated push on production capacity, cold-chain, value addition and skilled manpower will greatly benefit our farmers, entrepreneurs and consumers across the NE," the chief minister said.

Reiterating his government's commitment to supporting the initiative, Khandu added that he was grateful for (Scindia's) continued guidance and partnership in ensuring a more resilient and prosperous Northeast.

Scindia, in a separate post after the meeting, said he participated in the fourth HLTF session chaired by Khandu, with officials from Nagaland and representatives from all Northeastern states. (PTI)

NFR's solar power

with an estimated average savings of Rs 66 lakh, it added. Work is in progress to enhance the solar power generation capacity to 38 mw, the statement said. (PTI)

'Chargesheet to detail

was never drunk. The chargesheet will bring out more," he said. Zubeen Garg, one of Assam's most iconic musicians and cultural figures, passed away earlier this year, prompting intense public debate and widespread calls for transparency regarding the events leading to his death. With the investigation still underway, officials have indicated that the filing of the chargesheet will shed significant light on what transpired during the last phase of his life.

Five declared foreigners

Das stated that in the interest of the public and internal security concerns, they must leave the state.

Das, exercising powers under the Immigrants (Expulsion from Assam) Act, 1950, ordered them to leave the state within 24 hours of receiving the notice.

They have been directed to exit through the Dhubri, Sribhumi, or South Salmara-Mankachar routes.

The DC also warned that failure to comply with the order will compel the authorities to remove them from the state in accordance with the provisions of the Act. (PTI)

CM reviews final

the Assam Accord, GD Tripathi; special commissioner and special secretary, PWD, Raj Chakraborty; and other senior officials accompanied the chief minister during the visit.

ED carries out

Mukesh Jain, for the supply of goods against alleged fake purchase orders issued by the autonomous councils of Dima Hasao and Mising.

The ED recovered and seized ₹ 14.5 lakh in cash during the search operations and issued freezing orders for bank accounts having a balance of ₹ 13.68 lakh.

Further, two luxury cars, a deed of land sale agreement with a valuation of Rs 65 lakh suspected to be linked to proceeds of crime (PoC) and details of many other properties allegedly owned and controlled by the key accused along with various incriminating documents and digital evidences were recovered and seized, the ED said.

The ED claimed that during the investigation, it was found that Kaundinya, along with associates Jain and Das and others, have allegedly operated a "well-organised criminal conspiracy" involving fabrication of government documents like "fake supply orders, forged signatures, forged cheques and false payment" clearance notes purportedly issued by the autonomous council of Mising, Dima Hasao and others.

This was allegedly done with an "intention of inducement" of suppliers through high-value "fraudulent orders" for blankets, tarpaulins, dyed cotton yarn, solar equipment and large infrastructure projects.

The ED claimed that "fake orders" were issued against the supply of goods worth Rs 9.86 crore and a commission amounting to Rs 2.04 crore was "illegally received", tied to the respective "fake orders".

Further investigation is in progress for the identification of proceeds of crime, attachment of properties and restitution to rightful owners through due process, the ED said. (PTI)

India among 7 countries

objectives," the report said. The report said that the two most populous countries, India and China, will also have the largest populations residing in towns between now and 2050. As of 2025, the proportion of people living in towns has reached 44 per cent in India and 40 per cent in China. Together, India and China account for more than 1.2 billion town population, representing over 40 per cent of the population living in towns globally.

However, both countries also have substantial city populations, with a combined population of nearly 1.2 billion (627 million in China and 589 million in India in 2025).

Between 1950 and 1975, both countries experienced rapid growth in their city populations, but this pace slowed between 1975 and 2000 and in subsequent years, largely due to declining fertility rates and slower overall population growth.

Despite this deceleration, city population growth has outpaced town population growth, resulting in a decrease in the share of people living in towns. Each country still has more than 200 million people residing in rural areas, a figure that is expected to remain relatively stable through 2050, it said.

The report said that the number of megacities quadrupled from eight in 1975 to 33 in 2025, with 19 in Asia. Projections indicate that there will be 37 megacities globally by 2050, as the populations of Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), Dar es Salaam (United Republic of Tanzania), Hajipur (India) and Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) grow to over 10 million.

Among the 33 megacities with 10 million inhabitants or more in 2025, 19 are in Asia. India alone has five megacities, and China has four.

Worldwide, more than 3,000 cities experienced population decline between 2015 and 2025.

"Most cities with shrinking populations have fewer than 250,000 inhabitants in 2025. More than one third are in China and another 17 per cent are in India," it said, adding that growth and decline can occur simultaneously within countries. Some cities' populations shrank even as their country's population grew. Conversely, some cities' populations grew despite shrinking national populations.

Despite the global shift towards city life, towns remain (in 2025) the most common settlement type in 71 countries. Countries in all regions and at diverse levels of economic development are found within this group, including Germany, India, Uganda and the United States of America.

Together, India and China host more than 1.2 billion town dwellers, representing over 40 per cent of the global population of towns. The towns of sub-Saharan Africa and of Central and Southern Asia are expected to continue to experience robust population growth between 2025 and 2050.

From 2000 to 2025, the global population living in cities increased by 1.25 billion, but over half of this growth came from only a few countries. India, China, Nigeria, Pakistan and the United States of America have collectively contributed over 500 million people to the global city population.

Additionally, five other countries - Indonesia, Egypt, Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Brazil - added another 187 million city dwellers. In contrast, several countries in Eastern Europe, including Ukraine, Romania, Poland, the Republic of Moldova and Hungary, along with Japan in Eastern Asia, experienced a significant decline in their city populations.

"In the world's two most populous countries, India and China, towns currently accommodate nearly one seventh of the global population, a proportion expected to persist at least through the mid-century," it said.

United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs Li Junhua said that as governments convene at COP30 to advance global climate commitments, the United Nations underscores the pivotal role of urbanisation in driving sustainable development and climate resilience across all settlement types.

"Urbanisation is a defining force of our time. When managed inclusively and strategically, it can unlock transformative pathways for climate action, economic growth, and social equity. To achieve balanced territorial development, countries must adopt integrated national policies that align housing, land use, mobility, and public services across urban and rural areas," he said. (PTI)

Guv Acharya urges VCs to ensure all students take a drug-free pledge at time of admission Governor chairs virtual meeting with vice chancellors on Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Nov 19: Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya on Wednesday chaired a virtual meeting with Vice Chancellors of State and Central universities and heads of higher educational institutions to strengthen anti-drug initiatives under the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan.

The meeting was part of a series of efforts by Raj Bhavan to ensure full implementation of the national campaign across educational institutions in the state.

The Governor emphasised the need for intensified action from academic institutions to achieve a drug-free environment, saying that the mission is crucial for protecting students' health, securing their future, and shaping their character.

He noted that the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2020, has grown into a nationwide movement involving lakhs of students, teachers, volunteers, and social workers.

Highlighting Assam's vulnerability due to its proximity to major drug-trafficking routes linked to the Golden Triangle, Acharya commended the efforts of police, healthcare professionals, and social organisations in curbing the flow of contraband substances.

He stressed, however, that long-term success lies in the collective commitment and vigilance of educational institutions.

He also called for strict compliance with Standard Operating Procedures issued by the Education Department and the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment.

The Governor urged Vice Chancellors to ensure that all students take a drug-free pledge at the time of admission.

He directed institutions to form and strengthen institutional and departmental drug-free committees, organise regular awareness activities, enhance hostel monitoring, and provide counselling support through services such as Tele-MANAS, the



National Drug De-addiction Helpline, and MANAS.

Acharya also underscored the importance of integrating mental health and drug-pre-

vention topics into academic curricula.

He encouraged institutions to collaborate closely with the police, community groups, healthcare bodies, and national agencies including NIMHANS, AIIMS, and NISD for training and capacity-building.

During the meeting, the Governor appealed to educational institutions to contribute generously towards the welfare of ex-servicemen, Veer Naris, and Veer Mothers ahead of Armed Forces Flag Day.

DGP Assam Harmet Singh and Higher Education Secretary Narayan Konwar addressed the meeting. Prakash Ranjan Mishra, Zonal Director of the Narcotics Control Bureau, delivered a detailed presentation on drug awareness and the agency's ongoing activities.

Commissioner and Secretary to the Governor S.S. Meenakshi Sundaram, Additional Secretary Bidit Das, and Director of Sainik Welfare, Assam, Brig. Palash Choudhury were also present.

Nominations open for Assam's Highest Civilian Awards Karbi Anglong admin issues notice

HT Bureau

DIPHU, Nov 19: The Karbi Anglong District Administration has announced that the online portal for submitting nominations for the Highest State Civilian Awards—Assam Baibhav, Assam Saurabh and Assam Gaurav—for the year 2025 is now open, as per Government of Assam Notification No. 258298/143 dated November 1, 2025, issued by the General Administration (A) Department.

The Government has fixed the nomination period from October 21 to November 20, 2025. Nominations must be submitted through the official portal: <https://assam-civilianawards.assam.gov.in/>.

The District Commissioner of Karbi Anglong has urged all departments, institutions, organisations and citizens to actively participate in the nomination process to ensure that deserving individuals from the district receive due recognition. Offline nominations, if any, should reach the Office of the District Commissioner on or before November 20, 2025, to allow sufficient time for uploading them to the portal.

The District Administration has appealed for full cooperation from all concerned to ensure a smooth and efficient nomination process for these prestigious state honours.

Guv administers oath to VC of sports univ

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Nov 19: Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya administered the oath of office to Prof Hirendra Nath Sarma as Vice Chancellor of Sri Sri Anirudhadeva Sports University at a ceremony held in the conference hall of Raj Bhavan on Wednesday.

Before the proceedings began, Commissioner and Secretary to the Governor SS Meenakshi Sundaram sought the Governor's permission to commence the ceremony.

The event was attended by Minister of Sports and Youth Welfare Nandita Garlosa, Special Secretary of Sports and Youth Welfare Kausar Hilaly, Olympic medalist boxer Lovlina Borgohain, sports persons and senior officials of the State government.

Mukesh Chandra Sahu takes charge as principal secretary of BTC

HT Correspondent

KOKRAJHAR, Nov 19: Mukesh Chandra Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam, today assumed charge as Principal Secretary of the Bodoland Territorial Council at the BTC Secretariat, Bodofa Nwgrw, Kokrajhar.

He succeeds Akash Deep, who has been posted as Commissioner and Secretary to the Government of Assam, Transport and Welfare of Bodoland Department.

At a farewell-cum-welcome meeting, Sahu urged officers and staff of the Council to extend full cooperation in translating the BTC Government's goals into action.

He stressed the need for collective effort and committed administration to drive development in the region.

He also expressed his resolve to work closely with all stakeholders to strengthen governance and advance the welfare of people in the Bodoland Territorial Region.

Outgoing Principal Secretary Akash Deep thanked the officers and staff for their support during his tenure and acknowledged their professionalism and teamwork.

He expressed confidence that ongoing development efforts would continue with momentum under the new leadership and conveyed his best wishes to Sahu.

DC holds meeting with political parties on special revision of voters

Draft roll to be published on December 27



HT Correspondent

KOKRAJHAR, Nov 19: A meeting with recognised national and state political parties of Kokrajhar district was held on Wednesday at the Conference Hall of the Deputy Commissioner's Office in connection with the Special Revision of Electoral Roll.

The meeting was chaired by deputy commissioner Masanda Magdalin Pertin, who briefed party representatives on the directives of the Election Commission of India and stressed strict adherence to the notified timelines.

Election officer Keshabananda

Taid, ADC Kabita Deka, AROs and other officials were also present. The deputy commissioner clarified that the ongoing revision exercise is a Special Revision with January 1, 2026, as the qualifying date and not a Special Intensive Revision.

Pertin outlined the schedule for the Special Revision. Pre-revision activities, including document printing and training of officials, are being carried out from November 18 to 21.

LAC-wise training for BLOs and BLO supervisors will be held on November 20 and 21 at Science

College, Kokrajhar.

This will be followed by house-to-house verification by BLOs, rationalisation of polling stations, correction of discrepancies in the rolls, improvement of EPIC image quality and recasting of sections and parts between November 22 and December 20.

The Integrated Draft Electoral Roll will be published on December 27.

Claims and objections will be accepted from December 27 to January 22, 2026, with special campaign dates on all Saturdays and Sundays during this period.

All claims and objections will be disposed of by February 2, 2026, followed by verification of health parameters and approval for final publication by February 6.

The Final Electoral Roll will be published on February 10, 2026.

DC Pertin urged all political parties to extend full cooperation to ensure a smooth, transparent and error-free revision process.

PM releases 21st PM-KISAN instalment Over 20,700 farmers benefit in Karbi Anglong

HT Bureau

DIPHU, Nov 19: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday released the 21st instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Yojana through a live broadcast from Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. The Agriculture Department, Karbi Anglong, organised live screenings of the Prime Minister's address across eight ADO Circle venues in the district.

Screenings were held at the DAO Office Conference Hall under Lumbajong ADO Circle; Tarabasa Seed Farm under Bakalia ADO Circle; Howraghat Block Office under Howraghat ADO Circle; BRC Dokmoka under Dokmoka and Samelangso ADO Circle; Angjokpani FPC Office under Rongmongwe ADO Circle; Chokihola Weekly Market under Nilip ADO Circle; and the ADO Office in Sarihajan under

Bokajan ADO Circle.

Farmers from the respective areas were invited to attend the programme. A total of 20,767 farmers in Karbi Anglong district received the 21st instalment. PM-KISAN provides ₹6,000 annually to eligible small and marginal farmers, disbursed in three equal instalments directly into their bank accounts.

The scheme is fully funded by the Government of India and aims to support farmer livelihoods and promote agricultural growth.

It may be mentioned that 24,159 farmers in Karbi Anglong received the previous 20th instalment.

More than 18.18 lakh farmers across Assam benefited from the instalment released on Wednesday.

Farmers in Karbi Anglong expressed appreciation for the government's continued efforts to support and empower the farming community.

CSIR-NEIST hosts curtain-raiser for India International Science Festival 2025

HT Correspondent

JORHAT, Nov 19: CSIR-NEIST organised a vibrant curtain-raiser event on Wednesday ahead of the India International Science Festival (IISF) 2025, which will be held from December 6 to 9 at Punjab University, Chandigarh.

IISF is celebrated annually as a festival of learning, innovation and collaboration aimed at fostering public engagement with science and technology. The event at CSIR-NEIST was graced by Dr EV Swaminathan of Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya, Mumbai as chief guest.

Dr Venkatesan Selvaraj, director of the Tea Research Association,

Tocklai Tea Research Institute, and Rajib Chandra Sarma, secretary, Vijnana Bharati, North East Prant, Guwahati attended as guests of honour.

The day began with a laboratory visit by invited students and teachers from Jorhat, giving them hands-on exposure to scientific research.

This was followed by a special programme at the Dr JN Baruah Auditorium, which opened with a rendition of Saraswati Vandana and the national song Vande Mataram.

In his welcome address, CSIR-NEIST Director Dr Virendra M Tiwari highlighted the institute's initiatives to promote scientific inquiry and nurture young minds,

while also acknowledging the contributions of the dignitaries present.

Addressing the gathering, Dr Swaminathan stressed the importance of values and scientific temper in nation-building.

Sharing the inspiring journey of Thomas Alva Edison, he urged students to maintain perseverance, joy and self-motivation.

A video of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam's speech was also played, inspiring students further.

Dr Venkatesan Selvaraj, in his speech, emphasised the role of scientific progress in advancing industry practices and outlined gaps in laboratory infrastructure that need to be addressed.

World Heritage Week observed at Haflong in Dima Hasao

History of Dima Hasao can broadly be divided into three periods



HAFLONG, Nov 19: World Heritage Week was observed with great enthusiasm at the Haflong Lake Amphitheatre on Wednesday, in line with celebrations held across the globe.

The programme was jointly organised by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Guwahati Circle, and the Department of Archaeology and District Museum, Haflong, under the administrative control of the Dima Hasao Autonomous Council.

NC Hills Autonomous Council CEM Debolal Gorlosa graced the occasion as chief guest.

Chairman Mohet Hojai, EM in charge of Archaeology Manjit Naiding, Dr Rajendra Dehuri, superintendent of ASI Guwahati Circle, deputy superintendent Dr Archana Asthana, other dignitaries

and hundreds of college students were also present.

To mark the observance and to sensitise students and local residents about the district's rich heritage, a photo exhibition showcasing various archaeological sites, monuments and historical locations of Dima Hasao and other parts of India was organised.

Speaking on the occasion, CEM

Debolal Gorlosa highlighted the need for preserving archaeological sites and monuments, noting that Dima Hasao is home to invaluable historical assets such as the ruins of the Dimasa kingdom and several prehistoric stone jar sites.

He said the Council is committed to revamping heritage British-era buildings, monuments and the old metre-gauge railway route to

boost tourism and livelihood opportunities in the district.

The history of Dima Hasao can broadly be divided into three periods, reflected through the ruins and remains found across the district.

The prehistoric period includes sites such as the stone jars at Khobak and Dobongling, petroglyphs, menhirs and Daojali Hadjing—Northeast India's only Neolithic site—indicating early human civilisation in the region.

The Dimasa kingdom period is represented by structures such as the Maibang stone house, ancient motifs, terracotta artefacts and traditional weaponry.

The British colonial era is reflected through remnants such as old metre-gauge railway lines, British-era bungalows and the ruins of the Asalu sub-jail.

CEM Ronghang visits 9th All Karbi Anglong Inter-College Cultural Competition



HT Bureau

DIPHU, Nov 19: Chief Executive Member of the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council, Tuliram Ronghang, visited the three-day 9th All Karbi Anglong Inter-College Cultural Competition at the Jaising Doloi Auditorium on Wednesday.

The event brought together student cultural troupes from various colleges of Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong to showcase the rich cultural traditions of the Karbi community. Organised by the Karbi Lo-Charli Jutang Aterank (KLJA) in collaboration with the Jambili Literary Foundation, the cultural festival aims to promote traditional literary and cultural heritage among Karbi students.

Participating colleges included Commerce College, Semsonsing Intgi College, Diphu Commerce College, Howraghat College, Harlongbi Velongbi College, Bokajan College, Deopani College, Thongnokbe College, Diphu Polytechnic, Rukasen College and Eastern Karbi Anglong College. Appreciating the organisers, Ronghang said the Karbis have a distinct way of life, with unique social customs, agrarian practices, food habits and traditional architecture observed by the British during their time.

He said this uniqueness of culture and identity must be preserved. He expressed satisfaction at seeing a large number of college students unite for the cause of cultural preservation and lauded the efforts of KLJA president Singia Tisso, general secretary Akash Rongpi and their team for organising the annual cultural meet.

He extended his best wishes for the festival. The cultural procession was joined by KAAC Executive Member Madhuram Lekhe, MAC Johnny Timung and other dignitaries.

The KLJA flag was hoisted by its president Singia Tisso. The competition was inaugurated by Karbi Cultural Society president Humsing Bey, who praised the organisers and urged students to preserve and promote their language and culture.

KCS vice president Kamsing Engti, adviser Chondrosing Kro, Karbi Lammet Amei president Kamsing Hanse and Mongalsing Killing, secretary in charge of assets at Taralango, were also present.

The festival features a variety of cultural items, including Nimso Kerung, Kai Alammo Kethan, poem recitation, Adam Asar Alun (marriage ceremony song), extempore speech, modern dance, Oso Kepadok (lullaby), Ritnong Chingdi (cultivating dance), Tarlok Kiti (quiz), Lamthama (debate) and traditional sports such as Baphali Ke-ap (sling), tug of war and top spinning.

NFR celebrates birth anniversary of legendary artist Zubeen Garg at headquarters

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Nov 19: The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) observed the birth anniversary of the late legendary singer and cultural icon Zubeen Garg on November 18 at its headquarters in Maligaon, according to an official statement issued on Wednesday.

The event was attended by distinguished guests Diganta Sarma, Biman Baruah, Babita Sarma and Manash Hazarika, all of whom shared a close association with the artist. They were felicitated by NFR general manager Chetan Kumar Shrivastava.

The programme began with a formal inauguration by the General Manager, followed by lighting of the ceremonial lamp and floral tributes before a portrait of Zubeen Garg.

Senior officials, staff members and union representatives of NFR were present on the occasion. In his address, Shrivastava fondly remembered the artist's unparalleled contribution to Indian music and performing arts and noted that he carried Assam's cultural heritage to national and international platforms.

He announced that the cultural ground of NFR in Maligaon would be named 'Zubeen Garg Bihu Toli' in honour of the late singer.

The evening featured a colourful cultural programme with energetic performances by talented artistes of the NFR fraternity.

A special video compilation on Zubeen Garg's life and work was screened, followed by solo and group performances by members of NFRCA and NFRWWO.

A group rendition of 'Mayabini Ratir' drew heartfelt applause and evoked deep nostalgia among those present.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all who contributed to organising the programme.

The celebration served as a united tribute to the musical brilliance and enduring legacy of Zubeen Garg, reaffirming NFR's commitment to honouring Assamese culture and its eminent icons.

Awareness camp held in Diphu to promote Agroforestry

HT Bureau

DIPHU, Nov 19: Block-level awareness camps on the promotion of the agroforestry model under the Agroforestry Development Board, Government of Assam, are being organised across eight ADO circles of Karbi Anglong district from November 16 to 24.

As part of this initiative, an awareness camp was held on Wednesday at the District Agriculture Office conference hall in Diphu, with more than 35 farmers in attendance. The training session was conducted by Tapan Sarma, Programme Coordinator of the Shushila Foundation for Agricultural and Rural Development.

The camp aims to encourage farmers to adopt integrated and eco-friendly agricultural systems that improve long-term productivity, profitability and sustainability. The session covered a wide range of topics, including an introduction to agroforestry, its significance and objectives, and the income opportunities it offers through farming, animal husbandry and diversified livelihoods. Discussions also highlighted agroforestry's role in plant growth, optimum nutrient management and carbon farming as a sustainable measure to curb pollution.

Farmers were guided on nursery management techniques to raise healthy seedlings, along with methods for climate resilience, soil conservation and integrating trees with crops to improve yields and enhance sustainability. District Agriculture Officer Mukul Bharati Nath, Assistant Agriculture Inspector S. Singit and farmers from various parts of the district attended the programme.

The interactive session encouraged farmers to adopt sustainable and profitable agricultural practices.

Workshops held to promote natural farming

HT Correspondent

KOKRAJHAR, Nov 19: Grameen Sahara, a not-for-profit organisation, has conducted a series of workshops under its project 'Sustainable Tea Leaf Production through Agro-ecological Intervention,' supported by Transform Trade (TT), to promote behavioural change and natural farming practices among small tea growers in Kokrajhar district.

The first workshop was held on November 17 at Kokrajhar Bodoland Hotel for growers from Simbangan and Deepalai areas.

The second session took place on November 19 at the Small Tea Growers Association Office in Tipkai for participants from the Parbatthora area. Bijit Basumatary, General Secretary of the All Bodoland Small Tea Growers' Association, and Dr Amar Borgoyary, Assistant Team Lead and Specialist (Research, Education, Livelihood, Rural & Community Development), PMU-NRDS, served as resource persons during the programme. The event was also attended by Keshob Brahma, President of the Small Tea Growers' Association, Tipkai Zone.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Laughter is the sun that drives winter from the human face. -Victor Hugo

ICT verdict against Hasina

Bangladesh plunged into a fresh turbulence on Monday last after the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) announced its verdict sentencing to death former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for "crimes against humanity" committed during last year's student led agitation that led to the fall of her Awami League Government on August 5, 2024. The ICT set up by the interim Government of Bangladesh headed by Chief Advisor Dr. Muhammad Yunus also indicted Sheikh Hasina on two other counts. The verdict was on expected lines. Sheikh Hasina who has been staying in India since August 5 afternoon last year, was in a challenging mood. She said that the Tribunal was rigged. She denied every single charge and castigated Tribunal for not giving the Awami League and herself a fair chance to defend themselves. In a belligerent mood, Sheikh Hasina said in her statement "the verdict revealed the brazen and murderous intent of extremist figures on an unelected government with no democratic mandate". Monday's development took place less than three months before the scheduled general elections in Bangladesh in February 2026. Though, the exact date will be announced by the Election Commission shortly, the interim Government chief announced on Thursday last both the general elections and the referendum on the July charter would take place on the same day in February. All the political parties excluding the banned Awami League are in the thick of the election battle as this verdict was announced on Monday.

The security situation was tense during the day as Awami League called for a lock down in Dhaka and the areas surrounding the Court. Army pickets were stationed in all important points of the nation's capital. There were sporadic explosions and bomb attacks. Hasina has been active in the last few weeks and as sources indicate that the Awami League supporters including the leaders who were earlier hiding, are coming out to participate in demonstrations and bands. It seems they have decided to show their strength in public. For Awami League, after this verdict, their members will be facing new attacks and they will have to meet the challenge.

As a result, the coming few weeks are going to be stormy though the major political parties like BNP, Jamaat e Islami, NCP and others will be busy in choosing their own candidates and participating in the election campaign. A recent opinion poll about the coming elections carried out by a private agency indicated that the Awami League, despite support has still support of more than 20 per cent just below the BNP. The other parties are ranking much below. This has given a boost to the morale of the Awami League supporters but at the same time, the divided anti- League political parties are getting frightened and trying to have common approach against any fresh move by the Awami League.

Bihar's Verdict, Congress's blind spot

The Bihar election results came in like a quiet storm. Everyone who had predicted a tight race, a hung assembly, or even a slim edge for the Mahagathbandhan woke up to find Nitish Kumar and the NDA cruising past 190 seats. For the Congress, the morning after was brutal. The party ended up with just 19 seats, its worst performance in Bihar in decades. Rahul Gandhi's rallies, Priyanka Gandhi's roadshows, the endless promises of five guarantees and ten lakh jobs all melted away in the heat of a November that belonged to Nitish Kumar once again.

Yet within hours of the defeat, large sections of the Congress ecosystem pointed fingers at the Election Commission. The charge was simple and explosive: the ECI had gone soft on Nitish Kumar's government and allowed it to transfer money to women beneficiaries right through the election season. The same commission, they reminded everyone, had stopped a similar cash transfer scheme in Rajasthan last year when Ashok Gehlot was in power. Double standards, they cried. Institutional capture. The referee had fixed the match.

There is some truth in the anger, but only some. And the moment the Congress makes the Election Commission the main villain of its Bihar story, it falls into the trap of tunnel vision. It starts seeing only what it wants to see and stops looking at everything else that actually decided the election.

Let us first admit what really happened on the ground. Women turned out to vote in record numbers, higher than men in many districts. Many of them had received two thousand rupees in their bank accounts every month under the Mukhyamantri Mahila Samridhi Yojana. When the model code of conduct came into force, the Nitish government asked the Election Commission whether it could continue the transfers because the scheme was "ongoing". The ECI

said yes. In Rajasthan, the same commission had told Gehlot's government that a new cash dole announced just before the polls could not be disbursed until voting was over. The two situations were not identical, but they were close enough for people to smell bias.

That smell is real. The Election Commission should have either stopped both transfers or allowed both. Consistency matters more than legal hair-splitting when trust in institutions is already thin. By choosing the middle path of "it depends", the commission gave critics a stick to beat it with. The Congress is right to be upset about that one decision.

But to turn that one decision into the central explanation for a 170-seat disaster is to insult the intelligence of Bihar's voters. It is also an old Congress habit: when we lose badly, blame the umpire; when we win, celebrate the people's mandate. The truth is that the people of Bihar did not wake up, check their bank balances, and robotically vote for Nitish Kumar because two thousand rupees landed in their accounts. They voted for a government that has delivered electricity, roads, schools, and a sense of stability after the dark years of the nineties and early 2000s. They voted for a chief minister who, whatever his flip-flops, still enjoys personal credibility among extremely backward castes and women. They voted against an opposition that could not even decide who its chief ministerial face would be until the last week of campaigning.

The Congress fought this election with one hand tied behind its back because it spent half its energy fighting its own ally. Tejaswini Yadav wanted more seats; the Congress wanted to prove it was still the big brother. The result was a clumsy seat-sharing formula that left both sides sulking. Rahul Gandhi flew in for a few rallies, spoke in generalities



about caste census and saving the Constitution, and flew out. There was no local narrative, no sharp attack on Nitish Kumar's

DEGREE OF THOUGHT

By: Satyabrata Borah

record on jobs or crime, no clear alternative vision that could travel from Patna to Purnia. The party's state leaders were either invisible or busy settling personal scores. In short, the Congress campaigned like a guest at someone else's wedding.

Meanwhile, the NDA ran a textbook campaign. It stitched together a wider social coalition than in 2020 by bringing Mahadalits and sections of non-Yadav OBCs firmly into the fold. It reminded women voters, again and again, who brought bijli, sadak, and paisa into their lives. It used the prime minister's rallies to create a sense of occasion and the chief minister's roadshows to underline continuity. And yes, it made sure the money kept flowing legally, thanks to a helpful interpretation

from the Election Commission.

The Congress can shout about EVMs and the ECI from morning till night, but it will not win back a single voter that way. The voter in Kosi does not care about what happened in Rajasthan last year. She cares about whether her daughter can study under an electric bulb, whether the road to the block headquarters is motorable, whether someone listens when she calls the police helpline. On all these counts, she decided Nitish Kumar has done better than the alternative on offer.

This is the hard truth the Congress refuses to swallow. Every time it loses, it invents a grand conspiracy instead of looking in the mirror. After 2014 and 2019, it was EVMs. After Haryana and Maharashtra last year, it was again the Election Commission. Now in Bihar, it is cash transfers and a partisan ECI. There is always someone else to blame: the RSS, the media, the bureaucracy, now the referee. Never the batsman who keeps getting out playing the

same loose shot outside off stump.

If the Congress is serious about reviving itself in Bihar, it has to do three simple things. First, build a state unit that fights elections instead of fighting itself. Second, craft a local message that speaks to caste realities and economic anxieties without sounding like a Delhi lecture. Third, choose allies wisely and stick with them instead of treating every partnership as a temporary marriage of convenience.

Until it does these things, no amount of noise about the Election Commission will matter. The people of Bihar have given their verdict with open eyes. They saw the cash transfers, they saw the roads, they saw the rallies, and they saw the confusion in the opposition camp. Then they voted.

The Congress can keep staring at the one tree that bothers it and miss the entire forest. Or it can step back, take a deep breath, and finally start seeing the full picture. The choice is theirs. The voters have already made theirs.

Pakistan: The making of a new military state

By: Dipak Kurmi

The political upheavals unfolding across South Asia today form a tableau of turbulence, uncertainty and profound structural transformation, yet nowhere is the convergence of crisis and consolidation more stark than in Pakistan. As Bangladesh grapples with its strained transition under the Yunus-led interim government and braces for the International Tribunal's November 17 verdict on the alleged abuses committed during Sheikh Hasina's tenure, the subcontinent stands on edge. The potential extradition of Hasina from India threatens to ignite passions, inflame social tensions and revive old anxieties that have long defined Dhaka's fraught political alignments. Yet even these dramatic developments pale in comparison to the ascent of Field Marshal Asim Munir, Pakistan's second-ever recipient of the title and a figure whose rise signals an epochal shift in the nature of the Pakistani state. His consolidation of power, enshrined through the 27th Constitutional Amendment, marks not merely a political transition but the birth of a new constitutional order—one that elevates the military above all other institutions, weakens judicial oversight, and redefines Pakistan's ideological direction.

Pakistan has never been free from the shadow of its military, but for much of its history this shadow ebbed and flowed with the tides of political crisis, economic failures and shifting regional pressures. Ayub Khan's takeover in 1958, justified in his autobiography as a stabilising intervention against political chaos, established the blueprint for military governance in Pakistan: a general steps in to "save" the nation, promises temporary stewardship, consolidates power, and leaves behind institutions weakened by authoritarian rule. Yahya Khan, Zia-ul-Haq and Pervez Musharraf followed variations of this script, each insisting that the armed forces' professional competence made them natural custodians of national integrity. The CIA's declassified assessments from the 1970s warned presciently that Pakistan's military was "inherently prone to internalising ideological and political objectives beyond its remit," a diagnosis that rings with alarming clarity today. Yet even these rulers, despite their authoritarian instincts, attempted at times to cloak their ambitions within the rhetoric of professional duty or national reform. Munir, by contrast, embodies a new paradigm: the military chief as ideological vanguard, a figure who not only commands the state but also seeks to reshape its moral compass.

Munir's transformation of Pakistan's military is neither rhetorical nor incidental. It is institutional, systematic and anchored in a worldview that merges national security with religious legitimacy. Under his leadership, the armed forces have adopted narratives such as Fitna al-Khawarij and Fitna al-Hindustan, framing insurgents in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan as heretical threats or Indian proxies. Domestic conflicts, long rooted in ethnic grievances, political neglect and economic deprivation, are now cast through a sacred lens. Munir's speeches emphasise the military's duty to defend the Muslim Ummah, presenting Pakistan as a besieged fortress confronted by internal apostasy and external hostility. This blending of ideological and strategic aims dangerously erodes the distinction between counter-insurgency and religious warfare. Pakistan's past experiments with ideology-driven militarisation—most notoriously under Zia-ul-Haq—demonstrated the enduring consequences of allowing faith to fuse with force: the proliferation of extremist organisations, the radicalisation of society, and the weakening of civic institutions. Analysts like Makhdoom Ali Khan warn that

what Zia may have envisioned, and what Musharraf failed to fully achieve, is now becoming an accomplished reality under Munir, whose Hafiz-e-Quran status provides a doctrinal anchor to his political authority.

The 27th Constitutional Amendment is the legal cornerstone of this reconfigured state. Passed with overwhelming parliamentary support, the amendment creates the position of Chief of Defence Forces, abolishes the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, and grants Asim Munir a lifetime rank and immunity that places him beyond legal accountability. This structural elevation is unprecedented in Pakistan's history: even past dictators who seized power through coups lacked such constitutionally codified supremacy. The amendment narrows civilian authority to ceremonial functions and constructs a system in which the military hierarchy supersedes parliamentary and executive oversight. It also introduces a Federal Constitutional Court with primacy over constitutional matters, relegating the Supreme Court to a body handling ordinary civil and criminal appeals—a transformation that senior jurists have described as reducing it to a "Supreme District Court." Tariq Mehmood Khokhar's observation that the FCC is "empowered by disempowering the Supreme Court" captures the essence of the shift: judicial independence is curtailed not through abrupt intervention but through systemic restructuring. This judicial reordering is accompanied by increasing control over provincial autonomy. By undermining the devolved governance framework established under the 18th Amendment, Munir's centralisation threatens to inflame longstanding tensions in Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Provincial leaders fear a return to the dominance of Islamabad—long shorthand for the military establishment—while separatist groups may interpret this centralisation as confirmation of their grievances. Pakistan's federal fabric, already frayed by economic hardship and political fragmentation, risks tearing further under such pressures.

Economically, Pakistan remains caught in a cycle of structural weaknesses, external debt burdens and insufficient investment. Despite official claims of renewed investor confidence and resource-driven opportunities, the Financial Times reports that poverty remains above 25 per cent, capital formation remains weak, and foreign investors remain wary of the political unpredictability and institutional instability that have long characterised the Pakistani market. Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb's admission that Pakistan faces the "existential issue" of growth barely matching population increase underlines the depth of economic vulnerability. The increasing involvement of the military in commercial ventures, combined with ideological militarisation, risks diverting resources away from meaningful reform and entrenching a model in which economic decision-making serves strategic or political ends rather than long-term stability.

Yet Pakistan's internal transformations cannot be fully understood without situating them within the region's intricate geopolitical landscape. Munir's diplomatic strategy reflects both assertiveness and insecurity. Islamabad's outreach to Dhaka under Bangladesh's interim government suggests an attempt to realign regional alliances in ways that counter Indian influence. At the same time, Pakistan's engagements with China, Saudi Arabia and the United States reveal a pragmatic pursuit of multipolar partnerships. The revival of discussions around mineral wealth and strategic ports such as Pansi positions Pakistan as a pivotal player seeking leverage through geography and resources. However, beneath this geopolitical ma-

neuvring lies the dangerous possibility that Pakistan may once again nurture extremist organisations for strategic advantage. History is unequivocal on this point: ideological militancy used as geopolitical currency inevitably turns inward, destabilising the state and imperilling regional peace. The risks of miscalculation are intensified by Pakistan's evolving foreign policy posture. The four-day conflict with India in May 2025 highlighted the volatility of a militarised approach to diplomacy. Munir's decision to publicly credit the ceasefire to Donald Trump, even nominating him for a Nobel Peace Prize, reflected a willingness to employ dramatic political gestures to shape narratives both domestically and internationally. Such behaviour illustrates the unpredictable consequences of merging ideological fervour with military decision-making. Under such conditions, regional actors must navigate a Pakistan where power is centralised not merely in the uniform but in a worldview that seeks to project ideological authority.

India's own behaviour complicates matters. New Delhi's assertive regional posture, its efforts to maintain influence in Bangladesh and Nepal, and its hardened stance toward Pakistan contribute to Islamabad's sense of encirclement. While India's policies often stem from legitimate security concerns, its assertiveness nonetheless fuels a strategic environment in which Pakistan feels compelled to project strength, consolidate internal authority and pursue ideological cohesion. Yet history repeatedly demonstrates that attempts to achieve strategic depth through militarisation or ideological alignment lead not to stability but to backlash, blowback and renewed cycles of conflict. The tribunal's impending verdict on Sheikh Hasina and the potential fallout from her extradition represent another layer of fragility. Bangladesh's internal fractures, its fraught relationship with India, and Pakistan's renewed diplomatic interest create a combustible environment in which political decisions reverberate across borders. If Hasina's supporters perceive international bias or Indian interference, public anger could spiral, empowering extremist elements or destabilising the Yunus-led interim government. In such a scenario, Pakistan's outreach may appear either opportunistic or strategically motivated, potentially reshaping Dhaka's alliances in unpredictable ways.

South Asia now stands at a threshold where old institutions weaken, new ideological forces rise, and regional rivalries deepen. Munir's ascent signals the emergence of a Pakistan in which the military is not merely dominant but constitutionally unassailable, ideologically motivated and geopolitically assertive. The combination of centralised military authority, judicial reengineering, ideological legitimisation and economic fragility creates a volatile national structure with implications that extend far beyond Pakistan's borders. While TS Eliot may have described certain transformations as occurring "not with a bang but with a whimper," Pakistan's current trajectory is marked by a quiet but decisive reshaping of its very foundations. The reverberations of this transformation—political, ideological and geopolitical—will echo across the subcontinent for decades, reshaping power structures, altering diplomatic alignments and challenging the fragile equilibrium of South Asia.

In this evolving landscape, the uniform has become not merely a symbol of authority but the architecture of the state itself. And as Pakistan marches deeper into this new era, the question is no longer whether the military rules, but what kind of state it seeks to build—and at what cost to the region's stability and future. (The writer can be reached at dipakkurmipltd@gmail.com)

A major blow to Naxalism: The dawn of a New Era

By: Lalit Garg

Naxalism is now in its final phase, and this significant achievement and transformation is neither accidental nor sudden. It is the result of the well-planned, firm, and comprehensive strategies implemented by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The menace that had bled the heartland of India for decades, the ideology that held development, security, and human sensitivity hostage, now stands on the verge of complete extinction. The most recent and striking evidence of this is the elimination of the country's most dangerous, ruthless, and strategically powerful Maoist commander—Madvi Hidma. His very name had long instilled fear not only among security forces but also within the entire administrative system. Born in the Sukma region, Hidma was a member of the CPI (Maoist) Central Committee and the head of the Battalion-1 of the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA). Almost every major Naxal attack in the past two decades—from the 2010 Dantewada massacre to the 2013 Jhiram Ghati attack—was believed to have been masterminded by him. For years, he ruled the Dandakaranya region with terror and was responsible for several deadly ambushes, including the Darbha Ghati massacre. Such was his infamy that a reward of ₹50 lakh to ₹1 crore had been announced on his head.

On 18 November 2025, in a precisely executed and exceptionally brave operation by security forces, Hidma, his wife Raje, and six other Maoists were neutralised. The recovery of AK-47 rifles, pistols, and other weapons from the spot confirms that this operation was a decisive strike on the backbone of Naxalism. Hidma's end is not merely symbolic—it is a strategic turning point that has shaken the Naxal network at its core. Activities in what was once known as the "Red Corridor" have significantly shrunk, indicating that the dual strategy of security and development adopted by the central government has begun producing real results on the ground. Under the "Naxal-Mukt Bharat" campaign, 300 Naxalites were killed this year, while hundreds surrendered or were arrested. These figures clearly show that Naxalism has now lost its ideological and organisational strength. The recent mass surrenders in Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra within just two days reveal that Naxal groups are losing ground even in their traditional strongholds, while tribal communities are gradually moving toward the benefits of government development schemes. The elimination of Hidma has created an irreplaceable vacuum within the Maoist leadership.

Like terrorism, Naxalism has long been one of India's most complex internal security challenges. Just as cross-border terrorism threatens national peace and stability, Naxalism—born within—has consistently obstructed the nation-building process. For decades, it was not only a concern for a few states but for the entire country. Today, however, India stands at a turning point indicating that Naxalism is indeed nearing its end. The persistent successes of recent years—the elimination of top commanders, large-scale surrenders, and rapid development in affected areas—prove that the nation is moving toward a new dawn. It is a dawn that promises freedom from fear, violence, and backwardness, and paves the way for enduring peace and accelerated progress. The roots of Naxalism lay in the social and economic inequalities that emerged after independence—land disputes, exploitation, and the neglect of tribal regions. Development never reached several remote areas; government

schemes remained on paper, and local communities deeply distrusted the administration. This environment provided fertile ground for Naxal groups to propagate their ideology. They embraced the path of violence in the name of class struggle and armed revolution, using the forests as shields and drawing tribal youth into their fold. Over time, the movement drifted from ideology to a nexus of terror, extortion, exploitation, and bloodshed. Attacks on security forces, obstruction of development work, blowing up schools and bridges, using tribals as human shields, and their hunger for power—this became the true face of Naxalism.

Through the efforts of Modi and Shah, not only has the fight against Naxalism been intensified, but development projects in these regions have also been implemented on an unprecedented scale. Significant progress has been made in building roads, establishing electricity connections, and expanding mobile networks, weakening the hold of Naxal groups. According to government data, since 2014 more than 12,000 km of roads have been constructed in Naxal-affected areas, over a thousand new bank branches have been opened, and extensive work has been done in skill development. These coordinated efforts have uprooted Naxalism from its foundation. The killing of Madvi Hidma—a ruthless and strategically vital leader—is equivalent to breaking the spine of the Naxal movement. He was the chief brain behind their military strategies, and his image had long posed a psychological challenge to security forces. The diminishing of Naxalism is not only due to well-executed security operations but also because of strong political will. When the government declared its resolve to create a "Naxal-Free India," a multilayered strategy was adopted. On one hand, security forces were strengthened with modern technology, better training, and accurate intelligence; on the other, development was accelerated through roads, schools, hospitals, telecom connectivity, and livelihood programmes. The combined force of development and security proved decisive in weakening the roots of Naxalism.

The new dawn emerging before the nation signifies far more than the silencing of guns. It means that regions left behind for decades will now join the national mainstream. Investments will increase; education and healthcare will strengthen; tourism and local industries will flourish; and people will finally live without fear. The decline of Naxalism sends a powerful message: India's democratic system is stronger than any violent ideology. Attempts to seize power through weapons, terror, and intimidation are ultimately doomed to failure. The ongoing collapse of the Naxal movement makes this truth even clearer. However, the complete eradication of Naxalism cannot rely solely on military action. It is necessary that development efforts continue consistently, tribal communities are empowered, local culture and resources are respected, and the administrative system becomes transparent and sensitive. With such continuity, the resurgence of Naxalism becomes impossible. The near-end of Naxalism is not just a security triumph for India—it is a historic turning point. It marks the conclusion of a struggle in which thousands of soldiers sacrificed their lives, millions of citizens endured decades of fear, and the nation paused its development to prioritize security. Today, as Naxalism collapses, this is not merely a government victory—it is the collective victory of India. It is the dawn of a new nation—peaceful, secure, progressive, and self-confident. A dawn that will illuminate the future of generations to come.

Rio urges Centre to review reimposition of PAP, cites impact on tourism

KOHIMA, Nov 19: Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio has urged Union Home Minister Amit Shah to urgently review the reimposition of the Protected Area Permit (PAP) in Nagaland, expressing fear that the move could "severely impact" tourism, cultural exchange, and economic revival of the state.

In a letter to the Home Minister on Tuesday, Rio noted that the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) reintroduced the PAP regime for Manipur, Mizoram, and Nagaland from December 17 last year, citing security concerns along India's border with Myanmar. The three states had been exempted from PAP restrictions since 2010, albeit with certain conditions.

Rio said that while the situation in Manipur and the influx of Myanmar refugees into Mizoram may justify the Centre's re-assessment, Nagaland's circumstances are "vastly different".

He claimed that Nagaland is experiencing "one of the most peaceful periods since statehood", with no major security concerns and no reports of refugee ingress across the India-Myanmar border.

He attributed the stability to the homogeneous ethnicity and close social ties among border communities.

The chief minister argued that the PAP's reinstatement in Nagaland "may not be warranted", and warned of its po-



tential to disrupt the state's growing tourism sector.

He recalled raising the matter at the North Eastern Council (NEC) plenary session on December 21, expressing concern that the restrictions could deter international visitors just as the state witnessed record tourist numbers during the 25th Hornbill Festival.

The Nagaland Cabinet discussed the matter on January 6 and March 27, after which the state government wrote to the MHA seeking a reconsideration.

Rio followed up with letters on July 17

and September 10, reiterating the request for a relaxation of PAP norms, subject to any safeguards the Centre deemed necessary. Highlighting the stakes, Rio said Nagaland has emerged as a global tourism destination, driven by the state's "Land of Festivals" policy.

Increased foreign tourist arrivals, he said, have boosted the economy, generated youth employment, and strengthened India's cultural image abroad.

"The imposition of the PAP regime has the potential to negatively impact all these gains," he warned.

Rio noted that Nagaland has historically struggled to attract private investment, making tourism one of its most important engines of economic recovery.

He cautioned that the PAP restrictions could significantly reduce foreign tourist inflow and reverse progress made after "decades of conflict".

The chief minister also pointed to the international presence of Naga artists and cultural ambassadors, stating that relaxed PAP norms would encourage cultural exchange and bolster India's global cultural engagement. With the Hornbill Festival 2025 set to begin on December 1, Rio said the matter has become "urgent" amid concerns that the PAP could keep away many international visitors.

The festival is a major global attraction for Nagaland, drawing thousands from India and abroad each year. Rio added that several organisations, from tourism and education stakeholders to civil society groups, have urged the state government to push for PAP relaxation.

In his appeal, the chief minister requested the Centre to review the PAP regime and issue new, more relaxed guidelines for Nagaland. The CM assured that the state would maintain stringent security protocols and screening systems to ensure that increased tourism does not compromise national security. (PTI)

24-hour strike against tourism festival affects normal life partially in Manipur valley districts



IMPHAL, Nov 19: A 24-hour bandh opposing a tourism festival in strife-torn Manipur partially affected normal life in Imphal valley districts on Wednesday.

Several markets, business establishments and educational institutes remained closed, and a handful of vehicles were seen plying on the roads in Imphal West, Imphal East, Thoubal, Kakching and Bishnupur districts, officials said.

Government offices also recorded low attendance, they said.

Though the bandh was called by the proscribed outfit Kangleipak Communist Party (MC Progressive) from 12 am on Wednesday to protest against organising the Sangai tourism festival without resolving the ethnic conflict in the state, internally displaced people (IDPs) and several civil society organisations boycotted the event.

They contended that this was not the right time to organise such an event when people are still bearing the brunt of the ethnic violence.

However, the government said the tourism festival is also important for economic acceleration in the state.

During the bandh, no untoward incident has been reported so far, the officials said.

Security measures have been

intensified across Imphal, particularly at the site of the festival venue, on account of the general strike and boycott call.

"There have been musical concerts and local entertainment programmes across the Imphal valley this year. Thousands from Imphal valley had gone to participate in the Shirui festival held in Ukhrul earlier this year. There was no boycott.

"Unfortunately, an important festival like Sangai, which seeks to promote tourism and revive economic growth through local entrepreneurs in the state, has been boycotted," an official said.

The Sangai festival, scheduled from November 21, will be held after a gap of two years, and the preparations are underway at Hapta Kangleibung, the main venue of the event.

The festival had been suspended since 2023 after ethnic violence broke out in the state.

Chief Secretary Puneet Kumar Goel had appealed to people to participate in the festival.

"While the relief and rehabilitation of IDPs (internally displaced persons) is the top priority for the state government, holding of Sangai festival is also important for economic acceleration and providing market linkages to local artisans, entrepreneurs, craftsmen and farmers, boosting trade and investment," Goel said. (PTI)

Two Tripura institutions to become state universities

AGARTALA, Nov 19: The Tripura cabinet has decided to upgrade two educational institutions — Tripura Institute of Technology (TIT) and Tripura Women's College — into state universities, a senior minister said on Wednesday.

Currently, the northeastern state has one state government-run university, MBB University, while the Tripura University is managed by the Ministry of Human Resources. The National Forensic Science University is also functioning in the state.

"The council of ministers has approved a proposal for converting TIT as a full-fledged technical varsity to manage all the technical institutions," Transport Minister Sushanta Chowdhury said at a press conference.

He said the cabinet also cleared another proposal to elevate Tripura Women's College as a state government-run university.

"The move will certainly boost higher education ecosystem in the northeastern state which reflects the government's commitment," he said.

Chowdhury said the cabinet also approved the creation and filling up of 407 posts across various government departments.

"Altogether 97 auditors, investigators and statistical investigators will be recruited in the cooperation department and the written examination will be conducted by the Joint Recruitment Board of Tripura (JRBT)," he said adding 28 posts of ICDS supervisors will be recruited by the Tripura Civil Service Commission.

He said the cabinet also okayed a plan for setting up 119 new anganwadi centres to boost child care and education.

"To manage the proposed anganwadi centres, 119 anganwadi helpers and 119 anganwadi workers will be recruited. The government aims to extend proper care to children living in rural areas," he added. (PTI)

Austria, Malta country partners for Hornbill Festival

HT Correspondent

DIMAPUR, Nov 19: Austria and Malta are new country partners of the 10-day Hornbill Festival 2025, slated from December 1 at Kisama near Kohima.

Nagaland chief minister Neiphiu Rio and representatives of Austria and Malta announced the country partnerships for the forthcoming festival in New Delhi on Wednesday.

High Commissioner of Malta to India, Reuben Gauci, in his meeting with Rio, appreciated and thanked the Nagaland government for the partnership.

He stated that Malta looked forward to participating in this iconic event and expressed hope that the platform would strengthen ties, enhance people-to-people contact, and pave the way for future collaborations.

Dr Gisela Kristoferitsch, Deputy Head of Mission at the Austrian Embassy, said Austria would be represented by trade delegations and that avenues for collaborations and partnerships would be explored during their participation in the various events of the festival.

Rio said, "It is a pleasure and an honour to welcome Malta and Austria as country partners for the Hornbill Festival. Both nations possess rich histories, vibrant cultures, and remarkable strengths in art, heritage, creativity, and innovation. Their participation adds immense value to Nagaland's celebrations as the Land of Festivals."

"We look forward to meaningful collaborations that will deepen people-to-people connections, strengthen cultural and creative-economy exchanges, and open new avenues for partnership across sectors," he added.

Meanwhile, the state art & culture department is all set for the upcoming festival to be held on the theme "Cultural Connect".

The department said daily cultural performances (a cultural extravaganza) will be held at the main arena. Eighteen cultural troupes from within the state will showcase their lively folk dances and songs, indigenous games, rituals and folk dramas, etc., in their colourful traditional attire, among other activities, at the event.

Three militants arrested in Manipur

IMPHAL, Nov 19: Three militants belonging to various proscribed outfits were arrested from two districts in Manipur, police said on Wednesday.

A 53-year-old active cadre of the banned People's Liberation Army was apprehended from the Malom Makha Leikai area in Bishnupur district on Tuesday, and unaccounted cash of Rs 3.25 lakh was recovered from his possession, a senior officer said.

Another member of the outfit was also arrested from his residence at Keibul Awang Thana Leirak in the district, he said.

One cadre of the proscribed Kangleipak Communist Party (Nongdrenkhomba) was apprehended from a rented house at Langol Housing Complex in Imphal West district, the officer said.

Meanwhile, security forces on Tuesday recovered a cache of arms and ammunition from the Nachou Kha Mamang Patton area in Bishnupur district.

Security forces have been conducting search operations in Manipur since ethnic violence broke out two years ago.

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

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat to visit Manipur for first time since ethnic violence broke out in 2023

IMPHAL, Nov 19: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat is scheduled to arrive in Manipur on November 20 for the first time since ethnic violence broke out two years ago, a functionary of the organisation said on Wednesday.

During his three-day stay, Bhagwat will interact with citizens, entrepreneurs, and representatives of the tribal community, RSS state general secretary Tarun Kumar Sharma told PTI.

"Our Sarsangchalak's visit to the state is in connection with the centenary celebrations of the RSS. He is arriving from Guwahati on November 20 and will leave on November 22," he said.

This will be Bhagwat's first visit since the violence broke out two years ago, another RSS functionary said, adding that he had last visited the state in 2022.

As part of his itinerary, separate interactive sessions

will be held with prominent citizens, Janajati (tribal) community representatives, and youth leaders, Sharma said.

"On the day of his arrival, he will be meeting with entrepreneurs and eminent individuals at a programme at Konjeng Leikai in Imphal. On November 21, Bhagwat will meet and interact with tribal leaders from the Manipur hills," he said.

Asked if the RSS chief will be visiting relief camps, where internally displaced people have been staying for the last two years, he said, "This is not in the schedule as of now. The visit is mostly an internal part of the organisation."

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

BJP demands SIR in Sikkim under law protecting indigenous people's rights

GANGTOK, Nov 19: The BJP demanded a special intensive revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Sikkim under Article 371(F) of the Constitution, which protects the rights of the indigenous people, a party leader said.

A delegation of BJP functionaries met the district election officer (DEO) Gangtok, to press for updating of the electoral rolls through the SIR, the party's spokesperson Sangay Gyatso Bhutia said in a statement on Tuesday.

"The BJP is committed to protecting the unique identity and constitutional safeguards of the Sikkimese people. We have clearly articulated that the electoral rolls should be revised under Article 371(F), which lays down the historical and legal framework of Sikkim," the state BJP spokesperson said.

The SIR, as and when it takes place, should adhere to the Sikkim Citizenship Order Act, 1975 and the Representation of the Sikkim Subject Act, 1974, he said.

The BJP delegation also submitted a comprehensive application, which they had submitted to the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) earlier, detailing the party's legal and constitutional arguments on the matter.

"Our party's stand has always been Sikkim and Sikkimese people first. We will never compromise on this sacred trust. The BJP is steadfastly committed to the welfare of the people of Sikkim and its future generations," Bhutia said.

The BJP leader also criticised other political parties for their alleged silence on the need for SIR in Sikkim.

"The silence maintained by other political parties of Sikkim on an issue of fundamental importance to our identity is deeply disappointing and frankly, alarming. Their silence triggers the suspicion that they only care about their narrow political interests," Bhutia alleged.

He urged the people of Sikkim to "acknowledge this duplicity of these political parties and see through their theatrics".

The BJP remains "vigilant" and will continue to monitor the steps over the SIR demand to ensure that the interests of the Sikkimese people are safeguarded at all costs", he said. (PTI)

Nagaland cooperative conclave focuses on strengthening coordination



HT Correspondent

DIMAPUR, Nov 19: The Nagaland Cooperative Conclave at the NBCC convention hall in Kohima brought together key agencies, officials, and stakeholders to strengthen the cooperative movement in the state.

The second day of the conclave on Wednesday featured presentations from the North East Regional Agriculture Marketing Corporation (NERAMAC), National Cooperative Export Ltd. (NCEL) and the Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).

Addressing the event, Pinky Basumatary, project officer, NERAMAC, said the NERAMAC was established under the ministry for development of the north eastern region to ensure fair market access for farmers, minimise post-harvest losses and link producers with better market opportunities.

She highlighted the corporation's roles and activ-

ities across the Northeast and spoke on the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Shahayata Yojana (PM-MKSSY) aimed at formalising the fisheries sector by promoting aquaculture insurance and strengthening value chain efficiency for micro and small enterprises.

Rituraj Singh, business manager, NCEL, detailed NCEL's core activities, from export promotion to market intelligence and value addition.

He highlighted its purpose, mission, and vision for strengthening India's cooperative export ecosystem. He also outlined NCEL's membership structure and eligibility for cooperatives across the country. He added that there are over 15,000 cooperatives as members at present and also emphasised the need for greater participation from Nagaland.

APEDA's business department manager Joydev Roy presented an overview of the agency's initiatives and financial assistance schemes available to farmers, cooperatives and state governments.

He also highlighted APEDA's export promotion efforts, including International buyer-seller meets and specialised promotional events.

Roy noted that Nagaland holds substantial export potential for agricultural products such as king chili, tree tomato, ginger, persimmon and pineapple in both domestic and international markets.

In the panel discussion on "navigating the bottlenecks in convergence-strengthening institutional coordination and policy harmonisation", officials from various departments shared insights on improving collaborative mechanisms. The B2B meeting provided a platform for direct engagement between stakeholders and cooperative representatives.

Agriculture Minister promotes Tripura's Organic Potential at Global Dubai Expo

Global buyers show strong interest in Tripura's organic produce: Minister

HT Correspondent

AGARTALA, Nov 19: In a move to strengthen cooperation between Tripura and the UAE in the areas of organic agriculture, trade expansion, Tripura Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Ratan Lal Nath on Tuesday shared the inspiring story of the Tripura Organic Mission at Dubai.

The Minister visited the Middle East Natural & Organic Products Expo (MENOPE) 2025, held from 17th to 19th November at the Dubai World Trade Centre, UAE.

The global event brought together leading organic producers, buyers, investors, technology providers, and government representatives from across continents, offering an exceptional platform for showcasing Tripura's organic potential before the international community.

Tripura's participation received overwhelming attention at MENOPE 2025.

Several of the state's flagship organic products particularly the GI-

tagged Queen Pineapple, the aromatic rice varieties Kalikhasa and Harinarayan, Bird's Eye Chilli, Gandharaj (scented) Lemon, White Sesame, and Foxtail Millet earned widespread appreciation from international visitors for their quality, flavour profiles, and export readiness.

Buyers, importers, and global retail chains from the GCC region, Europe, Japan, Korea, and South-east Asia showed strong interest in sourcing these products and exploring long-term partnerships with Tripura.

Later, the Minister said that at this distinguished gathering a global hub of trade, innovation, and partnership he stood before them to share the inspiring story of the Tripura Organic Mission.

"Under the visionary leadership of our Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, Tripura has emerged as one of the most progressive organic farming states in the country. Today, we proudly have 26,400 hectares of land under



certified organic farming, engaging over 26,800 dedicated farmers who have transitioned from conventional to sustainable cultivation practices to empower these farmers and ensure strong value chains," said the Agriculture Minister. He informed that fifty-three organic farmers' producers' companies (FPCs) have been formed across the state.

"These FPCs serve as the

bridge between our farms and the global marketplace, enabling aggregation, processing, branding, and direct marketing of certified organic produce. Our Queen Pineapple, a Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged fruit, is world-famous. It is our signature export product, with a natural sweetness of 16 to 20 Brix. It is perfect for table and dessert consumption, while another variety, Kew, with

10 to 13 Brix, is ideal for processing and canning industries," said the Minister.

The Minister in his speech also mentioned the scented lemon, locally known as Gandharaj.

"Tripura also produces the aromatic paddy, Kali Khasa variety, famous for its natural aroma and grain quality. Alongside it, our sticky rice, locally called the brown variety, and black rice, mainly Hangar, have gained recognition for their unique culinary properties and health benefits. Notably, black rice is rich in antioxidants and has a low glycemic index, making it a superfood suitable for the growing global demand for health-oriented products. Our organic cultivation further includes ginger, turmeric, Bird's Eye Chilli, sesame, and foxtail millet. These products have strong export potential, especially in Europe, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia, where demand for clean, tasty, and chemical-free food is growing exponentially.

Jaishankar inaugurates two new Indian consulates in Russia

MOSCOW, Nov 19: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday inaugurated two new Indian consulates in Russia, saying their establishment will boost trade, tourism, economic, scientific, technological, academic and cultural ties between the two countries.

Expanding its diplomatic footprint in Russia, India opened the new Consulates General in the cities of Yekaterinburg and Kazan.

Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko and India's Ambassador to Russia Vinay Kumar were also present at the function held to mark the opening.

"This is a very important day in the diplomatic history of India in the Russian Federation," Jaishankar said. The top Indian diplomat alluded to the days when he had served in diplomatic assignments at the Indian embassy in Moscow.

"This is an important day for us, when we are adding two more Consulates General in this country... Over the last few months, consistent work has been underway to establish these consulates," he said and asserted that India recognises the support received from the Russian government. Jaishankar said Yekaterinburg is often called the "third capital of Russia" due to its industrial importance, and is a "gateway to Siberia".

It is known for its heavy engineering, gem cutting, defence manufacturing, metallurgy, nuclear fuel, chemicals and medical equipment, he said.

"The opening of the consulate will give impetus to enable and to strengthen technological, scientific, economic and trade collaborations between Indian and Russian industries," the external affairs minister said. Kazan, one of the most visited



cities of Russia, hosted the 2024 BRICS summit, which was also attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"I had the pleasure of going there myself, after Moscow and St Petersburg, and with good reasons," Jaishankar said.

The region is a multi-cultural and multi-ethnic hub and acts as a "bridge between Russia and the rest of Asia".

The consulate will help strengthen people-to-people ties by encouraging cross-cultural exchanges and ITEC (Indian

Technical and Economic Cooperation) participation, he said.

Kazan is well known for its oil production and refining, for fertilisers, automobiles, defence manufacturing, pharmaceuticals and electrical equipment, the minister said.

"I am confident that with the opening of the two new consulates, there will be a further strengthening of India-Russia ties and this will surely mark a new phase in our relationship," the EAM asserted.

He further said the opening of these consulates will "not only enhance our diplomatic presence" in Russia, but will act as a "catalyst" to further boost trade, encourage tourism, and bolster economic, scientific, technology, and even academic and cultural ties between the two countries.

"The consulates will contribute to our

joint efforts in increasing our bilateral trade to USD 100 billion by 2030 as envisaged by the leaders," Jaishankar said.

In July 2024, India and Russia set a target of USD 100 billion in annual trade volume by 2030 and vowed to develop a robust bilateral payment settlement mechanism using national currencies.

The two sides had also inked a total of nine agreements to further broaden cooperation in a range of areas, including in the economic domain, following summit talks between Prime Minister Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Modi had paid a two-day visit to Russia last year, his first to the country since the start of the war in Ukraine.

Jaishankar said that there is a sizeable and diverse Indian diaspora in Russia, which includes more than 30,000 Indian students today. (PTI)

Russian barrage kills 16 in Ukraine city as Zelensky heads for talks with Turkish leader

KYIV, Nov 19: A large Russian drone and missile barrage pummeled a western Ukrainian city, killing 19 people, emergency services said Wednesday, as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky arrived in Turkey for top-level talks to try to muster diplomatic support against Russia's invasion of his country.

The nighttime attack hit two nine-story apartment blocks in Ternopil, located around 200 kilometres from the Polish border, according to Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko. Emergency crews were sifting through the rubble in daylight to find any survivors, he said. At least 66 people, including 16 children, were injured, authorities said.

Russia fired 476 strike and decoy drones, as well as 48 missiles of various types, at Ukrainian targets overnight, Ukraine's air force said. The bombardment included 47 cruise missiles, with air defences intercepting all but six of them, the air force said. Western-supplied F-16 and Mirage-2000 jets intercepted at least 10 cruise missiles, it said.

"Every brazen attack against ordinary life indicates that the pressure on Russia (to stop the war) is insufficient," Zelensky wrote on the messaging app Telegram.

The Ukrainian leader said he would meet with Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan later Wednesday as part of his efforts to



diplomatically isolate Russian President Vladimir Putin and bring more international pressure to bear on him.

Putin has so far resisted making compromises, despite US pressure. "Foremost, we will discuss maximum capabilities to ensure that Ukraine achieves a just peace," Zelensky said of his talks with Erdogan, adding that the leaders have "good relations."

Zelensky also said: "We see some positions and signals from the United States, well, let's see tomorrow."

He didn't elaborate but tough new American sanctions on Russia's oil industry, devised to push Putin in the negotiating table, are due to take effect on Friday.

A senior Turkish official initially said that US special envoy Steve Witkoff would join Zelensky in

Ternopil, but backtracked later in the day and said Witkoff wouldn't be coming. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity Tuesday because he wasn't permitted to speak publicly about the arrangements.

Romania and Poland scramble fighter jets

The Ukrainian city of Ternopil sits in a part of relatively peaceful western Ukraine, where many people from the east and south moved to as they fled danger along the front line.

Almost 50 people were injured in Russian strikes on three other Ukrainian regions.

Russia's Defence Ministry said it attacked Ukrainian energy facilities and military-industrial targets, including long-range drone depots, in retaliation against strikes by Kyiv on Russian territory.

Two Eurofighter Typhoon jets and two F-16s were scrambled in Romania when a drone entered the NATO member's airspace during the Russian attacks, Romania's Ministry of National Defence said.

The Polish military said that Polish and allied aircraft were deployed in the middle of the night as a preventive measure. Poland's Rzeszów and Lublin airports were closed temporarily to prioritise military aviation, the Polish Air Navigation Services Agency said.

In northeastern Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, Russian drones injured 46 people, including two girls, the head of the regional military administration, Oleh Syniehubov, wrote on Telegram. Drones hit several city districts, at least 16 residential buildings, an ambulance station, school and other civilian infrastructure, he said.

Meanwhile, the Russian Defence Ministry said Wednesday that Ukraine fired four American-supplied ATACMS missiles at the Russian city of Voronezh on Tuesday. All four were shot down, the ministry said, but the debris damaged a private house, an orphanage and a gerontology centre. There were no casualties, the ministry said.

Ukraine's General Staff on Tuesday reported firing ATACMS missiles at Russia without offering details. (AP)

Bangladesh's HC orders committee to review of security measures for courts, judges



DHAKA, Nov 19: Bangladesh High Court has ordered a review of security measures for courts and judges in view of sporadic, clandestine violence in the capital and elsewhere over the death penalty verdict against deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina, a court official said Wednesday.

"The High Court asked the Supreme Court's registrar general to form a committee to assess existing security measures for the Supreme Court, subordinate courts and all judges across the country and submit a report in 90 days," a lawyer familiar with the development said.

Unlike the federal structures as in India, unitary Bangladesh's Supreme Court comprises two divisions --- the High Court and the Appellate Division, which is the apex

court.

The lawyer said the bench comprising Justice Sikder Mahmudur Razi and Justice Raziuddin Ahmed on Tuesday simultaneously issued a rule demanding an explanation about inaction by authorities concerned in ensuring overall security of judges, their courtrooms and residences, within the Supreme Court compound and all subordinate civil and criminal courts and tribunals across the country.

Hasina was on Monday sentenced to death in absentia by a special tribunal for "crimes against humanity" over her government's brutal crackdown on student-led protests last year. Even as Awami League has called for nationwide demonstrations to protest the death sentence handed down to its chief, security forces continued to main-

tain a strict vigil across major cities on Wednesday.

Lawyer Mehedi Hasan filed the writ while two fellow lawyers told the court that the authorities had failed to ensure adequate security for judges, their courtrooms and residences across subordinate civil and criminal courts and tribunals.

They referred to past incidents, including the killing of two judges in 2005 by Islamist militants, and the recent murder of Rajshahi Metropolitan Sessions Judge's son, as "ominous signs" for the judiciary.

Also, since the ouster of Hasina government on August 5, 2024, the security in court premises appears to be of major concern as several arrested Awami League leaders, party members and defending lawyers were assaulted during their court appearance.

The Dhaka Tribune on Wednesday headlined a report 'Security concerns grow at Dhaka's lower courts,' which drew attention to a November 11 letter by Dhaka's Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) Mohammad Mostafizur Rahman to Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) seeking enhanced security at Dhaka's lower courts pointing out the growing panic among judges, lawyers, court staff and litigants.

The CMM noted that judges in particular often needed to work late hours, and they needed safe passage when returning home. (PTI)

Israeli airstrike kills 1, wounds 11 including students in southern Lebanon

SIDON (LEBANON), Nov 19: An Israeli airstrike on a car in southern Lebanon on Wednesday killed one person and wounded 11 including students aboard a nearby bus, the Health Ministry and state media said.

The strike in the village of Tiri came hours after an Israeli drone attack on the Palestinian refugee camp of Ein el-Hilweh in southern Lebanon killed 13 people and wounded several others. The Tuesday night strike was the deadliest among scores of Israeli attacks since a ceasefire in the Israel-Hezbollah war a year ago.

State-run National News Agency said a school bus with students happened to be passing near the car that was hit Wednesday morning. The bus driver and several students were wounded, the report said. The identity of the person who died in the car wasn't immediately clear. The Israeli military did not comment Wednesday. In the Ein el-Hilweh refugee camp, just outside the port city of Sidon, life appeared normal Wednesday but Lebanese authorities prevented journalists from entering.

At the scene of the strike, paramedics searched for human remains around a wall that was stained with blood. Several cars were burnt and broken glass and debris littered the ground. (AP)

Iran releases Marshall Islands-flagged tanker, crew

DUBAI, Nov 19: Iran on Wednesday released a Marshall Islands-flagged tanker with all its 21 crew members aboard days after Tehran seized the ship without explanation, the vessel's managers said.

Tehran had no immediate comment on the release of the Talar, which marked the first ship seizure by Iran in months. The Middle East remains tense after its 12-day war in June with Israel and as concerns remain over the Islamic Republic's nuclear programme. Cyprus-based Columbia Shipmanagement said the crew "are safe and in good spirits". "We have informed their families, and the vessel is now free to resume normal operations," the firm said. (AP)

China's diesel trucks shifting to electric; this could change global LNG, diesel demand

HANOI, Nov 19: China is replacing its diesel trucks with electric models faster than expected, potentially reshaping global fuel demand and the future of heavy transport.

In 2020, nearly all new trucks in China ran on diesel. By the first half of 2025, battery-powered trucks accounted for 22% of new heavy truck sales, up from 9.2% in the same period in 2024, according to Commercial Vehicle World, a Beijing-based trucking data provider.

The British research firm BMI forecasts electric trucks will reach nearly 46% of new sales this year and 60% next year.

Heavy trucks carry the lifeblood of modern economies. They also contribute significantly to global emissions of carbon-dioxide: In 2019, road freight generated a third of all transport-related carbon emissions.

Trucking has been considered hard to decarbonise since electric trucks with heavy batteries can carry less cargo than those using energy-dense diesel. Proponents of liquefied natural gas have viewed it as a less polluting option while technology for electric heavy vehicles matures.

Liquefied natural gas (LNG) is

natural gas cooled to a liquid fuel for easy storage and transport.

China's trucking fleet, the world's second-largest after the US, still mainly runs on diesel, but the landscape is shifting.

Transport fuel demand is plateauing, according to the International Energy Agency and diesel use in China could decline faster than many expect, said Christopher Doleman, an analyst at the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis.

Electric trucks now outsell LNG models in China, so its demand for fossil fuels could fall, and "in other countries, it might never take off," he said.

The share of electric in new truck sales, from 8% in 2024 to 28% by August 2025, has more than tripled as prices have fallen. Electric trucks outsold LNG-powered vehicles in China for five consecutive months this year, according to Commercial Vehicle World.

While electric trucks are twice to three times more expensive than diesel ones and cost roughly 18% more than LNG trucks, their higher energy efficiency and lower costs can save owners an estimated 10%

to 26% over the vehicle's lifetime, according to research by Chinese scientists.

"When it comes to heavy trucks, the fleet owners in China are very bottom-line driven," Doleman said.

Early sales were buoyed by generous government incentives like a 2024 scheme for truck owners to trade in old vehicles. Owners can get up to about \$19,000 to replace older trucks with newer or electric models.

Investments in charging infrastructure are also boosting demand for electric trucks.

Major logistics hubs, including in the Yangtze River Delta, have added dedicated charging stations along key freight routes. Cities like Beijing and Shanghai have built heavy-duty charging hubs along highways that can charge trucks in minutes.

CATL, the world's largest maker of electric vehicle batteries, launched a time-saving battery-swapping system for heavy trucks in May and said it plans a nationwide network of swap stations covering 150,000 km out of China's 184,000 km of expressways.

The surge in sales of electric trucks is cutting diesel use and

could reshape future LNG demand, analysts say.

Diesel consumption in China, the second-largest consumer of the fuel after the US, fell to 3.9 million barrels per day in June 2024, down 11% year-on-year and the largest drop since mid-2021, partly reflecting the shift to LNG and electric trucks, according to the US Energy Information Administration.

"The rise of China's electric truck sector is one of the more under-reported stories in the global energy transition, especially given its potential impact on regional diesel trade flows," said Tim Daiss of APAC Energy Consultancy.

LNG truck sales peaked in Sept 2023 and March 2024 after China eased transport restrictions imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic, said Liuhanzi Yang of ICCT Beijing. By June 2025, sales had slipped 6% as electric trucks gained ground.

Shell's 2025 LNG Outlook projects that demand for imported LNG in China, the world's largest LNG importer, will continue to rise partly due to LNG trucks. It also suggests LNG trucking might expand to other markets, such as India. (AP)

Africa hosts its first G20, urges rich world to do more against climate disasters

JOHANNESBURG, Nov 19: In South Africa's oldest township, volunteers in wetsuits jump into the thigh-deep water of the polluted Jukskei River to untangle a net that's designed to trap garbage but damaged by heavy rains. Without the nets, the shacks of low-lying Alexandra on the outskirts of Johannesburg could face disastrous flooding.

World leaders with the Group of 20 rich and developing nations will meet this weekend in Johannesburg for the bloc's first summit in Africa. Host South Africa wants to prioritise issues affecting poor countries, including responses to disasters made worse by climate change.

South Africa will urge rich countries and international financial institutions to help more — a plea also being made at global climate talks in Brazil.

Alexandra's over half a million residents live within steps of South Africa's richest financial district, Sandton. But flooding often submerges bridges, leaving the township's children unable to get to school. It is a "big hazard," said Semadi Manganye, a resident and co-founder of the volunteer group, the Alexandra Water



Warriors.

"The ravages of the climate are directly linked to the ravages of inequality," Binaifer Nowrojee, president of the Open Society Foundations, a non-governmental organisation promoting democracy and governance, told The Associated Press.

"Countries are facing the destructive choice between growing their economies and taking climate action."

The World Bank says the poorest countries were hit by nearly eight times as many natural disasters in the decade from 2010-2020 as they were from 1980-1990.

Southern Africa has been struck by

strong tropical storms in the past decade, killing thousands of people and leaving nations with unbearable rebuilding costs. Cyclone Idai, which scientists say was made more powerful by climate change, ripped through Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe in 2019, causing an estimated \$2 billion worth of damage, according to the World Bank. Malawi's gross domestic product is just \$12 billion.

Last year, the El Nino weather phenomenon caused one of the worst droughts in decades in the region, devastating small-scale agriculture and leaving people even poorer.

Climate financing has been a focus of sharp debate between rich and poor countries at major summits like the G20.

Rich countries agreed at last year's United Nations climate summit to pool at least \$300 billion a year by 2035 to help developing countries deal with the impacts of climate change and weather disasters. But independent experts said much more — an estimated \$1 trillion a year — was needed by 2030.

One of the world's largest polluters, the United States, won't even attend this

weekend's G20 summit as it boycotts over US President Donald Trump's widely rejected claims that South Africa is violently persecuting a white minority.

That makes action on climate, or even a meaningful declaration, from the G20 a tall order.

The Alexandra Water Warriors have considered themselves the guardians of their environment since they formed in 2021, planting native trees to reduce urban heat and collecting and recycling trash from the river.

They face the kind of challenges seen in other townships and poor settlements across South Africa, which is the continent's most developed economy but also has some of the world's most dramatic inequality.

An Amnesty International report released this month for the G20 summit said the South African government is failing as many as 5 million people who live in informal settlements without proper housing and services and are impacted by the climate crisis. It said they are often forced to live in vulnerable, low-lying areas close to rivers. (AP)

APCC chief calls for renewed commitment to Indira Gandhi's ideals

ITANAGAR, Nov 19: Recalling Indira Gandhi as an enduring symbol of courage, vision, and nation-building, Arunachal Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) President Bosiram Siram on Wednesday urged citizens, especially the youth, to draw inspiration from the former prime minister's legacy and reaffirm their commitment to secularism, social justice, and national unity.

Paying homage to Gandhi on her 108th birth anniversary at Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan here, Siram said Indira Gandhi's leadership during the country's most challenging phases continues to guide India's democratic journey.

He said that her contributions in safeguarding national integrity, promoting self-reliance, strengthening India's global stature, and defending the rights of the marginalised remain benchmarks in gov-



ernance.

Siram highlighted Gandhi's transformative reforms, including the Green Revolution, nationalisation of major banks, empowerment of the poor, and efforts to strengthen democratic institutions, which together reshaped India's socio-economic landscape.

Her firm response to external aggression and internal turmoil, he said, reflected her unwavering resolve and deep commitment to the nation.

"As we commemorate her birth anniversary, we must reaffirm our dedication to the values she cherished, secularism, social justice,

inclusive development, national unity, and fearless leadership," Siram said, adding that her life underscored the need for courage, compassion, and steadfast service in true nation-building.

The state Congress chief further remarked that in the current political climate, where divisive narratives threaten the country's social fabric, Indira Gandhi's teachings hold greater relevance than ever.

He appealed to the people of the state to uphold her ideals and work toward a harmonious and progressive India.

On the occasion, the APCC reiterated its commitment to preserving and promoting Indira Gandhi's vision and pledged to continue advocating for democratic values, people-centric governance, and balanced development across the state. (PTI)

Kiren Rijiju visits Arunachal Pradesh Pavilion at India International Trade Fair



HT Correspondent

ITANAGAR, Nov 19: Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju visited the Arunachal Pradesh Pavilion at the 44th India International Trade Fair (ITF) at Bharat Mandapam recently, where he inaugurated the state's showcase with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp.

The visit underscored the government's emphasis on promoting the cultural richness and entrepreneurial potential of the northeastern region on national and international platforms.

After the inauguration, Rijiju toured the pavilion and interacted with entrepreneurs, artisans and representatives participating in the fair. He expressed appreciation for the quality and diversity of Arunachal Pradesh's exhibits, describing the pavilion as a reflection of the state's creativity, resilience and deep cultural pride.

He commended the participants for their dedication in bringing forward the unique identity of the state through their products and presentations.

The pavilion, curated by the Department of Trade and Commerce of Arunachal Pradesh, offered vis-

itors an immersive display of the state's rich cultural heritage, traditional craftsmanship and wide range of organic and indigenous produce.

Rijiju noted that the exhibits—from intricate tribal handicrafts to aromatic spices, textiles, handwoven items, local cuisine and innovative agro-based products—illustrated the talent and entrepreneurial energy of the people of Arunachal Pradesh.

He said the pavilion served not only as a platform for business and trade but also as an important cultural bridge showcasing the diversity of India's frontier state.

One of the highlights of the pavilion was its design, inspired by the natural landscape of Arunachal Pradesh.

The interiors featured earthy tones, with mustard greens and warm brown shades that symbolised the state's forests, hills and traditional architecture.

The decor aimed to convey a sense of warmth, sustainability and the simple yet elegant lifestyle of the people of the region.

Visitors noted that the pavilion's aesthetic appeal created an inviting atmosphere that blended modern exhibition techniques with tradi-

tional cultural elements.

The pavilion also drew significant attention for its impressive collection of Arunachal Pradesh's native orchids, considered among the most exquisite in the country.

The display emphasised the state's remarkable biodiversity and its commitment to conservation.

Officials said the orchid showcase helped highlight the ecological significance of Arunachal Pradesh, which is home to some of India's rarest and most beautiful flora.

Rijiju expressed gratitude to the state's Trade and Commerce Department for curating a pavilion that stood out for its artistic design, cultural representation and quality of exhibits.

He said the pavilion embodied the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat by offering visitors a deeper understanding of the cultural traditions, natural wealth and entrepreneurial aspirations of the people of Arunachal Pradesh.

He noted that such platforms help strengthen national unity by bringing the heritage of diverse regions to the centre stage.

Participants and entrepreneurs from the state said they were deeply encouraged by the Minister's visit, adding that his presence boosted their morale and reaffirmed the importance of promoting Arunachal Pradesh's cultural and economic potential to wider audiences.

Many expressed hope that the exposure at ITF would open new markets for their products and increase recognition for the state's artisans and growers.

The Arunachal Pradesh pavilion is expected to continue drawing interest throughout the trade fair, offering visitors an engaging experience rooted in culture, craftsmanship and the natural beauty of the northeastern frontier.

APTUF begins dharna demanding re-engagement of 75 terminated EARAS employees

HT Correspondent

ITANAGAR, Nov 19: The Arunachal Pradesh Trade Union Federation (APTUF) began the first phase of its democratic movement recently with a sit-in dharna at the Tennis Court campus at IG Park, demanding the re-engagement of 75 employees discontinued under the EARAS scheme of the Agriculture Department.

APTUF Secretary General Kenkar Yomcha told the media that the protest reflects the employees' frustration and loss of faith after serving the department for years without job regularisation.

He said the 75 employees were appointed under the centrally sponsored EARAS scheme, and some had worked for more than a decade.

However, they were suddenly discontinued in April in the name of digitalisation and were informed only in July, leaving many unemployed and unpaid for months.

Yomcha said the federation has launched the phase-wise agitation from November 17 to press for re-engagement of the terminated employees.

He said the movement will intensify with hunger strikes and even a non-cooperation movement if the government fails to respond.

Expressing disappointment, he said the state government has not acted on earlier assurances that the issue would be resolved within two weeks.

Over a month has passed without any communication from either the government or the department concerned.

He accused some officials of diverting the issue by falsely claiming that the EARAS scheme has been closed by the Centre, adding that as many as 12 regular employees are still being paid under the scheme.

Awareness programme held in Pasighat on domestic violence and POSH acts

HT Correspondent

PASIGHAT, Nov 19: The District ICDS Cell of East Siang, under the Women and Child Development Department, organised a one-day awareness-cum-sensitisation programme on the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence (PWDV) Act, 2005, and the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) (POSH) Act, 2013, at the auditorium of IGI Higher Secondary School.

As part of the programme, participants also took the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan (Drug-Free India Campaign) pledge.

The programme witnessed active participation from officials, educators and community representatives, including SDPO Dr Akanksha Milind, DDSE Odhuk Tabing, Local Complaints Committee Chairperson Oter Tayeng, and members of the Adi Baane Ke-bang (ABK) and Women Against Social Evil (WASE).

Presiding Officers of Internal Complaints Committees from various departments also attended.

Deputy director of ICDS and nodal officer for Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan, MT Padung, welcomed the participants and highlighted the significance of the programme in raising awareness among women's groups, rural women and community stakeholders.

She also administered the NMBA pledge to strengthen collective resolve against drug abuse.

Addressing the gathering, SDPO Dr Akanksha Milind underscored the importance of widespread awareness and community responsibility in addressing issues of domestic violence and workplace harassment.

She said greater sensitisation would help create safer environments for women at home, in institutions and at workplaces.

Resource persons conducted detailed sessions on both Acts. Advocate Nyame Dabi, chief defence counsel of the District Legal Services Authority, made an extensive presentation on the POSH Act, 2013, explaining its legal framework, responsibilities of employers, and redressal mechanisms.

Advocate Eliza Moyong Taga, Legal-cum-Probation Officer of the District Child Protection Unit, spoke on the provisions of the PWDV Act, 2005, and the protections available to women facing domestic violence.

CDPO Pasighat, Kaling Moyong, delivered the vote of thanks, acknowledging the contributions of the officials, speakers and participants in making the programme successful, the release added.

Governor condoles death of former MLA Punji Mara

HT Correspondent

ITANAGAR, Nov 19: Arunachal Pradesh Governor Lt Gen KT Parnaik (Retd), has expressed deep sorrow over the passing of former Member of the State Legislative Assembly Punji Mara.

In a message of condolence, the Governor said the State has lost a compassionate and committed public representative who dedicated his life to the welfare of the people. The Governor described the late MLA as a sincere leader and a devoted social activist whose tireless efforts to uplift the downtrodden earned him widespread respect.

He said Mara's unwavering dedication to public service and his steadfast commitment to improving the lives of the people of Arunachal Pradesh would always be remembered with gratitude.

YCEF celebrates 11th Foundation Day in Yachuli

HT Correspondent

YACHULI, Nov 19: The Yachuli Constituency Employees Forum (YCEF) celebrated its 11th Foundation Day on Wednesday with a well-attended programme at the scenic Chopu Fish Farm in Keyi Panyor district.

Employees from various government departments participated in the event, which was held under the theme "Employees Serve Together," highlighting unity, commitment and collaborative service.

The day began at 9 a.m. with the gathering of officers and officials, followed by the ceremonial hoisting of the YCEF flag and the rendition of the YCEF anthem. Participants later assembled for the formal session, which featured several inspiring speeches.

In his welcome address, the Celebration Organising Secretary emphasised the significance of unity, discipline and shared responsibility among government employees.

He urged members to continue working with renewed dedication for the development of the constituency.

General secretary Er Gem Dopum reiterated YCEF's mission to strengthen inter-departmental cooperation and nurture a culture of mutual support.



He noted that the forum has emerged as an important platform for enhancing administrative harmony and collective problem-solving.

YCEF President Tabia Chobin reflected

on the organisation's 11-year journey, celebrating its achievements and the contributions of its members.

He encouraged employees to uphold the values of integrity and dedication that have

Governor flags off NEEPCO-sponsored school bus for Oju Welfare Association



HT Correspondent

ITANAGAR, Nov 19: Arunachal Pradesh Governor Lt Gen KT Parnaik (Retd), on Wednesday handed over a school bus sponsored under NEEPCO's Corporate Social Responsibility programme to the Oju Welfare Association (OWA) and flagged it off from Raj Bhavan. The bus will serve students of Oju Mission School, including many children in need of care, protection and educational support.

The event was attended by OWA Chairperson Ratan Anya, Head of Plant of the Pare Hydro Power Station at Doimukh, Er Sania Ngunrang, DGMS (Tech) Er Taba Gagung and Er Hari Shankar Nath, Principal of Oju Mission School Sheema Domai and a large number of students and teachers.

The Governor, who took personal initiative to ensure the bus was sanctioned for the school under NEEPCO's CSR scheme,

expressed appreciation for the corporation's support.

He said the contribution would significantly improve access to education for children with special needs and enhance their ability to attend school safely and comfortably.

He added that such gestures carry immense value in ensuring that vulnerable children receive equal opportunities in education.

Lt Gen Parnaik noted that Arunachal Pradesh does not have major industries of its own and therefore relies on power corporations for meaningful CSR interventions. He expressed hope that NEEPCO would continue to support projects benefiting institutions dedicated to the welfare of children and other marginalised groups.

The Governor said he was pleased that Oju Mission School—an institution devoted to nurturing and educating some of

the State's most deserving children, whom he described as Arunachal's "Shining Stars"—had received the vehicle.

He added that NEEPCO's assistance would further strengthen OWA's longstanding commitment to serving children who require care, protection and educational stability.

OWA Chairperson Ratan Anya conveyed heartfelt thanks to the Governor for his initiative and extended deep gratitude to NEEPCO for providing the much-needed school bus, which she said would greatly improve the safety and comfort of students during their daily commute.

Speaking on behalf of the corporation, Er Sania Ngunrang thanked the Governor for his guidance and said NEEPCO remained firmly committed to taking up more compassionate and impactful CSR projects in the future.

JNC Hindi Department organises national seminar on 'Bhaktikal Ki Prasangikta'



HT Correspondent

PASIGHAT, Nov 19: The Department of Hindi at Jawaharlal Nehru College (JNC), Pasighat, organised a one-day national seminar on the theme "Bhaktikal Ki Prasangikta" on November 17 at the college conference hall.

Research scholars, academicians and students from various institutions across the region participated, including representatives from Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU) and the Central Hindi Institute.

The seminar aimed to encourage academic dialogue on the contemporary relevance of Bhaktikal and its enduring impact on Indian literary and cultural traditions.

The inaugural session began with a group song by MA Hindi students, followed by the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by Principal Dr Tasi Taloh, Vice-principal Dr Leki Sitang, Head of the Hindi Department Dr Harinivas Pandey, and representatives from RGU and the Central Hindi Institute.

Delivering the keynote address

virtually, Prof Nand Kishor Pandey, Vice chancellor of Haridev Joshi University of Journalism and Mass Communication, traced the roots of the Bhakti movement to ancient Indian and Vedic traditions.

He described Bhakti literature as a transformative force that shaped India's social, religious and political consciousness over centuries.

Chief guest and principal of JNC, Dr Tasi Taloh, reflected on the academic contributions and legacy of the college, and thanked all participants for enriching the seminar.

Guest of honour and vice-principal Dr Leki Sitang highlighted the influence of the Bhakti movement in Northeast India, particularly among the Adi community, noting its relevance in the region's cultural ethos.

Earlier in the programme, Dr Harinivas Pandey, Head of the Hindi Department, outlined the objectives of the seminar.

The inaugural session concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr Tokpet

Pertin, supported by co-coordinator Dr Banasiri Pertin, anchor Dr Zebina Taki and the organising team.

The first technical session, led by resource person Dr Prasad Narayan Choubey, centred on Vedic Bhakti and its influence on medieval intellectual traditions.

Research scholars presented papers under the chairmanship of Prof Oken Lego, who described Bhakti as "the light of human civilization."

The second session featured an address by Dr Rajiv Ranjan Prasad on Bhakti during the Mughal era, followed by reflections on Bhakti literature by Dr Chandra Shekhar Choubey and discussions on Prof Pandey's scholarly contributions.

Chaired by Dr Arun Kumar Pandey, the session included paper presentations from participants both offline and online.

The seminar concluded with remarks by Dr Taro Sindik. Mrs Manju Pandey also graced the event with her presence, the release added.

defined YCEF since its inception.

Chobin highlighted the role of the forum's initiatives in supporting sustainable community development in the region.

Members of the organising committee, including Likha Obi (RFO), Taba Nepa, Tagang Aatu and others, also addressed the gathering.

They underscored the importance of solidarity and coordinated effort in ensuring efficient public service delivery.

The programme concluded at noon with a vote of thanks by Tagang Aatu, who expressed gratitude for the enthusiastic participation of YCEF members and the cooperation extended by various departments.

Senior members such as Er Byabang Tugu, Er Toko Onuj, CMD, Hydro Power, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Er NL Kamin and JK Abo also shared their views, commending the forum for its continued commitment to community welfare and administrative excellence.

As YCEF enters its 12th year, the celebration stood as a testament to the enduring spirit of collective service and the dedication of public-sector employees in the Yachuli constituency.

Al Falah Group chairperson had reasons to flee India: ED

NEW DELHI, Nov 19: A Delhi court on Wednesday sent Al Falah group chairperson Jawad Ahmed Siddiqui to ED custody for 13 days even as the agency claimed that he had "incentives" to flee India as his close family members are settled in the Gulf.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested Siddiqui on Tuesday night after conducting day-long searches against the group, linked persons and the Faridabad-based Al Falah University, which is at the focus of investigation in the November 10 Delhi blast case that killed 15 persons and injured several others.

The federal probe agency also informed the court that Siddiqui received funds of at least ₹415 crore generated "dishonestly" from the students of educational institutes run by his trust.

He was produced before Additional Sessions

Judge Sheetal Chaudhary Pradhan at her residence close to midnight. The proceedings lasted till 1 am. The judge said, "After carefully considering the submission made, I am of the considered view that all the compliances under Section 19 of the PMLA (Prevention of Money Laundering Act) have been done." "Considering the gravity of the offence and that the investigation is at nascent stage, I deem it appropriate that the accused is granted ED custody remand for a period of 13 days (till December 1)," the judge ordered. The ED had sought a 14-day custody.

The university's role emerged during probe into a 'white-collar' terror module in which 10 people, including three doctors, have been arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and Jammu and Kashmir Police.

One of the doctors at the varsity-cum-hospital,



Dr Umar-un-Nabi, is alleged to have acted as a suicide bomber while driving an explosive-laden car on November 10 that blasted outside the Red Fort, killing 15 people. The ED took cognisance of two Delhi Police FIRs to register its case on November 14 under the anti-money laundering law against the Al Falah Group.

The agency informed the court that the university and its controlling trust, under the direction of Siddiqui, generated "proceeds of crime" of at least ₹ 415.10 crore by "dishonestly" inducing students and parents to part with money on the basis of false accreditation and recognition claims.

Siddiqui's lawyer told the court that his client was falsely implicated in the present matter and the two Delhi Police FIRs were "false and fabricated." The ED claimed that Siddiqui's arrest was necessary as there was an apprehension of his absconding and of non-cooperation.

"Accused has significant financial resources and influence and has a history of serious economic offences. His close family members are also settled in Gulf countries and he has incentives to flee India.

"Given the gravity of the present allegations

(with proceeds of crime quantified in hundreds of crores) and the potential consequences under PMLA, there is a reasonable apprehension that if not arrested he may abscond or remain unavailable for effective interrogation, relocate assets and himself beyond the jurisdiction, and continue to delay or obstruct the investigation," the ED told the court.

It said Siddiqui was the founder and managing trustee who was "controlling the mind" of Al Falah charitable trust and exercises de facto influence over Al Falah University and its institutions.

The ED alleged Siddiqui's custodial interrogation was necessary to unearth and quantify the full extent of the "proceeds of crime", including those not yet visible in the disclosed income tax return (ITR) figures and to enable the timely attachment and confiscation under the PMLA. (PTI)

Sathya Sai Baba's teachings showing light to lakhs in 140 countries, says PM Modi

PUTTAPARTHI (ANDHRA PRADESH), Nov 19: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday paid rich tributes to late spiritual guru Sri Sathya Sai Baba, saying his teachings and service continue to guide lakhs of followers across the world.

In his address at the birth centenary celebrations of Sathya Sai Baba, Modi also released a coin and a set of stamps to commemorate the guru.

"Sri Sathya Sai Baba's birth centenary year is not just a celebration for this generation, but a divine blessing. Though Sai Baba is not among us physically, his love and spirit of service are the guiding forces for crores of people," Modi said. He said that in 140 countries, "lakhs of Sathya Sai Baba's devotees are getting new light, direction and moving forward."

Asserting that the guru placed service at the heart of human life, he said Baba's life was a living embodiment of the ideal of "Vasud-



haiva Kutumbakam" (the world is one family), and "therefore, this birth centenary year has become a grand festival of universal love, peace, and service." Modi also said that the central value of Indian civilisation was Seva and Service. "All our diverse spiritual and philosophical traditions ultimately lead to this one idea, whether one walks the path of Bhakti, knowledge or karma," he added.

"Seva Parmo Dharmah" is the ethos that has sustained India through centuries of changes and challenges, giving our civilisation its inner strength, emphasised Modi, noting that many great saints and reformers have carried forward this timeless message in ways suited to their times.

He recalled Baba's words, "Love All, Serve All," and affirmed that for him, Seva was love

in action. The Prime Minister stated that Sai Baba's institutions in education, healthcare, rural development, and many other areas stand as living proof of this philosophy.

He further said that Baba did not impose any doctrine or ideology, but worked to help the poor and alleviate their suffering.

PM Modi recalled that after the Gujarat earthquake, Baba's Seva Dal stood at the forefront of relief efforts. His followers served with full dedication for several days, contributing significantly in reaching aid to affected families, providing essential supplies, and offering psychosocial support.

He said that Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust and its affiliated organisations are advancing service in an organised, institutional, and long-term manner.

He commended the work being done in areas such as water, housing, healthcare, nutrition, disaster support, and clean energy. (PTI)

Mamata blames ECI for Jalpaiguri BLO's death

BJP hits back, family cites rising workload

KOLKATA, Nov 19: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday tore into the Election Commission after a booth level officer in Jalpaiguri district was found hanging, alleging the "inhuman, unplanned" SIR workload is crushing field staff, even as the BLO's family flagged "unbearable pressure" and the BJP blamed state officials for the tragedy.

The deceased, 48-year-old Shantimuni Orai, an anganwadi worker serving as the BLO for booth number 20/101 under Rangamati gram panchayat, was found hanging from a tree near her home in the New Glencoe tea garden area early in the morning. Her scarf was tied around her neck, police said.

Her family alleged she died by suicide after weeks of mounting stress caused by the SIR drive.

Police from Mal police station have recovered the body and sent it to Jalpaiguri Sadar Hospital for post-mortem examination. "An in-

vestigation has begun," Superintendent of Police K U Ganpat said.

Banerjee, reacting strongly on X, said she was "deeply shocked and saddened" at yet another BLO death during the revision exercise.

"Today again, we lost a Booth Level Officer in Mal, Jalpaiguri, an anganwadi worker who took her own life under the unbearable pressure of the ongoing SIR work," she wrote. Claiming that 28 people have died since the SIR process began, she alleged that a task earlier spread over three years was being forced into two months "to please political masters", putting "inhuman pressure" on ground-level staff.

"Such precious lives are being lost because of the unplanned, relentless workload imposed by the so-called Election Commission of India. A process that earlier took three years is now being forced into two months on the eve of elections to please political masters,

putting inhuman pressure on BLOs," she said.

She urged the ECI to "act with conscience" and immediately suspend the drive. "I urge the ECI to act with conscience and immediately halt this unplanned drive before more lives are lost", she said. TMC leaders have repeatedly accused the Election Commission of advancing deadlines and overburdening BLOs with extensive house-to-house verifications ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections. At Shantimuni's home, her husband, Sukh Ekka, described a daily routine that had become "mentally unbearable". After her regular anganwadi duties and household chores, she would go out at night to collect documents and fill up forms for the revision work, he said.

"The forms are all in Bengali, but most people here speak Hindi. Mistakes were bound to happen. Every evening, people would come to our house." (PTI)

GOVT. OF ASSAM OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS:: KARBI ANGLONG DISTRICT CIRCLE, D I P H U

No. E-1/Apptt./IS/2024/11212

Dated Diphu the 19/11/2025.

NOTICE

It is for information to all the candidates who have been selected in the Written Test Examination held on 12th October, 2025 at Diphu Govt. Girls' Higher Secondary School, Diphu for the post of Planning Assistant (Grade-II), for Viva-Voice Interview and Computer Test is scheduled to be held on 30th November, 2025 (Sunday) at Diphu Govt. Boys' Higher Secondary School, Diphu from 11.00 AM onwards.

Selected Roll no, are as follows:

01	02	03	04	05	07	08
11	12	13	14	15	18	

Therefore, you are informed to collect your calling letters for appearing the said Viva-Voice Interview and Computer Test for the post of Planning Assistant (Grade-II) from the Office of the Inspector of Schools, Karbi Anglong District Circle, Diphu w.e.f., 19th November, 2025 during office hours.

Sd/-

Inspector of Schools,
Karbi Anglong District Circle,
Diphu.

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST.

Under the provision of Rules 32(1) & (2) of Assam Mines and Minerals sealed tender are hereby invited for grant of Mining Permit/ Contract for collection of Sand/Stone as per Annexure 'A' the prescribed form is to be obtained from the undersigned and will be received up to 3:00 PM (IST) on or before 09/12/2025.

ANNEXURE-'A'

STATEMENT SHOWING THE LIST OF MAHAL OUTSIDE RESERVE FOREST UNDER KARBI ANGLONG EAST DIVISION, DIPHU.

Sl. No.	Name of Mahal	Quantity	Period	GPS Coordinate	Earnest Money	Govt. Value
1	Hollokhowa Sand Mahal Dhansiri River	6,000	2 Years	1. 26°17'06.44" N 93°52'20.50" E 2. 26°17'06.24" N 93°52'21.67" E 3. 26°15'57.88" N 93°52'25.84" E 5. 26°15'57.50" N 93°52'25.09" E	10% 84,000/-	8,40,000/-
2	Deopani River Sand Mahal Downstream	3,000	2 Years	1. 26°12'52.29" N 93°49'37.72" E 2. 26°12'51.50" N 93°49'38.37" E 3. 26°12'44.52" N 93°50'12.49" E 5. 26°12'44.73" N 93°50'11.61" E	10% 42,000/-	4,20,000/-

Sd/-

Divisional Forest Officer
Karbi Anglong East Division, Diphu.

KARBI ANGLONG AUTONOMOUS COUNCIL, OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER:: KARBI ANGLONG EAST DIVISION.

D I P H U

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tender / Quotation affixing Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council Challan amounting Rs. 10/- (Rupees Ten) only are invited from registered Govt. Contractors for the following works under "CAMP A 2025-26" and will be received by the office of the undersigned up to 3:00 P.M. on 21/11/2025 and will be opened on the same day. If the office remain closed due to any reason on that day the tender will be received and opened on the next day upto 3:00 P.M. (I.S.T.) The Tenderer or their authorized agents /representative may be present at the time of opening tender.

Sl. No.	Name of Schemes/Works.	Tender Amount	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time for completion
1	2	3	4	5
1	Full Chain-linked fencing (4'ht. with 10 Gauge, 3" dia link) with 3 stand barbed wire (one stand below the chain link and two stand above the chain link) to be fitted on Pre-cast RCC pillars of specific specification and size (2.1m x 0.125m x 0.125m) as per details specification attached at 2.5 m apart including transportation, fitting and fixing for 2500 RM @ Rs. 1661/- RM.	36,54,200/-	73,084/- Genl. 2% 36,542/- ST/SC 1%	90 days

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

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

TERMS AND CONDITION.

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

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

Sd/-

Divisional Forest Officer,
Karbi Anglong East Division, Diphu.

No. B/KAE/Tender/CAMP A/2025-26/6566-71

Dated: 13/11/2025

NOTICE

In pursuance to letter No.ABP49/2023/157 dated 17.11.2025 received from Personnel Department, it is for information to all concerned that a Medical Board has been constituted by the Principal-Chief Superintendent, Gauhati Medical College & Hospital, Guwahati vide No.GMC&H/01/2025/288 dated 11.11.2025, to conduct the medical examination of Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (PwBD) candidates provisionally selected by the State Level Recruitment Commission for Class III and Class IV posts.

The date of medical examination of PwBD candidates is fixed by GMC&H from 25th November to 28th November, 2025 at O&G Academic Hall, 1st Floor, GMC&H, Guwahati at 10.00 AM. List of candidates and schedule of dates is shown at Annexure.

All candidates belonging to the specific category are requested to attend O&G Academic Hall, 1st Floor, Gauhati Medical College & Hospital, Guwahati as per date and time with all valid documents. Candidates are requested to check their serial numbers in the specific grade list and attend the verification on the stipulated date and time without fail.

Sd/- Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Assam Medical Education & Research Department

Annexure - I

Date wise list of PwBD candidates to be present before the Medical Board from 25th November to 28th November, 2025 at O&G Academic Hall, 1st floor, Gauhati Medical College & Hospital, Guwahati

Table with 3 columns: Candidates Sl. Nos., Number of candidates to be present, Date. It lists candidates for Class - III Posts and Class - IV Posts.

State Level Recruitment Commission for Class-IV Post provisionally selected candidates list under PwBD category (ADRE 2.0)

Main table listing candidates with columns: Sl. No., Application No., Roll No., Name, Father's Name, Ph Type, Gender, District. It contains a long list of candidate details.

Main table listing candidates with columns: Sl. No., Application No., Roll No., Name, Father's Name, Ph Type, Gender, District. It contains a long list of candidate details.

Contd. from Page 9								Sl. No.	Application No.	Roll No.	Name	Father name	Ph Type Name	Gender	District	
State Level Recruitment commission for Class-III Post provisionally selected candidates list under PwBD category (ADRE 2.0)																
Sl. No.	Application No.	Roll No.	Name	Father name	Ph Type Name	Gender	District									
								58	2320868193	21008201	HARINAKSHI HAZARIKA	KANAK HAZARIKA	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Female	NAGAON	
1	2320440915	01000010	MRIDUL DAS	KANTESWAR DAS	(a) Blindness and low vision	Male	BAJALI	59	2320160394	23002011	LCHITAGARWAL	BAJRANG AGARWAL	(d) Autism, intellectual disability, specific learning disability and mental illness	Male	TINSUKIA	
2	2320945052	01007954	HARSHAJIT SARMA	SURESH CH SARMA	(a) Blindness and low vision	Male	BAJALI	60	2320290212	24002308	DEBOAT BAGLARY	PARFULLA BAGLARY	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Male	UDALGURI	
3	2320023797	03000002	ANIKHET BARUAH	ABHIJIT BARUAH	e) Multiple disabilities from amongst persons under clauses (a) to (d) including deaf-blindness or Any Other Cerebral Palsy and Mentally Impaired Hearing and Speech Impaired Locomotors Impaired Visually Impaired	Male	BISWANATH	61	2320532907	25000910	SUBRATAROY	SUJIT ROY	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Male	KARBI ANGLONG (WEST)	
4	2320146084	03003704	NIHA SAIKIA	DUL KUMAR SAIKIA	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Female	BISWANATH	62	2320628790	26000597	NIRMALYA PURKAYASTHA	NIBENDU PURKAYASTHA	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Male	KARIMGANJ	
5	2320021460	03003717	PRANAB BHATTA	MOHAN BHATTA	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Male	BISWANATH	63	2321088349	01003427	ARUP TALUKDAR	MAHENDRA TALUKDAR	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Male	BAJALI	
6	2320013978	11001506	ARINDOM BORAH	LT PULIN BORAH	(d) Autism, intellectual disability, specific learning disability and mental illness	Male	GOLAGHAT	64	2320032067	01005475	MANATTALUKDAR	DHANJIT TALUKDAR	(a) Blindness and low vision	Male	BAJALI	
7	2320227565	11016077	YUVRAJ CHETIA	JAYANTA CHETIA	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Male	GOLAGHAT	65	2320873475	01005620	NAGENDRA KUMAR SHARMA	GANESH SHARMA	(a) Blindness and low vision	Male	BONGAIGANJ	
8	2320629236	13006705	CHANDANA DAS	GAUTAM DAS	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Female	KAMRUP	66	2320822251	01005623	PARMESWAR GAYARY	PURANDAR GAYARY	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Male	BAKSA	
9	2321074384	14016453	CHAND RAJA MEHTAB HUSSAIN	BILAYET HUSSAIN	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Male	HOJAI	67	2320488226	01005626	PRANJIT TALUKDAR	PRADIP TALUKDAR	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Male	BAJALI	
10	2320979902	14018462	DEEP JYOTI DEKA	JOY DEKA	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Male	KAMRUP (M)	68	2320215539	01005628	RAKESH KAKATI	KANAK KAKATI	(a) Blindness and low vision	Male	BAJALI	
11	2320874602	14018129	DHURBAJYOTI KALITA	RABINDRA KALITA	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Female	BARPETA	69	2320576780	03002369	GOURAV DAHAL	NARAYAN DAHAL	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Male	BISWANATH	
12	2320781751	14025611	JAMINA KHATUN	BARJAK ALI	(a) Blindness and low vision	Female	NAGAON	70	2320550365	03002385	MANTU HAZARIKA	BUHESWAR HAZARIKA	e) Multiple disabilities from amongst persons under clauses (a) to (d) including deaf-blindness or Any Other Cerebral Palsy and Mentally Impaired Hearing and Speech Impaired Locomotors Impaired Visually Impaired	Male	BISWANATH	
13	2321070040	14028617	KANGKAN SARMA	GAUTAM SARMA	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Male	KAMRUP (M)	71	2320890837	04000004	BAHARUL ISLAM	ASIR UDDIN	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Male	GOALPARA	
14	2320930673	14069678	JESMIN BORUAH	JITEN BORUAH	(a) Blindness and low vision	Female	CHARAIDEO	72	2321003727	04000008	W MANIKAMAL SINGHA	W BIROLAL SINGHA	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Male	CACHAR	
15	2320705770	14073237	RUPRAJ KAMAL	ALI AHMED	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Male	KAMRUP (M)	73	2320466865	04001181	MAHIMODUL HASSAN BARBHUIYA	ABDUL KARIM BARBHUIYA	(a) Blindness and low vision	Male	HAILAKANDI	
16	2320450933	14078608	RUBINA DEVI	MOHENDRA NATH	(a) Blindness and low vision	Female	MORIGANJ	74	2320949410	04001192	AMIT DEB	PANKAJ DEB	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Male	CACHAR	
17	2321094859	17000011	BHARAT CHANDRA DUTTA	BHARAT CHANDRA DUTTA	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Male	LAKHIMPUR	75	2320404354	04001193	BIDYARATAN YADAV	MALIKA YADAV	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Male	CACHAR	
18	2320755503	17010463	ZAFAR SHARIF CHOUDHURY	SUHEL AHMED CHOUDHURY	(d) Autism, intellectual disability, specific learning disability and mental illness	Male	CACHAR	76	2320813960	04001950	HIMOCHA SINGHA	H LAKHI KANTA SINGHA	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Male	CACHAR	
19	2320345911	19005145	JANMANI DEKA	KANDARPA DEKA	e) Multiple disabilities from amongst persons under clauses (a) to (d) including deaf-blindness or Any Other Cerebral Palsy and Mentally Impaired Hearing and Speech Impaired Locomotors Impaired Visually Impaired	Female	NALBARI	77	2320169085	04002687	PUJA SENGUPTA	ASHISH SENGUPTA	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Female	CACHAR	
20	2320333044	19005866	JENIL ASHIQUE IKBAL	JOYNU ALI	(a) Blindness and low vision	Male	NALBARI	78	2320118134	04002702	SAIREENAKTAR CHOUDHURY	LATE NAIM UDDIN CHOUDHURY	e) Multiple disabilities from amongst persons under clauses (a) to (d) including deaf-blindness or Any Other Cerebral Palsy and Mentally Impaired Hearing and Speech Impaired Locomotors Impaired Visually Impaired	Female	CACHAR	
21	2320120292	20001126	BIJIT BORGHAIN	RANJIT BORGHAIN	(a) Blindness and low vision	Male	SVASAGAR	79	2320572403	04003568	SUPARNA DEY	PARITOSH DEY	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Female	DIMA HASAO	
22	2320419142	20003641	MANASH PRATIM BURAGOHAIN	INDRA BURAGOHAIN	(a) Blindness and low vision	Male	SVASAGAR	80	2321024238	07002744	ACHYUTA NANDA BAISHYA	KUSHESWAR BAISHYA	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Male	DARRANG	
23	2320414591	20004443	PARTHAJYOTI GOGOI	MUHI GOGOI	(d) Autism, intellectual disability, specific learning disability and mental illness	Male	SVASAGAR	81	2320580189	07004001	FUJAIL UDDIN AHMED	KHABIR UDDIN AHMED	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Male	DARRANG	
24	2321145318	21000021	ADITI BORGHAIN	TANUJ BORGHAIN	e) Multiple disabilities from amongst persons under clauses (a) to (d) including deaf-blindness or Any Other Cerebral Palsy and Mentally Impaired Hearing and Speech Impaired Locomotors Impaired Visually Impaired	Female	CHARAIDEO	82	2320840236	07006355	NITUPARNA DEKA	MOHAN DEKA	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Male	DARRANG	
25	2320109043	21005028	BHABABORA	ANANDA BORA	(a) Blindness and low vision	Male	NAGAON	83	2321034469	07006362	NILAKH-YAKSHOR DEKA	MRIDUL KUMAR DEKA	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Male	DARRANG	
26	2320867986	21007004	MOUSUMI SAIKIA	PUSPAKAT SAIKIA	(a) Blindness and low vision	Female	NAGAON	84	2320675946	08001408	DURGA RAI	PADAMRAI	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Male	DHEMAJI	
27	2321093855	21016058	MUJSHARUF AHMED	BASIR AHMED	(a) Blindness and low vision	Male	NAGAON	85	2320350244	08001404	SARBANANDRA SAIKIA	PRAKASH SAIKIA	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Male	DHEMAJI	
28	2320573866	22002694	RANJAN DEVNATH	BIJOY DEVNATH	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Male	TAMULPUR	86	2320820226	09000001	SURAJIT SARMAH	BABURAM SARMAH	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Male	JORHAT	
29	2320271524	24000030	BHARAT SARMA	KHEM PRASAD SARMA	e) Multiple disabilities from amongst persons under clauses (a) to (d) including deaf-blindness or Any Other Cerebral Palsy and Mentally Impaired Hearing and Speech Impaired Locomotors Impaired Visually Impaired	Male	UDALGURI	87	2321015028	09000834	DHARITRI PHUKAN	INDESWAR PHUKAN	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Female	DIBRUGARH	
30	2320953489	25000820	DIPANKAR DEY	PARIMAL CHANDRA DEY	e) Multiple disabilities from amongst persons under clauses (a) to (d) including deaf-blindness or Any Other Cerebral Palsy and Mentally Impaired Hearing and Speech Impaired Locomotors Impaired Visually Impaired	Male	HOJAI	88	2320319796	09000837	ANURAG DAS	PRADIP CHANDRA DAS	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Male	DIBRUGARH	
31	2320961055	26008382	RAJDEEP PAUL	NRIPESH RANJAN PAUL	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Male	KARIMGANJ	89	2320642315	09001541	MITALI DEKA	NIRANJAN DEKA	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Female	DIBRUGARH	
32	2320926472	27001845	LAKHESWAR ADHIKARY	BALENDRA ADHIKARY	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Male	BONGAIGANJ	90	2321032928	10000675	ANJONA SORONGPANG	RAMKANTO SORONGPANG	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Female	DIMA HASAO	
33	2320569906	01002037	ACHINTYA TALUKDAR	SIDDHESWAR TALUKDAR	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Male	NALBARI	91	2320367809	10000679	SONGHOLUN DOUNGEL	THONGHEN DOUNGEL	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Male	DIMA HASAO	
34	2321063690	04003570	SANTOSH SARA	SANKAR SAHA	(d) Autism, intellectual disability, specific learning disability and mental illness	Male	CACHAR	92	2320158066	11000001	BIBEK BORA	BHOGESWAR BORA	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Male	GOLAGHAT	
35	2320020742	08001004	AUMBOR PEGU	MONI PEGU	(d) Autism, intellectual disability, specific learning disability and mental illness	Male	DHEMAJI	93	2320840760	11000005	PRANTIM BORGHAIN	APURBA BORGHAIN	(a) Blindness and low vision	Male	GOLAGHAT	
36	2320340993	08001614	TIKENDRAJIT DOLEY	RAGHUNATH DOLEY	(d) Deaf and hard of hearing	Male	DHEMAJI	94	2320685667	11001304	DIPANKAR BORUAH	MR ACHYUT BORUAH	(a) Blindness and low vision	Male	GOLAGHAT	
37	2320249136	09000816	MOMI MUNDA	LATE DEBENDRA NATH MUNDA	(d) Autism, intellectual disability, specific learning disability and mental illness	Female	DIBRUGARH	95	2320360611	11002348	JASMIN BEGUM	SAMSUDDIN AHMED	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Female	GOLAGHAT	
38	2320227925	11001305	HEMANTA GOGOI	LOKNATH GOGOI	e) Multiple disabilities from amongst persons under clauses (a) to (d) including deaf-blindness or Any Other Cerebral Palsy and Mentally Impaired Hearing and Speech Impaired Locomotors Impaired Visually Impaired	Male	GOLAGHAT	96	2320418339	11002375	PABITRA BORUAH	PURNA KT BORUAH	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Male	GOLAGHAT	
39	2320915324	12000008	DEBOJITSAIKIA	SAUROV SAIKIA	e) Multiple disabilities from amongst persons under clauses (a) to (d) including deaf-blindness or Any Other Cerebral Palsy and Mentally Impaired Hearing and Speech Impaired Locomotors Impaired Visually Impaired	Male	SVASAGAR	97	2320505931	11002376	PANKAJ DAS	SAWARAM DAS	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Male	GOLAGHAT	
40	2320595343	12000907	DHURBAJYOTI DUTTA	FATIK CHANDRA DUTTA	(d) Autism, intellectual disability, specific learning disability and mental illness	Male	JORHAT	98	2320909032	11002819	SUKANYANARAH	BINOD NARAH	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Female	GOLAGHAT	
41	2320558057	12001901	SOURABH JYOTI BARUAH	ANJAN BARUAH	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Male	JORHAT	99	2320463228	12000142	DIBYAJYOTI HAZARIKA	MOHENDRA HAZARIKA	(a) Blindness and low vision	Male	JORHAT	
42	2320311557	13008696	GOKUL DEKA	PRADIP DEKA	(d) Autism, intellectual disability, specific learning disability and mental illness	Male	BARPETA	100	2320560536	12000890	CHANDAN JYOTI BORAH	JATIN BORAH	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Male	JORHAT	
43	2320362162	13010453	SAYEDUR RAHMAN	MAKIBAR RAHMAN	(d) Autism, intellectual disability, specific learning disability and mental illness	Male	KAMRUP	101	2320004561	12001895	SANSHITA KARMAKAR	SANJAY KARMAKAR	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Female	JORHAT	
44	2320578255	13011153	SUMAL DAS	SUBAL CHANDRA DAS	(d) Autism, intellectual disability, specific learning disability and mental illness	Male	KAMRUP	102	2320987779	12001900	SANJAY HAZARIKA	AJIT CH HAZARIKA	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Male	JORHAT	
45	2320007389	14002701	ABHIJEET SONOWAL	RAJANI KUMAR SONOWAL	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Male	KAMRUP (M)	103	2321124285	13003792	ADITI NATH	NKIPENDRAKR NATH	e) Multiple disabilities from amongst persons under clauses (a) to (d) including deaf-blindness or Any Other Cerebral Palsy and Mentally Impaired Hearing and Speech Impaired Locomotors Impaired Visually Impaired	Female	KAMRUP	
46	2320203575	14011898	BHIKAR JYOTI DEKA	BHARAT CH DEKA	(d) Autism, intellectual disability, specific learning disability and mental illness	Male	KAMRUP (M)	104	2320692765	13003800	ANANDA DEKA	TARUN DEKA	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Male	KAMRUP	
47	2320398620	14018636	ISWAR PRASAD DEURI	JITENDRA NATH DEURI	(d) Autism, intellectual disability, specific learning disability and mental illness	Male	KAMRUP (M)	105	2320408192	13005475	BANANI BHARALI	LATE UPENDRA NATH BHARALI	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Female	KAMRUP	
48	2320544194	14021662	MANJIT KALITA	JAYRAM KALITA	e) Multiple disabilities from amongst persons under clauses (a) to (d) including deaf-blindness or Any Other Cerebral Palsy and Mentally Impaired Hearing and Speech Impaired Locomotors Impaired Visually Impaired	Male	KAMRUP (M)	106	2320026140	13005499	BISWAJIT RABHA	NIRMAL CH RABHA	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Male	GOALPARA	
49	2320739843	14026731	NITU MONI NATH	MILAN NATH	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Male	MORIGANJ	107	2320879251	13006698	DEVID MEDHI	PRADIP KUMAR MEDHI	(a) Blindness and low vision	Male	KAMRUP	
50	2320879055	14028705	SANARJYOTI THAKURIA	DWIJEN KUMAR THAKURIA	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Male	KAMRUP (M)	108	2320347815	13007487	HIRAK JYOTI LAHKAR	ADITYA LAHKAR	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Male	BARPETA	
51	2320499010	14029858	SUNNY PURKAYASTHA	SUJIT PURKAYASTHA	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Male	KARIMGANJ	109	2320625732	13010450	SAYEDAFRIDI	ABDUL MALEQUE	(a) Blindness and low vision	Male	MORIGANJ	
52	2320335489	14029874	TANZIMARIYAN	ABDUL AZIZ	(d) Autism, intellectual disability, specific learning disability and mental illness	Male	BONGAIGANJ	110	2320052150	14000019	DHANJYOTI KALITA	RAGHU NATH KALITA	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Male	KAMRUP	
53	2320645657	17000391	BHAIRAVI SAIKIA	SUBHAS CH SAIKIA	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Female	LAKHIMPUR	111	2320579574	14000750	BISWAJIT PODDAR	LATE CHITTARANJAN PODDAR	(a) Blindness and low vision	Male	HOJAI	
54	2320534238	17001014	TARUN KULI	BIMAN KULI	e) Multiple disabilities from amongst persons under clauses (a) to (d) including deaf-blindness or Any Other Cerebral Palsy and Mentally Impaired Hearing and Speech Impaired Locomotors Impaired Visually Impaired	Male	LAKHIMPUR	112	2321041473	14000759	KULDEEP NATH	MILESWAR NATH	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Male	NAGAON	
55	2320913113	19003587	IMRUL HAQUE	TAZIZUL HAQUE	(d) Autism, intellectual disability, specific learning disability and mental illness	Male	NALBARI	113	2320480826	14001472	SAGAR RAUT	DILIP KUMAR				

Hardik, Bumrah likely to skip SA ODIs

GUWAHATI, Nov 19: With next year's T20 World Cup taking precedence, all-rounder Hardik Pandya, currently recuperating from a quadriceps injury, is unlikely to feature in the upcoming ODI series against South Africa starting November 30, and is expected to focus solely on the shortest format for now.

In keeping with workload management for frontline pacers, spearhead Jasprit Bumrah is also likely to be rested from the three-match ODI series, which carries little significance in the build-up to the T20 showpiece.

Hardik sustained quadriceps injury during the Asia Cup T20 in Dubai last September and incidentally missed the final against Pakistan.

"Hardik is recovering well from his quadriceps injury at the moment. He is at the Centre of Excellence doing his RTP (Return To Play) routines. As of now, returning from quadriceps injury, he needs to build up his workload and straightaway playing 50 overs will be risky. Till the T20 World Cup, the BCCI medical team and Hardik would focus on T20is," a BCCI source told PTI on conditions of anonymity. (PTI)

South Africa A humble India A by 73 runs to avoid series whitewash

RAJKOT, Nov 19: Teen batting sensation Lhuan-dre Pretorius stole the show with a scintillating hundred as South Africa A came up with an all-round performance to earn a consolatory 73-run win over India A in the third unofficial ODI here on Wednesday.

The big victory helped the visitors avoid a series whitewash after India won the first two matches.

Besides Pretorius (123 off 98 balls), his opening partner Rivaldo Moonsamy also struck a fine century (107 off 130 balls) while sharing 241 runs to help South Africa post a formidable 325 for six in the allotted 50 overs.

In reply, India A were all out for 252 in 49.1 overs.

India A never got a partnership going and barring Ayush Badoni's run-a-ball 66 and Ishan Kishan's 67-ball 53, none of the home team batters could make a mark in the stiff chase of 326.

The duo of Badoni and Kishan joined forces with India A in a spot of bother at 82 for four in 17 overs. But after having added 88 runs, Kishan, seeking to make a



case for a return to India's white-ball teams, was sent back by Nqabayomzi Peter (4/48), who also dismissed Badoni to signal the end of India A's resistance.

India A lost three wickets in quick succession with Badoni and Rana falling to Peter on consecutive deliveries.

Earlier, 19-year-old Pretorius

and Moonsamy powered the visitors after India A captain Tilak Varma asked them to bat.

The South African team lost five wickets quickly after the openers' dismissals but Delano Potgieter and Dean Forrester played useful cameos to help the Proteas go past 320.

For India, Harshit Rana, Prasidh

Bhut stars with seven wickets Saurashtra beat Goa by innings and 47 runs



RAJKOT, Nov 19: Left-arm spinner Parth Bhut wreaked havoc to grab a match haul of 9 for 127, including seven wickets in the second essay, to help Saurashtra beat Goa by an innings and 47 runs in a Ranji Trophy Group C match here on Wednesday.

Bhut, who had figures of 2/71 in the first innings, claimed seven for 56 in the second essay to single-handedly bowl out Goa for 180 in 54.5 overs following on.

Resuming their second innings at 77 for 2, Bhut ran through Goa's middle and lower order, and he was ably supported by skipper Jaydev Unadkat (2/29) and Dharmendrasinh Jadeja (1/34).

Arjun Tendulkar (13) was Bhut's final wicket, out LBW.

Opener Manthan Khutkar (36), first innings centurion Abhinav Tejrana (34) and captain Snehal Kauthankar (25) got starts for Goa before fizzling out.

Earlier, Goa rode on Tejrana's 118 to score 358 all out in reply to Saurashtra's mammoth first innings score of 587 for 7 declared.

The win gave Saurashtra seven points.

MP tail deny Kerala win

A sturdy batting effort from Madhya Pradesh lower order denied Kerala an outright win, with the match ending in a stale draw in Indore.

Resuming at 218 for 3, Sachin Baby (122 off 217 balls; 9x4s, 2x6s) and Baba Aparajith (105 retired hurt off 149 balls; 11x4s, 3x6s)

scored fine centuries as Kerala declared their second innings on 314 for 5, setting a target of 404 runs for MP.

In reply, Kerala reduced the hosts to 126 for 8 and were in contention for an outright win.

But the duo of Aryan Pandey (23 not out off 85 balls) and Kumar Kartikeya (16 not out off 54) produced stubborn resistance to earn a hard-fought draw for MP.

The duo negotiated more than 20 overs in their unbeaten ninth wicket stand as MP finished on 167 for 8, denying Kerala victory.

Saransh Jain top-scored for MP with 31 off 59 balls. Left-arm spinner Sreehari Nair (4/51) was the pick of the bowlers for Kerala.

Kerala took home three points from the contest, while MP had to be content with one point.

Brief Scores:

At Rajkot: Saurashtra 587/7 declared beat Goa 358 all out in 106.2 overs and 180 all out in 54.5 overs (Manthan Khutkar 36, Abhinav Tejrana 34; Parth Bhut 2/71) by an innings and 47 runs.

Saurashtra 7 points; Goa 0.

At Indore: Kerala 281 all out and 314/5 in 62 overs (Sachin Baby 122, Baba Aparajith 105; Saransh Jain 3/61) vs Madhya Pradesh 192 all out and 167 for 8 in 69 overs (Saransh Jain 31, Aryan Pandey 23 not out, Kumar Kartikeya 16 not out; Sreehari Nair 4/51). Match drawn.

Kerala 3 points; Madhya Pradesh 1 point. (PTI)

Shardul Thakur says white-ball matches in between red-ball fixtures keep players mentally fresh

MUMBAI, Nov 19: India all-rounder and Mumbai captain Shardul Thakur on Wednesday said that playing a few white-ball matches between red-ball fixtures during the domestic season helps players stay mentally fresh.

Thakur also gave a thumbs up to the current scheduling of the Ranji Trophy, which is being held in two phases for the second consecutive season. He had earlier criticised the packed itinerary of the premier domestic competition, which offered only three-day gaps between matches.

"There would always be mixed views on it, but personally I am okay with it... to play ten games in a row is tough on the body," Thakur told the media after Mumbai crushed Pondicherry by an innings and 122 runs here at the Wankhede Stadium on Wednesday.

"We have also seen how the schedule is in the UK when the ECB plays. They have seven or eight first-class games in a row and then again they keep playing after break. They put some white-ball games in between, so that every-

one mentally fresh."

"Otherwise, you are just playing one format for three months and then suddenly, white-ball cricket and then red-ball cricket is lost. So, it's good that we are playing five games and we have a bit of a break. Then we play white-ball tournament, and then again move to red-ball cricket. So that way everyone stays in touch. They stay on top of both the games mentally..."

Thakur noted the break is welcoming especially for those players who are featuring in First-Class cricket regularly.

"Players who are playing First-Class cricket throughout the year, they would have had 14 First-Class games potentially with India A games, the Irani Trophy, the Duleep Trophy or even more. So a bit of break in between, switching in the formats is always good," he said.

Thakur reiterated that age cannot be a criteria for selection after Siddhesh Lad (33) and Akhil Herwadkar (31) scripted the win for Mumbai here. "There is no rule anywhere that only young-

sters can play cricket and once you are over 30, you can't play. There is nothing like that. If you are fit, if you are running, then you should definitely feature in the Playing XI," said Thakur, after leading Mumbai to a second consecutive victory by an innings in the Ranji Trophy.

"This sport is as much about fitness as it is about skills. At the end of the day, what matters is wickets and runs."

Thakur cited Shreyas Iyer's example, saying those youngsters who perform should be given adequate backing.

"It feels good to hear that we (Mumbai) have backed youngsters. But when do you back youngsters? When youngsters come here and make 100, 50, 150 and big runs," Thakur said.

"If you remember, when Shreyas Iyer came to the Mumbai team in 2013 or 2014, he failed in the first two matches. But then, he made 70, and a 150. So he never looked back. He kept making runs. And even today, whenever he comes, plays Ranji Trophy for Mumbai, he performs like a champion," he added. (PTI)

Iraq scores late winner against UAE

BASRA (IRAQ), Nov 19: Iraq kept its 2026 World Cup hopes alive by beating the United Arab Emirates 3-2 on aggregate after a dramatic stoppage-time penalty in Asian qualifying. Amir Al-Ammari's penalty in the 17th minute of added time sealed the 2-1 victory Tuesday night to send Iraq to the intercontinental playoff round in March. The teams had drawn 1-1 in the first leg in Abu Dhabi.

In March, Iraq will be one of six teams from five confederations competing for two spots at next summer's World Cup. With the loss, the UAE was eliminated from qualifying. Caio Lucas put the UAE ahead seven minutes after halftime.

Mohamad Ali equalized midway through the second half, heading in from a free kick before Iraq pressed for a winner. The breakthrough came deep into stoppage time after a handball in the area. (AP)

Contd. from Page 10

Sl. No.	Application No.	Roll No.	Name	Father name	Ph Type Name	Gender	District
124	23200800299	14017123	IKRAMUL HUSSAIN	TABIBAR RAHMAN	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Male	DARRANG
125	2320580729	14018627	INDRANI BARMAN	DWIJEN BARMAN	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Female	KAMRUP (M)
126	2320099112	14020142	KOUSHIK MALAKAR	UMESH CHANDRA MALAKAR	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Male	KAMRUP
127	2320984761	14020151	KUNALDIP DAS	GAURANGA KUMAR DAS	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Male	KAMRUP (M)
128	2320580314	14021637	MAUMITA DUTTA	SHYAMAL DUTTA	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Female	HQJAI
129	2320210436	14021642	MAMREZALI	HAJARATALI	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Male	NALBARI
130	2320639272	14021650	MAYOR POKHY HAZARIKA	PROBIN CHANDRA HAZARIKA	(a) Blindness and low vision	Female	GOLAGHAT
131	2320429698	14024655	MUKIB AHMED BARBHUIYA	RERAN UDDIN BARBHUIYA	(a) Blindness and low vision	Male	CACHAR
132	2320650005	14026148	NIKUMONI DEVI	LT GUBIN NATH	e) Multiple disabilities from amongst persons under clauses (a) to (d) including deaf-blindness or Any Other Cerebral Palsy and Mentally Impaired Hearing and Speech Impaired Locomotors Impaired Visually Impaired	Female	MORIGAOON
133	2320814898	14026150	MUSTAFAZAMAN	MD ADAMALI	(a) Blindness and low vision	Male	BARPETA
134	2320707694	14027247	POONAM JYOTI KALITA	NIRMAL KALITA	(a) Blindness and low vision	Female	NAGAON
135	2320022485	14027250	PLAVITA SHARMA	ATUL CHANDRASHARMA	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Female	KAMRUP (M)
136	2320526175	14027745	RAVI GIRI	CHANDESWAR GIRI	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Male	KAMRUP (M)
137	2320043027	14027750	PURNIMA KEOT	LATE PROBIN CH KEOT	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Female	KAMRUP (M)
138	2320117472	14028243	RITUPABAN BORA	LATE BIMAL CH BORA	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Male	MORIGAOON
139	2320839095	14028260	RITURAJ BARUAH	RAMANI BARUAH	(a) Blindness and low vision	Male	KAMRUP (M)
140	2320104892	14028714	SAMIR ISLAM	LATE NAZRUL ISLAM	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Male	KAMRUP (M)
141	2320944771	14029112	SEKHAR JYOTI GOSWAMI	LATE MAHESH GOSWAMI	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Male	KAMRUP (M)
142	2320828016	14029115	SANJOY SINGHA	RAJKUMAR SINGHA	(a) Blindness and low vision	Male	HQJAI
143	2320013524	14029116	SAZIDUR RAHMAN CHOUDHURY	AZIZUR RAHMAN CHOUDHURY	(d) Autism, intellectual disability, specific learning disability and mental illness	Male	HQJAI
144	2320510060	14029413	SPANDAN SARA	NITYA GOPAL SAHA	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Male	DHUBRI
145	2321055321	14029426	SUMAN DUTTA	TULSHI DUTTA	(a) Blindness and low vision	Male	DHEMAJI
146	2320303012	14029856	TANIABANIK	DILIP BANIK	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Female	KAMRUP (M)
147	2320748978	14029865	SWADIKA AHMED	SAHABUDDIN AHMED	(d) Autism, intellectual disability, specific learning disability and mental illness	Female	SNASAGAR
148	2320041893	14029867	SUSMITA DEKA	LATE BHABANI DEKA	(a) Blindness and low vision	Female	KAMRUP (M)
149	2321084845	14029872	TABIUR RAHMAN	FAZLUR RAHMAN	(a) Blindness and low vision	Male	MORIGAOON
150	2320944847	15000009	MUJAHEDUL ISLAM	ABDUL MANNAN	(a) Blindness and low vision	Male	NAGAON
151	2320527365	15000201	AJAY SINGH	LATE ASHOK SINGH	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Male	KARBI
152	2320978637	15001252	MAMONI SARKAR	GAURANGA SARKAR	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Female	KARBI
153	2320680010	16000020	KHAIRUL ISLAM	ABDUS SALAM	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Male	GOALPARA
154	2320664214	16002202	GIYASH UDDIN AHMED	MOKSEDAJI	(a) Blindness and low vision	Male	DHUBRI
155	2320286012	16002213	SHIMANTARAY	TILAK RAY	(a) Blindness and low vision	Male	DHUBRI
156	2320388484	16002214	SUJIT KUMAR SAHA	SURIYA KANTA SAHA	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Male	DHUBRI
157	2320811777	16006391	ASRAF UDDIN AHMED	OOAZUDDIN SHEIKH	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Male	GOALPARA
158	2320869308	16006860	FAIZUL HOQUE	JABEDALI	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Male	DHUBRI
159	2320110543	17001000	RANJAN BARMAN	BIPIN BARMAN	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Male	LAKHIMPUR
160	2320859790	18000003	NIDARSHAN NATH	MANIK NATH	(a) Blindness and low vision	Male	MAJULI
161	2320084922	19001784	BHUPAL KRISHNASARMA	MANIK SARMA	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Male	NALBARI
162	2320410230	19002781	BIMAL KALITA	AMRIT KALITA	(a) Blindness and low vision	Male	KAMRUP
163	2320949233	19002782	BISWALIT SARKAR	SUKEN SARKAR	(a) Blindness and low vision	Male	BAKSA
164	2320862404	19003585	HEFJUL MUJAHID	HABIBAR RAHMAN	(a) Blindness and low vision	Male	NALBARI
165	2320655057	19005149	SYED BIPUL AHMED	ABDUL RACHID	(a) Blindness and low vision	Male	KAMRUP
166	2320791298	19005154	SYED BUBULUR RAHMAN	LT IDRISAR RAHMAN	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Male	NALBARI
167	2320000223	20001982	BIKRAM BORUAH	KAMAL BORUAH	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Male	SNASAGAR
168	2320986816	20001994	HIMADREE BORUAH	GUNA BORUAH	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Female	SNASAGAR
169	2320304877	20001995	HIMANI BAJAJ	RAJESH BAJAJ	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Female	SNASAGAR
170	2320743823	20002793	PLABITA DUTTA	MOHINDUTTA	(a) Blindness and low vision	Female	CHARAIDEO
171	2321116295	20002799	PRYANKUR KHANIKAR	KANAK KHANIKAR	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Male	SNASAGAR
172	2320494344	20003037	SUPROBHATI CHETIA	JITEN CHETIA	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Female	SNASAGAR
173	2320789173	21000015	CHIPHATUL MUJAZIDIN	HASSEN ALI	(a) Blindness and low vision	Male	NAGAON
174	2320671635	21000019	KANDARPA SARMA	SARAT SARMA	(a) Blindness and low vision	Male	NAGAON
175	2320310683	21001194	SABITA SAHU	DIGANTA KUMAR SAHU	(d) Autism, intellectual disability, specific learning disability and mental illness	Female	BISWANATH
176	2320542803	21005206	AMLAN SAIKIA	PINAK PANI SAIKIA	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Male	SONITPUR
177	2320026191	21005220	ARNAB NATH	PRAFULLA NATH	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Male	SONITPUR
178	2320008734	21006214	BISHAL HAZARIKA	BOTU KR HAZARIKA	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Male	SONITPUR
179	2320313190	21008220	JHARNA THAPA	GANESH BAHADUR THAPA	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Female	SONITPUR
180	232118431	21009411	KUWALI BORAH	UMESH BORAH	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Female	NAGAON
181	2320459971	21009412	LJJA KALITA	HIRANYA KALITA	(a) Blindness and low vision	Female	NAGAON
182	2320517237	21010134	MAST NIROJ KUMAR ACHARJEE	NAYAN JUGAL ACHARJEE	(a) Blindness and low vision	Male	SONITPUR
183	2320218873	21010725	MRIGANKI SARMA	APURBA KR SARMA	(a) Blindness and low vision	Female	NAGAON
184	2320273555	21010731	NARAYAN MAHANTA	ANANDA MAHANTA	(a) Blindness and low vision	Male	NAGAON
185	2320832051	21010732	MRIGANKA DAS	PRADIP KUMAR DAS	(a) Blindness and low vision	Male	SONITPUR
186	2320879296	21011227	PURNIMA DEBNATH	BIJAY DEBNATH	(a) Blindness and low vision	Female	HQJAI
187	2320811365	21011624	SABIKUN NAHAR	NURUL AMIN	(a) Blindness and low vision	Female	NAGAON
188	2320785381	21011631	SANGITA BORA	BABUL BORA	(a) Blindness and low vision	Female	NAGAON
189	2320525982	21011639	SARQUT SAIKIA	MANORANJAN SAIKIA	(a) Blindness and low vision	Male	NAGAON
190	2320876755	21011926	SUMI BORAH	GUBIN BORAH	(a) Blindness and low vision	Female	NAGAON
191	2320395884	22007094	PANKHI DEKA	DHARANI DEKA	(b) Deaf and hard of hearing	Female	TAMULPUR
192	2320584440	23002012	SAYANTAN BOSE	GAUTAM KUMAR BOSE	(a) Blindness and low vision	Male	TINSUKIA
193	2320625526	25000585	AMAR CHAUHAN	RAMDARAS CHAUHAN	(c) Locomotors disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy	Male	KARBI ANGLONG (WEST)
194	2320314042	28000002	KAMIL AHMED	AKLASUR RAHMAN	(c) Locomotors disability		

BRIEF REIGN AT TOP ENDS

Rohit drops down to 2nd among ODI batters

DUBAI, Nov 19: Indian star Rohit Sharma dropped down to second place after a brief reign at the top with New Zealander Daryl Mitchell dislodging him in the ICC ODI batters' rankings issued on Wednesday.

Mitchell became the second New Zealander to hold the No.1 spot for ODI batters on the back of an excellent century against the West Indies.

He scored his seventh ODI century during the opening game in the series against the Caribbean side, and that proved enough for the in-form right-hander to overtake Rohit at the top and claim the premier position for the first time in his career.

Mitchell currently has 782 rating points, one more than Rohit, whose reign at the top spot lasted around three weeks.

It means Mitchell is now just the second player from New Zealand to hold the top ranking for ODI batters, joining Kiwi great Glenn Turner who previously held the spot back in 1979.

Fellow New Zealanders Martin Crowe, Andrew Jones, Roger Twose, Nathan Astle, Kane Williamson, Martin Guptill, and Ross Taylor all spent time inside the top five of the ODI batter rankings during their illustrious careers, but only Turner and now Mitchell have ever held the No.1 spot.

Ibrahim Zadran of Afghanistan also dropped down one place to third while Shubman Gill (4th), Virat Kohli (5th) and Shreyas Iyer (8th) are in top-10.



There were also big gains for a host of Pakistan players following their ODI series against Sri Lanka, with Mohammad Rizwan (up five places to equal 22nd) and Fakhar Zaman (up five rungs to equal 26th) making

eye-catching improvements on the list for ODI batters.

Pakistan registered an impressive 3-0 series sweep during the three-match rubber against their Asian rival, with spinner Abrar

Ahmed (up 11 places to ninth) and pacer Haris Rauf (up five spots to 23rd) being the big winners on the latest rankings for ODI bowlers that are still led by Afghanistan tweeker Rashid Khan.

Meanwhile, the completion of the opening Test between India and South Africa in Kolkata saw a host of players from both the sides climb the latest Test rankings for batters, with Proteas skipper Temba Bavuma moving to the top five for the first time in his career following his excellent hand of 55 not out in the second innings of the match.

India counterpart Shubman Gill rose two spots to 11th despite picking up an injury during the same match, while Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto moved up four places to equal 34th following his century in the first Test against Ireland in Sylhet.

India pacer Jasprit Bumrah held on to his spot as the No.1 Test bowler after six wickets during the first Test at Eden Gardens, with teammates Kuldeep Yadav (up two spots to a career-best 13th) and Ravindra Jadeja (up four places to 15th) among the players to make some inroads.

South Africa duo Marco Jansen (up one spot to 11th) and Simon Harmer (up 20 places to 24th) also rose in the list for Test bowlers following decent hauls against India.

Jansen also gained one place to move to fifth on the latest rankings for Test all-rounders. (PTI)

Mumbai, J&K complete formalities to notch easy wins



MUMBAI, Nov 19: Mumbai needed just over half an hour to complete the formalities as they beat minnows Puducherry by an innings and 222 runs on the final day to top Group D in Ranji Trophy here on Wednesday.

Following on after conceding a mammoth 498-run first innings lead to their formidable opponents, Puducherry added just 45 runs in 8.3 overs for the loss of four wickets on the fourth morning to be all out for 276.

Puducherry were staring at a defeat after beginning the day on 231 for 6. Tushar Deshpande scalped two wickets while captain Shardul Thakur and Ayush Mhatre got one each as Mumbai got the job done in quick time.

Both Deshpande and Thakur ended the match with five wickets apiece while Siddhesh Lad and Akash Anand scored centuries in Mumbai's huge first innings total of 630 for 5 declared.

Mumbai collected seven points from their third win while Puducherry got none.

Mumbai topped Group D with 24 points ahead of Jammu and Kashmir (20 points) after playing five matches each.

J&K hammer Hyderabad
In Jammu, Abid Mushtaq spun J&K to an incredible win as Hyderabad were bowled out for 190 while chasing 472. It was Jammu & Kashmir's third win.

The wrecker-in-chief was the left-arm spinner Abid Mushtaq, who finished with figures of 7 for 68. It was his ninth five-wicket haul in first-class cricket.

This match also ended in quick time on the fourth morning with Hyderabad losing their remaining three second innings wickets in 5.2 overs while adding just 21 runs. They had resumed the day at 169 for 7.

Mushtaq picked all the three wickets to add to his earlier four in the Hyderabad second innings.

Jammu & Kashmir collected six points from the win while Hyderabad got none.

Rajasthan take points for first-innings lead
At Rajsamand, hosts Rajasthan tried their best to eke out a result on the final day but a determined batting effort from Delhi forced their Group D clash into a draw.

Delhi reached 316 for seven in their second innings following on, having extended their lead to 42 runs overall after making 296 in the first innings.

Rajasthan had piled up a massive 570 for seven declared and with Delhi falling well short of the follow-on mark, the hosts also took away three points for taking a lead of 274 runs in the first innings.

For Delhi, skipper Yash Dhull waged a strong fight as he made a strokeful 189 from 242 balls with 27 fours and two sixes, aided well by Ayush Doseja (64 from 108 balls, 7x4s, 1x6s).

Chhattisgarh play out a draw against Himachal
Chhattisgarh were 15 for no loss in their second innings against Himachal Pradesh when the two teams decided to call off their contest at the Amtar Cricket Ground in Nadaun.

With a total of 16 wickets falling across four days, Chhattisgarh, who made 585/6 declared in reply to HP's 425, walked away with three points for taking a lead of 160 runs in the first innings.

Brief Scores:
In Mumbai: 630/5 decl in 147 overs beat Puducherry 132 and 276 all out in 53.3 overs (Aman Khan 86; Shardul Thakur 2/24, Tushar Deshpande 3/32).

In Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir 170 & 422 all out in 100.5 overs beat Hyderabad 121 and 190 all out in 57.5 overs (Tanmay Agarwal 47; Abid Mushtaq 7/68).

In Rajsamand: Rajasthan 570/7d drew with Delhi 296 and 316/7 in 87 overs (Yash Dhull 189, Ayush Doseja 64; Ajay Kukna 3/92).

In Nadaun: Chhattisgarh 585/6d and 15/0 drew with Himachal Pradesh 425. (PTI)

Curacao makes history as smallest nation by population to qualify for World Cup

KINGSTON (JAMAICA), Nov 19: Curacao salvaged a 0-0 draw with Jamaica to become the smallest nation by population to qualify for a World Cup and will be joined by CONCACAF sides Panama and Haiti which also booked their spots.

Curacao finished as the only undefeated nation in the tournament and finished atop of Group B with 12 points to advance to the World Cup for the first time in its history on Tuesday. Curacao got the historic result it needed despite not having his coach Dick Advocaat on the bench. The 78-year-old Advocaat missed the crucial match because he had to return to the Netherlands last weekend for family reasons.

Advocaat was at the helm of the Netherlands national team for three stints and managed South Korea, Belgium and Russia before taking the job with Curacao.

According to the Central Bureau of Statistics in Curacao, the country has a population of 156,115 persons as of last January. Iceland, with a population of just over 350,000, was the smallest country to reach the World Cup when it qualified for the tournament in Russia in 2018. (AP)

Gill not exactly fit but desperate to play

GUWAHATI, Nov 19: Shubman Gill has travelled to Guwahati with the rest of the India squad for the second Test against South Africa, but the neck injury that is on the mend is unlikely to fully heal before the game begins here on Saturday.

However, it is understood that the skipper will try his best to prove his fitness during training sessions on Thursday and Friday. The squad has landed in the city.

If sources in the Indian team are to be believed, the 26-year-old Gill is far from being 100 per cent fit, with the pain in the nape of his neck still lingering although its intensity has reduced considerably.

"Shubman has been responding well to the medical treatment provided and will travel to Guwahati with the team on 19th November, 2025," read a statement from BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia.

"He will continue to be monitored by the BCCI medical team and a decision on his participation in the 2nd Test will be taken accordingly," he added, continuing the suspense on the batting star's availability.

While he might be clinically fit, the rigours of five-day cricket



could aggravate the issue and result in a longer lay-off.

With the series on line and off-spinner Simon Harmer posing a significant threat after the Kolkata Test, a competent right-hander who can take on spin is a necessity.

The current coaching staff and selection committee don't have a lot of faith in the likes of Sarfaraz Khan, Karun Nair or Abhimanyu Easwaran, even though all three handle spin well.

Their simple logic is: even though both Sai Sudharsan and Devdutt Padikkal are left-handers,

bringing in someone from outside would signal a massive lack of trust in the youngsters' ability to handle pressure.

However, Sudharsan has looked far from convincing, and there is a school of thought that Dhruv Jurel, with his tighter technique, might be a better fit at No. 3.

In this backdrop, Gill, known to train even on optional days, might just want to be fit enough to bat, as even a half-fit skipper is seen as more effective than Sudharsan, Easwaran or Sarfaraz.

Also, as a new captain still earning his stripes in the dressing

room, missing a Test at this nascent stage of his leadership is the last thing he would want.

A tricky call

There is another aspect to the story. Gill probably needs at least 10 days to fully recover and then complete his rehabilitation to be match-ready. But if he plays the Test match, the logical step for selectors would be to rest him from the ODI series starting November 30 in Ranchi.

With little at stake in the series, he could easily take a break and return for the T20s against South Africa.

But with his ODI deputy Shreyas Iyer far from fit after his on-field injury, the last thing Gill wants is a third captaincy contender in KL Rahul or Axar Patel, even if it means only in a stop-gap role.

One thing is certain, Gill can't realistically play the second Test, three ODIs and five T20Is in the next four weeks, along with all the air miles involved.

It could easily boomerang, and looking at the bigger picture, the emerging leader would need a break for his own and the team's greater good. (PTI)

Deaflympics: Abhinav, Pranjali win air pistol mixed team gold

TOKYO, Nov 19: Abhinav Deshwal and Pranjali Prashant Dhumal clinched the gold medal in the 10m Air Pistol event, while Kushagra Singh Rajawat won bronze in the 50m Rifle Prone competition as Indian shooters continued their fine run at the 25th Deaflympics here on Wednesday. The Indian shooters have won a total of 11 medals so far in the competition.

Abhinav and Pranjali notched up a dominating 16-6 win over Ya-Ju Kao and Ming-Jui Hsu of Chinese Taipei to finish on top.

In the second event of the day, Kushagra won the bronze with a final score of 224.3. Ukraine's Dmytro Petrenko won the gold by shooting 251.0, breaking the Deaf World and Olympic Records. Colin Mueller of Germany won the silver medal with a score of 245.4.

Abhinav and Pranjali maintained their commanding position from the start of the gold medal match and never gave their opponents any chance for a comeback.

The pair had earlier equalled their own Deaf World and

Olympic record in qualification.

They shot a combined score of 569-20x with Abhinav firing 287-12x (97.95,95) and Pranjali 282-8x (95.94,93) to finish on top in qualification. Both shooters had also won silver medals in the individual event on Monday.

The second Indian pair consisting of women's individual champion Anuya Prasad and Rudar Vinod Kumar could only manage a seventh-place finish in qualification with a combined score of 553-10x. (PTI)

Iraq scores late winner against UAE to keep its World Cup hopes alive

BASRA (IRAQ), Nov 19: Iraq kept its 2026 World Cup hopes alive by beating the United Arab Emirates 3-2 on aggregate after a dramatic stoppage-time penalty in Asian qualifying. Amir Al-Ammari's penalty in the 17th minute of added time sealed the 2-1 victory Tuesday night to send Iraq to the intercontinental playoff round in March. The teams had drawn 1-1 in the first leg in Abu Dhabi.

In March, Iraq will be one of six

teams from five confederations competing for two spots at next summer's World Cup.

With the loss, the UAE was eliminated from qualifying.

Caio Lucas put the UAE ahead seven minutes after half-time.

Mohamad Ali equalized midway through the second half, heading in from a free kick before Iraq pressed for a winner. The breakthrough came deep into stoppage time after a handball in the area. (AP)

Freeman scores twice as US routs Uruguay 5-1

TAMPA (USA), Nov 19: Alex Freeman scored twice and Sebastian Berhalter and Diego Luna had one goal each as the United States overwhelmed Uruguay with a four-goal first half in a 5-1 win to head into a World Cup year with a five-game unbeaten streak.

Tanner Tessmann added a 68th-minute goal for the U.S., which scored five times against a South American opponent and a top 30 team for the first time.

The 16th-ranked Americans continued their autumn turnaround after lackluster performances in the CONCACAF Nations League and Gold Cup.

They have just two more games, March friendlies likely against Belgium and Portugal, before coach Mauricio Pochettino selects his World Cup roster.

Freeman, Berhalter and Tessmann all scored their first international goals on Tuesday night as the U.S. got five goals against a team outside the CONCACAF region for the first time since beating Scotland 5-1 in 2012. The Americans have won four games, including three straight, during the five-game unbeaten streak against World Cup-bound teams.

Uruguay's Rodrigo Bentancur was sent off in the 64th minute for a high sliding tackle on Berhalter. La Celeste, ranked 15th and headed to its fifth straight World Cup, had entered the friendly with a six-game unbeaten streak.

Berhalter, a son of former coach Gregg Berhalter, put the U.S. ahead in the 17th minute off a free kick and Freeman headed in Berhalter's corner kick in the 20th. Freeman added a 31st-minute goal and Luna opened a four-goal lead in the 42nd.

Fielding a starting lineup of mostly backups, the U.S. scored four goals in a half for the first time against a South American team.

Uruguay's Giorgian de Arrascaeta scored on a 7-yard overhead kick in the first minute of first-half stoppage time, his 13th international goal, after goalkeeper Matt Freese and defenders Auston Trusty and Mark McKenzie converged and all failed to clear the ball.

Before the start and again at the final whistle, Pochettino hugged Uruguay's Marcelo Bielsa, the coach who signed him as a 13-year-old for Newell's Old Boys in Argentina. (AP)

Soccer superstar Ronaldo joins Saudi crown prince during a White House visit

WASHINGTON, Nov 19: Soccer superstar Cristiano Ronaldo was at the White House as President Donald Trump hosted a glitzy dinner to honor Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

The soccer star was seated near the front of the East Room, not far from where the president and crown prince gave remarks to officials from both nations, along with major business leaders such as Apple CEO Tim Cook and Tesla founder Elon Musk on Tuesday.

Trump, in his speech, made a point of recognizing Ronaldo, whom he said he introduced to his teenage son.

Ronaldo has been the face of the Saudi soccer league since joining Saudi club Al-Nassr at the end of 2022 on a reported \$200 million-a-year contract.

The 40-year-old Portuguese star signed a two-year extension in June with Al-Nassr, which is majority owned by the Saudi sovereign wealth fund that the crown prince chairs.

Trump thanked the athlete for attending. He said that his youngest son, Barron, is a "big fan" of Ronaldo and the 19-year-old was impressed that he got to meet the soccer player.

"Barron got to meet him. And I think he respects his father a little bit more, now, just the fact that I introduced you," Trump said.

Prince Mohammed was visiting the White House for the first time since a period of



diplomatic isolation began in 2018 after the killing of Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi by Saudi agents in a consulate office in Istanbul. U.S. intelligence agencies determined that Prince Mohammed likely

directed the operation. He has denied involvement in the killing.

It was a rare U.S. visit for Ronaldo, who hasn't played in the country since 2014.

In 2017, German news magazine Der

Spiegel reported that Ronaldo had years earlier paid \$375,000 in hush money to a woman who accused him of raping her at a Las Vegas hotel in 2009. Ronaldo's lawyers maintained the sex was consensual and no criminal charges ever were filed.

World Cup connection

Saudi Arabia will host the 2034 World Cup after FIFA and its president, Gianni Infantino, shaped a fast-track bidding process two years ago that helped ensure there was no rival bid.

Ronaldo promoted that bid, saying last December when the Saudi win was confirmed "after what I see, I'm more convinced that 2034 will be the best World Cup ever."

Ronaldo is set to play at a record sixth edition of the World Cup next year after Portugal qualified Sunday for the tournament co-hosted by the U.S., Canada and Mexico. However, he likely will be banned by FIFA for Portugal's first game next June after getting his first red card last week in 23 seasons playing for the national team.

Portugal will learn its World Cup opponents on Dec. 5 at the tournament draw, which Trump is set to attend at the Kennedy Center in Washington.

Trump has closely aligned himself with the 2026 World Cup. In the Oval Office he has a copy of the golden trophy loaned to him by FIFA President Gianni Infantino. (AP)