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Vol .No. II Issue No. 250 RNI-ASSENG/2023/86488 GUWAHATI, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2025 PAGES 12 PRICE ₹ 8

Kokrajhar gears up for Zubeen Garg Park
 Massive celebration planned for late singer's birthday

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, Nov 15: Kokrajhar is preparing for a major cultural milestone as the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) readies to launch work on the proposed Zubeen Garg Park along the banks of the Gourang river at Chandamari.

The project, spread across 30 bighas, will be formally inaugurated on November 18 to coincide with the celebrated singer's 53rd birthday. BTC chief Hagrama Mohilary will lay the foundation stone, officially kickstarting a venture that officials say is aimed at preserving the legacy of one of Assam's most iconic artists.

A large public celebration has also been planned for the day, with the Chandamari riverside already witnessing brisk activity.

Workers, machines and volunteers have been engaged day and night to prepare the grounds, including a performance stage currently being given final touches.

Organisers expect an unprecedented turnout for the birthday programme. Nearly 25,000 artistes and admirers from all five BTC districts are set to come together to render Zubeen Garg's beloved number "Mayabini" in both Assamese and Bodo. In a symbolic gesture, 53 Nahor saplings will be planted to mark the occasion.

Ahead of the event, several parts of Kokrajhar town have undergone beautification.

The Kokrajhar-Chandrapara road has been newly resurfaced, while (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

MoU with British Museum likely to be signed on Sunday ● Museum to be built in Guwahati for display of Srimanta Sankaradeva creation

CM on mission to bring Vrindavani Vastra to state

GUWAHATI, Nov 15: The Assam government is likely to sign an agreement with the British Museum on Sunday for borrowing silk textile 'Vrindavani Vastra', created by Vaishnava saint Srimanta Sankaradeva in the 16th century, for display in the state in 2027, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

This would be the first time that a portion of the textile will be on display in the state after it was taken away over at least a century ago, with fragments ending up as artefacts in museums across the world, he said.

In a video message on Facebook before flying to London from New Delhi, Sarma said, "Tomorrow, we have a meeting with the British Museum. We are likely to sign a



Memorandum of Understanding with them to bring the Vrindavani Vastra in 2027." He said the JSW group of companies has been playing the leading

role in facilitating this "homecoming" of the tapestry that displays tales from Lord Krishna's life in the hand-woven silk piece. "The mother of Sajjan Jindal (of JSW group) is from Assam. He has no business interest in the state. Their group took the initiative of putting us in contact with the British Museum and are also taking the responsibility of building a museum of international standards in Guwahati to display the Vrindavani Vastra," Sarma said.

He said the Indian High Commissioner to the UK is involved in the process and Prime Minister Narendra Modi is also remaining updated.

Sarma said the government has already allotted land in Khanapara area of Guwahati to JSW group for establishing the museum. The company will build the museum, but it will be owned by the state government. The new state-of-the-art (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

9 killed, 32 hurt in explosion at J&K police station



SRINAGAR/NEW DELHI, Nov 15: An accidental explosion ripped through the Nowgam police station in Srinagar, killing nine people and injuring 32, senior officials said on Saturday, underlining that it was not a terror attack.

The blast occurred around 11:20 pm on Friday when a specialised team was extracting samples from a large and "unstable" cache of explosives confiscated in connection with an ongoing 'white-collar' terror module investigation.

Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police Nalin Prabhat and Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Prashant Lokhande, read out similar statements before the media in Srinagar and New Delhi, respectively, dismissing speculation of a terror attack and stressing that the incident was an unfortunate accident. (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Instructions on using Aadhaar as proof of identity, not citizenship, already issued: EC to SC

NEW DELHI, Nov 15: The Election Commission of India has told the Supreme Court that it had already issued instructions for using the Aadhaar card as proof of identity and not of citizenship, for inclusion or exclusion in the revised voter list of Bihar.

In a reply filed in the top court, the poll panel said that the court on September 8 had already clarified the usage of Aadhaar for updating the voter list.

It said the court had stated that the Aadhaar card was to be used for the purpose of establishing identity in view of Section 23(4) of the Representation of the People Act (RPA),

1950. Section 23 of the RPA deals with the inclusion of names in electoral rolls. "... by following the aforesaid order, the commission has already issued instructions dated September 9, 2025, to the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Bihar for usage of Aadhaar card as proof of identity and not as proof of citizenship... for the purpose of inclusion or exclusion in the revised voter list of the state of Bihar," the poll panel said.

The Election Commission (EC) filed its reply on an interlocutory application (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

India's homoeopathic sector rapidly becoming global hub for high-quality medicines, say experts

NEW DELHI, Nov 15: Industry experts and policymakers are of the view that India's homoeopathic sector is rapidly evolving into a global hub for high-quality, science-backed natural medicines by combining traditional knowledge with advanced technology, strict quality norms, and government policy support.

They said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Make in India' push has catalysed large-scale modernisation in homoeopathic medicine manufacturing, and India is poised to become the



world leader in this matter. By enforcing GMP (Good Manufacturing Practices) compliance under Schedule M-1 of the

Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, and introducing schemes such as the Ayush Ushadhi Gunvatta evam Utpadan Samvardhan Yojana, the government ensures that every manufacturer meets international standards, an expert said.

These initiatives have strengthened India's credibility in global markets and built consumer trust in Indian homoeopathic products, he said.

Speaking about this growth trajectory, Rajeshwar Tiwari, a senior representative from the Ministry (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Government of Assam
Directorate of Information and Public Relations, Assam

STATE LEVEL NATIONAL PRESS DAY 2025 CELEBRATION

“A free, responsible and fearless press remains one of the key pillars of our democracy. On National Press Day, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to all journalists who uphold truth, integrity and public trust while empowering citizens through informed discourse.”

Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma
Chief Minister, Assam

Chief Guest

Shri Pijush Hazarika
Hon'ble Minister
Information, Public Relations, Printing and Stationery etc. Department, Assam

Keynote Speaker

Prof Dr Dhrubajyoti Borah
Vice Chancellor, Srimanta Sankaradeva University of Health Sciences
Former President, Asam Sahitya Sabha

Theme

Safeguarding Press Credibility Amidst Rising Misinformation

📍 PWD Convention Centre, Dispur, Guwahati-6

📅 16 November 2025 ⌚ 11:00 AM

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Trump scraps tariffs on beef, coffee and tropical fruit in a push to lower grocery store prices

WASHINGTON, Nov 15: President Donald Trump announced Friday that he was scrapping US tariffs on beef, coffee, tropical fruits and a broad swath of other commodities — a dramatic move that comes amid mounting pressure on his administration to better combat high consumer prices.

Trump has built his second term around imposing steep levies on goods imported into the US in hopes of encouraging domestic production and lifting the US economy.

His abrupt retreat from his signature tariff policy on so many staples key to the American diet is significant, and it comes after voters in off-year elections this month cited economic concerns as their top issue, resulting in big wins for Democrats in Virginia, New Jersey and other key races around the country.

"We just did a little bit of a roll-back on some foods like coffee," Trump said aboard Air Force One as he flew to Florida hours after the tariff announcement was made.

Pressed on his tariffs helping to increase consumer prices, Trump acknowledged, "I say they may, in some cases" have that effect.

"But to a large extent they've been borne by other countries," the president added.

Meanwhile, inflation — despite Trump's pronouncements that it has vanished since he took office in January — remains elevated, further increasing pressure on US consumers.

The Trump administration has insisted that its tariffs had helped fill government coffers and weren't a major factor in higher prices at grocery stores around the country. But Democrats were quick to paint Friday's move as an acknowledgement that Trump's policies were



hurting American pocketbooks.

"President Trump is finally admitting what we always knew: his tariffs are raising prices for the American people," Virginia Democratic Rep Don Beyer said in a statement. "After getting drubbed in recent elections because of voters' fury that Trump has broken his promises to fix inflation, the White House is trying to cast this tariff retreat as a pivot to affordability."

Grocery bill worries

Trump slapped tariffs on most countries around the globe in April. He and his administration still say that tariffs don't increase consumer prices, despite economic evidence to the contrary.

Record-high beef prices have been a particular concern, and Trump had said he intended to take action to try and lower them. Trump's tariffs on Brazil, a major beef exporter, had been a factor.

Trump signed an executive order that also removes tariffs on tea, fruit juice, cocoa, spices, bananas, oranges, tomatoes and certain fertilizers. Some of the products covered aren't produced in the United States, meaning that tariffs meant

to spur domestic production had little effect. But reducing the tariffs will still likely mean lower prices for US consumers.

The Food Industry Association, which represents retailers, producers and a variety of related industry firms and services, applauded Trump's move to provide "swift tariff relief," noting that import US taxes "are an important factor" in a "complex mix" of supply chain issues.

"President Trump's proclamation to reduce tariffs on a substantial volume of food imports is a critical step ensuring continued adequate supply at prices consumers can afford," the association said in a statement.

In explaining the tariff reductions, the White House said Friday that some of the original levies Trump relished imposing on nearly every country on earth months ago were actually no longer necessary given the trade agreements he'd since hammered out with key US trading partners.

Indeed, Friday's announcement follows the Trump administration having reached framework agree-

ments with Ecuador, Guatemala, El Salvador and Argentina meant to increase the ability of US firms to sell industrial and agricultural products in these countries, while also potentially easing tariffs on agricultural products produced there.

During an interview that aired earlier in the week with Laura Ingraham of Fox News Channel, Trump hinted that lower tariffs might be coming.

"Coffee, we're going to lower some tariffs," the president said then. "We're going to have some coffee come in."

Tariff checks?

Despite pulling back on so many tariffs, Trump used his comments aboard Air Force One on Friday night to repeat his past assertions that his administration would use revenue the federal government has collected from import levies to fund USD 2,000 checks for many Americans.

The president suggested such checks could be issued in 2026, but was vague on timing, saying only, "Sometime during the year." Trump, however, also said federal tariff revenue might be used to pay down national debt — raising questions about how much federal funding would be needed to do both. Trump rejected suggestions that attempting direct payments to Americans could exacerbate inflation concerns — even as he suggested that similar checks offered during the coronavirus pandemic, and by previous administrations to stimulate the economy, had that very effect.

"This is money earned as opposed to money that was made up," Trump said. "Everybody but the rich will get this. That's not made up. That's real money. That comes from other countries." (AP)

Dove launches 'Reclaim Your Curls' featuring Taapsee Pannu, celebrating the individuality of curly hair

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, Nov 15: Dove, known for challenging conventional beauty standards in India, has launched its new campaign 'Reclaim Your Curls' featuring actor Taapsee Pannu.

The initiative follows earlier campaigns such as "Stop The Beauty Test", which addressed the impact of narrow beauty norms on young women, and "Mothermonials", which highlighted biases prevalent in biotas.

The latest film shows Taapsee Pannu speaking about individuality, confidence, and the need to break free from outdated expectations, encouraging women with curly hair to embrace their natural identity.

She describes the movement as a message to every woman who has felt the pressure to "tame" her curls and urges them to wear their natural hair with pride.

Taapsee Pannu said the campaign was personally significant as she had approached Dove with the idea.

She said she wanted to start a broader conversation on confidence, identity, and self-acceptance, especially for young girls.

She added that curls have a personality of their own and become a source of strength once women learn to embrace them.

'Reclaim Your Curls' encourages women to view their hair not as something to be altered or controlled but as something joyful,

powerful, and uniquely their own. Dove said it aims to celebrate individuality at a time when many societal spaces still promote sameness.

Sairam Subramanian, Vice President — Hair Care, Unilever, said the company believes beauty should empower rather than limit.

He said Taapsee Pannu is the ideal voice for the campaign because of her honesty and boldness. The campaign invites real women from across India to share their own curl experiences through digital platforms. Dove has asked users to talk about their routines, their frustrations, and the moment they embraced their natural curls, noting that every curl carries its own story.

Contd. from Page 1...

Kokrajhar gears up

the approach from the national highway to the IT Park has been repaired and brightened with murals celebrating the singer's artistic journey.

As per the schedule, the November 18 programme will begin with a floral tribute before Garg's portrait at 9:30 am, followed by a blood donation camp. The foundation stone laying will take place at 10:15 am, after which the plantation drive, cultural showcases and a candlelight tribute are lined up. BTC authorities say the celebration is intended to reflect regional pride and acknowledge the enduring influence of Zubeen Garg on Assam's cultural and musical landscape.

Instructions on using

by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, who sought a direction that Aadhaar be used only for the purpose of establishing identity and authentication in the spirit of Section 23(4) of the RPA, 1950.

The poll panel said the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), in an office memorandum (OM) in August 2023, had clarified that Aadhaar was not proof of citizenship, residence, or date of birth.

It said the OM was referred to by the Bombay High Court in a matter, holding that it was indeed not proof of date of birth, and the burden of proof rests upon the Aadhaar holder.

"It is also important to highlight that this court vide its order dated September 8, 2025... has already clarified the usage of Aadhaar for the purpose of inclusion and exclusion in the voter list," the EC said.

On October 7, the top court issued notice on Upadhyay's application. The bench had observed that the apex court had already said Aadhaar was not the proof of citizenship and domicile. The application was filed in a pending plea seeking a direction to the EC to conduct Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls at regular intervals throughout the country. (PTI)

India's homoeopathic sector

of AYUSH, said, "Under the leadership of our prime minister, India is redefining its traditional systems of medicine into modern, export-oriented industries." "Our focus is to make 'Made in India' synonymous with quality, safety, and authenticity in the field of homoeopathic medicine. Through strict GMP standards, AYUSH premium certification, and international collaborations, we are laying the foundation for India's global leadership in holistic healthcare," he said. The AYUSH Premium Certification and WHO-GMP certification ensure that products meet globally accepted standards, Tiwari said.

Dr R P L Parasher, national president of the All India Doctors Association of Indian Systems of Medicine, said, "The Indian government is committed to the development of the Ayush sector globally. Celebration of World Ayurveda Day is a symbol of recognition of Ayurveda all over the world, and India is emerging as a hub of medical tourism." Joint efforts of the government, the manufacturing sector, researchers and Ayush doctors will help position the ancient healing systems at the top of healthcare delivery, Parasher said.

A key pillar in this journey has been the National AYUSH Mission, launched to promote the traditional systems of medicine by developing educational institutions, drug quality control laboratories, and manufacturing infrastructure across states.

The mission provides financial support to modernise manufacturing units, upgrade testing facilities, and establish quality assurance laboratories at the state and regional levels.

Adesh Sharma, the CEO of Adven Biotech Pvt. Ltd, which produces homoeopathic medicine, expressed confidence in India's leadership potential in this sector.

"India has entered a new era of credibility and capability in homoeopathic manufacturing. Our prime minister's vision of Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat inspires us to build global-scale infrastructure without compromising our traditional roots," he said. The Ministry of AYUSH has also introduced digital innovations like the e-AUSHADHI portal, which simplifies licensing, enhances transparency, and provides a unified database for manufacturers, ensuring accountability and faster approvals.

Simultaneously, the Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy continues to update pharmacopoeial standards, ensuring each ingredient's identity, purity, and potency meet international norms.

Sharma further said, "As the world turns toward natural and integrative medicine, India is ready to lead. Government initiatives like NAM and AOGUSY, combined with private innovation, are creating an ecosystem where Indian homoeopathy can stand tall on the global stage." (PTI)

9 killed, 32 hurt

The two officers did not take any questions from the reporters. Prabhat said three personnel from the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) team, two crime photographers, two Revenue officials (part of the Magistrate's team), one official from the State Investigation Agency, and one tailor associated with the team were killed in the "unfortunate" blast.

He said 27 police personnel, two revenue officials, and three civilians from adjacent areas were injured in the incident and were immediately evacuated to local hospitals for treatment.

Both Prabhat and Lokhande made it clear that the blast occurred while FSL teams were conducting the prescribed procedure of taking samples from a huge haul of seized explosives for forensic and chemical examination.

"Due to the unstable and sensitive nature of the recovery, the sampling process, the handling was being done with extreme caution, with utmost caution by the FSL team," Prabhat said.

"However, unfortunately, during this course, last night around 11.20 pm, an accidental explosion took place," he said. The sampling process, necessary due to the "voluminous" nature of the recovery, had been ongoing for two days, he added. The massive blast severely damaged the police station building and affected adjacent structures. Small successive explosions initially hampered rescue operations.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha ordered a probe into the explosion at the police station. In his post on X, he said, "I have ordered a probe to ascertain the cause of the accidental explosion."

The materials being sampled were approximately 360 kg of explosive substances, chemicals, and reagents, including ammonium nitrate, potassium nitrate, and sulphur.

The huge cache of explosives was brought from Haryana's Faridabad in a Tata 407 pickup truck in small bags, a top official said.

On the reason behind transporting the explosives to Kashmir, the official said the original case was registered at the Nowgam police station and the explosives were the case property of that police station. Hence, there was a need to transport the explosives so far.

Asked about the possible targets of the 'white-collar' terror module which collected the explosives, the official said the investigators were still grappling for clues.

"All the information about the possible targets was... purely speculative," the official said.

This cache was recovered by Jammu and Kashmir Police from the rented residence of arrested accused Dr Muz-zamil Ganaie in Faridabad on November 9 and 10.

The bulk of the 360 kg of explosives was stored securely in an open area at the Nowgam police station.

The investigation began after posters threatening police and security forces appeared on walls in Buncpora, Nowgam, in mid-October. CCTV footage analysis led to the arrest of the first three suspects — Arif Nisar Dar alias Sahil, Yasir-ul-Ashraf, and Maqsood Ahmad Dar alias Shahid. Their interrogation led to the arrest of Maulvi Irfan Ahmad, a former paramedic turned Imam, who allegedly supplied the posters and radicalised the doctors.

The trail led the investigators to Al Falah University in Faridabad, where Dr Ganaie and Dr Shaheen Sayeed were arrested, and the huge chemical cache was seized.

The investigators believe a core trio of doctors — Dr Ganaie, Umar Nabi (the driver of an explosives-laden car that exploded near the Red Fort on November 10, killing 13 people), and Muzaffar Rather (abscending) — were running the module. The role of the eighth arrested person, Dr Adeel Rather, the brother of Muzaffar, is still under investigation. (PTI)

CM on mission to

museum will facilitate the display of more such rare artefacts borrowed from museums across the world, he added. "The Vrindavani Vastra will be displayed in Guwahati and we will also try to display it in other cities of India so that more people become aware of it," the chief minister said.

The piece of textile was routed out of Assam through Tibet, with major fragments of it ending up in display in London and Paris museums, with some parts also in Boston and Los Angeles museums, Sarma said.

He said that it will be the first time that the Vrindavani Vastra will be brought to Assam in at least over a century, with many generations of Assamese people missing on the opportunity to view it first-hand.

Later, in an X post, he said, "Vrindavani Vastra is a timeless masterpiece, woven with devotion and the spirit of Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardev, a sacred textile that brings Vaishnava culture alive through its divine craftsmanship. Our government has begun the process to bring this historic treasure back to Assam, where it truly belongs."

The Vrindavani Vastra was created under the guidance of Srimanta Sankardev, depicting scenes from the life of Lord Krishna, at the request of Koch king Nara Narayan and also has a part of a poem written by him.

The exhibit, acquired in 1904 from Tibet by the British Museum, is nine-and-half-metres-long and is made up of several pieces of silk drapes and originally featured 15 separate pieces that were later assembled. (PTI)

Flipkart launches Zero Commission Model

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Nov 15: Flipkart has announced a major change to its seller rate card with the launch of a Zero Commission Model for products priced below ₹ 1,000, aimed at making online selling more inclusive and growth-focused for small and medium businesses. The new structure simplifies costs, supports competitive pricing, and reinforces Flipkart's value proposition for MSMEs across the country.

The change has a notable impact on Shopsy, Flipkart's hypervalue platform, where the zero commission benefit has now been extended to all products regardless of price.

The company said this will help more regional and emerging brands participate confidently in the digital marketplace while offering greater affordability to customers.

Under the updated model, eligible sellers listing products below ₹1,000 will not pay any commission. Flipkart said the initiative is designed to support MSMEs by improving customer affordability and easing operational costs.

The company added that the revised structure builds on its efforts to ensure seller success through transparent policies, technology-driven tools, and stronger ecosystem support. Flipkart said the Zero Commission Model aligns with the company's wider capabilities, backed by a supply chain that emphasises predictability and reliability. Its technology network uses machine learning for demand forecasting and advanced AI for automating operations and optimising delivery routes.

Puravankara and Ramaiah Institute of Management hosts EcoBuild Conclave 2025 to shape net zero roadmap in real estate

BENGALURU (KARNATAKA), Nov 15: Puravankara Limited (NSE: PURVA | BSE: 532891), one of India's trusted real estate developers, in collaboration with the Centre for Sustainability of Ramaiah Institute of Management, inaugurated the EcoBuild Conclave 2025 in Bengaluru. Set against the backdrop of India's vision for Viksit Bharat 2047, the conclave addressed the urgent need to align urban development with sustainability, resilience, and circularity.

The two-day event convened policymakers, industry experts, and academicians to deliberate on the theme "Towards Net Zero, Circularity and Inclusivity."

Setting the context, Mallana Sasalu, CEO-South, Puravankara Limited, said, "The EcoBuild Conclave is a meaningful initiative as it brings together an educational institution and an industry that shares a long legacy of shaping India's built environment."

He further added, "Development should never come at the expense of the environment. Our collective future depends on how responsibly we use resources today. As we build for a growing India, we must develop a conscience for the future and an awareness of the world we leave behind. Discussions like these remind us that the planet has been pushed to its limits, and it is now our shared responsibility to act with consciousness and restore balance for generations to come."

Addressing the conclave, Dr

Arun Kumar, Dean, Ramaiah Institute of Management, said, "Through the EcoBuild Conclave, we are walking the talk - making sustainability a lived experience, not just a discussion. This conclave marks the beginning of a collaborative movement toward a sustainable and inclusive future. We look forward to creating a white paper, hosting focused roundtables, and strengthening industry-academia partnerships to drive meaningful impact."

Delivering the keynote address, Autif Sayyed, Project Lead for Green Buildings (South Asia), International Finance Corporation, remarked, "The EcoBuild Conclave comes at a crucial moment as India stands at a crossroads in how we design and operate buildings for the future. Future-proofing our built environment is no longer optional; sustainability, resilience, and efficiency must now be at the centre of every design decision. Green buildings don't necessarily cost more when sustainability is integrated early, and the long-term benefits are undeniable. With rising consumer demand, investor interest, and accessible tools like IFC's EDGE, the industry has everything it needs to close India's green gap. The question is no longer why we should build sustainably, but how quickly we can make it the standard."

The conclave also featured thought-provoking discussions led by industry experts - Ms. Sneha Murthy, Sustainability Associate,

McD BERL; Dr Gopi Prasad, Head - ESG, Puravankara Limited; Mr Vishwanath Srikanthiah, Director & Advisor, Biome Environmental Trust; Mrs. Prabhavathi P., Senior Partner, Conserve Consultants Pvt. Ltd. The sessions offered practical insights on integrated design thinking, early-stage green consultations, life-cycle-based decision-making, passive design strategies, carbon-neutral campus models, and the real economic and technical considerations of sustainable development.

The experts underscored that sustainability delivers maximum value when embedded at the concept stage, bringing architects, engineers, consultants, and developers together to reduce energy demand, conserve water, optimise material use, and enhance long-term building performance.

Other panels at the conclave explored themes such as nature-based design and wellness, advancements in construction technology and materials, pathways to net zero and circularity, and innovation and future-readiness in real estate.

At the event, Puravankara unveiled its ESG Report 2024-25, outlining the Group's progress on sustainability goals, climate action initiatives, and responsible growth practices. The company also announced IFC EDGE Pre-Certification for its Purva Winworth 2 (Towers 5-10) project in Kochi, reaffirming its commitment to resource-efficient and environmentally responsible development. (PTI)

MFIs need to rebuild credibility and confidence to achieve sustainable growth: Study

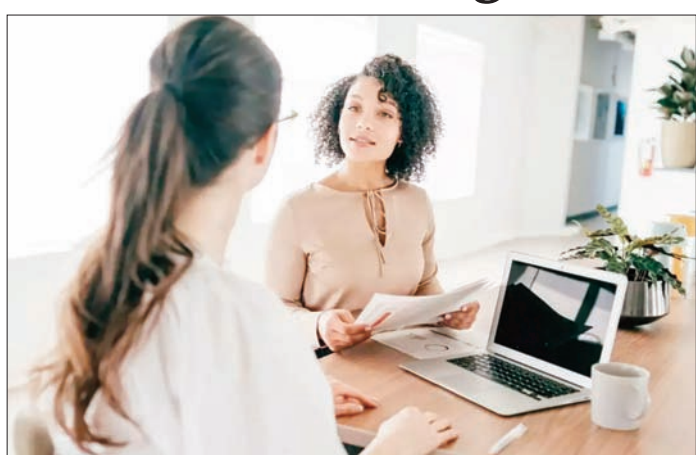
KOLKATA, Nov 15: Microfinance institutions (MFIs) need to rebuild credibility and confidence to achieve sustainable growth, a joint study by consultancy firm PwC and Sa-Dan, a self-regulatory organisation (SRO) of the sector, said.

Microfinance, which is principally underpinned by trust among the stakeholders, who are the borrowers, field officers and lending institutions, has become more transactional, the study said.

Major setbacks like demonetisation and the Covid pandemic have further exacerbated the decline in group culture in microfinance, which has had a widespread impact on repayment discipline and public confidence, the study pointed out.

"Rebuilding credibility and confidence remains a major challenge to achieving sustainable growth", the study said, adding that empowering and equipping customers with adequate information is crucial in regaining their trust.

According to the study, MFIs



have also experienced declining support from external stakeholders, including investors and refinancers, over the past few years. This had resulted from increased caution amongst the stakeholders for bottom-of-the-pyramid borrowers.

Financial literacy is the first step towards meaningful inclusion of borrowers and building alternative channels to maintain a connection

with borrowers. Capacity building workshops, educational workshops and financial literacy bootcamps should be conducted to inform the customers of their rights, nature of the products offered and their responsibilities, the study said.

Lenders also need to ensure fairness, clarity, consistency and care across their communications, collection practices and customer sup-

port.

To improve asset quality, the MFI industry had deliberately focused on low-risk and disciplined customers. The impact of this can be seen in the decline in disbursements from Rs 3,86,287 crore in 2023-24 to Rs 2,85,130 crore in 2024-25. Presently, the industry prefers improved portfolio health over aggressive growth in loan accounts and outstanding balances, the study said.

However, despite this being a beneficial exercise to increase trust in the industry, it is not sustainable in the long term, according to the study. The process of acquiring customers at the last mile requires extensive attention to balance growth with quality, the study noted.

The risk of over-indebtedness among the borrowers is a critical challenge faced by the MFIs. This is also posing a systemic risk to the MFI sector, potentially leading to higher default rates and financial losses of the micro-lenders, the study said. (PTI)

₹ 600 lakh in unclaimed assets settled in two Assam districts

Over 500 depositors benefit from special 'Your Money, Your Rights' campaign camps in Kamrup



GUWAHATI, Nov 15: Over ₹ 600 lakh in unclaimed assets of more than 500 depositors have been settled across two districts in Assam as part of a nationwide 'Your Money, Your Rights' campaign, an official statement said.

The district-level awareness and assistance camps of Depositor Education and Awareness Fund (DEA Fund) are being organised across the state till December 31.

In the fourth phase, special

camps were held in Kamrup Metropolitan and Kamrup districts on Friday, with an aim to spread financial awareness and assist citizens in claiming their unclaimed deposits and investments.

For Kamrup Metropolitan dis-

trict the camp was organised by the Lead Bank, UCO Bank, under the guidance of the district collector and the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC), Assam, whereas in Kamrup district it was held under the aegis of Yuva Vikash Kendra, Amingaon.

Assistance counters were set up to help citizens claim their unclaimed deposits, insurance claims and mutual fund investments, with verification and KYC (Know Your Customer) support provided by participating banks and financial institutions.

The total claim settlement amount achieved during the camp in Kamrup Metropolitan stood at ₹ 511.05 lakh, benefiting 327 depositors, whereas in Kamrup a total of 177 accounts amounting to ₹ 89.59 lakhs were settled, the statement added. (PTI)

250+ students engage in drug-free awareness activities at Nahorbari M V School

Cairn oil & gas marks Children's Day with anti-drug awareness



HT Correspondent

GOLAGHAT, Nov 15: Children's Day celebrations at Nahorbari M V School this year took on a meaningful dimension, with over 250 students and teachers participating in an Anti-Drug awareness session organised under the CSR initiative of Cairn Oil & Gas. The program aimed to educate students about the harmful effects of substance use and empower them to make informed, healthy choices.

The session, led by Ananya Kakoty, Cluster Resource Centre Coordinator (CRCC), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, featured poster-making activities, interactive games and open discussions to help students understand the far-reaching consequences of drug abuse on individuals, families, and communities.

"Children's Day is a reminder that every child deserves a safe and healthy future. Awareness on drug abuse will help them make wise choices and say no to habits that can harm their lives," said Kakoty.

Students actively participated using art and creativity to express their commitment to staying drug-free. "I understood that saying no to drugs means saying yes to my dreams and my family," shared Rahul Gogoi, a class V student.

A Cairn Oil & Gas spokesperson added, "This initiative is part of our continuous efforts to engage meaningfully with the community. Educating young people about such issues is essential for building stronger, safer neighborhoods."

The event highlighted how community-driven initiatives can raise awareness and shape responsible future citizens, making this Children's Day both memorable and meaningful.

Social worker Jitendranath Bora passes away

HT Correspondent

JORHAT, Nov 15: Jitendranath Bora, popularly known as "Hriday da," a well-known social worker and seven-time former Ward Member (Ward No 9) of Jorhat Municipal Board (JMB),



passed away early Saturday at a private hospital in Jorhat. He was 74 and had been battling a critical illness.

Bora, a resident of Dohaborachuk was also a former vice-president of the Jorhat district unit of the Indian National Congress and was actively involved in various socio-cultural organisations. He

is survived by his daughter, son-in-law and several relatives. His wife, Neeru Bora who was serving as a JMB member of Ward No. 9, predeceased him.

His body was taken to the Congress Bhawan and JMB office, where people paid their last respects. His passing was widely mourned in the community.

NFR records 12.38% rise in freight unloading

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Nov 15: Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has reported a significant increase in freight unloading, handling a total of 1,035 rakes in October 2025—a 12.38% rise compared to 921 rakes in the same month last year.

During the month, NFR efficiently transported and unloaded a variety of essential commodities, including FCI rice, sugar, salt, edible oil, food grains, fertilizers, cement, coal, vegetables, automobiles, tankers and other goods across its goods sheds. A substantial portion of this freight supports the daily needs of the northeastern states.

Assam alone accounted for 560 rakes, including 269 carrying essential commodities. Other northeastern states recorded the following: Tripura 91, Nagaland 21, Arunachal

Pradesh 9, Manipur 22, Meghalaya 1 and Mizoram 11. Within NFR's wider jurisdiction, 170 rakes were unloaded in West Bengal and 150 in Bihar, comprising both essential and non-essential goods.



The steady movement of freight not only ensures the availability of daily essentials but also strengthens economic activities in the region. Continuous supervision at all levels has helped minimize turnaround time and improve overall unloading efficiency.

National seminar on 'Women, Culture and Empowerment'

HT Correspondent

KOKRAJHAR, Nov 15: Bodoland University successfully hosted a two-day National Seminar on "Women, Culture and Empowerment: Weaving Sustainability and Identity," jointly organised by the Departments of English, Biotechnology, Management Studies, Bodo and the Centre for Women Studies in collaboration with Arya Vidyapeeth College, Guwahati. The seminar was supported by the North Eastern Council (NEC), Ministry of DONER, Government of India, under Project EMWSSAA.

The inaugural session featured a welcome dance by students, the ceremonial lamp lighting and addresses by Dr Zothanchinghi Kiangte (Convenor), Prof Pradip Kumar Patra and keynote speaker Prof Jyotirmoy Pradhani. A special musical performance by Prof Apekpa Iemcha Chanu and Dr Arabinda Debnath added a cultural dimension to the ceremony.

The seminar included presentations on diverse topics, such as women's agency in Sikkim (Dr. Charisma Lepcha), health and empowerment in Assam (Dr Abigail Lalnueng) and indigenous textiles (Dr Preetinicha Barman). Day two featured plenary and online sessions on economic empowerment, cultural heritage, institutional development and women's movements, along with methodological lectures on quantitative and ethnographic research.

The event concluded with interactive discussions, providing a dynamic platform for scholars and researchers to explore women's contributions to cultural preservation, economic empowerment and identity-building, fostering interdisciplinary dialogue on sustainable development in Northeast India.

KKHSOU induction programme in Jagiroad

HT Correspondent

JAGIROAD, Nov 15: The Jagiroad College (Autonomous) study centre organised an induction programme on Saturday for newly enrolled learners of the MA and BA programmes of Krishna Kanta Handique State Open University (KKHSOU).

Dr C R Sarkar, Coordinator of the Jagiroad College study centre, presided over the event and encouraged the learners to pursue their studies with dedication. Ratumoni Das, Head of the Department of Geography and former Coordinator of the study centre, also attended and motivated the participants.

Dr Sangeeta Kakoti, Deputy Director of EMPC, KKHSOU, delivered an insightful lecture aimed at enriching the academic and personal development of the learners. Himangshu Haloi, Coordinator of the study centre, welcomed all dignitaries and participants. Earlier, Dr Bhaben Chandra Neog, Principal of Jagiroad College, extended his best wishes to the newly admitted students.

The programme provided an orientation to the learners about academic expectations, university resources and opportunities for growth, setting a strong foundation for their journey at KKHSOU.



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Editor's pick

Role of Public relations - II

By: Er Prabhat Kishore

The best policy for an organisation is to take the press into confidence as possible, including such matters which are not to be published. The press in India is by and large, responsible and will respect this confidence. Shareholders from one of the business public, whose good will and support are of vital importance to the existence and success of any concern.

As far as the shareholders are concerned, the most important means of communications with them is the annual report. Apart from conformity with the legal requirements, it is the duty of every firm to see that the Annual Report provides information to shareholders in a simple and attractive manner. As Shri D.L. Majumdar, a former secretary of the Company Law Administration Department, pointed out a few years ago 'the requisite technical skill finds company balance-sheets crypt to grams which he is incapable of solving'.

Since, there is a limit to the popularising of the Annual Report because of legal as well as accounting constraints, business can, with profit adopt what many firms abroad and some firms in Bharat do, namely, issue information booklets to provide a picture of its operations in a manner that a non-technical adult can easily understand. A modern business firm is vast impersonal machinery in which a sense of belongings can be created by the adoption of some simple devices. For instance, a new investor can be welcomed into an organisation with a letter of welcome from the chairman and an informative booklet.

Apart from quality and the price of goods, customer relations has become a third important factor that influences, buying habits and creates a better image for the producers.

It should be remembered that, in our world of mass produces goods, in many cases, there is little intrinsic difference between branded product and another manufactured by modern firms employing modern machines and modern technologist. Therefore, a customer's choice falls on a product whose personalities attracts him the more. While this is basically a field for motivation researches, it can be said that the total personality or corporate image of firm as revealed through not only its products, advertising packaging and look of the products, but also its institutional advertising and other PR activities, help to win customers.

It is not possible to communicate with customer's end masses except through advertising campaigns and the use of other sales media; a more effective way of dealing with them is through dealer relations. Dealer relations are, indeed a key element in any organisation's PR programme. The dealer represents the manufacturer to the public and the community of which he is a part.

In India, where periodicals shortages of many products occur unscrupulous dealers have been responsible for bringing disrepute to a company by selling its products at inflated price. Therefore, not only must the dealer be educated to be strictly above board in all his dealings, but also to render after sales service whenever necessary, and provide customers with the information they seek. The dealer should be educated and aware of his social responsibilities through systematic training and educate and be given all possible help and support to sell products as quickly and effectively as possible.

Industrial relation has been described as an area where a social conscience is particularly necessary today when the clamorous demands of workers have to be reconciled with the not too plentiful resources of industry. It should not, however, be forgotten that in this area, PR will have to play its role unobtrusively and guardedly as it falls within the purview of the personnel department with better ideas and aids to communication in its efforts to bring about improved working conditions, grievance procedures, recruitment and promotional policies, employee training, recognition of exceptional course, PR runs topics, in addition to an Annual Report and provides printed and visual material to promote employee consciousness on such subjects as safety, savings, planned families and so on.

Profitability is another area where business should be able to communicate effectively with the public to stress its importance to be public besides stressing its importance in the economic growth of the country. In many minds, profitability and profiteering, corporate profits and private profits, etc. are practically synonymous. But it is hardly necessary to point out that profitability and profits are legitimate indicators of the efficiency of a company, and corporate profits go not to fill the pockets of rich individuals but into government exchequers, to shareholders, the employees and are also ploughed back for expansion. It is a national need to get this concept accepted by the public for both the public and private sectors.

There are many examples like price maintenance, inflation capital formation, which need to be explained to the public in simple terms so that business policies and practices, corporately and individually are better understood by the public.

Business is the art of the possible at any given time, and business has to frame its thinking and attitudes within the parameters of national, social and economic objectives and goals. Therefore, there is an urgent need, at the highest level of management for sensitivity to political conditions, to socio-economic climate and to public opinion. When the public interest requires, business should not hesitate to communicate persuasively to influence the modification and change of public policy. There are many areas where business can contribute to public policies through effective communication. In a democracy economic statesmanship for development and growth calls for collective contribution, and business must make a significant contribution by intelligent and imaginative communication.

Tasks ahead

In summing up, a number of tasks become clear. In the first place a business undertaking must conduct its operation in such a manner that it helps to serve itself and serve the society as well. Secondly, it must demonstrate its good faith and its sense of social responsibilities. Thirdly, it must not only do good but also use all means at its command to publicise that it is doing so which implies that the business undertakings will have to become more vocal than they are at present, in a planned and sustained manner. (Author is a technocrat and educationist. He studied Journalism and Mass Communication at Patna University)

India's Press in the Era of Digital Transformation

By: Dipak Kurmi

The morning newsroom hums with an energy that would have been unrecognizable a decade ago. Reporters huddle over laptops tracking social media trends, algorithms determine which stories receive prominence, fact-checkers race against viral misinformation, and editors debate whether to prioritize clicks or credibility. This scene encapsulates the profound transformation sweeping through Indian journalism as the nation prepares to observe National Press Day 2025, a moment of reflection centered on two intertwined themes that capture the existential challenges and opportunities facing the fourth pillar of Indian democracy: "Upholding India's Fourth Pillar in the Digital Age" and "The Changing Nature of the Press."

These themes are not merely ceremonial declarations but urgent calls to action, recognizing that the press stands at a critical juncture where its fundamental role in sustaining democratic discourse faces unprecedented pressures and possibilities. The designation of media as democracy's fourth pillar, alongside the legislature, executive, and judiciary, reflects a profound truth about governance in free societies. The press serves as the watchdog that holds power accountable, the forum where public discourse unfolds, the educator that keeps citizens informed, and the mirror reflecting society back to itself. In India, a nation of extraordinary diversity and complexity, this role carries particular weight. With over 1.4 billion citizens spread across linguistic, religious, cultural, and economic divides, the press functions as the connective tissue binding the democratic experiment together. Yet the digital revolution has fundamentally altered every aspect of how this fourth pillar operates, raising questions about whether traditional journalistic institutions can maintain their essential functions amid technological disruption.

The theme "Upholding India's Fourth Pillar in the Digital Age" acknowledges both the enduring importance of journalism's democratic

mission and the novel challenges posed by digital transformation. The responsibilities of responsible journalism, always demanding, have become exponentially more complex in an environment where information flows with unprecedented velocity and volume. Consider the traditional journalist's commitment to verification, a bedrock principle requiring that facts be confirmed through multiple reliable sources before publication. In the analog era, this process unfolded over hours or days, providing time for deliberation and judgment. Today, breaking news erupts simultaneously across countless platforms, and the pressure to publish instantly competes directly with the imperative to verify thoroughly. Media organizations face an agonizing dilemma: delay publication to ensure accuracy and risk irrelevance as audiences consume unverified information from other sources, or prioritize speed and potentially amplify falsehoods.

This tension illuminates the deeper crisis captured by the second theme, "The Changing Nature of the Press." The media landscape has undergone a metamorphosis so complete that many traditional categories no longer apply. The boundary between professional journalists and citizen reporters has blurred to near invisibility. Anyone with a smartphone can broadcast live footage, share eyewitness accounts, and shape public narratives. Social media platforms have become primary news sources for millions of Indians, particularly younger generations who rarely encounter traditional newspapers or television news. These platforms operate according to algorithmic logic that prioritizes engagement over accuracy, amplifies emotional content over nuanced analysis, and fragments audiences into ideological echo chambers. The press must now compete for attention not only with other news outlets but with an infinite stream of entertainment, social content, and deliberately engineered misinformation.

The evolution extends beyond distribution mechanisms to transform journalism's economic foundations. The business model that sustained Indian newspapers and broadcasters for



generations, based primarily on advertising revenue and subscription fees, has collapsed with stunning rapidity. Digital advertising flows predominantly to global technology platforms rather than news organizations, while audiences accustomed to free online content resist paying for journalism. Newsrooms have hemorrhaged staff, investigative reporting has withered, and coverage of local government and civic institutions has diminished precisely when informed scrutiny matters most. Some publications have adapted by developing digital subscription models or diversifying revenue streams, but many smaller outlets, particularly those serving regional and local communities, struggle to survive.

The challenge of misinformation represents perhaps the most acute threat to journalism's democratic function in the digital age. India has become ground zero for viral falsehoods, with WhatsApp forwards, manipulated videos, and coordinated disinformation campaigns shaping political discourse and occasionally inciting violence. The sheer scale overwhelms traditional fact-checking mechanisms. By the time journalists debunk a false claim, it has already reached millions and become embedded in partisan narratives. Moreover, the psychological dynamics of belief make correction difficult. Research demonstrates that people preferentially accept information confirming their existing views and resist contradictory evidence, even when definitively proven. The press faces the Sisyphean task of pushing truth up-

hill against human cognitive biases amplified by algorithmic acceleration. Yet within these challenges lie genuine opportunities for renewal and innovation. Digital technologies that threaten traditional journalism also enable new forms of storytelling, investigation, and audience engagement. Data journalism allows reporters to analyze vast datasets and identify patterns invisible to conventional reporting. Multimedia formats combine text, video, audio, and interactive graphics to convey complex stories with unprecedented richness. Mobile technology enables correspondents to report from remote locations and conflict zones with minimal equipment. Collaborative journalism networks allow news organizations to pool resources for ambitious investigative projects that no single outlet could undertake alone. Some Indian media organizations have embraced these possibilities, producing work that matches or exceeds the quality of legacy journalism while reaching audiences in innovative ways.

The themes proposed for National Press Day 2025 converge on a central insight: adaptation represents both necessity and opportunity. The changing nature of the press demands that journalism evolve its practices while maintaining fidelity to core ethical principles. This means developing new verification methods suited to digital environments, perhaps incorporating blockchain technology to establish provenance for images and videos. It requires investing in media literacy initiatives that

help citizens navigate information ecosystems and distinguish credible reporting from propaganda. It necessitates transparent acknowledgment of mistakes and clear labeling of opinion content versus factual reporting. Most fundamentally, it demands recommitment to the values that justify journalism's special role in democracy: accuracy, fairness, independence, and service to the public interest rather than partisan agendas or commercial imperatives.

Upholding India's fourth pillar in the digital age also means recognizing that journalism cannot fulfill its democratic function if journalists themselves face threats and intimidation. Press freedom in India has faced mounting pressure, with reporters experiencing legal harassment, physical attacks, and online abuse. Creating space for fearless journalism requires not only legal protections but cultural commitment to the principle that a free press, however imperfect and occasionally irritating to those in power, remains essential to democratic health. Citizens must understand that journalism serves their interests even when, perhaps especially when, it challenges their assumptions and discomforts those they support.

The digital age has not diminished the importance of journalism's role as democracy's fourth pillar but rather intensified it. In an environment saturated with information of wildly varying quality and reliability, professional journalism's commitment to verification, context, and ethical standards becomes more valuable, not less. As India observes National Press Day 2025, the themes chosen for reflection capture both the magnitude of transformation and the continuity of mission. The nature of the press has indeed changed profoundly, but its purpose remains constant: to inform citizens, scrutinize power, facilitate democratic deliberation, and ultimately serve the constitutional promise of an informed, engaged republic. Whether Indian journalism rises to meet this moment will shape not only the media landscape but the future of Indian democracy itself. (The writer can be reached at dipakurmipltd@gmail.com)

Control of illegal infiltration and border security

By: Himangshu Ranjan Bhuvan

Control of illegal infiltration and border security is an extremely important, complex, and widely discussed issue that has deeply affected Assam's history, current social structure, economic development, and future political stability. The geographical location of the state can be said to have laid the foundation of this problem, as Assam shares a large international border with Bangladesh, filled with rivers, water bodies, hilly terrain, and dense forests. Due to this remote and porous border, the illegal entry of foreign nationals has become a continuous process for many decades. As a result of this infiltration, not only has the demographic balance of the state been disrupted, but it has also given rise to deep insecurity, fear, and uncertainty among the indigenous people regarding their rights, culture, language, and land. The depth of the problem is so extensive that it has initiated various movements, conflicts, and party politics in Assam's political sphere, resulting in constant pressure on both the central and state governments for a permanent and effective solution. To address this sensitive issue, a detailed, subtle, and thoughtful analysis of the historical background, complexities of security measures, legal challenges, importance of diplomatic relations, and economic impacts is essential.

Analyzing the historical background of this complex problem reveals that its origins date back to the colonial period, when the British administration encouraged large-scale migration from East Bengal to Assam, particularly as agricultural and tea plantation laborers, to fulfill their economic interests. This process gradually began to impact the local demography. However, after the partition of India in 1947 and the creation of Pakistan, the problem took on a new dimension, as many people came to Assam from East Pakistan as refugees due to religious and political instability. It reached its peak during the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War, when millions crossed the border in fear for their lives and took shelter in various parts of India, including Assam. Although the government was able to repatriate many refugees after the war ended, a significant number remained in Assam. Even after that, the trend of people crossing the border to Assam in search of better lives and higher earnings continued due to poverty, overpopulation, unemployment, and frequent natural disasters in Bangladesh. This continuous infiltration exerted tremendous pressure on Assam's demography, especially in many areas of the western and central Brahmaputra Valley, reducing the population of local communities and creating a new majority. This demographic change created intense fear and dissatisfaction among the local people regarding their political representation, economic participation, and cultural identity, culminating in the significant 'Assam Movement' of the seventies and eighties in Assam's history. This movement primarily demanded the identification and deportation of illegal infiltrators, resulting in the historic 'Assam Accord' signed in 1985, which set a timeline for legal and administrative solutions to this problem. However, even after the passage of time, many important clauses of this accord have not been fully implemented.

In the field of border security and control, a deep analysis of the government's efforts and the challenges faced shows that although the Border Security Force is responsible for providing security along the India-Bangladesh border, the nature of this border itself makes security measures difficult. Even in the areas where barbed wire fencing has been constructed, incidents of entering by breaking the fence or using tunnels under it occur frequently. However, a significant portion of the border remains open, as constructing physical fences is technically impossible or extremely expensive due to rivers, water bodies, and hilly terrain. These open areas have created an easy path for illegal entry. To address this problem, the government has placed great emphasis on the use of modern technology. Schemes like the 'Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System' (CIBMS) aim to make security extremely tight in areas where physical fencing is not possible by using electronic surveillance systems, high-resolution radars, infrared cameras, laser walls, and drones. However, for the successful implementation of these technological solutions, not only large financial investments are required, but also trained and skilled personnel to operate them, and continuous maintenance and management of these tools in the harsh weather and environment of the border

areas pose a major administrative challenge. Moreover, building cooperation and mutual trust between the security forces and the people living in the border areas is also extremely important. Only by ensuring the safety of border residents, improving their standard of living, and involving them as partners in border security efforts to encourage them to provide information about infiltration can the security system become more effective and efficient.

Identifying and deporting illegal infiltrators is the most controversial, legally, and administratively difficult aspect of controlling this problem. In Assam, extensive efforts are being made to implement this process through the updation of the 'National Register of Citizens'. The main objective of this updation was to identify all valid Indian citizens who entered Assam before March 24, 1971, and exclude those who entered afterward. This process was not only lengthy and expensive but also a massive administrative challenge, where crores of people had to submit many old, scarce, and complex documents to prove their lineage and citizenship. This long-drawn process created intense emotional, social, and political tension in the state. Even after the publication of the final NRC list, various parties have raised many questions and debates regarding its accuracy and the future of those excluded from the list. On the other hand, the process of deporting people declared 'foreigners' by the Foreigners Tribunals has also emerged as a major diplomatic issue. The Bangladesh government has repeatedly refused to accept these people as its citizens. As a result, keeping these people in the current 'detention camps' for long periods has created a complex problem, raising various international and domestic questions in the areas of human rights and the rule of law. A permanent, realistic, and humane agreement between India and Bangladesh is the need of the hour to determine the legal status and future of these people. Furthermore, administrative and judicial reforms are also extremely urgent to improve the transparency, impartiality, and speed of the Foreigners Tribunals' procedures so that no innocent person is wrongly counted as a foreigner.

For a permanent and far-reaching solution to this problem, security and legal measures alone are not sufficient; a strong, broad, and effective diplomatic and economic perspective is also needed. The Government of India must strengthen relations with Bangladesh on the basis of friendship and mutual trust. If the rate of economic development in Bangladesh increases and the standard of living of the people improves, the root causes of migration to Assam will naturally decrease. Therefore, India offering cooperation in Bangladesh's developmental efforts, increasing mutual trade and investment, and improving cross-border infrastructure is a strategic necessity. Controlled and legal commercial activities and cultural exchanges between the people of both countries across the border should be encouraged. These activities can have a positive impact on the economy of the border areas and keep local people away from illegal activities such as smuggling and human trafficking. Only if both countries create effective cooperation through information exchange, repatriation of suspected individuals, and frequent border meetings in border management can border control become more effective. Reaching a consensual procedure for identifying and repatriating illegal infiltrators through diplomatic negotiations is the key to this problem. Efforts can also be made to raise this issue on international platforms for a multilateral solution.

Internally, addressing the impacts caused by illegal infiltration is an important part of the solution. Due to infiltration, excessive pressure has been exerted on Assam's agricultural land, forest resources, and water resources, disrupting environmental balance. To meet the demands of this increased population, the government must adopt a well-thought-out, scientific, and effective land policy and resource management policy. Especially in demographically threatened areas, strict laws must be enacted for land ownership and conservation. The objective of these laws should be to protect the rights of indigenous and tribal people over their land. In addition, constitutional and administrative protection measures must be strengthened to preserve the language, culture, and identity of local communities. Reservations and special schemes for local people in education and employment must be introduced to protect them from the competition caused by infiltration. The aim of all these measures should be to remove the anxiety and instability among

Assam's original inhabitants and tribal people regarding their future and to increase their confidence. The government also needs to run campaigns for cultural and social integration to maintain harmony and coexistence among the various communities in the state so that no divisive politics can raise its head.

For long-term solutions, administrative reforms and political will are essential. A single, coordinated, effective, and permanent administrative framework is needed for the control of illegal infiltration and border security. Greater coordination and information exchange among the Border Security Force, state police, and military intelligence agencies are urgent. The government must adopt a stable and well-organized policy, rising above temporary political gains. There must be continuous, constructive dialogue and cooperation between the central and state governments on this issue, as although border security is a central subject, its impact falls entirely on the state. In the legal field, proper implementation of existing laws must be ensured, and no laxity or corruption should be tolerated. Every step to address this problem should be just, humane, and realistic. Finding a path to a solution through dialogue among all parties, mutual trust, and equal acceptability is the biggest challenge of the current time. The problem of illegal infiltration is not just a political or economic issue; it is a complex question intertwined with Assam's language, culture, history, and future. Only by maintaining balance amid this complexity and taking a strong stance can the people of Assam hope to live a safe and peaceful life. Solving this problem requires the collective efforts and long-term cooperation of the government, civil society, and the public.

A time-bound action plan must be prepared under a firm strategy to solve this problem. First, in the border areas where fencing has not yet been constructed, surveillance systems must be fully operational in a very short time with the help of modern technology. For this, a special task force consisting of technology experts can be formed, which will regularly test the effectiveness of these systems. Second, to improve the procedures of the Foreigners Tribunals, more judicial officers and ancillary staff must be appointed, and they must be given advanced training on these complex laws so that cases are disposed of quickly, accurately, and impartially. Third, to ensure the human rights of people detained in detention camps, arrangements according to international standards must be adopted, and diplomatic negotiations with Bangladesh for their repatriation must be strengthened. Fourth, a special socio-economic package must be announced for job creation and infrastructure development in border areas so that the standard of living of local people improves and they stay away from illegal activities. In addition, the government must arrange special funds to aid the development of the language, literature, and culture of Assam's indigenous communities. To monitor the success of all these efforts, the government must form a high-powered committee that will submit reports on time and advise on policy changes based on the situation. The problem of illegal infiltration has affected many generations of Assam, so it cannot be suppressed with temporary measures; a far-reaching and acceptable solution for all is needed.

In Assam's current situation, control of illegal infiltration and border security is no longer just a law and order question; it is a central issue in the state's socio-economic restructuring. The depth of this problem is so great that it is not only related to border security but also affects the distribution of the state's internal resources, the balance of political power, and relations among various communities. As part of a strong strategy, in addition to modernizing the border security force, maintaining appropriate morale and spirit for them is extremely urgent. Along with providing them advanced training, their work environment must be improved. On the other hand, the local administration and police must also play a very important role in identifying infiltrators and monitoring their movements. Every village panchayat and local institutions in the state must be encouraged to cooperate in this process. Special intelligence units must be formed to uproot the financial networks and organized groups involved in human trafficking related to illegal infiltration. There is no single general answer for a permanent solution to this problem; rather, it requires a coordinated effort of multifaceted steps in law, technology, diplomacy, and social welfare. The people of Assam expect a permanent, just, and humane solution to this problem for the secure future of their state.

'Tribal Parliament Model' launched for inclusive grievance redressal

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Nov 15: "True governance begins when the last person in the village finds a seat at the decision-making table," said Minister for Food, Public Distribution, Consumer Affairs, Mines and Minerals & Barak Valley Development, Kaushik Rai, as the Cachar District Administration formally launched the 'Tribal Parliament Model', an innovative platform aimed at grassroots grievance redressal.

The initiative, introduced by the District Commissioner of Cachar, adopts a village parliament-style Jan Sunwaai, drawing inspiration from traditional tribal community councils such as the Chaupal, Morung, and Village Council. The model encourages open-air, circle-style meetings where tribal elders, women, youth and government officials sit on equal footing, fostering transparency, accessibility and dignity for every participant.

During these sessions, grievances are discussed collectively with solutions drafted publicly, reflecting a spirit of consensus and community ownership. Minister Rai lauded the initiative, stating that it revives tribal wisdom and transforms it into a

modern tool for administrative accountability. A key feature of the model is the involvement of Adi Sathis, who travel to remote villages to facilitate Jan Sunwaais. They document the proceedings through audio and video recordings, capturing grievances, community stories and suggestions. This ensures that even the most remote concerns are formally brought to the attention of the authorities.

Citizens can also register grievances through a dedicated Call & WhatsApp helpline: 690046215, broadening access for those unable to attend in person.

All grievances collected during the Jan Sunwaai are forwarded to the relevant departments for timely resolution. Once decisions or solutions are finalised, they are prominently displayed at the respective Block Development Offices, reinforcing transparency and public trust.

Through this initiative, the Cachar District Administration reiterates its commitment to inclusive, people-centric governance, ensuring that tribal communities not only raise their voices but also witness tangible outcomes from their participation.

Vishwas Yatra led by ASCW chairperson Angoorlata Deka concludes at Jorhat

HT Correspondent

JORHAT, Nov 15: A 16-member 'Vishwas Yatra' motorbike rally led by Angoorlata Deka, Chairperson of the Assam State Commission for Women, to promote women's safety, dignity, empowerment, courage, equality, and justice for women, concluded at Jorhat on Saturday.

The rally comprising six men and 10 women, organised with support from the Women and Child Development of Assam and the State Hub for Empowerment of Women (SANKALP: Hub), that had set off from Guwahati on November 12, was given a rousing welcome by officials of the district administration, Women and Child Welfare department, at the Jorhat DC's office complex. The team members were presented with a succulent plant each.

Speaking to newsmen later, Deka said the rally was part of



series of initiatives undertaken by the Commission to empower women, encourage them to speak up and be informed of their legal rights, eliminating gender discrimination and provide justice.

She said that the State Women Commission would always be ready to extend support to any woman facing harassment, abuse,

atrocities in order to get justice.

Deka said that the Commission has opened a 24x7 toll free helpline number (181) to approach for any help/assistance and also to know about the various schemes and projects of the Central and State Government's for girl and women development and welfare. "The Vishwas Yatra

carried a powerful message of solidarity, urging women across the State to believe in their strength, exercise their rights, and trust the institutions built to protect them," Deka said.

She later held a meeting with senior district administration and police officials at the DC Conference Hall and discussed various schemes and initiatives implemented for the empowerment of women in the district. A district administration source stated that issues such as providing legal and judicial support to women, providing appropriate facilities, taking expeditious and effective measures for the upliftment and empowerment of women and offering various recommendations figured in the discussion.

Deka thereafter took part in an awareness programme on girl child and women development initiatives at the Danbir Radha Kanta Handique Bhawan here.

AI system MK3 achieves 81% accuracy in early election forecast

HT Correspondent

TEZPUR, Nov 15: MK3, a multilingual artificial intelligence system developed entirely in India has demonstrated remarkable predictive accuracy in its early forecast of the 2025 Bihar Assembly elections. Powered by the patent-pending Dynamic Context Orchestration Algorithm (DCOA), MK3 generated its projection on September 12—well before nominations were filed and long before election momentum had taken shape.

According to MK3, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) was expected to secure 138+ seats, while the Mahagathbandhan was projected to obtain 78+ seats. A comparative analysis conducted on November 14, based on Election Commission data and mainstream media reports, indicates that MK3 achieved a directional accuracy of 81.28%. This performance underscores the growing capability of Indian-developed AI systems to interpret complex public datasets and provide early, reliable insights.

At the time of MK3's prediction, the electoral landscape was still fluid. Candidates had yet to file nominations and major political announcements were still weeks away. Despite the absence of formal campaigning and con-

stituency-level polling, MK3's projection relied solely on historical, demographic, administrative and behavioral data, processed through its multilingual, context-aware architecture. The system was able to detect patterns and directional shifts earlier than traditional forecasting methods. When counting began on November 14, trends closely mirrored MK3's September projection, with the NDA leading in the 190–200+ seat range and the Mahagathbandhan significantly below earlier expectations.

"The close alignment between MK3's September prediction and the actual trends demonstrates that Indian-developed AI systems can deliver meaningful insights even in complex scenarios," said Gautom Das creator of MK3. He emphasised that the system was built to handle India's linguistic and data diversity, highlighting the platform's alignment with the Make in India and Digital India initiatives. MK3's accuracy score was calculated using a proportional error formula based on Bihar's 243-seat assembly. The differences between predicted and actual seat counts for both alliances were measured, and the mean error produced the final figure of 81.28%.

Agriculture inspection team reviews schemes

HT Correspondent

MORIGAON, Nov 15: A team of officials inspected the agriculture sector in Morigaon district over a two-day program to review the progress and implementation of schemes under the District Agriculture Department. Led by nodal officer Pratul Sarma, the team visited multiple agricultural sites, highlighting the progress of various departmental schemes, identifying challenges in implementation and suggesting solutions. On Friday, the team distributed health certificates to farmers at Dalbari under Morigaon Krishi Chakra.

The team also visited Kathagraj under Bhurbandha Krishi Chakra to inspect vegetable cultivation by progressive farmers Montu Medhi and Hitesh Deka. The inspection included crops such as capsicum, cauliflower, cabbage, broccoli and paddy cultivated over approximately 20 bighas under departmental schemes. Officials interacted with farmers on production techniques, value addition and market strategies.

The delegation also reviewed the sprinkler irrigation system under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchay Yojana and inspected silage production units, spider manufacturing rooms and related facilities at Charabahi under the Jaluguti Agricultural Circle. At Habibargabari under Mikirb-heta Krishi Chakra, they examined paddy cultivation under the Atul Scheme and observed seed production processes, machinery and agricultural equipment at the Customs Hering Center. Fertilizer and pesticide shops in Morigaon were also inspected.

The inspection team was accompanied by District Agriculture Officer Tapan Kumar Brahma, Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer Mehedi Hussain, Senior Agricultural Development Officer Musahid Farooki, Agricultural Development Officer Lona Barua, media expert Gautam Kumar Nath, Agriculture Inspector Rajen Deka and other officers and staff.

Cachar DC alerts residents on NHIDCL road land acquisition

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Nov 15: The District Administration, Cachar has issued a public advisory regarding land acquisition for a major road improvement project by the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL). The project aims to upgrade the road stretch from NH-37 near Pailapool connecting Jaipur, Harinagar, Kumarcherra, Zinam, Hangrum and linking with NH-137 (Mahur-Tamenglong Road), improving connectivity across remote villages and supporting regional development.

The District Commissioner's office has listed the affected villages, including Laboc Grant, Lalang Grant, Kamranga Bond (Parts I & II), Doloichera, Kanakpur (Parts I-III), Baladhan Grant, Silchar Grant, Harinagar, Paschim Dikcha, Pehehpur, Dramnagar, Purba Dakshin Mutrachera, Uttar Diphu, Lalangkitta Labocpur Part III, Ladiyacherra Grant, Uttar Doloicherra, Thaipunagar, Chatridayal, Mollong (Parts I & II), Kumarcherra, Diphu, Diphucherra, Moulthuong (NC), Gendathol (NC), Ngentemukh (NC) and New Kalinagar (NC).

Residents and stakeholders within the proposed alignment have been urged to obtain prior approval from the District Commissioner for any new constructions. Unauthorised structures—temporary or permanent—built after the notice will not be eligible for compensation during land acquisition. This applies to both private and commercial establishments.

The administration emphasised the project as a key infrastructural milestone and called for full public cooperation to ensure smooth execution. The advisory takes immediate effect from the date of publication.

Margherita Journalists' Association's 23rd Foundation Day

HT Correspondent

MARGHERITA, Nov 15: The 23rd Foundation Day of the Margherita Journalists' Association was celebrated on Saturday at the Auditorium Hall of Ledo Branch Xakha Xahitya Xabha Bhawan with a series of tributes, discussions and cultural performances.

The programme began with the hoisting of the association flag by president Ram Prasad Ambedkar, followed by a memorial tribute (Smriti Tarpan) inaugurated by vice-president Abdul Alim. The ceremonial lighting of the lamp in front of the portrait of renowned litterateur Padmanath Gohain Baruah was performed by Tarun Gogoi, president of the Ledo Central Namghar Managing Committee. A tribute to Assam's beloved musician Zubeen Garg was also held. The event was inaugurated by veteran litterateur and journalist Jagat Changmai. An intimate discussion session with senior and new journalists, moderated by Rana Jyoti Neog, General Secretary of the Association, provided a platform for exchanging experiences and ideas. The session featured poetry recitals by Rana Jyoti Neog, Samiran Barthakur and Amit Das, Bhaona dialogues by Prabhat Borah and Tapan Gogoi and performances of Zubeen Garg's immortal songs by Abdul Alim.

During the session, chief guest Jagat Changmai highlighted the critical social responsibility of journalists as vigilant sentinels of society. All association members were honoured with certificates of appreciation.

Founded on November 15, 2002, at Adarsh Hindi Vidyalaya High School, Bargolai, the Margherita Journalists' Association has played a pivotal role in addressing journalists' concerns as well as the broader socio-economic issues of the 83rd Margherita Legislative Assembly Constituency.



Gorlosa at Larbo under Council Hamri Constituency, coinciding with the central inauguration of other EMRS by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The central celebration was live-streamed across all states, including Dima Hasao, allowing widespread participation.

Our Kokrajhar Correspondent adds: Bodoland University inaugurated the week-long celebration of Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh 2025 with an exhibition highlighting North East India's indigenous art, crafts, handloom traditions and food cultures. Held at the Jwhlwao Nileswar Brahma Auditorium, the event is part of the "Empowering Marginalised Women of the Sixth Scheduled Areas of Assam" project, supported by the North Eastern Council (NEC), Ministry of

DoNER, and organized in collaboration with TRIFED under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

The inauguration featured a traditional Dahal Thungrui welcome dance, lighting of the ceremonial lamp, and a floral tribute to Bhagwan Birsa Munda. Key addresses were delivered by Dr Z Khiangte and P S Aleng of TRIFED-NER and Prof B L Ahuja, Vice-Chancellor of Bodoland University, emphasising cultural preservation, women's empowerment and regional heritage. A special book release by MLA Rabiram Narzary and a song presentation by Nileswar Brahma added to the celebrations.

Distinguished guests included Colonel David L Khojoi and Dawa Penjor, who

highlighted cross-border cultural links and community development. The exhibition, running until November 22, features indigenous textiles, crafts, handloom products, tribal food cultures, live craft demonstrations and works by women artisans from Sixth Schedule areas.

The initiative aims to promote tribal artisanship, strengthen economic opportunities for women and celebrate indigenous identity and heritage.


Our Goalpara Correspondent adds: Minister of Tribal Affairs and Education Dr Ranaj Pegu on Saturday indicated that a resolution on the long-standing demand for six indigenous communities—Tai Ahom, Moran, Motok, Chutia, Tea Tribes and Koch Rajbongshi—to be granted Scheduled Tribe status is expected by November 25.

The announcement was made during the 150th birth anniversary celebration of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, observed as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas at Amjonga High School field in Dudhnoi, Goalpara. Dr Pegu also inaugurated the new office building of the Integrated Tribal Development Project and Sub-Divisional Welfare Office, constructed at an estimated cost of ₹ 7.24 crore.

Chief Executive Member of Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council, Tankeswar Rabha, lauded the project, expressing hope for positive local development. The event was attended by a large crowd from various tribal communities, along with officials including Goalpara DC Pradip Timung, Co-DC Arun Kumar Brahma and SSP Nabaneet Mahanta.

Birsa Munda, revered as 'Birsa Bhagawan' is remembered for his leadership against British oppression and efforts to restore tribal cultural and religious identity.

**GOVT. OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE SENIOR
SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE :: UDALGURI
:: DISTRICT :: UDALGURI**



The above is photograph of Sotish Das (50), S/O- Lt. Niloi Das, Vill- Dakhin Kalikhola, PS- Panery, Dist- Udalguri who has been missing since 23/10/2025 from his house.

This refers to Panery PS GDE No-14, Dtd. 25.10.2025 and this office Man Missing Register Entry No. 103, dtd-12/11/2025

Descriptive Roll of the Missing Person:


1. Complexion - Swarthy
2. Age - 50 Yrs
3. Height - 5.5 Feet
4. L/known - Assamese, Bengali
5. Wearing - Pant & Shirt

All efforts may be made to trace out / recover the above noted missing person at the earliest and result thereof may be intimated to this office at the following helpline numbers for further necessary action: 6026901138 (Cell phone).

Sd/-
Senior Superintendent of Police,
Udalguri, Assam.

DIPR /D/HLT/216/16-Nov-25

**GOVT. OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE SENIOR
SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE :: UDALGURI
:: DISTRICT :: UDALGURI**



The above is photograph of Arjun Basaumatary (65), S/O- Lt. Bogen Basumatary, Vill- Monpur, PS- Udalguri, Dist- Udalguri who has been missing since 02/10/2025 from Monpur.

This refers to Udalguri PS GDE No-13, Dtd. 04.10.2025 and this office Man Missing Register Entry No. 98, dtd- 12/11/2025

Descriptive Roll of the Missing Person:

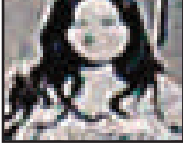
1. Complexion - Swarthy
2. Age - 65 Yrs
3. Height - 5 Feet
4. L/known - Assamese, Bodo
5. Wearing - Shirt & Pant

All efforts may be made to trace out / recover the above noted missing person at the earliest and result thereof may be intimated to this office at the following helpline numbers for further necessary action: 6026901138 (Cell phone).

Sd/-
Senior Superintendent of Police,
Udalguri, Assam.

DIPR /D/HLT/218/16-Nov-25

**GOVT. OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE SENIOR
SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE :: UDALGURI
:: DISTRICT :: UDALGURI**



The above is photograph of Esha Chetry (20), D/O- Bir Bh. Chetry, Vill- Bandarguri Sapan gaon, PS- Udalguri who has been missing since 27/10/2025 Golma Gaon.

This refers to Udalguri PS GDE No-18, Dtd. 29/10/2025 and this office Man Missing Register Entry No. 102, dtd- 12/11/2025

Descriptive Roll of the Missing Person:

1. Complexion - Fair
2. Age - 20 Yrs
3. Height - 5 Feet
4. L/known - Assamese, Nepali & Hindi
5. Wearing - No noted

All efforts may be made to trace out / recover the above noted missing person at the earliest and result thereof may be intimated to this office at the following helpline numbers for further necessary action: 6026901138 (Cell phone).

Sd/-
Senior Superintendent of Police,
Udalguri, Assam.

DIPR /D/HLT/217/16-Nov-25

Janajatiya Gaurav Diwas celebrated with fervor

Tribes pay tribute to Bhagwan Birsa Munda; cultural performances and awards mark the occasion

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Nov 15: The 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, celebrated nationally as Janajatiya Gaurav Diwas was marked with great enthusiasm in Haflong, with representatives from all indigenous tribal communities of Dima Hasao participating. Assam Minister for Sports and Youth Welfare Nandita Gorlosa, North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council (NCHAC) Chairman Mohet Hojai, Executive Member Donphainon Thaosen, other council members, Principal Secretary i/c Partha Sarathi Jahari, District Commissioner Munindra Nath Ngatay and Padma Shri awardee Jaynacharan Bathari were present.

Floral tributes were paid to Birsa Munda for his extraordinary contribution to protecting the honour of the motherland and to local freedom fighter Veer Sambudhan Phonglo. The event featured traditional performances, exhibitions of tribal heritage and recognition of local tribal achievers. Freedom fighters such as Chengzapou Doungel, Rani Gaidinliu, Jaya Thaosen, and Haipou Jadonang were also remembered.

In her address, Minister Gorlosa highlighted the contribution of tribal communities to nation-building and praised the government's commitment to tribal welfare. "The tribals like Bhagwan Birsa Munda fought for the freedom of the nation. This celebration reflects unity and pride," she said. NCHAC Chairman Mohet Hojai and EM Donphainon Thaosen emphasised the importance of recognizing tribal heritage and the ongoing inspiration from Birsa Munda's legacy.

As part of the programme, the foundation stone for an Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) was laid by CEM Debobal

DoNER, and organized in collaboration with TRIFED under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

The inauguration featured a traditional Dahal Thungrui welcome dance, lighting of the ceremonial lamp, and a floral tribute to Bhagwan Birsa Munda. Key addresses were delivered by Dr Z Khiangte and P S Aleng of TRIFED-NER and Prof B L Ahuja, Vice-Chancellor of Bodoland University, emphasising cultural preservation, women's empowerment and regional heritage. A special book release by MLA Rabiram Narzary and a song presentation by Nileswar Brahma added to the celebrations.

Distinguished guests included Colonel David L Khojoi and Dawa Penjor, who

Russian drone and missile attack on Kyiv kills 6 people, injures at least 35

KYIV, Nov 15: Russia unleashed a major missile and drone barrage on Kyiv early Friday, killing six people, leaving gaping holes in apartment buildings and starting fires as the sound of explosions boomed across the city and lit up the night sky. A pregnant woman was among at least 35 people wounded, Ukrainian authorities said.

Russia used at least 430 drones and 18 missiles in the nighttime attack, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said.

Russia has waged a devastating aerial campaign against Ukraine since its all-out invasion of its neighbor nearly four years ago. U.S.-led diplomatic efforts this year to stop the fighting have so far come to nothing.

Friday's aerial assault, which also targeted Odesa in the south and Kharkiv in the northeast, was mostly aimed at Kyiv, where drones and missiles smashed into high-rise apartment blocks, according to Zelenskyy.

It was "a specially calculated attack to cause as much harm as possible to people and civilians," he said in a post on Telegram.



Moscow denies targeting civilian areas, with the Russian Defense Ministry saying Friday it carried out an overnight strike on Ukraine's "military-industrial and energy facilities." Ukrainian officials scoff at those claims, showing repeated damage to homes and public buildings.

The attack was the biggest on Kyiv in almost three weeks. Most recent Russian aerial attacks have aimed at electricity infrastructure around the country ahead of the bitter winter months.

Ukraine used its American-made

Patriot air defense systems to repel the attack and shot down 14 missiles, Zelenskyy said. The Ukrainian leader has pleaded with foreign supporters to send more of the sophisticated systems.

Top European defense officials meeting in Berlin on Friday vowed to keep up their support for Ukraine. Ukrainian Defense Minister Denys Shmyhal joined the meeting remotely.

The Azerbaijan Embassy in Kyiv was damaged by debris from an Iskander missile — a development that Azerbaijan President

Ilham Aliyev said was "unacceptable." Azerbaijan is a key transport corridor for Russia's trade with Iran and other partners in the Middle East.

In the Odesa region, Russian drones struck a busy street on market day in Chornomorsk, killing two people and wounding 11 others, including a 19-month-old girl, regional military administration chief Oleh Kiper said.

My hair was on fire
Kyiv residents told of harrowing escapes and near misses in the dead of night.

Mariia Kalchenko said it was a miracle she survived after her building was hit.

"I didn't hear anything. I just realized that my hair was on fire," the 46-year-old volunteer rescue dog handler told The Associated Press.

She turned on her flashlight and saw that her dog had moved away in fright. "I turned around and saw that there was no wall, and there was a neighbor's apartment, the neighbor was screaming, there was no door, and the flames were going from the front door into the apartment," she said. (AP)

India calls for greater transparency in functioning of UNSC subsidiary organs



UNITED NATIONS, Nov 15: India has called for "greater transparency" in the functioning of the subsidiary organs of the UN Security Council, citing the "obscure" manner in which requests to designate entities and individuals are rejected.

Addressing the UNSC open debate on Working Methods on Friday (local time), India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish said that the Security Council is central in the UN architecture as the principal organ that is primarily tasked with the responsibility of maintenance of international peace and security.

"As a UN organ whose sphere of functions covers a range of areas, but membership limited to only 15 members, working methods of the Security Council are critical to its credibility, efficacy, efficiency and

transparency. This gains particular salience in a world beset with multiple crises and facing numerous challenges," Harish added.

He underscored the need for greater transparency in the functioning of the subsidiary organs.

"A case in point is the manner in which listing requests are rejected. Unlike de-listing decisions, these are done in a rather obscure manner, with member states that are not on the Council not being privy to details," he said.

Harish also pointed out that chairs and pen-holderships of the Council's committees and subsidiary organs are privileges that come with major responsibilities.

"Discussions in the Council on distribution of Chairs and pen-holderships must prevent Council members with vested interests from being accorded these privileges. Obvious and outright conflicts of interest can have no place in the Council," he said.

Calling for reform of the powerful 15-nation UN organ, Harish said "the overall endeavour needs to be on redesigning the eight-decade-old architecture to make the United Nations Security Council fit-for-purpose, equipped to meet the ongoing and future challenges and discharge its functions purposefully."

He stressed the expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories of the Council membership with adequate representation for under-represented and non-represented geographies, through text-based negotiations in a time-bound manner.

India also called for greater coordination of the Council with other UN organs, particularly the General Assembly. (PTI)

Palestinian leader Abbas turns 90, weakened by Israel, deeply unpopular

CAIRO, Nov 15: Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas turns 90 on Saturday, still holding authoritarian power in tiny pockets of the West Bank, but marginalised and weakened by Israel, deeply unpopular among Palestinians, and struggling for a say in a postwar Gaza Strip.

The world's second-oldest serving president — after Cameroon's 92-year-old Paul Biya — Abbas has been in office for 20 years, and for nearly the entire time has failed to hold elections. His weakness has left Palestinians leaderless, critics say, at a time when they face an existential crisis and hopes for establishing a Palestinian state, the centrepiece of Abbas' agenda, appear dimmer than ever.

Palestinians say Israel's campaign against Hamas that has decimated Gaza amounts to genocide. Israel denies the accusation and has tightened its lock on the West Bank, where Jewish settlements are expanding and attacks by settlers on Palestinians are increasing. Right-wing allies of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu are pressing for outright annexation, a step that would doom any remaining possibility for statehood.

For now, the US has bent to Israel's refusal to allow Abbas' Palestinian Authority to govern postwar Gaza. With no effective leader, critics fear Palestinians in the territory will be consigned to live under an international body dominated by Israel's allies, with little voice and no real path to statehood.

Abbas "has put his head in the sand and has taken no initiative," said Khalil Shikaki, head of the People's Company for Polls and Survey Research, a Palestinian pollster.

"His legitimacy was depleted long ago," Shikaki told The Associated Press. "He has become a liability to his own party, and for the Palestinians as a whole."

Within the pockets of the West Bank that it administers, the PA is notorious for corruption. Abbas rarely leaves his headquarters in the city of Ramallah, except to travel abroad. He limits decision-making to his tight inner circle, including Hussein al-Sheikh, a longtime con-

fidant whom he named as his designated successor in April.

An October poll by Shikaki's organisation found that 80 per cent of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza want Abbas to resign. Only a third want the PA to have full or shared governance of the Gaza Strip. The survey of 1,200 people had a margin of error of 3.5 percentage points.

Arafat's successor

It's a long way from 20 years ago, when Abbas was elected president after the death of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat amid hopes he could negotiate an independent state.

The first blow came in 2007, when Hamas drove the PA out of the Gaza Strip in a violent takeover. Hamas' rule entrenched a split between Gaza and the West Bank, the Israeli-occupied territories that the Palestinians seek for a state.

Abbas was left in charge of pockets around the West Bank's main population centers. But his power is crippled because Israel has a chokehold on the economy, controlling the West Bank's resources, most of its land and its access to the outside world.

Netanyahu, who took power in 2009, rejects the creation of a Palestinian state. His "strategy from Day 1" has been to weaken the PA, said Ehud Olmert, who preceded Netanyahu as prime minister and perhaps came the closest to reaching a peace deal with Abbas shortly before being forced from office.

Netanyahu's aim, Olmert said, is to "prevent any genuine chance to come along with some compromise that could have been implemented into a historical agreement."

Cooperation with Israel

The campaign of weakening the PA comes even though Abbas has abided by a major role demanded by Israel and the international community: security cooperation with Israel. The PA trades intelligence with Israel on militants and often cracks down on armed groups.

To many Palestinians, that makes the PA a subcontractor of the occupation, suppressing opponents while Israel swallows up an increasing amount of the West Bank. (AP)

EAM Jaishankar chairs conference of Indian envoys in the US

NEW YORK, Nov 15: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar reviewed bilateral ties between Washington and New Delhi and support for diaspora activities at a conference of India's Consuls General in the US convened here.

"Reviewed our bilateral ties and support for diaspora activities. Appreciate the commitment and efforts of our Embassy & Consulates to strengthening the India-US partnership," Jaishankar said in a post on social media.

Jaishankar "chaired the Consul Generals Conference" held Friday at the Consulate General of India in New York that was attended by Indian Ambassadors to the US Vinay Kwatra, Deputy Chief of Mission in the Indian Embassy in Washington DC Namgya Khampa as well as all the envoys heading the Indian Consulates in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco and Seattle.

The Indian Consulate in New York, led by Consul General Binaya Pradhan, said in a post on X that it was "honoured" to welcome Jaishankar at the Consulate premises. (PTI)

US President Trump to proceed with legal action against BBC despite apology

LONDON, Nov 15: US President Donald Trump has declared that he intends to proceed with legal action against the BBC despite the British public service broadcaster apologising to him for the way his speech was edited for one of its news documentaries aired last year.

"We'll sue them. We'll sue them for anywhere between a billion and 5 billion dollars, probably sometime next week," Trump told reporters on Air Force One overnight on Saturday.

"We have to do it, they've even admitted that they cheated. Not that they couldn't have not done that. They cheated. They changed the words coming out of my mouth," he said.

The row follows an intense period for the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), resulting in the resignation of top officials and an apology for an "error of judgment" from its Indian-origin chair, Samir Shah.

On Thursday, the BBC said the edit of Trump's January 6, 2021, speech had unintentionally given



"the mistaken impression that President Trump had made a direct call for violent action" and said it would not be broadcast again. While it has apologised to the American President, the BBC has ruled out paying any financial compensation.

Trump had threatened to sue the broadcaster for USD 1 billion in damages unless the corporation issued a retraction, apology and paid him compensation. However, he has now said he intends to proceed with the legal action despite the apology.

US presses for approval of UN resolution on Gaza as Russia offers rival proposal

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 15: The United States stepped up calls Friday for U.N. consensus on its plan for Gaza as Russia circulated a rival proposal that would strip out reference to a transitional authority meant to be headed by President Donald Trump and asks the United Nations to lay out options for an international stabilization force. The United States and eight countries that have played a role in reaching the fragile ceasefire between Israel and Hamas after more than two years of war in Gaza urged "swift adoption" of the latest U.S. draft resolution by the 15-member U.N. Security Council. Just one of the eight is on the council — Pakistan.

The joint statement with Qatar, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Pakistan, Jordan and Turkey came after the U.S. faced objections this week and made changes to its U.N. proposal to include more defined language on Palestinian self-determination, according to a U.N. diplomat briefed on the matter who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the negotiations.

The latest U.S. draft and the Russian proposal are both expected to be put up for a vote early next week, the diplomat said, adding that the American plan could garner the nine votes

needed to pass, with Russia and China likely abstaining instead of using their vetoes.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Trump's ceasefire plan "is the best path to peace in the Middle East" and said the U.S. resolution will enable the effort to move forward.

The U.S. resolution endorses Trump's 20-point ceasefire plan, which calls for a yet-to-be-established Board of Peace as a transitional authority that he would head. It also would authorize an international stabilization force in Gaza with a wide mandate, including overseeing the borders, providing security and demilitarizing the territory. Arab and other countries that have expressed interest in participating in the stabilization force have indicated that such a mandate is necessary for them to contribute troops. After facing objections from some U.N. Security Council members that the resolution didn't envision a future independent Palestinian state, the U.S. made revisions. It now says that after reforms to the Palestinian Authority are "faithfully carried out and Gaza re-development has advanced, the conditions may be in place for a credible pathway to Palestinian self-determination and statehood."

Russia's rival draft resolution, obtained Friday

by The Associated Press, includes stronger language supporting Palestinian statehood alongside Israel and stressing that the West Bank and Gaza must be joined as a state under the Palestinian Authority. Russia's U.N. mission said in a statement that it took the step because the U.N. Security Council, which is responsible for maintaining international peace and security, "should be given a rightful role and the necessary tools to ensure accountability and control."

Russia said council resolutions also are supposed to reaffirm fundamental decisions, "first and foremost the two-state solution for the Israeli-Palestinian settlement." Russia said those provisions were not in the U.S. draft, so it circulated its own text whose objective is "to amend the U.S. concept and bring it into conformity" with previous council decisions.

"We would like to stress that our document does not contradict the American initiative," the Russian mission said. "On the contrary, it notes the tireless efforts by the mediators — the United States, Qatar, Egypt, and Turkey — without which the long-awaited ceasefire and the release of hostages and detainees would have been impossible." (AP)

Asia Pacific region will require 19,560 new planes over 20 years: Airbus

BANGKOK, Nov 15: The Asia Pacific region is projected to require 19,560 new narrow-body and wide-body planes over the next 20 years, majorly driven by demand from India and China, aircraft maker Airbus said on Saturday.

The demand, Airbus said, represents 46 per cent of the global requirement for 42,520 new aircraft over the timeframe of 20 years.

India and China are driving a major portion of the growth, Airbus Asia Pacific President Anand Stanley said here.

With rising passenger traffic, the Asia-Pacific region is expected to see an annual passenger growth of 4.4 per cent, higher than the global average of 3.6 per cent.

India is one of the world's fastest growing civil aviation markets and airlines have placed huge orders as they expand their fleets to cater to the rising traffic demand.

Presenting the forecast during the Association of Asia-Pacific Airlines' (AAPA) Annual Assem-



bly of Presidents in Bangkok, Airbus said the region is projected to require around 3,500 wide-body planes over the next 20 years.

This number represents 43 per cent of global demand in the larger size aircraft categories.

As per the forecast, the Asia Pacific region will need around 16,100 single-aisle aircraft, accounting for 47 per cent of the new deliveries globally in the given time period.

"Nearly 68 per cent of the aircraft deliveries will support fleet expansion, while 32 per cent will

replace older models, significantly contributing to decarbonisation efforts."

"The next generation of Airbus wide-body aircraft offers an immediate 25 per cent improvement in fuel efficiency and a corresponding reduction in carbon emissions," Airbus said.

Stanley said Asia Pacific region is entering an exciting phase of growth. Apart from passenger growth, network development, penetration of low cost carriers and infrastructure are the major drivers for air travel. (PTI)

Trump says he 'stopped a war' by preserving ceasefire between Cambodia, Thailand

WASHINGTON, Nov 15: President Donald Trump said Friday that he had successfully eased hostilities between Cambodia and Thailand, saying that he'd been able to preserve a previous, US-brokered ceasefire that had appeared to be breaking down.

"I stopped a war just today," Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One as he flew to his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida for the weekend. He said his actions were made possible by his willingness to impose steep tariffs on countries around the world, which he has argued gives the US great leverage on trade and diplomatic leverage.

The president said he'd spoken to the prime ministers of both countries by phone and now, "They're doing great. They were not doing great." He said the conversations left him believing, "I think they're going to be fine."

Territorial disputes over exactly where the border lies between the Southeast Asian neighbors led to five days of armed conflict in late July that killed dozens of soldiers and civilians. (AP)

Once a shadowy dealmaker, one-time Zelenskyy associate accused in Ukrainian corruption scandal

KYIV, Nov 15: Before the revelation of a multi-million dollar embezzlement and kickbacks scandal involving Ukraine's state nuclear energy company brought his name to the forefront, Tymur Mindich was a shadowy presence — navigating deals and moving behind the scenes with unseen influence, known to many, yet rarely spoken of.

Mindich was linked to growing fears over his expanding influence within the country's lucrative industries, his access facilitated by his ties to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. The two were once business partners and Mindich's influence had expanded under Zelenskyy's tenure. The full extent of that influence was exposed this week when Ukraine's anti-corruption watchdogs released the findings of a 15-month investigation into a USD100 million embezzlement scheme involving top officials and Ukraine's state nuclear power company, accusing Mindich of being the mastermind behind the plot.

Mindich has fled the country, with any criminal proceedings against him likely to be carried out in absentia. Two top government ministers have resigned. Ukrainian officials, experts and activists contend Mindich's rise to power is closely tied to his privileged relationship with the president and Zelenskyy's inner circle.

"What we were hearing only as rumours now has some evidence," said activist Tetiana Shevchuk, of Ukraine's Anti-Corruption Action Centre. "For a long time we have heard that Tymur Mindich is a shadow

controller of the energy sector."

The entertainment tycoon

Until Zelenskyy's presidency, Mindich, 46, was just one among many wealthy Ukrainian entertainment industry entrepreneurs. Mindich was a co-owner of Zelenskyy's production company Kwartal 95, named for the comedy troupe that helped catapult the Ukrainian president to fame as a comedian before he entered politics. Zelenskyy transferred his stake in the company to his partners after he was elected.

Despite expanding his business portfolio since Zelenskyy's election, Mindich maintained ties to the entertainment world. Until the corruption probe was exposed this week, he was a producer of the comedy show "Stadium Family" on YouTube. In light of the scandal and his tarnished reputation, the show's owners shut it down this week.

He is also a relative of Leonid Mindich, who was arrested by Ukraine's anti-corruption watchdogs in June when he was trying to flee the country, according to local reports; he was charged with embezzling USD16 million from an electric power company.

Rise under Zelenskyy

Zelenskyy and Mindich's close friendship is documented. The president used Mindich's armoured car during the final stretch of his presidential campaign in 2019. In January 2021, Zelenskyy celebrated his birthday in Mindich's apartment during COVID. The two own apartments in the same building. (AP)

Raj Bhavan marks Uttarakhand, Jharkhand Foundation Day with cultural showcase

Guv highlights shared heritage, Himalayan ties and the role of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat in fostering national unity



HT Correspondent
ITANAGAR, Nov 15: The State Foundation Day of Uttarakhand and Jharkhand was celebrated with vibrant traditional performances at Raj Bhavan, Itanagar on Saturday. Governor Lt General KT Parnaik, PVSM, UYSM, YSM (Retd), and the First Lady, Anagha Parmaik joined the programme organised under the Prime Minister's Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat initiative.

Extending warm greetings to the people of Uttarakhand and Jharkhand residing and working in Arunachal Pradesh, the Governor appreciated their service, noting that their dedication has meaningfully contributed to the State's development journey.

Drawing cultural and geographical parallels, the Governor said that Jharkhand and Arunachal Pradesh share a strong tribal identity reflected in their traditions, festivals and community life. He noted that both Uttarakhand and Arunachal Pradesh are shaped by the Himalayan landscape—its serenity, spirituality and ecological richness influencing the lifestyle, beliefs and cultural practices of the people. This shared Himalayan heritage, he said, binds the regions together as kindred spaces of natural reverence and traditional wisdom. Speaking on the significance of the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat initiative, the Governor said it has strengthened national integration by encouraging deeper cultural connections and vibrant exchanges among youth across the country. He expressed satisfaction that Arunachal's young people are enthusiastically embracing

the cultural diversity of other States while proudly promoting their own.

As a gesture of appreciation, the Governor presented letters of recognition to the children of CK Bliss for their Garba and Lavani performances during Gujarat and Maharashtra Foundation Day celebrations. He also felicitated Dr Krishna Chowlu, Scientist In-Charge, Botanical Survey of India, Arunachal Pradesh Regional Centre and author of the acclaimed book 'Orchids of Arunachal Pradesh', which documents 657 species and features over 810 photographs.

The celebration featured an engaging lineup of performances showcasing India's cultural diversity. Cadets of the 1st Arunachal Pradesh NCC Battalion presented an Arunachali traditional dance depicting various tribes, while students of Air Force School, Tezpur performed a spirited National Integration Dance. Tase Kanya Hano, cultural ambassador and founder of CK Bliss, presented a graceful Bharatanatyam recital and Class VIII student Sneh Kumari recited her poem 'Bachpan'. Members of the Jharkhand community working in the State added to the festivities with a captivating Jhumur dance.

The Governor and the First Lady interacted warmly with performers and guests over High Tea, lending a gracious and personal touch to an event that celebrated India's unity in diversity.

Workshop on SNA-SPARSH and PMGSY financial systems

HT Correspondent

TAWANG, Nov 15: A two-day regional workshop on SNA-SPARSH and strengthening financial management systems under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and Vibrant Village Programme (VVP) for Assam, Nagaland, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh concluded in Tawang on Saturday. The workshop was organised by the Rural Works Department (RWD) in collaboration with the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India.

Speaking at the inaugural session, RWD Secretary PN Thungon described SNA-SPARSH as a major governance reform that shifts financial operations from multiple bank accounts and fragmented fund flows to a unified and transparent mechanism. He said the system enables real-time tracking of fund releases and expenditures, ensuring optimal utilisation of public funds. He added that the initiative aligns with the vision of Digital India and the principle of "minimum government, maximum governance".

The workshop saw detailed deliberations on enhancing efficiency, transparency and accountability in financial processes under PMGSY through improved implementation of the Single Nodal Agency (SNA)

system on the SPARSH platform. Resource persons from MoRD—including K M Singh Director (F&A), Shailesh Kumar Director (IFD), Sunil Kumar Gupta Deputy Director (F&A) and Rajneesh, Assistant Director (F&A)—explained various practical aspects of the new accounting system and addressed operational challenges. They also inspected ongoing VVP road projects in Tawang district.

Over the course of two days, experts presented sessions on fund flow mechanisms, financial reporting, system integration, best practices and capacity building for field and finance personnel. The initiative aimed to reinforce financial discipline and streamline project execution under PMGSY and VVP across the northeastern region. The platform also allowed participating States to exchange experiences, discuss constraints and explore collaborative solutions for strengthening rural road infrastructure with sound financial management.

Er N. Rigia, Chief Engineer (PMGSY) and K C Dhimole, Technical Advisor to the Chief Minister also took part in the discussions, highlighting procedural requirements for the smooth operation of the SNA-SPARSH system under PMGSY and VVP.

EMT delivers baby inside ambulance

HT Correspondent

ROIING, Nov 15: In a remarkable display of skill and dedication, EMT Bingu Tayeng and Pilot Deepok Gurung of DH Roing (Ambulance AR01N8386) from EMRI Green Health Services successfully delivered a baby inside an ambulance while navigating challenging terrain in Roing District.

Upon reaching DH Roing, medical staff confirmed that both mother and baby were in stable condition and received immediate medical care. Hospital authorities praised the professionalism and quick thinking of the EMT team, emphasising the importance of skilled emergency response in remote areas.

This incident highlights both the crucial role of emergency medical services in rural regions and the challenges healthcare providers face in ensuring timely medical care. As the family celebrates the arrival of their new member, the successful delivery serves as a testament to the life-saving work performed by emergency medical professionals every day.

process. Moments before arrival at the hospital, a healthy baby girl was delivered.

"Despite the challenging circumstances, we were focused on providing the best care possible. It was an unforgettable experience and I'm grateful that we could support this family during such a critical moment," said Tayeng.

Upon reaching DH Roing, medical staff confirmed that both mother and baby were in stable condition and received immediate medical care. Hospital authorities praised the professionalism and quick thinking of the EMT team, emphasising the importance of skilled emergency response in remote areas.

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Cultural showcase marks Janajatiya Gaurav Diwas

HT Correspondent

TAWANG, Nov 15: A vibrant cultural programme was organised at Government Town Secondary School, Tawang under the aegis of the Vibrant Village Programme, coinciding with the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, observed nationwide as Janajatiya Gaurav Diwas.

Rinchin Leta, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Tawang graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Dondup, District Coordinator representing the DDSE Tawang attended as the Guest of Honour. Both dignitaries praised the initiative for its role in promoting cultural heritage and strengthening community participation in the border region. The event featured performances by five cultural troupes, showcasing the diverse traditions and artistic expressions of the area. The lineup included the Snow Lion Dance presented by the Welfare Association of Shyo Village, artists from the Monpa Institute of Performing Arts, students from Kremethang School and students of Town Secondary School.

The programme was sponsored by the North East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC), Ministry of Culture, Government of India, in collaboration with the Department of Art and Culture, Tawang, Government of Arunachal Pradesh.

As part of the event, prizes were distributed to the participating artists in recognition of their performances. A signature campaign promoting cultural pride and community engagement was also conducted. The programme concluded with a formal vote of thanks, acknowledging all contributors, participants and supporters.

New assembly shed at Girls' Residential School, Sarkha Happa

HT Correspondent

SAGALEE, Nov 15: The newly constructed Assembly Shed at the Government Girls' Residential School, Sarkha Happa, Nimte was formally inaugurated on Friday by Vishakha Yadav, IAS, Deputy Commissioner of Papum Pare District in the presence of Yame Higio, ADC Sagalee.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner recalled her visit to the school in July 2025, during which she interacted with students and teachers in an open area and was informed of the institution's infrastructural challenges. She stated that the construction of the Assembly Shed was a direct outcome of that interaction. Yadav expressed satisfaction that the

school had already hosted its Annual School Week celebrations, including cultural programmes in the newly built shed. She advised students to remain focused on their goals while maintaining a balance between academics, mental well-being and regular physical exercise.

Speaking on the occasion, ADC Yame Higio highlighted that the Assembly Shed had been constructed without any government funding to date and commended contractor Teli Lala for completing the project within one month. She assured that payment for the shed would be made jointly from the DC's and ADC's untied funds once government funds are released.

Gollo Lento, president of the All

Papum Pare District Students' Union (APPDSU), thanked the organisers and recommended the posting of GNM-level nursing staff in all boarding schools with more than 50 students. He also assured the school that APPDSU would provide 100 chairs and 10 CCTV cameras as support. Social worker Teli Tatum Camdir attended the event as a special invitee.

The inauguration concluded with prize distribution for students who excelled in the Annual School Sports, Literary and Cultural meet held earlier. The programme was attended by Yang Yangfio, BEO Sagalee, BRCC and CRCC officials, GPC Lerin Panchayat members, parents and members of the local community.

Guv greets media fraternity on National Press Day

HT Correspondent

ITANAGAR, Nov 15: Governor Lt General KT Parnaik, PVSM, UYSM, YSM (Retd), extended warm greetings to the media fraternity of the State on the occasion of National Press Day, reaffirming the importance of safeguarding press freedom as a foundation of democracy.

In his message, the Governor described the press as the Fourth Pillar of the democratic system and an essential contributor to the vision of Viksit Bharat. He said the media informs citizens, nurtures public discourse and up-

holds transparency and accountability among institutions and public figures. In today's rapidly evolving world, the press continues to play a powerful role across every sphere of life with its influence reaching all sections of society, he noted.

Highlighting the performance of the State's media, the Governor said that Arunachal Pradesh's press demonstrates responsibility and integrity while adapting to a changing information landscape. He appreciated the visible shift toward progressive, inclusive and technologically adept journalism,

describing the media as an informative, educative and expressive platform that shapes public opinion and amplifies diverse voices. Expressing confidence in the State's journalists, he said he believes the media will continue to meet emerging challenges with courage and professionalism, especially in areas linked to national unity, social harmony and the protection of women and children. Marking the significance of National Press Day, the Governor urged media professionals to remain committed to truth, fairness and public service.

May APNE library remain a lamp of learning to Wakro community: ADC Lungphi

Former CE Lupalum Kri lauds APNE library volunteers' contribution to Mishmi society

HT Correspondent

NAHARLAGUN, Nov 15: A J Lungphi, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Wakro inaugurated the new premises of APNE Library on Children's Day, dedicating it as a "lamp of knowledge" for the youth of Wakro Circle. Emphasising the library's long-standing service, he lauded the young women volunteers who have led its activities for the past 16 years and affirmed full administrative support for its future growth. He added that the unused government building was handed over for the library as it could "serve best as the new premises," and encouraged local youth to make the most of the facility.

Library patron and former Chief Engineer Er Lupalum Kri delivered an encouraging and humorous address, praising the volunteers for their community-driven work and their academic and artistic achievements. Highlighting the accomplishments of senior volunteers, he congratulated Manisha Halai for winning an international film award in Bali and Nishanlu Kri for securing the gold medal in MA Sociology at the Central University of Gujarat. He urged the library to continue spreading awareness against opium use and to remain focused on youth development. He also extended gratitude to "Uncle Moosa" for his long-standing contribution to the reading movement in the Mishmi region.

S Mundayoor, Lohit Youth Library Coordinator, traced the 17-year journey of APNE Library and acknowledged the crucial role of Rohinso Krisikro, Chairman of ASSET and head of Apna Vidya Bhavan and



KGBV Wakro schools, in nurturing student volunteers. He noted that APNE Library has become a model institution despite its senior volunteers being first-generation learners and thanked parents for trusting their daughters to engage in library-based activities.

Echoing this appreciation, Bethem Marai, Joint Secretary of the Forum of Library Activists (FLA), who compared the programme, expressed gratitude to the school and its leadership. Speaking on behalf of the parents, Solen Rangmang said he realised the profound impact of the library only

after witnessing its reading promotion activities. APNE Library founder-patron Silotmai Dellang expressed joy in seeing young readers grow into confident and accomplished women. Senior volunteer and PhD scholar Keselo Tayang recounted the achievements of library readers and thanked parents and supporters nationwide.

Junior volunteers from Bamboosa Library, Arpita Ram and Solong Krong, shared their experiences in fluent Kaman Mishmi, describing how the library's nurturing environment shaped their journeys in Tezu and beyond. Other young volunteers, includ-

ing Anushka Kumari and Jaison Rai, presented poetry and storytelling sessions. The programme began with a welcome address by Bahailu Rangmang, Treasurer of FLA, followed by the reading of benediction messages by senior volunteer Sakelu Chikro. Concluding the event, Solina Kambrai, vice president of FLA, delivered a vote of thanks, expressing deep gratitude to ADC Lungphi for providing a new home for APNE Library and to all patrons whose support has enabled the library to begin a new chapter in educational advancement for the Wakro Circle.

SEC briefs Guv on upcoming Local Body elections

HT Correspondent

ITANAGAR, Nov 15: The State Election Commissioner (SEC), Rinchin Tashi called on Governor Lt General KT Parnaik, PVSM, UYSM, YSM (Retd), at Raj Bhavan, Itanagar on Saturday. He briefed the Governor on the preparations and arrangements for the forthcoming Panchayati Raj and Local Body Elections.

Emphasising the significance of these elections, the Governor said that Panchayati Raj institutions form the bedrock of democracy by empowering people at the grassroots and giving them a direct voice in governance. He described the polls as more than just a constitutional process, calling them a powerful mechanism for self-governance and inclusive development.

The Governor underscored the importance of ensuring free, fair and transparent elections. He advised the State Election Commission to maintain impartiality at every stage and stressed the need for strong security measures to prevent intimidation or violence. He further called for strict vigilance to curb the misuse of money, muscle power and official influence.

Highlighting the collective responsibility of society, the Governor said that citizens, civil society organisations and the media play a vital role in upholding the sanctity of grassroots democracy.

Secretary to the SEC, Taru Talo was also present during the meeting.

Govt makes minor bureaucratic reshuffle

ITANAGAR, Nov 15: In a minor bureaucratic reshuffle by Arunachal Pradesh government, Education Commissioner Amja Tak has been given additional charge of Public Health Engineering and Water Supply (PHE&WS), an official notification said.

According to an official notification issued by Chief Secretary Manish Kumar Gupta, Land Management special secretary and also Tourism Director Yashaswini B has been transferred and posted as East Kameng deputy commissioner in place of Himanshu Nigam, who has been directed to report to the Personnel department.

Nigam, who has been accused of irregularities in the land compensation process for the Lada-Sarli section of the Arunachal Frontier Highway, has also been directed to immediately hand over the charge of East Kameng deputy commissioner to the additional deputy commissioner. (PTI)

No. 41

SHORT NOTICE INVITING QUOTATION

Subject to pending Approval from the Govt in Soil Conservation Department, Sealed quotation affixing non-refundable court fee stamp of Rs. 10.00 (Rupees Ten) only are hereby invited on behalf of Director of Soil Conservation, Assam from the registered Contractors/Firms for implementation of the following scheme. The quotation will be received by the undersigned in this office up to up to 2.00 PM of 25-11-2024 positively and will be opened at 3.00 PM on the same day. If the day fixed for receiving of quotation falls on an unscheduled holiday, the next working day will be treated as the date of receiving of quotation. The quotationers or their authorized agents may present at the time of opening of quotation. If they desire so. Detailed terms and conditions, plan and estimates etc. may be obtained from the office of the undersigned on or before 21-11-2024 during office hours.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Estimated Amount (Rs. In lakh)	Name of District
1	Celebration of "World Soil Day 2025" on 05-12-2025 at Directorate Complex of Soil Conservation, Guwahati-05.	6.44250	Kamrup (M)

✦ N.B. : Work order will be issued only after the approval from the Govt.

Sd/-
Divisional Soil Conservation Officer
South Bank Soil Conservation Division
Guwahati-05

DIPR /C/HLT/215/16-Nov-25

Red Fort blast: Cops track down vehicles parked near exploded car

'Every driver who was present in the parking area around that time is being contacted and questioned'

NEW DELHI, Nov 15: Investigators probing the Red Fort blast that killed 13 have traced dozens of vehicles parked near the exploded Hyundai i20 and are questioning their drivers and owners to reconstruct the events, an official said on Saturday.

Police have prepared a detailed log of every vehicle that entered the Sunehri Masjid parking area, where the blast took place, during the three hours the exploded car remained there.

The log includes registration numbers, entry timing, exit timing and ownership details.

A Delhi Police team, assisted by a bomb detection squad, has stationed itself at the parking area, inspecting all vehicles that remained there since the blast. Cars found present at the spot at the time of the explosion are being checked first and, once cleared, are being returned to their owners, officials said.

"Every driver who was present in the parking area around that time is being contacted and questioned. We are verifying whether they saw the Haryana-registered HR-26 Hyundai i20, whether anyone accompanied the driver Umar Nabi, and whether they noticed anyone entering or exiting the car," a source said.



Investigators are showing Umar's photograph to drivers and vehicle owners to ascertain whether he was alone or if another person interacted with him during the three hours he stayed in the parking lot.

Officials said the exercise is crucial to determine whether the explosive was planted inside the car at the parking facility.

Parallely, the Delhi Police Special Cell has registered a separate FIR under sections related to criminal conspiracy to probe the larger

plot behind the blast. The initial FIR registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) has already been transferred to the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

Sources said several vehicles were parked near the exploded car when Umar arrived and left it at the site. Police believe that the movements of those vehicle owners — and what they may have seen — could be key to understanding the timeline and identifying possible accomplices.

Meanwhile, investigators are also examining whether the arrested doctor, Dr Muzammil Ganaie, had regular contact with a wider network of doctors linked to Al Falah University in Haryana's Faridabad district.

According to sources, around 15 doctors known to be in touch with Muzammil have gone untraceable.

"Call detail records indicate multiple conversations between Muzammil and several doctors. When teams tried contacting them, their phones were switched off. A team sent to Al Falah University found many of these individuals missing from campus," a source said.

Agencies are probing whether these missing doctors played any role in planning or facilitating the alleged terror module.

On November 10, central agencies had busted what they described as a 'white-collar terror module' operating across Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, recovering 2,900 kg of explosive material and arresting eight people, including three doctors. Hours later, the high-intensity blast ripped through the slow-moving car near the Red Fort metro station.

Further investigation is underway. (PTI)

Adityanath launches 432 projects, pays tribute to Birsa Munda on Tribal Pride Day

SONBHADRA (UP), Nov 15: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday paid tribute to the tribal leader Birsa Munda on his 150th birth anniversary. He said, the message of "Abu Desh, Abu Raj" continues to inspire the spirit of Nation first in new India.

Speaking at the 'Tribal Pride Day' programme in Chopan, here, the chief minister said that the NDA's double-engine government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is committed to ensuring security, good governance, respect, and development for tribal communities. This will make the tribal communities leading partners in mainstream development. Adityanath addressed the 'Janjatiye Gaurav Diwas' programme in Sonbhadra. He inaugurated and laid the foundation of 432 developmental projects worth Rs 548 crore, a government statement said.

He said that today's government is carrying forward that legacy through inclusive policies and concrete actions for tribal welfare.

The chief minister described Sonbhadra as the energy capital of Uttar Pradesh with a unique confluence of natural beauty and rich resources.

He said that the participation of tribal brothers and sisters in large numbers in the 'Tribal Pride Day' programme organised here is a



symbol of the aspiration and faith for change.

A tribal museum and hostel have been established in Imlia Koder in Balrampur district, and a similar 'Tribal Pride Museum' will be set up here to preserve tribal art, instruments, and traditions of tribal society and inspire future generations. The 1.4 billion-year-old fossil under consideration for the UNESCO World Heritage List remains a unique attraction for the world community to strengthen Sonbhadra's global identity.

He said 14 of the state's 15 tribes reside here, with over 400,000 tribal residents whose cultural heritage is linked to the history of human origin and civilisation.

The chief minister highlighted that the Dharti Aba Janjati Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan under the "PM Jan Man Yojana" is writing a new chapter in providing basic amenities and overall development in 517 tribal-dominated villages in the state.

The state's tribal population of approximately 1.1 million resides

in various districts, including Sonbhadra, Chandauli, Mirzapur, Chitrakoot, Balrampur, Lakhimpur Kheri, Shravasti, and Bahraich, and the schemes are being implemented in all these areas with the goal of saturation, so that no eligible family is left out, he said.

He said that after the amendment to the Forest Rights Act, while previous governments avoided taking decisions and tribal communities continued to be exploited, the current government has adopted a clear policy and taken decisive steps towards granting forest land leases to genuine claimants. The chief minister handed over forest rights leases to more than 1,000 tribal families, and more than 23,000 leases have been approved previously.

This also broke a decades-old cycle of fear and oppression, he said. A booklet based on the tourist places of Sonbhadra and a book based on Birsa Munda were also released. Twenty-five scooters were flagged off for women police personnel under 'Mission Shakti'.

The event also featured exhibitions of tribal culture showcasing instruments and folklore.

The colourful vibe was brought alive through the cultural performances, including the Yak dance from Arunachal Pradesh, the Surjuja tribal group from Chhattisgarh, and the Karma dance of Sonbhadra, the statement said. (PTI)

J-K LG pays floral tributes to nine killed in accidental blast

SRINAGAR, Nov 15: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday paid floral tributes to the nine people killed in the accidental blast at Nowgam police station, which also left 32 injured, officials said.

Sinha paid tributes to them at the Police Control Room here, they said.

Officials said Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, NIA Director General Sadanand Date, DGP Nalin Prabhakar, General Officer Commanding of the Army's 15 Corps, Lt Gen Prashant Srivastava, and other officers from civil administration, police, and other security forces and agencies also paid floral tributes to the police personnel killed in the blast.

"Laid a wreath and offered my solemn tributes to police personnel, revenue officials, and a civilian who lost their lives in an accidental blast at Nowgam police station last night. Nation will forever remain indebted to their selfless service and supreme sacrifice in the line of duty," the LG said in a post on X.

Sinha also interacted with the bereaved families and expressed deep condolences. "The nation stands shoulder to shoulder with them in this difficult hour," he added.

Among the deceased were six policemen — State Investigation Agency Inspector Israr Ahmad Shah, Selection Grade Constables Javed Mansoor Rother and Arshid Ahmad Shah (both Crime Branch photographers). Selection Grade Constable Aijaz Afzal Mir, and Constables Mohammad Amin Mir and Showkat Ahmad Bhat (all three working with the Forensic Science Laboratory) (PTI)

Delhi Police registers 2 FIRs against Al-Falah University for forgery and cheating

NEW DELHI, Nov 15: Delhi Police has registered two separate FIRs against Haryana's Al-Falah University, following red flags raised by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), an official said on Saturday.

The FIRs have been registered by the Crime Branch for cheating and forgery over alleged false accreditation claims made by the university, he said.

Officials said the action was initiated after both the UGC and NAAC flagged "major irregularities" during their review of the institution's functioning, prompting law enforcement agencies to step

in. Earlier, Delhi Police Special Cell had also registered a separate FIR under sections related to criminal conspiracy to probe the larger plot behind the blast. The initial FIR registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) has already been transferred to the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

The university is located at Dhauj in Haryana's Faridabad near Delhi. A police team also visited Al-Falah University headquarters in Okhla, and sought details about the suspects earlier in the day. Further investigation is underway, the police said. (PTI)

NIA arrests MBBS student from Bengal's Uttar Dinajpur for alleged links with terror outfits

KOLKATA, Nov 15: An MBBS student has been arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in West Bengal's Uttar Dinajpur district for his alleged links to terror outfits, a senior police officer said on Saturday.

The accused, identified as Janisur Alam alias Nisar Alam, an MBBS student of Al-Falah University, Haryana, and resident of Ludhiana with ancestral roots in Konal village near Dalkhola in Uttar Dinajpur, was picked up from the Surjapur Bazar area on Friday morning, he said.

Alam was arrested from the Surjapur Bazar area in Uttar Dinajpur while returning from a wedding ceremony at his ancestral home, on suspicion of alleged terror links by sleuths of the NIA, he said.

"The youth is a medical student of Haryana's Al-Falah University. He had travelled to his ancestral home with his mother and sister to attend a relative's wedding. Officers of the NIA intercepted him on his way back after tracking his movements through mobile-tower location data," the officer said.

"A few days ago, there was a wedding in the family, and Nisar had come home to attend the

event," the officer said, adding that they were suspecting his involvement in activities related to the recent Delhi blast case.

However, the NIA was yet to provide detailed information on how Nisar is allegedly linked to the blasts.

Another officer earlier stated that Alam was also seen "loitering suspiciously" near a station in the area before being detained.

"During questioning, he allegedly attempted to flee, following which he was taken into custody," a source in the central probe agency said.

"We are yet to establish whether he has any direct connection with the Delhi blast. Digital devices and documents were seized from his possession," he said.

The accused is currently being taken to Siliguri for further questioning and investigation.

Relatives and family members said Nisar was a quiet, studious individual with no apparent connection to any such events.

"He was a very calm and polite young man, always busy with his studies and showing no interest in anything else. To think that he could be connected to an explosion is simply unbelievable," the accused's uncle said.

Nisar's mother claimed that her son has always been law-abiding, and the accusations against him are beyond comprehension.

The NIA was yet to comment officially on the nature of the charges against Nisar or any specific evidence linking him to terrorism.

Thirteen people were killed and several were injured in the blast near the Red Fort in New Delhi. The government had termed the blast near the Red Fort as a "terrorist incident".

After the Delhi blast, the NIA had also raided the residence of migrant worker Moinul Hasan at Nabagram in Murshidabad district on Wednesday, an officer said.

"Hasan had worked intermittently in Delhi and Mumbai, and during his time in Delhi, he shared accommodation with a Bangladeshi national with whom he is believed to have maintained long-term contact," the NIA source told PTI.

The central probe agency detectives are examining whether Hasan had any links to members of extremist organisations during that period, or he was in touch with the youth arrested from Uttar Dinajpur. (PTI)

NDA'S IMPRESSIVE BIHAR VICTORY Right governance is right politics: Chandrababu Naidu

VISAKHAPATNAM, Nov 15: Heaping generous praise on Narendra Modi, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and key NDA partner N Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday credited the prime minister for the coalition's thumping majority in Bihar, saying it proved that "right governance is right politics".

"Narendra Modi's leadership (has) produced a new model — empowerment through welfare, development and good governance," Naidu told PTI in an interview. The Telugu Desam Party leader was speaking on the sidelines of the state's investment summit here.

The chief minister said that Modi has been consistently winning elections since he became chief minister of Gujarat in 2001. He knows "how to communicate, how to carry people and how to perform also", Naidu said.

Bucking all expectations, the BJP-led NDA won a landslide 202 seats in the 233-member Bihar legislative assembly, the BJP itself performing better with its tally of 91 seats.

Despite being the largest party, BJP is likely to keep its electoral promise and continue with JD-U leader Nitish Kumar as the chief minister of Bihar.

Asked about Nitish's role in the victory, Naidu said the Bihar chief minister's policies and governance have also been recognised by the electorate.

"Bihar everybody knows very well was jungle raj. He was able to put an end to it. Now both Nitish Kumar — what he has done, what he is doing — and also Narendra Modi — what he is doing — that is the endorsement of the elections," he said.

Asked if BJP's increasing strength in state assemblies — Bihar comes after the electoral performance in Maharashtra — will diminish the role of coalition partners in the National Democratic Alliance, Naidu said, "No I don't want to assume all those things. NDA has won. They are very wise to take decisions, and take them forward."

His TDP, he said, is very comfortable in the NDA coalition. "Nation first, that is our motto," he asserted. (PTI)

Vote theft powered NDA win in Bihar: Shiv Sena (UBT)

MUMBAI, Nov 15: The Shiv Sena (UBT) on Saturday claimed the Bihar elections were a scam facilitated by the poll body and accused the ruling BJP-led NDA of winning through vote theft.

A day after the ruling NDA scored a spectacular victory in the polls, the Uddhav Thackeray-led party said the BJP would not hesitate to take control of the JD(U) for the chief minister's post. The party claimed that chief minister Nitish Kumar is struggling with memory loss and questioned how someone with such challenges could lead Bihar.

In an editorial in the party mouthpiece Saamana, the Shiv Sena (UBT) claimed that the BJP's victory formula appears to have been decided in Bihar, just as in Maharashtra, where

the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi was not allowed to win even 50 seats.

The (outcome of Bihar elections was not surprising, the party said, alleging that the poll body and the BJP were working in tandem to get desired results.

"The Bihar election is a scam in Indian democracy," the editorial said.

"Votes were again stolen, based on which, the BJP and (Bihar Chief Minister) Nitish Kumar won the election," the Uddhav Thackeray-led party alleged.

The party asked who people will trust if the gatekeepers of the election process help thieves.

The ruling NDA decimated the opposition Mahagathbandhan on Friday, retaining power and inflicting a significant blow to the Congress and its

ally, the RJD. The BJP won 89 seats, up from 74 in 2020, while Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal (U) tasted success in 85 constituencies, up from 43. The majority mark in the 243-member Assembly is 122.

In the Opposition camp, the Rashtriya Janata Dal's seat tally slipped to 25 from 75, while Congress could bag only six out of the 61 seats it contested, down from 19.

The Sena (UBT) further claimed the "Vote Adhikar Yatra" taken out by Rahul Gandhi and RJD's Tejashwi Yadav in Bihar had received immense support.

Targeting Kumar, the Sena (UBT) claimed the Bihar chief minister is suffering from memory loss, which is evident in his erratic behaviour in public. (PTI)

Two Al Falah University doctors among 3 detained by Delhi Police in terror module case

NEW DELHI, Nov 15: Delhi Police has detained three persons, including two doctors from Haryana's Al Falah University who were known to Dr Umar Nabi, the driver of the car that exploded near the Red Fort, officials said on Saturday.

They have questioned several individuals, including a tea seller in whose stall Umar had made a brief stop, and also visited a mosque where he prayed on the day of the blast.

The detentions were made during coordinated raids conducted on Friday night by the Delhi Police Special Cell and a National Investigation Agency team in Haryana's Dhauj, Nuh and adjoining areas, officials said.

According to sources, they detained two Al Falah University doctors — Mohammad and Mustakim — from Nuh.

The two were allegedly in touch with Dr Muzammil Ganaie, who was arrested in connection with the wider probe into a "white collar terror module". They were also close friends of Dr Umar Nabi, the sources said.

Initial interrogation revealed that one of the detained doctors was in Delhi on the day of the blast. He came to the national



capital to appear for an interview at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), they said.

Further questioning of Mohammad and Mustakim is underway to ascertain the extent of their association with Dr Ganaie and whether they had any role in the wider conspiracy being probed, they added.

Police also questioned a tea seller in Wazirpur Industrial Area, where Dr Umar had stopped for 10 to 15 minutes. The man informed police that Umar did not eat or drink anything, but sat in the tea stall for some time before leaving.

"The police asked us about the man involved in the blast. We don't pay close attention to every customer. They wanted to know if he stayed here, had tea, and other similar details. I only remember that he was wearing a mask. They showed him in a CCTV footage," the tea seller, who was released after questioning, told reporters.

The investigators have asked the managing committee of a mosque near Ramliha Maidan on Asaf Ali Road to furnish records of people who visited it on the day of the blast.

They also visited Al Falah University headquarters in

Okhla and sought details about the suspects.

Meanwhile, in a parallel operation in Nuh, investigating agencies detained another man, identified as Dinesh alias Dabhu, for selling fertilisers without a licence.

It has emerged that the members of the terror module had pooled around Rs 26 lakh to buy explosive substances and spent Rs 3 lakh out of it to purchase NPK fertiliser, which is commonly used to make bombs.

It is being probed whether Dinesh sold the fertiliser to the suspects and if his activities extended beyond the illegal trade, officials said.

Separately, the officials said that Dr Shaheen Sayeed, another Al Falah University doctor arrested in connection with the terror module case, had recently applied for a passport.

A police verification was conducted for her application on November 3 at room number 29 of the university hostel and officers also photographed her as part of the routine procedure, they said.

Agencies are examining whether her application has any bearing on the ongoing investigation. (PTI)

Indian scientists discover 'genetic switch' inside womb that leads to pregnancy

NEW DELHI, Nov 15: A study by the Indian Council of Medical Research seeking to explain how a pregnancy is initiated has led to the discovery of a "genetic switch" that allows an embryo to implant itself on the wall of the womb, leading to conception.

For a pregnancy to begin, the embryo must first attach and embed itself in the wall of the mother's womb. But how this happens has remained a mystery.

The findings, published in the international journal Cell Death Discovery, revealed a fundamental biological switch that controls embryo implantation.

The study was a collaboration between the Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute for Research in Reproductive and Child Health (ICMR-NIRRH), Mumbai; Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi, and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, and brought together experts in molecular biology, genomics and mathematical modelling.

It showed that two genes — HOXA10 and TWIST2 — work to open or close a small "gate" on the wall of the womb at the right time, said Dr Deepak Modi, ICMR-NIRRH scientist and corresponding author of the study.

The inner lining of the uterus is like the wall of a fort — strong, protective, and normally closed to prevent anything from entering.



For the implantation to succeed, this wall must briefly open a small gate at the exact spot where the embryo arrives, explained Nancy Ashary, the lead author of the study.

The study discovered that the gene HOXA10 keeps the wall closed and guarded.

"But when an embryo comes in contact with the lining, HOXA10 temporarily switches off at that location. This short 'switch-off' allows another gene, TWIST2, to act. The activation of TWIST2 opens the gate by making the uterine cells soft and flexible, allowing them to move slightly and let the embryo in," said Dr Mohit Jolly of IISc, Bengaluru.

This process was studied in mice, hamsters, monkeys and human cells, and found that this HOXA10-TWIST2

switch occurs across species.

This suggests that it is an ancient and essential biological mechanism that nature has conserved during evolution and is essential for reproduction in mammals, Dr Shruti Hansda of BHU underlined.

"Understanding this biological switch will explain why some women face repeated implantation failures or very early pregnancy loss, even with healthy embryos," said Dr Geetanjali Sachdeva, Director of ICMR-NIRRH.

If the uterine wall opens too little, the embryo cannot implant; if it opens too much, the pregnancy cannot be sustained. Controlling the balance between HOXA10 and TWIST2 could guide new strategies to improve IVF (in vitro fertilisation) success rates in future, Dr Sachdeva said. (PTI)

Tripura CM hikes ST hostel stipend from ₹ 80 to ₹ 100 per day

AGARTALA, Nov 15: Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha on Saturday hiked the stipend for Scheduled Tribe (ST) boarders in government-run hostels from ₹ 80 to ₹ 100 per day.

Addressing a gathering at Khumulwng in West Tripura on the occasion of Janjati Gaurav Diwas, Saha said the decision would significantly benefit tribal students residing in state-run hostels.

"The government has decided to increase ST hostel stipend from ₹ 80 to ₹ 100 per day. For this, the government will have to spend ₹ 8.81 crore for the remaining months of the current fiscal and ₹23.35 crore for the 2026-27 FY", he said.

The hike will be enforced from December 1.

Asserting that tribal welfare is the priority of the state government, Saha said a 100-bed tribal hostel for college students will be set up at Abhoynagar (Agartala) with an estimated cost of ₹ 5.74 crore.

The CM said the government will distribute sports gears to the non-government organisations (NGOs) to promote sports among tribal students and youth.

"Currently, the government provides sports gears to the government-run hostels, but now the



same will be given to the NGOs in order to involve students into sports activities. An amount of ₹ 90 lakh will be spent for this purpose", he said.

Highlighting the government's initiatives for development of tribal people, Saha said composite solar plants will be set up in 50 tribal hostels with a cost of ₹ 19 crore.

Saha added the government will distribute 500 battery operated auto-rickshaws among tribal youth at a cost of ₹ 20 crore to help them earn their livelihood.

Earlier in the day, Saha led a colourful rally to mark the birth anniversary of tribal freedom fighter Birsa Munda, observed across the country as Janjati Gaurav Diwas. (PTI)

Nagaland witnessing steady inflow of CSR initiatives: FM

HT Correspondent
DIMAPUR, Nov 15: Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said Nagaland is witnessing a steady inflow of corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives, which are becoming more purpose-driven and tailored to local needs.

Inaugurating the AI & Future Skills Centre of Excellence at Nagaland Tool Room & Training Centre (NTTC), Dimapur, Sitharaman recalled that there was a genuine concern that CSR support was not reaching Nagaland a few years ago.

"She said in response to the concern, the central government organised the CSR conclave in Nagaland in 2022, which became a turning point.

"Many companies, some of which had no manufacturing units or service centres in the state, were persuaded to participate and consider Nagaland as a destination for meaningful CSR initiatives," Sitharaman stated.

She said the ongoing CSR-supported programmes at National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) Kohima and the NTTC Dimapur are clear examples of this new momentum.

Sitharaman inaugurated NIELIT



Kohima on Friday. She said at NIELIT Kohima, the Tata Group has stepped in to train youth in advanced areas connected to semiconductor-related technologies, with their experts set to serve as master trainers.

In Dimapur, the AI & Future Skills Centre of Excellence has been established by the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), with technical assistance from CYIENT, with an in-

vestment of Rs 62 lakh to empower the youth of Nagaland with a combination of AI-driven learning and hands-on vocational training, she added.

Later at a press briefing, Sitharaman said her tour to the state was focused more on visit to the aspirational district of Kiphire to understand the progress made by it.

Sitharaman said whenever she visits any aspirational district, she

takes the banks along so that the credit outreach programme can be held where retail loans or farming loans or personal loans or business development loans or startup-related loans or industrial development loans, which are for MSMEs in particular, are all taken up at one go.

She also briefed the media about the other initiatives taken up in state during her three-day visit, which concluded on Saturday.

Two from Assam held after over 18 kg of opium seized in Manipur

IMPHAL, Nov 15: Two persons from Assam were arrested in Manipur's Senapati district after over 18 kg of opium was seized from their possession, police said on Saturday.

Acting on a tip-off, teams of the state police and CRPF personnel intercepted a truck at the Maram Police Station check point on Friday, and recovered the contraband from the two occupants of the vehicle, a senior officer said.

"Our teams recovered 18.2 kg of opium, concealed in the truck. Two persons from Assam's Kamrup district were arrested," he said. The contraband was seized in the presence of a magistrate and independent witnesses, the officer said, adding that a case has been registered at the police station.

The state police remained committed to zero tolerance against drug trafficking and continues to intensify efforts to keep the district safe and drug-free, he said. Security forces have been conducting search operations in Manipur since ethnic violence broke out two years ago.

More than 260 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in ethnic violence between Meiteis and Kuki-Zo groups since May 2023. The Centre had, on February 13, imposed the President's rule in Manipur after Chief Minister N Biren Singh resigned. The state assembly, which has a tenure till 2027, has been put under suspended animation. (PTI)

Arunachal CM calls on his Sikkim counterpart in Gangtok

GANGTOK, Nov 15: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu called on his Sikkim counterpart Prem Singh Tamang at the latter's official residence here on Saturday.

Khandu enquired about Tamang's well-being in the wake of his health concerns a couple of days ago, an official statement said.

Tamang was indisposed due to nose bleeding and elevated blood sugar level on Thursday and was admitted to Central Referral Hospital (CRH), where doctors stabilised his condition and kept him under observation till Friday noon. The Sikkim chief minister expressed his deep gratitude to the visiting Arunachal CM and thanked him for his concerns about his health. Khandu was here to attend the 13th International Tourism Mart (ITM) for the Northeast region.

He took time out of his busy schedule to offer his support and best wishes to Tamang, who extended his heartfelt appreciation for Khandu's genuine care and concern, reflecting the strong bond of friendship between the two leaders.

The Arunachal Pradesh CM also shared his admiration for the ongoing International Tourism Mart, which he described as a significant event for the promotion of tourism in the Northeast.

He also expressed his gratitude for the warm hospitality extended by the people of Sikkim, which left a lasting impression on him.

The two leaders had a constructive discussion about the future development of their respective states and the broader Northeast region.

The conversation highlighted a shared vision for regional growth, with both leaders emphasising the importance of collaboration with the Centre to drive progress and ensure a brighter future for the region, the Chief Minister's Office said in a statement. (PTI)

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SURVEYS,
(HILL CELL), DIPHU.

No. Surveys, (HC.02)/2013-14/214 Dated Diphu the 15th Nov' 2025.

Re-Advertisement

In pursuance of the KAAC Vide letter No KAAC/Esstt-381/P(B)/Prior Approval post/Survey/2021-2214 Dated 25" Nov 2021, applications are hereby invited in standard forms with testimonials and KAAC revenue receipt of Rs 10/- (Rupees Ten) only from the eligible candidates for filling up the posts under office of the Asstt. Director of Surveys, (Hill Cell), Diphu, Karbi Anglong.

Sl. No	Name of Post	No. of Vacancy	Educational Qualification	Scale of Pay
1	Traverser Grade-III	5 (Five) Nos	Passed HSLC or equivalent examination having 2(Two) years Surveyor trade pass certificate from ITI Diploma Civil Engineering	PB-2 Rs 14000/- to 60500/-+GP 7400/-
2	Computer Grade-II	2 (Two) nos.	Passed HSLC or equivalent examination having 2(Two) years Surveyor trade pass certificate from ITI Diploma Civil Engineering	PB-2 Rs 14000/- to 60500/- + GP 5600/-
3	Peon	01 (One) nos	Class-VIII	PB-1 Rs 12000/- to 5200/-+GP 3900/-

Note:- The posts shown above are tentative and the actual vacancy shall be determined at the time of giving appointment as there is every likelihood to increase the posts due to Superannuation, Promotion, etc.

Age: - Minimum 18 years and maximum 38 years for General Category and Minimum 18 years and Maximum 43 years for ST/SC as per standing Assam Govt. requirement norms.

General Instructions:

- Attested copies of education qualification Certificates, Caste Certificates, Date of Birth, recent passport size 2 Nos., Employment Registration Certificate (Latest) Should be enclosed with the applications. The application alongwith all relevant documents should reach this office on before 06/12/2025 during office hours from 10 AM to 5 PM.
- Candidates fulfilling the requirement criteria may apply giving all particulars in standard forms prescribed in Assam Gazette Part-IX.
- Candidates who applied for the posts of Traverser Grade-III, Computer Grade-II will have to appear for a written test. Subject to clearing the written test the oral interview will be called. For the post of 4th Grade Peon there shall be only oral interview. For the post of 5(Five) Nos. Traverser Grade-III, 2(Two) Nos. Computer Grade-II the syllabus shall be as mentioned below subjects such as General English, General aptitude, General Knowledge for 50 Marks and Computer Skill test of 25 Marks for both Traverser Grade-III and Computer Grade-II.
- No Postal Correspondence will be accepted from the Candidates in any form.
- The Viva-Voice will be intimated.
- No TA/DA shall be entertainable to the Candidates.

1. It is resolved that the viva-voce test for the post of 5 (Five) nos. Traverser Grade-III, 2(Two) Nos. Computer Grade-II and 1(One) Peon post of Grade-IV shall be conducted as per schedule mentioned below subject such as General English, General aptitude, General Knowledge for 50 Marks and Computer Skill test of 25 Marks for both Traverser Grade-II, Computer Grade-II, and there will not be computer skill test for Peon (Grade-IV).

2. It is also resolved for both the posts in the same day and same venue.

3. Candidates those who have applied for the posts of Traverser Grade-II, Computer Grade-II and Peon Grade-IV, need not to appear in the written test but they shall have to appear viva-voce test and the following marks will be 50 (Fifty).

Sd/-
Asstt. Director of Surveys,
(Hill Cell), Diphu, K/A.
Dated Diphu the 15th Nov' 2025.

No. Surveys, (HC.02)/2013-14/214-A

ENGAGEMENT UNDER SAMAGRA SHIKSHA AXOM

No.574897/1307291/2025

The Samagra Shiksha, Axom invites online applications from Indian Citizens (as defined in Articles 5 to 8 of the Constitution of India) for the under mentioned positions under Samagra Shiksha, Axom on contractual basis. The online applications will be received from 17.11.2025 to 01.12.2025. The posts are temporary in nature and the selected candidates will be initially engaged for a period of 11 (eleven) months only. The contractual engagement will neither be regularized under Samagra Shiksha, Axom nor will be absorbed under any job/programme of Government of Assam in future and no person (s) so engaged shall have any right (s) to claim for permanent abortion in any post (s) in the government or in the Samagra Shiksha, Assam.

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

Sl, No	Name of position	Essential Qualification and Experience	Pay in Pay band in Rs.	Grade Pay in Rs.	Nos. of post	Work place
1	Procurement Expert (Consultant)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engineering, Commerce graduate or Masters degree/ Post Graduate Diploma (minimum two years duration) in any discipline from any Govt, recognized university/institution. Minimum 5 years of post qualification experience in project procurement and contract management in government. Proven experience in procurement Bid documents, evaluation contracts Procurement preparing plans, preparing reports and managing processes. Thorough Knowledge of procurement through GEM and Assam Tenders. Ability to upload bids on GEM and Assam Tenders. Thorough knowledge on GFR, Assam Public Procurement Act 2017 and Assam Public Procurement Rule 2020, CVC Guideline, eGEM. 	30,000/- to 1,10,000/-	13300/-	01	State Mission Office

N.B-

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

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

DIPR/DF/HLT/1335/16-Nov-25

KAREENA KAPOOR KHAN, KIARA ADVANI AND OTHERS MOURN THE DEMISE OF KAMINI KAUSHAL



KIARA ADVANI, SHAHID KAPOOR & KAREENA KAPOOR KHAN MOURN KAMINI KAUSHAL'S DEATH AT 98

Veteran actress Kamini Kaushal, best known for her roles in Bimal Roy's *Biraj Bahu* (1954) and *Arzoo* (1950) with Dilip Kumar, passed away at 98 in Mumbai. According to ANI, a neighbour close to the Kaushal family confirmed the news of her passing.

Her demise left many in deep sorrow. As soon as the news spread online, people from the film industry took to social media to share their heartfelt tributes to the iconic actress.

Actor Kiara Advani penned a touching tribute in fond memory of legendary actress Kamini Kaushal.

After learning about Kamini Kaushal's demise, Kiara, who worked with her in 'Kabir Singh', took to Instagram and opened up about how the iconic actress inspired generations with her talent.

"It was an honour to work with you. Your grace, humility, and talent inspired generations and left an unforgettable mark on Indian cinema. Rest in peace, Kamini Kaushal ji," she posted.

Shahid Kapoor also expressed his sorrow over her demise. "Rest in light ma'am," he posted on Instagram. Kamini Kaushal played the role of Shahid's grandmother in *Kabir Singh*, which was released in theatres in 2019.

Kareena Kapoor Khan also paid tribute on Instagram. She posted a black-and-white photo of a young Kamini Kaushal along with heart and folded-hands emojis. Both worked together in *Laal Singh Chadha*.

Kamini Kaushal was one of the leading actresses in the 1940s, 50s, and 60s era of Indian cinema, where she shared the screen with superstars like Ashok Kumar, Raj Kapoor, Dev Anand, Dilip Kumar and legends like Raj Kapoor and Dharmendra, among many others.

The actress made an indelible mark in the industry with her very first film. Her debut, *Neecha Nagar* (1946), won the prestigious Grand Prix du Festival International du Film at the inaugural Cannes Film Festival, and remains the only Indian film to win the Palme d'Or.

It was directed by Chetan Anand and starred Uma Anand and Rafiq Anwar in the lead roles. The actress reportedly appeared in over 70 films during her illustrious career spanning more than seven decades in the film industry.

The actress is known for her performance in notable films, including *Do Bhai* (1947), *Shaheed* (1948) with Dilip Kumar, *Shaheed* (1965) with Manoj Kumar and Pran; *Nadiya Ke Paar* (1948), *Bimal Roy's Biraj Bahu* (1954), *Shabnam*, *Arzoo* (1950) with Dilip Kumar and Aag (1948) with Raj Kapoor. (PTI)



RAJKUMMAR RAO AND PATRALEKHA WELCOME FIRST CHILD

Bollywood actors Rajkumar Rao and Patralekha have welcomed their first child, a baby girl, on their fourth wedding anniversary. Rajkumar, 41, and Patralekha, 35, announced the news with an Instagram post on Saturday.

"We are over the moon. God has blessed us with a baby girl. Blessed Parents Patralekha and Rajkumar," was written over the poster. "The greatest blessing God has given us on our 4th wedding anniversary," they wrote in the caption.

The announcement received congratulatory comments from other celebrities such as Vicky Kaushal, Sonam Kapoor Ahuja, Dia Mirza, Ali Fazal, Vaani Kapoor, Esha

Gupta, Anil Kapoor, Kriti Sanon and Varun Dhawan, among others. Rajkumar and Patralekha tied the knot on November 15, 2021, at The Oberoi Sukhvilas Resort in New Chandigarh after an 11-year relationship. The two announced the pregnancy in July via a joint Instagram post with a graphic reading "Baby on the way".

Patralekha was last seen in the biographical film "Phule" alongside Pratik Gandhi essaying the role of Savitribai Phule. The film released in April. Rajkumar's latest films include "Bhool Chuk Maaf" and "Maalik", he also appeared as himself in a cameo in the Netflix series "The Ba***ds of Bollywood". (PTI)

Jonathan Goldstein and John Francis Daley to Direct New 'Star Trek' Film

Jonathan Goldstein and John Francis Daley, known for revitalizing major franchises, are set to direct a new film in the iconic *Star Trek* series. According to sources, they will also write and produce this original feature for Paramount Pictures under their GoldDay production banner.

New Directions for Star Trek

The upcoming *Star Trek* film is anticipated to be a fresh interpretation of the beloved universe. Importantly, it will not connect to any existing television series or previous films. This aligns with comments made by David Ellison, the founder of Skydance, suggesting that the new film would introduce different narratives not linked to Chris Pine's series.

Potential for New Characters

While specific plot details remain undisclosed, industry insiders indicate that new characters could play a pivotal role in this iteration. Goldstein and Daley are acknowledged for their skill in creating engaging and entertaining stories,

often providing a lighter touch compared to traditional franchise entries.

Proven Track Record

• Goldstein and Daley previously contributed to successful projects like:

o *Spider-Man: Homecoming*
o *Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves*

Both films received commendations from audiences and critics alike, with their recent *Dungeons & Dragons* film achieving an impressive 91% critic rating and a 92% audience score.

Upcoming Projects and Partnerships

In addition to *Star Trek*, Goldstein and Daley have collaborated with Paramount and Skydance on multiple projects. Their upcoming film, *Mayday*, starring Ryan Reynolds, has already shown promise in early screenings. Plans are in place for its release in the upcoming year.

Goldstein and Daley are represented by CAA, Fourth Wall Management, and Hansen Jacobson Teller. Their involvement in the new *Star Trek* film showcases their continued influence in the industry and their ability to rejuvenate well-known intellectual properties. (PTI)



'De De Pyaar De 2' Box Office: Ajay Devgn-R Madhavan-Rakul Preet starrer opens better than Kesari 2, Deva & Param Sundari



Ajay Devgn, R. Madhavan and Rakul Preet Singh's latest rom-com has kicked off with an impressive 9.45 crore on Day 1 in India. What makes this opening truly stand out is that these figures come with no holiday and no ticket offers. The film has pulled in audiences purely on the strength of its content and strong word of mouth.

The humour, emotional beats and the much-talked-about performances of the lead cast have clearly clicked with viewers, resulting in a steady rise in footfalls through the day. It has opened better than movies like *Kesari 2* (₹ 7.84 crore), *Deva* (₹ 5.78 crore) & *Param Sundari* (₹ 7.37 crore).

With positive audience sentiment and an upward trend

since Friday evening, Saturday numbers are likely to show a healthy jump.

Talking about the review, Firstpost gave *De De Pyaar De 2*, 3.5 stars and wrote, "Just like the first part, *DDPD 2* majorly works because of the smooth blend of humour and chaos with a tadka of family drama, which is more fun than being dramatic. Director Anshul Sharma impresses with his storytelling and makes this relevant tale entertaining and a breezy watch. While he will make you believe the characters are problematic, Sharma smartly adds twists to make you cheer, smile and laugh. The meta jokes and hilarious dialogues amplify the viewing experience."

Talking about the performances, Ajay Devgn is subtle and impactful as he reprises Ashish, while Rakul gets the chance to show her acting mettle with a superb character arc, but it's R. Madhavan, who has stolen the show with his superlative act as Rakesh and his performance will find relevance and applause among the fathers of girls. Gautami and Ishita, too, played their roles to the T. While Jaaved won the hearts with his witty one-liners, Meezaan impressed with his charm and onscreen charisma."

De De Pyaar De 2 is directed by Anshul Sharma and produced by T-Series' Bhushan Kumar & Krishan Kumar, and Luv Films' Luv Ranjan and Ankur Garg. (PTI)

Sony Pictures developing movie on Labubu

Labubu, the plush toy line of scruffy cute-ugly monsters, could be headed to the big screen.

Sony Pictures, home of the *Jumanji* movies and, via its animation division, *KPop Demon Hunters*, has picked up the screen rights to the Chinese doll brand with the aim of making a movie and, in success, launching a franchise.

No producer or filmmaker is attached at this stage, as the deal was just signed this week. It is also too early to tell whether the potential movie would be live-action or animated. Designed by Hong Kong-born, European-based artist Kasing Lung and initially made by How2Work as part of a line of monster figurines, Labubu took off when Chinese retailer Pop Mart took over making and selling them in 2019.

It took a few years, but Labubus exploded in popularity recently for two main reasons. One, Pop Mart's use of selling them via "blind boxes," meaning buyers never know what they are acquiring until they open the package, which then also spurs demand. This also creates a superheated secondary market, where collectors pay exorbitant amounts to get the dolls they want online, at pop up sales and in traditional brick and mortar locations. Limited editions artworks and auctions have seen items hit six figure prices.

The second factor was the adoption of the toys by certain celebrities, particularly K-pop group Blackpink member Lisa, who in 2024, used them as accessories.

The toys became a sensation first in Southeast Asian markets before taking the rest of the world by storm. Pop Mart's



profits reportedly soared by 350 percent earlier this year. Labubu is the name of the lead monster doll of the line, which counts leader Zimomo, companion Mokoko, and boyfriend Tyccoco as characters among others.

It may be too soon to tell if Labubu will fall into fads such as Beanie Babies or something longer lasting such as Hello Kitty.

While once Hollywood projects inspired toys, in the last decade in particular has seen an inverse, with toys now in-

spiring movies. The *Lego Movie*, released in 2014, was perhaps one of the first brand names without an already created storyline or even characters to see a successful major studio production, generating critical acclaim and box office kaching. More recently, *Barbie* accomplished a similar feat, generating over \$1 billion at the worldwide box office while nabbing eight Oscar nominations. This week, Sony and Mattel Films announced they were developing a feature based on *View Master*. (PTI)

Kept the ending of 'Ba***ds of Bollywood' a secret for two years: Mona Singh

Actor Mona Singh says she and co-star Bobby Deol were the only two people in the cast who knew the ending of "The Ba***ds of Bollywood" and she kept it a secret for two years. Released on Netflix on September 18, the show which garnered critical acclaim, captures both the glamour and the grind of chasing dreams in the world's most vibrant film industry. At the end of the series, it is revealed that Lakshya Lalwani's Aasman is not the rank outsider he thought he was. His mother Neeta Singh, played by Mona Singh had an affair with superstar Ajay Talvar (Bobby Deol). Aasman realises that his love interest, Talvar's daughter Karishma (Saher Bhabha), is actually his half-sister. "It was only Bobby and me who knew about the climax, just the two of us. Aryan did not want to give that away to anybody else. Even the title of the show, Bobby sir and I knew. "So, I was quiet and carried that weight, keeping that secret for two years, which is impossible for me. But it was so worth it. I had so much fun. I feel blessed to be a part of it. I'm very happy, truly," the actor told PTI in an interview. Singh said many of her friends from the industry had a hearty laugh when they got to know the ending of the show. Deol's hit song "Duniya Haseeno Ka Mela" from "Gupt" was reworked and reshot to include Mona as the dancer opposite him. The actor credited Aryan for pushing her to explore new facets of her character. "I was shooting for something else in Punjab and they called me in the month of January and said, 'We've to deliver all the tapes so we've to shoot this song now and your time has come'. I was like, 'Okay'. So, I came to Bombay for a day and then Aryan explained what was happening and we were having fun," she said. She described the process of shooting the finale as both scary and exhilarating. "But I'm so happy that people enjoyed watching the show," the actor, known for her work in "3 Idiots", "Laal Singh Chaddha", said. Singh's latest work is the drama series "Thode Door Thode Paas", in which she appears alongside Pankaj Kapur and Kunaal Roy Kapur. (PTI)

BABAR'S CENTURY DROUGHT ENDS AND PAKISTAN WINS THE SRI LANKA ODI SERIES

RAWALPINDI, Nov 15: Babar Azam's first international century in more than two years anchored Pakistan's comfortable chase of 289 against scrappy Sri Lanka in their series-clinching one-day international on Friday.

Pakistan won by eight wickets, cruising to 289-2 in 48.2 overs on Babar's fluent unbeaten 102 off 119 balls. They have an unbeatable 2-0 lead in the three-match series, which ends on Sunday.

Sri Lanka was restricted to 288-8 on a perfect batting pitch after six of the top seven batters couldn't convert good starts.

The series was in doubt after Sri Lanka players wanted to leave the country when a suicide bomber killed 12 people outside a court in Islamabad on Tuesday, hours before the first ODI in nearby Rawalpindi.

However, Sri Lanka Cricket directed the team to finish the series after it was reassured about security by the Pakistan Cricket Board.

Babar finally gets 100

Babar came into Friday's game without an international century in 83 innings across the formats, more than 800 days since a hundred against Nepal in the Asia Cup at Multan in



August 2023.

"I had been waiting for this (century) like the fans," Babar said. "I kept the belief up. I got starts in a few games against South Africa too (in

the last ODI series) but you only get what you wished when God wants you to. I was trying to spend as much time at the crease."

He dug in well against the spin

threat of Wanindu Hasaranga, who finished wicketless with 0-35, but the Sri Lanka seamers couldn't control the wet ball because of dew and consistently missed their lengths.

Babar raised his half-century off 68 balls with only three fours and grew in confidence. He pulled Pramod Madushan to midwicket for a single to complete his much-awaited century off 115 balls with eight fours.

The crowd erupted and chanted "Babar, Babar" to celebrate the end of the drought by Pakistan's premier batter. His 20th ODI century equaled Saeed Anwar's Pakistan ODI record.

The opening pair of Fakhar Zaman (78) and Saim Ayub (33) provided a rollicking start of 77 off 58 balls.

Zaman was dropped twice in the 20s and a third time at fine leg just before his dismissal, a brilliant catch by Janith Liyanage at short midwicket. But by then he'd put on 100 runs with Babar to take the game away from Sri Lanka.

Mohammad Rizwan, unbeaten on 51 off 54 balls, and Babar shared a 112-run stand to the win.

"It's a complete batting performance from us," stand-in captain Salman Ali Agha said. "We had three very good partnerships. It was a 320-330 wicket for us so I was very happy to keep them to 290."

Sri Lanka batters falter

Kamil Mishara (27) in his second ODI and Pathum Nissanka (24) made

a decent start of 51 runs for Sri Lanka inside the batting powerplay before Nissanka was run out against the run of play when he tried to go for a third run.

Leg-spinner Abrar Ahmed, who recovered from illness, pegged back the visitors with three wickets. He dismissed Mishara, Kusal Mendis and captain Charith Asalanka and dropped the visitors to 98-4 in the 22nd over.

Sadeera Samarawickrama (42) and Liyanage (54) revived the innings with a 61-run stand until Haris Rauf knocked back the off stump of Samarawickrama in his return spell.

Rauf followed his four-wicket haul in the first ODI with 3-66 including the vital wicket of Kamindu Mendis (44) in the death overs.

Hasaranga's late flurry of 37 off 26 balls helped to set a total that was thought to be about 30-40 runs short of par.

Asalanka rued a ton of missed opportunities, including good starts by batters and dropped catches in the field. "A lot of wides and extras in the first two overs," he said. "It's really hard to come back on these wickets. After 10-15 overs dew came and things got harder." (AP)

Theegala shoots 65 in second round to make cut in Bermuda

SOUTHAMPTON (BERMUDA), Nov 15: Indian-origin golfer Sahith Theegala fired a superb 6-under 65 in windy conditions to jump to tied-46th on day two of the Butterfield Bermuda Championship here.

Theegala, who was tied-104th after day one, ensured he would play the weekend rounds.

Only four players had rounds better than Theegala in the second round. Canadian Adam Hadwin held onto the lead in a late bid to retain full PGA TOUR playing privileges, shooting a 5-under 66 to take a one-shot advantage into the weekend.

Hadwin had an 11-under 131 total after an opening round of 65 on Thursday. Sidelined due to injury for a good part of the season, Theegala made amends for the first-round 76 and is now 1-under for 36 holes.

Theegala struck five birdies in a row -- from 7th to 11th -- as he holed a total of seven against just one bogey.

Theegala started the week in 143rd place, but does have playing rights for 2026 as he made the Tour Championship in 2024, which gave him two years exemption.

Chandler Phillips (64) and Braden Thornberry (65) were tied for second. Max McGreevy (64) and Noah Goodwin (67) were 9-under. (PTI)

Messi and Martinez shine as Argentina beats Angola in Luanda friendly

LUANDA (ANGOLA), Nov 15: Lautaro Martinez and Lionel Messi scored and Argentina downed Angola 2-0 in a friendly that closed their 2025 campaign on Friday.

Angola reportedly paid \$12 million to attract world champion Argentina to the 50th anniversary of the African country's independence from Portugal. More than 50,000 spectators attended and Messi left the field in the final minutes to a standing ovation.

Messi set up Martinez in the 44th minute and Martinez repaid the favor in the 82nd. Messi, aiming for his sixth World Cup next year, notched his 115th goal in 196 internationals.

South America's top World Cup qualifier started slow even with eight starters from the 2022 final.

Martinez finally broke the deadlock just before halftime with a driven shot between the legs of the goalkeeper.

Argentina continued to control possession (65%) in the second half but didn't increase the tempo and was content to maintain the lead. Messi added the final flourish eight minutes from time. (AP)

I felt like the richest person on earth: Harmanpreet recalls first pay cheque

NEW DELHI, Nov 15: It happened more than a decade back but India's World Cup-winning women's cricket team captain Harmanpreet Kaur's eyes welled up nonetheless as she recalled her first pay cheque of Rs 90,000, which made her feel like the "richest person" on the planet. The toast of the nation was at the PTI headquarters here to talk about her extraordinary journey in an exclusive interview.

The highlight of her roller-coaster career is without doubt the World Cup trophy clinched on November 2 but leading up to that moment were several milestones that added to her belief, the debut pay cheque being a massive one. "We used to have a tour fee of Rs one lakh in those days. No matter how many matches we played, we would get that amount, and after TDS, it came to around ₹

90,000," she said when asked about it.

"I felt like the richest person on earth because it was my first earning," she recalled, happy tears filling up her eyes that always dreamed of wearing the India blues. The 36-year-old made her ODI and T20I debut in 2009 but became a part of the Test team only in 2014 during a tour of England where the side managed to beat the more fancied hosts by six wickets in the on-off game despite having eight debutants in the squad. The big-hitter from Punjab's Moga said when her maiden pay cheque landed at her home, she handed it over to her father Harmandar Singh Bhullar, a sports tragic who loved cricket and also played basketball and volleyball. He works as a clerk in the local court. (PTI)

Croatia qualifies for World Cup by beating Faroe Islands and Netherlands move closer

LONDON, Nov 15: Croatia secured a place at next year's World Cup with a 3-1 win that ended tiny Faroe Islands' dream on Friday and the Netherlands moved closer to qualification by drawing in Poland.

Croatia knew before kickoff that avoiding defeat in Rijeka would guarantee qualification but it was caught cold in the 16th minute when Geza David Turi scored with a deflected shot.

The 2018 World Cup runner-up quickly recovered, however, as Joško Gvardiol leveled in the 23rd. Making his return to the national team after two years away, Petar Musa put Croatia ahead 2-1 after halftime from Josip Stanišić's assist. In complete control, Croatia added a third goal when Nikola Vlašić volleyed in a precise cross from Ivan Perišić at the far post.

"Our goal was achieved with a game to spare in the qualifiers. We can proudly say we've qualified," Gvardiol said. "We'll travel to Montenegro for the final match in a relaxed manner but with the intention of taking all three points, as every game is preparation for what awaits us in the summer."

It was Faroe Islands' final match in Group L and the team will finish behind runner-up the Czech Republic. The second-placed team advances to the playoffs for the World Cup co-hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico. Montenegro beat Gibraltar 2-1 in the group's other game.

Justin Thomas has back surgery and will miss start to 2026

NEW YORK, Nov 15: Justin Thomas is recovering from back surgery for a herniated disk, which he said Friday will force him to miss the start of next season with no rush to return until he is fully ready.

"It's a bummer, but I don't want to have this stuff bother me the rest of my life," Thomas said from New York, where he had the surgery on his lower back Thursday. Doctors told him the surgery went as planned and he would start minor rehabilitation work in about three weeks. He said he could be playing golf in two months, but this is a recovery he's going to take slowly to make sure he doesn't return too soon. Thomas won the RBC Heritage in April to end a three-year drought and returned to the elite in golf at No. 8 in the world and fourth straight Ryder Cup appearance. He said the tests that showed a herniated disk in his lower spine surprised him because he didn't feel any pain in his back. He thought there was a nagging issue with his right hip he first noticed in the weeks leading to the Masters.

"It was really weird. I never felt anything in my back," Thomas said. "I felt fatigued all year. I tried so many different things. Some stuff made it feel better, but nothing that made it go away. I had a good break after the Ryder Cup, and when I came



Big draw for the Dutch

Coach Ronald Koeman's Netherlands came from behind in Warsaw to draw with Poland 1-1 and take a major step toward direct qualification in Group G.

With one match left to play, the Dutch top the group, three points clear of the Poles after Memphis Depay's second-half equalizer canceled Jakub Kaminski's opener. The Netherlands also has a much better goal difference before the final match against Lithuania. Poland takes on Malta on Monday.

"I am more disappointed than happy but on the other hand we made another step toward qualification," Koeman said. "It is not easy to play against teams who defend very deep. We had to be patient, we had to try to attack in different

ways, but we did not create enough good opportunities."

Germany and Slovakia fighting for top spot

In Group A, Germany is guaranteed of a top-two finish after Nick Woltemade scored twice in a scrappy 2-0 win at Luxembourg. Slovakia scored late to beat visiting Northern Ireland 1-0.

"In the second half, the commitment was noticeably better, and we also scored two good goals," Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann said. "We might have deserved to concede but we didn't, so we can consider ourselves lucky."

Germany and Slovakia are level on points and will face off on Monday in Leipzig in a match that will decide the group winner. Slovakia had two goals disallowed before Tomáš Bobek broke the deadlock in added time.

Malta upsets Finland for a rare win

Malta snatched its first win in 2026 World Cup qualifying, converting its only shot on target to stun Finland 1-0 in Helsinki in Group G. According to the Malta Football Association, this was only the fourth win ever by Malta in World Cup qualifying.

Midfielder Jake Grech came off the bench in the 79th minute and scored the decisive goal three minutes later from the edge of the area. It was only Malta's second goal in seven qualifiers, against 16 conceded.

Malta rose to fourth in Europe Group G, five points behind Finland, which can't qualify. (AP)

Chikka, Sandhu slip down in Taiwan

TAIPEI, Nov 15: Indian duo of S Chikkrangappa and Ajeetesh Sandhu slipped down the leaderboard on the third day of the USD 400,000 Taiwan Glass Taifong Open here on Saturday.

Chikka (76), who was in the Top-10 after two rounds, is now T-32, while Sandhu (72), dropped from T-18 to T-22. Among other Indians, Khalin Joshi (73) is T-44, Viraj Madappa (76) is T-57 as is Pukhraj Singh Gill (75).

At the top, local hero Hung Chien-yao was leading by one shot over the fast-charging Thai Ekpharit Wu, who made a hole-in-one and an eagle, in his 66. Chinese Taipei's Hung shot a two-under-par 70 to move to 16-under for the tournament. Wu, lying second, carded a 65 that included a hole-in-one on the par-three eighth hole, while he nearly made an albatross on the par-five 17th before securing the three.

He had started the day six shots behind Hung. (PTI)

Pochettino plans to bring only final 26 players to camp ahead of World Cup to 'not to be cruel'

CHESTER (USA), Nov 15: U.S. coach Mauricio Pochettino plans to bring only the final 26-man roster to his last pre-World Cup training camp, not wanting to cut anyone in the days ahead of the soccer tournament. "I think from the beginning, if you say, OK, that is the 26, that is a shock, but this — OK, you accept. But after to be involved and then to go home, I think it's more cruel," Pochettino said Friday, a day ahead of a friendly against Paraguay.

Past U.S. coaches have called in larger groups and then trimmed their roster. Jurgen Klinsmann caused controversy when he cut 32-year-old star Landon Donovan after a training session at Stanford University in 2014, and Jeff Agoos burned his uniform when he was dropped by Bora Milutinovic in 1994.

In 2010, Bob Bradley called seven players into a hotel conference room in Hartford, Connecticut, one by one for post-midnight meetings after a friendly against the Czech Republic and told them they wouldn't be going to the World Cup in South Africa. The group that missed included Alejandro Bedoya, Brian Ching, Eddie Johnson, Sacha Kljestan and Robbie Rogers.

A larger training camp squad would enable Pochettino and his staff to evaluate injured players with potential replacements on site.

"For me, it's easier to call more players than 26, but I think I need to think (terms of) the human being and desire and not to be cruel," Pochettino said, adding he didn't want the camp to become: "You train, you train and you train. You go home. It's tough."

Pochettino has selected 71 players since taking over as coach in October 2024. Teams must submit a preliminary roster of 55 players to FIFA before selecting a final group of at most 26. The U.S. Soccer Federation is planning for players to report to its new complex in Fayetteville, Georgia, for training to start on May 27.

Auger-Aliassime beats Zverev to reach ATP Finals semis and Sinner stays perfect

TURIN (ITALY), Nov 15: Felix Auger-Aliassime beat two-time champion Alexander Zverev and claimed the last spot in the semifinals of the ATP Finals on Friday.

The Canadian's reward? Carlos Alcaraz, who is fresh from claiming the year-end No. 1 ranking after winning all three of his group matches.

"This is a high value tournament for players," Auger-Aliassime said. "It's like a grand finale and when you have a look at the list of champions, there have been many No. 1s." "You want to be in the final but I'll have to go through a great player to do that. I will take my chance if I have it."

The eighth-seeded Auger-Aliassime won 6-4, 7-6 (4) to join Janik Sinner in advancing from the Bjorn Borg group. Earlier, Sinner completed a sweep of his round-robin matches by dispatching already-eliminated Ben Shelton 6-3, 7-6 (3).

Sinner will next face seventh-seeded Alex de Minaur. The final is on Sunday.

Third-seeded Zverev and Auger-Aliassime knew the victor would

advance to the semifinals.

Auger-Aliassime appeared to deal with the nerves better than Zverev, especially in the second set, although he wasted three set points in the opener, before taking it on his fourth.

Zverev failed to convert any of his four break point opportunities and made 18 of his 27 unforced errors in the second set, during which he repeatedly gestured towards his team in apparent frustration.

He sent an easy return into the net to hand Auger-Aliassime two match points. The Canadian needed only one as Zverev hit a forehand long.

It will be Auger-Aliassime's first appearance in the semifinals of the season-ending event for the top eight players.

"It feels amazing," he said. "I always believed that I could be in these moments, that I could win these type of matches but you still have to come and do it."

"Today was high in emotions I think for both of us ... and I played good when I needed to ... I'm blessed and so, so happy to be in the semifinals." (AP)

New Sweden coach Potter aims to ease pain of losing before 2026 World Cup playoffs

GENEVA, Nov 15: New Sweden coach Graham Potter wants to help players deal with the frustration of losing 2026 World Cup qualifying games, with the team set to have a second chance in playoffs next year.

Potter's first game with Sweden — seven weeks after the Englishman was fired by West Ham — is on Saturday at qualifying group leader Switzerland, which can book its place at the World Cup in North America with a win.

Sweden's three-game losing run, including at home to the Swiss last month, cost previous coach Jon Dahl Tomasson his job and left the team last in the four-team group.

Potter's likely task on an initial short-term contract is to steer Sweden through the European playoffs in March, which it should enter because of winning a Nations League one year ago. FIFA makes the 16-team playoffs draw next Thursday in Zurich.

"The team is in a difficult situa-



tion," Potter acknowledged on Friday. "Results-wise the campaign hasn't gone how we wanted it to go. When that happens there's a lot of pain, there's frustration."

He said he's setting a goal "to help players feel better on the pitch."

Potter has worked on the emotional side of team building with his

players, while describing messages on the field as "relatively clear, relatively simple." Sweden has a talented squad though injuries currently leave Potter without Arsenal forward Viktor Gyökeres plus Tottenham pair Dejan Kulusevski and Lucas Bergvall.

Isak available
Liverpool forward Alexander

Isak, signed for an English record transfer fee of 125 million pounds (\$170 million) in September, is available, Potter said, but cannot play two full games against Switzerland and at home to Slovenia on Tuesday.

"We have to be smart with him," said Potter, who has returned to Sweden after his last two jobs in England ended abruptly at Chelsea in 2023 and at West Ham.

He made his admired reputation by taking small-town club Ostersund from the fourth tier to the top, and won a Swedish Cup title, in seven years through 2018.

Potter spoke Swedish for most of a half-hour news conference at Stade de Genève. It's a rare talent among English coaches who have worked abroad.

"I speak to a lot of the players in English because it's better for them and easier for me," he said. "I also think it's important for me to improve my Swedish." (AP)

Kuldeep Yadav accounted for 2/12, while Axar Patel took 1/30

Jadeja's 4/27 puts India on brink of victory on crumbling Eden track

KOLKATA, Nov 15: The nightmare of facing Ravindra Jadeja on an Eden Gardens track, deteriorating between deliveries, turned into a reality for the South African batters as India closed in on victory by the end of the second day in the opening Test.

At stumps, Jadeja's 4 for 27 in 13 overs saw South Africa in tatters at 93 for 7 with an overall lead of 63. Skipper Temba Bavuma (29 batting off 78 balls) was waging a lone battle but to even fight on the third day, which will certainly be the last of this game, South Africa will need at least 125 runs which looks improbable at the moment.

Once Jadeja came into the attack, Rishabh Pant, the very vocal and amusing stand-in skipper, who till then was giving instructions to Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav, was heard saying on stump microphone: "Jaddu bhai, aap dekh lena," an ample indication that the master craftsman need not be told what ought to be done.

If Simon Harmer's classical off-spin had brought South Africa back into the contest earlier in the day, Jadeja was always going to be a resident menace on

a crumbling surface with his immaculate length and ability to attack the stumps, letting the surface take care of the rest.

Left-arm chinaman Kuldeep Yadav accounted for 2/12, while Axar Patel took 1/30, giving Jadeja the perfect support while India's fourth spinner Washington Sundar has bowled only solitary over in the 90 that hosts have bowled across two innings till now.

Bowling at a stretch in a 13-over non stop spell from the dreaded Club House End, Jadeja's relentless accuracy on a two-paced, dust-spewing surface swung the game back India's way in a dramatic finish to a day that saw 15 wickets to tumble (discounting Shubman Gill's retired hurt).

Introduced in the ninth over of the innings -- the second after tea -- Jadeja struck almost immediately.

His very first ball turned sharply past Aiden Markram's outside edge; the next one overpitched on middle, turned away, and Markram's attempted sweep ballooned off a thick top-edge to Dhruv Jurel at short leg.

With Kuldeep Yadav having removed Ryan Rick-

elton (11) in the previous over with a googly, South Africa lost both openers within minutes of wiping the deficit. Stand-in captain Rishabh Pant, taking charge after Gill's neck spasm, backed Jadeja in a non-stop spell from the more treacherous end. The move paid off handsomely.

Wiaan Mulder (11) feathered a beauty that kissed the outside edge; two balls later Tony de Zorzi (2) was done in by a hint of turn that grazed the glove, clipped pad and looped to short leg.

Tristan Stubbs (5) misread the line and length altogether, beaten on the inside as Jadeja hit middle to claim his fourth -- also his 250th Test wicket in India, behind only Kumble, Harbhajan and Ashwin. Axar Patel then chipped in from the High Court End, knocking over Kyle Verreynne the South Africa's last recognised batter as the wicketkeeper-batter misfired a slog-sweep after surviving 15 balls.

Earlier in the day, Jadeja had contributed a valuable 27 with the bat, entering the elite club of Ian Botham, Kapil Dev and Daniel Vettori as only the fourth cricketer with the double of 4000 Test runs and 300 wickets.

Pitch under spotlight

What began as a slightly dry surface on Friday transformed into what resembled a fourth-day subcontinental wicket by the second hour of the morning session.

Cracks widened, puffs of dust flew on good-length balls, and bounce became alarmingly variable -- conditions former India coach Ravi Shastri termed "ordinary" and ex-England captain Michael Vaughan called "awful".

It is still not clear whether controversial Eden Gardens curator Sujay Mukherjee provided a below par Test track like this on his own volition or was pressurized by any senior member of the support staff.

KL Rahul (39 off 119) and Washington Sundar (29 off 82) had appeared resolute in the first hour, extending their compact partnership to 57 and raising hopes of a possible Indian surge.

But Simon Harmer and Keshav Maharaj's sustained pressure post-drinks flipped the script dramatically.

Harmer opened the gates by removing Washing-

ton with a classical off-spinner's dismissal, then saw Gill retire hurt after a slog sweep triggered a neck spasm.

Maharaj then added Rahul, whose attempt to accelerate ended with a low catch at slip as the ball turned and stayed low.

Rishabh Pant briefly counterattacked with trademark audacity, smashing Maharaj for two sixes and unfurling a reverse sweep but Corbin Bosch removed him with a sharp bouncer just before lunch.

India never recovered thereafter. Harmer finished with 4/30 from 14.2 overs, relentlessly teasing India's six left-handers -- a first in their Test history, while tall pacer Marco Jansen (3/35) used steep bounce to clean up the lower order as India folded for 189, a slender 30-run lead.

At tea, India took the wicket of South Africa opener Ryan Rickelton with Kuldeep giving the breakthrough that made 20 wickets to fall across five sessions in the opening Test.

On a pitch where strokemaking has been near-impossible and survival itself a challenge, the final two days may not be required. (PTI)

Indian boxers eye strong finish at season-ending World Boxing Cup Finals

GREATER NOIDA, Nov 15: Indian boxers will look to end the season on a high while also targeting valuable ranking points when they step into the ring at the World Boxing Cup Finals beginning here on Sunday.

With World Boxing taking over as the international governing body of the sport, it introduced the World Boxing Cup series earlier this year, culminating in the Finals.

Boxers earn ranking points across all major tournaments, which plays a role in determining the seedings.

With the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games scheduled next year, these points become critical.

As per the format, medallists from the three World Boxing Cups held earlier this year, along with top-ranked pugilists, qualify for the Finals.

However, as hosts, India has been granted entries in all 20 weight categories across men and women.

Two-time world champion Nikhat Zareen (51kg) headlines the women's squad. The Telangana boxer, whose only international outing this year was a quarterfinal finish at the World Championships, will look to regain rhythm.

Reigning world champions Jaismine Lamboria (57kg) and Minakshi Hooda (48kg), along with world medallist Pooja Rani (80kg) and Nupur Sheoran (+80kg), will aim to maintain their strong form.

Preeti Pawar (54kg) and Arundhati Chaudhary (70kg) return to the national fold, as does Parveen Hooda (60kg), who had been suspended for failing to report her whereabouts, and all will hope to make an impact against a fairly strong field.

On the men's side, India endured a disappointing World Championships campaign, and hopes will be on the talented Abhinash Jamwal and Hitesh Gulia, who reached two World Cup finals earlier this year, to stand on the podium.

With the World Championships concluding as recently as September, several top names have skipped the season-ending event, which will begin from the quarter-final stage.

Nonetheless, around 130 boxers from 18 countries, including a few Olympic medallists will compete in the tournament at the Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik stadium.

World Championships silver medallist, Sewonrets Okazawa (M70kg), of Japan and gold medallist, Huang Hsiao-Wen, from Chinese Taipei, will be chasing further success in the women's 54kg.

They will be joined Poland's 80kg+ World champion Agata Kaczmarek, who will compete at 80kg and Paris Olympics silver medallist Munarbek Seiitbek Uulu (M60kg) of Kyrgyzstan.

The competition will feature 10 weight classes for both men and women.

Squad:

Women: Minakshi (48kg), Nikhat Zareen (51kg), Preeti Pawar (54kg), Jaismine Lamboria (57kg), Parveen Hooda (60kg), Neeraj Phogat (65kg), Arundhati Chaudhary (70kg), Sawaety (75kg), Pooja Rani (80kg), Nupur Sheoran (+80kg)

Men: Jadumani Singh (50kg), Pawan Bartwal (55kg), Sachin Siwach (60kg), Abhinash Jamwal (65kg), Hitesh Gulia (70kg), Sumit Kundu (75kg), Ankush Phogat (80kg), Jugnoo (85kg), Naveen Kumar (90kg), Narender (+90kg). (PTI)



KARBI ANGLONG AUTONOMOUS COUNCIL (KAAC)
DIPHU :: KARBI ANGLONG



Welcome to

74th Karbi Anglong Day-2025

Date : 17th November 2025 (Monday)

Venue : Taralango, Diphu

Time : From 8:00 AM onwards

Welcomes to a day of grandeur, glory, and togetherness!

The Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council warmly invites you to join the celebration of 74th Karbi Anglong Day 2025 — a spectacular tribute to our land of diversity, dignity, and dreams.

Honouring the great leaders who struggled selflessly to make this land a symbol of pride and progress, the celebration will illuminate the spirit of Karbi Anglong through vibrant cultural performances, traditional artistry, exhibitions, and indigenous delicacies.



DR. TULIRAM RONGHANG
C.E.M., KAAC

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

- 08:00 AM : Hoisting of National Flag -by Dr. Tuliram Ronghang, Hon'ble CEM, KAAC
- 08:30 AM : Homage to the founding leaders of Karbi Anglong District
- 11:00 AM : Open Session of Karbi Anglong Day, 2025 to be presided over by Shri Raju Tisso, Hon'ble Chairman, KAAC.

Special Guest of Honour

- ❖ His Highness Longsing Ronghang, Karbi Richo, Rong Arak Ronghang Rongbong, West Karbi Anglong
- ❖ Dr. Numal Momin, Hon'ble Dy. Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly
- ❖ Shri Bidyasing Englung, Hon'ble MLA, 110- Diphu (ST) LAC
- ❖ Shri Darsing Ronghang, Hon'ble MLA, 109-Howraghat (ST) LAC
- ❖ Shri Rupsing Teron, Hon'ble MLA, 111-Baithalango (ST) LAC
- ❖ Shri Avijit Kro, Deputy Chairman, KAAC, Diphu

Invited Guests

- ❖ All Hon'ble Executive Members / Members of Autonomous Council.
- ❖ District Commissioner, Karbi Anglong, Diphu / West Karbi Anglong Hamren.
- ❖ Superintendent of Police, Karbi Anglong, Diphu / West Karbi Anglong Hamren.
- ❖ Former Chairmen / Deputy Chairmen / CEMs / EMs / MACs / MPs / MLAs & other dignitaries, leading citizens and representatives of social and students organizations.

Come, be a part of this grand celebration of
Unity, Peace, and Prosperity!

