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Singapore Toxicology report sent to SIT

'Substantial progress' in Zubeen case made: CM



HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, Oct 31: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday said that the Singapore government has forwarded the toxicology report related to the late singer Zubeen Garg's case to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), Assam.

The report, however, is yet to physically reach Guwahati, where the Special Investigation Team (SIT) is currently probing the matter.

Speaking to the media, the Chief Minister said that the SIT has made "substantial progress" in its investi-

gation and is confident of submitting the chargesheet within the stipulated time.

"The team is working day and night to ensure justice for Zubeen Garg," Sarma stated.

Addressing public doubts and criticism, the CM urged sceptics to have faith in the investigation. "Those who question justice for Zubeen Garg should reconsider their stance before December 15. The SIT's diligent work will speak for itself. They will have to change their own remarks," he asserted.

Sarma also cautioned against attempts to politicise the high-profile case.

"Issues like Bangladeshi infiltrators cannot derail this process. Some have tried to draw premature conclusions, but justice will prevail," he said firmly. (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

I will also be watching 'Roi Roi Binale' soon, says Himanta

Emotions run high as Zubeen's last film opens to packed shows



GUWAHATI, Oct 31: 'Roi Roi Binale' (Tears still flow), the last film featuring popular singer-composer Zubeen Garg, who died in Singapore last month, opened to packed shows across Assam on Friday.

The first screening took place as early as 4.25 am at a multiplex in Guwahati, with people queuing to watch their favourite star on the big screen for the last time.

Shows started before 5 am in all cities of the state, with the movie also having a simultaneous nationwide release.

Emotions ran high with viewers seen crying as they exited the halls after the movie.

From children to senior citizens to specially-abled people, all made a beeline to the halls to watch Garg's last film on the very first day.

Leaders of different political

parties, including Cabinet ministers, also joined in watching the movie in different parts of the state.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said he will also be watching 'Roi Roi Binale' soon.

"I will watch it a bit later since

if I go to any hall, it will cause inconvenience for the public. We will perhaps request the 'Jonaki' hall in Guwahati to organise a special screening for us," Sarma told reporters on sidelines of a programme in Lakhimpur.

With tickets for all shows for the

next one week sold out, Garg's musical is expected to break all past box office records for Assamese cinema in the future.

Most halls have scheduled up to seven shows a day, running till early hours the next day to cater to demand.

In 'Roi Roi Binale', Garg is playing the lead character, who is a blind musician. It has 11 songs, composed by himself.

The film revolves around the life of a musician and his struggle. The trailer showed that his character was lying senseless on a sea beach and one person was trying to wake him up, a startling coincidence with his death.

The celebrated singer died while swimming in the sea in Singapore on September 19.

Garg is also the producer of the Rajesh Bhuyan-directed 146-minute-long (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Gaurav 100 pc Pak agent, planted by foreign power: CM

GUWAHATI, Oct 31: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday alleged that state Congress president and MP Gaurav Gogoi is a "Pakistani agent, planted by foreign power".

He also dared Gogoi, the Deputy Leader of the Congress in Lok Sabha, to file a defamation case against him if the allegations were false.

"Gaurav Gogoi is a Pakistani agent, he is purely that. He has been planted by foreign power in our country," Sarma told reporters here on the sidelines of a programme.

"The day I show the evidence, everybody will say that he is 100 per cent a Pakistani agent," the chief minister asserted.

Sarma said he will reveal the "evidence" once the investigation into singer Zubeen Garg's death is completed.

"I am not convening a press conference now to share the evidence, as some will say the Zubeen Garg issue is being diverted," he said. Sarma and (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Warfare becoming increasingly non-kinetic, non-contact: Army Chief Gen Dwivedi



NEW DELHI, Oct 31: Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi on Friday said warfare is becoming increasingly "non-kinetic and non-contact" owing to multiple factors and therefore demands a response that requires military strength, and intellectual, technological and moral preparedness.

Chanakya's teachings remind us that the "rising powers inevitably provoke countervailing coalitions", he said in his address at an event held at Manekshaw Centre here to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

"National security involves preparing for strategic balancing, deterrence, and resilience against these counter reactions. Herein, our opportunities are immense, the demographic dividend of the world's youngest population, transforming technologies, and a strategic geography," he said.

Yet so, are the challenges, the Army chief added.

In his keynote address, he emphasised the evolving nature of warfare and the responses needed in this scenario.

"Firstly, we have traditional rivalries and collusive threats leading to more than a half, that is more than two-and-a-half front challenges. Secondly, terrorism, proxy war, and internal threats still persist. Thirdly, and more importantly, disinformation campaigns seek to fracture our social fabric from within.

"Therefore warfare is becoming increasingly non-kinetic and non-contact. It flows through fibre cables, flickers on screens, circulates in wallets and ripples across our classrooms. Obviously, the response demands just not arms' strength, but intellectual, technological and moral

preparedness," Gen Dwivedi said.

He further said in this era of multi-domain challenges, national security and nation building are "inseparable, requiring a whole-of-nation approach", harnessing the combined resolve of government, industry, academia and civil society.

Union minister Kiren Rijju also addressed the gathering of army officials, students and defence experts at the Chanakya Defence Dialogue: Young Leaders Forum hosted by the Army and defence think-tank Centre for Land Warfare Studies.

Col Sofiya Qureshi, who was one of the prominent faces in media briefings on Operation Sindoor, also attended the event.

The Army chief said in the recent Operation Sindoor, many amongst you would have been actively involved. Some as young military officers, some as NCC cadets, some in civil defence, some in drone labs, while some as "social media warriors". And, with over 65 per cent of India's (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

SC to hear on Nov 25 plea seeking take down of video allegedly demonising Muslims

NEW DELHI, Oct 31: The Supreme Court on Friday said it would hear on November 25 a plea seeking directions to social media platform X and the handle 'BJP Assam Pradesh' to take down a video that allegedly "openly targets, vilifies and demonizes Muslims".

The matter was mentioned before a bench of justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta.

The counsel appearing for the applicant said the apex court had on October 7 issued notice on the application and the matter was directed to be listed on October 28.

He said the matter was not listed for hearing on October 28.

The bench said the application would come up for hearing on November 25.

On October 7, the apex court agreed to hear the application which claimed that the video was circulated by the BJP's Assam unit on September 15 on its official X handle 'BJP Assam Pradesh' showing a "grossly false narrative that depicts the takeover of Assam by Muslims if the BJP doesn't remain in power in Assam".

It said the video depicts the consequences of a change in the present ruling dispensation and shows visibly Muslim people (wearing skull caps and burqas) taking over tea estates, Guwa-

hati airport and Guwahati town.

"It is submitted that as the ruling dispensation, BJP-Assam is bound by the Constitution of India and thereby is bound to uphold the secular values that form part of the basic structure of the Constitution. However, the video circulated by its official twitter openly targets, vilifies and demonizes Muslims," stated the application, filed through advocate Lzafeer Ahmad.

It said a state government is the guardian of all communities and is specifically prohibited by the Constitution from engaging in discrimination on the basis of religion, race, caste, gender and language.

"Thus, the burden of being fair, just and secular is far greater on an elected government," it said.

The application claimed the video was shared on the official X handle of BJP Assam and as on September 18, reposted 6,100 times, liked 19,000 times and viewed 4.6 million times.

"Thus, the same is required to be taken down immediately to contain any further spread of communal disharmony, unrest and enmity," it said. The application sought directions to X India Pvt Ltd and BJP's (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

PM Modi fulfilled Sardar Patel's dream of truly unified India by abrogating Article 370: Amit Shah

NEW DELHI, Oct 31: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said that it was Prime Minister Narendra Modi who fulfilled Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's dream of a unified India by abrogating Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir.

Flagger off the 'Run for Unity' on the 150th birth anniversary of the country's first home minister, Sardar Patel, at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium here, Shah said that after India's independence, the British decided to leave the country divided into 562 princely states.

"At that time, the entire world thought that it would be impossible to unite these 562 princely states into one nation. However, within a short span of time, Sardar Patel accomplished the monumental task of integrating all 562 princely states, and the map of modern India that we see today is the result of his vision and efforts," he said.

Shah said regions such as Kathiawar, Bhopal, Junagadh, Jodhpur, Travancore, and Hyderabad made different kinds of attempts to remain separate, but Sardar Patel's iron will and unyielding determination brought all of them together to form one united India.

"The only task that remained incomplete was Kashmir's full integration with India due to Article 370, but Prime Minister Modi fulfilled that unfinished task of Sardar Patel — and today, we have before us a truly unified India," he said.

Shah said Congress governments did not give Sar-

dar Patel the respect he truly deserved; a great personality like him was awarded the Bharat Ratna after a delay of 41 years.

"Neither a memorial nor a monument was built anywhere in the country. It was only when Narendra Modi became the chief minister of Gujarat that he conceptualised the Statue of Unity and built a grand memorial in Sardar Patel's honour," Shah said.

He further added that the foundation stone of the Statue of Unity was laid on October 31, 2013.

Shah said that Sardar Patel's leadership qualities became evident during the Bardoli Satyagraha of 1928, which was launched against the injustice done to farmers.

Under Sardar Patel's leadership, the farmers began their movement, and what started in a small town soon grew into a nationwide farmers' movement, compelling the British to accept their demands, he said.

The 182-metre-tall statue was completed in just 57 months using the iron from the farmers' tools collected from across the country, he said.

He said that Sardar Patel was a farmers' leader, and around 25,000 tonnes of iron used in constructing the statue came from melting farmers' tools.

The colossal statue, made using approximately 25,000 tonnes of iron, 90,000 cubic meters of concrete, and 1,700 tonnes of bronze, has so far been visited by about 2.5 crore people, he said. Earlier, he offered floral tributes at the (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Prahlad Joshi reviews flagship schemes of renewable energy sector in NE

GUWAHATI, Oct 31: Union Minister Prahlad Joshi on Friday reviewed the progress of flagship schemes in the North East and emphasised on actionable steps to harness the region's potential.

He was attending the Regional Workshop on Renewable Energy (North East Zone) here.

"The North East, our Ashtalakshmi, is transforming into Urja-Lakshmi under the visionary leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri @narendramodi ji," the minister for New and Renewable Energy said in a post on X.

He commended the progress of the states for their "exceptional renewable capacity share, reviewed the progress of flagship schemes and discussed actionable steps to harness (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Op Mahadev officers among 1,466 police personnel awarded 'Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak'

NEW DELHI, Oct 31: The Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak for 2025 has been awarded to 1,466 police personnel nationwide, which includes 40 Jammu and Kashmir Police and CRPF personnel who were instrumental in the killing of terrorists involved in the Pahalgalam incident.

Inspector General (Kashmir range) V K Birdi and Senior Superintendent of Police (Srinagar) G V Sundeep Chakraborty were among 19 officers from Jammu and Kashmir who have been awarded the medal for Operation Mahadev, in which terrorists behind the audacious Pahalgalam attack were eliminated.

Sulieman alias Asif, who is believed to be the mastermind of the April 22 attack, was killed after security forces launched a surprise action, codenamed 'Operation Mahadev', following a technical signal indicating satellite phone use by the perpetrators of the Pahalgalam attack.

The other terrorists identified as Jibril -- who was allegedly involved in the Sonamarg Tunnel attack last year -- and Hamza Afghani were also eliminated during the operation.

Personnel from the 24 Rashtriya Rifles and 4 Para

unit located the group of terrorists and neutralised them after a "long-drawn operation".

As many as 26 persons -- mostly tourists -- were shot dead by terrorists at Baisaran meadows in Pahalgalam on April 22, which prompted the armed forces to launch 'Operation Sindoor' on May 7 against terror infrastructure in Pakistan.

Apart from IG Birdi and SSP Chakraborty, a DIG, two SPs, three DySPs, two sub-inspectors, two ASIs, two head constables and four constables received the medals.

In the CRPF, one assistant commandant was among 21 personnel honoured with the medal.

"Initiated under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and guidance of Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah, 'Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak' will boost the morale of all police personnel," an official statement said.

The medals are given in recognition of their excellent work, high professional standards, and to boost the morale of the concerned official/officer in four fields -- special operations, investigation, intelligence and forensic science, (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Demographic dividend can become burden if not channelised properly: Union Minister Rijju



NEW DELHI, Oct 31: India is a young nation, but the demographic dividend can become a "demographic burden" if it is not chan-

nelised properly, Union Minister Kiren Rijju said on Friday.

He addressed a gathering at an event held at Manekshaw Centre

here to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, and also interacted with the audience.

Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi was also present on the dais at the Chanakya Defence Dialogue: Young Leaders Forum hosted by the Army and defence think-tank Centre for Land Warfare Studies.

Rijju, in his address, emphasised that the aim of making a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047 is not just "wishful thinking" but it is a "journey to make our country a foremost nation in the world".

The minister said he felt that with the prowess of the armed forces and support of youth endowed with (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Tripura tops in NE for PM-KUSUM implementation, bags national award

Tripura has potential to become green hydrogen export hub: Minister

HT Correspondent
AGARTALA, Oct 31: Tripura Power Minister Ratan Lal Nath on Friday said that Tripura has the potential advantage to set up a Hydrogen Valley Hub for blending as well as export of Green Hydrogen.

He also said that the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy may provide financial and technical assistance for the pre-feasibility study for Small Hydro Power Plants on a large scale.

The Power Minister said this while addressing the Regional Workshop on Renewable Energy for the North Eastern Zone, held in Guwahati.

Tripura has secured the first position in implementing the PM-KUSUM Scheme among all the North Eastern states. Power Minister Ratan Lal Nath received the



prestigious award from Union Minister for Renewable Energy, Prahlad Joshi, at the event.

Later, the Power Minister said that with the growing population and the development of civilization, the demand for energy is also in-

creasing day by day.

He said that Tripura is a hilly state in the North-Eastern region of the country. There are several constraints, such as geographical isolation from the mainland and infrastructural bottlenecks in the de-

velopment of the state.

"Many of the developed and developing countries have started giving efforts to increase the share of renewable energy in the overall energy mix of their economies. The State Government has taken unprecedented and remarkable initiatives for the implementation of various energy schemes through the Tripura Renewable Energy Development Agency (TREDA) under the Department of Power, Government of Tripura, and created immense opportunities especially for rural people and poor families to augment their livelihoods, enhance their income, and address different socio-economic development parameters. We must endorse the use of renewable energy in our daily life," said the Minister. He informed that, (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Sensex declines 466 pts on profit-taking in pvt banking, metal shares; Nifty ends below 25,750

MUMBAI, Oct 31: Declining for the second consecutive day, benchmark Sensex retreated by nearly 466 points on Friday following selling in private banks, metal and power shares and a weak trend in global markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 465.75 points or 0.55 per cent to settle at 83,938.71 as 25 of its constituents fell and five advanced. During the day, it dropped 498.8 points or 0.59 per cent to 83,905.66.

The 50-share NSE Nifty fell by 155.75 points or 0.60 per cent to 25,722.10.

Foreign fund outflows, mixed corporate earnings and the lack of clarity on the US Federal Re-



serve's future rate action continued to hurt investor sentiment, analysts said.

From the Sensex firms, Eternal, NTPC, Kotak Mahindra Bank, ICICI Bank, Bajaj Finserv, Power Grid, Trent and HDFC Bank were among the major laggards.

However, Bharat Electronics, Larsen & Toubro, Tata Consultancy Services, ITC and State Bank of India were the gainers.

"Indian equities ended decisively lower after a volatile session, as investors booked profits amid mixed corporate earnings and cautious global sentiment in the backdrop of a strong green-

back. Most sectors closed in the red, pressured by renewed FII selling which has turned cautious after (US Fed chairman) Powell's hawkish statement and US-China trade development did not meet expectations," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments, said.

The BSE midcap gauge declined 0.55 per cent and smallcap index dipped 0.40 per cent.

Utilities tanked 1.28 per cent, followed by metal (1.15 per cent), power (1.03 per cent), services (0.91 per cent), commodities (0.90 per cent), consumer durables (0.70 per cent) and finan-

cial services (0.69 per cent). Energy, industrials, capital goods and oil & gas were the gainers.

A total of 2,370 stocks declined while 1,784 advanced and 155 remained unchanged on the BSE.

"The session remained subdued amid continued global caution following the U.S. Federal Reserve's hawkish tone. Additionally, the lack of sustained FII inflows further dampened sentiment," Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking, said.

On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark dropped 273.17 points or 0.32 per cent, and the Nifty dipped 73.05 points or 0.28 per cent.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi and Japan's Nikkei 225 index settled in positive territory, while Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index ended lower. Markets in Europe were trading in the red. US markets ended in negative territory on Thursday.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹ 3,077.59 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data. Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs), however, were the buyers, as they bought equities worth ₹ 2,469.34 crore in the previous trade. (PTI)

India's electronics growth to gain momentum with IESA-Industry collaboration

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Oct 31: The India Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA) has reaffirmed its commitment to advancing the country's electronics manufacturing and innovation ecosystem in close partnership with the Government of India and industry stakeholders.

"IESA is deeply committed to driving value creation in the electronics sector and partnering closely with the Government of India and industry leaders to propel the next wave of growth," said Ashok Chandak, President, IESA and SEMI India.

He noted that the association's vision aligns with the Prime Minister's target of building a USD 500 billion electronics industry by 2030, with an export goal

of USD 180 billion.

Chandak was speaking at the Annual General Meeting of the Mobile and Electronics Devices Export Promotion Council (MEDEPC), attended by Union Minister Piyush Goyal as chief guest.

He highlighted that through coordinated policy efforts and industry collaboration, India can strengthen its global competitiveness and emerge as a trusted hub for design, manufacturing, and exports in the electronics sector. He further added that IESA's member companies are committed to accelerating investments in manufacturing, product innovation, component development, skill enhancement, and the startup ecosystem to reinforce India's position in the global electronics value chain.

Flipkart urges shoppers to stay vigilant against online scams

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Oct 31: With the growing popularity of online shopping across India, Flipkart has urged customers to remain alert against the increasing number of cyber frauds involving fake links, phishing calls, and malicious apps.

The company has advised users to be cautious while browsing or purchasing online to safeguard their data and privacy.

Cybercriminals are reportedly using sophisticated techniques to deceive unsuspecting users through scam calls, fraudulent offers, and counterfeit websites that imitate authentic platforms.

Flipkart has reiterated that it never asks customers for sensitive details such as OTPs, PINs, or CVV numbers, and has advised users to disconnect immediately if they receive such calls.

Users have also been warned not to fall for unrealistic offers or dis-

counts that appear too good to be true. Flipkart has reminded shoppers to verify deals directly on the official app or website instead of clicking on links received via messages, emails, or social media posts.

Suspicious links and attachments, the company cautioned, can redirect users to phishing pages or install harmful software on their devices.

Flipkart has advised customers to shop only through verified platforms, double-check website URLs and app developer names, and watch out for signs of fake applications or portals such as spelling errors, unclear logos, broken navigation menus, or the absence of a security lock icon in the browser's address bar.

To strengthen account security, users are encouraged to use strong, unique passwords containing numbers, symbols, and uppercase let-

ters, and to change them regularly. Any signs of unusual activity or unauthorized access should prompt users to reset passwords through official channels.

Flipkart has also recommended monitoring device performance for unusual behaviour, removing suspicious apps, clearing browsing data, and scanning for malware.

In serious cases, users should re-boot devices in safe mode or perform a factory reset.

The company has called on customers to report fake messages, calls, or apps immediately to the Flipkart Help Center, noting that such reports help protect other shoppers as well. Flipkart emphasised that cyber scams often exploit users' urgency and trust.

Staying informed, verifying sources, and reporting suspicious activities remain the best ways to prevent falling victim to online fraud.

Ford to invest ₹ 3,250 cr at Chennai plant to produce new generation engines

NEW DELHI, Oct 31: American automaker Ford on Friday said it will invest ₹ 3,250 crore at its Chennai plant to produce new generation engines.

The automaker, which exited the Indian market in 2021, said it has signed a memorandum of understanding with the government of Tamil Nadu outlining its "strategic direction that leverages India's manufacturing expertise as part of the Ford plan". Following site preparation and investment in the project that will begin later this year, the Chennai plant will have planned capacity of 2.35 lakh engines annually, with



production expected in 2029, Ford said in a statement. "With an initial expected investment of ₹ 3,250 crore, the project is expected to create more than 600 jobs, plus indirect jobs across the industry," it added.

"We are pleased to advance our plans and confirm the Chennai plant's vital role in Ford's manufacturing network," Ford Motor Company president, International Markets Group Jeff Marencik said.

He further said, "This decision reinforces our commitment to leveraging India's manufacturing prowess for future prod-

ucts." Ford said the engine lineup planned for production in Chennai will feature all-new technology. Specific details about the engine type and export markets will be shared closer to the start of production, it added.

Tamil Nadu Industries Minister T R B Rajaa said Ford's decision to commence manufacturing in Chennai will further energise the resurgent automotive sector of the state.

Besides this manufacturing presence, Ford said it currently employs approximately 12,000 people in its Global Business Op-

erations in Tamil Nadu. The company, which had in 2021 announced stoppage of manufacturing vehicles in India, last year submitted a Letter of Intent (LOI) to the government of Tamil Nadu, confirming its intention to utilise the Chennai plant for manufacturing for exports.

In September 2021, after nearly three decades of struggling to make a mark in India, Ford Motor Co had announced that it would stop vehicle production at its two plants in the country and will sell only imported vehicles going ahead as part of a restructuring exercise. (PTI)

GST returns pending for 3 years to get time-barred from Nov: GSTN

NEW DELHI, Oct 31: Businesses will not be able to file GST returns which are due for three years or more beginning the November tax period, GST Network (GSTN) has said.

In an advisory, GSTN, which handles the technology backbone, said monthly, quarterly and annual returns for all GST-registered businesses will be barred from filing after the expiry of three years from the due date.

"The said restriction will be implemented on the GST portal from November 2025 Tax period, which

means any return whose due date was three years back or more and hasn't been filed till November Tax period will be barred from filing," GSTN said.

The government had, in 2023, amended the Goods and Services Tax (GST) law providing for time barring of GST return filing.

With effect from December 1, 2025, the monthly GST return form GSTR-1 and GSTR-3B due on October 2022, and the annual GST return GSTR-9 for the 2020-21 fiscal will become time-barred, the GSTN advisory dated October 29 said. (PTI)

Contd. from Page 1...

Tripura has potential

considering the current situation and growing future demand for power in the state, the Government of Tripura has been strengthening decentralized renewable energy applications such as grid and off-grid programmes through the introduction of schemes like PM-KUSUM, PM-DevINE, PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, Grameen Baazar Alok Jyoti Prakalpa, and Micro-grids through Solar and Bio-gas, aiming to provide energy access solutions in rural and remote areas.

"Under these schemes, 3 lakh study lamps have been distributed to 3,335 schools, 15,000 solar street lights installed at 1,012 village markets, 30,000 solar street lights at village roads and other prominent places, 126 solar high masts at rural markets and prominent places, 6,051 solar pumps (PM-KUSUM B) for irrigation of 12,102 acres of land, solarization of 584 agriculture pumps (PM-KUSUM C), 454 solar pumps for drinking water (DWS), and 289 remote habitations/hamlets have been illuminated through solar micro-grids," he said.

He informed that so far 16,951 consumers have registered under PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, 1,186 households have installed systems with a total capacity of 4.0 MW, and 988 consumers have received government subsidies. "So far, 48.53 Mega Watt capacity green energy systems have been installed, and 500 Mega Watt is targeted by 2030," he said.

The Minister also informed that work on renewable energy plants has increased manifold in Tripura, and it is the need of the hour to develop skilled manpower for 813.47 MW of renewable energy installations.

"A total of 4,234 employment opportunities are estimated to be generated in Tripura by 2030 to achieve the target of 500 MW renewable energy installation. For this, financial assistance is required. Green hydrogen is another sector in which the country has taken a lead in the world. The National Green Hydrogen Mission Policy has already been announced by the Government of India. Tripura has the potential advantage to set up a Hydrogen Valley Hub for blending as well as export of Green Hydrogen," said the Minister.

The Minister also said that for strengthening the renewable energy sector, manpower support, capacity building, and a new RE policy for the North East are required to attract private sectors for the development and deployment of RE and DRE livelihood applications.

Demographic dividend can

the right spirit, the aim can be achieved. Later, interacting with the gathering, he said youths of the country should be "assets" and not become a "liability".

They call it the demographic dividend for India, but this can become a "burden" if it is not channelised properly, so this is an "extremely critical period".

Col Sofia Qureshi, who was one of the prominent faces in media briefings on Operation Sindoor, also attended the event. During her address, she urged the youth to be agile, alert in warding off misinformation, and pitched for greater digital literacy among the youth.

Various thematic sessions will be held throughout the day-long seminar. (PTI)

PM Modi fulfilled

statue of Sardar Patel at Patel Chowk here. In an early morning message posted on 'X', Shah paid homage to the 'Iron Man' Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, calling him a symbol of "national unity, integrity, and the empowerment of farmers."

"Sardar Sahab strengthened the unity and security of the country by integrating the princely states and advanced the nation toward self-employment and self-reliance by connecting farmers, backward classes, and the deprived with cooperatives," he said in his message.

Shah said his (Patel's) firm belief was that the axis of the country's development lies in the prosperity of farmers. "He remained dedicated throughout his life to the welfare of farmers and the protection of their rights. It is the duty of every patriot to safeguard the nation that Sardar Sahab built, bound by the principles of justice and unity," he said. The Modi government has been observing October 31 as 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas' or National Unity Day since 2014 to foster and reinforce its commitment to preserving and strengthening the nation's unity, integrity, and security.

Various programmes recalling Sardar Patel's contribution to the unification of India are being organised as part of the National Unity Day celebrations across the country on the occasion of his 150th birth anniversary, with a grand parade organised in front of his statue in Kevadia, Gujarat, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi will take the salute. (PTI)

Prahlad Joshi reviews

the region's immense potential in solar, small hydro, green hydrogen and biomass. "Together, we are advancing towards a cleaner, greener and energy-secure North East, realising the Prime Minister's vision of prosperity through sustainability," Joshi added. (PTI)

Op Mahadev officers

according to an official statement. The medals, instituted on February 1, 2024, are conferred on members of police forces, security organisations, intelligence wings, special branches of state and Union territories, Central Armed Police Forces, Central Police Organisations and forensic science departments across the country.

The medal is announced on October 31 every year, on the occasion of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birth anniversary, it said. (PTI)

SC to hear on Nov 25

Assam unit for taking down of the video posted on the social media platform. The application was filed in a pending matter which has raised the issue of hate speeches. (PTI)

Gaurav 100 pc Pak

the BJP have been alleging Pakistani links of Gogoi through his British wife. (PTI)

Warfare becoming

population below the age of 35 and almost 50 per cent under 25. "we are a nation of youth, a country of boundless energy, ideas, creativity and courage", adding India's skilled human resource is "one of our greatest instruments of power".

In his address, he referred to the 'Gen Z' population of the country, which he said, is the largest in the world. And though Indian Army is the world's second largest, so Generation Z has "beaten the Indian Army also," he said in a lighter vein. It stands at the centre of this "new battle space, digitally fluent, socially aware and globally connected".

"They are India's greatest strength if guided by discipline and direction. That is the melange of passion with purpose," he added.

Gen Z or 'Generation Z' refers to the demographic group born roughly between the late 1990s and early 2010s, with birth years varying by source, such as 1996-2010 or 1997-2012.

It is with this very understanding of security as a collective enterprise, that the Indian Army has embarked on a decade of transformation focused on jointness with everybody, "including the youth present today or connected to us, restructuring and modernising old structures while constantly evolving our human resources, he said.

"The troika of the industry, academia and the armed forces forms the "backbone of this transformation". "The youth have a role in each facet of this... in labs, industries, start-ups, think-tanks and battlefields, apart from the traditional cradles of leadership, the Sainik School, military school, the NCC, which we are well known to. The Army has now reached out to the youth through our 16 technology clusters. The Indian Army cells in IITs and also commenced in 2025, a paid army internship programme," he added.

This is because, the Army realises that the comprehensive national power is not only built on the security circles, but also in classrooms, communities and consciences. "We, the men and women in uniform, rely on you in all fields, including the field of technology".

"So, today I would like to give a call to action to our youth," he said.

The Army chief also asserted that national security is not just about soldiers at the borders, it's also about citizens and youths who "refuse to be indifferent".

It was announced at the event that Chanakya Defence Dialogue 2025 will be held in November on the theme "Reform to Transform: Sashakt and Aur Surakshit Bharat" on November 27-28. (PTI)

Singapore Toxicology report

Commenting on recent political debates surrounding the case, the Chief Minister said, "Let it be clear that Lurin will not contest elections for Zubeen's justice. The Chief Minister always speaks the truth."

Emotions run high

film 'Roi Roi Binale' along with his wife Garima and Shyamantak Gautam.

"Roi Roi Binale" was one of Garg's hit songs from the 90s, and he had termed it as the "darkest" number written by him. The Assam cabinet on Wednesday decided that the government will hand over the state's share of GST from 'Roi Roi Binale' to Kalaguru Artiste Foundation, set up by the singer for the welfare of the downtrodden.

Film content provider UFO Moviez India General Manager (Sales and Distribution) Sourav Dutta had told PTI on Thursday that at least 91 screens across the North East and almost 90 in the rest of the country are screening the film from the day of release.

He said places like Lucknow, Indore, Patna, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, Dehradun, Darjeeling, Gangtok, Kochi, Jaipur, Surat, Ranchi, Dhanbad, Coimbatore and Goa, where no Assamese film was screened before, is showing 'Roi Roi Binale' from Friday. The distributor also received a screening request from Nepal, but it is not yet finalised, he added. (PTI)

NAME CORRECTION

I. Rehena Khatun, W/O Fajal Haque, R/O Vill. No 1 Mullapara, PO- Jangalpara, P.S. Kharupetia, Dist Darrang (Assam), hereby solemnly affirm do and declare that I am a Permanent resident of the above noted address and Citizen of India by birth. That my actual and correct name is Rehena Khatun. That my name has been recorded in my Aadhaar Card Vide No. 4912-5587-8801 as Rehema Khatun in place of Rehena Khatun. That Rehena Khatun and Rehema Khatun are the same and one person.

Sd/-
Rehena Khatun

NAME CORRECTION

I, Chow Neytha Lungphong S/o Chow Akash Lungphong, aged about 43 years, a permanent resident of Chowkham, P.O. & P.S. Chowkham, district, Namsai, state of Arunachal Pradesh, presently residing at Namsai, P.O. & P.S. Namsai, district Namsai, state of Arunachal Pradesh, that my son actual & correct name is "Chow Akash Lungphong" whereas in his Aadhaar Card bearing UIAI No.6689 5221 0889, by mistakenly my son, name, date of birth and address had written as Shri Akash Shyam, date of birth 31/07/2011, address of village Innao, P.O. & P.S. Innao, I&II, district, Changlang, Arunachal Pradesh.

Whereas, the correct name, date of birth and address is Chow Akash Lungphong, date of birth is 01-01-2012, address is Chowkham, P.O. & P.S. Chowkham, district: Namsai, state of Arunachal Pradesh. Executed and signed this affidavit before me on this 27th day of October, 2025 at notary public Namsai.

NAME CORRECTION

I, Chow Neytha Lungphong S/o Chow Arun Lungphong, aged about 43 years, a permanent resident of Chowkham, P.O. & P.S. Chowkham, district, Namsai, state of Arunachal Pradesh, presently residing at Namsai, P.O. P.S. & district Namsai, state of Arunachal Pradesh, that my son actual and correct name is "Chow Arun Lungphong" whereas in his Aadhaar Card bearing UIAI No.4338 6581 7311, by mistakenly my son, name, date of birth and address had written as Shri Arun Shyam, date of birth 01/01/2013, address of village Innao, P.O. P.S. Innao I&II, district: Changlang, Arunachal Pradesh.

Whereas, the correct name, date of birth and address is Chow Arun Lungphong, date of birth 01-01-2013, address Chowkham, P.O. & P.S. Chowkham, district: Namsai, state of Arunachal Pradesh. Executed and signed this affidavit before me on this 27th day of October, 2025 at notary public Namsai.

NAME CORRECTION

I Chow Neytha Lungphong S/o Chow Kongseng Lungphong, aged about 43 years, a permanent resident of Chowkham, P.O. & P.S. Chowkham, district, Namsai, state of Arunachal Pradesh, presently residing at Namsai, P.O. P.S. & district Namsai, state of Arunachal Pradesh, that, my son actual and correct name is "Chow Kongseng Lungphong", whereas in his Aadhaar Card bearing UIAI No. 5993 8557 0454, by mistakenly my son, name, date of birth and address had written as Shri Ajay Shyam, date of birth 22/07/2002, address of village Piyong, P.O. Piyong, P.S. & district, Namsai, Arunachal Pradesh.

Whereas, the correct name, date of birth and address is Chow Kongseng Lungphong, date of birth 22-07-2009, address Chowkham, P.O. & P.S. Chowkham, district Namsai, state of Arunachal Pradesh. Executed and signed this affidavit before me on this 27th day of October, 2025 at notary public Namsai.

No.: SMED/DMC&H/TENDER/PT-11/2023-24/023/

CORRIGENDUM

The tender no SMED/DMC&H/TENDER/PT-II/2023-24/023/1055-58, Dated: 24/09/2025, for rate contract of RADIO-DIAGNOSIS ITEMS for Radiology department of Diphu Medical College & Hospital, Diphu is hereby extended due to insufficient participants. The new date for submission of bid from 1/11/2025 to 10/11/2025 till 1:00 PM. The bid will open on 10/11/2025 at 2:30 PM. The other terms and conditions will remain same as per earlier tender.

Sd/-
Principal-cum-Chief Superintendent
Diphu Medical College & Hospital, Diphu, Assam

DIPR /C/HLT/2051-Nov-25

Honouring Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel while fostering unity, public engagement and civic awareness

150th birth anniversary celebrations of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Oct 31: The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) celebrated the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, observed as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day), with great enthusiasm at its headquarters in Maligaon.

The event was held at the NFR Headquarters complex in the presence of Chetan Kumar Shrivastava, General Manager, along with senior officers and staff. On this occasion, the General Manager administered the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas Pledge, reaffirming the commitment to national unity, integrity and security.

Similar programmes were held at the office of the General Manager (Construction), where Arun Kumar Chaudhary, General Manager, NFR (Construction), led the observance. All five divisions of NFR also marked the occasion with various activities.

As part of the celebrations, a "Run for Unity" was organised, witnessing enthusiastic participation from officers and employees. The event paid tribute to the vision and leadership of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, whose efforts were instrumental in uniting the nation and promoting the spirit of national integration.

Our Cachar Correspondent adds: Cachar district came alive with patriotic fervour and collective pride on Friday as thousands of citizens, students and officials participated in a grand celebration marking the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India. Organised by the District Administration, Cachar in collaboration

with My Bharat, the event featured a massive Unity March, cultural festivities and a tribute ceremony reflecting the ideals of national integration and solidarity.

The celebration witnessed participation from more than three thousand citizens, including students from various schools and colleges, NSS and NCC volunteers, Scouts and Guides, ASLRM and NULM members, representatives from government departments such as Agriculture, Sports, Social Welfare, Education, Health and Silchar Municipal Board, along with nearly fifty NGOs and youth clubs from across the district. The march, carrying the message of peace, solidarity and a self-reliant India, was flagged off by Silchar MP Parimal Suklabaidya, MP RS Kanad Purkayastha, and Minister for Food, Public Distribution, Consumer Affairs, Mines and Minerals and Barak Valley Development Department, Kaushik Rai. District Commissioner Mridul Yadav, IAS, led the parade with students and officials, creating a vibrant spectacle of unity and national pride.

At Gandhi Bagh, the gathering paid floral tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel before the commemorative programme began. The highlight of the event was the address by Silchar MP Parimal Suklabaidya, who hailed Patel as not only a freedom fighter but the iron backbone of India's political consolidation. He described the day as a moment of deep national pride and remembrance, emphasising Patel's rise from rural Gujarat to a key figure in India's freedom struggle and nation-building efforts.

RS MP Kanad Purkayastha high-



lighted Patel's contribution to the creation of a unified India, urging the youth to imbibe his ideals of self-discipline, patriotism and national service. He traced Patel's journey from a farmer's family in Nadiad, Gujarat, to becoming a leading barrister and a central figure in India's independence movement, leading historic movements like Kheda and Bardoli Satyagrahas. Purkayastha underlined Patel's administrative genius in merging over 562 princely states into the Indian Union and cited the Statue of Unity as a tribute to his vision of unity and nationalism. He called upon citizens to dedicate themselves to Patel's spirit of discipline, integrity and service for a stronger, self-reliant India.

MLA Silchar Dipayan Chakraborty paid tribute to Patel as a visionary statesman whose courage and conviction united a divided nation. He urged citizens to rededicate themselves to national unity and integrity, pledging to realise Patel's vision of a united, strong India. MLA Udharbond Mihir Kanti Shom echoed the sentiments, highlighting Patel's legacy of courage, foresight and discipline and called on the youth to carry forward his ideals of patriotism and national unity.

Cachar District Commissioner Mridul Yadav, IAS, reflected on Patel's lasting influence on modern India's administrative and governance systems, noting his role as India's first Home Minister and

Deputy Prime Minister in establishing the Indian Administrative Service and Indian Police Service. He emphasised that the celebration was not merely a remembrance but a reaffirmation of the people's commitment to peace, progress and national integration.

In his welcome address, Meheeb Alam Laskar, Deputy Director of My Bharat, Cachar, appreciated the overwhelming public participation and collective efforts in making the event a grand success. He expressed gratitude to the Government of Assam, participating departments, NSS, NCC, Scouts and Guides, ASLRM, NULM and more than fifty local clubs and NGOs. Laskar highlighted that the event reflected the spirit of My Bharat, promoting youth action, unity and civic consciousness.

The programme featured vibrant cultural performances by students from Assam University and Gurucharan College, including patriotic songs and traditional dances such as Bihu, Dhamail and Manipuri. A street play by Pathik Natya Sanstha and Sarla Birla Gyan Jyoti School students conveyed a strong social message on remaining drug-free and embracing national values. Women's Self-Help Groups from Cachar showcased local handicrafts, handloom products and food items at the Swadeshi Mela, promoting the spirit of "Vocal for Local."

Towards the end, MP Parimal Suklabaidya and other dignitaries participated in a symbolic tree plantation drive under the initiative "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam," reflecting the district's commitment to environmental sustainability and preserving nature as a tribute to national unity.

The event was attended by Additional

District Commissioners Phyllis Hrangchal, Hemanga Nobis, Bonnykha Chetia, Masi Topno and Deepa Das, along with senior district officials, government representatives and members of civil society. The celebration concluded with a vote of thanks by Prosenjit Bhat-tacharjee, expressing gratitude to all departments, volunteers and citizens for making the event a grand success.

Our Nagaon Correspondent adds: Gopinath Dev Goswami Commerce College and Nowgong Girls' College observed National Unity Day with enthusiasm, commemorating the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

At Gopinath Dev Goswami Commerce College, the National Service Scheme (NSS) organised events including an extempore speech competition and a seminar. Dr Mriganka Saikia, Principal, highlighted Patel's role in integrating princely states into the Indian Union, while guest speaker Professor Krishna Kamal Das spoke on the significance of unity in a diverse nation. Students took a pledge to uphold national unity and prizes were awarded to the competition winners.

Nowgong Girls' College also marked the day with programmes organised by the Department of Political Science. Ranjit Barua explained the relevance of the occasion, followed by a screening of a documentary on Sardar Patel. Students took the national unity pledge and participated in a quiz competition on the freedom movement and Patel's life, with winners receiving prizes. The event concluded with the singing of the national anthem.

CM Sarma inaugurates Lakhimpur Nursing College

New initiatives to strengthen healthcare education and services in north Assam

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Oct 31: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurated the newly built Lakhimpur Nursing College under the Assam Cancer Care Foundation (ACCF) and performed the bhoomipujan for a Super-Specialty Hospital in Lakhimpur. On the occasion, he paid tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his 150th birth anniversary.

The Lakhimpur Nursing College is the first B Sc Nursing institution on the north bank of the Brahmaputra and the second under ACCF, following Barpeta. The college aims to enhance Assam's healthcare system by producing skilled nurses, particularly for cancer care. CM Sarma highlighted plans to establish a B Sc Nursing College alongside

each of the 17 upcoming cancer hospitals in the state and another nursing college at Lakhimpur Medical College offering B Sc and M Sc courses.

The Chief Minister noted the growing demand for healthcare professionals, both within India and abroad, citing opportunities for Assamese nurses in countries like Singapore, Japan and South Korea. To support international placements, the government launched the Chief Minister's Foreign Language Initiative for Global Human Resources (CM-FLIGHT), including Japanese language training centers in Guwahati.

CM Sarma also outlined developments in Assam's healthcare infrastructure, including new super-specialty hospitals by

Medanta and Max groups and upcoming civil hospitals in Narayanpur and Dhakuakhana. The proposed Lakhimpur Super-Specialty Hospital will cost nearly ₹ 300 crore, with six major departments, ICUs and modern facilities, expected to be completed within three years.

The Chief Minister emphasised Lakhimpur's transformation into a major hub for education and healthcare, citing the establishment of medical colleges, Madhabdev University, North Lakhimpur University and a campus of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute in Gogamukh.

Education Minister Ranaj Pegu, MP Pradan Baruah, MLAs Manab Deka, Amiya Kumar Bhuyan, Naba Kumar Doley and other dignitaries attended the event.

Police personnel Arindam Bora passes away

HT Correspondent

BISWANATH CHARIALI, Oct 31: Arindam Bora, a 57-year-old Assam Police personnel and resident of Karati Gaon, Sootea, passed away on Wednesday. According to reports, Bora suddenly felt unwell while on duty and was rushed to GMCH after receiving primary treatment locally. He, however, breathed his last on the way to Guwahati.

His body was brought to Sadar Police Station, Biswanath, where officials and police personnel paid their tributes. Later, the body was taken to his residence at Karati Gaon. Representatives of various organisations and individuals offered their condolences before the last rites were performed.

He is survived by his wife, two sons and several relatives.

Zubeen Fans Club shares singer's letter with students



HT Correspondent
SIVASAGAR, Oct 31: Marking the grand release of Zubeen Garg's film 'Roi Roi Binale', the Zubeen Fans Club in Sivasagar distributed a heartfelt letter written by the late singer to students, encouraging them to watch his final movie. The campaign was led by Hrishikesh

Duwara, Manosjyoti Dutta and Ripul Deori. Across the district, cinema halls witnessed emotional scenes as fans thronged to see the film on its opening day. Many were moved to tears, sobbing throughout the screening as they watched the late musical icon on screen for the last time.

Crowds mourn Zubeen at 'Roi Roi Binale'

HT Correspondent

MORIGAOON, Oct 31: The much-anticipated motion picture 'Roi Roi Binale' received an overwhelming response with unprecedented crowds at the Royal Cines Hall in Morigaon on Friday. The film, featuring the late Zubeen Garg, was screened across Assam, drawing emotional audiences eager to see their beloved artist on screen one last time. In Morigaon, the Royal Cines Hall was packed from morning as fans and cinephiles gathered to watch the film. Many viewers, including elderly citizens and mothers with infants, attended the screening, moved by the experience of seeing the late singer in his final performance.

Before the screening, the president of the Morigaon District Journalists Association, Ajit Sarma, along with AASU leader Rupjyoti Medhi, journalists and representatives from various organisations, paid floral tributes before a portrait of the late Zubeen Garg. As the film concluded, fans expressed their grief and raised their voices seeking justice for their beloved singer, whose legacy continues to inspire millions across Assam.

Accidental rifle discharge sparks panic at SBI



HT Correspondent

SALKOCHA, Oct 31: Panic erupted at the State Bank of India (SBI) Salkocha branch in Bilasipara Co-district on Friday after the rifle of security guard Bipul Kumar Rabha accidentally discharged inside the bank. Customers and staff were gripped with fear and confusion as the shot went off, causing a chaotic scene for several minutes.

The Salkocha Police promptly arrived, brought the situation under control and detained the security guard for questioning. Preliminary reports indicate the incident may have occurred due to negligence while handling the firearm. Witnesses confirmed the bank was crowded at the time, but fortunately, no injuries or casualties were reported.

Police have launched an investigation to determine the exact circumstances of the firing.

Sonitpur DDC meeting urges faster completion of projects

HT Correspondent

TEZPUR, Oct 31: The monthly meeting of the District Development Committee (DDC) was held on Friday under the chairmanship of District Commissioner Ananda Kumar Das at the Conference Hall of the District Commissioner's Office, Sonitpur. The meeting was attended by District Development Commissioner Lakhinandan Saharia, Additional District Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners and the designated Heads of Departments of the district.

At the outset, the District Commissioner emphasised the urgent need to expedite all pending projects across stakeholder departments. He urged officials to work in a mission mode to ensure timely completion of schemes and infrastructure projects. The Agriculture Department presented updates on the progress of Farmer Registration and targets achieved so far under the Digital Crop Survey. Key issues pertaining to the Health Department were also discussed, with the District Commissioner directing officials to ensure regular attendance of doctors across government health centres and to strengthen mental health awareness, particularly at the grassroots level and among students.

Special focus was placed on the timely completion of major infrastructural projects under the PWD (Building) Department, especially the District Library Auditorium. The District Commissioner also instructed concerned stakeholders to convene meetings and take necessary steps to complete long-pending projects.

CM launches distribution of cheques under MMUA in Doomdooma LAC



HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Oct 31: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday launched the distribution of cheques to 13,822 women Self-Help Group (SHG) members under the Mukhyamantr Mahila Udyamita Abhiyan (MMUA) in Doomdooma LAC, Tinsukia district. The scheme covers 12,784 women from rural areas and 1,038 from urban areas. On the occasion, CM Sarma also virtually laid foundation stones for development projects worth ₹ 183 crore in the constituency.

Addressing a gathering at Rupai Higher Secondary School playground, CM Sarma said the scheme provides seed capital of ₹ 10,000 to each eligible woman to start or expand their businesses. He highlighted that Assam has around four lakh rural SHGs and 30,000 urban SHGs involving approximately 43 lakh women. The Chief Minister encouraged beneficiaries to use the funds wisely to build sustainable livelihoods, noting that successful participants could receive ₹ 25,000 and ₹ 50,000 in later phases.

CM Sarma also highlighted welfare initiatives in Doomdooma, including Orunodoi benefits, free college admissions, bicycles for Class IX girls, monthly financial assistance to students and the distribution of rice through ration

cards. He emphasised youth employment, land rights for tea garden workers and other measures to improve social and economic security.

During the programme, the Chief Minister virtually laid foundation stones for major projects, including a ₹ 15 crore sports complex and stadium at Doomdooma College, a ₹ 16 crore indoor stadium and multipurpose building at Doomdooma Town Field, 24 school buildings worth ₹ 21 crore, a new school building at Kakajan HS School worth ₹ 4.6 crore, infrastructure development at Arunodoi HS School worth ₹ 7.5 crore, flood and erosion control projects worth ₹ 51.1 crore, a ₹ 60 crore road widening project and an RCC bridge over Doomdooma river worth ₹ 7.6 crore.

Earlier, Dr Sarma inaugurated the newly constructed road from NH 37 to Doriabheti under the Chief Minister's Unnata Pakipath Nirman Achni. The event was attended by Minister for Welfare of Tea Tribes and Adivasi community Rupesh Gowala, MP Pradan Baruah, MLAs Bolin Chetia, Suren Phukan, Sanjay Kishan, ASRLM Mission Director Kuntalmoni Sarma Bordoloi, District Commissioner Swapnil Paul, Tinsukia Zila Parishad Chairperson Bhadrashwar Moran and other dignitaries.

Students to gain hands-on industrial training and exposure across Assam

DTE Assam, Laghu Udyog Bharati sign industry-academia MoU

HT Correspondent

GUWAHATI, Oct 31: In a landmark step towards bridging the gap between education and industry, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Directorate of Technical Education (DTE), Government of Assam, and Laghu Udyog Bharati (LUB) - Purvottar Prant during the inauguration of the 13th India Industrial Fair (IIF 2025 - Udyam) at the Veterinary College Ground, Khanapara, Guwahati.

The signing ceremony was graced by Shobha Karandlaje, Minister of State, Ministry of MSME, Government of India and Bimal Borah, Minister of Industries & Commerce, Assam, along with senior government officials, industry leaders and educationists. This collaboration aims to strengthen Industry-Academia linkages and provide engineering and technical students with direct exposure to real-world industrial environments through internships, live projects, industrial visits and start-up mentor-



ship. The initiative will also help align academic learning with the evolving needs of the industrial sector.

Laghu Udyog Bharati - Purvottar Prant represents over 850 industries across Assam and the North Eastern Region, covering sectors like Food Processing, Plastics, Rubber,

Electrical & Electronics, Engineering, Renewable Energy, Pharmaceuticals, Printing & Packaging, Handloom & Handicrafts, Furniture, Waste Management and Agro-based industries. This broad industrial network will enable students to benefit from practical learning opportunities close to their

institutions, ensuring inclusion across all districts of Assam.

Speaking to the media, Partha Pratim Pathak, president of LUB - Purvottar Prant, said: "This MoU marks a new chapter for Assam's youth. For the first time, technical education will be directly connected with industries spread across every corner of our state. Students will not only learn theories in classrooms but will now get hands-on exposure to how industries function, what technologies they use and what skills are needed to thrive in today's world. It is a step toward transforming education into employability and innovation into entrepreneurship — in the true spirit of Atmanirbhar Assam and Atmanirbhar Bharat."

Pramod Kumar Mour, General Secretary of LUB - Purvottar Prant, added that this partnership will make technical education more practical, industry-driven and skill-oriented, empowering students to become the driving force behind Assam's industrial future.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

We don't see things as they are, we see them as we are. -Anaïs Nin

A virtual referendum for Trump

This shouldn't come as any great surprise, but the November 4, balloting for the Virginia and New Jersey governorships are being turned into referendums on the incumbent president, Donald Trump. The same is starting to happen with several other key elections as well, including the New York City mayoral contest, the Prop. 50 votes in California, and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court races. Making the two gubernatorial elections into an anti-MAGA verdict is a key push of the American Federation of Teachers, following the union's pattern in past off-off-elections. In a recent e-mail exhorting members to phone bank after hours and to get out on the hustings in both New Jersey, for Rep. Mikie Sherrill, and in Virginia for former Rep. Abigail Spanberger, the elections team at the 1.8-million-member AFT pulled no punches. It said the outcomes would help keep the momentum going against Trump following the turnout of monstrous crowds coast-to-coast for No Kings Day on Oct. 18.

Besides the gubernatorial races, Trump is a factor in the congressional redistricting referendum, Prop. 50, in California. Ruling Democrats designed it to counter Trump-ordered GOP gerrymandering in Texas. Polls show a close race in California, as many Democratic-voting electors favor non-partisan remapping. Trump's a topic, too, in New York City's mayoral vote, where state legislator Zohran Mamdani, 34, the Democratic nominee and a Democratic Socialist, is running on a strongly progressive platform. He faces scandal-scarred ex-Gov. Andrew Cuomo, 67, who's on the ballot as an independent. Trump has threatened to invade New York City with federal troops and cut off federal aid if Mamdani wins. Waving the old GOP flag of red-baiting, Trump calls Mamdani a Communist. He likes Cuomo and claims a Mamdani win would be a "political gift" for Republicans.

In a mass rally on October 26 in Queens, strong Mamdani supporters Sen. Bernie Sanders, Ind-Vt., and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., both cited Trump, the billionaire oligarchs backing him, and Cuomo and the GOP's president's authoritarianism as reasons to elect the young progressive. Trump has also illegally stripped union contracts covering more than a million federal workers, fired at least 175,000 of them for no cause, and defied the Constitution by yanking back or withholding money earmarked for spending on various programs. Federal food program funds expire Nov. 1.

NDA's manifesto on Bihar elections is evasive, full of vague promises

By: Dr Gyan Pathak

Shrewdness is all that reflects NDA's manifesto on Bihar elections released on October 31, 2025, just a week before the first phase of election to be held on November 6. It is elusive. It does say nothing about the plight of Bihar, even though it is the third most populous state after Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra, ranking at the bottom in almost all indicators of development. Nevertheless, the document vaguely promises a "Developed Bihar" under NDA, while evading specifics, as if intentionally, so that people can't hold them guilty for broken promises.

Perhaps, NDA has nothing to say in respect of the current plight of the state and its people, since it is contesting under the leadership of the same CM Nitish Kumar, who has been ruling the state for the last two decades since 2005. BJP leaders have been shrewd enough not to announce Nitish Kumar as CM face of NDA, but at the same time they have been saying that their alliance is contesting under his leadership, while they themselves calling the shots with a whispering campaign by the RSS-BJP rank and file that CM will be changed if they will come to power. Sugar quoted words are strewn in the entire NDA manifesto, most of them are without specifics. Most of the promises are vague since they don't reveal how much time they will take to make the promise a reality, and how it will be realized, such as the promise "For a Developed Bihar", the first and foremost promise and the subtitle of the document.

As everyone in Bihar, NDA too is aware of the anti-establishment sentiment prevailing among the youth of the state on account of joblessness among them. No wonder, NDA manifesto gives the first guarantee to youth. "Guarantee to golden future for every youth," it says. To every youth, a job and employment. It promises 1 crore+ government jobs and employment, to conduct a Skill Census and skill-based employment, and to establish Bihar as a Global Skilling Hub through Mega Skill Centres in every district. However, there is no timeframe mentioned for all these things. Women's have been seen playing significant role in deciding the fate of the political parties in the country in recent times. This trend has been most prominent in the recently held elections across the country, including Haryana, Delhi, Maharashtra, and Jharkhand. Women's of Bihar has also been playing significant role. CM Nitish Kumar hopes that he will get majority of women's votes because of his certain policies, such as ban on liquor to the more recent CM Women's Employment Scheme, launched just before the election. The manifesto promises Empowerment of women and making them rich and through them and Developed Bihar.

The manifesto talks about self-reliance for women for making them rich, for which it promised Rs2 lakh as financial assistance under Mukhyamantri Mahila Roggar Yojna. It promises to make 1 crore women Lakhpati Didi, and to make identified women entrepreneur crorepati, under Crorepati Mission. NDA manifesto says that honour and rights to extremely backward classes (EBCs), is the identity of Empowered Bihar. It promises the various business groups among them financial assistance of Rs10 lakh. Constitution of a high level committee have been promised under a retired Supreme Court judge, which will recommend ways for empowerment of EBCs.

The NDA, that is yet to give legal guarantee for MSP at the central level to farmers for their crops, has promised in the Bihar manifesto "Honour to every farmer, and right price for all crops". It promises to institute Karpuri Thakur Kisan Samman Nidhi through which farmers will be given ₹ 3,000 every year. It vaguely promises ₹ 9000 benefit, the meaning of which can be deciphered by only a few. It promises a guaranteed MSP (the meaning of which is left to be guessed by the people), since Modi government has been denying legal guarantee for quite some time. Investment of ₹1 lakh crore is promised in agri-infrastructure, with a promise that paddy, wheat, pulses, and maize will be purchased at MSP at Panchayat level.

Fishermen have been promised ₹ 4,500 and ₹ 9000, and production and export will be doubled under Bihar Fisheries Mission. Bihar Milk Mission will be launched and Chilling and Processing centres will be established at every development block.

The NDA manifesto also promises several rail projects for Bihar, which included 7 expressways and modernization of 3,600 km railway track. Metro projects will be started in four new cities, while Amrit Bharat Express and Namoo Rapid Rail services will be extended.

Development of chief cities have also been promised along with their modernization. Greenfield city will be established in New Patna, and chief cities will have satellite townships. The manifesto has a religious content too, under which it promised the birthplace of Mother Janaki to be developed as world class Adhyatmik Nagri Sitapuram.

Several national and international airports have been promised for Bihar and direct air services from the state to foreign countries. Greenfield International Airport near Patna; international airports at Darbhanga, Purnia and Bhagalpur; and domestic flights in 10 new cities are among other promises. Bihar is very backward in industrial development so far with only a handful of industries. Now the NDA gives guarantee of industrial revolution in the state. (IPA Service)

The Assamese Language to the World Stage

The spoken and written language of a nation is the natural reflection of its fundamental essence and eternal soul, which is not merely an inert collection of sounds or words, but a carrier of profound, timeless consciousness and a way of life marked by vast intellectual depth. This language transmits the intellectual refinement of a society, the subtlety of its ideas and concepts, the profundity of its age-old traditions, the continuity of its historical lifestyle, and a thousand-year heritage from one generation to the next, keeping it alive. In truth, without deep linguistic bonds, the intellectual development of any nation or the continuity of its collective consciousness is never possible, because language does not merely facilitate the exchange of thoughts; it also establishes a foundational base for the accumulation of knowledge, reasoning, and analysis. The foundational base of the greater Assamese society in the Brahmaputra Valley is the Assamese language, upon which rests the grandeur of the entire nation's culture, the intensity of its national consciousness, and the dignity of its pride. This language has been building a profound bridge of harmony among the various ethnic groups living in Assam's vast territory, serving not only as a simple medium of daily communication but also creating a deep spiritual bond. This bond ties every Assamese person in a common identity, becoming a symbol of a vast cultural collective. In the flow of time and in this era of increasing globalization and competition—an era that is truly a revolution in information—when various countries are engaged in intense competition over their distinctiveness and languages, and rapid technological changes are altering the domains of language use, the need has arisen for the Assamese language to strengthen its position on the world stage and even establish a respectable and specific place. This necessity is not merely emotional or confined to a local level; it is also an intellectual and social necessity of international dimension, because if a nation wishes to participate actively and equally in the intellectual flow of global human life, it must grant its language that universal dignity and recognition. It was then that Rupkonwar Jyotirasa Agarwala dreamed: "Kamrupa, my fragrant and radiant one / The Assamese language will go to the world stage / Wearing a shining Kohinoor, smiling, it will become Jyotirupa." Recently, the path to that dream of the Assamese language reaching the world stage has gradually opened. The central government's historic decision to grant the Assamese language classical status has opened a new door in fulfilling this crucial need. This announcement has laid a strong foundation for establishing the thousand-year antiquity, literary richness, and distinct heritage of the Assamese language on the international stage, which is truly the realization of the long-standing aspiration of the Assamese nation.

The history of the Assamese language is very ancient, and its evolutionary trajectory is extremely long, multi-layered, and marked by revolutionary changes. This unique and characteristic language belongs to the eastern branch of the Indo-Aryan family within India's main language family. Its earlier form flowed as an ancient stream that had developed over a thousand years in the historical context of the region. The core foundation of this language emerged from an ancient language of that time, various Prakrit forms, and another language, though its most distinct feature is that, over time, it achieved a unique independent form through intimate and profound fusion with the languages of Assam's indigenous and local non-Aryan communities, especially those of the vast Mongolian branch, as well as Austric and other Tibeto-Burman groups. This linguistic fusion gave the Assamese language a special tone, phonetic characteristics, and vocabulary features that are generally not seen in the languages of the Indo-Aryan family in western or central India. In texts composed between the eighth and twelfth centuries, some signs of the primitive and initial form of the Assamese language are found, where many similarities with eastern Indian languages exist. From this period onward, a distinct grammatical structure and identity of the Assamese language began to take shape, ensuring its unique linguistic status. Subsequently, during the royal period, when a stable and powerful political governance system had emerged in the region, the Assamese language gained special prestige and importance as a medium for government documents, religious texts, laws, and especially the Buranjis, due to

royal patronage and social influence. Over this long period, various changes and standardizations occurred in its grammar, vocabulary, script application, and pronunciation, making it more refined and suitable for expression. This profound history ensures the Assamese language's claim to a unique and honorable place in world human society, as it is a symbol of a thousand-year civilization and an example of complex linguistic evolution, which forms the core foundation for classical status.

The literary and intellectual wealth of the Assamese language is not only vast in quantity but also of high and world-class quality. In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, under the leadership of Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardev, the Vaishnava religious renaissance gave the Assamese language a unique, captivating, and spiritual dimension. This era can rightly be called the golden age of Assamese

DEGREE OF THOUGHT

By: Himangshu Ranjan Bhuyan

literature, a time when an unprecedented wave of creativity arrived and had a profound impact on every level of society. With their unparalleled creations, they enriched the treasury of Assamese literature. These creations not only expressed religious and spiritual thoughts but also presented a clear and vivid reflection of the society, culture, artistic expression, and human values of that time. His poetic language, a captivating blend of Assamese and another language, gained special recognition throughout India for its melodious and high poetic dignity. The use of this poetic language proves that Assamese literati were conducting high-level creative experiments with the language even then and creating a new poetic language. Furthermore, the histories composed during the royal period are an invaluable asset to Assamese prose literature and a remarkable document of world life. These histories employed accurate facts, historical impartiality, and pure prose, a method that was rare in other states of India at that time and not even prevalent in some parts of the world. This intellectual and literary heritage strengthens the philosophical and cultural foundation of the Assamese language on the world stage, establishing its eternal values, and the promotion, analysis, and translation of these assets on the world stage is a crucial current need. This grand heritage provided a powerful argument for the Assamese language to achieve classical status, and this status has elevated it to the level of other classical languages in the world.

In modern times, during colonial rule, the Assamese language faced a difficult, challenging, and existential struggle, especially due to the imposition of another language under the pretext of administrative convenience. This action created deep dissatisfaction, spiritual injury, and national awareness in Assamese society, as a result of which the language was deprived of its rightful place. However, this adverse and disheartening environment did not discourage the lovers of the Assamese language.

Rather, it inspired them to build a unified and powerful intellectual movement. During this period, initiatives by religious figures for Assamese translations of scriptures and the publication of a newspaper added new strength and direction to the language revival movement. The great literati and thinkers of that time strengthened the foundation of the modern Assamese language by preparing its grammar, dictionary, and textbooks, giving it a standard form. Subsequently, national institutions like the Asam Sahitya Sabha, which were formed, continue to serve as a powerful and continuous platform for the development of language, literature, and culture even today.

This struggling history expresses the profound vitality of the Assamese language, the sincere commitment of the public toward it, and the firmness of the fight for its existence. The recently achieved classical status has given this long and noble heritage a final international recognition. This recognition has formally proven that the Assamese language has antiquity, originality, and high literary standards, elevating it to the level of other classical languages in the world. As a result of this recognition, a new confidence and pride has been instilled in the minds of the Assamese nation. This status has put an official seal on the long-standing debates over the antiquity and distinctiveness of the Assamese language, restoring its self-respect.

The current wave of globalization has created a new, complex, and subtle challenge for the Assamese language, one that is



deeper and more multifaceted than previous challenges. Due to the pervasive influence and use of dominant world languages, the domains of Assamese language use are continuously shrinking. The use of other languages has become essential in higher education, science, technology, international trade, and the intellectual world, as a result of which the new generation is naturally falling behind in acquiring fundamental knowledge and engaging in deep intellectual discourse in Assamese. Consequently, the language is becoming limited to domestic, emotional, and local use, losing its importance as a capable medium of intellectual height, philosophy, and thought. In this environment, to maintain its existence on the world stage, the Assamese language must not be confined to daily and domestic communication but must be made suitable for use in all branches of knowledge and science, even as a medium for creating new and original knowledge. For this, first, high-quality, timely textbooks, modern contextual books, standard dictionaries, and encyclopedias in Assamese need to be composed, which can provide high-standard education. In this environment, profound commitment to the language and maximum emphasis on practical application are essential. At the government level, the use of Assamese should be made mandatory at all levels of higher education, and special importance should be given to creating and recognizing Assamese terminology in science and technology. The most practical and crucial aspect of classical recognition is the vast financial, educational, and organizational support. Through this support, high-standard centers for Assamese language research will be established in the country's leading central universities, and high-level teaching and research positions will be created for expert scholars. This means that young researchers will now be motivated to conduct deeper and more scientific research on ancient Assamese manuscripts, literature, and language evolution. These research centers will play a special role in the continuous standardization and modernization of the Assamese lexicon.

In this era of rapid technological transition and the digital age, the use of digital media is an extremely important, strategic, and essential step for the expansion and preservation of the Assamese language. If the Assamese language loses its place in the digital world or keeps it limited, its future could become critical, because most of the world's communication is controlled by this medium today. Ensuring the presence of Assamese on digital platforms and social media is essential for its long-term preservation. A large portion of the current younger generation uses the internet and smartphones in their daily lives, so taking the help of modern technology to popularize Assamese use among them is highly necessary. The correct and universal application of Assamese Unicode has made typing in Assamese on computer and mobile keyboards easy, which is foundational for the simple and robust use of the language in the digital world. Continuous efforts are needed to make this Unicode more accessible and user-friendly. Creating and promoting online resources in Assamese such as websites, electronic magazines, blogs, and encyclopedias will make the language's knowledge and literary treasury available to everyone. This removes geographical limitations in the spread of knowledge. Moreover, providing the necessary data for Assamese in automated translation systems, speech recognition technology, and artificial intelligence-based tools is also highly relevant. It will enable Assamese to stand equally with other leading world languages, especially in international business

and educational fields. These digital resources not only help in preserving old literature but also provide a vast platform for new writers and creative intellectuals to express their thoughts in their mother tongue on the world stage. Through this, new streams in literature, science, technology, and philosophy in Assamese will be unveiled, increasing the language's practical scope and intellectual depth. Special emphasis should be given to systematic preservation and archiving of these resources so that this digital heritage remains available for future generations. This technological transition will provide the facility to use Assamese more simply, purely, and actively on the internet. Researchers, businessmen, or ordinary people from any part of the world will be able to easily connect with Assamese content. This digital visibility will establish the language as a living and future-oriented one before the world, expanding its scope of use from local to universal. If a language cannot become a carrier of knowledge, science, and technology, it will lose its importance in the digital age.

Therefore, transforming Assamese into a language of knowledge, thought, and philosophy using the facilities provided by classical recognition is the greatest goal for the future. For this, the government and educators must jointly formulate a specific and consistent policy in creating technical and scientific terminology in Assamese. In this field, the newly to be established research centers can study the methods of terminology creation in other classical languages and formulate an effective strategy, enabling Assamese to express new streams of science.

Classical recognition will play a strong strategic role in establishing the Assamese language on the world stage. It will open a new path for the international translation of the excellent works of ancient and modern Assamese literature. If historical poetry, prose, and histories are beautifully translated into leading world languages, Assamese literature can establish itself as an invaluable asset to world literature. Through this literature, the influence of Assamese philosophy, social ethics, and artistic expression will reach the global intellectual world. Classical recognition has granted the Assamese language international linguistic recognition. Leading cultural organizations and linguists worldwide will give importance to this language. As a result, its role in India's cultural diplomacy will become significant, and the possibility of establishing high positions for Assamese in foreign universities will increase. In this field, under special government schemes, the scientific preservation and digitization of Assamese manuscripts, inscriptions, and other valuable historical documents will proceed rapidly. Such digital libraries will allow researchers from any part of the world to study ancient Assamese assets from home, globalizing the field of research. This research work will also create new employment opportunities for Assamese experts, translators, manuscript preservers, and linguistic technologists. This status has proven to the world that the Assamese language has an independent, unique, and long history, not dependent on any other language. This independence will bring new respect to Assamese culture and national identity on the world stage.

The Assamese language is not just the language of one ethnic group; it has been functioning as a language of harmony, a medium of communication, and a bridge of cultural exchange among the various ethnic groups in the Brahmaputra Valley. Words, sounds, and sentence structures from various tribal languages have given the Assamese language a special richness and flexibility, making it more extensive and universal. The close relationship with these lan-

guages needs to be further strengthened, and this harmonious form should be presented to the world. Through the translation and promotion into Assamese of the literature, folklore, and cultural elements of tribal languages, an environment of common linguistic understanding and affection should be created. As a result, a strong regional linguistic unity based on Assamese will emerge, further solidifying and representing its place on the world stage. When a language is regionally strong and universal, only then can it raise its voice on the world stage and expand its influence. This broad inclusive attitude is the symbol of the universality and vastness of the Assamese language, giving it a unique identity. After achieving classical status, there is an opportunity to present Assamese to the world as a traditional and tolerant language of eastern India, offering a beautiful example of linguistic pluralism and harmony.

Amid all these benefits and achievements, it should be remembered that achieving classical recognition is only a beginning, not the ultimate goal. The place of the Assamese language on the world stage depends on the activity, commitment, far-sighted thinking, and unified efforts of its speakers. Commitment to the language is not only for the government or literary platforms; it is a social, moral, and national duty for every citizen. Parents should emphasize instilling in their children the habit of conversing in pure, simple, and correct Assamese at home. This primary commitment to the mother tongue builds the foundation of the language and teaches the new generation its value.

In the field of education, especially making the mother tongue the medium of higher education not only mandatory but also attractive and of high standard is highly necessary, so that it becomes a medium of high thought and deep research. Government and private institutions should use pure and simple Assamese in all their work, such as office documents, notices, promotional materials, and communication, ensuring the language's dominance in the office environment. Assamese literati, scholars, researchers, and educators must continuously and thoughtfully strive to enrich the fundamental vocabulary of the language by creating new words, adopting suitable words from other languages, and re-establishing the relevance of old, near-extinct words, helping the language adapt to modern thought. Without this collective and unified effort, no language can survive merely through political patronage or law. This profound commitment to the language and its broad scope of use will give it the strength to compete with other powerful world languages and secure its life.

In conclusion, it can be said that the classical recognition achieved by the Assamese language is a glorious attainment for the Assamese nation and a signal for a new field of work. It has provided a strong foundation for the historical status and intellectual depth of the Assamese language. If the new facilities, financial support, and universal dignity created by this recognition are used correctly and with far-sighted attitude, the Assamese language can ensure a respectable and permanent place among the powerful languages of the world. For this, every Assamese person must work from their own position to create a new awakening, where the Assamese language is not only a carrier of past heritage but also a powerful medium of future knowledge, technology, and philosophy, shining proudly on the world stage. Only through this continuous, thoughtful, and unified effort can the Assamese language live forever and establish its eternal values on the world stage.

NPF ready to relinquish power for honourable naga solution: Kikon

KOHIMA, Oct 31: Naga People's Front (NPF) Secretary General and MLA Achumbemo Kikon on Friday reaffirmed that the party remains steadfast in its stand on the Naga political issue and is willing to step down from power "at any moment" if an honourable and acceptable solution is achieved.

Speaking at the oath-taking ceremony of newly appointed central office bearers, central executive council members, core committee members, and various frontals and cells of the NPF, Kikon underscored that the party's guiding principle has always been to stand for the aspirations of the Naga people and not for political gain.

"Our party's position on the Naga issue has never changed. We are ready to sacrifice our positions and step down any time for an honourable solution that brings lasting peace and unity among the Nagas," Kikon said.

Thanking NPF President and Chief Minister Neiphu Rio for his "wisdom, courage, and magnanimity" in steering the NPF and NDPP merger, he described it as "a historic unification of all like-minded Nagas under one umbrella".

Kikon said the merger was not just a political move but a step toward strengthening Naga solidarity and collective progress.

"This merger symbolises the coming together of Naga brothers and sisters who have long worked for the same cause under different banners," he added.

Narrating his personal experience in Delhi, Kikon revealed that the NPF faced procedural hurdles while submitting the merger documents to the Election Commis-



sion of India (ECI) due to the Commission's preoccupation with Bihar elections.

He said, despite being told to return later, he insisted on submitting the documents on the same day, demonstrating the NPF's determination to formalise the merger within the stipulated period.

"We had to fight even in Delhi to make our voice heard. That shows our commitment. The NPF is not just a name — it is a spirit that refuses to be silenced," he said.

Reminding members that the party is built on discipline, loyalty, and inner-party democracy, the NPF Secretary General

urged members to voice their opinions freely within the organisation but to uphold unity and collective decisions once made. He further warned that the party will not tolerate indiscipline or self-serving politics.

"Once we have taken a decision collectively, we must stand by it together. There is no room for personal ego or factionalism in this family," he stated.

Reiterating the party's motto "Fide Non Armis" (By faith, not by arms), Kikon said the NPF has always believed in democratic and peaceful means to achieve the Naga people's aspirations.

He cautioned that politics in Nagaland must never be reduced to the pursuit of power or wealth. "We must remember that NPF is not a party born out of money or muscle, but out of faith, vision, and the Naga people's trust," he said.

Encouraging the newly sworn-in members, Kikon reminded them of their duty to carry the party's message to the grassroots and uphold its values. "You are the backbone of this movement. The future of the NPF lies in your dedication, honesty, and ability to connect with the people," he said.

Kikon emphasised that the NPF's strength lies not in numbers but in conviction. "We are a small party by size, but we carry a big responsibility — to speak for all Nagas with one voice," he asserted.

NPF working presidents Ahovi Zhimomi and H Chuiha Chang also exhorted the party leaders to remain firm on the party principles and ideals and to work cohesively towards the Naga people in general.

The ceremony marked the formal induction of new office bearers following the official NPF-NDPP merger on October 21. Senior leaders, legislators, and representatives from the NPF frontal organisations attended the event.

Over 400 functionaries have been appointed to different posts, including the COC, CEC, Core Committee, Women & Youth wings, Farmers & Minority Cells of the second-oldest regional party in the country after DMK of Tamil Nadu. The oath was administered by working president Pusazo Luruo while former state chaplain Rev Yamypet Konyak offered prayers. (PTI)

Family escapes unhurt after mob attack over witchcraft allegations in Meghalaya; nine held

SHILLONG, Oct 31: A family in Meghalaya's East Khasi Hills district escaped unhurt after a mob of around 200 people attacked their residence, accusing them of practising witchcraft, police said on Friday.

The incident occurred around 9.30 pm on October 30 in Sohra's Khliehshnong area, when the house of one Ham Shangpliang was surrounded by an angry crowd that allegedly threatened to burn it down, placing the occupants in grave danger, a police statement said.

Upon receiving information, police teams along with magistrates from Sohra went to the spot and took measures to protect the residents.

Preliminary inquiry said the violence stemmed from claims made by a boy, who alleged that he had "visions" of Shangpliang and believed himself to be under a witchcraft spell (ai ksuid) cast by him.

The unverified claim reportedly sparked fear and mob mobilisation among locals, culminating in the attack.

Due to the aggression and size of the mob, police initially faced strong resistance in dispersing the crowd. "To ensure the safety of those inside and create a safe corridor for evacuation, tear gas and stun grenades had to be used," SP Vivek Syiem told PTI.

Reinforcements, including personnel from the Special Operations Team (SOT) in Shillong, were later deployed to stabilise the situation.

Through coordinated efforts, the family of Shangpliang and two other families who had gathered at the residence for a death anniversary memorial service were safely evacuated.

In total, 22 people, including minors, were rescued and later taken to Shillong Civil Hospital for medical examination.

At least eight police personnel sustained injuries during the operation. Following identification of the key instigators, nine persons were arrested on Friday, and a case has been registered at Sohra police station.

More arrests are expected as the investigation continues, officials said. Police condemned the incident and urged citizens not to act on superstition or unfounded claims.

"Such acts of mob justice driven by superstition are dangerous and unacceptable. The law will take its course against those involved," the police officer said. (PTI)

Pradyot signals of forming platform with NE regional parties

HT Correspondent

AGARTALA, Oct 31: Tipra Motha founder and royal scion Pradyot Kishore Manikya Debbarma on Friday signalled the possibility of a common platform for all regional parties in the North East, saying a formal announcement is likely within the next three days.

In a message shared on social media, Pradyot emphasized that national security must take precedence over political differences, particularly in light of the upcoming elections in Bangladesh, where he warned that an anti-India government could emerge.

"The Centre will take us seriously only when we stop fighting among ourselves and unite under one voice for the people of the North East," Pradyot said. "If we stay divided, none of our states will benefit. But if we stand together, we can solve at least half of our problems. Within the next three days, we will make an important announcement," he added.

Pradyot also expressed concern over reports of fake Bangladeshi ID cards allegedly linked to some leaders in Tripura, calling it a conspiracy that could serve the interests of Bangladesh.

Highlighting growing security concerns, he claimed that Pakistani Brigadiers and Generals have been stationed in Bangladesh's Chittagong Hill Tracts under the guise of medical aid. "Doctors, not Generals, come for medical help. I fear that after the Bangladesh elections, an anti-India regime may rise to power. Their main targets won't be Mumbai or Delhi, but the North Eastern states — especially Assam, Meghalaya, and Tripura — where they could try to spread terror and communal discord," he warned. Underscoring the importance of unity, Pradyot said, "This is not about CPIM, BJP, or Tipra Motha — this is about protecting our people.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's leadership, statesmanship forged foundation of united India: Bhalla

IMPHAL, Oct 31: Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla on Friday said that National Unity Day is a reminder of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's courage and foresight in integrating more than 500 princely states into one Republic.

Addressing a gathering at the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) observance held at the 1st Battalion Manipur Rifles Parade Ground, Bhalla said, "Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's visionary leadership and unwavering statesmanship forged the foundation of a united, resolute, and sovereign India."

He said the celebration of National Unity Day is a reminder of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's courage and foresight in integrating more than 500 princely states into one Republic.

Bhalla also noted that the Statue of Unity stands as a lasting tribute to his leadership and as a symbol of India's collective strength, integrity, and resilience.

The governor also urged all citizens, particularly in Manipur, to uphold this spirit of unity by working together across communities and sustaining harmony in everyday life.

He further emphasised that Manipur's diversity is its strength, reflected in its shared traditions, cultural harmony, and the contribution of its people — from the women of Ima Keithel to the farmers, artisans, and youth across hills and valleys.

He also stressed that initiatives such as the Manipur State Rural Livelihood Mission, Skill Development Programmes, and women empowerment schemes are bridging divides and promoting inclusive growth and called upon the people of Manipur "to continue fostering understanding, empathy, and collaboration, affirming that true unity is built not merely on geographical integrity but on emotional integrity — the bond of mutual respect and shared purpose." (PTI)

Cong to support 'legitimate demands' of TMP if it walks out of BJP-led alliance: Roy Barman

AGARTALA, Oct 31: Senior Congress leader Sudip Roy Barman on Friday said the Congress will support all "legitimate demands" of the Tipra Motha Party (TMP) if it comes out of the BJP-led coalition government in Tripura.

TMP supremo Pradyot Kishore Manikya Debbarma has been pressing for implementation of the Tripura accord signed with the Centre and the state government in February last year to address the socio-economic development of

the tribals, he said during a press conference. Roy Barman said it was promised that the accord will be implemented in six months. It has been two years since the accord was inked, but no results are forthcoming so far.

"I exhort the Tipra Motha supremo to walk out of the alliance and hit the streets demanding immediate implementation of the accord. If the TMP does it, the Congress will join hands for economic, social, and political demands. But the people will not

accept the communal-centric policies," he said.

The Congress will support all the legitimate demands of the regional party, Roy Barman said.

On the empowerment of the Autonomous District Council under the Sixth Schedule, Roy Barman criticised the CPI(M) for the delay in sending the state government's views on the proposal for empowerment of the Tripura Tribal Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) with others in the Northeastern states. (PTI)

Meitei organisation objects to Sangai Festival, says peace yet to return to Manipur

IMPHAL, Oct 31: One of the apex bodies of Manipur's Meitei community on Friday said it is inappropriate for the state government to hold the annual Sangai Festival this year as the ethnic conflict in the state remains unresolved and internally displaced persons (IDPs) continue to languish in relief camps.

Addressing a press conference, Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI) con-

venor Laikhuram Jayenta said, "The conflict has displaced thousands of people, shattered livelihoods, and destroyed trust among communities and yet the government appears eager to showcase a false image of normalcy through festivals."

"It is not right to cover the harsh reality and show the world that peace has returned in the state when thousands of our people are still living in relief camps. The government cannot

mislead by painting a rosy picture of peace when the wounds of the people remain fresh," he said.

He stated that the government had made repeated assurances to facilitate the return of IDPs to their respective homes in a phased manner, with earlier statements indicating that displaced persons would be resettled by December.

"However, no concrete action or visible progress has been seen on the ground. IDPs living in relief



HT Correspondent

AGARTALA, Oct 31: Tripura is all set to host the much-anticipated "Unity Promo Fest 2025" from November 8 to December 12, a month-long celebration aimed at promoting tourism and fostering unity among the state's diverse communities.

The announcement was made by Tourism Minister Sushanta Chowdhury on Friday.

Building on the success of last year's "Promo Fest 2024", which was organized as a pilot initiative, the Tourism Department has decided to scale up the event this year to include all districts of the state. "The overwhelming response we

received last year encouraged us to make the festival grander and more inclusive. This event will not only promote tourism but also help boost local livelihoods," said Chowdhury.

Unlike its previous edition, which was limited to select venues, the Unity Promo Fest 2025 will be celebrated across Tripura — including the South and Gomati districts for the first time.

The festivities will kick off with a grand inauguration at Narikel Kunja on November 8 and 9, featuring food stalls, cultural performances, and a fashion show.

Subsequent events will be held at various scenic locations Belonia

of South District (Nov 15-16): Performances by local artists and playback singer Palak Muchhal, Udaipur, Gomati District (Nov 19-20): Live concert by popular singer Papon. Jampui Hills of North District (Nov 28-29): Musical acts by a band from Mizoram alongside local performers, Neer Mahal, Sepahijala district (Dec 4-5): Performance by Indian Idol winner Debojit Saha from Silchar.

The festival will conclude with a grand finale in Agartala on December 11 and 12, where celebrated Bollywood singer Zubeen Nautiyal will perform on the final night.

Minister Chowdhury expressed optimism that this year's edition will attract record-breaking crowds. He also highlighted that multiple tourism infrastructure projects worth several crores are underway to enhance the state's appeal and improve visitor experiences.

"The Unity Promo Fest 2025 is more than just a tourism campaign—it's a celebration of harmony, culture, and togetherness among all communities of Tripura," Chowdhury emphasized, underscoring the government's commitment to inclusive growth through cultural exchange.

Sardar Patel took great responsibility: Ibobi Singh

IMPHAL, Oct 31: Manipur Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Okram Ibobi Singh on Friday said that Sardar Vallabhai Patel took great responsibility in integrating the princely states into one country.

Ibobi told reporters, "Today, the Manipur Congress unit organised the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhai Patel and the 41st death anniversary of Indira Gandhi. We are paying gratitude to the two leaders."

The former three-time chief minister also said, "Gandhi embodied strength, determination and decisive leadership and worked for the unity and integrity of the country. Ibobi Singh also slammed former chief minister N Biren Singh and the BJP for taking credit over border fencing along the Manipur-Myanmar border. (PTI)

Nagaland holds unity march on Vallabhbhai Patel's birth anniv

HT Correspondent

DIMAPUR, Oct 31: The district level padayatra under the Sardar @150 Unity March was held across Nagaland to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India, on Friday.

The event was organised by MeraYuva Bharat (MY Bharat) under the Union ministry of youth affairs and sports, in coordination with the district administrations.

In Dimapur, the rally was flagged off by Khruza Keyho, additional DCP, Dimapur, from City Tower and culminated at Dimapur Government College, covering a distance of around three km.

More than 300 students, including NCC cadets, NSS volunteers, and youth club members, participated in the march carrying messages of unity, discipline, and national integration.

A short programme was held at



Dimapur Government College following the march. The event featured a cultural performance by MGM College students, while K Manikanta, district youth officer, MY Bharat, highlighted the objectives of the campaign and the values of Sardar Patel's leadership.

Dimapur DC Tinojongshi Chang, in his address, commended the efforts of the youth and participants, emphasising the importance

of unity, integrity, and perseverance as exemplified by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Drawing lessons from Patel's life, Chang urged the youth to embrace challenges, act with honesty, and uphold strong leadership guided by moral principles. In Zunheboto, the unity march was held from Amphiboto AOC junction to multi-purpose hall. The event was also held in other district headquarters of the state.

Mizoram launches tobacco-free youth campaign

AIZAWL, Oct 31: Mizoram on Friday launched tobacco-free youth campaign 3.0, reaffirming the state government's commitment to protect the health of young citizens.

Health and Family Welfare minister Lalrinpuui inaugurated the campaign at a function held in Aizawl.

Speaking on the occasion, Lalrinpuui said the primary objective of the tobacco-free youth campaign is to make tobacco-free villages and schools across the state.

A study by the health department shows that most of the drug addicts in the state start with tobacco and alcohol, she said.

Middle school children are also using tobacco and drugs, as per the study, the minister said.

"Tobacco use not only affects mental and physical health but also the environment around us and the financial management of an individual and families, and also our day-to-day life," Lalrinpuui said.

She also urged the participants to do their best in the fight against tobacco and its related diseases.

Tobacco use continues to be a major public health challenge, claiming over 13 lakh lives annually in the country.

The Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS-2019) reported that 8.4 per cent of students aged



13-15 years currently use tobacco products, with an average initiation age of just 10 years. Mizoram along with Arunachal Pradesh has the highest tobacco use among students in the age group of 13-15 years.

According to GYTS (2019) report, 44 per cent of students in Mizoram are currently using smoked tobacco, while 33 per cent use smokeless tobacco.

Around 63.7 per cent of smokers in the state were boys and 53 per cent were girls, while more girls (37.7%) used smokeless tobacco as

compared to boys (28.1%), it said.

Forty two per cent of students were exposed to secondhand smoke at home, while 51 per cent were exposed to tobacco smoke inside enclosed public places.

According to officials, the main reason for the high rate of tobacco use among students was due to peer influence.

They said that about 100 institutions in the state have now been declared "tobacco-free institutions" and efforts are on to achieve 100 per cent tobacco-free institutions. (PTI)

Drones, oil and escalation: Ukraine's deep strikes impact Russia, altering war calculations

KYIV, Oct 31: At a secret location in rural Ukraine, columns of attack drones are assembled at night and in near silence to strike deep inside Russia.

Their targets are strategic: oil refineries, fuel depots, and military logistics hubs. Since the summer, Ukraine's long-range drone campaign has ramped up dramatically, pounding energy infrastructure across Russia and stretching Moscow's air defences thin.

Built from parts made in a scattered network of workshops, these drones now fly much further than at any point in the war.

Officers in body armour move with quick precision; headlamps glow red to stay hidden. Engines sputter like old motorcycles as exhaust fumes drift into the moonless night. Minutes later, one after another, the drones lift from a makeshift runway and head east. The strikes have caused gasoline shortages in Russia, even forcing rationing in some regions and underscoring a growing vulnerability in the country's infrastructure.

Drones hammer refineries
Western analysts say the attacks on energy infrastructure so far have had a serious — but not crippling — effect. Ukrainian drones have repeatedly hit 16 major Russian refineries, representing about 38 per cent of the country's nominal refin-



ing capacity, according to a recent review by the Carnegie Endowment, a US-based think tank.

But it argues the actual impact has been considerably more limited: most plants resumed operations within weeks, and Russia's refining output has been cushioned by idle capacity and existing fuel surpluses.

The deep strikes have, however, given Kyiv the initiative at an important moment. The United States and Europe are ramping up sanctions on Russia's oil industry even as Kyiv's request for US long-range Tomahawk missiles has stalled. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy says Ukraine's improved long-range strike capability is causing real damage — forcing the Kremlin to import fuel and curb ex-

ports. "We believe they've lost up to 20 per cent of their gasoline supply — directly as a result of our strikes," he told reporters at a briefing in Kyiv.

At the secret launch site, the commander overseeing the operation — a broad-shouldered man identified by his call sign, "Fidel," in accordance with Ukrainian military regulations — watches through night-vision goggles as the drones climb into the star-filled sky.

"Drones are evolving," Fidel told The Associated Press. "Instead of flying 500 kilometers (310 miles), now they fly 1,000... Three factors go into a successful operation: the drones, the people and the planning. We want to deliver the best result. For us, this is a holy

mission."

Ukraine thrives on no-frills weapons

Much of Ukraine's fleet is home-grown. The Liutyi, a workhorse of the nightly attacks, is a waist-high craft with a sausage-shaped body, a propeller at the back, and a distinctive triangular tail.

It looks neither sleek nor intimidating — more Home Depot than Lockheed Martin — but the ease of assembly means it can be kept hidden and constantly tweaked: optimized to slip through heavily monitored frontline airspace.

Typical of Ukraine's no-frills war production philosophy, the Liutyi — whose name means "fierce" in Ukrainian — has become a symbol of national pride and recently featured on a local postage stamp.

The reach of these drones — with some models doubling in range over the past year to routinely strike targets within a 1,000-kilometer radius of the border — marks a shift in the geography of the conflict. Attacks a year ago damaged refineries in a much narrower range, mostly in western Russian border regions. Costs have also come down, further testing expensive air defense systems, with long-range drones now being produced in Ukraine for as little as USD 55,000. (AP)

APEC leaders open economic summit after Trump, Xi agreed on steps to ease trade tensions

GYEONGJU (SOUTH KOREA), Oct 31: Leaders of 21 Asian and Pacific Rim nations opened their annual summit Friday to discuss how to promote economic cooperation and tackle shared challenges, a day after President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed to take steps to ease their escalating trade war.

This year's two-day Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in the South Korean city of Gyeongju has been heavily overshadowed by Thursday's Trump-Xi meeting.

Trump described the meeting as a roaring success, saying he would cut tariffs on China, while Beijing had agreed to allow the export of rare earth elements and start buying American soybeans.

Their deals were a relief to the world economy, as experts previously warned that a failure to dial down trade tensions between the world's two largest economies were certain to deepen global economic uncertainties.

Established in 1989 during a period of increased globalisation, APEC represents more than half of global trade.

The forum champions free and open trade and investment to accelerate regional economic integration and has also been credited with bringing together countries embroiled in competitions to work together on common initiatives without binding statements.

The APEC region now faces challenges like strategic competitions between the US and China, supply chain vulnerabilities, ageing populations and the impact of AI on jobs. The US strategy has been shifted to economic competitions with China rather than cooperation, with Trump's tariff hikes and "America first" agenda shaking markets and threatening decades of globalisation and multinationalism.

Opening the summit as chair, South Korean President Lee Jae Myung called for greater cooperation and solidarity to overcome new challenges.

"It's obvious that we can't always stand on the same side, as our national interests are at stake. But we can join together for the ultimate goal of shared prosperity," Lee said. "I hope we will have candid and constructive discussions on how we can achieve APEC's vision in the face of the new challenge of a rapidly changing international economic environment."

Trump left South Korea after his meeting

with the Chinese president, and international media spotlight is now on Xi, whose government has portrayed itself as a defender of free trade and an alternative to US protectionism.

It's Xi's first visit to South Korea in 11 years, and he's scheduled to meet Lee and new Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kishida separately on Friday.

Despite Trump's optimism after a 100-minute meeting with Xi, there continues to be the potential for major tensions between the countries, with both seeking dominant places in manufacturing and developing emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence.

"It is certainly a contribution to bring the leaders of the two largest economies together for a meeting where they agreed to withdraw their most extreme tariff and export control threats. As a result, worst-case outcomes for global trade were averted," said Leif-Eric Easley, professor of international studies at Ewha Womans University in Seoul.

"However, APEC is meant to be more than a venue for a trade war truce," Easley said. "Greater multilateral efforts are needed to address the region's most pressing economic challenges, including resisting costly and destabilising protectionism, harmonising regulations for sustainable trade, and coordinating standards for digital innovation."

South Korean officials said they've been communicating with other countries to prod all 21 members to adopt a joint statement at the end of the summit so as not to repeat the failure to issue one in 2018 in Papua New Guinea due to US-China discord over trade.

South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Hyun said last week that issuing a joint statement strongly endorsing free trade would be unlikely because of differing positions among APEC members. He instead anticipated a broader declaration emphasising peace and prosperity in the region.

As host nation, South Korea places a priority on discussing AI cooperation and demographic challenges such as ageing population and low birth rates, under the theme "Building a Sustainable Tomorrow: Connect, Innovate, Prosper."

South Korean officials say APEC members will share exemplary cases of responses to AI and demographic issues, explore common steps and formulate new growth strategies during this week's summit. (AP)

Sri Lanka, India talks on power grid integration move forward

COLOMBO, Oct 31: India and Sri Lanka held talks to push forward the modalities related to the implementation of the proposed bilateral power grid connectivity, the Indian High Commission said here Friday. A virtual meeting was held between the senior power sector officials of the two countries on Thursday, the High Commission said in a statement.

The two neighbours had confirmed the technical parameters of the India-Sri Lanka power grid interconnection during a meeting in Delhi on June 16, 2025. "Both sides discussed aspects pertaining to the implementation related modalities of the power grid project," a release said.

The transmission line will enable Sri Lanka to import electricity during shortages and export renewable energy, earning foreign exchange.

It will also open up new opportunities for diversifying exports and energy sources, improving grid stability and integrating into the regional power market, the statement added. India and Sri Lanka concluded the pact on electricity grid interconnection, a project that has been on the drawing board for some time, in April 2025. (PTT)

Spiralling effects of shutdown leave lawmakers grasping for ways to end it

WASHINGTON, Oct 31: Certain senators know it. House Speaker Mike Johnson knows it. And with President Donald Trump back in Washington from his overseas trip, perhaps the White House knows it, too.

For many, it's time for the government shutdown to come to an end.

From coast to coast, fallout from the dysfunction of a shuttered federal government is hitting home: Alaskans are stocking up on snare, caribou and fish for winter, even before SNAP food aid is scheduled to shut off. Mainers are filling up their home-heating oil tanks, but waiting on the federal subsidies that are nowhere in sight. Flights are being delayed with holiday travel around the corner. Workers are going without paychecks. And Americans are getting a first glimpse of the skyrocketing health care insurance costs that are at the centre of the stalemate on Capitol Hill.

"People are stressing," said Sen Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, as food options in her state grow scarce.

"We are well past time to have this behind us."

While quiet talks are underway, particularly among bipartisan senators, the

China's Xi promises to protect free trade at APEC as Trump snubs major summit

GYEONGJU (SOUTH KOREA), Oct 31: Chinese leader Xi Jinping told Asia-Pacific leaders on Friday that his country would help to defend global free trade at an annual economic regional forum snubbed by US President Donald Trump.

Xi took centre stage at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit that began Friday in the South Korean city of Gyeongju, as Trump left the country a day earlier after reaching deals with Xi meant to ease their escalating trade war.

This year's two-day APEC summit has been heavily overshadowed by the Trump-Xi meeting that was arranged on the sidelines.

Trump described his Thursday meeting with Xi as a roaring success, saying he would cut tariffs on China, while Beijing had agreed to allow the export of rare earth elements and start buying American soybeans. Their deals were a relief to a world economy rattled by trade tensions between the world's two largest economies.

Trump's decision to skip APEC fits with his well-known disdain for big, multi-nation forums that have been traditionally used to address global problems. But his blunt dismissal of APEC risks worsening America's reputation at a forum that represents nearly 40 per cent of the world's population and more than half of global goods trade.

Xi defends multilateralism

"The more turbulent the times, the more we must work together," Xi said during APEC's opening session. "The world is undergoing a period of rapid change, with the international situation becoming increasingly complex and volatile."

Xi called for maintaining supply chain stability, in a riposte to US efforts to decouple its supply chains from China.

Xi also expressed hopes to work with other countries to expand cooperation in green industries and clean energy. Chinese exports of its solar panels, electric vehicles and other green tech have been criticised for creating oversupplies and undercutting the domestic industries of countries it exports to.

It's Xi's first visit to South Korea in 11 years. On the sidelines of the summit, Xi had bilateral meetings with new Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney and Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul on Friday. Xi is to meet South Korean President Lee Jae Myung on Saturday for a meeting expected to discuss North Korea's nuclear program.

US Secretary of the Treasury Scott Bessent, who attended the summit on Trump's behalf, said a US move to rebalance its trade relationships would ensure that "each country operates on fair and reciprocal terms." He added that the US is "investing with its trading partners to build resilient production networks that reduce dependence on vulnerable sectors."

APEC faces challenges

Established in 1989 during a period of increased globalisation, APEC champions free and open trade and investment to accelerate regional economic integration. But the APEC region now faces challenges like strategic competitions between the US and China, supply chain vulnerabilities, ageing populations and the impact of AI on jobs. The US strategy has shifted to economic competition with China rather than cooperation, with Trump's tariff hikes and "America first" agenda shaking markets and threatening decades of globalisation and multinationalism.

Leaders and other representatives from 21 Asia-Pacific Rim economies are attending the APEC meeting to discuss how to promote economic cooperation and



tackle shared challenges. Opening the summit as chair, Lee called for greater cooperation and solidarity to overcome new challenges.

"It's obvious that we can't always stand on the same side, as our national interests are at stake. But we can join together for the ultimate goal of shared prosperity," Lee said. "I hope we will have candid and constructive discussions on how we can achieve APEC's vision in the face of the new challenge of a rapidly changing international economic environment."

Carney reiterated his government's plan to double its non-US exports in the next decade, as he said that "our world is undergoing one of the most profound shifts since the fall of the Berlin Wall."

Despite Trump's optimism after a 100-minute meeting with Xi, there continues to be the potential for major tensions between the countries, with both seeking dominant places in manufacturing and developing emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence.

"It is certainly a contribution to bring the leaders of the two largest economies together for a meeting where they agreed to withdraw their most extreme tariff and export control threats. As a result, worst-case outcomes for global trade were averted," said Leif-Eric Easley, professor of international studies at Ewha Womans University in Seoul.

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Host South Korea pushes for a joint statement

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Palestinian militants hand over remains of two more hostages to Red Cross in Gaza

JERUSALEM, Oct 31: Hospital officials in Gaza say that Israel has handed over the bodies of 30 Palestinians. Friday's handover comes a day after Palestinian militants in Gaza turned over the remains of two hostages to Israel.

Israel's military said Thursday that Palestinian militants handed over the remains of two more hostages, in the latest indication that the fragile ceasefire agreement is moving forward despite Israeli strikes on Gaza this week.

The two sets of remains were given to the Red Cross in Gaza, then transported into Israel by troops and taken to the National Institute of Forensic Medicine for identification, the Israeli military said.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said late Thursday that the remains had been confirmed as those of Sahar Baruch and Amiram Cooper, both taken hostage during the Oct. 7, 2023, attack by Hamas that set off the war. (AP)

Malaysia urges ASEAN to expand defence cooperation in cyberspace

KUALA LUMPUR (MALAYSIA), Oct 31: Malaysia called Friday for fellow members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to extend their security partnerships from the high seas to cyberspace at an annual meeting of the bloc's defence ministers.

Defence Minister Mohamed Khaled Nordin opened the meeting by warning that regional peace faces growing pressure from both traditional and emerging threats, including rising tensions in the South China Sea and the spread of cyberattacks that can "disrupt societies, topple governments and undermine critical infrastructure."

"Threats today transcend borders and dimensions," he said. "We see the challenges in the South China Sea. But we must also recognise that our digital

realm is equally at risk. The threats that test our networks and systems may be invisible, but just as dangerous as those threatening our maritime zones.

ASEAN defence ministers will hold talks Saturday with dialogue partners including the United States, China, Japan, India, Australia, South Korea and Russia. Among those attending are US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth, who arrived late Wednesday, and his Chinese counterpart Dong Jun.

Khaled also urged all ASEAN nations to expedite the formation of an ASEAN observer team to support Thailand and Cambodia in resolving their border crisis. The two nations inked an expanded ceasefire pact on Sunday, witnessed by US President Donald Trump and Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, who is this year's ASEAN chair. (AP)

Pakistan, Afghanistan agree to resume talks: report

ISLAMABAD, Oct 31: Pakistan and Afghanistan on Friday agreed to ensure maintenance of a ceasefire on the border and resume talks to salvage the peace process that hit snags early this week, according to a report.

A second round of discussions between Pakistani and Afghan Taliban delegations had begun in Istanbul on Saturday, but failed after Pakistan accused the Taliban of showing reluctance to give assurances to stop cross-border attacks.

A joint statement released by Türkiye, the host of the latest round of talks, early on Friday stated "further modalities of the implementation will be discussed and decided" during a principal-level meeting in Istanbul on November 6, Dawn reported on Friday.

Though the statement didn't specify who the "principals" would be, it is expected that it



meant the defence ministers of the two countries, who led their sides in the first round in Doha, would now meet in Istanbul, the report added.

The joint statement further said that during this period, the two countries also agreed on a "monitoring and verification mechanism" to ensure the maintenance of peace and to impose a penalty on the side that breaches the ceasefire.

"All parties have agreed to put in place a monitoring and verification mechanism that will ensure maintenance of peace and imposing penalty on the violating party," said the joint statement released by Türkiye's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The statement further said that as mediators, Türkiye and Qatar expressed their appreciation for the "active contribution of both parties"

and the two countries will continue their cooperation with both sides for "lasting peace and stability".

Türkiye and Qatar have deep ties with Pakistan, while Qatar also played a major role in the negotiations between the Afghan Taliban and NATO forces, the report said.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid, commenting on the development, said, "Just as the Islamic emirate seeks good relations with other neighbouring countries, it also desires positive ties with Pakistan and remains committed to relations based on mutual respect, non-interference in internal affairs and not posing a threat to any side."

The joint statement came shortly after Defence Minister Khawaja Asif — who had earlier issued a strongly worded warning to Kabul after the stalemate in talks — said

that a "ray of light" was visible in the Istanbul negotiations.

"Different drafts are being exchanged for an eventual agreement. You can say that some ray of light is visible; there is very guarded optimism. Let's hope that some shape emerges from this," he stated while speaking on a Geo News show.

"Qatar and Türkiye are very respected by us and are our well-wishers. Türkiye clearly openly supported us in the Pakistan-India conflict, so we respect them and their opinion," the defence minister said.

The Istanbul negotiations centred on Pakistan's core demand that Afghanistan take "clear, verifiable and irreversible action" against the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and other terrorist groups involved in cross-border attacks from Afghan territory, the report said. (PTI)

CM Pema Khandu and Chimpu Police lead 'Run for Unity' on Rashtriya Ekta Diwas

Tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, promoting national integration, community participation and civic responsibility

HT Correspondent

ITANAGAR, Oct 31: Chimpu Police Station, Itanagar, organised a "Run for Unity" to mark Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, commemorating the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Over 100 participants, including police personnel, Cyber Police Unit staff, local youth, market members, volunteers and residents, took part in the event, highlighting strong police-public collaboration.

The run began at Chimpu Check Gate and ended at Chimpu Police Station, followed by a sapling plantation ceremony promoting environmental responsibility. Additionally, Chimpu PS conducted a Recovered Mobile Handover Programme, returning 30 traced smartphones to their owners, part of over 400 devices returned this year.

The event was attended by SP Itanagar Capital Jumar Basar, who participated in the run and plantation, and SDPO Kengo Dirchi. Addressing the gathering, SP Basar urged citizens to uphold peace, unity and national integration. The programme was



coordinated by Inspector N Nishant, Officer-in-Charge, with active participation from Chimpu PS staff.

Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Friday led the 'Run for Unity' organised by the state BJP to mark Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, commemorating the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

The event celebrated Patel's pivotal role in national integration and aimed to reinforce the message of unity and collective progress. The run began at 6:30 AM from the BJP state headquar-

ters at Vivek Vihar and concluded at Indira Gandhi Park. A large number of party workers and supporters participated, reflecting strong public enthusiasm for the national integration campaign.

BJP state president Kaling Moyong, Assembly Deputy Speaker Kardo Nyigyor and several senior leaders joined the chief minister in the event. The BJP has been observing the day across the country with mass participation activities to honour Patel's legacy.

Sharing his thoughts on social media, Khandu said it was "al-

ways a source of great energy and inspiration to be among our dedicated party karyakartas, united in the spirit of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat." He added that he and state BJP president Kaling Moyong flagged off the run to pay tribute to Patel's efforts in unifying the nation.

The chief minister also extended greetings to the people of the state, stating "Warm greetings on Rashtriya Ekta Diwas! On the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, we pay tribute to the Iron Man of India, whose resolute leadership united the nation." He urged citizens to reaffirm their commitment to national integrity, unity and collective progress.

Observed every year on October 31, Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) commemorates the birth anniversary of Sardar Patel, who played a crucial role in integrating over 500 princely states into the Indian Union after Independence. The day is marked by nationwide events emphasising national integration, security and unity. (Inputs from PTI)

Forum questions procedure followed in issuing Scheduled Tribe certificates, plans sit-in protest

APSTPF seeks clarification on grant of ST status to Yobin tribe



HT Correspondent

ITANAGAR, Oct 31: The Arunachal Pradesh Schedule Tribe Protection Forum (APSTPF), in a press conference held at the Arunachal Press Club (APC) in Itanagar, raised concerns over the process of issuing Scheduled Tribe (ST) certificates to members of the Yobin community in the state.

Referring to recent clarifications made by the Yobin Welfare Society and the Yobin Fundamental Forum, the APSTPF stated that the matter remains unclear to many. The forum noted that although the

Constitution of India provides for the issuance of ST certificates, the manner in which the Yobin tribe obtained theirs is questionable.

APSTPF leaders pointed out that while the central government had granted citizenship rights to the Yobin tribe, the due constitutional process for granting ST status—comprising verification by the State ST Commission, NCST, inter-ministerial committee review, cabinet approval and finally, a presidential notification—had not been properly followed. They claimed that although ST certificates were issued to the commu-

nity over a decade ago, they were later cancelled.

The forum recalled that the 1950 Presidential notification recognised 11 tribes as Scheduled Tribes in Arunachal Pradesh, which was later expanded to 16 through constitutional amendments, but the Yobin tribe was not among them. Even in the 2021 amendment, which included communities such as the Khamti, Mishmi, Monpa and Mema, the Yobin tribe was not listed.

Citing a Karnataka court ruling that only Parliament can amend the Presidential Order concerning Scheduled Tribes, the APSTPF maintained that their stand is not against any community but seeks adherence to constitutional procedure.

The forum announced plans to hold a sit-in dharna on November 7 as part of its democratic movement to raise public awareness and press the state government for immediate clarification on the issue.

IMD warns of heavy rain and thunderstorms

ITANAGAR, Oct 31: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast heavy rainfall, thunderstorms and lightning activity across Arunachal Pradesh from Saturday onwards.

The intensity is expected to peak on Saturday, with very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places in Tawang, West Kameng, Lower Subansiri and Anjaw, prompting preparedness alerts in these districts. Lower Dibang Valley may also experience heavy rain with thunderstorms in isolated areas, while fairly widespread to widespread showers are expected across districts such as East Kameng, Papum Pare, Kurung Kumey, Kra Daadi, Kamle, Upper Subansiri, Upper Siang, West Siang, Siang, Lepa Rada, Lower Siang, East Siang, Lohit, Namsai and Dibang Valley.

According to the IMD, the surge in rainfall activity is due to favourable atmospheric conditions. The department cautioned that temporary traffic disruptions, water logging in low-lying areas and minor landslides on vulnerable slopes are possible, especially in the hilly western and eastern parts of the state.

Rainfall is expected to continue into Sunday, accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning, though the intensity may ease slightly after the initial heavy phase. A watch alert has been issued for several regions, with residents and travellers advised to stay updated on weather developments.

From Monday, conditions are likely to improve as major warnings are withdrawn. Only isolated light rainfall is expected in some areas, with the wet spell gradually receding. By Tuesday and Wednesday, most parts of the state are expected to experience predominantly dry and clearer weather. (PTI)

ARC meets Tawang officials to strengthen governance

HT Correspondent

TAWANG, Oct 31: The Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) Chairman Pramod Jain and Member Hento Karga convened an interactive meeting with Heads of Offices (HoOs), Gaon Burahs (GBs) and PRI members at the Deputy Commissioner's Office conference hall in Tawang on Thursday.

Chairman Jain highlighted the importance of administrative reforms for improving governance efficiency and transparency, encouraging participants to share practical suggestions and grassroots insights. Officials discussed challenges faced by their departments, particularly regarding human resource constraints.

The Commission appreciated



the inputs and assured that all suggestions would be carefully considered in its forthcoming recommendations to the government. The meeting concluded with

a vote of thanks from Addl DC Tawang Rinchin Leta and a renewed commitment to efficient, responsive and citizen-centric governance in the district.

APLA bids farewell to retiring staff



HT Correspondent

ITANAGAR, Oct 31: The Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly Secretariat on Friday bid a warm farewell to Manngam Atta, Assistant, on his retirement from government service. Atta began his career in the Assembly as an Attendant in 1988, through hard work and dedication, rose to the position of Assistant. He rendered 36 years and 4 months of sincere and devoted service to the institution. The farewell programme was attended by the Secretary APLA, Tadar Meena, Joint Secretary, K Jugli, along with officers and staff of the Assembly Secretariat, who extended their best wishes to Shri Atta for a happy and healthy retired life.

Farewell ceremony for Deputy Director Marbang Ezing

HT Correspondent

ITANAGAR, Oct 31: A retirement farewell ceremony in honour of Marbang Ezing, Deputy Director, was held on Friday at the Conference Hall of the Directorate of Information and Public Relations (Soochna Bhawan), Itanagar.

The event was chaired by Secretary IPR Nyali Ete and attended by Under Secretary Bishwajit Goswami, Director IPR Gijum Tali, along with officers and staff. The programme began with a welcome address by Deputy Director Dengia Bengia, followed by speeches appreciating Ezing's professionalism, dedication and mentorship throughout his career. In his farewell address, Ezing reflected on his journey from his appointment as DIPRO at Tezu in May 1994 to his promotion as Deputy Director in August 2023, retiring on October 31, 2025, after over 31 years of service. He thanked colleagues for their support and extended apologies for any unintended harshness during his tenure.

Arunachal: Congress urges Governor on voter threats

ITANAGAR, Oct 31: The Congress in Arunachal Pradesh on Friday sought Governor K T Parnaik's intervention to ensure free and fair panchayat elections in the state, alleging that a group is threatening villagers in Longding, Tirap and Changlang districts to support only BJP-sponsored ZPM candidates.

Arunachal Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) president Bosiram Siram, who led a delegation to Raj Bhavan here, submitted a detailed memorandum and claimed grassroots political rights were being jeopardised in the three districts falling under the terror-affected TCL region.

The party expressed "deep concern" that coercive directives had reportedly been issued, warning village leaders and general public of a fine of ₹ 20 lakh or dire consequences if they defy the order during the upcoming rural body polls.

Siram was accompanied by APCC working president Techhi Tagi Tara, general secretary-cum-spokespersons Chera Taya and Kon Jirjo Jotham, a party statement said here.

Terming the alleged threats a "grave assault on democracy and constitutional rights", the APCC urged the governor to direct the state government, State Election Commission and police to act immediately to secure voters and candidates from any intimidation by non-state actors.

"Such unlawful intimidation undermines the sanctity of elections and poses a serious challenge to peace in the region," the memorandum said.

The party said copies of the memorandum were also submitted to the chief secretary, chief minister, state election commissioner and director general of police, pressing for coordinated administrative and security arrangements to prevent any disruption.

Speaking to the Governor, Siram stressed that democratic choice must prevail.

"No force, external or internal, should be allowed to dictate the will of the people. The Congress party stands firmly for protection of democracy, peace and rule of law in Arunachal Pradesh," he said.

He further appealed to democratic stakeholders, civil society organisations and the general public to remain vigilant and united against attempts to suppress electoral rights or influence voting through fear.

The APCC said the governor gave a patient hearing to the concerns raised and shared his own understanding of the prevailing situation in the TCL districts. He assured the delegation that he would take up the matter with the chief minister, chief secretary and DGP to ensure necessary action. (PTI)

K T Parnaik honours Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, urge citizens to uphold unity and integrity Guv leads National Unity Day celebration



ITANAGAR, Oct 31: Governor Lt Gen (Retd) K T Parnaik on Friday urged citizens to uphold the principles of unity, national integrity and sovereignty with renewed commitment, drawing inspiration from the leadership of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who played a key role in integrating the nation post-Independence.

Addressing the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) event

at Raj Bhavan here, the governor said Patel's life serves as a timeless example of how perseverance, integrity and strong leadership can bring transformative change to society.

"In a world where moral values are constantly tested, the youth must take inspiration from Patel's unwavering sense of duty, ethical conduct and fearless decision-making," he said.

The governor, accompanied by senior officers and staff of Raj Bhavan, offered floral tributes to Sardar Patel, often revered as the 'Iron Man of India', whose birth anniversary is observed nationwide as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas to reinforce the message of unity and national integration.

Parnaik highlighted Patel's unmatched role in bringing more than 560 princely states into the

Indian Union following Independence, calling it one of the greatest acts of nation-building in history.

He particularly recalled Patel's support to Major Bob Ralengnao Khathing, whose landmark efforts ensured the integration of Tawang and Arunachal Pradesh into India, thereby reinforcing the nation's territorial integrity and strengthening its borders.

"Sardar Patel embodied both 'shakti' (strength) and 'vishwas' (confidence), the vital qualities that helped unify this great and diverse country," the governor remarked, noting that these values still remain essential in safeguarding national cohesion. Calling for collective contribution to the nation's progress, Parnaik appealed to the people of the state to imbibe the spirit of "Nation First," as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He stressed that citizens must work together with dedication, discipline, and patriotism towards building a strong, united, and Viksit Bharat, a developed India that reflects the dreams of its founding leaders. (PTI)

Three arrested in Sanggo school sexual assault case

HT Correspondent

PASIGHAT, Oct 31: On Wednesday, Mebo Police Station received a complaint from a parent of a student at Sanggo English Medium School, Mebo, regarding alleged molestation and sexual assault by the hostel warden. The FIR also mentioned similar acts committed against three other minor students of the hostel. Considering the sensitivity and seriousness of the complaint, OC PS Mebo promptly detained the accused and forwarded the matter to the Women Police Station (WPS), Pasighat, as the case involved minor victims.

Upon perusal of the FIR, OC WPS Pasighat registered a case vide Pasighat WPS Case No 26/2025 under sections 4(2) and 6 of the POCSO Act, 2012 at 1530 hrs. The accused, Hen Johnson Vaiphei (32), S/o Khama Vaiphei, R/o Churachandpur District, Manipur, working as the hostel warden, was arrested and produced before the Special Judge (POCSO) and remanded to judicial custody. During the investigation, further complaints were received from other victims and their parents mentioning the role of the school Principal and accountant in concealing the offences and failing to report them. Accordingly, additional sections 21(2) of the POCSO Act, 2012 and 61(2) (a)/3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023 were added to the case.

On Thursday, two additional arrests were made in the case: Th Hoinu Vaiphei (56), Principal of the school and Niangdoitong Vaiphei, the school accountant, both residents of Churachandpur District,



Manipur. A Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been constituted at the district level to ensure the case is investigated with impartiality and fairness. The SIT is headed by SDPO Pasighat Dr Akanksha Miliind Tamgadage, IPS and comprises the OC WPS, OC Mebo and the IO of the case.

On the request of the SP East Siang, a special medical board has been constituted by the Joint Director of Bakin Pertin General Hospital (BPGH), Pasighat, to examine and provide medical care to the victims. So far, 22 victims have been medically examined at BPGH, Pasighat. The place of occurrence has been visited by the team and supervisory officers and relevant school records, admission registers and material including mobile phones has been seized for forensic analysis.

The Addl Deputy Commissioner, Mebo, issued an order vide No MO/JUDL/03/2025, directing that Sanggo Residential School, Mebo, be closed with immediate effect until further orders. All staff of the school has been instructed to remain within Mebo Sub-Division

and not leave without written permission from the investigating officer. Statements of victims and their parents are being recorded in a child-friendly and sensitive manner, as per the provisions of the POCSO Act, 2012.

Coordination with the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and One Stop Centre (OSC), Pasighat, has been initiated to ensure psychological support, welfare assistance and rehabilitation of the victims. Examination of other school staff, teachers and management members is underway to ascertain further facts. The investigation is being closely supervised by the Superintendent of Police, East Siang, to ensure transparency, sensitivity and adherence to due legal process. The police remain committed to ensuring that the privacy, dignity and best interests of all children are upheld in accordance with the POCSO Act, 2012, with all necessary legal, medical and welfare measures being taken to ensure justice and protection for the victims.

MLA Nabam Vivek launches Nasha Mukta Abhiyan

HT Correspondent

YUPIA, Oct 31: The Doimukh Assembly Constituency MLA and PPA state president Nabam Vivek on Thursday, while launching the "Nasha Mukta Abhiyan" at Yupia, appealed to the youths to remain away from bad addictions and drugs to maintain a healthy and long life.

Terming the youths as the future, the Doimukh MLA said that today is a special occasion as we are here speaking about addiction. He emphasised

that any addiction in life should be for a good cause, but it has been observed that many youths have lost and damaged their lives due to drug addiction, which not only harms youthful life but also causes huge losses to family peace and economy.

"If you want to live a healthy and long life, you have to love yourself and if you love yourself, you will not want to join bad habits or fall in the company of the wrong people," said MLA Vivek.

Women encouraged to opt for preventive screening at awareness session on breast cancer in Manesar

GURUGRAM, Oct 31: As part of efforts to promote early detection of breast cancer, a private hospital in Manesar on Friday organised a workshop and awareness session in combination with golf to encourage preventive screening.

The event 'Swing for PINK' by Fortis Hospital, Manesar, in collaboration with BirdiesConnect aims to highlight how awareness, sports and collective action can make a real impact on women's health.

The event brought together women golfers, healthcare specialists and wellness advocates.

The key highlight of the event was a breast cancer awareness workshop led by Dr Mansi Chowhan, consultant, surgical oncology, Fortis Manesar.

Participants also had the opportunity to experience Thermalytix, an innovative AI-enabled, radiation-free thermal imaging screening tool that provides a comfortable and non-invasive method for detecting early signs of breast abnormalities.

Dr Chowhan said the event brought together the power of sport and health to raise vital awareness of breast cancer.

"Through this unique workshop, we emphasised on the importance of regular screenings and early detection. As part of the initiative, we offered a radiation-free, AI-powered screening Thermalytix - a non-invasive thermal imaging tool that enables comfortable, accessible screening for all women," she said.

Mahipal Singh Bhanot, Business Head, Fortis Gurugram, Fortis Manesar, Fortis Shalimar Bagh and Fortis Vasant Kunj, said the event is about creating awareness in a relatable, uplifting environment and taking meaningful steps towards women's wellness.

"Through sport and conversation, we hope to break stigmas, spark dialogue, and encourage women to prioritise preventive health and regular screening," Bhanot said. Dr Alka Singh, Chief Medical Officer, Gurugram said, "Breast cancer is one of the most commonly diagnosed cancers among women. Awareness and regular screening are vital for prevention." (PTI)

'Due to the Congress's weak policies, a part of Kashmir went under the illegal occupation of Pak'
Nehru prevented Patel from fully integrating Kashmir into Indian Union: Modi

EKTA NAGAR (GUJARAT), Oct 31: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday launched a sharp attack on country's first premier Jawaharlal Nehru, claiming he prevented Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel from fully integrating Kashmir into the Indian Union.

Addressing the national celebrations on the occasion of Sardar Patel's 150th birth anniversary at the Statue of Unity in Ekta Nagar, Modi asserted the subsequent "mistake" on Kashmir, resulting from the wish of the then-Prime Minister not being fulfilled, led to decades of turmoil and bloodshed in the region.

During his speech, Modi also referenced "Operation Sindoor" declaring the world has witnessed that India will "strike within enemy territory" if challenged, underscoring the country will "never compromise on its security and honour" and a message that "this is the India of the Iron Man, Sardar Patel."

He also raised the issue of infiltrators, calling them a "grave threat" to national unity and the demographic balance.

"Many in today's younger generation may not be aware that Sardar Patel wished for the complete integration of Kashmir, just as he had successfully merged other princely states," Modi said.

He said independent India's first home minister believed one should not waste time writing history but "we should work hard to create history."

Modi noted the Kashmir region was ultimately divided by a separate constitution and emblem, remarking the initial error "engulfed the nation in turmoil for decades."

The PM's address focused heavily on national unity and security, infiltration of illegal immigrants, contrasting the "steely resolve" of Patel with the approach of post-independence governments, which he accused of adopting "spineless" policies.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday launched a sharp attack on country's first premier Jawaharlal Nehru, claiming he prevented Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel from fully integrating Kashmir into the Indian Union.

"Due to the Congress's weak policies, a part of Kashmir went under the illegal occupation of Pakistan, which then fueled state-sponsored terrorism. Kashmir and the country paid a heavy price, yet the Congress always bowed down to terrorism. The Congress forgot Sardar Patel's vision, but we have not," he told the gathering at the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas celebrations.

Modi blamed infiltration for disrupting India's demographic balance, and said that for the first time the country has decided to have a decisive fight against this threat and will remove each and every infiltrator from its soil.

He highlighted Patel's success in accomplishing the "seemingly impossible task" of integrating over 550 princely states after independence.

The PM regretted that subsequent governments, following Patel's demise, did not demonstrate the same commitment to national sovereignty, pointing to Kashmir problems and said due to "weak policies," a part of Kashmir fell under Pakistan's illegal occupation.

Extending his critique beyond Kashmir, Modi regretted that successive post-Patel governments "did not demonstrate the same seriousness towards national sovereignty," pointing to challenges in

the Northeast and the spread of Naxal-Maoist terrorism as direct consequences.

He drew a direct contrast between the past and his government's tenure, asserting after 2014, the nation "once again witnessed a steely resolve inspired by Sardar Patel."

"Today, Kashmir has broken free from the shackles of Article 370 and is fully integrated into the mainstream," the PM said adding, this move has made "Pakistan and the masterminds of terrorism" realise "the true strength of India."

On infiltration, he accused previous governments of prioritising "vote-bank politics" over national security by ignoring this issue and affirmed the country's resolve to fight this threat.

"These illegal immigrants have been occupying the resources and disturbing the demographic balance, putting the country's unity at stake. But, past governments turned a blind eye to this important issue. For the sake of vote bank politics, the country's security was deliberately put at risk," he alleged.

Now, for the first time, the country has decided to fight a decisive battle against this big threat as well, Modi said, adding he had announced the formation of a Demography Mission from the Red Fort in August. (PTI)

RSS should be banned, PM Modi 'insulting' Patel's legacy: Kharage

NEW DELHI, Oct 31: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharage on Friday said that in his personal opinion, the RSS should be banned as most law and order problems in the country are arising because of the BJP-RSS.

He also charged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has insulted the legacy of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel by allowing government employees to be associated with the Sangh.

Kharage hit back at Modi after he attacked the party on Patel's birth anniversary, and cited Patel's remarks criticising the RSS following the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi in 1948.

Responding to a question on banning the RSS again, Kharage said, "It is my personal opinion and I will say it openly, it should be done" as most of the issues and law and order problems are all arising because of the BJP-RSS.

He said what Patel put forth before us, the prime minister and Home Minister Amit Shah should pay heed to them.

Asked about government lifting the ban on government employees associating with the RSS, Kharage said when Patel himself banned the RSS, "then naturally he is disrespecting our Vallabhbhai Patel ji, who himself gave all the reasons why he banned the RSS and there is no ambiguity."

The Congress chief said Patel wanted to bring in unity and peace and he fought for it. Patel had banned the RSS in the aftermath of Mahatma Gandhi's assassination.

"But after bringing unity in the country, anyone who tries to break that unity should be taught a lesson. And, you know who are those people who are breaking that unity," he said.

Asked further if this would create an atmosphere of disunity, Kharage said, "I clearly feel that something which had ended, this government has revived that and these people will be responsible for whatever happens in the country." He said till 2024, nothing happened and now that it is not good for the country to once again "awaken the people."

"This is not good for the country and it is like tasting poison, whose result is certain death. There is no need to taste poison once again. The things being done by Modi ji are not good for the country," he said.

Kharage also alleged that references to Mahatma Gandhi, Nathuram Godse, the RSS, and the 2002 Gujarat riots have been removed from NCERT books and accused the prime minister of distorting truth.

"Erasing the truth from textbooks is not right - it reveals their intentions. They always try to turn lies into truth. Our Prime Minister is an expert in this, and his followers are walking the same path. Sardar Patel had banned the RSS to protect secularism and democratic structure," he said.

Noting that today is the birth anniversary of Patel and death anniversary of former prime minister Indira



Congress president Mallikarjun Kharage on Friday said that in his personal opinion, the RSS should be banned as most law and order problems in the country are arising because of the BJP-RSS.

This is the history of the Congress and its contribution, Kharage said at a press conference here.

Kharage cited a letter written by Patel to Syama Prasad Mookerjee in which the then home minister said the RSS had created an atmosphere that led to the tragedy of Mahatma Gandhi's assassination.

They always tried to portray a rift between India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Patel when they had great ties and both had praised each other, Kharage said.

Nehru hailed Patel for shaping India's unity and Patel called Nehru an ideal for the country.

Kharage recalled a letter written by Patel to Mukherjee on February 4, 1948, in which he said, "On Gandhiji's death, the RSS members expressed such joy and distributed sweets, which further intensified the opposition. In these circumstances, the government had no choice but to take steps against the RSS."

"While writing this letter to Mukherjee, he said — The report proves that the atmosphere created in the country due to the activities of the RSS and the Hindu Mahasabha is what led to Gandhiji's assassination."

Kharage's remarks came after Prime Minister Modi said Sardar Patel wanted to unite the entire Kashmir, just as he did with other princely states, into India, but then PM Nehru did not allow it to happen.

Slamming the Congress, Modi said that the party inherited the slave mentality from the British who ruled India. The country is removing every trace of colonial mindset, he added.

Earlier on Patel's 150th birth anniversary, Kharage paid him tributes and said he is a source of inspiration for them as he described him as "the great Iron Man of India" who wove the entire nation into the thread of unity and integrity.

"Pandit Nehru called him the 'Architect of India's unity,'" he said, adding that Patel was former Congress chief and the resolution on fundamental rights passed in the Karachi Congress under his leadership is the soul of the Indian Constitution. (PTI)

At first Prez's birthplace in Bihar
Yogi rakes up 'insult' of Rajendra Prasad by Cong PM Nehru

SIWAN/VAISHALI/BHOJJPUR (BIHAR), Oct 31: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday charged Congress' Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru with having insulted Rajendra Prasad, the country's first President, by asking him not to attend the inauguration of a renovated Somnath temple.

The senior BJP leader made the remark while addressing an election rally in Siwan district of Bihar, which was the birthplace of Prasad.

"The Congress has been rejected by the people of Bihar because it has insulted stalwarts like Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, Babasaheb Ambedkar, Rajendra Prasad and Karpooji Thakur. Even the party's former president Sitaram Kesri, who belonged to this state, was humiliated," Adityanath alleged.

He also claimed that when "Rajendra babu decided to attend the inauguration ceremony of the Somnath temple in Gujarat, Congress' Prime Minister Nehru told him that he must not go there".

"But for Rajendra babu, it was a matter of faith, and he said he would choose to give up his post rather than not attending the function," the Uttar Pradesh chief minister told the rally.



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday charged Congress' Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru with having insulted Rajendra Prasad, the country's first President, by asking him not to attend the inauguration of a renovated Somnath temple.

Altogether, three rallies were addressed by the firebrand leader in the poll-bound state, including two in Vaishali and Bhojpur districts.

Yogi paid tributes to Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel on his 150th birth anniversary and recalled the contributions of the first home minister of the country in bringing about political integration.

"After Pakistan was created, two princely states of Junagarh and Hyderabad refused to be part of the Indian Union. Sardar Patel told the Nawabs that he would not allow two Islamic states, which would forever create problems, to exist. The rulers had to flee with their bag and baggage," Adityanath said. (PTI)

Rajnath, Hegseth hold talks in Kuala Lumpur; ink pact to usher in 'new era' in defence ties

NEW DELHI, Oct 31: India and the US on Friday signed a 10-year defence framework pact that Defence Minister Rajnath Singh described as a "signal" of growing bilateral strategic ties even as Washington vowed to work closely with New Delhi to ensure a free and an open Indo-Pacific. Singh and US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth signed the framework agreement for the "US-India major defence partnership" pact following their wide-ranging talks in Kuala Lumpur that focused on boosting strategic ties across all its pillars.

The signing of the agreement came amid efforts by the two sides to repair ties that have hit their lowest point in nearly two decades over Washington's slapping of 50 per cent tariffs on Indian goods.

The framework pact is intended to provide a broader vision and policy direction to deepen bilateral defence cooperation. It was firmed up as the validity of a similar pact signed in 2015 is coming to an end.

Describing his talks with Hegseth as "fruitful", Singh said the framework agreement will usher in a "new era in our already strong defence partnership".

"This defence framework will provide policy direction to the entire spectrum of the India-US defence relationship. It is a signal of our growing strategic convergence and will herald a new decade of partnership," Singh said on social media. "Defence will remain as the major pillar of our bilateral relations. Our partnership is critical for ensuring a free, open and rules-bound Indo-Pacific region," he said. On his part, Hegseth said the agreement "advances our defence partnership, a cornerstone for regional stability and deterrence." "We're enhancing our coordination, info sharing, and tech cooperation. Our defense ties have never been stronger," he said.

Hegseth and Singh are in Kuala Lumpur to attend a meeting of a grouping of nations comprising ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) member states and some of its dialogue partners. (PTI)

No. WKAH-10/2025/304

ADVERTISEMENT

This is for information to all concerned that the office of the District Commissioner, West Karbi Anglong Invites application from the applicants in respect of the following posts on contractual engagement at District FRA Cell, West Karbi Anglong.

Sl. No.	Designation	Average Unit Cost per Month	Indicative Minimum Qualifications/Stipulations etc
1	Co-ordinator (FRA)	35000/-	a. Master in Social Science/Social Work. b. Knowledge of basic 11/ Computer Applications. c. Experience: Minimum 5 years domain experience in any area of Rural Development & Tribal Welfare will be preferred. d. Age: Not more than 35 years.
2	MIS/ Program (FRA)/Associate FRA	25000/-	a. B.Sc/BA in Statistics/Mathematics/Economics/Social Science from reputed Institution. b. Minimum a Diploma in Information Technology(IT)/Computer Application. c. Experience: Minimum 2 years domain experience in the area of large-scale data processing and management. d. Age: Not more than 35 years.

Terms and Conditions-

- The Engagement will be temporary in nature.
- Only Shortlisted Candidates will be called for the interview.
- No TA/DA will be admissible for the interview.
- The Candidates called for interview will have to bring their original documents alongwith attested copies of experience certificate.
- The Competent Authority reserves the right to reject any applicant without showing any reason.
- Application that are incomplete or received after the due date will not be entertained.
- The cut of date for determining the eligibility of the candidates in terms of Age, Qualification, Experience Etc. will be the closing date of receipt of applications.
- Person serving in Govt. /Public/Autonomous organization must submit NOC from their respective authority.
- Those applicants who will apply online need to submit hard copies of their CV and Documents within 10 days from the date of publication of this advertisement.
- Applications must reach the Office of the District Commissioner, West Karbi Anglong, Hamren, Pin-782486 within 10 days from the date of publication of this advertisement. Further the applicants may apply online via Mail ID de.westkarbianglong@gov.in

ADVERTISEMENT

Applications along with Complete BIO-DATA and all testimonials from HSLC onwards are invited by MAIL to (principalbkj.college@gmail.com) within 7 days of publication of this advertisement for filling up the following posts –

Sl. No.	Post	Department	No. of Post	Qualification	Age Limit
1	Assistant Professor	Assamese, Education, Economics & English	1 (Each)	Candidates must have latest UGC Norms and must have cleared NET/SLET/SET.	According to KAAC, Diphu in this regard.
		Political Science & Commerce	3 (Each)		
2	Librarian	Library	1		

Only shortlisted candidates will be called for interview via MAIL.

No TA/DA will be provided to appear in the interview.

Salary Negotiable.

Sd/-
 President / Secretary
 Governing Body
 Bokajan College, Bokajan

J&K Assembly Autumn Session adjourned sine die

SRINAGAR, Oct 31: Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather adjourned the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly sine die on the end of the nine-day session on Friday. Barring a couple of noisy incidents, the House proceedings remained largely smooth as it took up the listed business. The session also witnessed elections to four Rajya Sabha seats being held.

Besides passing five government bills, the Assembly also discussed two private members' resolutions, of which one was passed. A total of 41 private members' bills were listed, but only eight were taken up. All these were either withdrawn following government assurances or defeated by voice vote at the introduction stage.

There was one incident of walk-out, when opposition BJP members stomped out of the Assembly on Thursday after the Speaker rejected the adjournment motion moved by Udhampur MLA Pawan Gupta to discuss the condition of flood victims in the Union territory. (PTI)

Sd/-
 District Commissioner

Scindia, Meghalaya CM to lay foundation of ₹ 230-crore Sohra Tourism Circuit



SHILLONG, Oct 31: Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, along with Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma, will on Saturday lay the foundation stone for the integrated development of Sohra Tourism Circuit, a flagship project aimed at transforming Meghalaya's iconic rain belt into a global eco-tourism destination, officials said.

The event marks a major step in the Union government's continued commitment to unlocking the tourism and livelihood potential of the North Eastern Region, they said.

Meghalaya Tourism minister Timothy D Shira will also be present on the occasion.

Officials said the project, valued at over Rs 200 crore, is being funded under the Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North Eastern Region (PM-DevINE) scheme.

The initiative seeks to strengthen tourism infrastructure, promote sustainable livelihoods, and preserve Sohra's distinctive cultural and natural heritage.

According to an official statement, the Sohra Tourism Circuit aims to enhance visitor facilities, encourage eco-

friendly tourism, and generate inclusive employment opportunities for local communities.

The focus is on ensuring that the economic benefits of tourism growth are shared equitably while protecting the fragile environment of the area.

Under the larger tourism development plan, projects worth around Rs 230 crore have been sanctioned by the DoNER Ministry for Meghalaya, including a 5-star resort at Sohra, a skywalk and tourist hub at Mawkkok, and eco-cottage clusters at Umiam and Sohra, to be developed under a public-private partnership model.

The Sohra circuit will serve as a model for sustainable tourism development in the Northeast, aligning with Meghalaya's "high-value, low-volume" approach that balances growth with conservation.

Officials said the project will also integrate "micro tourism clusters" anchored around local villages, ensuring that communities are active participants in tourism-led development.

As part of the foundation ceremony, Scindia and

Sangma will visit stalls showcasing local crafts and enterprises and interact with entrepreneurs, artisans, and tourism stakeholders.

The event will include a public programme and media interaction highlighting the project's expected impact on employment generation, skill development, and regional connectivity.

"The Sohra circuit project is not merely an investment in infrastructure, but an investment in the people and future of Meghalaya," a senior official said, adding that it will open new avenues for entrepreneurship, rural income, and responsible tourism.

The Ministry of DoNER noted that the project reflects the Centre's broader vision for the Northeast as a hub of eco-tourism, innovation, and green growth.

Sohra, globally known as one of the wettest places on earth, attracts thousands of visitors every year for its waterfalls, caves, and rich cultural heritage, but has long faced infrastructural challenges that limited its tourism potential.

Scindia's visit will also include a review of ongoing DoNER-funded development projects in Meghalaya and interactions with officials to assess the progress of infrastructure schemes in the state. On November 2, the Union minister will visit the Mawmluh Cave, globally recognised for its geo-tourism significance and as a site that contributed to defining the Meghalayan Age in geological history.

Later in the day, Scindia will travel to Guwahati where he is scheduled to inaugurate several key DoNER projects and visit IIT Guwahati.

Officials said the Sohra Tourism Circuit, once completed, is expected to become one of the Northeast's most prominent tourism corridors, combining natural beauty with sustainable livelihood creation and long-term economic growth. (PTI)

3 undertrials escape from Mokokchung dist jail

HT Correspondent

DIMAPUR, Oct 31: Three under-trial prisoners escaped from district jail Mokokchung in the wee hours on Thursday.

According to the FIR filed by jail superintendent L Bumeng Khiam with police station-I Mokokchung, the three prisoners escaped at around 3.36 am. They were admitted to district jail Mokokchung on August 21 from Wokha.

They have been identified as Sukam Ali (20), son of Ibad Ali, and Roshida Ali (26), son of Ibad Ali, both from Kharbari village under Ralan police station in Wokha district, and Habibullah Islam (21), son of Mohamed Fakhruddin, from Gorukhuti village under Ralan police station in Wokha district. It was not immediately known how the undertrials managed to escape.

3 held for killing woman on suspicion of practising witchcraft in Tripura

AGARTALA, Oct 31: Three persons were arrested for allegedly killing a 63-year-old tribal woman on suspicion of practising witchcraft at a village in West Tripura district, police said. After receiving information that Nandarani Debbarma, an accused of practising sorcery, went missing at Abhicharan village under the Sidhai Police Station limits, a team carried out a special operation in the locality, a senior officer said.

"The body of the elderly woman was exhumed from a forest area at Abhicharan on October 26. An FIR was lodged after the recovery of the body. On Thursday, we arrested three persons from the locality for their alleged involvement in the killing of the woman," Sidhai Police Station officer-in-charge Ajit Kumar Chakma said on Friday.

According to a preliminary investigation, a few locals felt that "two families in the village were suffering from illness because of Nandarani's black magic".

"Under the influence of that perception, a group of people stormed into the house of Nandarani on October 26 and lynched her. To ensure her death, the villagers tied her body to a window. Later, her body was buried in a jungle to suppress the evidence", the officer said.

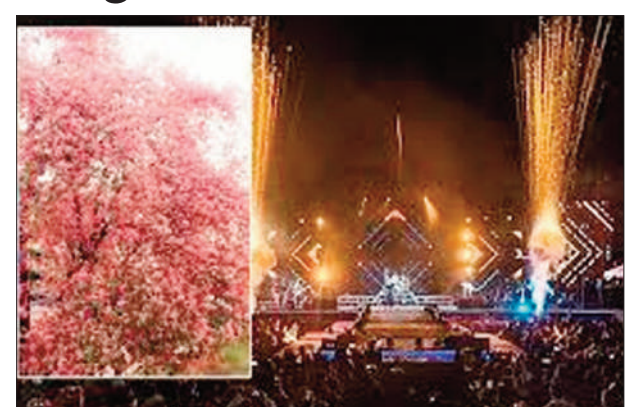
The arrested persons are being interrogated, and the investigation is underway, he added. (PTI)

Shillong Cherry Blossom Festival to pay tribute to Zubeen Garg, feature global music stars

SHILLONG, Oct 31: The Shillong Cherry Blossom Festival 2025 will pay tribute to singer Zubeen Garg and feature global music stars, including Irish rock band The Script, R&B singer Jason Derulo, Grammy-winning DJ Diplo, pop group Aqua, rapper Tyga, and Bollywood performer Nora Fatehi.

Announcing the lineup, Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma said the festival, to be held on November 14 and 15 at Polo Grounds, will be a grand celebration of music, art and culture that highlights the state's diversity. "I am delighted to announce the comprehensive line-up for the Cherry Blossom Festival 2025. This year's festival promises to be a grand celebration showcasing the rich diversity of our state. The festival will also feature a special tribute to Zubeen Garg performed by musicians close to him," the CM said.

He added that the government expects a footfall of over



50,000 tourists.

Local artists such as Meba Ofilia, Dapprest and adL, Girish and the Chronicles, and Arius will also perform.

Other attractions include the Mr and Ms Cherry Blossom competition, cosplay, and arm wrestling contests, spread across several festival zones at the main stadium, Polo Ground, and MFA Ground.

The festival recently won the Golden Banyan Award for Best Cultural Music & Dance

at The Week Heritage Awards 2025 and two Gold Awards at the WOW Awards Asia 2025 for 'Special Event of the Year - Government/Organisation' and 'Festival of the Year.'

The Shillong Cherry Blossom Festival is an annual cultural and music festival held usually in November, when the wild Himalayan cherry trees (Prunus cerasoides) bloom across the city - turning the hills and streets pink and white. (PTI)

GOVT. OF ASSAM OFFICE OF JOINT DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES, KARBI ANGLONG DISTRICT DIPHU-782460

No. KA/Esstt/H&FW/Post/Advt./2025-26/1592

Dated Diphu, the 31st Oct' 2025

CORRIGENDUM/ADDENDUM

Ref. this Office advertisement vide letter No.KA/H&FW/Advt./2025-2026/1590, Dated Diphu, the 30th Oct' 2025. In continuation of the above advertisement, the following location of post and Educational & other requisite qualification has been corrected as mention below.

Sl. No.	Name of the post (s)	Total No. of Posts	Location of Post	No. of Post	Scale of pay	Educational & other requisite Qualification
1	Health Educator	1 (One) No.	Dokmoka PHC	1	PB-2, (14000-70000)+ Grade Pay Rs. 7,600/- p.m.	Graduate in any stream and minimum 6 (six) month Diploma in computer application.
2	Pharmacist	1 (One) No.	Dhansiri State Dispensary	1	PB-2, (14000-70000) + Grade Pay Rs. 7,600/- p.m.	Diploma in Pharmacy (D. Pharm) Bachelor in Pharmacy (B. Pharm) form a recognized institute approved by the pharmacy council of India.
3	Auxiliary Nurse Midwife	1 (One) No.	Bakalia CHC	1	PB-2, (14000-70000) + Grade Pay Rs. 6,200/- p.m.	ANM course passed from any institution recognized by Indian nursing Council and registered with "Assam Nurses Midwife and Health Visitors Council"
4	Surveillance worker	5 (Five) Nos.	Bokajan BPHC Chowkihola BPHC Umpanai BPHC Howraghat BPHC Zirikinding BPHC	1 1 1 1 1	PB-2, (14000-70000)+ Grade Pay Rs. 5,600/- p.m.	HSSLC passed and minimum 6 (six) month Diploma in computer application.
5	Vaccinator	6 (six) Nos.	Phuloni PHC Bokajan PHC Dokmoka PHC Tumpreng SHC Dist. Organization, Diphu O/o Jt. DHS, Diphu	1 1 1 1 1 1	PB-2, (14000-70000) + Grade Pay Rs. 5,600/- p.m.	HSSLC passed and minimum 6 (six) month Diploma in computer application.
6	Dresser	1 (One) No.	Howraghat CHC	1	PB-2, (14000-70000) + Grade Pay Rs. 5,000/- p.m.	HSSLC passed with diploma in Physician Assistant course/OT Technician course.
7	Peon	1 (One) No.	Health Education Bureau	1	PB-1, (12000-52000) + Grade Pay Rs. 3,900/- p.m.	Minimum qualification read up to Class VIII
8	Ward Boy	1 (One) No.	Diphu Civil Hospital	1	PB-1, (12000-52000) + Grade Pay Rs. 3,900/- p.m.	Minimum qualification read up to Class VIII
9	Chowkidar	1 (One) No.	Diphu Civil Hospital Chest Clinic.	1	PB-1, (12000-52000) + Grade Pay Rs. 3,900/- p.m.	Minimum qualification read up to Class VIII
10	Van Cleaner	1 (One) No.	District Malaria Office, Diphu.	1	PB-1, (12000-52000) + Grade Pay Rs. 3,900/- p.m.	Minimum qualification read up to Class VIII
11	Grade IV	4 (Four) Nos.	Bokajan BPHC Umpanai PHC Baithalangso PHC Hamren CH	1 1 1 1	PB-1, (12000-52000) + Grade Pay Rs. 3,900/- p.m.	Minimum qualification read up to Class VIII
12	Sweeper	2 (Two) Nos.	Diphu Civil Hospital Diphu Civil Hospital 100 beded.	1 1	PB-1, (12000-52000) + Grade Pay Rs. 3,900/- p.m.	Minimum qualification read up to Class VIII

Terms & Conditions: -

- The Candidate should not be less than 18 years and not more than 40 years as on 01/01/2025. The upper age limit is relaxable.
 - By 5 years for SC/ST candidate, i.e. upto 45 years.
 - By 3 years for OBC/MOBC candidates i.e. upto 43 years.
 - By 2 years for Ex-Servicemen i.e. upto 42 years.
 - By 10 years for Person with Disabilities (PWD) i.e. upto 50 years.
- Incomplete applications shall be summarily rejected on the spot.
- Application received either by post or by hand after the last date of submission of application will not be accepted under any circumstances.
- The Selected candidates will be entitled with new pension scheme (NPS) 2005 as per direction of Government.
- Self-Attested copies of all testimonial certificate of educational qualification, Birth Certificate, Caste Certificate, Current Employment Exchange Registration Number and two copies of recent passport size photograph.
- The Authority reserves all rights to cancel/reject the application without assigning any reason thereof and no further communication will be entertained.
- Candidates willing to apply for more than one post shall have to submit separate application form for each post.
- The complete application should address and submit to **the Joint Director of Health Services, Karbi Anglong, Diphu** on or before **17th November 2025** during office hours except on holidays under NI Act. Candidates should indicate the name of post applied for on the front cover of envelope.
- The eligible candidates shall apply in Standard Form of application along with KAAC money Receipt of Rs. 10/- (Rupees ten) for ST/SC and Rs. 20/- (Rupees twenty) for other candidates as application fee.
- Canvassing in any form will lead to disqualification.
- No T.A. or D.A. will be provided to any candidate from the Department for the same.
- The Competent Authority reserves all the rights to enhance or reduce the posts and also to cancel/Postpone the interview at any time without assigning any reason thereof and without any intimation to the candidate.
- The date of Written/Interview will be notified later on in the local papers.
- The applicant shall write his or her preferred place of posting in the space given between "Department/Office and 1. Name in full (Block Letter)" in the Standard Form.
- The Transfer of the employees shall be governed by the order No. KAAC/estt-675/P(B)/Misc/2025-26/ Dated 22nd Oct. 2025.

Sd/-

Jt. Director of Health Services,
Karbi Anglong District, Diphu.
Dated Diphu, the 31st Oct' 2025

Memo No. KA/Esstt/H&FW/Post/Advt./2025-26/1592-A

I THINK AGE SUITS ME, SEXY AT SIXTY, SAYS SHAH RUKH KHAN

MUMBAI, Oct 31: Shah Rukh Khan is looking forward to celebrating his 60th birthday with fans on November 2 and the superstar believes he looks better with age. In an impromptu #AskSRK session on X, which he regularly does to stay connected to fans, Shah Rukh fielded many queries ranging from his birthday plans, upcoming movies, his life philosophy to the career of his two children -- Aryan and Suhana.

Shah Rukh began the session by greeting fans with a post on Thursday which read, "Hi everyone. It's been good times...award...series release...anniversary and all good things...thought will share some happy answers with you. So if free please join in for a #ASKsrk love u let's start."

When a fan asked "why are you handsome?", Shah Rukh came up with a witty comeback.

The session ranged from hilarious banter, fans' admiration for the actor to queries regarding Shah Rukh's upcoming film King. The actor matched them with his signature wit and warmth.

One fan asked why the actor hasn't given interviews recently, to which he replied, "Have nothing new to say...and old interviews have aged well so...ha ha." Another fan asked, "Can we see you son directing you in a full-fledged movie?" to which the actor promptly responded, "If he can afford me!!! And my tantrums." One fan asked about the character, which character he relates to the most, in his son's directorial debut, The Ba***ds of Bollywood. "Ghante ka Badshah obviously!!!" Shah Rukh wrote.

The actor was also asked to share details about his upcoming film King, to which he mentioned filmmaker Siddharth Anand and asked, "Hmmm??? @justSi-dAnand sun rahe ho bhai. Bol doon...?"

The filmmaker chimed in, saying, "@iamsrk, You know what they say, sir — a King arrives when he wants to, not when he's supposed to." The actor also shared his excitement for upcoming release of his old films including Chennai Express, Om Shanti Om and Main Hoon Na, during his birthday week.

"I am so excited for all these films releasing in my birthday week. I am going to try and watch them all...u tell your friends to do the same please. And Dil Se was really Dil Se," Shah Rukh responded in reply to one of the fans' questions.

In July, Shah Rukh bagged his first-ever National Award after 33 years in the industry for his performance in Atlee's 2023 action drama Jawan.

Shah Rukh is currently shooting for Siddharth Anand's King. Scheduled to release in 2026, the film also stars Deepika Padukone, Raghav Juyal and Arshad Warsi. (PTI)



EXPECTATION IS GREAT, TAKE IT AS A HUGE COMPLIMENT: YAMI GAUTAM ON THEATRICAL RELEASE OF 'HAQ'

MUMBAI, Oct 31: One should not be confident about audiences' taste as they will always look for experiences and as artists we have to make them sit with focus, says actor Yami Gautam.

The actor, whose last theatrical outing "Article 370" was a success, hopes to achieve something similar with her new film "Haq".

Known for her performance in movies such as "Dhoom Dhaam", "Uri: The Surgical Strike" and "A Thursday", Gautam said she does not like to presume what viewers want but the feedback that she constantly gets when she meets fans is that they like her choice of roles.

"I feel great when there is an expectation. I don't take it as pressure. I take it as a huge compliment. For any artist, if people have hope from you, it means you are doing something right. By now, film-by-film, there is a certain audience who has faith," Gautam told PTI in an interview.

"I shouldn't be confident that I know what the audience likes and that's the fun part. They will always welcome something new. We have to get them to the theatres. We have to make them sit with focus... We should give them an experience," she added. "Haq", directed by Suparn Verma and also starring Emraan Hashmi, Sheeba Chaddha and Vartika Singh, is set to release in theatres on November 7. Gautam said she was instantly hooked to the story when Verma narrated the script to her. "I thought this was a very powerful and important story. I am just fortunate that Suparn came to me with this story. I am sure if this story had gone somewhere else to anyone, I don't think they would have said no. I am just fortunate that he came to me. It's not that there are so many films in rotation. Every film that comes to me, I consider it a big opportunity because someone is taking a chance on you. And this story is set in a case. We are talking about 1985. We are talking about a landmark case but how will you connect to this film? Suparn has shown it with such beauty that everyone will connect with it." (PTI)

Kareena, Alia, Rashmika among stars cheering India's epic win over Australia in Women's WC

NEW DELHI, Oct 31: Prominent names from the world of showbiz, including Kareena Kapoor Khan, Alia Bhatt, Rashmika Mandanna, Rishab Shetty and Manoj Bajpayee, congratulated the Indian women's cricket team for their victory over Australia in the semi-final of the ongoing Women's ODI World Cup, calling it a "display of determination, unity, and brilliance on the field".

Star cricketer Jemimah Rodrigues played the innings of her career, remaining unbeaten on 127 as India made it to their third World Cup final by halting the Australian juggernaut on Thursday night at Navi Mumbai's DY Patil Stadium.

Kareena shared a story on her Instagram handle and said, "And like I said, girls can do it all. With grit and determination... Well done, Team India... on the finals, my girls." Alia posted, "Our women in blue did it again. what a match, what a team." "What a team... What a fight. Girls you did it #CWC25," wrote Rashmika on Instagram alongside a photo of the team India from the match.

Actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu hailed the Indian women's cricket team's win as "iconic".

Keerthy Suresh posted, "What a win, what a chase... This marks #HerStory. Super excited for the finals." Shetty penned a note on his X handle calling it a "thrilling win".

"What a moment for India! Our women's team @BCCIWomen storms into the ICC #WomensWorldCup2025 Final with a thrilling win over Australia! A stunning display of determination, unity, and brilliance on the field. Take a bow, @JemiRodrigues, that century was pure class," he wrote.

Manoj Bajpayee posted a series of pictures from the match across his social media handles and wrote, "Kamaal kar diya! Into the finals! Pure heart, grit and class from our women in blue. Chasing 339, the highest in women's ODI history." "A moment that lifts the game and pushes women's cricket forward in a big way. Hats off to the entire team, and especially @jemimahrodrigues for that stellar century under pressure... Well led by captain @imharmarpreet_kaur, with solid support from @richag9105, @officialdeepisharma & @amanjotkaur in key moments. Proud of team India. Wishing them the best of luck for the finals," he added.

Abhishek Banerjee also posted a story on his Instagram, calling Rodrigues' performance "greatest batting display in history of cricket."

"Unbelievable player!! Well played...Thank you @jemimahrodrigues, one of the greatest batting innings in the history of cricket," he wrote.

Varun Dhawan also shared a picture of Rodrigues from the stadium and wrote on his Instagram Stories, "My hero".

Filmmaker S S Rajamouli congratulated the team with a post on his X handle.

"Heartfelt congratulations to the incredible Indian Women's Cricket Team! Chasing down the highest ever in women's ODI history with grit and grace, you've made the nation proud. On to the final, make history again," he wrote.

Rajkumar Rao called it a "historic win". "Congratulations to our women in blue... we are all so proud of you," he added.

Ayushmann Khurrana said, "Well played girls. Whatta win #cwc25." Suniel Shetty praised Rodrigues' performance during the match. (PTI)

DANIEL RADCLIFFE TO FEATURE IN 'EVERY BRILLIANT THING' PLAY

LOS ANGELES, Oct 31: The show will take place at the Hudson Theatre on February 21, 2026, ahead of a March 12 opening. The play is set for a limited 13-week engagement, according to the entertainment news outlet The Hollywood Reporter.

Written by Duncan Macmillan with Jonny Donahoe, the play follows the story of a "man looking back at his life and the glimmers of hope that carried him through".

"Every Brilliant Thing" tackles some serious subject matter, but the overall experience is one of joy and celebration...Every performance is unique and unpredictable and it requires virtuosic skill from its central performer," Macmillan said in a statement.

"When Daniel told us how much he loved the play, I couldn't have been more thrilled. He has the intelligence, quick-wit and charm to roll with the spontaneous moments that the show invites — he can be a clown one moment, then grab you by the heartstrings the next. He has huge depth and humanity. I can't wait to get started," he added.

Radcliffe, who has featured in a several plays including "Equus" and "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying", among others.

His latest play was "Merely We Roll Along", which conclude in July last year. (PTI)



Not trying to create Hindu-Muslim controversy, just stating facts: Paresh Rawal on 'Taj Story'

MUMBAI, Oct 31: There are no lies in "The Taj Story", nor is it an attempt to create a Hindu-Muslim divide, says veteran actor Paresh Rawal, who claims the film presents verified facts about the world-famous monument and will, in fact, boost tourism.

Rawal won't go into the details about the facts that the movie seeks to present but he stressed that whatever is shown is backed by research, not fabricated drama. "In our cinema, there is a lot of 'hanky panky' and lies here and there. There are no lies, only facts here... When the script came, I read it and I liked it. What I liked about it was the research. Later, I verified the facts with a few friends and found it to be correct that this happened. Then I met the director and we decided that there is no jingoism here, it is all about Taj. People are saying that we want to create a Hindu-Muslim controversy but it is not like that. We have always stayed away from that. It's fun to do an authentic research film which is usually not made here," the 70-year-old actor told PTI in an interview.

Presented by Swarnim Global Service Pvt Ltd, the movie is directed by Tushar Amrsh Goel and produced by CA Suresh Jha. Though the exact story of the

film remains unclear, the makers said in an earlier statement that the movie raises the "questions and the secrets that are buried behind the 22 sealed doors of The Taj Mahal".

The movie also "promises to present a chapter from Indian history that no one has ever dared to present before", the makers claimed. Earlier this month, the movie's first poster courted controversy after it depicted Rawal's character removing the dome of the Taj Mahal and a statue of Lord Shiva emerging from it. "The idea behind the poster is that there is a certain notion among people, that it's not the Taj Mahal. Some call it 'Tejo Mahalaya'. So from a publicity point of view, if you look at it, the main purpose of publicity is to attract attention, create interest, desire, and then action — the AIDA principle.

"When people see it, they'll wonder what's going on. But when you actually watch the film, you'll understand there's nothing like that," Rawal said about the controversy. The Tejo Mahalaya conspiracy theory contends that the Taj Mahal was originally a Hindu temple, later taken over by the Mughals. It is largely attributed to P N Oak, who claimed in his 1989 book "Taj Mahal: The True Story"

that several major monuments around the world were once Hindu temples.

In the case of the Taj Mahal, Oak argued that it was initially a Shiva temple and Rajput palace called "Tejo Mahalaya". He had filed a petition in the Supreme Court, urging it to declare that the monument was built by a Hindu king, but it was dismissed. Asked if it is right to question a monument that has been designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Rawal said, "We are not questioning the aesthetic part of Taj Mahal or its beauty. We're only questioning what really happened and how it was built. When you see the Taj Mahal, it's breathtakingly beautiful, that's undeniable. There's no question about its artistic brilliance."

"In the film, when a character says, 'Should we break it down?' Then my character replies, 'No, I don't want even a scratch on it.' It's such a beautiful structure!" "You'll understand everything when you watch the film. But yes, when you raise certain questions, people's curiosity grows. In fact, I think tourism will increase," the actor added.

The actor also said that he doesn't pay much attention to how people have responded to the movie so far. "I know

who I am from within, so it doesn't bother me. But yes, people are intrigued, they're curious. There's a lot of eagerness about what we are trying to say in the movie. Some people have even verified facts with others, saying, 'Yes, this seems true.' So this is not just something made up. We'll get to know things, learn things, and the misconceptions, the decades-old, cemented misunderstandings, in people's minds will go away," he added.

But what about those who have labelled the movie as yet another title from the right-wing propaganda brigade? Rawal said, "There's a dialogue in our film 'Show people as much truth as is necessary. If you show more than that, they'll dismiss it by saying that it is propaganda.' Or they'll dismiss it, saying, 'Oh, that's WhatsApp university stuff.' (But) it's not like that. There are other films too. I won't name them but they were authentic, based on facts, and yet were dismissed as propaganda," he added.

The cast of "The Taj Story" also includes actors Zakir Hussain, Amruta Khanvilkar, Sneha Wagh, and Namit Das. The movie will be released in theatres on Friday. (PTI)

WE WERE EXPECTING AUSTRALIA TO SET A TARGET AROUND 380 IN WC SEMIFINAL: AMANJOT

NAVI MUMBAI, Oct 31: India were expecting a target around 380 against Australia but Phoebe Litchfield's dismissal followed by a "very good spell" from spinner Shree Charani turned the Women's ODI World Cup semifinal in the hosts' favour, said all-rounder Amanjot Kaur.

Amanjot hit the winning runs as India chased down 339 for a world record in women's ODIs to make the final of the World Cup, riding on Jemimah Rodrigues' stunning 127 not out.

Australia were cruising at a brisk rate when Litchfield (119 off 93 balls) was dismissed by Amanjot in the 28th over with

180 on board. The defending champions, who were aiming for a huge total, eventually finished at 338.

"I was trying to contain as much as possible, and Litchfield is a very aggressive batter, and I knew that with a few dot balls she would try to do something different. It was just a basic plan of bowling at the stumps," Amanjot told the media after India's five-wicket win on Thursday night here.

The turnaround was also marked by a brilliant third spell from Charani, who returned with figures of 3-0-9-2 while accounting for Beth Mooney (24) and Annabel Sutherland (3).

"We were expecting a target around 380 because the wicket was very good. But with the dismissal of Litchfield, the game moved in our favour and from there and we did not leak a lot of runs and Charani bowled a very good spell according to the wicket," Amanjot said.

Amanjot said she and Jemimah wanted to finish the game with one over remaining.

"She (Jemimah) was (at the crease in) in the second over and it is a huge thing to stay till the end in this heat and humidity. She did not give up, she kept on fighting and she needed someone to be there with her," Amanjot said.



"I asked her if I should charge against the bowlers. She said be-

cause we run between the wickets well, we will be able to see it

through. She asked me to have a look at the wicket and when I faced the first delivery, I thought what a beautiful track it was. Then we decided to finish it off with one over remaining," she added.

Amanjot said beating Australia gave her a different joy.

"It was very important because it is such a big tournament, and a few matches had not gone our way and it is of course a different feeling to beat Australia," she said.

"... (and) who doesn't want to win the World Cup? Harmanpreet (Kaur) wants it, Smriti (Mandhana) wants it. The whole of India wants it, and we will

give everything (to win it).

"There will be a different champion this time as both the teams (India and South Africa) haven't won the trophy. Our mindset as a team is to help each other, back each other. We do not think much about the result."

India all-rounder Deepti Sharma said the team treated the contest against Australia like any other match and welcomed the idea that there will be a new winner of this time around.

"We are not in that zone where we would think that it was semifinal, but it was just another match against Australia," Deepti said. (PTI)

My only message was finish well, says India women's team coach Amol Muzumdar

NAVI MUMBAI, Oct 31: A proud Indian women's team coach Amol Muzumdar, a domestic stalwart who never got the chance to don the national colours, said his only message to his wards before the big semifinal against seven-time champions Australia was to "finish well", and the Harmanpreet Kaur-led side did just that.

Chasing a record 339 for win, Jemimah Rodrigues produced an innings of the highest quality under pressure, hitting 127 not out off 134 balls as India defeated Australia by five wickets to make the Women's ODI World Cup final for the third time here on Thursday night.

She laid the foundation of the win with a 167-run stand with skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (89).

"There were no big messages. We always told each other we need to finish well. We usually start well, but finishing has been our area to improve. Today was that day," Muzumdar said after the famous win.

Muzumdar, who took charge of



the women's team in October, brought a sense of stability and gave direction to the side with his calm demeanour.

The defeats against Australia, England, and South Africa in the group stage raised some eyebrows but the domestic stalwart was clear about his goals.

Prior to the semifinal against Australia, Muzumdar had written

just one sentence on the whiteboard: "We just need one more run than them to reach the final."

Muzumdar made some bold decisions and backed youngsters like Kranti Goud and Shree Charani, which paid rich dividends.

"Kranti has been sensational since her debut. She's young, but she's done wonders with every opportunity. She's learning every day.

Renuka Thakur complements her beautifully," Muzumdar said.

He also backed Rodrigues to the hilt, and his decision to promote her at No.3 turned out to be a masterstroke.

"I always felt Jemi has the temperament to shift gears. That one move made a difference," Muzumdar said.

The 50-year-old Mumbai stalwart too praised other senior players, including skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, vice-captain Smriti Mandhana and Deepti Sharma.

"Harman was calm, smiling all the way through. Deepti kept motivating everyone, and Smriti was her usual cheerful self. Everyone knows their role, and that helps," Muzumdar said.

Muzumdar said the loss against England in the group stage fired up the side.

"The next practice session had more energy and intent. Sometimes it's not failure. It's just a hiccup that teaches you more... I am still in daze (after the win against Australia)." (PTI)

WADA launches 'Operation Puncture' to investigate leak about Chinese swimmers' doping tests

LONDON, Oct 31: The World Anti-Doping Agency confirmed on Thursday it is looking into a leak about an investigation that resulted in the agency clearing 23 Chinese swimmers who tested positive for a banned heart medication before the Tokyo Olympics in 2021.

The agency has defended its decision to clear the swimmers of doping. It said it had agreed with Chinese anti-doping authorities who found the swimmers' samples were contaminated.

The existence of the investigation by China and WADA had been kept under wraps before the New York Times and German broadcaster ARD reported on it last year.

ARD reported Wednesday that the agency was looking for the person who tipped off the news media about the investigation. The move is unusual because WADA encourages and relies on whistleblowers to root out doping.

Günter Younger, director of Intelligence and Investigations at WADA, confirmed it had launched Operation Puncture to learn about



the leak, but denied it was looking for the person who blew the whistle.

"We're not chasing the whistleblower," Younger told reporters at a media event in London. "What we want to try to find out is how the leak happened and what was the motivation of the leak."

Younger touted the agency's strong whistleblower protections and said it was policy not to reveal ongoing investigations to protect those who may unfairly be accused of drug use. He said he believed the leak was politically motivated and he wants to prevent that from hap-

pening again, but would not do anything to endanger the whistleblower.

The Chinese swimming case has been a flashpoint of controversy in sport and WADA has been criticized by athletes, sports governing bodies and groups dedicated to fighting the use of performance-enhancing drugs. Among the biggest critics have been anti-doping and government leaders in the United States, where the government has refused to pay its annual dues to WADA worth more than \$3.6 million. (AP)

Cristiano Ronaldo's son makes his debut with Portugal's under-16 team



ANTALYA (TURKEY), Oct 31: Cristiano Ronaldo's eldest son made his debut with Portugal's under-16 national team on Thursday.

The 15-year-old Cristiano dos Santos, known as Cristianoinho, was a 90th-minute substitute in Portugal's 2-0 win over Turkey in the Federations Cup tournament being played in Turkey.

The teenager, who plays for the youth academy of Al-Nassr in Saudi Arabia, the same club as his father, had previously been called up for Portugal's under-15 squad.

The next matches for Portugal's under-16 squad in the tournament will be against Wales and England. (AP)

Palmeiras beats Liga Deportiva 4-0 to reach Copa Libertadores final



SAO PAULO, Oct 31: Raphael Veiga scored twice and Palmeiras overturned a 3-0 first-leg deficit with a 4-0 victory over Liga Deportiva of Ecuador on Thursday to advance to the Copa Libertadores final.

Midfielder Veiga scored in the 68th and 82nd minutes after Ramon Sosa and Bruno Fuchs' first-half goals.

Palmeiras, which won the Copa Libertadores in 1999, 2020 and 2021, will take on Flamengo in an all-Brazilian final on Nov. 29 at estadio Monumental in Lima, Peru.

It guarantees Brazil an eighth title in the past nine editions of the tournament.

Flamengo, playing most of the second half with 10 men, salvaged a scoreless draw with Racing Club on Wednesday to advance 1-0 on aggregate in the earlier semifinal. (AP)

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Perry says even the Aussie dressing room would applaud Harman and Jemi

NAVI MUMBAI, Oct 31: Even in defeat, Ellyse Perry could only nod in admiration.

The Australian all-rounder hailed India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur and Jemimah Rodrigues for batting India into the World Cup final, saying their composure under pressure earned applause even from their dressing room.

India recorded the highest run chase in women's ODI to set up Sunday's title clash with South Africa.

Perry said the Australian dressing room would acknowledge the efforts of India captain Harmanpreet (89) and Jemimah (127 not out).

"It's really easy to stand here in retrospect and throw ideas into the wind," she replied when asked if Australia could have done anything differently.

"But at the end of the day, all of us in our dressing room would applaud Harman and Jemi for the way that they played, the way that they went about that chase after probably losing two early wickets in the power play."

"They just made us pay. All credit goes to them as opposed to anything that we did or didn't do," Perry added while talking to media after the intense game.

She said Australia would neither discuss two dropped catches of Jemimah, on 82 and 106, which allowed India to mount a challenge.

"For all of us, the intent is to al-

ways fight and to take on the challenge and be there until the game's done. So as long as you're giving all your effort, that's all you can do, and it is sport at the end of the day.

"At the end of the day, everyone's out there doing absolutely everything they can to perform. You never want to make mistakes, but when you're playing in high-pressure situations and there's a lot on the line, things happen."

"For us, I don't think we ever talk about it. You just move on straight away. Everyone's doing absolutely all they can. Sometimes those things happen and no one means it, and we're just there to support each other," Perry added.

Perry scored 77 while putting on 155 runs with Phoebe Litchfield (119) to provide Australia a strong platform.

"I think my innings is pretty irrelevant. But at the end of the day, yeah, like in big matches, across two teams there's so much talent and so much experience and exceptional performance so someone's going to have a day out at least."

"From our side, Phoebe was just phenomenal. I thought the way Ash (Ashleigh Gardner) finished the innings was brilliant as well. She's been unbelievable. But then on the flip side, that partnership between Harman and Jemi was special and they made it count in their home conditions," she said.

Perry also refused to state any

excuses for Australia's loss in the semifinal, which is their first in World Cup tournaments since a defeat to India at the similar stage during the 2017 edition.

"You can't walk away with excuses from a loss in the semifinal because at the end of the day, you need to be able to perform on the day that matters the most."

"But at the same time, we can be super proud of the style of cricket that we've played throughout this tournament, and even across the last 12 months. We're all really committed to that, the way we go about it," the venerable all-rounder added.

Australia head coach Shelley Nitschke, meanwhile, did not read much into the impending transition phase which could see skipper Alyssa Healy and even Perry moving away from the ODI set up.

"Those two are still contributing really well and it is up to them how much longer they go for. (It was) a disappointing result tonight, we've still got a big summer coming out for us, so there's a lot of cricket to play still," she said.

Healy, though, confirmed that she would not be around for the next ODI World Cup.

"That's probably not something that we've discussed too much before, obviously, (we have) just been focussing on the World Cup and having thought that too far ahead around that sort of transition," Nitschke added. (PTI)

Struggling Juventus hires coach Luciano Spalletti

TURIN (ITALY), Oct 31: Juventus hired Luciano Spalletti as its coach Thursday and tasked the former Napoli and Italy manager with making the record 36-time Serie A champion a title contender again.

Juventus announced it had signed Spalletti to an eight-month contract that Italian media reported will be automatically renewed for two years if the club qualifies for the Champions League.

The move comes three days after Igor Tudor was fired following three straight losses and an eight-match winless run that had dated back to Sept. 13. The slide ended with a 3-1 win over Udinese on Wednesday under interim coach Massimo Brambilla. (AP)

Dikhowmukh College enter final

HT Correspondent

DEMOW, Oct 31: Dikhowmukh College defeated HCDG College, Nitaipukhuri, by 2-0 in the semifinal of the Dibrugarh University Inter-College Football Tournament (Zone B) held at Nitaipukhuri Higher Secondary School playground on Friday. With this victory, Dikhowmukh College secured their place in the final.

The second semi-final between Nazira College and Moran College will be played on Saturday, and the winner will face Dikhowmukh College in the final on November 2.

BCCI may raise Asia Cup Trophy issue at ICC meeting on November 4

MUMBAI, Oct 31: The BCCI is hopeful that the Asia Cup winners Trophy will reach its headquarters in Mumbai "within a day or two" but if the impasse continues, the Indian Board will take the matter to the ICC on November 4.

India defeated arch-rivals Pakistan by five wickets in the final in Dubai to win the Asia Cup, but declined to accept the trophy from Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, who also serves as ACC and PCB chairman.

This was after India skipper Suryakumar Yadav refused to shake hands with his Pakistan counterpart due to the conflict between the two nations.

Naqvi has already conveyed that the trophy can be handed over to India but it will be presented by him.

More than a month after the triumph, the BCCI still awaits the official handover of the silverware.

"Yes, we are a little bit unhappy with the way the trophy has not been being given to us even after a month." BCCI joint secretary Devajit Saikia told PTI

Video in an exclusive interaction.

"We are pursuing this matter, about 10 days ago also we wrote a letter to the chairman of ACC, but there is no change in their stand.

"They are still keeping the trophy under their custody but we hope that the trophy will reach us in a day or two at the BCCI office in Mumbai."

Saikia said if the trophy is not handed over soon, the BCCI will raise the issue at the upcoming ICC quarterly meeting in Dubai from November 4.

The Trophy presentation in Dubai had been delayed by over an hour before the silverware was taken off the field without explanation, leaving the Suryakumar Yadav-led Indian side celebrating their triumph without the trophy in a first of its kind on a cricket field.

While the BCCI has officially requested its return, Naqvi has reportedly remained firm, suggesting that Indian players collect it in person at a future event as there has been no formal resolution yet.



"On behalf of BCCI we are fully prepared how to deal with the matter and I can assure the people of India that the trophy will come back to India, only the timeline is not fixed. One day it will

come," Saikia said.

"We have won all matches against Pakistan and won the trophy. We have won the championship. Everything is on record. Only the trophy is missing. I hope

good sense will prevail.

Tea before lunch likely in Guwahati Test

In a first for Test cricket, the second match of the upcoming two-Test series between India and South Africa to be held in Guwahati next month could see a reversal of the traditional order of sessions, with tea likely to be served before lunch.

Saikia confirmed that discussions were on regarding a possible adjustment in playing hours owing to Guwahati's early sunrise and sunset.

"The process is going on because eastern part of the country have earlier sunrise and earlier sunset, so to accommodate and to have the timeline of playing six hours in a day, there has to be some changes with the timing.

"But if the match starting time is brought little bit earlier than when the actual lunch time, it may not be lunch time.

"So there may be some swapping of the sessions. I don't think that will be a big issue but the process is on, and it is yet to be finalised," he said. (PTI)

Sinner reaches Paris Masters quarterfinals and stays on course for No 1 ranking



PARIS, Oct 31: Jannik Sinner beat Francisco Cerundolo 7-5, 6-1 in the third

round of the Paris Masters on Thursday to extend his indoor winning streak to 23 matches and maintain his chances of reclaiming the No. 1 ranking.

The four-time Grand Slam champion needs to win the tournament to take the top spot from Carlos Alcaraz. Sinner's quarterfinal opponent on Friday will be Ben Shelton.

The fifth-seeded American beat 12th-seeded Andrey Rublev 7-6 (6), 6-3 to secure his place in the eight-man, season-ending ATP Finals in Turin, Italy.

Sinner is chasing a fifth title of the year and 23rd overall. He won an ATP 500 tournament in Vienna last Sunday despite

having cramps. "Hopefully, I can recover physically, which is my main priority," Sinner said ahead of his eighth match against Shelton. "Today was a great match and a great performance from my side."

He leads Shelton 6-1 overall. Meanwhile, defending champion Alexander Zverev downed 15th-seeded Alejandro Davidovich Fokina 6-2, 6-4.

The third-seeded German won on his first match point with an ace and next takes on 11th-seeded Daniil Medvedev, the 2020 champion.

They meet for the 22nd time in an often intense rivalry, which Medvedev leads

14-7 having won their past five encounters.

Vacherot keeps going
There seems to be no stopping the 40th-ranked Valentin Vacherot, who reached another Masters quarterfinal by beating Cameron Norrie 7-6 (4), 6-4.

Already this month, Vacherot made a stunning run from the qualifiers to win the Shanghai Masters for his first career title, after entering it ranked 240th.

He downed 24-time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic in the semifinals and beat his own cousin Arthur Rinderknech in the final.

"I never expected it," Vacherot said.

"Good thing that I keep going here, maybe enjoying the matches even more than in Shanghai."

Vacherot, who is from Monaco, beat Rinderknech again in the second round here in Paris, setting up a match against Norrie after the British player eliminated Alcaraz.

Vacherot had five aces and saved all five break points against Norrie, who dropped serve once.

Vacherot next faces ninth-seeded Felix Auger-Aliassime, who rallied past Daniel Altmaier 3-6, 6-3, 6-2. Victory maintained Auger-Aliassime's chances of reaching the eight-man, season-ending

ATP Finals in Turin, Italy.

Other matches
Fourth-seeded American Taylor Fritz lost 7-6 (5), 6-2 to No. 13 seed Alexander Bublik; No. 6 Alex De Minaur won 6-2, 6-2 against 2018 champion Karen Khachanov; and Medvedev reached his 25th Masters quarterfinal with a 3-6, 7-6 (5), 6-4 win over Lorenzo Sonego.

Race to Turin
De Minaur qualified for the ATP Finals for the second consecutive season and Shelton for the first time, leaving one spot left. Auger-Aliassime will leapfrog Lorenzo Musetti only if he reaches the final in Paris. (AP)

Hazlewood dismantles India as Australia romp home by four wickets

MELBOURNE, Oct 31: Josh Hazlewood clinically dismantled a famed Indian top-order with a probing spell to kill the contest as Australia centered to a four-wicket victory in the second T20 International here on Friday.

In front of a 82,438 strong crowd, India suffered one of its most embarrassing defeats with as many as nine batters failing to reach double digits in a total of 125 in 18.4 overs.

Only Abhishek Sharma, in the form of his life, stood tall amid ruins with a combative 37-ball-68. With Harshit Rana (35 off 33 balls) he added 56 to take the total past 100-run mark after pacer Hazlewood (3/13) left them reeling at 49 for 5.

Hazlewood bowled an incredible 15 dot balls in his four-over spell to break the backbone of Indian batting and killed the contest within 20 minutes of start.

In reply, skipper Mitchell Marsh blasted his way to 46 off 26 balls with hosts completing the chase in only 13.2 overs losing six wickets. Most batters fell primarily due to attempting audacious shots.

The only silver lining apart from Abhishek's innings was Varun Chakravarthy's spell (2/23 in 4 overs) and Jasprit Bumrah's (2/26 in 4 overs) pinpoint yorker to dismiss Matthew Short.

Most of the Indian batters found it tough to hit through the line due to extra bounce and the lengths that Australian pacers, especially Hazlewood hit during his spell which he finished in one go.

While technique of a few batters lay exposed, the Indian team management wouldn't take the results to heart as the T20 World Cup will be played in Indian conditions where most of the deliveries will not rise above knee roll.

There will be minimal seam movement and wickets offering a bit of grip will help Varun Chakravarthy, Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel way more.

But with three matches left in the series, Indian batters could take a leaf out of Abhishek's book after he burnished his creden-



tials as world's numero uno T20 batter with some breathtaking strokes.

Abhishek played some outrageous shots on the off-side: slashes, check drives and lofted strokes, to race to a 23-ball half-cent-

ury in his maiden appearance at the iconic venue while others made a beeline towards the dugout.

His knock comprised of eight fours and two sixes.

What worked for Abhishek was his ability to use the crease and ride the bounce at the same time but in the back-10, he was left frustrated with the lower middle-order batters who could not rotate the strike.

He didn't get strike for close to five overs as Rana faced bulk of the deliveries and later the likes of Shivam Dube and Kuldeep Yadav also consumed many balls.

At 110 for 8, Abhishek took it upon himself as he hooked Xavier Bartlett for a six and prior to that a boundary as the total reached 125.

Hazlewood, immaculate as ever, bowled the Test match length consistently in the 6-8m region, getting just the right amount of movement that had the top order in a tangle.

He softened Shubman Gill (5) with a well-directed bouncer that needed a mandatory concussion test after the batter survived a leg-before appeal to a fuller incoming delivery first up.

When Hazlewood bowled a fullish length outside off-stump, the Indian vice-captain's chip shot to clear the mid-off fielder didn't yield result as Marsh grabbed an easy catch.

Before Gill would have cooled his heels, Nathan Ellis' nip-backer found Sanju Samson (2) plumb in-front and he wasted a DRS review, aware that he won't survive.

Hazlewood then bowled what would easily be the ball of the game. He first bowled a short ball that skipper Surya had gloved trying to pull but Josh Inglis grassed it on second attempt.

The next delivery was a pitched up that saw the Indian skipper develop cold feet. There was no feet movement and the body squared up and the shade outward movement kissed the outside edge of his bat before falling into the keeper's gloves.

Two balls later, Tilak Varma (0) edge one from Hazlewood. The ball ballooned up for Inglis to complete formalities.

Once Axar was run-out, Harshit and Abhishek steadied the innings but the former played and missed often to put more pressure on the latter. (PTI)

Tendulkar leads sporting fraternity in applauding women's team's win over Australia



NAVI MUMBAI, Oct 31: The country's sporting fraternity, led by the legendary Sachin Tendulkar, was in awe of India's record chase in the Women's ODI World Cup semifinal against Australia, terming it a fabulous victory which will remain etched in history. Jemimah Rodrigues played the innings of her career, remaining unbeaten on 127 as India made it to their third Women's ODI World Cup final by halting the Australian juggernaut on Thursday night.

Jemimah's knock, her third century and first in a World Cup, was built along with a robust 167-run stand for the third wicket with skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (89 off 88 balls, 10x4s, 2x6s).

The win helped India end reigning champions Australia's 15-match unbeaten run in the competition across two editions.

Chasing a mammoth 339, Jemimah anchored the spirited response with her unbeaten knock as India scored 341/5 in 48.3 overs in reply to Australia's 338 all out.

"Fabulous victory! Well done @JemiRodrigues and @ImHarmanpreet for leading from the front. Shree Charani and @Deepti Sharma06, you kept the game alive with the ball.

"Keep the tricolour flying high," Tendulkar posted on 'X'. Former India coach and legendary leg-spinner Anil Kumble too appreciated Rodrigues' knock.

"A terrific win for India against Australia @JemiRodrigues was simply outstanding - 127* filled with elegance, patience and power. A knock that defines maturity and confidence," he posted on 'X'.

Batting stalwart Virat Kohli also took to 'X' to congratulate the women's team, and lauded the side's resilience, self-belief and passion.

"What a victory by our team over a mighty opponent like Australia. A great chase by the girls and a standout performance by Jemimah in a big game. A true display of resilience, belief, and passion. Well done, Team India!" Kohli posted

Former India opener Virender Sehwag added, "Australia soch rahi thi ek aur semi-final hai, aaram se jeeto aur pahuncho

Final- hamari ladkiyon ne socha yeh to mauka hai asli dhamaka karne ka! Saare criticism ko dho daala. Kya khel dikhaya. Proud of our women in blue."

Former India cricketer Yuvraj Singh too praised the determination and conviction of the women's team, especially Rodrigues and Harmanpreet's valiant knocks.

"There are wins that go beyond numbers on a scoreboard. This was one of them.

Under pressure, with the world watching @ImHarmanpreet played with the calm and conviction of a true leader while @JemiRodrigues brought pure focus and intent to play an innings of a lifetime!," Yuvraj wrote on 'X'.

"This partnership came from belief in their own game, in each other, and in what this team stands for. A historic semi final to win and on to the finals now!"

India will take on South Africa in the final in Navi Mumbai on Sunday. India keeper-batter Rishabh Pant also congratulated the Harmanpreet-led side.

"A match full of heart, fight and belief. Congratulations to our Indian women's team for making it to the finals," he wrote.

South Africa legend AB de Villiers said it was incredible record chase from India.

"Incredible chase by #TeamIndia to knock-out the Aussies and end their win streak. Just the perfect chase against the mightiest of oppositions. Congratulations!"

"It's India v Proteas in the #CWC25Final once again. And we will have a new Champion," he wrote on 'X'.

Former India left-arm pacer-turned-commentator Irfan Pathan too praised the composure of the women's team.

"Such a pleasure watching this chase by @BCCIWomen with calmness & composure. Just too good from Jemimah Rodrigues & Harmanpreet Kaur. That cameo from Richa Ghosh was crucial," he posted.

Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya too reacted, terming the famous win as "This is India's feminine power..."

BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia too congratulated the side with a simple post: "Women's EMPOWERED..." (PTI)

Nagaon District Masters Athletics selection camp to be organised tomorrow

HT Correspondent

NAGAON, Oct 31: The Nagaon District Masters Athletics Association is set to organise a selection camp for the upcoming 31st All Assam Inter-District Masters Athletics Championship, scheduled to be held at Morigaon from December 18 to 21.

The selection camp will be held on November 2, 2025 at the Nurul Amin Stadium.

The selection camp is open to men and women athletes above 35 years of age from Nagaon district.

Interested athletes can register themselves with the prescribed fee at the earliest.

The selected athletes will form the Nagaon district team for the upcoming championship.

On the same day as the selection camp, the Annual General Meeting of the Nagaon District Masters Athletics Association will also be held.

For more information and registration, interested individuals can contact 8472040711/9864770200.

Pant disappoints with 17 in India A's 234 as Subrayen's fifer gives South Africa A charge

BENGALURU, Oct 31: Two cavalier shimmies, two well-timed fours and a nothing shot summarised Rishabh Pant's 29-minute 17, which aptly reflected in India A's 234 all out against South Africa A on the second day of the four-day match here on Friday.

After bowling out SA 'A' for 309, overnight 299/9, in the first session, India succumbed to their own waywardness and the relentless off-spinner Prenelan Subrayen (5/61), to concede an innings lead of 75. Teenager Ayush Mhatre (65, 76 balls) was the lone India A batter who displayed some resolve on the day.

In their second innings, the tourists were 30 for no loss, extending the lead to 105 runs. Jordan Hermans (12) and Lesego Senokwane (9) were batting at stumps, reinforcing the hold the Proteas had on the opposition on the day.

But as it was expected, Pant's comeback innings offered an interesting sub-text to the day's proceedings.

Pant did an excellent job behind the wicket on his return to competitive cricket after three months but he failed to replicate it in front of the wicket.



The left-hander started the innings with an almighty heave against pacer Tshupo Moraki that connected with thin air rather than the ball, and soon opened the account with a four over mid-on off Subrayen in the sixth ball he faced.

Later, he pulled Moraki behind the square for a four, showing signs of settling in.

But a moment of indecision ended his tenure. Pant caught in two minds whether to or leave the ball, and eventually lobbed the delivery to Zubayr Hamza at gully.

It mirrored the general insipidness of Indian batters on the day,

and it began with Sai Sudharsan, who opened in the absence of an injured Narayan Jagadeesan.

The 94-ball 38 was filled with atypical struggle for timing and a couple of close escapes including a run-out.

Moreki ended his labour with an outgoing delivery that took the edge of Sudharsan's bat and wicket-keeper Rivaldo Moonsamy did the rest.

Even though edgy, Sudharsan helped Mhatre to add 90 runs for the first wicket, the biggest in the hosts' first innings.

Devdutt Padikkal just played a

tame chip off Subrayen to Okuhle Cele at short midwicket, and Rajat Patidar played an expansive drive without even reaching the ball to get castled by the off-spinner.

The only exception on view was Mhatre, who looked million-dollar during his half-century.

The Mumbai youngster oozed confidence and class all through his innings, a straight drive off Cele and a cover drive off Subrayen underlined his batting's strong technical foundations.

Mhatre's brilliance helped India go for lunch at 71 for no loss but all the hard work was undone in the second session when they lost five wickets for 92 runs to be placed at 163 for five at tea.

Mhatre himself was one of the batters to depart in that session of madness, falling to the 32-year-old Subrayen, who wheeled away for 22 unchanged overs across three sessions for a creditable fifer.

Subrayen, who played for South Africa's senior team in the recent first Test against Pakistan before getting dropped from the squad to tour India, used the hint of turn and variable bounce to good effect and the capriciousness of the home batters did the rest. (PTI)

1972 Munich Olympics bronze medal-winning hockey goalkeeper Frederick dies

NEW DELHI, Oct 31: Former Indian men's hockey team goalkeeper and member of the 1972 Munich Olympics bronze medal-winning side Manuel Frederick died in Bengaluru on Friday morning.

Frederick was 78 and is survived by two daughters.

He had been suffering from prostate cancer for a last 10 months.

Frederick, born on October 20, 1947 in Barnasseri in Kannur, was the first athlete from Kerala to win an Olympic medal.

The only other sportsperson from the state to win Olympic medals is PR Sreejesh, who won bronze in Tokyo and Paris Olympics.

Frederick, who had moved to Bengaluru long back, was also suffering

from depression after his wife, Sheetal passed away a year back.

"Dad passed away this morning. He was suffering from cancer for the last 10 months and was also depressed after our mother expired a year back," his daughter Freshna told PTI.

"We tried our best but he developed jaundice in the end and his liver got affected, which aggravated his condition," Frederick had received the Major Dhyani Chand Award for Lifetime Achievement in Sports and Games in 2019.

Hockey India also condoled the death of Frederick.

"Manuel Frederick was one of India's finest goalkeepers — a true guardian of the post whose contributions during a glorious period of In-

dian hockey will always be remembered. His achievements paved the way for many who dreamt of representing India at the highest level," HI president Dilip Tirkey said in a statement.

"On behalf of Hockey India, I extend my deepest condolences to his family. Indian hockey has lost a great son, but his legacy will forever live on."

HI secretary general Bhola Nath Singh also paid tribute, stating, "It is an extremely sad day for the hockey fraternity. Manuel Frederick's dedication, especially as a pioneer from Kerala, inspired countless youngsters from non-traditional hockey regions to believe in their dreams.

"His discipline, commitment, and

service to the nation will always be honoured. We stand with his family in this moment of grief."

Frederick represented ASC and HAL in Karnataka, as well as Services, Uttar Pradesh and the iconic Mohun Bagan club during his club career.

He made his India debut in 1971 and served the national team with distinction for seven years.

Frederick guarded the goal in two World Cups -- Netherlands 1973, where India won silver, and Argentina 1978.

Known affectionately as 'Tiger' for his fearless and instinctive goal-keeping, he earned a formidable reputation for his mastery in defending penalty strokes. (PTI)


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