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 ● Shah charges oppn with trying to build 'corridor for infiltrators' in Bihar
 ● RSS is recognised as body of individuals, Bhagwat tells critics

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 ● CM hails discovery of new plant species

Vol .No. II Issue No. 244 RNI-ASENG/2023/86488 GUWAHATI, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2025 PAGES 8 PRICE ₹ 8

CEM Ronghang distributes land pattas in WKA
 Beneficiaries across party lines to receive land pattas free of cost



HT Correspondent DONGKAMUKAM, Nov 9: Chief Executive Member (CEM) of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) Dr. Tuliram Ronghang on Sunday ceremonially distributed land pattas to indigenous tribes under the 'Purthimi Akemang 2.0' initiative at Salana Amguri (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

1,140 bigha forest land to be cleared ● Around 70 pc of 'illegal settlers' vacate area
Eviction drive begins in Dahikata

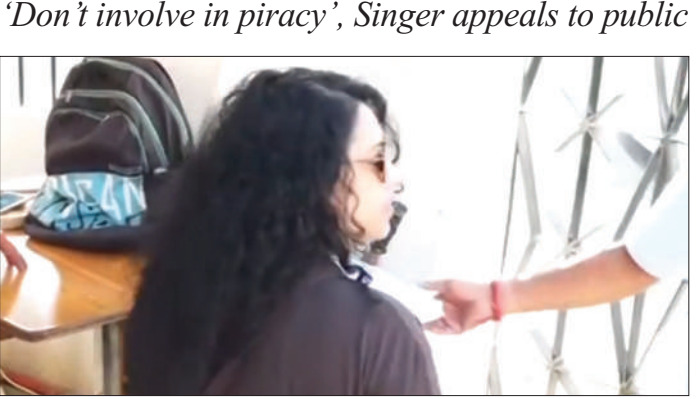
GOALPARA, Nov 9: The Assam government on Sunday began an eviction drive to clear alleged encroachment on 1,140 bighas (over 376 acres) of forest land in Goalpara district, affecting nearly 600 families, officials said.
 According to Goalpara District Commissioner Prodig Timung, the exercise is going "on peacefully" to clear the encroached area in Dahikata Reserve Forest.
 "There were 580 families who had encroached on 1,140 bighas of land. The notices were issued to them more than 15 days ago to vacate the areas," he told reporters.
 Around 70 per cent of the "illegal settlers" of the area have already left the place after getting the notices, while the remaining are in the process of vacating their houses, Timung said.
 "Though we had set two days



for the eviction drive, the administration hopes to complete the exercise today. So far, we have not received any resistance. We are demolishing the remaining houses on the encroached land," he added.
 The DC said the district administration engaged adequate security personnel and used dozens of excavators along with scores of tractors during the eviction exercise.
 "We have divided the area into five blocks, and in only one block, some people are still there. In the

other blocks, 80 per cent of the people have left," he added.
 Timung said that the eviction drive is underway as per the Gauhati High Court directives, with three petitions regarding the operation heard earlier by the court.
 Another senior official said the alleged encroachers are mostly from the Bengali-speaking Muslim community.
 Abdul Karim, one of the affected people, claimed that the people in the area have been living there for several decades.
 "If we were encroachers, why did the government give us electricity lines, toilets and other facilities? We have Aadhaar cards and all land documents, but still we are being treated as outsiders," he said.
 Special Chief Secretary (Forest) M K (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Zublee Baruah records statement before SIT in Zubeen Garg death probe
 'Don't involve in piracy', Singer appeals to public



HT Bureau GUWAHATI, Nov 9: Popular Assamese singer Zublee Baruah on Sunday appeared before the Special Investigation Team (SIT) at the CID headquarters here, where she recorded her statement in connection with the ongoing probe into the death of late singer Zubeen Garg. Baruah was inside the CID office for nearly two-and-a-half hours.
 Speaking briefly to the media after the questioning, an emotional Baruah said the investigation is still in progress. "I have not been informed yet if (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

NE ignored despite ties with national parties, unified political entity needed: Daniel Langthasa

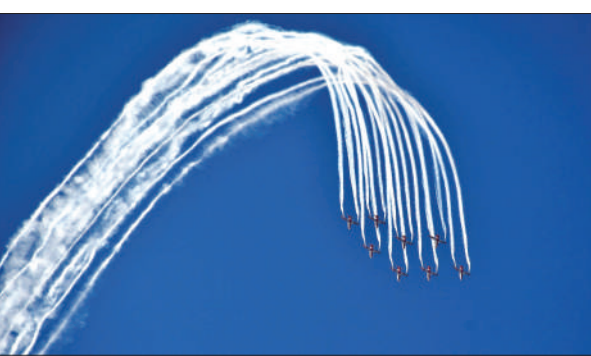
NEW DELHI, Nov 9: Assam-based People's Party founder Daniel Langthasa, who is set to be part of the newly announced pan-Northeast political entity, said issues from the region have been ignored for years and their voices have been rendered insignificant by scant representation in Parliament, despite several alliances in the past between local and national parties.
 Langthasa joined hands with Meghalaya Chief Minister and National People's Party president Conrad Sangma, Pradyot Manikya of TIPRA Motha and former BJP spokesperson Mmholnumo Kikon to



announce the new political entity on Tuesday, a development that has created a flutter in the Northeast.
 A musician-turned-activist and now a politician, Langthasa comes from Assam's Dima Hasao district, a Sixth Schedule (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

IAF's prowess near 'Chicken's Neck corridor' will give 'sleepless nights' to enemies: Himanta

GUWAHATI, Nov 9: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa, who witnessed the Indian Air Force's first-ever full-scale air show in the Northeast at Guwahati on Sunday, said that the show of strength, skill and spirit close to the 'Chicken's Neck corridor' will give "sleepless nights" to enemies.
 The IAF showcased aircraft such as Rafale, Sukhoi-30, MiG-29, Mirage, Jaguar, IL-78 refueler, C-17 Globemaster, Antonov AN-32, C-130 Hercules and helicopters such



as Apache, MI-17 and Advanced Light Helicopter-MK1 in the event marking the 93rd anniversary celebrations of the

Indian Air Force.
 The Eastern Air Command organised the one-and-a-half-hour 'Flying Display 2025' air show above the Brahmaputra River near Lachit Ghat, displaying over 75 fighter helicopters and aircraft in more than 25 formations.
 These flying machines operated from seven air bases in the region - Guwahati, Tezpur, Jorhat, Chabua, Hasimara, Bagdogra and Panagarh.
 Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

3 NIT students drown in waterfall in Haflong

HAFLONG, Nov 9: Three students from the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Silchar, drowned in a waterfall in Assam's Dima Hasao district, officials said on Sunday.
 The incident took place at the Bulchhol (Hmunthajao) waterfall, located in Bolsom Bagan of Harangajao on Saturday afternoon, they said.
 "The tragic mishap occurred when the group of NIT students visited the scenic but remote waterfall for an outing. After getting information, our teams rushed to the spot and started the rescue operation," a senior official of the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) said.
 The deceased students have been identified as Sauhard Rai (20) and Sarbavartika Singh (20) from Uttar (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

বাজাজুৰি অৰুগোদয়
 ২২, ১৬৭৭গৰাকী ত্ৰিভাষিকানৰী সংযোজন
 জন্মভাৰু চৰকাৰ myGov
 শ্ৰুতভাৰু চৰকাৰ

বুনিয়াদী অৰ্থনীতি সৰ্বলীকৰণেৰে প্ৰগতিৰ দিশত ৰাজ্য আমাৰ

১০ **পেঞ্চন আৰু অৰুগোদয়ৰ দিন**
 তাৰিখ

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আঁচনিসমূহ
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ইন্দিৰা মিৰি সৰ্বজনীন বিধৰা পেঞ্চন আৰু দীনদয়াল দিব্যাংগজন সাহায্য আঁচনি অৰুগোদয় আঁচনিৰ অন্তৰ্ভুক্ত কৰা হৈছে

তথ্য আৰু জনসংযোগ সঞ্চালকালয়, অসমৰ দ্বাৰা প্ৰচাৰিত
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DIPR/D/HLT/212/10-Nov-25

Salesforce to continue to invest, grow in India: Parameswaran

NEW DELHI, Nov 9: US-based IT firm Salesforce, which has witnessed multi-fold growth in its business and investment, will continue to invest and grow in India, as the country has the right set of talent pool available, its Executive Vice President and MD (South Asia) Arun Kumar Parameswaran said.

Salesforce started operations in India in 2005 with its first centre of excellence in Hyderabad. Now, the company is spread to six locations in India with an annual revenue of \$ 1 billion and a workforce of over 13,000. India is the second-biggest market for the company after the US.

"We were about 2,500 in 2020...now, we have a headcount of over 13,000, over a five-fold jump...we will continue to invest and grow in India because the country has a lot of skills that everybody wants to hire," he told PTI in an interaction.

Besides, he said the company has a proven track record of being able to deliver innovation at scale and speed.

The global customer relationship management (CRM) technology solutions giant Salesforce expects its global revenues to



cross \$41 billion in FY26.

Talking about public sector enterprises, he said they are gradually adopting cloud and Artificial Intelligence to bring in customer ease.

Ethical and responsible AI is the core of innovation and the development of products, Salesforce, VP, Product Management/Responsible AI & Tech, Rob Katz said.

The company follows an AI acceptable policy and ensures 100 per cent data privacy and protection, he added.

Earlier, talking to PTI, Salesforce South Asia CEO Arundhati

would say that the growth remains pretty consistent in the areas that we have been in, and we continue to see momentum over there. With the newer kinds of technologies that are coming in, there is a lot of openness as to how it should be developed, or how it should be absorbed." Speaking about AI adoption by Indian banks, Bhattacharya had said every single company in its board conversations earlier used to talk about digitisation, but now talks about the adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

"Where they will make the most of it in order to get the best returns is probably the concern. It's not a question of using it. I think most boards are convinced that they need to use it. It's a question as to where and how you put transactions on it? Do you put things like grievance portals on it? Where exactly do you put it in order to get the best value out of it? I think those conversations are still on. Not every company is convinced about everything, but the fact that they will be bringing it sooner than later," she had said.

Some pilot stages are going on with some of the banks, she added. (PTI)

Bhattacharya said BFSI, retail and manufacturing will drive the US-based IT firm Salesforce's growth in India over the next three years.

"The three-year agenda remains more or less the same. We still see a lot of growth coming out of the BFSI sector and the retail sector. We see plenty of growth in manufacturing, travel, tourism, hotels and healthcare. So, many of these sectors are showing pretty steady and good growth," Bhattacharya had said.

"Even smaller sectors, like real estate and education, are showing pretty good growth. So, in India, I

MAHAK launches new confectionery products in Northeast region

Distributors from across the region participates

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, Nov 9: Delhi-based Mahak Group, a 30-year-old company and India's first confectionery firm in the organised sector, on Sunday announced the launch of its new product range in the Northeast markets.

The launch was conducted through their super-stockist Kaushal Marketing, led by Rakesh Nahata, who has supported the brand for the last one-and-a-half decades.

The event, a distributors' meet, saw the participation of over a hundred business partners from across the Northeast, underscoring strong confidence in Mahak's expansion plans.

Attendees included Mahak Group Director-Sales Jivitesh Jain, Head-Marketing Shachi Jain, Head-Sales Abhinav Garg, Zonal Head-Sales (Northeast) Suresh Kothari, Regional Head-Sales (Northeast) Rajesh Ghosh, Super-Stockist



Rakesh Nahata of Kaushal Marketing, and more than 100 distributors from the eight Northeast states.

Mahak Group introduced an exciting line-up of confectionery products tailored for the Northeast market, including ChocOn Milk-creme Chocolate, Milk-n-Nut Millet Mithai, and Mint ChocOn Candy, building on its flagship brands — Mahak Milk N Nut, Mahak Jelly Belly Fruit Jel, and Mahak Kandiez.

Speaking on the occasion, Jivitesh Jain, Director-Sales, said, "This launch marks a significant milestone in our journey to make Mahak a household name in the

Northeast."

Shachi Jain, Head-Marketing, said, "The enthusiastic response from our partners motivates us to further enrich the sweet-making traditions of the region."

Jain further said, "The event re-emphasises Mahak Group's commitment to quality, innovation, and authenticity. With 30 years of confectionery expertise, a dedicated team of 12, and a distribution network of over 100 partners, Mahak is poised to bring joy to more consumers. Kaushal Marketing, led by renowned businessman of the Northeast, Mr Rakesh Nahata, has been a strong pillar of this growth for the last 15 years."

Jain said the company's vision is to become a pan-India household brand and take our mithaas globally, and our mission is to continuously create innovative, high-quality products that bring happiness and grow with partners as well as our esteemed consumers.

Gold to remain in corrective phase ahead of crucial US, China macrodata: Analysts

NEW DELHI, Nov 9: Gold prices are expected to remain in a corrective phase in the coming week ahead of the crucial US inflation data, continuing uncertainties over trade tariffs and key economic numbers from China, analysts said.

Traders will also closely watch comments from US Federal Reserve officials for clarity on the monetary policy outlook, which is likely to steer the near-term direction for bullion prices, they added.

"Gold prices are expected to see some consolidation or more correction as focus will be on the inflation numbers, US Supreme Court hearing on tariffs, speeches from Fed officials, and Chinese data," Pranav Mer, Vice President, EBG - Commodity & Currency Research, JM Financial Services Ltd, said.

He said that although gold prices ended the week slightly lower, the metal is largely stuck in a range, capped on the upside by a stronger dollar and sluggish physical demand as retail buyers stayed away from the sidelines in anticipation of further price correction.

However, Mer noted that the downside was capped by uncertainty over the US economic outlook as the federal government shutdown continues, delaying key macroeconomic data releases that could make Fed officials' task difficult when they meet next month.

"Traders were on the sidelines as focus also remained on the US Supreme Court's decision on the legality of Trump's trade tariffs - the outcome is expected to increase

volatility in the financial markets and more in gold," Mer added.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures for December delivery slipped by ₹ 165, or 0.14 per cent, during the past week, to settle at ₹ 1,21,067 per 10 grams on Friday.

"MCX gold futures are trading in the range Rs 1,17,000-1,22,000 per 10 grams in the same time frame. Weak US labour market report, safe-haven demand, hopes of potential interest rate cuts in the US and the central bank buying are factors driving gold prices in the near term," Prathamesh Mallya, DVP - Research, Non-Agri Commodities and Currencies, Angel One, said.

"Gold is on track for its annual gain since 1979, and if the current fundamental factors are in force, the volatility might drive a further rally in gold prices soon," he added.

In the international market, Comex gold futures for December delivery gained \$ 13.3, or 0.33 per cent, during the past week, to settle at \$ 4,009.8 per ounce on Friday.

"Gold hovered just near \$ 4,000 an ounce this week, stabilising after sharp swings driven by shifting expectations over US monetary policy and labour market data. The metal briefly gained after reports showed US firms announced the highest October job cuts in over two decades, bolstering the case for a December rate cut," Riya Singh, Research Analyst, Commodities and Currency, Emkay Global Financial Services, said.

However, mixed signals from Federal Reserve officials and the absence of key inflation data due to the ongoing US government shutdown tempered optimism, she added.

After retreating 10 per cent from its record high above \$ 4,390, gold is on course for a third straight weekly loss but remains up more than 50 per cent year-to-date -- its strongest performance since 1979.

Singh attributed the surge to rate cuts, persistent central bank purchases exceeding 600 tonnes so far in 2025, and steady inflows into gold-backed exchange-traded funds.

"However, bullion ETFs saw two consecutive weeks of outflows by the end of October as investors booked profits," she said.

Silver prices also remained range-bound during the week, mirroring the trend in gold and industrial metals.

On the MCX, the white metal futures for December delivery declined by ₹ 559, or 0.38 per cent, to ₹ 1,47,728 per kilogram on Friday. Comex silver futures edged lower last week and finished at \$ 48.14 an ounce.

"Silver steadied above the \$ 48 per ounce mark, supported by safe-haven demand amid the US government shutdown concerns and shifting expectations over the Federal Reserve's policy path," Singh said. (PTI)

Contd. from Page 1...

Eviction drive begins

Yadava claimed that the evicted area falls under the elephant corridor and clearing of the land from encroachment will help reduce man-animal conflict.

Since the Himanta Biswa Sarma-led government came to power in 2021, it has carried out a series of evictions to clear alleged encroachments on land, mostly affecting the Bengali-speaking Muslim population.

On November 3, the Assam chief minister asserted that eviction drives to clear encroachments will continue and "illegal Miyaas" cannot have peace under his government.

"Miya" is originally a pejorative term used for Bengali-speaking Muslims in Assam, and the non-Bengali-speaking people generally identify them as Bangladeshi immigrants.

In recent years, activists from the community have started adopting this term as a gesture of defiance.

On July 21, the CM had said that 1.29 lakh bighas (over 42,500 acres) have been cleared of encroachment in the last four years, and around 29 lakh bighas (more than 9.5 lakh acres) of land are still encroached in the state.

Sarma had claimed that these huge amounts of land were under encroachment of "illegal Bangladeshis and doubtful citizens" in the state. (PTI)

Zublee Baruah records

I need to appear again. We will have to wait for the SIT's charge report," she told reporters.

Referring to allegations of financial mismanagement that have surfaced following Garg's demise, Baruah clarified that both her professional engagements and Zubeen Garg's were managed by Siddharth Sharma.

"In my case, the same team handled my events and accounts, and no irregularities have been found so far. If anything has occurred in Zubeen da's case, it is for the SIT to look into," she said.

Baruah also made a heartfelt appeal to fans regarding increasing discussions around music piracy. "Please do not support piracy. If you truly love Zubeen da, then don't pirate his music or films," she urged.

CEM Ronghang distributes

playground under Rongkhang MAC constituency in West Karbi Anglong.

The programme was organised by the Land & Revenue Department, KAAC.

Speaking on the occasion as chief guest, Ronghang said the KAAC has been committed to providing land pattas to indigenous tribal communities residing in the twin hill districts of Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong since 1952. "There is no discrimination on party lines. Whether the beneficiaries are supporters of opposition parties like the All Party Hills Leaders Conference (APHLC) or the Congress, it does not matter as everyone will get land pattas free of cost," Ronghang said.

Assuring support to educated unemployed youths of both districts, the CEM announced that financial assistance of ₹ 5,000 will be provided after a couple of months to help them start small businesses.

Responding to memoranda submitted from the constituency, he also assured all-round development of the area. Member of Parliament Amarsingh Tisso also addressed the gathering.

The event was attended by EMs, MACs, the Board Chairman of KAAC, and other dignitaries.

3 NIT students drown

Pradesh, and Radhika (19) from Bihar. Rescue efforts were hampered due to poor mobile connectivity and inaccessibility of the area, making communication and coordination difficult, he said.

"A medical team was kept on standby to respond to any emergency situation. All the three students were retrieved from the water, but declared dead by doctors," the DDMA official said.

The authorities have expressed grief over the incident, and urged people to exercise caution while visiting waterfalls and other tourist spots, especially during the post-monsoon season when water currents remain unpredictable and hazardous. (PTI)

IAF's prowess near

also attended the event, besides Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal A P Singh, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Air Command, Air Marshal Surat Singh, and other senior IAF officials.

In an X post after the show, Sarma offered his gratitude to the people of Guwahati for turning up in large numbers to witness 'Flying Display 2025'.

"The North East's first ever air show was indeed a breathtaking show of strength, skill & spirit. Your overwhelming support for Bharat's Air Warriors -- so close to the Chicken's Neck and four international borders -- will give sleepless nights to enemies inside and outside the country," he added.

"From being nearly abandoned during the 1962 war to sending such a powerful message of aerial dominance, the Northeast has come a long way under the visionary leadership of Adarniya @narendramodi Ji. Jai Hind," Sarma said. The huge turnout brought the entire Guwahati city to a standstill. With thousands of people in their vehicles from within and outside the city trying to reach the Lachit Ghat area, all arterial and peripheral roads witnessed choking traffic jams since the morning.

Even the governor and the CM got stuck in the jam after the show. Sarma lowered the vehicle's window pane and waved at the cheering onlookers, who greeted him.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh was scheduled to join the forces to witness the air show, but he skipped it due to his engagement in the ongoing Bihar assembly elections.

Defence PRO Lt Col Mahender Rawat said it was for the first time that the IAF held such a show in the Northeast. "IAF's almost entire range of aircraft and helicopters was on display, presenting different manoeuvres in the sky. The people here got a glimpse of our sky warriors," he added.

The display showcased a visual symphony of speed, skill, and synchronisation, which offered the citizens a rare opportunity to witness the nation's aerial might up close, he said.

"The Sukhoi-30 and Rafale enthralled the audience with breathtaking low-level aerobatics. The performance concluded with synchronised manoeuvring by the Surya Kiran Aerobatics Team and Sarang helicopter display team, leaving the audience spellbound," Rawat added. (PTI)

NE ignored despite

area that comes under the North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council. He has been raising issues related to illegal mining, illegal immigration, and land-related issues of the tribal dominated area.

"For a very long time, issues of the Northeast have been ignored. Alliances have been made, like the North-East Democratic Alliance (NEDA) under the BJP and during the Congress too," Langthasa told PTI over the phone. However, he said their voices are not heard as there are very few MPs from each northeastern state.

Langthasa said there is a trend in the Northeast to align with the party in power at the Centre. "Before the BJP came to power in 2014, there was no footprint at all of BJP in the Northeast."

Suddenly, within a couple of years, all states were either ruled by the BJP or the ruling regional parties have become BJP allies, he said. "That is why we feel that a unified political entity -- not an alliance -- a new party needs to be there." Langthasa has been vocal about the land rights of the tribals in his area, which are protected under the Sixth Schedule.

Giving the example of a recent move to allocate land to a cement company in Dima Hasao "against the wishes of locals", he said, "This projection that tribals are anti-development has put us in a very bad light. But we are not anti-development. And we understand that some mines and minerals are important for the country," he said.

"Talking specifically about Dima Hasao, our population of the whole district is still 2 lakhs only. And in this, the tribal population must be around 1.2-1.3 lakh.

The Sixth Schedule was meant to give protection to tribal areas but norms are being violated and the state and central government do not care, he said.

"In Sixth Schedule areas, as per our traditional way, land is a common property. We mostly do shifting cultivation, or jhoom cultivation. So that no one person is the owner of one particular land," he said.

He said now this "beautiful system" is being taken advantage of. The state government wants to push projects and they have already signed MoUs without taking the consent of the council, who are bound by it, Langthasa said. "What the council is doing is -- all this common land, they are now calling it council khas land. So, from the property of the village, now it is becoming the property of the council. And now the council can sell it to a private company or whoever they want," he said.

In August this year, the Gauhati High Court had expressed shock and displeasure over the Assam government allotting around 3,000 bighas of land to a private cement company for the purpose of mining in the Dima Hasao region of Assam.

"This case was fought by the villagers and it's still ongoing. So people have resisted and when resistance comes, the council comes to buy off the villagers and offer them money," he said, alleging that locals were threatened by council members and armed hooligans over the case.

He also slammed the Assam government for allocating around 9,000 bighas of land for limestone mining in Umrangso, Dima Hasao district. Umrangso is an ecologically sensitive area which is a winter roosting site for the Amur falcon, an endangered migratory bird.

Asked if these issues may impact the state elections next year, he said dissatisfaction was brewing among the people over issues of land, illegal migration from neighbouring countries such as Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Nepal, as well as migration of workers from other states.

"We are not against anyone, but it's for our own survival, because the numbers are less, we will just be eradicated in a few years," he said. "There will be a pushback. If the government does not take it seriously, there will be serious repercussions..." he added.

When asked about the detention of Sonam Wangchuk, Langthasa called for the climate activist's release, and said the Sixth Schedule in Ladakh was "a genuine demand".

He said Wangchuk's treatment has been "very unfortunate." "All these labels have been put on him that he's anti-national, he's a Chinese spy... That is very unfortunate."

"Sonam Wangchuk needs to be released. And the demand for six schedules is a genuine demand," the Assam-based leader said.

He added that Ladakh, being a border area, would be strengthened by the Sixth Schedule. "At the end of the day, you cannot fight bigger battles without having the locals on your side. That is impossible," he said.

"Just look at the Northeast. You know what is happening? Why are there a lot of refugees, a lot of fights by people who are coming from Myanmar?" he said, asserting that the government would need the support of locals for it.

"You just cannot take an army filled with people who are from different parts of the country and just start fighting against each other. Their fellow Indians. That has happened all throughout the Northeast for years. Look at AFSPA and everything," he said.

Langthasa said he told Wangchuk during his visit to Haflong last year that while it was good to demand the Sixth Schedule, it is "not the gold standard of protection", as it is believed to be.

Wangchuk was detained under the stringent National Security Act (NSA) on September 26, two days after violent protests demanding statehood and Sixth Schedule status for Ladakh left four people dead and 90 injured in the Union territory. The government had accused him of inciting the violence.

The NSA empowers the Centre and states to detain individuals to prevent them from acting in a manner "prejudicial to the defence of India". The maximum detention period is 12 months, though it can be revoked earlier. (PTI)

CIL will aspire to meet 875 MT coal production target in FY26: CMD

KOLKATA, Nov 9: Coal India Ltd will aspire to reach its production target of 875 MT in the current fiscal year or reach close to the figure, its CMD Sanoj Kumar Jha said on Sunday.

The statement comes at a time when Coal India has missed its production target in the last two months.

Speaking on the sidelines of the 59th Foundation Day of Hindustan Copper Ltd here, Jha said, "Today I can't say we will not meet (the production target). I can't say we will meet. But we will aspire that we will be able to be there or near there."

Jha, the Coal Additional Secretary, took charge as the Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) of Coal India Ltd (CIL) on November 1.

The CMD said Coal India missed its production target in September and October primary because of the monsoon rains.

The coal demand, he said, has been very sluggish and demand from the power sector has gone down.

Assuring that the company will meet coal requirement of the industry, Jha added, "We will have more stocks at the end of the year than we had last time."

While CIL's production declined 9.8 per cent to 56.4 MT in October, in September the output of the maharatna firm dropped to 48.97 MT.

Coal India, which accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic coal output, has a production target of 875 MT and a dispatch target of 900 MT for the 2025-26 fiscal year.

Replying to a question, Jha said in the next six months regulations on the proposed coal exchange will be in place.

Addressing the event, Hindustan Copper Ltd CMD Sanjiv Kumar Singh said the company is expanding its capacity to meet the country's rising demand for copper.

The state-owned firm is targeting to ramp up its ore production capacity from the current 4 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) to 12 MTPA by 2030-31. (PTI)

NAME CORRECTION

I, Amba Ali, S/O Ajjul Hoque, R/O Vill. Ulubari, PO- Jangalpara, P.S. Dalgaon, Dist Darrang, (Assam), hereby solemnly affirm do and declare that I am a Permanent resident of the above noted address and Citizen of India by birth. That my son's actual and correct name is Wahidus Jaman but unfortunately his name has been recorded in his Aadhaar Card Vide No. 6008-5499-6156 as Ahidul Islam in place of Wahidus Jaman. That Wahidus Jaman and Ahidul Islam are the same and one person who is my son.

Sd/-
Amba Ali

NAME CHANGE

I, TARAMAI KOCH, W/o Harendra Chandra Koch, R/o Lalung Goan, P.O. Lalung Goan, P.S. Batadrava, District Nagaon (Assam), PIN - 782122, hereby declare that TARA KOCH and TARAMAI KOCH refer to one and the same person, as per Affidavit dated 01/11/2025.

I further declare that my husband's name should be read and recorded as Haren Chandra Koch instead of Harendra Chandra Koch in all future records. Henceforth, I shall be known as TARAMAI KOCH for all official and future purposes.

HDFC BANK

Registered Office: HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400 013 and having one of its office at Retail Portfolio Management at HDFC Bank Ltd, 1st Floor, I-Think Techno Campus, Kanjurmarg (East), Mumbai - 400042.

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

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

Due to persistent default by the Borrowers in making repayment of the outstanding dues as per agreed loan terms, the below loan accounts are in delinquent status. The Bank has issued multiple notices to these Borrowers, including the final sale notice on the below-mentioned date whereby, Bank had invoked the pledge and provided 7 days' time to the Borrower to repay the entire outstanding dues in the below accounts, failing which, Bank would be at liberty to sell the pledged securities without issuing further notice in this regard. The Borrowers have neglected and failed to make due repayments, therefore, Bank in exercise of its rights under the loan agreement as a pledgee has decided to sell / dispose off the Securities on or after 17th November 2025 for recovering the dues owed by the Borrowers to the Bank. The Borrowers are, also, notified that, if at any time, the value of the pledged securities falls further due to volatility in the stock market to create further deficiency in the margin requirement then Bank shall at its discretion sell the pledged security within one (1) calendar day, without any further notice in this regard. The Borrower(s) shall remain liable to the Bank for repayment of any remaining outstanding amount, post adjustment of the proceeds from sale of pledged securities.

Sr. No.	Loan Account Number	Borrower's Name	Outstanding Amount as on 06 th Nov 2025	Date of Sale Notice
1	XXXXXXXXXX3793	RHEMBOR G SAIBON	9,96,164.78	07-11-2025
2	XXXXXXXXXX9802	SANTOSH KR TIWARI	40,493.00	07-11-2025

Date : 10.11.2025
Place : MEGHALAYA
Sd/-
HDFC BANK LTD.

NFSA beneficiaries to get essential commodities at reduced prices starting today

Subsidised 'Masoor Dal, Sugar & Salt' distribution scheme

HT Correspondent

NAGAON, Nov 9: The Assam government, under the guidance of Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma, will launch the distribution of subsidised Masoor Dal, Sugar and Salt from November 10. The scheme will benefit all households holding ration cards under the National Food Security Act, providing essential commodities at affordable rates.

Over 3.82 lakh ration card families in the state will receive 3825.94 quintals each of Masoor Dal, Sugar and Salt. For November and December 2025, the fixed prices are ₹ 69/kg for Masoor Dal, ₹ 38/kg for Sugar and ₹ 10/kg for Salt. From January 2026, prices will be further reduced to ₹ 60/kg for Masoor Dal, ₹ 30/kg for Sugar and ₹ 10/kg for Salt.

The scheme allows beneficiaries to purchase any or all of the three commodities according to their needs. The central inauguration ceremony will be held in Kamrup (Metro) district at 10 AM on November 10, with the Chief Minister as the chief guest. The event will be live-streamed at all 1786 fair price shops in Nagaon district.



Our Kokrajhar Correspondent adds: The state government will launch a new scheme to distribute subsidised masoor dal, sugar and salt to NFSA beneficiaries through Fair Price Shops (FPS) across Assam, starting November 10. The initiative, implemented by the Food, Public Distribution & Consumer Affairs Department, aims to ensure food and nutritional security by providing essential commodities at affordable prices.

The central launch will be held at Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra in Guwahati by Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma,

with simultaneous ceremonial events in all districts, including Kokrajhar. District-level programmes will be organised across Kokrajhar Sadar, Gossaigaon and Parbatjhora with participation from BTC Chief Hagrama Mohilary, MLA Lawrence Isly, BTC EM Derhasai Basumatary and other dignitaries.

Kokrajhar district has completed 100% lifting and delivery of Masoor Dal, Sugar and Salt from Assam State Warehousing Corporation godowns. Each ration card holder will receive 1 kg each of Masoor Dal, Sugar and Salt per month, with prices set at ₹ 69, ₹ 38 and ₹ 10 for November–December 2025 and revised to ₹ 60, ₹ 30 and ₹ 10 from January to May 2026.

For the inaugural month, distribution will run from November 10 to 19 as "Special Anna Sewa Din," and from December onwards, it will continue from the 1st to 10th of every month under "Anna Sewa Din." District Commissioner Masanda Magdalin Pertin stated that all arrangements have been made to ensure smooth implementation of the scheme.

Our Hojai Correspondent adds: The National Food Security Act (NFSA) scheme

for distributing subsidised masoor dal, sugar and salt to ration cardholder families will be launched in Hojai district on November 10, along with the rest of Assam. District Commissioner Bidhyut Bikash Bhagwati announced at a press meet held at Srimanta Sankardev Nagar on Sunday.

Under the scheme, around 7, 85,766 beneficiaries in Hojai district will be able to avail of the subsidised items. The central launch will take place at 10:00 AM on November 10 at Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra in Guwahati, with Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma as the chief guest. The inauguration will also be telecast live at all 812 fair price shops across Hojai district.

Subsidised rates for November and December 2025 are: Masoor dal ₹ 69/kg, Sugar ₹ 38/kg and Salt ₹ 10/kg. From January 2026, rates will be reduced to Masoor dal ₹ 60/kg, Sugar ₹ 30/kg and Salt ₹ 10/kg.

Residents and beneficiaries are encouraged to attend the inauguration at their local fair price shops. The initiative aims to provide affordable access to essential food items for vulnerable families in the district. Hojai MLA Ramkrishna Ghosh and other of-

SEIL team receives warm welcome at CIT Kokrajhar



HT Correspondent

KOKRAJHAR, Nov 9: The Central Institute of Technology (CIT) Kokrajhar extended a warm welcome to the Students' Experience in Inter-State Living (SEIL) team in a colourful ceremony on Sunday, marked by the presentation of the traditional Aronai and the collective singing of the national song "Vande Mataram" to mark its 150th year.

The SEIL initiative launched by the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) in 1965, seeks to promote the spirit of "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat" by fostering national integration, cultural understanding and unity among students from different parts of the country.

This year's SEIL delegation includes students from Puducherry, Jammu, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat, who are touring the northeastern region to explore its rich culture, traditions, language, lifestyle and cuisine.

During their visit to CIT Kokrajhar, the team was briefed on the struggles, sacrifices, governance, community life and vibrant cultural heritage of Bodoland—a region celebrated for its resilience and unity in diversity. The visiting students expressed deep admiration for the warmth, hospitality and traditions of the people of Bodoland.

The event was filled with patriotic fervour as students and faculty joined together in singing "Vande Mataram", symbolising unity, pride and a shared national identity. Speakers at the event highlighted that initiatives like SEIL play a crucial role in nurturing mutual respect, cultural understanding and national solidarity.

Concluding the programme, Dr. Pranav Kumar Singh, on behalf of the CIT Kokrajhar family, expressed heartfelt gratitude to ABVP Assam Pradesh for bringing the SEIL team to the institute and fostering an enriching exchange of ideas and experiences.

BWFNEI 9th triennial conference concludes

HT Bureau

DIPHU, Nov 9: The four-day 9th triennial conference of the Baptist Women's Fellowship Northeast India (BWFNEI), under the Council of Baptist Churches of North East India (CBCNEI) with the theme 'Women on the Rise', concluded at Diphu Baptist Church (DBC) here on Sunday. The conference, hosted by the Karbi Anglong Baptist Convention Women Department (KABCWD) and co-hosted by the Nihang Karbi Baptist Association (NKBA), began on November 6 and brought together over 300 delegates from six Baptist conventions across the Northeast region, representing diverse cultures, languages and communities. The participating conventions included Arunachal Baptist Church Council (ABCC), Nagaland Baptist Church Council (NBCC), KABC, Garo Baptist Convention (GBC), Assam Baptist Convention (ABC) and Manipur Baptist Convention (MBC).

The conference witnessed the election of new office bearers for the next three-year term (2025–2028) to lead BWFNEI. Rev Bonjera Sangma from GBC was elected as the new president, Roineem T Kamba, women secretary of ABCC, as vice president and Jaynee Rengma from KABC as secretary. Rev Frolina D Shirra was re-elected treasurer for a second consecutive term. Executive members included Katoli Sumi, women secretary of NBCC and Archana Serto, women secretary of MBC, while BWFNEI president Rev Apila Thangal served as ex-officio.

The four-day conference featured workshops, business sessions and call-to-worship programs. Resource persons included Nini Bendang, Women Pastor at City Church, Kohima, who spoke on 'Creation and Sexuality', and Rev Dr Zhodi Angami, Associate Director, Translations, Bible Society of India, Shillong, who spoke on 'Women Ordination' and 'Cultic Movement.' The plenary session focused on 'Balancing Family and Ministry,' with panelists Rev Apila Thangal, Rev Rinje and Nini Bendang, moderated by Roineem T Kamba.

On November 8, a special worship service, 'Indigenous Worship,' was conducted with the theme 'Women on the Rise in Transforming the Culture.' Delegates celebrated God through demonstrations of their own cultural heritage. Rev Rinje N Sangma, Assistant Professor, Harding Theological College, Tura, West Garo Hills, Meghalaya emphasised accepting Christ Jesus as master and savior in her exhortation.

On the concluding day, the call to worship began at 10 AM, with Rev Dr Zhodi Angami speaking on 'Women on the Rise in Transforming Communities,' acknowledging the contributions of women in shaping communities and culture. The installation of the newly elected office bearers was conducted by Rev Dr Solomon Rongpi, Pastor, DBC.

Jacksil Sangma of GBC, ex-officio of BWFNEI, described the conference as fruitful, noting the participation of more than 300 delegates and the discussion of key women's issues, including cultic movements and balancing responsibilities in family and ministry. She also announced that the 10th triennial conference will be held in 2028 at the Manipur Baptist Council.

Jaynee Rengma, newly elected secretary of BWFNEI and currently women secretary of KABC, expressed gratitude for being entrusted with the post and sought God's guidance to perform her duties diligently during her term. The worship service was attended by Executive Member (EM) of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) Richard Tokbi, KABC president Nimrod Teron, KABC general secretary Rev. Kamson Rongphar, DBC Pastor Rev. Hilson Singnar, DBC Associate Pastor Grace Lian Rongphang, NKBA executive secretary Rev. Tenson Bey, and other church leaders.

NFR achieved a 3.9% rise in freight loading

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Nov 9: Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) is tirelessly working round the clock to serve its customers and ensure the prompt delivery of essential commodities to end users. During the current fiscal year up to October 2025, NFR achieved a total freight loading of 6.390 million tonnes, as against 6.150 million tonnes during the corresponding period of the previous year, registering a growth of 3.9%.

In October, 2025, several commodities recorded significant growth in freight loading compared to the same period last year. Cement loading recorded a 142.9% increase, while food grain loading rose by 71.4%, container loading increase by 7.7% and fertilizer loading increased by 17.6%. Additionally, in other segments, stone chips registered a notable rise of 306.9% as compared to the previous fiscal year.

The consistent growth in freight loading reflects the rising economic activity in the region. This upward trend has not only strengthened the region's economic landscape but also contributed significantly to NFR's revenue. Moving forward, NFR remains committed to technical advancements aimed at enhancing service reliability and efficiency, ensuring sustained growth in freight transportation.

Ustaad Kamini Kumar Narzary's 99th birth anniversary

HT Correspondent

KOKRAJHAR, Nov 9: People from diverse communities paid floral tributes to Ustaad Kamini Kumar Narzary, the legendary Bodo dance exponent and the first tribal recipient of the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (1981), on his 99th birth anniversary on Sunday.

Born on November 9, 1926, in Bamunkhura village, Kokrajhar district, Narzary was a master of Bagurumba and a distinguished dramatist, folk singer, director, performer and cultural activist. He dedicated his life to preserving and promoting Bodo traditional arts, including Jatra Gaon, Bagurumba and Bardwisikhhla, earning recognition for Bagurumba as one of India's most graceful dance traditions in 1955.

The event, organised by Phitika, a Bodo literary group also featured the unveiling of a research book on "Life History of Ustaad Kamini Kumar Narzary." Raju Kumar Narzary, general secretary of the UPPL, lauded Narzary's contributions, highlighting his pivotal role in promoting Bodo dance and heritage on national and international platforms. He noted that Ustaad Narzary's efforts in teaching and mentoring young performers ensured the thriving of vibrant Bodo dance forms across Assam and Bengal, leaving a legacy that continues to inspire generations.

Baksa organises 'Run for Unity'

HT Correspondent

KOKRAJHAR, Nov 9: The District Administration of Baksa, in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and My Bharat, organised a "Run for Unity" or Unity March under the theme Ek Bharat Aatmanirbhar Bharat on Saturday to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The rally began from the Police Reserve, Barbari and concluded at Bathouphuri Field, celebrating the ideals of national integration, unity and collective strength. The programme commenced with a floral tribute to Sardar Patel by MP Joyanta Basumatary, Cabinet Minister Urkhao Gwra Brahma, MCLA Begam Aktara and District Commissioner Gautam Das. The dignitaries paid homage to Sardar Patel's monumental contribution in uniting over 560 princely states and laying the foundation of a strong and unified India.

District Commissioner Gautam Das said that the unity and integrity of modern India stand as a testament to Patel's vision and leadership. He emphasised that Patel's ideals continue to inspire the nation towards strength, self-reliance and progress through science, technology and robust institutions.

Cabinet Minister Urkhao Gwra Brahma stated that the Unity March reaffirmed the nation's collective resolve to uphold harmony and strengthen the spirit of unity. He added that the year-long celebration of Sardar Patel's 150th birth anniversary provides an opportunity to renew the pledge towards Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat.

As part of the observance, cultural performances and a plantation drive were also held at Nehru Higher Secondary School, adding colour and enthusiasm to the commemoration.

Over 500 participants joined the march, including personnel from the 54th, 27th, 24th and 64th Battalions, officials from the Senior Superintendent of Police's office, government employees, students, youth volunteers and sports enthusiasts. Dignitaries present included MP Joyanta Basumatary, Cabinet Minister Urkhao Gwra Brahma, MCLA Begam Aktara, Superintendent of Police Ujjal Pratim Baruah and senior officials from various departments.

Sri Sri Madhav Mandir celebrates Golden Jubilee

HT Correspondent

TEZPUR, Nov 9: The two-day Golden Jubilee celebration of Sri Sri Madhav Mandir (Namghar), established in 1973 at Dalim Bora Path, concluded on Sunday with a blend of cultural programmes and solemn observances. A key highlight was the release of the commemorative souvenir "Madhav Subas," edited by Pankaj Baruah, unveiled by Tezpur MLA Prithiraj Rabha. The main programme, presided over by Bhabananda Das, president of the Madhav Mandir Management Committee, began with a Borgeet by emerging vocalist Parismita Das. General Secretary Nira Bora delivered the welcome address, while Pankaj Baruah conducted the event.

Inaugurating the souvenir, MLA Prithiraj Rabha reflected on the reformist spirit of Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardeva and the inspiration Kalaguru Bishnu Prasad Rabha drew from his socio-cultural ideals. He emphasised that Namghars have long served as centres of religious, cultural and social unity, sustaining Assamese identity and harmony.

Former Education Minister Brindaban Goswami highlighted the Gita and Bhagavata as guides to righteous living, stressing their relevance to moral discipline and human conduct. Madhurjya Bora of Jorhat delivered a special lecture on Vaishnavite philosophy and Sankardeva's teachings, cautioning that modern distractions risk distancing the younger generation from introspection and cultural values.

Piyush Hazarika inaugurates Apsara Bibah Bhawan

HT Correspondent

MORIGAON, Nov 9: Minister of Water Resources, Information & Public Relations and Social Justice & Empowerment, Piyush Hazarika, inaugurated a newly constructed three-storied wedding hall and guest house, "Apsara Bibah Bhawan Aru Atithi Sala," at Morigaon town on Sunday. The building was constructed at a cost of ₹ 61.50 lakh under the Morigaon Zila Parishad fund.

Speaking at the inauguration, the minister highlighted the pace of development works undertaken in his constituency Jagiroad under the leadership of Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma. He added that his efforts extend beyond Jagiroad to Morigaon and Laharighat constituencies. Citing examples, Hazarika mentioned the 7.5 km-long road and embankment project completed in 2023, which has been instrumental in protecting the areas of Jagiroad, Morigaon and Laharighat from floods.

The minister also announced that the Morigaon Zila Parishad would provide the wedding hall rent-free for



brides from Below Poverty Line (BPL) families for up to five days each month to support their wedding ceremonies.

Earlier, Morigaon Zila Parishad Chairperson Pranati Kalita delivered the welcome address, followed by CEO Ananta Kr Gogoi, who spoke about the importance and necessity of the new facility. The programme was attended by MLA Ramakanta Deuri, BJP president Ramprasad Sarkar, former CEM of TAC Paban Manta, Vice Chairperson of MZP, ZPCs, AP members and officials of the Morigaon Zila Parishad.

Massive Tai Ahom rally demands ST status



HT Correspondent

MARGHERITA, Nov 9: Tai Ahom organisations, including Tai Ahom Yuba Parishad, All Tai Ahom Student Union (ATASU), Ahom Sabha, Tai Ahom Mahila Parishad, Poi Furalung and Purvanchal Tai Sahitya Sabha, held a massive protest in Margherita on Sunday evening demanding Scheduled Tribe (ST) status and an Autonomous Council for the Tai Ahom community.

Organised under the Tai Ahom Unity Platform, the rally saw more than 10,000 participants raising slogans and carrying flambeaux, creating a charged atmosphere across the town. The protest began with the lighting of an earthen lamp at the statue of Chaulong Sukapha near Eco Park, started from Margherita Town High School playground, proceeded along NH 315 and concluded at North Margherita Rangmannch.

Protest leaders condemned the BJP government at both the state and central levels for failing to fulfil promises to the Tai Ahom community since 2014. They demanded that ST status and an Autonomous Council be granted before the 2026 Assembly elections and warned of intensified protests and a potential boycott of the elections if their demands are not met. The rally underscored the community's urgent call for recognition and autonomous governance.

Karbi Lammet Amei felicitates seven individuals for excellence

HT Bureau

DIPHU, Nov 9: The Lumbajong Longri Karbi Lammet Amei (Lumbajong Branch of Karbi literary body) held its 2nd annual conference at the Karbi Lammet Amei Central Committee office, Lumding Road, Diphu, where seven individuals were felicitated for their achievements in various fields.

Among the awardees was Waisong Bey, founding member and manager of the Karbi Anglong Morning Star Football Club (KAMSFC), who received the 'Karmapan Award' in the field of sports organisation, presented by Assam Darpan on August 24, 2025. Under his leadership, KAMSFC has won numerous prestigious tournaments at local and state levels, including the Greater Diphu Sports Association (GDSA) League, Assam State Premier League (2015 and 2023 seasons), KASA Club League, CEM Gold Cup and more. The club also participated in the Durand Cup 2025 invitational match. Waisong Bey holds UEFA and AIFF coaching licenses. His felicitation included a Karbi traditional turban and a citation.

Other awardees included Padmashree Dhaneswar Engti, who received the Kali Charan Brahma Award, Sengkan Ronghang honoured with the Karmapan Award for best social activities, Joysing Tokbi and Diganta Rongpi recipients of the Asom Graimo Hiru Rotno award, Karbi Lammet Amei president Kamsing Hanse, awarded the Bharat Samman 2025 by the Global Excellence Forum and noted writer Hangmiji Hanse, who received the Ru Bonglong Terang Anong 'eh by KAAC.

The conference saw participation from delegates of six branches of Lumbajong Longri Karbi Lammet Amei: Diphu KLA aroh, Inglongkiri KLA aroh, Dhansiri KLA aroh, Inglong KLA aroh, Manja KLA aroh and Chingthur KLA aroh. Executive Member (EM) of the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC), Prabhat Chandra Taro, attended as the chief guest.

The meeting was chaired by Lumbajong Longri Karbi Lammet Amei president Sarsing Engti and the welcome address was delivered by general secretary Samsing Kro. The event celebrated excellence across sports, social work, literature and community service while strengthening cultural and literary ties within the Karbi community.

'Suwag Tula' programme of Asom Sahitya Sabha held

Sabha marks centenary of Chandrakanta Handique Bhawan, honours literary contributions in Assamese language initiatives

HT Correspondent

SIVASAGAR, Nov 9: Asom Sahitya Sabha observed its "Suwag Tula" programme on Sunday at Bir Lachit Borpuhan College, Sivasagar on the eve of the 100th anniversary of the Chandrakanta Handique Bhawan, the nerve centre of the Sabha.

Samiran Bora, DDC, Sivasagar and president of the Reception Committee, delivered the welcome address. Debajit Bora, secretary of Asom Sahitya Sabha, spoke on the objectives of the meeting, emphasising the immeasurable contribution of the Radhakanta Handique family to Assam and to the Sabha. President Dr Basanta Goswami urged all to participate in the centenary celebrations of the Chandrakanta Handique Bhawan on December 2 and 3, which has kept the flame of the Sabha alive over the last century. He also mentioned that a centenary title song is being prepared and highlighted the Sabha's ongoing effort to identify 40 differences with the Bangla language for global recognition. Dr Goswami paid homage to Hem Chandra Baruah for his lifelong dedication to establishing the Assamese lan-



guage in history.

Delivering the keynote address, Dr Jyotirekha Hazarika detailed that Danber Radhakanta Handique generously donated funds for the construction of the Chandrakanta Handique Bhawan in 1926, naming it after one of his four sons, two of whom died young – Indrakanta, Chandrakanta, Krishnakanta and Lakhikanta. She expressed

concern that despite being over a century old, Asom Sahitya Sabha has yet to establish a university of its own, while Sankardev Sangha has already taken steps in that direction.

The programme began with an inaugural speech by Prema Gogoi, former president of Asom Kobi Sammilan. Jogesh Kishore Phukan, president of Sivasagar Jila Sahitya

Sabha, hoisted the Sabha flag along with 99 other important district personalities. The souvenir for the event was released by Padum Rajkhowa, vice president of Asom Sahitya Sabha.

The meeting was attended by notable personalities, including Mahendra Hazarika, president of Jorhat Jila Sahitya Sabha, Dr Pankajyoti Hazarika, Dr Raghunath Kagyung, Nava Rajan, Sunil Gurung, Mintu Das, Dulal Nath, Jibamoni Nath, Santosh Dutta, Uttom Hazarika, Mitali Saikia, Madhoh Mahanta, Jitu Bora, Binowa Teye, Monoranjan Teye, Mukut Gohain, president of Charaideo Jila Sahitya Sabha, Bipul Barua, Rupa Neog Hazarika, Babul Chandra Barua, Bhimbora Patiri, Dr Simanta Babarua, Dr Saumerjyoti Mahanta, Dr Ranjit Baruah, Dr Pratin Sharma, Dr Raju Gogoi, Manoj Kr Borthakur, Dr Prasanta Chetia and others.

The event combined solemnity and cultural fervour, celebrating the rich literary and cultural heritage of Assam while reflecting on the Sabha's achievements and future initiatives.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Trust yourself, you know more than you think you do - Benjamin Spock

JNU poll outcome

Echo of national discontent among youth is now prominently heard from Bihar to Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). Educated youth in Bihar have been vocal during the continuing election in the state where first phase of election has just been concluded on November 6, while the Left-wing students' unions have just swept the poll winning all the 4 top posts, signalling changing ideological pulse among educated youths. The result of the JNU has emboldened the opposition unity in Bihar. Several former JNU students are in the election fray in the state. Total rout of BJP's students wing ABVP in JNU has clearly diminished the morale of ABVP and youth activists of the party in Bihar. Shift in electoral narrative just before the five days before the conclusion of Bihar election is a significant development. It should be noted that students from Bihar in JNU, and Students of JNU in Bihar, have historically been an important factor in the political narrative. Its echoes are felt most keenly in Delhi and Bihar, two regions with deep traditions of student-led movements. In Delhi, JNU continues to inspire the wider activist ecosystem that shapes urban youth consciousness and public debate. In Bihar, the influence is more direct — many JNU-trained leaders have transitioned into mainstream politics, energizing Left and socialist formations. The campus victory, therefore, subtly reinvigorates opposition networks and the spirit of resistance politics in these states.

However, one must not mistake a campus verdict for a national trend. The BJP's political hegemony rests on electoral arithmetic, welfare outreach, and nationalist narrative — all largely outside the ambit of campus politics. The JNU result thus signifies not an impending shift in power, but a continuing struggle for ideological space in India's democracy. It is a reminder that while political might may dominate governance, the battle of ideas is still being fought — and won — in India's universities. Which may also influence the outcome of general elections in the country. The Left Unity alliance, a coalition of the All India Students' Association (AISA), Students' Federation of India (SFI), and Democratic Students' Front (DSF) have registered a sweeping victory in JNUSU election, winning all four central panel posts and reaffirmed its dominance on the campus. The campus saw vibrant participation of students where voter turnout was 67 per cent, though it was lower than 70 per cent in the last election.

The result shows how ABVP has made inroads in the student's politics in JNU. The number of votes polled in favour of ABVP for the post of President was 1447 as against AISA's 1861. For General Secretary post ABVP polled 1841 votes and for Joint Secretary 1762 votes as against DSF's 1915, and AISA's 1991 votes respectively. It shows that right wing ideological narrative among students is also significant, though they have lost this election.

By: Himaneshu Ranjan Bhuvan

The media is recognized as the fourth pillar of the democratic system, an indispensable element for a healthy, robust, and vibrant democratic society. Its fundamental and sacred duty is to present truth, accurate, and complete information to the public in an impartial, fearless, and unbiased manner, enabling citizens to stay informed about the country's political, economic, and social processes and exercise their democratic rights correctly and with appropriate knowledge. As a watchdog institution, the media holds those in power accountable for their actions, policies, and decisions, and as a mirror of society, it reflects the problems, successes, and failures at every level without any discrimination, playing a crucial role in building a just and equitable society. Although the contribution of the media to constructing a strong democracy is undeniable, when this medium deviates from the path of objectivity and takes sides with a particular political party, ideology, or powerful leader, both its impartiality and credibility are deeply damaged. This political bias creates a significant challenge for the entire democratic process, as it deprives the public of accurate and complete information, increasing division and polarization in society.

Political bias in the media is a complex and multi-layered issue, not limited to overt support but manifesting in subtle and hard-to-detect ways. There are various techniques of expressing this bias, the most common being discrimination in news selection, where stories beneficial to or highlighting the activities of a particular political side are given greater prominence, covered extensively and for longer periods, while the successes or positive steps of the opposing side are given minimal importance or omitted entirely. In this way, a positive image of one side is portrayed while the other is shown in a negative or inactive light, resulting in a one-sided perception among the public. The manner of news presentation and the language and vocabulary used subtly introduce bias. The same event can take completely opposite forms in two different media outlets, where one consistently uses positive, laudatory, and emotional words to describe the actions of one party, while applying negative, critical, and suspicious terms to the other, leading to a one-sided and distorted picture in the public's mind. The choice of headlines or titles is also a significant part of this bias; headlines are selected to strengthen the appeal of only one side and force the public to form a specific opinion even before reading the news. Furthermore, in discussions and debate programs, experts or commentators supporting a particular political ideology are frequently invited, while the views of the other side are ignored or given less importance, resulting in the public hearing only one perspective and being deprived of a complete and balanced viewpoint on the issue. Such subtle bias erodes the fundamental principle of media objectivity and poses a profound challenge to its credibility.

The roots of political bias in the media extend deep, with primary causes including economic interests, complexities of ownership, and direct or indirect pressure from the ruling class. Currently, many large media institutions are owned by major business groups or individuals with deep connections in political circles and personal or business interests, who use the controlled media as a tool to protect their interests, pressuring it to praise their supported political side or criticize the opposition. Thus, decisions on news dissemination are not based solely on truth or public interest but depend on the owner's interests and financial gains. Media institutions' heavy reliance on government advertisements and sponsorships also weakens their objectivity; fearing the loss of substantial financial benefits from the government, they hesitate to openly speak out against the ruling group's mistakes or corruption, leading to a form of 'self-regulated or censorship' where journalists themselves decide not to publish news that might displease the government. This financial dependence creates a major obstacle to working independently. Political pressure and threats are another key reason, where powerful individuals directly or indirectly force journalists to present news in a specific way, and failing to confront these pressures leads the

media to lose its independence and take the path of bias. All these factors combined gradually erode the media's freedom and objectivity, turning it into a puppet in the hands of power. Even the personal political ideologies and beliefs of journalists significantly influence their news gathering and presentation, unknowingly encouraging them to prepare news in favor of one side.

The consequences of political bias in the media create immense and lasting dangers for society and democracy. The greatest damage is the lack of truth and accurate information for the public, as when citizens receive only biased news, they get a distorted picture of reality, failing to make correct decisions for the country, with the entire nation suffering the consequences. For example, if the media covers up a government's misadministration and corruption, the public may re-elect that government, harming the whole country. This bias severely increases political division and polarization in society; an 'us' and 'them' mentality develops, where supporters of each political side trust only their own media and dismiss the other's as entirely false, reducing social tolerance and mutual respect, potentially creating an environment of tension, hatred, and conflict. Moreover, biased media fails to hold the ruling group accountable for their actions; when it ignores or supports every mistake of the rulers, they gain courage for authoritarianism and abuse of power, transforming democracy into a formal institution without genuine public participation. When the public loses faith in the media's objectivity, they begin to lose trust in the fundamental institutions of democracy, creating instability and chaos in political and social life, and this decline of the media leads the future of a healthy society toward darkness.

To address this problem, the media must take some important and well-considered steps to restore its lost dignity and objectivity. First, media institutions should seek new ways to achieve financial independence, reducing excessive reliance on government advertisements and emphasizing direct public support, membership systems, or other independent financial sources. Only when the media is financially independent can it work free from political pressure and owner's interests. Second, there must be clear and strict ethical guidelines and codes of conduct for journalists and editors, motivating them to remain free from the influence of personal political ideologies and work only in favor of truth and public interest. Only on the foundation of this ethics can they fulfill their duties correctly. Third, balance must always be maintained in news publication and broadcasting; all aspects of an issue, arguments, and evidence from all sides should be presented with equal importance and in detail, going deeply into the subject to offer complete analysis rather than reflecting only one side's appeal. From an institutional perspective, forming a strong, independent, and free from political pressure 'media council' or similar regulatory body is extremely urgent, which can monitor ethical standards in the media and take action against bias. This body should have the power to impartially investigate complaints of bias and take clear and strict measures against guilty institutions or journalists.

In the current technology-dependent era, especially with the rise of social media and digital platforms, political bias in the media has taken a new and more complex form. These digital platforms send only specific types of news to users based on their previous preferences and activities, trapping individuals in a particular political or ideological 'echo chamber' or 'filter bubble,' meaning they see only news and analysis supporting their own views, strengthening their political bias and leading them to completely dismiss opposing opinions. Political forces deliberately use these platforms as powerful tools to spread 'fake news' or distorted information, crafted so meticulously and attractively that the general public cannot easily detect their truth, spreading rapidly among large numbers of people in a short time and deeply influencing

political decision-making and public opinion. To counter this new challenge, media must invest more in 'fact-checking' or verifying information and use advanced technology; they must clearly present news sources and bring transparency to their work. Additionally, educating the public through digital literacy or knowledge is extremely essential so they can identify fake and biased news themselves and rely only on credible sources. In this digital flow, the media's ethical responsibility and professional standards have become even more important than before, as they must not only disseminate news but also act as guides leading the public toward accurate information.

Active participation and critical thinking from the public are indispensable for solving this problem. The public must act as active and aware citizens rather than passive consumers. When receiving any news, they should approach it with a critical mindset and delve into its depth; they should ask themselves, 'Who published this news? What is its purpose? Is there any interest hidden behind it?' and instead of believing only news aligning with their political views, develop the habit of reading or listening to media from different ideologies to obtain a complete and balanced picture. If any news is clearly biased or fake, the public should speak out and hold media institutions accountable for their mistakes. In this way, the public can act as a powerful 'controlling force' for the media, creating strong social pressure on it. The public must be ready to support impartial and quality journalism, even financially if needed. When the public understands the value of accurate and impartial news and encourages institutions for it, strong social pressure falls on the media to remain impartial. Without this critical awareness and active participation, the public will always remain influenced by biased propaganda, and the standards of democratic life will gradually decline. Political bias in the media is a significant challenge for modern democracy, increasing division among civilians and weakening the fundamental foundations of democracy. There is no single solution to this problem; it requires a collective effort from media institutions, the political system, institutional frameworks, and the public. It is extremely urgent for the media to restore its ethical and professional standards; it must show courage to protect public interest rather than merely nodding to the ruling group or power. In the future, as digital technology advances, the forms of bias will also change, so both the media and the public must remain aware of these new challenges and innovate new methods and strategies to counter them. Without this continuous struggle and active effort, hoping for a healthy and just society is futile, as only an impartial and independent media can bring the true light of democracy to the public. Born on 22nd September 1829 in Guwahati, Anandaram came from a family rooted in aristocratic legacy and cultural erudition. His father, Holiram Dhekial Phukan, had held a prominent position during the Ahom rule and later served under the British regime, producing scholarly works in Sanskrit and Bengali. This familial heritage sowed the seeds of intellectual curiosity in young Anandaram, although his early years were shadowed by personal loss. The death of his father when he was just two years old placed him under the nurturing care of his mother, Kameshwari, who raised him with quiet strength. His initiation into traditional education began at the Sanskrit Tol of Umananda, which grounded him in classical learning. However, it was his transition to English education—despite opposition from traditionalist family members—that marked a profound turn in his intellectual journey. Enrolling in Guwahati's first English school in 1837 under the mentorship of James Matthew and Jenkins, he imbibed the modern liberal arts spirit. Recognizing his exceptional promise, the British administration sponsored his education in Calcutta, where he joined Hindu College in 1841. Though he returned prematurely in 1844 due to familial obligations, his thirst for learning never

waned. He continued to educate himself in English, Urdu, and Persian, making him a rare polyglot of his time. This eclectic scholarship became the bedrock of his reformist zeal and his lifelong mission of cultural preservation and societal modernization.

The defining cause of Anandaram Dhekial Phukan's life was his unwavering commitment to the Assamese language at a time when it teetered on the brink of extinction in formal domains. The British colonial administration, driven by expediency and influenced by Bengali officials, had supplanted Assamese with Bengali as the language of instruction and governance in Assam. For Anandaram, this was not a mere administrative change—it was an assault on the cultural and intellectual integrity of his people. He saw language as the carrier of a civilization's consciousness, a repository of its history, values, and aspirations. His fight to restore Assamese was not driven by narrow linguistic sentiment but by a profound understanding of identity politics. When British Governor A. J. Moffatt Mills visited Assam in 1853, Anandaram presented an erudite and persuasive memorandum advocating for the reinstatement of Assamese in schools. His arguments were so cogent and well-articulated that Mills supported the proposal, setting in motion a policy reversal that would have long-term implications. It was a turning point in Assam's modern history. Anandaram's intervention restored not just a language but revived a collective confidence among the Assamese people in their cultural legitimacy.

His landmark work *A Few Remarks on the Assamese Language*, and on Vernacular Education in Assam, published in 1855, stands as a monumental intellectual contribution to the cause of linguistic identity. Distributed among administrative circles across India, the book provided rigorous evidence that Assamese was not a derivative of Bengali but a distinct language with its own grammar, syntax, and literary lineage. This assertion, supported by his multilingual erudition, challenged the dominant colonial narrative and reshaped official policy. More importantly, it gave Assamese speakers a renewed sense of pride in their mother tongue. His scholarship became a cornerstone of the intellectual movement that reclaimed Assamese as a legitimate and independent language. Through this work, Anandaram not only countered colonial assumptions but also dismantled the regional hegemonies that sought to undermine Assamese linguistic sovereignty. In a deeply divided and colonially orchestrated cultural milieu, this was an act of intellectual defiance and self-assertion.

Education, for Anandaram, was the most potent instrument for social transformation. He believed that a nation could progress only when its youth were equipped with knowledge. He viewed modern education not merely as a means of individual advancement but as a pathway to collective liberation. His textbook *Assamese Larar Mitra* played a vital role in the revival of Assamese as a medium of instruction. It served as an educational bridge, reconnecting young minds with their linguistic roots while simultaneously steering them towards rationality and enlightenment. He explored the youth to seek knowledge fearlessly, exhorting them to overcome social prohibitions and conservative resistance. His appeal to students to unite in the pursuit of education was revolutionary for its time and reflected his radical belief in intellectual empowerment. Anandaram was not just a reformer; he was a dreamer who saw a future Assamese society that was literate, thoughtful, and capable of steering its own destiny.

However, Anandaram's vision was not confined to education and language. He had a comprehensive understanding of modernity, encompassing economic, social, and moral dimensions. At a time when commerce was still viewed with suspicion in Assamese society, Anandaram championed trade as the cornerstone of national development. He explicitly linked prosperity to commerce, arguing that without economic engagement, Assam would remain impoverished and marginalized. His call to embrace trade was not just

Vande Mataram: The spiritual inspiration of Nationalism

“Vande Mataram” was not just a song, but it became the soul of the nation during the Indian freedom struggle. Composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, the song was included in his famous work, *Anandamath* (1882). It presented Mother India as a goddess who bound the Indian people, suffering from colonial oppression, in a spiritual and cultural unity. This song not only connected Indians on an emotional level but also established the demand for independence as a moral and religious right. This was a time when India was under British rule, and society was living in a mentality of despair, division, and subordination. In such a situation, “Vande Mataram” ignited the spark of self-respect that was suppressed within Indians.

The first two lines of this song—“Sujalaam Suphalaam Malayajashitalam Shasyashyamalalam Mataram”—describe the geographical beauty and prosperity of India. Here, the land is depicted not just as a piece of soil, but as a mother who provides water, food, and life to her children. This emotional metaphor was deeply inspiring for the people of that time. The feeling of motherhood was the most sacred for Indian society, and when the country was seen as a ‘mother,’ patriotism naturally took the form of ‘bhakti.’ This feeling is what transforms “Vande Mataram” from a simple song into a spiritual movement.

At that time, political consciousness was beginning to emerge in India, but participation among the general public was limited. The seeds of nationalism were sprouting among the educated class, but they lacked emotional energy. “Vande Mataram” filled this void. It gave nationalism not just a political but a spiritual and cultural dimension. When this song was sung, people realized for the first time that they were not subjects of any external power, but children of their own motherland, with a birthright to freedom.

When the British government partitioned Bengal in 1905, “Vande Mataram” became the central slogan of the Partition Movement. These words resonated on the lips of everyone—students, women, merchants, and

farmers. When this song was sung collectively at rallies, meetings, and processions, it instilled an invincible power within the people. The British government found the song so dangerous that it banned its public singing. But despite the ban, the song grew even more popular. “Vande Mataram” began to be sung secretly in schools, colleges, and temples. It became a symbol of resistance, self-respect, and unity.

In a diverse country like India, where society was divided by language, religion, and caste, “Vande Mataram” served as a unifying force. This song gave all sections of society a common cultural symbol—“Mother.” Whether in Bengal, Punjab, Gujarat, or Tamil Nadu—every state saw in this song an image of its motherland. It laid the foundation for national unity, which later became the foundation of the freedom struggle.

Through “Vande Mataram,” Indian nationalism found a new language and expression. It transformed political struggle into a religious celebration. It was not only a symbol of protest against foreign rule, but also a call to recognize one's inner self-respect. This song made Indian society realize that subjugation was not only the shackles of external rule but also the chains of mental slavery. When people began to worship the motherland as a goddess, independence was no longer merely a political goal but a spiritual duty.

This song deeply influenced many great leaders of the Indian independence movement. Sri Aurobindo Ghosh said, “Vande Mataram is the mantra that will lead us to the attainment of Swarajya.” Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose made it the national song of his Indian National Army. Revolutionaries like Bhagat Singh would have “Vande Mataram” on their lips when they went to jail or faced the gallows. It instilled a spirit of sacrifice and heroism within the youth.

Culturally, the song also became a symbol of the Indian Renaissance. At that time, artists and writers like Rabindranath Tagore, Abanindranath Tagore, and Nandalal Bose were striving to restore Indian identity. “Vande Mataram” provided a common inspi-

ration. The image of the motherland in Indian painting, drama, music, and literature was influenced by this song. This was a period when Indian culture was trying to rediscover its lost glory, and “Vande Mataram” became its most powerful symbol.

For British rule, this song symbolized rebellion. The British attempted to portray it as a religious divide, but for Indians, it symbolized not just one religion, but the entire nation. While it contained metaphors for Hindu deities, its purpose was not to exalt any one religion but to establish the motherland as sacred. This song forged a new definition of the nation in the socio-cultural psyche of the time—one that placed patriotism above religion.

The power of Vande Mataram lay in its simplicity and emotional depth. Each line of it extolled the beauty and dignity of India. Lines like “Tvam hi Durga Dashapraharandharini” signaled that the land of India was not only tender but also powerful—capable of protecting its children. It inspired people to see the power of Indian women and the power of the nation as one.

During the Indian freedom struggle, whenever the movement seemed to wane, the echo of “Vande Mataram” would reenergize the people. This song became so deeply ingrained in the hearts of the people that it became the symbolic sound of freedom. It became a tradition to sing it at the sessions of the Indian National Congress. Mahatma Gandhi called it the song of the soul of India. Although some religious communities objected to some of its lines, for most Indians it remained the supreme symbol of the spirit of the nation.

When India's Constitution was drafted after independence, “Vande Mataram” was recognized as the national song, while “Jana Gana Mana” was adopted as the national anthem. The Constituent Assembly's deliberations clarified that “Vande Mataram” would be respected as the national anthem, given its unique contribution to India's freedom struggle.

Even today, when this song is sung, its

sound reflects the same passion, the same devotion, and the same motherly feeling that it had during the days of the freedom fighters. This song reminds us that the nation is not just a name for political boundaries, but a vibrant culture, a shared spirit, and a soul that binds us together.

“Vande Mataram” sowed the seeds of nationalism in colonial India and nurtured them into a tree under whose shade India reaped the fruits of independence. It proved that when a nation recognizes its culture, its language, and its motherland as its soul, no external force can enslave it for long. This song is not a song of Indian independence, but of Indian self-awakening.

This song taught the Indian people that freedom is not just a right, but also a responsibility—towards their culture, their motherland, and their society. The voice that resonates in “Vande Mataram” is not just a moment in time, but a call that inspires us for ages to come. This call reminds us again and again that the true strength of a nation lies in its unity, its faith, and its self-respect. Ultimately, it can be said that “Vande Mataram” gave an emotional, cultural, and spiritual direction to the Indian independence movement. This song became a beacon of Indian nationalism that illuminated the dark colonial era. Even today, when its tune is played, an unearthly sense of pride, reverence, and gratitude is awakened within every Indian. It is not merely a memory of the past, but a source of inspiration for the future—teaching us that as long as the spirit of “Vande Mataram” lives on, the soul of India is immortal.

“Vande Mataram” was the spiritual foundation of India's freedom struggle. Composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, this song was imbued with the spirit of worshipping the motherland as a goddess. It transformed nationalism not just into a political idea, but into a devotional spirit. From the Partition of Bengal movement to revolutionary struggles, this song inspired freedom fighters. Even today, it symbolizes national honor, unity, and self-respect. “Vande Mataram” awakened the soul of India and will forever remain the heartbeat of our national consciousness.

practical advice—it was a visionary forecast of a self-reliant Assam integrated into the global economy. His critique of Assamese indifference towards economic matters demonstrated a rare insight into the nexus between cultural pride and material progress. He recognized that cultural revival had to be backed by economic strength for it to be sustainable.

Anandaram's ideas on social reform were equally progressive. In his writings and personal conduct, he consistently demonstrated a vision of a civilized, egalitarian society. His famous prayer for a transformed Assam—one that would witness steamships instead of boats, brick houses instead of bamboo huts, schools in every village, and mutual love replacing hatred—was a dream rooted in rational optimism. It captured not just his aspirations but also offered a blueprint for Assam's future. He envisioned a society where modern infrastructure would blend with moral values, and where development would be inclusive and humane. His prayer reveals a desire for comprehensive progress—material, intellectual, and ethical—and underscores his spiritual humanism. He dreamt of an Assam where modernity did not mean abandoning tradition but rather evolving tradition into a higher, more inclusive form.

In his personal life too, Anandaram broke conventions. His decision to educate his wife, Mahendri Devi, was a quiet yet profound act of rebellion against the patriarchal norms of his time. In a society where women's education was nearly unheard of, his insistence on making his wife literate spoke volumes about his commitment to social equality. He balanced his responsibilities as a husband and father with his public duties, never allowing personal grief or societal constraints to deter him from his mission. The death of his first child, Raseshwari, was a personal tragedy, but he continued to devote himself to public causes with unflinching zeal.

Professionally, Anandaram served in various administrative positions including as Jemadar, Munsif, Dewan of Bijni Raj Estate, and Deputy Commissioner of Nagaon. His tenure in the colonial bureaucracy was marked by efficiency, fairness, and a deep sense of duty. But even as he carried out his official responsibilities, he remained intellectually active and socially engaged. His books on legal and administrative matters such as *Englander Buranj*, *Estate Administration*, *Sadarer Mamalar Nispati*, and *Dewani Mamalar Nispati* show the breadth of his knowledge and his desire to democratize access to institutional knowledge. He sought to bridge the gap between the ruling system and the common people, believing that awareness and information were key to empowerment. Through his professional and literary contributions, he exemplified the ideal of the civil servant-scholar—one who serves not only the administration but also society.

Tragically, Anandaram's promising life was cut short when he passed away on 16th June 1859, merely five days after falling ill. His death at the age of twenty-nine robbed Assam of a torchbearer in its time of awakening. Yet, his ideas continue to resonate. His belief in language as identity, education as liberation, commerce as progress, and unity as strength remains profoundly relevant. Today, as Assam faces new cultural, linguistic, and socio-economic challenges, the legacy of Anandaram Dhekial Phukan offers both inspiration and guidance. He remains a shining example of how vision, courage, and intellectual clarity can spark the renaissance of an entire civilization.

The story of Anandaram Dhekial Phukan is not simply the biography of an individual—it is the narrative of a people reclaiming their voice, their dignity, and their place in the world. His life reminds us that the future of a community lies not in passive adaptation but in proactive transformation. He taught Assam to look within for strength and to look ahead for progress. In honoring his memory, especially on his death anniversary on 16th June, we do not merely pay tribute to a historical figure—we reaffirm our commitment to the ideals he stood for. His life remains a testament to the fact that even in a short span, a resolute soul can leave behind a legacy that shapes the destiny of generations. (The author can be reached at himgangshur1989@gmail.com or 9954812261, 9864000260)

Invisible, sudden, fatal: Why blood clots are deadly and how Indian research aims to tackle the risk

By: **Mohammad Zahid Ashraf,**
Jamia Millia Islamia

Behind many sudden deaths lie clots that block blood flow to the heart, lungs or brain. Globally, blood clots are linked to one in four deaths, which is more than AIDS, breast cancer and traffic accidents combined.

In India, they tend to strike earlier than in Western countries, often during people's most productive years. Every year, more than 2.5 million Indians die from heart-related causes, with clotting a major factor.

Yet the issue remains largely invisible in India's public health agenda. The warning signs are easy to miss: pain in the chest or severe headache, swelling in a leg, or unexplained breathlessness or dizziness. Left untreated, this can lead to sudden death.

A stronger focus on prevention and early detection could turn the tide against this silent killer.

After viral infections, the risk of serious clotting remains high. The Covid-19 pandemic revealed that infections can make blood more prone to clotting by damaging blood vessels, activating platelets – tiny cell fragments that help form clots – and triggering inflammation. During the pandemic, the D-dimer test, which measures fragments of clots circulating in the blood, also became widely known as a way to detect abnormal clotting.

Public concern about clots has since faded, but the threat persists. Dangerous clots are often the hidden cause of heart attacks, strokes and blocked veins in the legs or lungs. These conditions, collectively known as venous thromboembolism, cover two related problems: deep vein thrombosis, when a clot forms in a deep vein (often in the leg), and pulmonary embolism, when that clot travels to the lungs. Both can recur, and cause sudden death or lead to lasting organ damage.

Evidence suggests that vaccination helps protect against severe illness and long Covid by maintaining immunity. However, rare cases of a condition called thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome – a combination of clotting and unusually low platelet



counts – were linked to the AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson vaccines, occurring in about 10 people per million doses. mRNA-based vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna have not shown this effect.

Experts agree that the benefits of vaccination far outweigh the small risk of such rare side effects.

The risk of clotting rises among people who are sedentary, obese, diabetic, recovering from surgery or trauma, or undergoing cancer treatment. Women face added risk during pregnancy or while using oral contraceptives, as hormone changes can make blood thicker. Some families carry genetic mutations that make their blood more likely to clot.

Geography can also play a role. Soldiers stationed at high altitudes in Siachen and Ladakh, and pilgrims trekking to Amarnath or Kailash Mansarovar, face conditions such as low oxy-

gen, dehydration and extreme cold that increase clotting risk.

Prevention and new cures
The good news is that prevention is simple: move more, sit less and stay hydrated. Standing or walking every hour, even during long flights or hospital stays, helps maintain circulation. Those at risk should wear compression stockings, which gently squeeze the legs to prevent blood from pooling, and consult their doctors for early screening.

Treatment options have also advanced. Blood thinners or anticoagulants remain the main line of defence. Older drugs such as heparin (an injectable medicine) and warfarin (a tablet that prevents the liver from making clotting proteins) have long been used to stop new clots from forming.

Newer oral anticoagulants act more precisely on the body's clotting process. Direct thrombin inhibitors such as dabigatran block

thrombin, the key enzyme that builds clots, while other inhibitors like rivaroxaban target another crucial step.

India has made its own mark in this field. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research developed the clot-busting enzyme streptokinase, introduced in 2009, which dissolves existing clots. New recombinant, or laboratory-engineered, versions are now being tested.

A next generation of drugs that block factor XI, another clotting protein, could offer safer long-term options. Global companies including Bayer, Novartis and China's Jiangsu Hengrui are developing these therapies, now in clinical trials.

Around the world, scientists are also working on faster, more accurate diagnostic tools. Handheld devices such as ClotChip and new urine-based tests can detect abnormal clotting within minutes.

Indian researchers have created innovations such as the Indian Institute of Science's nanozyme – a microscopic enzyme mimic that prevents clots – and IIT (BHU)'s nanoparticles designed to deliver anti-clot drugs directly where they are needed.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed a diagnostic test using microRNA-145, a small molecule in the blood that helps regulate gene activity and is linked to clot formation. This was later validated in Europe's Trøndelag Health Study. Wearable ultrasound devices and smart biosensors could soon make detection faster, safer and more accessible.

Because clot treatment can be expensive and long-term, prevention remains far more cost-effective. Many cases arise during predictable hospital stays or cancer treatment.

In 2008, the US Surgeon General made clot prevention a national priority, prompting hospitals to use checklists and discharge guidelines that have saved thousands of lives. India has begun similar efforts. The Indian Council of Medical Research launched the country's first hospital-based registry, i-RegVeD, in 2022, collecting real-time data from 16 tertiary hospitals. Early results from more than 2,800 patients show high recovery rates and about 3% mortality.

The National Academy of Medical Sciences' 2024 task-force report also recommends routine hospital risk checks to detect clots early. These initiatives could help shape national policy and make care more evidence-based.

Despite strong public campaigns on diabetes and hypertension, awareness of blood clots remains minimal. It is rarely mentioned in schools, workplaces or even in-flight safety briefings, though simple awareness could save thousands of lives. A coordinated public campaign through social media, airlines, pilgrimage organisers and hospitals could make a critical difference.

Clots can be fatal but are largely preventable. Early recognition, timely medical care and sustained awareness can help India tackle this silent killer. (Courtesy: Scroll.in)

12 Best meal delivery services for families

By: **Beth Sissons and Stefano Iavarone and Lois Neville**

Top meal delivery services for families

Please note that the writer of this article has not tried these products. All information presented is purely research-based and correct at the time of publication.

Best for all ages: Hello Fresh

- Meals per week: 2-6
- Dietary requirements: vegetarian, pescatarian, and low carb

Hello Fresh offers a variety of meals according to a set of preferences that the user opts for, including a vegetarian meal plan, with a range of chef-designed recipes that vary in cooking times.

Other options include meats, pescatarian, quick and easy, and family-friendly. Hello Fresh changes its menu of over 100 options every week.

People can choose from 2-6 meals per week, with two or four servings per meal. These include breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snacks.

The more a person orders, the lower each meal costs. This could suit families who need to place large orders.

Meal examples include:

- Thai coconut curry chicken with cilantro lime cauliflower rice
- Grilled onion cheeseburgers with special sauce and potato wedges
- Sweet and smoky pulled pork lettuce wraps with pineapple pico de gallo and tortilla chips

Aside from vegetarians, Hello Fresh also caters to those who want a more balanced diet, such as a Mediterranean, and people following a low-carbohydrate lifestyle.

However, the range for these specific diets is quite small, and the company produces meals in a facility that processes common allergens, such as eggs, milk, shellfish, and soy. The brand also doesn't offer vegan options at this time.

Best for dietary requirements: Sunbasket

- Meals per week: 2-5
- Dietary requirements: paleo, vegetarian, gluten-free, keto-friendly, low-carb, diabetes-friendly, and pescatarian

Sunbasket offers sustainable fresh ingredients and is certified organic by the Department of Agriculture (USDA).

One of the upsides of Sunbasket in comparison to alternatives is its vast choice for people on different diets.

Recipes also offer some child-friendly preparation activities, such as juicing a lemon.

Sunbasket caters for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snacks. The menu varies weekly, and people can often choose from different sides.

Meal examples include:

- Burmese salmon salad with lemon-grass, cabbage, and apple
- Latin-spiced sole with warm carrot salad and pumpkin seed dukkah
- Spaghetti and meatballs in basil marinara sauce

Even though Sunbasket offers gluten-free specialty meals, it prepares its food in a facility that handles wheat. As such, it warns people with severe gluten intolerance that it may not suit them.

People can choose 2-5 meals per week, with two or four servings per meal. The cost of each meal reduces as people increase their order size. This could benefit families who need to order several meals. People can choose between meal kits and ready-to-eat meals.

Prices vary depending on whether people choose ready meals or meal kits and the above options.

Best for vegans: Purple Carrot

- Meals per week: 3-4 for meal kits, 6-10 for prepared meals
- Dietary requirements: vegan and gluten-free

Purple Carrot is a plant-based meal delivery kit service.

It offers a range of vegan meals, including high protein and gluten-free options. Purple Carrot provides breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snack options. People can choose from 2 or 4 servings.

Meal examples include:

- Greek seitan gyros with quick pickles and lemon yogurt
- Italian butter bean stew with crispy sausage and parmesan kale
- Thai peanut noodles with chile garlic eggplant and bok choy

Individuals can opt for meal kits or ready-to-eat meals. In the case of meal kits, people can choose from 8-12 weekly servings.

Best for microwave meals: Factor

- Meals per week: 4-18
- Dietary requirements: keto, vegan, vegetarian, and low-calorie

Factor offers different meal plans comprising fresh ingredients and lean meats.

Meals are fully prepared and only require heating up in an oven or microwave, which may suit families looking to reduce meal preparation time.

People can choose from 4-18 meals per week while selecting their serving sizes for each meal. If a person struggles to decide what they want, Factor can choose meals based on their preferences.

Meal types include breakfast, juices, lunch, dinner, and snacks.

Meal examples include:

- Keto chorizo chili with shredded cheese and scallion sour cream
- Peanut buddha bowl with cilantro quinoa, gochugaru-spiced peanuts, and sesame broccoli
- Peppercorn-spiced filet mignon with browned butter potato mash, broccolini, and peppers

Best organic: Green Chef

- Meal per week: 6-24
- Dietary requirements: keto, paleo, vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free

Green Chef is certified organic by the USDA.

The Green Chef Keto and Paleo meal plan is certified gluten-free with the GIG. Meal plans can feed up to a family of six, with between 6 and 24 servings per week, depending on the plan.

Green Chef provides premeasured ingredients and step-by-step instructions with photos.

At the moment, the company only offers lunch and dinner options for meal kits. However, it offers breakfast items as add-ons.

Meal examples include:

- Peruvian-style roasted chicken
- Pecan-crusted sockeye salmon
- Blackened sweet potato bowls with dirty rice, pecans, and paprika-Dijon aioli

Best for older kids: Nurture Life

- Meals per week: 6-15
- Dietary requirements: pescatarian, gluten-free, and vegetarian

Nurture Life offers ready-to-heat meals for both picky eaters and older kids. Most meals range from around 200-300 calories. Options include breakfast, lunch, dinner, finger food, smoothies, and snacks.

Meal examples include:

- Pesto and cheesy ravioli with hidden spinach
- Beef taco pockets with fiesta corn
- Cheese pizza pockets with broccoli

Best for minimal preparation: Dinnerly

- Meals per week: 3-6
- Dietary requirements: dairy-free, no added gluten, low-calorie, low-carb, and vegetarian

Dinnerly markets itself as an affordable meal kit option, providing 3-6 meals a week for 2-4 people.

Each meal has no more than five steps, making it attractive to busy families or those wanting to build up their confidence in the kitchen. There's a variety of meals that meet dietary preferences, as well as one pot and picky-eater options. Ready meals are also available.

There is a catalog of over 100 recipes to try each week, including breakfasts, lunches, dinners, and desserts. Kid-friendly recipes are labeled as such on their website. Dishes include:

- Pork katsu meatloaf
- Loaded veggie pot pie
- Crispy pork schnitzel with cucumber salad
- Flourless chocolate cake

Best for quick meals: Gobble

- Meals per week: 2-5
- Dietary requirements: wheat-free, dairy-free, nut-free, vegetarian, and low calorie

Gobble's meal kits take 15 minutes to cook, making this service suitable for people who are on a tighter schedule.

This service may also appeal to those who prefer not to prepare ingredients, as the company pre-prepares them beforehand.

People can choose from breakfasts, lunches, dinners, sides, and desserts for a range of dietary requirements, including vegetarian. Some menu options include:

- Thai-style pork burger with crispy yuca fries
- Spinach and arugula salad with apricots & goat cheese
- Ribeye steak Diane with mashed potatoes, mushrooms, and asparagus
- Hazelnut gianduja cake

Best for palate exposure: Little Spoon

- Meals per week: 4-6
- Dietary requirements: nut-free, dairy-free, gluten-free, egg-free, sesame-free, and vegetarian

Little Spoon provides pre-prepared organic and non-GMO food for babies, toddlers, and young children.

The company offers meals for differ-



ent age groups. People can choose from breakfasts, lunches, dinners, and snacks.

Little Spoon states it has over 100 ingredients in its recipes for palate exposure that even the pickiest eaters will enjoy. Some meals include:

- Chicken supper nuggets
- Mini kale turkey meatballs
- Three cheese egg bites
- Farro pizza bites

Best grocery service: HungryRoot

- Meals per week: 6-16
- Dietary requirements: vegan, vegetarian, pescatarian, gluten-free, nut-free, soy-free, and egg-free

HungryRoot describes itself as a grocery shop and meal kit delivery service. People must take a quiz covering their preferences, allergies, and dietary needs.

After filling in the quiz, people can choose from a small, medium, or large delivery. Each delivery includes recipes, fresh produce, proteins, and snacks.

Example recipes include:

- Spinach artichoke and mushroom tortellini
- Summertime shrimp tacos
- Red-sauce ravioli with Italian chicken sausage

100% plant-based pizza

- Best for amateur cooks: EveryPlate
- Meals per week: 3-6
- Dietary requirements: meat and vegetable, family favorites, vegetarian, quick and easy, and nutritious and delicious

Every Plate states it offers affordable meal kits that are quick and easy to prepare. Each meal is ready in around 30 minutes, and the company claims that the recipes only require basic cooking equipment.

As this service does not require specialized equipment, it may appeal to more amateur cooks.

Customers can choose from 26 recipes per week, which can feed 2 or 4 people. Meals include:

- Cajun chicken sandwiches with roasted potato wedges
- Creamy corn and bacon chowder
- Sweet soy and pepper stir-fry
- Kung pao beef bowls

There is also the option to include customizable add-ons and desserts to meal kits.

Best for babies: Yumi

- Meals per week: 8-16
- Dietary requirements: vegetarian, gluten-free, dairy-free, nut-free, and kosher

Yumi offers meals specifically for babies and infants.

The company provides different options for ages 6-11 months and over. These include baby food blends, finger foods, and small snacks.

People can order weekly or monthly, from boxes containing 8-16 servings.

All ingredients are 100% organic, and all meals are plant-based. Products do not include shellfish, tree nuts, peanuts, wheat, milk, eggs, fish, sesame, or soybeans. Options include:

- Peach puree
- Pea carrot combo
- Banana bread bites
- Sweet potato latke

How do family meal delivery services work?

Family meal delivery services work in the same way as similar providers. They include a weekly selection of premade meals or premeasured ingredients for home delivery.

People choose their meals and request how many servings they need each week. There are options to avoid certain foods or tailor meals to suit dietary requirements.

Many meal delivery services have child-friendly meals, while some offer discounts if people order a certain number of meals per week.

How can meal delivery services help busy families?

Planning, shopping, and preparing healthy, home-cooked meals for busy families is difficult. With this in mind, some may eat out or order takeout for convenience.

These meal options can save time and potential stress. However, they may lead to people consuming meals that are high in calories but low in nutrition. The American Diabetes Association says restaurant meals are usually larger and contain higher amounts of fat, sugar, and salt than home-cooked foods.

Research focusing on the nutritional density of restaurant food also suggests that children's meals can be unhealthy. A 2015 study/Trusted Source found that most children's meals in United States chain restaurants contained high levels of fat, saturated fat, sodium, and calories. A 2020 study/Trusted Source also found that parents do not typically encourage children to make healthier food decisions when dining at fast-food restaurants.

Therefore, where possible, people should opt for home-prepared meals rather than eating out. Ideally, these home-cooked meals should contain plenty of vegetables and whole grains.

Research supports the benefits of eating healthy home-cooked meals as a family. A 2015 study/Trusted Source found a link between frequent home cooking and a healthier diet. More recent research/Trusted Source theorizes that parents have an important impact on their children's eating habits, as structured mealtimes with healthy food result in children with healthier diets.

Meal delivery kits and healthy ready-to-eat meals may help bridge the gap between convenience and the time people invest in cooking.

Another benefit of meal kits is that they encourage families to cook together while providing children with the opportunity to learn more about food. (Courtesy:MNT)

Shah charges oppn with trying to build 'corridor for infiltrators' in Bihar

'Rahul's 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' was aimed at protecting infiltrators'

SASARAM/ARWAL (BIHAR), Nov 9: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday charged the INDIA bloc with trying to build a "corridor for infiltrators", unlike Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who wanted to "set up an industrial corridor".

Addressing back-to-back rallies in Sasaram and Arwal towns of Bihar, on the final day of campaign for the second and final phase of assembly elections, Shah also promised a future that "mortar shells that will be dropped on Pakistan will be manufactured at an ordinance factory in this state".

"Recently, Rahul and Lalu's son (Tejshwi Yadav) took out a 'Voter Adhikar Yatra'. It was not aimed at bringing about any improvement in the lives of the poor living in Bihar, the Dalits and the EBCs. It was aimed at protecting infiltrators," Shah alleged.

The former BJP president said that "the opposition's vote bank politics has led them to make attempts for building a ghuspaithiya (infiltrator) corridor, unlike Narendra Modi, who is setting up an industrial corridor".

Shah also bristled at Gandhi's charge that votes were being stolen in the country, and asked, "If he thinks there is 'vote chori', why



does he not lodge a formal complaint with the Election Commission?"

"When the government at the Centre was helmed by Manmohan Singh, Sonia Gandhi and Lalu, terrorists struck at will on our soil. In contrast, now we are beating up the terrorists inside their homes," Shah asserted.

"In future, if terrorists from Pakistan dare to carry out an attack again, bullets fired by them will be retaliated with mortar shells. Do you know where these mortar shells will be manufactured? In Bihar, in Sasaram, as Modi is trying to build a defence corridor

here," said the home minister.

The BJP leader also lambasted the Congress and the RJD for "having tried to stall" the construction of the Ram temple at Ayodhya, where an ancient Hindu shrine was allegedly razed by "Mughal emperor Babur 550 years ago".

"Today, with Modi in power, a sky-high temple has been built at the spot," Shah said.

The former BJP president said, "I can tell you, in advance, the outcome of the ongoing elections. This is my 37th rally in the state, and I can say that Lalu ji and his allies are going to be wiped out in

the first phase itself."

He urged all the people to "be on guard and not get complacent".

"You must remember that the opposition may have come in a new garb, but their poll symbols remain the same lantern and 'pan-jaa' (hand) and so does their character," Shah alleged.

Referring to the CPI(ML) Liberation, which has aligned with the INDIA bloc, the home minister said, "Under Modi's leadership, we have been able to weed out the menace of naxalism. But if even a little chance is given to these red flag wallahs, the state will again be in throes of the Left insurgency that Bihar has suffered in the past".

"Press the EVM button, in favour of NDA candidates, with such force that it sends shock waves as far as Italy", added the BJP leader, in a tongue-in-cheek reference to Gandhi's maternal roots in the European country.

He also drew a contrast between Prasad, who has been convicted in fodder scam cases and named in many other corruption scandals,

and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, the JD(U) president and NDA ally, who had "no taint of corruption despite being in power for 20 years". (PTI)

Classmate shoots at class 11 student using father's pistol in Gurugram: Police

GURUGRAM, Nov 9: A class 11 student was shot at allegedly by his classmate using his father's licensed pistol in a flat in Sector 48, police said on Sunday.

According to police, the bullet got lodged in the student's neck, and his condition remains critical. He is being treated at a private hospital. An FIR has been registered at the Sadar police station, and two minor students have been apprehended in connection with the case.

Police said they recovered one pistol, two magazines, 70 cartridges, and a bullet shell from the spot.

The incident took place at around 9.30 pm on Saturday. Three classmates were in the accused's rented flat when a spat occurred, following which one of them allegedly shot another, according to police.

After receiving information, a police team reached the spot, rushed the injured to the hospital, and took the other two students into custody, police said.

According to the complaint filed by the mother of the 17-year-old injured student, her son's school friend invited him to meet on Saturday. Her son initially refused, but the friend insisted and said he would come to pick the victim up. She then allowed her son to go, and he met the friend at the Kherki Daula toll, she stated.

"About two months ago, my son had an altercation with his friend. Because of this, my son's friend took him to his house and, along with another friend, shot him with the intention of killing him," the mother said in her complaint.

During interrogation, police said the two minor accused revealed that all three are class 11 students at the same school. Two months ago, the accused shooter had a fight with the victim and held a grudge. On the night of November 8, the accused called the victim, and after having food and drinks on the way, the two picked up another friend and went to the flat. (PTI)

I am under threat, claims Tej Pratap Yadav

PATNA, Nov 9: RJD supremo Lalu Prasad's elder son and Janshakti Janta Dal chief Tej Pratap on Sunday claimed that he has been "under threat" and his enemies might get him "killed".

Yadav, who recently floated his political outfit after being expelled from the RJD by his father, is contesting from the Mahua constituency in the ongoing Bihar assembly polls.

Talking to reporters here, Yadav said, "My security has been increased...I am under threat. My enemies may even get me killed. Everyone seems like an enemy".

He, however, did not divulge the identities of his enemies.

Yadav also congratulated his younger brother Tejshwi on his birthday and said, "My blessings are always with him. He should continue to grow further".

Tej Pratap was expelled from the



RJD on May 25 for six years, a day after he reportedly confessed to being "in a relationship" with a woman.

He, however, deleted the social media post later with a claim that his page was "hacked". Lalu Prasad also disowned Tej Pratap due to his "irresponsible behav-

our". A few days later, after his expulsion from the party, Tej Pratap had alleged that there was a "conspiracy" to drive a wedge between him and his younger brother. He had voiced his sentiments in a couple of posts on his X handle, blaming the crisis on "Jaichand", a metaphor for traitors. (PTI)

Kerala govt orders probe into children singing RSS song onboard newly inaugurated Vande Bharat

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, Nov 9: The Kerala government on Sunday ordered a probe into the singing of an RSS song by school students onboard the newly inaugurated Vande Bharat Express from Ernakulam to Bengaluru, even as union ministers strongly justified the incident, saying it is a patriotic song. General Education Minister V Sivankutty instructed the Director of Public Instructions (DPI) to conduct inquiry and submit a report in this regard. In a statement issued by the minister's office, Sivankutty said the government views the incident with utmost seriousness.

The opposition Congress continued to slam the incident and demanded action against the school authorities for allowing children to be used for "communal purpose". However, the school management strongly defended the act of children singing the particular song, saying that its message is "unity in diversity".

They also sought to know what was communal about it. Announcing the probe, Sivankutty said politicising children at government events and using them to promote the communal agenda of any particular group is a violation of constitutional principles.

"The Director of Public Instructions (DPI) has been directed to immediately conduct an inquiry and submit a report," he said.

The inquiry would examine whether there were any lapse in making students participate in the official event, he said adding that appropriate further action

would be taken based on the findings in the report. The government has a responsibility to uphold the secular and national values of the country and steps will be taken to ensure that these principles are protected, Sivankutty added.

However, Union Minister Suresh Gopi on Sunday justified the students singing RSS song onboard the newly inaugurated train. It was part of the innocent celebration of children, he told reporters in Thrissur.

"They felt to sing that song at the moment and they did so. Anyway, it's not an extremist song," the union minister of state for petroleum, natural gas and tourism added. George Kurian, another union minister from the state, also strongly defended the singing of RSS song and asked what is communal in a "gana geetham".

He also said those who try to propagate anti-India sentiments abroad may not like the song.

Justifying the rendition of the song by the students, Dinto K P, the principal of Saraswathi Vidyanikethan Public School in Elamakkara, said it is a patriotic song. He said it was not sung as directed by the Southern Railway but children chose to sing it themselves as a Malayalam patriotic song.

The principal also admitted that the school authorities had sent letters to the office of Prime Minister and Union Railway Minister when the video of the song was removed from the X handle of the Southern Railway following the row. (PTI)

RSS is recognised as body of individuals, Bhagwat tells critics

BENGALURU, Nov 9: In a veiled remark against the Congress leaders criticising RSS for operating without registration, the Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat on Sunday said his organisation is recognised as a body of individuals.

"RSS was established in 1925, so do you expect us to have registered with the British government?" Bhagwat asked while replying to a question during an in-house question and answer session organised by the RSS.

He added that after the independence, Government of India did not make registration compulsory.

"We are categorised as body of individuals, and we are a recognised organisation," Bhagwat explained.

According to him, IT department and courts have termed RSS as a body of individuals and the organisation was exempted from income tax.

"We were banned thrice. So government has recognised us. If we were not there, whom did they ban," the RSS chief asked.

Bhagwat added there are many things, which are not registered. "Even Hindu Dharma is not registered," he remarked.

On the issue of RSS respecting only the saffron flags and not recognising the Indian tri-colour, Bhagwat said while saffron is treated as a Guru in RSS it has high respect for the Indian tricolour.

"We always respect, offer tribute and protect our tricolour," the RSS chief said.

Bhagwat's remarks came as

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge recently said RSS should be banned.

His son and Karnataka Minister Priyank Kharge demanded ban on RSS activities in government institutions and public places. He even questioned the registration number of RSS and their source of funding.

Bhagwat clarified that RSS does not support any political party.

"We do not participate in vote politics, current politics, election politics, etc. Sangh's work is uniting the society and politics, by nature, is divisive, so we keep out of politics," he stated.

The RSS chief said the organisation supports policies.

"We support policies. We will exert our force to support the right policy, not an individual, not a party, not policy," he explained.

Citing example of movement to build Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, Bhagwat said the Sangh volunteers supported it, the organisation stood by its construction.

"So BJP was there (to support it). If Congress or any other party had supported we would have supported them as well," he explained.

"We don't have special affinity towards one party. There is no Sangh party. No party is ours and all parties are ours because they are Bharatiya parties," he stated.

Bhagwat said RSS wants to organise entire society without keeping anybody out and believes in "Sabka saath, sabka vikas" without giving a slogan.

On India's relationship with Pakistan he said Sangh always

wants peace with Pakistan.

"It is Pakistan which doesn't want peace with us, and as long as Pakistan gets some satisfaction of causing harm to Bharat, it will keep on doing it.

"So way to peace with Pakistan is that we don't breach from our side the peace. But if Pakistan wants to breach that peace, it will never be successful," he asserted.

Reminding Pakistan of the consequences it had faced in 1971 war, which led to the formation of Bangladesh, Bhagwat said, if the neighbouring country do not mend its ways Pakistan will learn a lesson one day.

"It is better to cooperate than to fight. I don't think they understand any other language. So we have to speak the language they understand."

"We have to give befitting answer and defeat them, always, each time, causing them some loss that they will repent forever," he added.

On casteism in the society, he said there is no casteism but caste confusion.

"There is no system, but there is caste confusion for concessions and for elections. So there is no need to do any effort to eradicate caste. There is need to do effort to forget caste. And that is very easy. We individually can forget caste," he noted.

On 'Love Jihad' the RSS chief asked people not to give too much thought on what others do. Rather, they should think what they should do.

He asked people to inculcate 'Hindu Samskara' at home to deal with it. (PTI)

Modi, Shah will eventually be caught for indulging in 'vote chori': Rahul

KISHANGANJ, Nov 9: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah can go anywhere, but they will eventually be caught "for indulging in 'vote chori'".

Gandhi, addressing a poll rally in Bihar's Kishanganj, also alleged that the BJP and RSS were trying to divide the nation, while the INDIA bloc was making efforts to unite the country.

"Modi, Shah and the Election Commission have no replies to our 'vote chori' (vote theft) allegations, as the truth is now out in front of people... The PM, Shah... can go anywhere they like, but they will eventually be caught for indulging in 'vote chori'," the former Congress president claimed.

Gandhi asserted that the INDIA bloc will "100 per cent form government in Bihar" if the people come together and stop "vote theft".

The Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha also hit out at Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, alleging that he "does not want employment for the youth of Bihar". (PTI)

PM lauds Bhutanese leadership for welcome accorded to Buddha's relics from India



NEW DELHI, Nov 9: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday expressed appreciation for the people and leadership of Bhutan for the reverent welcome accorded to the holy relics of Lord Buddha from India, and said his teachings are a sacred link between the two nations. A portion of the holy relics of Lord Buddha from India was on Saturday enshrined at Thimphu's prominent monastery, Tashichhodzong, considered the seat of Bhutan's highest spiritual and political institutions.

Bhutan Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay, ministers of the Himalayan kingdom and senior Lopens of the central monastic body joined India's Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Virendra Kumar at the enshrinement ceremony, according to the Indian Embassy in Thimphu.

"Heartfelt appreciation to the

people and leadership of Bhutan for the reverent welcome accorded to the Sacred Relics of Lord Buddha from India," said Modi, who will travel to Bhutan for a two-day visit on Tuesday.

These relics symbolise the timeless message of peace, compassion and harmony, the PM said on X.

The teachings of Lord Buddha are a sacred link between India and Bhutan's shared spiritual heritage, Modi said. The holy relics of Lord Buddha were enshrined at the Grand Kuenrey Hall at Tashichhodzong with a traditional chhidrel procession, prayers, ceremonies and a guard of honour, the Indian Embassy in Thimphu said in a post on X.

According to the Ministry of Culture, the relics will be enshrined for public veneration at the Kuenrey Hall of Tashichhodzong in Thimphu from November 8 to 18, marking a moment of deep spiritual unity between India and Bhutan.

Located within the Tashichhodzong, a fortress and monastery, Grand Kuenrey is one of the most prominent halls. Called the "Piprahwa Relics of Lord Buddha", these were enshrined at the National Museum in New Delhi. (PTI)

Modi lauds Dhama govt's 'bold' actions on UCC, checking illegal conversion, demographic change

DEHRADUN, Nov 9: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday praised the Uttarakhand government's "bold" initiatives on demographic change, uniform civil code, checking illegal religious conversion and riot control measures, suggesting other states should emulate them.

"The seriousness with which the Dhama government implemented the UCC is an example for other states. The state government has adopted bold policies on issues of national interest, such as the anti-conversion law and the riot control law," Modi said while addressing an event on the occasion of the silver jubilee of the state's formation.

"The BJP government (in Uttarakhand) is also taking concrete action on sensitive issues such as land grabbing and demographic changes," the prime minister said. At the event held at the sprawling grounds of the Forest Research Institute in Dehradun, Modi inaugurated and laid foundation stones for development projects worth ₹ 8260.72 crore in the hill state recently.

The prime minister lauded the state government for removing hurdles in the way of the development of Uttarakhand and said the state can establish itself as the spiritual capital of the world in the next few years.

"Uttarakhand's development journey has faced numerous obstacles, but the BJP government has overcome them every time and ensured that the pace of development remains unchanged," he said.

Expressing confidence that Uttarakhand will touch new heights of development in coming years, the prime minister assured that the Centre would render all help for its future journey. He said the double-engine BJP government is working to elevate Uttarakhand's potential to new heights.

"You all know how deep my attachment to Uttarakhand is. Whenever I came here on spiritual journeys, the struggle and hard work of the people living in the mountains always inspired me. This introduced me to the immense potential of Uttarakhand.

"After visiting Baba Kedar, I said that this decade belongs to Uttarakhand; it wasn't just a casual statement; I had complete faith in you," he said.

The true essence of Uttarakhand lies in its spiritual

power, he said, adding, "If Uttarakhand resolves, it can establish itself as the spiritual capital of the world in the next few years."

He said the picture of Uttarakhand that was 25 years ago has now completely changed. "Before coming here, I saw the exhibition at the Silver Jubilee celebrations. I urge you that every citizen should see it. It depicts Uttarakhand's journey over the last 25 years. The success stories in many areas such as education, tourism, industry, health, energy, and rural development are inspiring," he said.

He lauded Uttarakhand's progress in various sectors. "Twenty-five years ago, Uttarakhand's budget was only ₹ 4,000 crore, which has now surpassed ₹ 1 lakh crore. In 25 years, power generation in Uttarakhand has quadrupled, and the length of roads has doubled.

"From 4,000 passengers arriving by air every six months, today there are over 4,000 passengers a day," he said. "In these 25 years, the number of engineering colleges has increased more than 10-fold. Previously, there was only one medical college, but now there are 10.

"This change is the result of a policy of inclusiveness and the resolve of every Uttarakhandi," he said.

The prime minister said Uttarakhand is fully prepared to help India in its endeavour to become a developed country by 2047.

He said infrastructure projects worth ₹ 2 lakh crore are underway in the state which include the Rishikesh-Kamprayag rail project and the Delhi-Dehradun Expressway.

The projects inaugurated by the prime minister cater to several key sectors, including drinking water, irrigation, technical education, energy, urban development, sports, and skill development.

The projects include Dehradun water supply coverage for 23 zones under the AMRUT scheme, an electrical substation in Pithoragarh district, solar power plants in government buildings and AstroTurf Hockey Ground at Haldwani Stadium in Nainita.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama and other senior leaders from the state were among those present at the function. (PTI)

Social vulnerability impacts women disproportionately during climate crises: B-School research

NEW DELHI, Nov 9: The social vulnerability during climate crises can affect women disproportionately due to unpaid domestic work and reliance on precarious resources, a study by the Goa Institute of Management has found.

The researchers at the Goa Institute of Management (GIM) conducted the study, officials said, to highlight how local feminist perspectives can be leveraged to address the crisis of climate change, which has severe health implications, especially for women. It also explores how these perspectives challenge patriarchal norms, build agency, and strengthen community decision-making.

Published by the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS) as a discussion paper titled "Local Feminist Perspectives as Transformative Levers: Women's Health and Cli-



mate Action in India", the study advocates for the adoption of an intersectional approach towards addressing the interrelationship between gender, health, and climate for ensuring equity and justice.

According to Sreerupa Sen-

gupta, Associate Professor, GIM, who is one of the authors, the uniqueness of the study lies in its focus on the diverse strands of local feminisms of our country, describing their influence on the women's movement and also dis-

cussing how these feminist endeavours have given a voice and identity to women in the community. "The study provides a historical understanding of the role of local feminisms towards mobilising diverse categories of women for equality and justice. Focusing specifically on women's health and climate action, the study highlights the role of community-based organisations towards addressing intersecting inequalities through gender-responsive, participatory approaches," Sengupta said.

The study documents successful practices by community-based organisations and recommends a collaborative policy design by embedding feminist, intersectional, and community-led frameworks in health and climate-related policies to accelerate gender equality and sustainable development. (PTI)

Guv Graces 53rd Police Raising Day at Banderdewa

Parnaik urges police to uphold discipline, professionalism and compassion in service



HT Correspondent

BANDERDEWA, Nov 9: Governor Lt General KT Parnaik, PVSM, UYSM, YSM (Retd), graced the 53rd Raising Day ceremony of Arunachal Pradesh Police as Chief Guest at the Police Training Centre, Banderdewa on Saturday. The Governor laid a wreath at the Martyrs' Pillar, reviewed the Raising Day Parade commanded by Deputy Superintendent of Police Nabam Rikam and took the salute of the marching contingents.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor greeted serving and retired members of the Arunachal Pradesh Police and their families. He expressed confidence that each member of the force will continue to uphold their proud motto, 'Satya, Seva, Suraksha'—Truth, Service and Protection. "When you offer service, you earn trust. And when you ensure protection, you strengthen the very foundation of our State," he said.

The Governor lauded the

Arunachal Pradesh Police for their professionalism, courage and commitment to maintaining peace and security across the State. He said their prompt response, disciplined conduct and people-centric approach have strengthened public trust and ensured that law and order remain stable even in challenging situations. He emphasised that a professional, disciplined and humane police force forms the backbone of a healthy democracy.

Highlighting the values of discipline, professionalism and compassion, the Governor said discipline is the bedrock of policing, ensuring honesty in action, humility in conduct and commitment to duty even when unobserved. He added that professionalism strengthens the dignity of the uniform and empowers police personnel to serve with pride and excellence.

He also stressed the importance of physical fitness, moral character and a clear conscience, stating that

an effective police officer stands on these firm foundations. Calling for continuous learning, he urged the force to stay updated with new legal frameworks, particularly the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNS) and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA), which aim to make the justice system more responsive and humane.

A proponent of technology-driven governance, the Governor emphasised Smart Policing and the use of advanced technologies in law enforcement. He called for regular training and orientation programs to enhance efficiency. Drawing from his Army experience, he also highlighted the importance of welfare measures for police personnel and their families, emphasising that an officer can serve wholeheartedly only when their family's well-being is secure.

The Governor presented the Best Marching Contingent Trophy

to the Arunachal Pradesh Women Contingent, commanded by Lady Sub Inspector Tage Ami and commended the Parade for its smart turnout, sharp drill and confidence. He also presented the DGP's Commendation Disc to meritorious officers and personnel.

State Home Minister Mama Natung, Director General of Police Anand Mohan and Inspector General of Police (Law & Order) Chuku Apa also addressed the gathering.

The event featured demonstrations of Unarmed Combat and Dog Squad skills, a cultural presentation and mass PT by personnel and trainees of the PTC. The Band Display by Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya, PTC and the Silent Drill were notable highlights.

As part of the celebration, the Governor inaugurated an exhibition on the implementation of the New Criminal Laws and a new classroom building equipped with modern training infrastructure to strengthen the force's preparedness and operational capabilities. He also flagged off mobile Forensic Vans, Interceptor vehicles and recovery cranes—the first-ever introduction of the Interceptor system in the State for tracking traffic offences.

Later, the Governor and dignitaries attended the Bara Khana along with senior officers, SPs and Commandants from various districts.

Khandu calls the species as proof of state's rich biodiversity CM hails discovery of new plant species



ITANAGAR, Nov 9: Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Sunday praised the team from the Itanagar Regional Centre of the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) for discovering a new plant species, *Crassicaulis middletonii*, in West Siang district.

The CM described it as a remarkable discovery that once again underscores the rich and unexplored floristic wealth of the state.

Sharing the news on social media, Khandu said the species, belonging to the family Gesneriaceae, has been recorded as a new generic record for India and

published in the international journal *Taiwania*.

"Arunachal Pradesh continues to surprise the world with its unmatched biodiversity. Every such discovery strengthens our resolve to conserve and celebrate our natural heritage," the chief minister said in a post on X, congratulating researchers Krishna Chowlu, Akshath Shenoy and Althaf Ahamed Kabeer for their achievement.

Khandu said that such findings highlight the importance of continued scientific exploration and reaffirm the state's position as a treasure trove of flora and fauna.

The new finding follows the recent reporting of *Hoya chinghungensis* and *Hoya acuminata*, two species recorded for the first time in India and Arunachal Pradesh respectively, during explorations in East Kameng, Pakke Kessang and Longding districts of the northeastern state.

These back-to-back discoveries have drawn attention to Arunachal's growing role in botanical research and conservation, BSI officials here said.

The Gesneriaceae family, known for its ornamental and ecologically valuable flowering plants, thrives in humid, forested habitats. In the Eastern Himalayas, several species are unique to the region, playing a key role in pollination and ecosystem stability. The discovery of *Crassicaulis middletonii* further expands India's botanical map and underlines the need for sustained conservation efforts in the biodiversity-rich mountains of Arunachal Pradesh, they added. (PTI)

4th Khangri glacier expedition in Arunachal Himalaya

HT Correspondent

ITANAGAR, Nov 9: The 4th Khangri Glacier Expedition, jointly undertaken by the Centre for Earth Sciences & Himalayan Studies (CESHS) and the National Centre for Polar & Ocean Research (NCPOR) is being carried out from 8th to 15th November 2025 in the Mago Chu basin, located beneath the majestic Gorichen Mountains of Arunachal Pradesh. The expedition is led by Dr Parmanand Sharma, Scientist G, a distinguished Indian glaciologist and includes scientists and engineers from multiple institutions. Representing CESHS are Er Nyelam Sunil, Er Vikram Singh, Er Romik Tato and Solai Yun from NCPOR, Dr Sandeep Kumar Mondal and Talawar Raghavendra Chandrapur from Nagaland University, Dr Manasi Debnath and Samikcha Rai and from NERIST Abhishek Pratap Singh and Chewang Thupte.

Despite the vast glaciated terrain of the Arunachal Himalaya, very few glaciers in the region have been studied in detail to understand their present status and climatic responses. The region remains one of the least explored "white spots" of the Indian cryosphere. Most Himalayan glacier studies are spatially limited and temporally short, leaving major gaps in the long-term understanding of glacier mass balance, dynamics and their hydrological influence. Arunachal Himalaya alone hosts 161 glaciers spread across approximately 223 square kilometres within four major glacier basins, yet none have been systematically monitored



for long-term field-based studies.

The current expedition aims to conduct systematic scientific investigations on glacier mass balance and dynamics to understand their differential responses within the region, assess the response of the Eastern Himalayan cryosphere to changing climatic conditions and study the evolution of glacial lakes while evaluating their potential for Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs). These glaciated basins—Manas, Subansiri, Kameng and Dibang—form the primary headwaters of the Brahmaputra River system and hold immense hydrological significance. The study is crucial for ensuring water security in the region, as human civilisations depend heavily on the river basins. The findings from this expedition are expected to contribute significantly to advancing the understanding of climate-cryosphere-hydrology interactions in one of the least explored frontiers of the Indian Himalaya.

Guv interacts with Press Gallery Advisory Committee

HT Correspondent

ITANAGAR, Nov 9: Governor Lt General KT Parnaik, PVSM, UYSM, YSM (Retd), interacted with the members of the Press Gallery Advisory Committee of the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly, at Raj Bhavan, Itanagar on Friday.

The Governor shared Arunachal Pradesh's journey from the pre-Independence period to the present day, reflecting on how the State has transformed from a remote frontier region into a rapidly progressing part of the nation. He said that the past decade, in particular, has brought accelerated development marked by the construction of extensive road networks and the expansion of 4G internet connectivity. These advances, he said, have strengthened mobility, improved communication and expanded access to essential services for communities across the State.

The Governor also highlighted Arunachal Pradesh's immense economic potential, especially in hydropower, tourism of every kind, religious, cultural, adventure and eco-tourism, horticulture, and its rich natural resources. With these strengths, he said, the State is well-positioned to contribute significantly to regional and national growth.

The Governor spoke about Hindi as an important connective language that enables communication and understanding among the State's many tribes and communities. He said that Arunachal Pradesh celebrates its vast cultural and ethnic diversity, while also acknowledging the ongoing demographic changes and the role of indigenous movements in preserving identity, tradition and social harmony.

Reflecting on constitutional responsibilities, the Governor shared how the role of a Governor has evolved over time, to complement development activities in the State. He said this shift allows the Governor's office to work more closely with institutions, communities and youth to support the State's overall progress.

Led by the Convenor, R Krishna Das of News Reweting, accompanied by 16 representatives from various media organisations and senior officers from Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly, met the Governor.

RRU hosts 2nd Police Technology Summit

HT Correspondent

DIBRUGARH Nov 9: Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) hosted the 2nd Police Technology Summit (PTS) 2025 in Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh on Saturday, bringing together law enforcement leaders, policymakers, innovators and researchers to advance the use of cutting-edge technologies in policing and internal security.

Organised by RRU under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India and supported by the AIC-RRU Incubation Foundation (AIM, NITI Aayog), the Summit served as a vital platform for exploring innovations in SMART Policing, AI-driven policing, Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT), drone and anti-drone systems, predictive policing, cybercrime mitigation, digital investigations and comprehensive police modernisation.

The event witnessed participation from the State Police Services of Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Sikkim, along with representatives from Central Armed Police Forces including Assam Rifles, SSB, NSG, BSF and NDRF. Officials from NEPA, CFSL, NCB, NIA, CBI and RPF were also present. Arunachal Pradesh MP Tapir Gao, Pasighat-East MLA Tapi Darang and the Inspector General of CRPF attended the Summit.

Addressing the gathering, MLA Tapi Darang emphasised the need to strengthen policing infrastructure, promote innovation at the grassroots level and enhance safety frameworks for communities across the region, setting a purposeful tone for the event.

A key highlight of the Summit was the technology exhibition featuring 22 participants who showcased innovations tailored for law enforcement efficiency. The exhibition displayed advancements in design engineering, DeepTech

Student found dead inside school washroom

ITANAGAR, Nov 9: A 19-year-old boy was found dead at St Xavier's International School at Aalo in Arunachal Pradesh's West Siang district on Sunday, police said.

He has been identified as Tato Podo, a student of class 11 and a resident of Gapor village under Monigong in Shi-Yomi district.

Aalo police station officer in-charge Yomken Riram said the body was discovered by two students who noticed the washroom door bolted from inside in the hostel. After forcing it open, they found Podo lying unconscious on the floor with a necktie tied around his neck and the other end fastened to the door frame.

Following this, the students informed the school



research, geo-sensing, quantum studies and IoT-based safety systems, reflecting India's growing expertise in precision hazard detection and real-time situational awareness.

Artificial Intelligence featured prominently with demonstrations of full-stack agentic AI platforms, vision AI systems, facial recognition technologies and multimodal surveillance tools—illustrating how intelligent automation is transforming investigative processes. DefenceTech innovations, including drone technologies and AR/VR-based simulation systems, showcased India's focus on indigenous, high-impact solutions for mission readiness and tactical training.

Cybersecurity and digital forensics were also key focus areas with exhibitors highlighting capabilities in digital fraud analytics, cryptocurrency tracing and advanced cyber forensic investigation. The exhibition further featured life-saving medical devices, health-tech systems and EduTech platforms, reflecting an integrated approach to community safety, health and education.

authorities, who subsequently informed police. On receiving information, a police team led by sub-inspector A Pange visited the scene.

The area was videographed, photographed, and secured for investigation.

The body was then shifted to Aalo general hospital, where the emergency medical officer declared Podo brought dead.

"During preliminary inquiry and after reviewing CCTV camera footage, no foul play has been suspected in the case," the official said.

Following a written application by family members of the deceased for withdrawal of the case, police said the body was released without post-mortem examination. (PTI)

Scholarships for tribal students in IITs, top global universities

ITANAGAR, Nov 9: Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Sunday announced full scholarships for tribal students from the state getting admitted to IITs and top global universities.

He also announced that two new departments will be set up at the Dera Natung Government College (DNGC) here and another college will be established in the capital region.

Speaking at the inauguration of the annual college week celebration of DNGC, Khandu said a 100 per cent scholarship will be granted to those securing admission to undergraduate courses at IITs, as well as those getting admitted to the world's top 150 universities according to QS Rankings.

Additionally, he said the government will extend 75 per cent scholarships to those undergoing commercial pilot training and also support 10 aspiring youth annually in obtaining merchant navy certification, an official statement said. (PTI)

Three Sainik school staffers held in cadet's death case

ITANAGAR, Nov 9: Three staffers of Sainik School, Nigolok, in Arunachal Pradesh's East Siang district have been arrested in connection with the death of a 12-year-old cadet on the campus of the educational institute, a police officer said.

On November 1, a class 7 student allegedly died by suicide on the school campus. Subsequently, a case under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) was registered at Ruksin Police Station.

The three arrested staffers are Devendra Singh (42), House Master of Subansiri House junior cadet wing, Kangge Darin (31), House Master of Subansiri House Senior Cadet Wing and Amar Singh Thakur (51), Hostel Superintendent of the school.

East Siang Superintendent of Police Panjaj Lamba said the arrests were made on Saturday after examining witness statements, forensic evidence and the sequence of events that led to the tragedy.

The case has drawn statewide outrage after reports emerged that the boy had sent a message to his sister shortly before his death, alleging that he was being "tortured by seniors". His family alleged that the boy was subjected to severe ragging and mental harassment in the school hostel.

Earlier, police had apprehended eight students of the institution, all juveniles, in connection with the case and produced them before the Juvenile Justice Board.

The case, initially registered as an unnatural death, was reclassified under abetment-related provisions of the new Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita after preliminary findings pointed towards possible culpability of both students and staff members.

On Saturday evening, Education minister Pasang Dorjee Sona visited the school and interacted with the school authorities. The minister instructed the school authorities to extend full cooperation to the police in the ongoing investigation.

The minister further directed them to provide immediate counselling support to students coping with the trauma and to adopt strict, preventive measures to eliminate all forms of bullying - physical or mental - within the campus.

"Ensuring a safe and nurturing environment for our children is non-negotiable. Every student deserves to learn, grow, and thrive without fear," he said. (PTI)

Congress chief terms demonetisation as 'policy failure'

ITANAGAR, Nov 9: The Arunachal Pradesh Congress Committee president Bosiram Siram on Saturday termed the demonetisation in 2016 as the most "misguided and destructive" economic decision which caused "profound economic disruption and widespread hardship" to the people.

Siram urged the people of the state to observe November 8 as 'Black Day' in memory of those whose lives and livelihoods were destroyed and to reaffirm commitment towards protecting economic stability and democratic accountability.

He claimed that none of the government's stated objectives, eradicating black money, ending corruption, stopping terror financing or removing counterfeit currency were achieved by demonetisation.

"Demonetisation did not strike black money, it struck the backbone of India's real economy, the poor and the working class," he said in a statement. (PTI)

CM Khandu announces formation of Yak Federation of India

Federation to unite Himalayan yak herders for livelihood, cultural preservation and policy coordination

ITANAGAR, Nov 9: Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Sunday announced the formation of the Yak Federation of India, a collective platform aimed at uniting yak herders across the Himalayan belt to promote sustainable livelihoods, cultural preservation and stronger policy coordination.

The chief minister made the announcement following an interaction with a delegation of yak herders from Ladakh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nepal and Bhutan in Itanagar. Calling it a significant step towards preserving tradition, enhancing livelihoods and strengthening the yak ecosystem across the Himalayas, Khandu said the federation would act as a bridge between herders, governments and other stakeholders.

"Yak is not just a source of livelihood, it is an integral part of the culture, heritage and identity of Himalayan communities," Khandu said in a social media post, underscoring the deep social and spiritual connection between the people of the region and their hardy mountain companion.

The chief minister noted that from sustenance to economic value, the yak

has been a core pillar for generations of Brokpas across the trans-Himalayan belt, serving as a vital source of milk, wool and transport in high-altitude areas where other livestock and mobility options are limited.

"With the active participation of all members, we have collectively decided to constitute the Yak Federation of India. This platform will bring all yak herders together, enabling coordinated efforts, teamwork and stronger policy interventions with both government and non-government organisations," Khandu said.

The yak (*Bos grunniens*), often called the "lifeline of the highlands," is a domesticated bovine species adapted to the extreme conditions of the Himalayas and Tibetan Plateau. For centuries, it has been indispensable to trans-Himalayan communities, providing milk, butter, wool, meat and serving as a resilient beast of burden in terrains inaccessible by vehicles.

In Arunachal Pradesh, particularly among the Brokpa and Monpa tribes, yak-herding is more than an occupation—it is a tradition passed down through generations, forming the cultural fabric of highland societies. (PTI)



New Zealand beats West Indies by 9 runs in 3rd T20, leads series 2-1

NELSON (NEW ZEALAND), Nov 9: Kyle Jamieson bowled a superb final over to seal a nine-run win for New Zealand over the West Indies here on Sunday in the third Twenty20 International.

New Zealand leads the three-match series 2-1 and Jamieson also bowled the last over in the second match on Thursday which New Zealand won by three runs.

The West Indies won the first match by seven runs and all three matches have been decided in the final over.

New Zealand managed only 177-9 batting first but seemed headed for a comfortable win when the West Indies slumped to 88-8 in the 13th over at Saxton Oval.

Romario Shepherd scored 49 from 34 balls and Shamar Springer 39 from 20 as the West Indies rallied to reach the last over needing 14 runs to win with one wicket in hand and Shepherd and Akeal Hosein at the crease.

The onus again fell on the tall fast bowler Jamieson to bowl the final over and he held his nerve, conceding only two runs from the first four balls before dismissing Shepherd with the fifth ball to end the match.

Once again Sunday, the West Indies' tail came to the rescue of its brittle top order. The tourists



lost two wickets in the second over of their innings bowled by Jacob Duffy, were 47-2 at the end of the first power play, then lost six wickets for 35 runs through the middle overs.

Spinner Ish Sodhi took 3-34 and was player of the match.

"If you're taking it to the last over, then that means you're in the contest," West Indies captain Shai Hope said.

"It's just unfortunate we didn't come out on the winning side in

the last two."

Earlier, Devon Conway set up the New Zealand innings with 56 from 34 balls. New Zealand also suffered a late batting slump, losing six wickets for 31 in the last five overs.

Superb fielding by the West Indies produced three run outs and Jason Holder and Matt Forde bowled excellent spells. Forde took 2-20 and Holder 2-31 to contain New Zealand to a moderate total.

Conway ends lean spell

Conway overcame recent form struggles to post his first half century in seven innings. He hit a six in the first over, bowled by the spinner Akeal Hosein and set the steady pace of the first half of the New Zealand innings.

Tim Robinson (23) and Rachin Ravindra (26) both made starts but couldn't go on.

New Zealand was 47-1 at the end of the six over power play and well-placed at 97-1 after 10 overs.

Conway reached his half century from 32 balls with another six off Hosein before falling in the 13th, the first of a trio of run outs.

Alick Athanaze pulled off a superb piece of fielding at deep midwicket and beat Conway with a direct hit at the non-striker's end.

Pressure again fell on Daryl Mitchell to give New Zealand's innings momentum in the later overs. He hit 41 from 24 balls with two fours and three sixes but even he couldn't fully get on top of the bowling, nor find a partner to see the innings out.

Michael Bracewell made 11 before being run out in another slick fielding effort by Rovman Powell.

Jimmy Neesham, Mitchell Santner, Mitch Hay and Kyle Jamieson all were out in single figures. (AP)

Washington Sundar named Impact Player of the Series in Australia



BRISBANE, Nov 9: Washington Sundar's growing stature as one of India's most versatile all-rounders was recognised when he received the 'Impact Player of the Series' medal following India's 2-1 win in the T20I rubber in Australia.

In a behind-the-scenes video titled 'Dressing Room BTS' posted by the BCCI on Sunday, Sundar was all smiles as team operations manager Rahul Khajia presented him with the award.

"Coming over here and getting an opportunity to play in Australia is amazing, and to have contributed to the team's victory makes me definitely happy," said the 26-year-old Sundar after receiving the medal.

Sundar's performances through the series underlined his value as a utility player in India's T20I

scheme of things.

In the third T20I at Hobart, though he was not used as a bowler, Sundar was promoted up the order and he top-scored with a match-winning 49 off 23 balls, striking four sixes and three boundaries to guide India to a five-wicket win that levelled the series 1-1.

Then, in the fourth game, he was held back with the ball until the death overs, but responded by taking three wickets in five deliveries across two overs, triggering an Australian collapse that secured India's 48-run victory.

The win eventually helped the Suryakumar Yadav-led side seal the series 2-1 after the fifth match was washed out at the Gabba on Saturday.

Sundar also acknowledged the

contribution of the team's COO Khajia.

"It's such a great feeling to get this medal from him. We know the kind of work he (Khajia) puts in every single day to make a lot of our jobs very easy," he said.

An emotional Khajia, too, shared his delight: "I mean, the first time in my life... I'm just like, looking at this. Actually, we've done this."

Sundar's overall T20I record from 57 matches is impressive. He has a bowling average of just over 22 with an economy under seven, and a batting strike rate exceeding 134.

An all-format player, he is also an utility man for Team India in the Tests, having taken 35 wickets from 15 matches with three four and one five-wicket hauls. He also has one century and five fifties while averaging 44.76.

The 'Impact Player-of-the-Series' is a relatively new honour introduced by the BCCI to recognise individuals who make decisive contributions in a bilateral series.

In the preceding ODI series against Australia in October, Indian stalwart Rohit Sharma had received the same award.

Rohit, who possibly played his last ODI series on Australian soil, finished as the top run-scorer with 202 runs in three matches, including an unbeaten century in the final ODI.

His stellar effort earned him both the Player of the Match and Player of the Series awards. (PTI)

Uma Chetry felicitated for India's historic win



DIPHU, Nov 9: Cricketer Uma Chetry was felicitated at the 91 Yards Club, ACA Stadium, by the Assam Sepak Takraw Association and the Karbi Anglong Sports Association in celebration of India's historic win in the ICC Women's World Cup.

Bishnuram Nunisa, who represented both associations at the event, conveyed heartfelt congratulations and appreciation to Uma Chetry for her remarkable achievement, which has brought pride to Assam and the entire nation.

Nunisa also extended his best wishes to Chetry for her future endeavours and continued success in the sport.

Quiet comeback for Jemimah Rodrigues as Renegades outclass Heat in WBBL

BRISBANE, Nov 9: Jemimah Rodrigues' return to competitive cricket after the high of the World Cup triumph turned out to be a quiet one as the Indian batting superstar managed only six runs in her team Brisbane Heat's seven-wicket defeat against Melbourne Renegades in the Women's Big Bash League here Sunday. Rodrigues, who was playing her first match since India's historic ODI World Cup win last week, looked eager to make an impact but got out after facing nine balls, edging Alice Capsey to Deandra Dottin at backward point.

Rodrigues' subdued return may have disappointed her growing fan base but her presence added star value to the contest.

Brisbane Heat posted a video on their X handle, showing a smiling Jemimah making her way to the pitch, saying, "I am here in Brisbane, can you believe it, very excited for today, let's go." Her early exit came at a crucial juncture as Heat could only post 133 all out in 20 overs.

Nadine de Klerk (40 off 38 balls) and Chinelle Henry (29 off 22) defied resistance, but the Renegades' spinners dominated proceedings.

Skipper Georgia Wareham (3/12) and Alice Capsey (3/22) were outstanding in the middle overs, while Tess Flintoff (3/30) ensured there was no late flourish. In reply, the Renegades chased down a revised target of 66 runs in 8 overs after a rain interruption, reaching the total in 7.3 overs. Courtney Webb led the way with an unbeaten 34 off 22 balls, steering her team home with skipper Wareham (16 not out) at the other end. (PTI)

Messi leads Inter Miami to East semifinals



FORT LAUDERDALE (US), Nov 9: Lionel Messi and Inter Miami are three wins away from an MLS Cup title.

Messi scored a pair of first-half goals and added two assists, leading the way as third-seeded Inter Miami ousted sixth-seeded Nashville SC 4-0 on Saturday night in the decisive Game 3 of their first-round Eastern Conference playoff series.

Tadeo Allende scored a pair of goals about three minutes apart — both set up by Messi — in the second half to blow the game open for Inter Miami, which outscored Nashville 8-3 in the series. Messi had a hand in all eight of those goals, scoring five and assisting on the other three.

Inter Miami will go to FC Cincinnati for an East semifinal match — everything now is single-elimination, unlike Round 1's best-of-three format — on Nov. 22 or Nov. 23.

Cincinnati went 1-0-1 against Inter Miami this season, winning

3-0 at home on July 16 and playing to a scoreless draw at Fort Lauderdale on July 26. Messi was in the lineup for the first meeting, but not the second.

"We know Cincinnati will be a tough test," Inter Miami's Jordi Alba — who is retiring when this playoff run ends — said after his 100th appearance with the club.

Messi is the heavy favorite to win his second straight MLS MVP award, and if that happens he would be the first back-to-back winner in league history.

He also won the Golden Boot as MLS' leading scorer this season, just finalized a new three-year deal to remain with the club through 2028 and seems to be playing his best soccer at the perfect time for Inter Miami.

This is the first time Inter Miami has gotten this far in the MLS playoffs. South Florida's MLS predecessor — the long-defunct Miami Fusion — got as far as the league's semifinals in its final season in 2001, but this is new territory for

Inter Miami.

A year ago, in Messi's first full season with the club, it lost a Game 3 of Round 1 at home as the Supporters Shield winners and were ousted by Atlanta.

Not this time. Messi saw to that. With four Nashville defenders around him, Messi scored from the top of the 18-yard box in the 10th minute for a 1-0 lead. And the second goal was from nearly the same spot, albeit much easier.

Mateo Silveti controlled a long pass and got past a Nashville defender, attracting the attention of goalkeeper Joe Willis. Silveti pushed the ball toward Messi, who had nothing but empty net to shoot at in the 39th minute for a 2-0 edge.

"I would say the team played a near-perfect game, through the defense, midfield and attack," Inter Miami coach Javier Mascherano said.

Inter Miami is 19-2-3 this season in MLS play when it scores at least two goals, but Nashville made the Herons earn this one.

It appeared, briefly anyway, that Nashville cut the lead in half in the opening minute of the second half, but Sam Surridge's would-have-been goal was whistled dead because one of his feet got tangled with Inter Miami's Maxi Falcon on the play and a foul got called.

The Inter Miami-Cincinnati winner will play either top-seeded Philadelphia Union or fifth-seeded NYCFC in the East final.

The MLS Cup final is scheduled for Dec. 6, and Philadelphia, Cincinnati or Inter Miami would all play host that match if it got to the title game. (AP)

PCB stays undecided on new head coach for women's team

KARACHI, Nov 9: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has not yet decided about appointing the new head coach of the national women's team after their disappointing last place finish in the World Cup, won by India.

It was being speculated that former fast bowler Wahab Riaz could be appointed as consultant or head coach of the women's team but the PCB has quickly issued a rebuttal. "Wahab has already been working as a consultant in the PCB with various teams but has been given no new assignment as yet," an official said.

The PCB had decided against extending the contract of former test batsman, Muhammad Wasim as head coach of the women's team last week.

A well-informed source said that the PCB was in negotiations with two foreign coaches to work with the women's team but nothing had been finalised.

"If things don't work out with the foreign coaches, the PCB will look at local options foremost among them is former women's team captain, Bismah Maroof," the source added. He said Wahab would only be asked to take over as head coach of the women's team if other options didn't work out but he himself has shown his interest in taking up this challenge.

The Pakistan women's team finished last among eight World Cup contesting teams even below Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. They lost four matches, three of their games were washed out due to rain in Colombo. (PTI)

Australian forward Ryan Williams joins Indian football team camp

NEW DELHI, Nov 9: Forward Ryan Williams, who has relinquished his Australian passport to become an Indian citizen, has joined the Khalid Jamil-coached national team camp in Bengaluru, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) said on Sunday.

Born in Perth, the 32-year-old entered the camp along with defender Jay Gupta.

"Forward Ryan Williams, and defender Jay Gupta have joined the senior men's national team camp in Bengaluru," the AIFF posted on X.

In what could mark a new beginning for Indian football, the game's national federation AIFF earlier this week roped in two overseas-based players -- Williams and Abneet Bharti -- for the national camp ahead of the AFC Asian Cup qualifier against Bangladesh in Dhaka on November 18.

The move reflects a bold shift in approach by the beleaguered federation, opening the door for Indian-origin players and those willing to give up foreign citizenship to represent the country.

The camp began in Bengaluru on Thursday.

Williams' Indian citizenship handover ceremony was con-

ducted by legendary Sunil Chhetri at the training facility of Bengaluru FC, the club he plays for in the Indian Super League.

"Honoured to make official what's long felt true. Grateful for the love, the opportunity, and the sense of belonging this country has given me. As you can see, the last round of interviews was the hardest. India, I'm one of your own!" Williams had earlier said in an Instagram post.

Williams' mother was born in Mumbai while his father was born in Kent, England.

This is only the second instance of an Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) becoming eligible to play for the Indian football team.

He has played for Australia U-20 and U-23 teams, and also represented the senior team as a second-half substitute during a friendly in 2019, against South Korea.

He has also represented English clubs Fulham and Portsmouth, before joining ISL side Bengaluru FC in 2023.

Before Williams, Japan-born Izumi Arata took Indian citizenship to represent India in 2012, and featured in nine matches for the Blue Tigers in 2013 and 2014. (PTI)

Worked extremely hard to overcome struggles in last one year: Shafali Verma

CHANDIGARH, Nov 9: India's women's World Cup winner Shafali Verma on Sunday said she has faced a lot of struggles in the last year and worked "extremely hard" to improve her game, which culminated in a historic World Cup glory.

Picked as a replacement for the injured Pratika Rawal, the 21-year-old Shafali was named player of the final for her 87 runs with the bat and 2/36 with the ball in the team's 52-run win against South Africa.

"The last one year was very tough for me. I faced a lot of struggles, but I kept working extremely hard and was rewarded by God for my effort," Shafali told reporters after a felicitation programme here.

Shafali was called in to the Indian squad on the eve of the semifinal against mighty Australia and while she could not fire in the last four clash, the Haryana girl shone in the title clash.

"When I joined the Indian team ahead of the semifinal, I was determined to contribute to the World Cup victory. The final is always a big stage. Initially, I was a bit nervous, but I calmed myself, focused on my strategy, and executed it well. That helped me deliver an all-round performance," Shafali said.

After receiving a grand welcome upon here arrival in her hometown Rohtak, the



swashbuckling opener urged girls to have self-belief and work hard, saying results will come.

"They should always put in the hard work in whatever field they may choose and also have self-belief, and results will follow," Shafali said.

The Harmanpreet Kaur-led side scripted a defining moment for Indian women's cricket by winning its maiden global title -- the 50-over World Cup -- with victory over South Africa in the final in Navi Mumbai last Sunday.

Shafali, who considers batting legend

Sachin Tendulkar as her role model, talked about her family's support throughout to achieve her dreams.

Replying to a question about the final, she said, "I was trying to stay calm and execute my plans and things went as per plan."

"The only thought was that we have to give it all in those seven hours for our country."

She also said she does not have any regret on missing out on scoring a century and stressed that lifting the World Cup was more important.

About the team's meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, she said the PM spent two hours with them and motivated them.

Shafali said she was now looking forward to meeting Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on November 12.

Meanwhile, Haryana minister Krishan Kumar Bedi, who was present when Shafali reached Rohtak and later felicitated her, said she had made the country and the state proud. On Wednesday, PM Modi met the team at his residence and lauded the players for their landmark triumph after enduring a tough phase marked by three consecutive defeats in the round robin stage of the tournament. (PTI)