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**REPORT ON NELLIE MASSACRE**

# 1983 Assam violence was 'non-communal': Tewary Commission

**Panel holds AASU, AGSP responsible for 'stir and for its consequences'**

**GUWAHATI, Nov 25:** The large-scale violence in Assam in 1983, when the infamous Nellie massacre also occurred, had no "communal colour" though the fear of the Assamese people of "being overwhelmed" numerically was "not imaginary", the state government-formed Tewary Commission that probed the incidents in the first four months of that year said.

The panel also held that the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) and Asom Gana Sangram Parishad (AGSP) were "primarily responsible for launching the stir and for its consequences", referring to the anti-influx Assam Agitation.

The copies of the report of the commission of 1983 were circulated in the assembly on first day

of Winter Session on Tuesday.

The period investigated by the commission was when assembly elections were held amidst widespread protests against it, which recorded low voter turnout with the Congress sweeping to power, bringing to an end nearly a year-long President's Rule.

The six-year-long anti-infiltration movement, Assam Agitation, was led mainly by AASU and AGSP.

The printed copies of the report were placed on the desks of the MLAs during the day's proceedings, as it were not handed to then-legislators due to "non-availability of sufficient copies" when it was tabled in the House by the Asom Gana



Parishad (AGP)-led government in 1987. The AGP was the political offshoot of the AGSP, which was a signatory of the tripartite

Assam Accord in August 1985 along with AASU and the central government, bringing the Agitation to an end.

"The Commission of Enquiry on Assam Disturbances 1983", headed by retired IAS officer Tribhuvan Prasad Tewary, was constituted on July 14, 1983, to "look into the circumstances leading to the disturbances" from January to April of that year.

The final report was submitted to the then-Congress government in May, 1984.

A recent cabinet decision of the incumbent BJP-led government, of which AGP is a partner, had said that hard and soft copies of the report will be circulated in the assembly during the Winter Ses-

sion. The Tewary Commission was asked to examine the measures taken by the authorities to anticipate, prevent and deal with the disturbances, and to assess whether there was "any deficiency or failures" on the part of any authority or individual.

The panel examined 257 witnesses, including 106 officials.

The number of incidents during the period was 8,019, if various cases resulting in complaints were treated as separate incidents.

As many as 2,072 people were killed in group clashes and another 235 in police firing. Altogether 2,26,951 people were rendered homeless and 2,48,292 people were (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

**House adopts Oppn's adjournment motion on Zubeen Garg's death**

● Watertight chargesheet assured ● Speaker suspends Akhil Gogoi

## One person killed iconic singer in 'plain murder': CM

**GUWAHATI, Nov 25:** Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said in the assembly on Tuesday that singer Zubeen Garg's death while swimming in the sea in Singapore is a case of "plain and simple murder".

The CM also claimed that one person killed Garg and the others helped him, while stating that four-five people will be booked in the murder case.

The special investigation team (SIT), which is probing into the circumstances of Garg's death, has added murder charges to the case. The SIT has so far arrested seven people in connection with the singer's death.

"One of the accused killed



Garg and others helped that person. Four to five people are being booked in the murder case," Sarma claimed. "After the chargesheet in the murder case is submitted in December, the investigators

had ever betrayed Zubeen is spared," the chief minister said, without elaborating.

Sarma, who is also the state's home minister, claimed that the SIT will file a "watertight chargesheet, and the motive behind the crime will shock the people of the state", hinting that the whole case is related to money.

Sarma was replying to a discussion under an adjournment motion, moved by the Opposition on the singer's death, on the first day of the five-day Winter Session.

The motion was allowed by the Speaker at the request of the chief minister, in a rare instance of the government seeking (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

**Assam was turned into real police state: Report**

**CM lays non-official Mehta panel report on 1983 poll violence in Assembly**

**GUWAHATI, Nov 25:** Chief Minister

Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday laid the report of the non-official Mehta Judicial Inquiry Commission on the election violence of 1983 in the Assembly.

The Justice (Retd) TU Mehta Commission was formed by Asom Rajyik Freedom Fighters' Association (Asom Rajyik Mukti Jujaru Sammilan) (ARFFA), an organisation, after large-scale violence in and around the state assembly elections in February 1983, in the midst of Assam Agitation.

During the Assam Agitation, which took place from 1979 to 1985 against infiltration into the state, over 2,100 people were butchered, mostly Muslims, in a single night in the infamous Nellie massacre of 1983.

Sarma just laid the 'Report of the Non-Official Judicial Inquiry Commission on the Holocaust of Assam Before, During and After Election, 1983' and no discus-

sion took place in the House.

The state cabinet on November 23 approved tabling of the unofficial report in the Assembly.

The three-member Commission, formed by ARFFA, was headed by TU Mehta, Retired Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court, and had Retired IAS Officer Ganesh Chandra Phukan and former Finance Department Secretary-cum-Cotton College teacher Raihan Shah as members.

The Commission was "formally inaugurated" on February 19, 1984, as per the foreword of the report. It submitted its findings and report on August 20, 1984.

The Mehta Commission was apparently set up to counter the official Tewary Commission. Both the reports' investigation period was fixed from January to April of 1983 and the election had taken place in February of that year.

On July 14, 1983, the Assam govern-

ment had set up the commission under the leadership of T P Tewary. S Manoharan was appointed as the Secretary, and C K Verma and R C Jain were made the Officers of Special Duty of the probe body.

The 551-page report was submitted to the erstwhile Hiteswar Saikia government in May 1984, and it was tabled in Assembly in 1987 during the AGP government led by Prafulla Kumar Mahanta.

The Mehta Commission report said that although it had sought details from the Assam government for its probe purposes, the administration decided not to extend any support and had issued a circular banning all departments and officials from deposing before it.

"Assam turned into real police state and rule of a quality observed in police brutalities-every request to preserve and restore law and order was met by saying that the police forces were meant only for election (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

**ZUBEEN GARG DEATH**

**Judicial commission affidavit deadline extended**

**HT Bureau**

**GUWAHATI, Nov 25:** The Judicial Commission constituted to inquire into the untimely death of singer Zubeen Garg has granted a further extension of 21 days for the submission of affidavits, pushing the final date to December 12.

The decision has been taken to allow more time to individuals, organisations and other stakeholders who wish to place their statements on record before the Commission.

The original deadline for filing sworn affidavits had expired on November 21, marking the end of the initial window provided by the Commission.

However, in view of several pending submissions and a growing number of representations seeking additional time, the Commission decided to allow an extended period in order to ensure that all relevant voices and evidence are duly considered as part of the inquiry.

Officials associated with the proceedings (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

## Assam govt tables bill to ban polygamy, proposes jail, fine for offenders

**GUWAHATI, Nov 25:** Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday tabled a bill in the Assembly to ban polygamy, making it an offence with up to seven years of imprisonment for first offence.

It proposes to keep Scheduled Tribe (ST) members and areas under the Sixth Schedule out of the purview of the bill.

With permission from Speaker Biswajit Daimary, Sarma, who also holds the Home and Political departments, introduced 'The Assam Prohibition of Polygamy Bill, 2025'.

It was introduced in the absence of opposition Congress, CPI(M) and Rajior Dal MLAs, who staged a walkout after a discussion on the death of singer Zubeen Garg.

As per 'Statements of objects and reasons' of the bill, it aims to prohibit and eliminate practices of polygamy and polygamous marriage in the state.

However, the provisions of the bill will not apply in the Sixth Schedule areas and to the members of any ST.

The bill defines 'polygamy' as the act of marrying or being married to another person when either of the parties already has a subsisting marriage or a living spouse from whom he/she is not legally divorced, or their marriage is not legally annulled or declared

void. It proposes that any person going for polygamous marriage will be held guilty of an offence punishable with imprisonment up to seven years and fine, as laid down by law.

Anyone who commits a subsequent marriage while hiding an existing one shall face 10 years of jail and fine.

A repeat offender under the proposed act will be handed down double the prescribed punishment for every subsequent offence, the bill proposed.

A village head, quazi, parent or legal guardian who dishonestly conceals facts or intentionally participates in the conduct of a polygamous marriage may face up to two years in jail and a fine up to Rs one lakh.

Any person who knowingly solemnises a marriage in violation of the proposed law may be punished with up to two years of imprisonment or a fine up to Rs 1.50 lakh.

The bill further proposes that a person who enters into a polygamous marriage and has been convicted by a court this new legislation shall not be entitled for any public employment and appointment which is funded or aided by the state government.

Moreover, the person cannot be a beneficiary of any scheme (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

*Tribunals, vested with the powers of a civil court, will ensure transparency, accountability and timely disposal of cases*

## Assam govt mulls tribunals to safeguard tribal lands

**GUWAHATI, Nov 25:** The Assam government on Tuesday proposed to set up tribunals at the district level as per the Assam Accord to enforce land rights in tribal belts and prevent encroachment.

Tabling The Assam District Land Tribunal Bill, 2025, Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Keshab Mahanta said the proposed law seeks to establish independent district tribunals across the state for adjudication of matters relating to alienation of land in protected areas.

Eviction of unauthorised occupants and other connected issues have also been taken care of by the new law, he said.



"The legislation aims to strengthen land governance by providing a specialised, quasi-judicial mechanism to enforce land rights of protected classes, and address violations," Mahanta said in the

commitment to inclusive land governance and the protection of people belonging to protected classes," he said.

Mahanta said the establishment of district land tribunals is necessitated to ensure speedy, transparent and effective adjudication of cases concerning protected areas.

It will also help in overcoming delays inherent in the existing system where revenue authorities, burdened with multiple administrative responsibilities, serve as appellate authorities, the minister said. The Bill seeks to repeal Section 169 of the Assam Land & Revenue Regulation, 1886, and replace the existing appeal mechanism with the newly (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

**KARBI ANGLONG AUTONOMOUS COUNCIL**  
KAAC Secretariat :: Diphu

**Invitation**

Dear Sir/ Madam,

The authority of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC), Diphu requests your kind presence in the commemoration programme on the occasion of 71<sup>st</sup> Death Anniversary of Khorsing Terang - 1<sup>st</sup> Chief Executive Member of the then Mikir Hills District Council and now Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council on 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2025 at Khorsing Terang Memorial Park (New), near CEM's Bungalow, Diphu as per programme overleaf.

**Dr. Tuliram Ronghang**, Hon'ble Chief Executive Member, KAAC, Diphu has consented to grace the occasion as Chief Guest.

Date :- 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2025  
Time :- 08:00 AM Onwards  
Venue :- Khorsing Terang Memorial Park (New), near CEM's Bungalow, Diphu, Karbi Anglong.

**(Mukul Kr Saikia, IAS)**  
Principal Secretary  
Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council  
DIPHU.

## Stock markets fall for 3rd day on foreign fund outflows

# Sensex drops nearly 314 points

MUMBAI, Nov 25: Stock markets closed lower for the third consecutive session on Tuesday with the benchmark Sensex sliding nearly 314 points due to selling in IT and auto shares as foreign fund outflows dampened investor sentiment.

In a volatile trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 313.70 points or 0.37 per cent to settle at 84,587.01 with 24 of its constituents closing lower and six with gains. During the day, it fell by 363.98 points or 0.42 per cent to 84,536.73.

The 50-share NSE Nifty declined 74.70 points or 0.29 per cent to 25,884.80. Nifty has dropped 307 points or over 1 per cent in three sessions since Friday to slip below the 26,000 level while Sensex has shed 1,045 points or 1.2 per cent during the period.

Among Sensex stocks, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles, Trent, Infosys, Power Grid, HDFC Bank, HCL Tech, Kotak Mahindra Bank, ICICI Bank and Bajaj Finance were the major laggards.



However, Bharat Electronics, State Bank of India, Tata Steel, Eternal, Bharti Airtel and Reliance Industries were the gainers.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹ 4,171.75 crore on Monday, according to exchange data. Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs), however, bought stocks worth ₹ 4,512.87 crore in the previous trade.

"The domestic market witnessed sharp volatility on monthly expiry day, driven by a weakening INR and continued FII outflows. Caution prevailed as investors awaited clarity on a possible rate cut in the upcoming FOMC meeting and progress on the Indo-US trade deal, despite some improving signals," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

Broader markets were positive with the BSE smallcap gauge rising by 0.20 per cent and midcap index by 0.19 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, IT dropped 0.75 per cent, BSE Focused IT (0.64 per cent), consumer durables (0.53 per cent), teck (0.39 per cent), energy (0.32 per cent), auto (0.25 per cent) and utilities (0.25 per cent).

Realty, commodities, healthcare, telecommunication, capital goods and metal were the gainers.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index settled in positive territory.

Markets in Europe were trading on a mixed note. US markets ended significantly higher on Monday. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, dipped 0.69 per cent to USD 62.93 per barrel.

On Monday, the Sensex declined by 331.21 points or 0.39 per cent to settle at 84,900.71. The Nifty fell by 108.65 points or 0.42 per cent to 25,959.50. (PTI)

## Gold climbs to ₹1.28 lakh/10g in Delhi on festive demand

NEW DELHI, Nov 25: Gold prices climbed ₹ 3,500 to ₹ 1,28,900 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday amid fresh buying by local jewellers and retailers for the wedding festivities, according to the All India Sarafa Association. Snapping its three-day losing streak, the precious metal of 99.5 per cent purity appreciated by ₹ 3,500 to ₹ 1,28,300 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes).

Silver prices also witnessed buying interest in tandem with gold. The white metal soared by ₹ 5,800 to ₹ 1,60,800 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes). Traders said demand from local jeweller businesses has picked up for the wedding season. A weak US dollar against major currencies also boosts the demand for the safe-haven asset.

"Gold prices advanced on Tuesday, buoyed by a softer US dollar and surging December rate-cut expectations, following dovish remarks from Federal Reserve officials," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said. In the overseas market, spot gold was trading 0.09 per cent lower at USD 4,131.09 per ounce in New York, while spot silver fell 0.40 per cent at USD 51.15 per ounce. (PTI)

## RNIT AI Solutions Ltd to foray into GCC countries

**HT Bureau**

**GUWAHATI, Nov 25:** RNIT AI Solutions Ltd, an Indian technology company specializing in AI-enabled governance and enterprise automation solutions, on Tuesday announced that it has entered into a strategic partnership with Ajnihah Alnajah Group LLC, a Saudi-based enterprise and digital transformation solutions provider.

The partnership, valued at USD 3 million, marks RNIT's formal entry into the GCC region and aims to jointly explore opportunities to support digital transformation initiatives across Saudi Arabia and other GCC countries.

As part of the collaboration, RNIT and Ajnihah Alnajah Group will combine their respective strengths to address the growing regional demand for advanced AI-based automation and digital enablement solutions.

RNIT will contribute its expertise in AI-driven governance platforms, enterprise automation, facial recognition technologies, generative and conversational AI solutions, IoT-based industrial systems, and open-source digital transformation frameworks.

Ajniyah Alnajah Group will provide local market understanding, customer engagement support, and regional business development capabilities.

Commenting on the partnership,

Raja Srinivas Nandigam, Managing Director & CEO, RNIT AI Solutions Ltd, said: "This collaboration marks an important milestone in RNIT's international expansion journey. As the GCC region continues to advance its digital transformation agenda, our partnership positions us to meet emerging regional needs with our scalable AI and automation platforms."

Mohammad Abdul Siddiq, CEO, Ajnihah Alnajah Group LLC, added: "We are pleased to partner with RNIT to jointly explore opportunities in the fast-evolving digital ecosystem of the GCC. We believe RNIT's technology offerings, combined with our regional expertise, will help us support the digital modernization priorities of various sectors across Saudi Arabia and the GCC."

The collaboration will initially focus on RNIT's solution suite, including the Faceify ERP Identification Suite for enterprises and educational institutions, the RNIT-NIA AI platforms, open-source digital transformation systems, predictive analytics engines, and AI-based decision-support tools.

The companies will also explore areas for technical collaboration, knowledge sharing, and co-developed innovation initiatives in line with applicable regulatory requirements.

## Small tea growers writes to Prime Minister, seek national policy for growth

**KOLKATA, Nov 25:** The Confederation of Indian Small Tea Growers Associations (CISTA) on Tuesday has sent a missive to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking a national policy to support their growth.

In the letter, CISTA President Bijoy Gopal Chakraborty said that the small tea growers (STGs) contribute to more than 50 per cent of the total tea production volumes in the country annually.

"However, the STGs are facing acute distress in terms of volatile green tea leaf prices, limited access to credit and proper scientific support", he said.

Many of the STG owner falls into a debt trap due to this, Chakraborty said.

The group said that while production costs continue to increase, realisation in terms of prices is lower.

According to the confederation, the STGs generate substantial employment. In the letter, it said that as minimum sustainable price should be established for the green tea leaves produced by the STGs, they should also be brought under the various schemes like Kisan Credit Card, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, and be provided institutional support.

CISTA said a national policy for STGs should be drawn up by the Centre. (PTI)

## World shares advance after Wall Street gets lift from hopes for Fed rate cut

**BANGKOK, Nov 25:** European and Asian shares mostly gained on Tuesday after US stocks rallied on hopes the Federal Reserve will cut interest rates soon.

The futures for the S&P 500 and the Dow Jones Industrial Average slipped 0.1 per cent.

Germany's DAX edged 0.1 per cent lower to 23,216.76, and the CAC 40 in Paris added 0.1 per cent to 25,894.55, while the Shanghai Composite index jumped 0.9 per cent to 3,870.02.

In Asian trading, Tokyo's Nikkei 225 picked up 0.1 per cent to 48,659.52 as a plunge in technology giant SoftBank's shares weighed on the market. It fell 10.3 per cent on concerns that returns from its heavy investments in OpenAI will be threatened by the next generation Gemini artificial intelligence model that Google launched last week.

In South Korea, the Kospi gained 0.3 per cent to 3,857.78. Taiwan's Taiex jumped 1.5 per cent.



Chinese markets also advanced. In Hong Kong, the Hang Seng climbed 0.7 per cent to 25,894.55, while the Shanghai Composite index jumped 0.9 per cent to 3,870.02.

E-commerce giant Alibaba, which was due to report its earnings late Tuesday, gained 2.1 per cent in Hong Kong.

Australia's S&P/ASX rebounded to edge 0.1 per cent higher, closing at 8,537.00.

US markets will be closed on Thursday for the Thanksgiving holiday. A day later, it's on to the rush of Black Friday and Cyber Monday.

The US stock market rallied on Monday, at the start of a week with shortened trading because of the Thanksgiving holiday.

The S&P 500 climbed 1.5 per cent in one of its best days since the summer. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.4 per cent, and the Nasdaq composite jumped 2.7 per cent.

Despite all the recent fear, the S&P 500 remains within 2.7 per cent of its record set last month.

Several tests for the market lie ahead this week. One of the biggest will arrive on Tuesday when the US government will deliver data on inflation at the wholesale level in September.

Economists expect it to show a 2.6 per cent rise in prices from a year earlier, the same as in August. A higher-than-expected reading could deter the Fed from cutting its main interest rate in December for a third time this year, because lower rates can worsen inflation. Some Fed officials have already argued against a December cut in part because inflation has stubbornly remained above their 2 per cent target.

Traders are nevertheless betting on a nearly 85 per cent probability that the Fed will cut rates next month, up from 71 per cent on Friday and from less than a coin flip's chance seen a week ago, according to data from CME Group.

In other dealings early Tuesday, US benchmark crude oil lost 47 cents to USD 58.37 per barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, shed 49 cents to USD 62.23 per barrel.

The dollar fell to 156.30 Japanese yen from 156.91 yen. The euro rose to USD 1.1534 from USD 1.1521.

Bitcoin rose 1.6 per cent to USD 86,836. It was near USD 125,000 last month. (AP)

## Adani Enterprises opens one of India's largest rights issues

**NEW DELHI, Nov 25:** Adani Enterprises Ltd -- the flagship firm of billionaire Gautam Adani's conglomerate -- on Tuesday launched subscriptions for one of India's largest rights issues, offering shares at ₹ 1,800 apiece, a discount of roughly 24 per cent to the approval date price.

Total size of the issue (assuming full uptake) is ₹ 24,930.30 crore through the issuance of over 13.85 crore new shares, according to the company's rights issue filing.

The issue closes on December 10.

Under the issue, three rights equity shares for every 25 existing fully-paid equity shares held are being offered.

The offer is open to all eligible shareholders, with promoters, who hold about 74 per cent in the company, confirming they will subscribe to their entitlement.

At the issue price, the conglomerate's flagship firm would command a valuation of nearly ₹ 2 lakh crore.

Analysts peg the value of Adani Enterprises' airports business -- India's largest airport network -- between ₹ 2

lakh crore and ₹ 2.5 lakh crore, with some estimates extending to ₹ 3 lakh crore.

Proceeds from the rights issue will fund next-generation infrastructure projects across airports, data centres, green hydrogen, roads, PVC and copper smelting, along with metals, mining, digital and media ventures under incubation. A portion of the capital will also be used to retire debt.

"On application, investors will have to pay ₹ 900 (50 per cent of the issue price) per rights equity share. The balance amount (after payment of the application money), Rs 900 (50 per cent of the issue price) per rights equity share, will be payable by the rights equity shareholders in two subsequent calls," the offer document said.

"Rights entitlements (REs), which are neither subscribed nor renounced by the investors on or before the issue closing date (i.e. Wednesday, December 10, 2025) shall lapse and be extinguished after the issue closing date," the document said. (PTI)

Contd. from Page 1...

## 1983 Assam violence

forced to take shelter in relief camps. "...all the districts of the state excepting those of Cachar and North Cachar Hills, were affected..." the report said. In its "Conclusions and Recommendations", the commission stated that the decision to hold the elections cannot be blamed for the violence as it maintained that parliamentary process should not be obstructed nor any government must submit to threats or actual violence.

"AASU and AAGSP are primarily responsible for launching the agitation and for its consequences," it said, adding that there is "overwhelming evidence" that incidents of destruction of property, bandhs, etc were "organised in a pre-planned and extensive scale". "The whole situation got out of their control and the violence resulted in enormous loss of human life and property," it said. A large majority of government servants joining the agitators created further difficulties in maintaining law and order.

The report said that evidence showed the "mass support was built, among other things, on threats, intimidations, coercion and violence". The report maintained that while the extent and intensity of the agitation exceeded original assessment, "the system worked well". "It is entirely unwarranted to give a communal colour to the incidents under inquiry. All sections of the society suffered as a result of the senseless violence," it contended.

The report noted that the fear of the Assamese people "being overwhelmed by numbers is not imaginary", and it will help "in building a cordial atmosphere if the minorities themselves come forward in identifying the infiltrators". Stating that "occupation of land by the migrants is one of the greatest irritants", it advocated for special protection "as in Kashmir where no real estate can be acquired by or sold to an outsider".

Recommending "reasonable restrictions" on transfer of immovable property to non-Assamese people, the report said while defining an "Assamese" for this purpose, a reference to the National Register of Citizens or a minimum period of domicile in the state can be reasonable conditions, among others.

While legislative protection is given to some parts of the state in case of transfer of land, the report pitched for same protection to valley areas as is given in tribal belts and blocks.

"The question of detection of infiltrators and the ejection of encroachers are inter-linked in certain areas," the report said, noting that evictions were stopped in 1979.

The report noted that the composite character of the Assamese population can be a great asset provided sectional interests are not pursued and communalism not allowed to poison the minds of the people.

On February 18, 1983, over 2,000 people were killed, mostly Muslims, in a single night in the infamous Nellie massacre in the central Assam district of Morigaon. (PTI)

## One person killed

the nod for an adjournment motion. "It is an unprecedented instance of the government accepting the Opposition-sponsored adjournment motion," Sarma said, emphasising his government's concern over the circumstances surrounding Garg's death. Garg died while swimming in the sea in Singapore on September 19, while visiting the Southeast Asian nation to participate in the 4th North East India Festival (NEIF). An SIT of the state police is probing into the circumstances of his death. "A day after his death, Assam Police had registered a case regarding culpable homicide, criminal conspiracy, causing death by negligence or rash act. But after preliminary probe, the police were sure that it was not a case of culpable homicide, but a plain and simple murder," Sarma said.

"That is why, Section 103 (which deals with murder) of BNS was added to the case within three days of his death," he said, adding that if this section would not have been added, the arrested accused could have got out on bail. Sarma also hit out at the Opposition for a question on how he had been stating that Garg was murdered, and said, "Had they got hold of the court custody order of these accused, they would have known that murder charges have been slapped." The SIT has so far arrested seven people, examined 252 witnesses and seized 29 items in connection with the case, he said. Referring to the post-mortem reports of Garg, he said the one done in Singapore has been "by and large endorsed" by the experts at Gauhati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) here, where the second examination was done, and final report is based on both. Responding to the Opposition's criticism of the SIT and allegations of procedural lapse in the case, Sarma claimed that fool-proof probe is being conducted and there have been no lapse at any level. "Judgement is the work of the court. But I have faith in my team for their professional work... For the sake of justice for Zubeen Garg, let us not demoralise the officers till the chargesheet is filed," he said.

Sarma added that if any shortcomings are observed in the chargesheet, he is ready to accept the Opposition's suggestion for a House Committee to look into the matter. Sarma rejected a demand for a CBI inquiry into the singer's death. On another demand for endorsing conferring Bharat Ratna posthumously on Garg, the chief minister said all the 126 MLAs will support it if it is brought as a separate proposal. As the chief minister concluded his reply and Speaker Biswajit Daimary was about to move to next business on the agenda, Leader of the Opposition in the assembly, Debabrata Saikia of the Congress claimed that the proceedings of the adjournment motion were not complete. He maintained that the Opposition had more remarks to make while the Speaker also gave no ruling, and as a protest, the Congress MLAs walked out of the House briefly.

Independent legislator Akhil Gogoi was suspended from the House and forcibly moved out as he tried to march into the Well and displayed a poster, while expressing dissatisfaction over the chief minister's reply.

Earlier, the Speaker, allowing the motion, said important Bills and supplementary grants which were part of the original agenda for the day would be taken up at the end of the discussion as per a request of the chief minister. (PTI)

## Assam was turned

purposes," the report's conclusion stated. It also alleged that district officers taking shelter of instructions from above failed to perform their statutory duties to preserve law and order. "...civil services in Assam did not achieve even a minimum level of standard of civil service as envisaged in the Constitution, a little inclination to some awareness of their statutory duties would have saved the lives of thousands of persons and property worth crores of rupees," it added. Questioning who was responsible for such a situation, the Mehta Commission put the blame on incumbent central government, Election Commission, politicians who wanted to capture power by hook or crook, Assam Governor and his advisor bureaucrats at the state's secretariat. "Those who favoured elections did so in name of democracy but started by destroying all that democracy stands for, and ended by destroying all that civilization stands for. 'Constitutional Compulsion' -- a mere ruse-real motive to capture power as done in past by Chengizkhan and Taimurs without their frankness," it added.

The report mentioned some of the findings as -- foreigners problem, ignoring the promise to revise electoral rolls and failure of talks followed by "terror and draconian measures providing grave and sudden provocation" to people. It also said the excuse of Constitutional compulsions were a mere eyewash, failure of Election Commission to play a constructive role, power captured with repression, provocative speeches of politicians which flared up group violence, and negligence of law and order were some more points. Some more findings of the private probe body were disregard for law and order by armed forces and police, police and civil authorities forgot their statutory duties, and people "successfully" boycotted the elections. "That foreigners' problem in Assam is the real problem hanging for its solution since last many years. The real implication of this problem, if not solved in time, is the extinction of Assamese language, tradition, culture and way of life within a very short period. It was this problem which furnished the genesis of the trouble experienced by people during the period under investigation," the report said in its conclusion chapter. (PTI)

## Assam govt tables

funded or aided by the state government, and also cannot contest in any election for Panchayati Raj Institutions, Urban Local Bodies, etc. The proposed legislation seeks to provide compensation to the victim women as they have to suffer immense pain and hardships due to polygamous marriage. (PTI)

## Judicial commission affidavit

said the extension was granted in the interest of fairness and transparency, as several parties expressed their inability to meet the earlier deadline due to logistical and procedural reasons. With the additional time now available, the Commission hopes to receive a more comprehensive set of affidavits that may help in establishing a clearer understanding of the events and circumstances surrounding Garg's death. The Judicial Commission was set up with the objective of conducting an independent and detailed examination of the case. Its mandate includes probing whether there was any form of negligence, foul play, or procedural failure that could have contributed to what has been described as a shocking and tragic loss. The Commission is also tasked with reviewing available documents, witness accounts and any other material evidence submitted during the course of the inquiry. Zubeen Garg, who enjoyed a massive following for his contribution to music and culture in the region, passed away under circumstances that sparked widespread concern and demands for a thorough investigation. The formation of the Judicial Commission was aimed at addressing these concerns and restoring public confidence by ensuring a transparent and accountable process. With the new deadline now set for December 12, the Commission is expected to intensify its efforts to gather and assess all relevant information before moving to the next stage of the inquiry. Further steps, including hearings and the summoning of witnesses, are likely to follow once the affidavit submission process is complete.

## Assam govt mulls

constituted tribunals. "The Tribunals, vested with the powers of a civil court, will ensure transparency, accountability and timely disposal of cases, thereby strengthening public trust in land governance," Mahanta said. The Bill also provides for appeal to the Gauhati High Court, ensuring judicial oversight while maintaining the autonomy of the tribunals. The government proposed to set up the land tribunals in 11 districts within the tribal belt and block areas. Stating that no new posts or offices will be constructed as existing revenue offices and facilities will be utilised, Mahanta said each tribunal will be headed by a retired district or additional district judge. According to Clause 6 of the Assam Accord, constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards, as may be appropriate, shall be provided to protect, preserve and promote the culture, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people. (PTI)

### MAINTENANCE AND HOUSEKEEPING OF OFFICERS REST HOUSE INCLUDING OFFICE

Tender Notice No. DYCE-CON-DL-DMV-2025-03; Dated: 19-11-2025.

Open tender through e-tendering system is invited from experienced and reputed contractor (s)/firm(s) for the following works: Tender No. DYCE-CON-DL-DMV-2025-03 Name of work: Maintenance and Housekeeping by providing caretaker, cook and safaiwala etc. for Two year for construction Officers Rest House including office of Dy. CE/CON DL/Dimapur of N. F. Railway (Construction Organisation) in connection with Lumding-Furkating doubling project. Approximate Value: ₹84,89,847.84; E-tender will be closed at 15:00 hrs. on 12-12-2025 and opened at 15:30 hrs. on 12-12-2025. For details of Tender and any Corrigendum, please visit [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).

Dy CE/CON/DL/Dimapur Northeast Frontier Railway (Construction Organisation) "Serving Customers with a smile"

### AFFIDAVIT

I, Sri Najarul Ahmed s/o Iman Uddin Ahmed, resident of village Harilal Basti, Ward No.3, P.O. & P.S., Diphu, district Karbi Anglong, Assam, swear this affidavit before Notary Public, Diphu, Court dated 28th October, 2025, that my actual name is Najarul Ahmed as recorded in my Aadhaar Card Vide No.8194-7516-5857 and Elector Photo Identity Card bearing card No.HYG1734118. That Sahina Ahmed is my daughter, but in her Aadhaar Card Vide No.2163-2356-9887, my name has been wrongly recorded as 'Nazrul Ahmed' instead of 'Najarul Ahmed' and in her High School Leaving Certificate bearing registration No.15/GR/0020/303440/22, my name has been recorded as 'Nazrul Ahmed' instead of 'Najarul Ahmed.' The names 'Najarul Ahmed', 'Nazrul Ahmed' and 'Nazrul Ahmed' are the same and single person, not different individuals.

### E-AUCTION CONTRACT FOR LEASING OF VP IN LUMDING DIVISION

E-Auction is invited for the contract of leasing VP for 03 years in trains originating from Lumding Division. Description: Parcel Space in Parcel Van. Rate Unit: Per Trip Licensing Fee. Auction Catalogue No.: Lease-LMG-52-25. Auction Start Date & Time: At 11:00 hrs. on 08-12-2025.

Seq No.	Lot No. / Category
AA/1	15615-15616-VP-1-GHY-SCL-25-1 (Parcel-Parcel Van)

E-Auction Close Date & Time: At 11:30 hrs. on 08-12-2025. Initial Cooling off period is 30 minutes. Successive lot closing interval is 10 minute. Lot wise closing time can be viewed in e-Auction module of IREPS. Note: Prospective bidder are requested to visit e-Auction leasing module on IREPS website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for more details.

DRM (C), Lumding  
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY  
Serving Customers With A Smile



## QUOTE OF THE DAY

*No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent*  
—John Donne

## Unemployment situation

It should be a wake-up call for the Union Government that the economically busy season of the year started in September, and the festival season September-October has failed to improve employment and unemployment situation in the country. Unemployment rate remained in Current Weekly Status (CWS) at 5.2 per cent in October 2025 as it was in July, Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) at 55.4 per cent in October as against 55.3 per cent in September, and Workers Population Ratio (WPR) at 52.5 per cent in October as against 52.4 per cent in September. The latest Monthly Bulletin of Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for the month of October reveals this distressing data, despite all the claims of the Union Minister of Labour and Employment within the country and on international fora that India's employment scenario is improving and unemployment rate has been declining sharply. Even the data conceals many disturbing things including the headcount of the employed in the country. The government counts all the persons employed who got at least one hour of paid job in the past seven days, and also the family members who help their family enterprises without being paid for their work. Employment data is therefore exaggerated to veil the real unemployment in the country.

Nevertheless, the unemployment rate in CWS for persons of age 15 years and above in the country stood at 5.2 per cent in October. Unemployment in urban areas was far worse at 7 per cent compared to 4.4 per cent in the rural areas. The reason for the low unemployment rate in the rural areas is perhaps continuance of the agricultural activities for the Kharif and Rabi seasons. Nevertheless, it is surprising that unemployment rate among rural male above 15 years stood at 4.5 per cent in October, that was worse than unemployment rate of 4 per cent for rural females. It shows larger participation of rural females in agriculture and other activities that males. There may also be another reason which relates to low income as agricultural or rural labour, which prompted the male workforce to seek jobs elsewhere in the urban areas. However, they might have suffered much in search of jobs in the urban areas, because unemployment rate was far worse there at 7 per cent.

Male unemployment rate in the urban areas was 6.1 per cent in October, while female unemployment rate was far worse at 9.7 per cent. It means labour market in urban areas have worsened, which was 6.7 per cent in August — 5.9 per cent for males, and 8.9 per cent for females. In comparison, female unemployment rate worsened faster than the male unemployment rate in the urban areas.

A new government has taken oath in Bihar, and for the first time in almost twenty years, Nitish Kumar is the Chief Minister but does not hold the Home Department. That powerful ministry, which controls the police and law and order, has gone to Samrat Choudhary, one of the two Deputy Chief Ministers from the BJP. The other Deputy Chief Minister, Vijay Kumar Sinha, has been given Revenue and Land Reforms, Mines and Geology, departments that touch the lives of almost every villager and every landowner in the state. Out of the twenty-six ministers who took oath, fourteen belong to the BJP, and the party has kept almost all the important portfolios for itself: Health, Roads, Urban Development, Agriculture, Law, and many more. In simple words, the BJP has quietly turned the tables. The alliance is still called NDA, Nitish Kumar is still the face, but everyone understands that the steering wheel is now firmly in the BJP's hands.

This is a big change from the past. Even in 2020, when the BJP had more seats than the JD(U), Nitish Kumar made sure he kept the Home Department and several other key ministries. He needed those levers because he always kept the door slightly open for a possible return to the RJD and Lalu Yadav. That option gave him bargaining power. But this time the NDA won a massive majority, more than two hundred seats in a house of two hundred and forty-three. The message from the voters was loud and clear: they voted for the alliance, but they voted more for the BJP. Nitish Kumar's party could win only forty-three seats, less than half of what the BJP managed on its own. When the numbers are so one-sided, the smaller partner cannot dictate terms any more.

So the BJP has done what any smart senior partner would do. It has taken direct control of the departments that matter in day-to-day administration and in building a long-term political base. Home gives control over the police and district administration. Revenue and Land Reforms decide whose name is written in land records, who gets mutation done quickly,



who faces delays. Roads decide which village gets a proper all-weather connection before the next election. Health and Agriculture touch every household. By keeping these portfolios, the BJP is not just running the government; it is building its own independent network of supporters across Bihar.

People close to Nitish Kumar admit in private that the Chief Minister is not keeping well. Age and repeated health issues have slowed him down. Public events now tire him quickly, and he sometimes struggles to finish long sentences. The BJP knows he is still the most acceptable face for a large section of voters, especially among the non-Yadav backwards and Mahadalits. As long as Nitish Kumar is there, the alliance looks stable, and the opposition finds it hard to attack. But the BJP is also preparing for the day when Nitish Kumar is no longer in active politics. That is why the party is working overtime on social engineering.

Look at the new cabinet. There are ministers from almost every caste group that matters in Bihar. Extremely Backward Classes, which form the core of Nitish

Kumar's support, have got good representation, but many of them are now from the BJP. Even Yadavs, who have traditionally voted for Lalu Yadav's RJD, have started getting space. Ram Kripal Yadav, once a trusted lieutenant of Lalu Prasad, is now a Union minister from the BJP and played a

big role in the campaign. His presence sends a clear message: the BJP is no longer an upper-caste party; it is ready to welcome anyone who is willing to work with it. Kushwaha leaders, Mahadalits, Paswan supporters, even some Muslim faces have found a place. The party is trying to build a rainbow coalition that does not depend only on Nitish Kumar's personal popularity.

### DEGREE OF THOUGHT

By: Satyabrata Borah

This is clever politics, but politics alone will not be enough. Bihar remains one of India's poorest states. Young people leave in lakhs every year to work as labourers in Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Maharashtra, and even far-away Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Government schools are often without teachers, primary health

centres without doctors. Electricity has improved a lot in the last fifteen years, roads too have become better, but the state still lags behind on almost every human development indicator. Farmers still wait for proper irrigation. Floods continue to destroy crops in north Bihar almost every monsoon. Unemployment is high, and private investment is low. The BJP leaders say the huge majority is proof that people are happy with the last five years of governance. There is some truth in that. Crime rates have come down compared to the jungle raj days of the 1990s and early 2000s. Patna looks much cleaner and greener than it did a decade ago. Many districts now get twenty-four-hour electricity. Several big bridges over the Ganga have either been completed or are nearing completion. Yet everyone knows that Bihar needs much more than this. It needs industries, colleges, hospitals, and above all, jobs inside the state so that its youth do not have to migrate with bags on their shoulders.

The new council of ministers has some experienced administrators. Nitish Kumar himself is

known for getting files cleared quickly when he is in form. Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Sinha are both seasoned politicians who understand district-level politics well. Several new ministers are young and energetic. But energy and experience will mean nothing if the government does not set the right priorities. The Centre has promised special help to Bihar many times. Now that the BJP is in power both in Patna and Delhi, people will expect that help to actually reach the ground. Promises of new airports, medical colleges, and industrial corridors have been made in the past too, but many are still on paper.

Bihar is not just another state. It sends forty members to the Lok Sabha, second only to Uttar Pradesh. It has more than twelve crore people, almost a tenth of India's population. If Bihar grows fast, the whole country benefits. If it stays poor, the country carries a heavy burden. The new government has the numbers, the money from the Centre, and five full years without any immediate election. This is a rare opportunity.

Nitish Kumar may no longer control the Home Department, but he still has enormous goodwill among a large section of voters. If he can use the remaining years of his political life to focus only on development, leaving the daily politics to others, he can still leave a lasting legacy. The BJP, on its part, must remember that taking power is easier than delivering results. People gave a huge mandate because they believed the NDA could change Bihar's story. If schools remain broken, hospitals remain empty, and young people still have to leave the state to earn a living, the same voters can become angry very quickly.

For now, the BJP has won the power game inside the alliance. It has turned a junior partner into a senior one without breaking the coalition. That is smart politics. But the real test begins now. The people of Bihar are watching. They want roads, schools, jobs, and dignity. They want a state they can be proud of. The new Council of Ministers has everything it needs to deliver. Whether it actually does, only the next five years will tell.

## Dharmendra: The Timeless Star Who Conquered Every Genre

By: Himangshu Ranjan Bhuyan

Few actors in the history of Indian cinema have managed to remain relevant across six decades, fewer still have done so while refusing to be confined to a single image. Dharmendra, who passed away leaving behind a void that no successor has yet filled, belonged to that rarest category of performers who could carry an entire film on the strength of their presence, yet never allowed stardom to eclipse the character. From the tender lover of the early sixties to the angry action hero of the seventies, from the impeccable comic timing of the mid-seventies to the dignified character roles of the new millennium, he moved seamlessly between extremes, proving that versatility need not be a compromise but can become the very signature of greatness.

His arrival in 1960 with "Dil Bhi Tera Hum Bhi Tere" announced a face that carried both innocence and intensity. The camera loved the softness of his eyes and the firmness of his jaw, a combination that instantly set him apart from the polished urban heroes of the time. Yet what truly distinguished him was an almost rural simplicity that never felt contrived. He did not act the common man; he simply was one, transported to the screen with all his contradictions intact. This authenticity became the foundation of his long romance with the audience. When he wept for lost love in "Anupama" or stood shattered by betrayal in "Bandini", viewers did not see an actor performing grief; they saw a man they might have met in their own village or mohalla, suffering the same quiet heartbreak.

By the middle of the decade he had already displayed a range that most contemporaries spent entire careers chasing. "Haqueeqat" revealed a soldier willing to sacrifice everything for the nation, while "Phool Aur Patthar" transformed him into a rough-hewn dacoit whose heart melted at the sight of human goodness. The latter remains a landmark because it marked the first decisive shift from romantic hero to action star, a transition he accomplished without ever abandoning emotional truth. The famous scene where he lifts Meena Kumari in his arms and walks through the rain is remembered as much for the physical feat as for the tenderness in his eyes. That ability to balance raw strength with vulnerability became the template for everything that followed.

The seventies witnessed the complete flowering of the phenomenon called Garam Dharam. "Sholay" gave him Veeru, perhaps the most beloved character ever created in Hindi cinema. Veeru was drunkard and daredevil, loyal friend and hopeless romantic, comic relief and tragic hero, often in the space of a single scene. Dharmendra played him with such reckless joy that the line between actor and character dissolved completely. When he climbed the water tank threatening suicide or delivered the immortal "basanti" dialogue while dangling from a rope, audiences laughed and cried simultaneously because they recognised in Veeru their own capacity for madness in love and friendship. Amitabh Bachchan's brooding intensity found its perfect counterpoint in Dharmendra's exuberance, creating a friendship that still defines masculine bonding on the Indian screen.

Yet to reduce him to the action hero tag would

be to ignore the astonishing variety he continued to display. In the same decade that produced "Pratigya", "Dharam Veer" and "Charas", he also gave the world "Chupke Chupke", where he played a botany professor masquerading as a literature expert with timing so impeccable that even Hrishikesh Mukherjee admitted the film belonged to him more than to anyone else. The parody of literary pretensions, the gentle mockery of his own macho image, the effortless switching between Hindi and English, everything came together in a performance that remains the gold standard for sophisticated comedy in Hindi cinema. A few years later he would appear in "Satyakam", playing a man who chooses truth over everything else and dies for it, delivering what many critics still consider the finest acting of his career. The contrast could not have been starker: the same man who could make millions cheer when he bashed twenty villains single-handed could also make them weep silently for a principled man destroyed by society.

What explains this extraordinary range? Part of the answer lies in his roots. Born in a Jat family in Punjab, he never lost touch with the soil. Ever at the height of stardom he continued farming, spoke with the same directness, and carried the same earthy humour that made his comic scenes feel like conversations overheard in a village chaupal. This grounding prevented him from ever becoming mannered. Whether he played a villager fighting zamindari oppression in "Razia Sultan" or a sophisticated lawyer in "Chupke Chupke", the performance never felt like an intellectual exercise; it always felt lived.

Another part lies in his refusal to chase awards or critical approval at the cost of popularity. While contemporaries angled for "parallel cinema" roles to prove their seriousness, Dharmendra understood that the masses were his true constituency. He gave them what they wanted, larger-than-life heroes who fought for justice, but never compromised on craft. Even in the most formulaic revenge dramas, his eyes carried genuine pain, his anger felt righteous rather than manufactured. This sincerity turned ordinary commercial films into cultural documents. When he thundered "kutte, kaminye" in "Pratigya" or declared "yeh dhai kilo ka haath" decades later in self-parody, the lines entered public memory not because they were clever but because they emerged from a man the audience trusted completely.

His pairing with Hema Malini produced some of the most successful films of the seventies, yet their on-screen chemistry never overshadowed individual performances. In "Seeta Aur Geeta" he matched her double-role brilliance with understated warmth; in "Dream Girl" he allowed her to dominate while providing perfect foil. Their real-life romance, controversial at the time, only added to the mythology without ever affecting professional dignity. Through the turbulence he maintained silence and grace, letting work speak louder than gossip columns.

Age never diminished him; it only added layers. In the 1990s and 2000s, when most contemporaries had retired or been reduced to caricatures, he reinvented himself yet again. "Life in... Metro" showed him as an ageing man rediscovering love with heartbreaking gentleness.

The "Yamla Pagla Deewana" series allowed him to laugh at his own image while proving that comic timing had not deserted him. Even in small roles he brought weight and warmth that younger actors struggled to match. When he appeared on screen, audiences still sat up straighter, the way they once did when the title "Padma Shri Dharmendra" flashed before a film.

His contribution went beyond acting. He produced and directed "Betaab", launching his son Sunny Deol, and continued supporting new talent throughout his life. Unlike many stars who guarded their territory jealously, he celebrated the success of others. His friendships, whether with Amitabh Bachchan, Jeetendra, or the new generation, were marked by genuine affection rather than professional rivalry.

The tributes pouring in since his passing reveal the depth of his impact. Taxi drivers recall Veeru's dialogues, farmers remember the dignity he gave rural characters, women speak of the respect he showed female co-stars both on and off screen, and children who discovered him through re-runs still laugh at his antics in "Chupke Chupke". No award, no box-office record captures this reach. He never won the National Award for Best Actor, an omission that now seems almost poetic, because his real prize was something larger: the unquestioned love of generations who saw in him not just a star but a reflection of their best selves.

Indian cinema has produced many great actors, but only a handful have become cultural institutions. Raj Kapoor embodied the tragedy of the common man, Dilip Kumar the intensity of inner conflict, Amitabh Bachchan the anger of a generation. Dharmendra represented something equally vital: the joy of living, the warmth of human connection, the possibility that strength and gentleness can coexist in the same heart. He showed that an actor need not be intellectually forbidding to be profound, that popularity and artistic excellence are not mutually exclusive.

As new stars rise and fall with dizzying speed, his absence feels particularly acute. Today's heroes often seem manufactured, their emotions filtered through focus groups and image consultants. Dharmendra belonged to an era when stars were allowed to be flawed, passionate, unpredictable, human. He never tried to be perfect; he simply tried to be true. In an industry increasingly dominated by calculation, that truth feels revolutionary.

His films will continue to play on television channels at odd hours, and new viewers will discover what millions already knew: here was a man who could make you laugh till your sides ached, cry without embarrassment, cheer without restraint. Here was a star who never forgot that cinema, at its core, is about making people feel less alone.

Dharmendra did not merely act; he lived vividly on screen and, through that vividness, allowed countless others to live more vividly off it. That is why his departure marks not just the end of a career but the closing of a particular chapter in our collective emotional history. The lights have dimmed on a unique era, yet the glow he left behind will illuminate Indian screens, and Indian hearts, for as long as films are watched and stories are told.

## Young people are growing tired of the illusion of being 'always online'

By: Dr. Satyavan Saurabh

Today's Indian society is going through a transition where technology is both offering opportunities and creating crises. The rapidly expanding reach of social media is the biggest symbol of this transition. Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, X, and other platforms have given ordinary people a platform unimaginable a few decades ago. But as much as this empowerment brought hope, it has also created psychological and social complications. The younger generation, entangled in the superficial pursuit of likes, views, followers, and becoming a digital celebrity, is becoming trapped in a vortex of mental fatigue and social isolation that is invisible but deeply weakening. The number of social media users in India has surpassed 500 million—one of the largest digital communities in the world. The pressure it has placed on young people is even greater than this vast number. The habit of picking up the phone as soon as one wakes up in the morning and scrolling through the screen until closing one's eyes seems normal today, but this very normality has become the biggest threat. The desire to gain recognition through likes and views is gradually cutting off the youth from real life.

The most alluring and dangerous aspect of social media is that it creates a parallel world—a world where you can craft your own image, project a personality different from your reality, and frame your life within a dazzling frame. But the price of acceptance in this world is steep. To gain even a few seconds of attention, you have to constantly produce new posts, new photos, new reels, and new expressions. Young people are increasingly pressured to believe that if their posts don't receive enough likes or views, they've fallen short in some invisible competition. It's a competition for digital identity with no clear goal, no end, and no real winner. Every young person compares their own image to others. Someone else's smile, lifestyle, body, vacations, career, relationships—everything becomes a basis for comparison. This comparison undermines self-esteem, and gradually young people begin to feel that what they have in real life isn't enough.

Several surveys show that 59% of young people aged 18–34 admit that social media is affecting their mental balance. Problems like anxiety, stress, insomnia, overthinking, excessive excitement, and self-doubt are rapidly increasing. Two questions constantly linger in young people's minds: How many likes did this post get? What might people be thinking about me? The burden of these questions has become so overwhelming that even real achievements often feel incomplete without digital feedback. Self-confidence is no longer based on self-worth, but on the digital approval of others.

Most worryingly, depression and loneliness have risen sharply among young people who spend excessive time on social media. They appear "connected" on the outside, but deep inside, they feel deeply disconnected. The decline in real interactions has also weakened emotional expression. It's a common sight in many families today to see everyone at the dinner table hunched over mobile screens. Parents can't understand why children are

taking so long to create a post, or why a single photo requires multiple takes to get the perfect angle. The younger generation's emotions, communication styles, and preferences are rapidly shifting to digital formats, while older generations still value real communication and relationships. This generational gap has driven families emotionally apart.

Hanging out with friends is no longer an experience, but an opportunity to create content. Finding a "postable" photo everywhere has become a near-constant task. Relationships are gradually shifting from reality to a medium of performance. Many young people admit to being influenced by the "perfect relationships" they see on social media and harboring unreasonable expectations about their relationships, which later lead to disappointment.

The biggest problem with social media is the pressure to always be available. The constant barrage of notifications, the habit of responding to messages immediately, the fear of missing out on new trends, and the constant desire to appear updated are slowly draining the mental energy of young people. Digital fatigue has become a real problem today. Many young people are unable to sleep late at night because they fear they will miss something. Their concentration during the day is disrupted because their minds are constantly drawn to the screen. This cycle is endless, and the fatigue deepens as time passes.

The platforms' objective is simple—the longer the user is kept on the screen, the greater the profit. Algorithms are designed to keep the user from scrolling. Videos play back-to-back, notifications are constantly tempting, and content is curated to make the user feel like "just a little more." This strategy has the greatest impact on young minds, who are still maturing emotionally and intellectually. They don't understand that this world of social media is constantly consuming their time, energy, and self-esteem.

As big as the problem is, its solution is equally practical—digital discipline. Young people should set aside a specific time every day—this will control habits and reduce fatigue. Turning off unnecessary notifications reduces mental stress. It's important to stop comparing yourself to others' "highlight reels." Focusing on family, friends, books, nature, sports, and creative activities provides positive energy. Adding courses on digital behavior and mental health in schools and colleges is the need of the hour. Parents should also maintain a restrained and sensitive watch on children's mobile usage habits.

Young people need to understand that their true talents, emotions, creativity, and hard work are more valuable than the statistics displayed on a screen. Life's meaning is not built on digital applause, but on real experiences, relationships, and self-development. Social media has certainly made the world smaller, but if its use is not restrained, it also shrinks the scope of our own lives. It's time for young people to awaken from this illusion, distance themselves from the screen, and return to their true identities. Because this race for likes and views is endless—and it is sure to tire. But the paths in the race of life are endless, meaningful, and true.

# Partnership establishes a Human Development Exchange between the two states Meghalaya, Telangana sign tripartite MoU to boost collaborative governance, human development



**SHILLONG/HYDERABAD, Nov 25:** The Governments of Meghalaya and Telangana have signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen state-to-state collaboration in human development and government innovation.

(SCEP-GIL), Government of Meghalaya; the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP), Government of Telangana; and the Department of Women Development & Child Welfare (WDCW), Telangana.

The agreement was signed by Dr Sampath Kumar, IAS, principal secretary and development commissioner, Government of Meghalaya; Anita Ramachandran, IAS, secretary, WDCW Department, Telangana; and Divya Devarajan, IAS, CEO-SERP, in the presence of Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma.

## Nagaland sends revised comments to MHA

**DIMAPUR, Nov 25:** The Nagaland government has sent its revised and updated comments to MHA on the points of the draft Memorandum of Settlement (MoS-III) for the proposed Frontier Nagaland Territory Authority (FNATA), comprising six eastern districts of the state.

## Arms recovered in Manipur's Churachandpur

**IMPHAL/CHURACHANDPUR, Nov 25:** Security forces have recovered a cache of arms and ammunition during an operation in a forest area in Manipur's Churachandpur district, police said on Tuesday.

Acting on a tip-off, a joint team of police, BSF, CRPF and army personnel conducted a combing operation in the Bolneo forest area on Monday and seized weapons, a senior officer said. Based on intelligence inputs, the team also launched another operation at nearby Ningthiching village, but did not find any arms or ammunition.

The recovered items included seven modified projectile launchers, seven country-made single-barrel rifles, two country-made pistols, bombs, two handsets and others, the officer said.

No arrests were made during the operation, he added. Security forces have been conducting search operations in Manipur since ethnic violence broke out two years ago.

More than 260 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in ethnic violence between Meiteis and Kuki-Zo groups since May 2023. The Centre had imposed the President's rule in Manipur after Chief Minister N Biren Singh resigned.

## Woman held in Agartala city with 9 grams of heroin

**AGARTALA, Nov 25:** Acting on a tip-off, police from the West Agartala Police Station conducted a raid in the Krishnanagar area in Agartala and detained a woman allegedly involved in drug trafficking on Monday.

Police said that the arrested woman has been identified as Madhuri Debbarma and recovered a total of 9 grams of heroin from her possession.

## Tripura supply 23 hours 49 Minutes of power daily, ranks 4th in India: Power Minister

**AGARTALA, Nov 25:** Tripura Power Minister Ratan Lal Nath on Tuesday informed that Tripura is currently able to supply electricity for 23 hours and 49 minutes a day and is in the fourth position in the country in power distribution.

He said that out of this, electricity is supplied for 23 hours and 43 minutes in villages and 23 hours and 59 minutes in cities.

"Before our government, the state used to get power for around 21 hours, but now it receives 23 hours and 49 minutes a day. This is the report of the National Feeder Monitoring System (NFMS) of the Government of India. For the last seven and a half years, the Power Department has been striving to provide uninterrupted and quality power to the people of Tripura. Several steps have been taken for this," said the Minister.

The Minister said this after attending the bhoomi puja ceremony of the Rukhiya 120 MW Combined Cycle Gas Turbine Project.

He said that this gas-based thermal power plant at Rukhiya in Sepahijala district was set up in a total of six phases from 1990 to 2006. There are a total of nine Open Cycle (OC) Gas Turbine Generator Sets here. The first six of these—units 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6—each have a capacity of 8 MW.

"These units have been declared abandoned as their production period has passed. Due to the expiry of their period, their production was completely stopped at various times between 2002 and 2013. The remaining three units have a capacity of 21 MW each. So at present, the total capacity of the Rukhiya Gas-

## Three, including one Bihar resident, held with illegal firearms in Agartala

**AGARTALA, Nov 25:** Three persons were detained late Monday night near the Amtali Bypass in Agartala after police recovered illegal firearms from their possession during routine patrolling.

Superintendent of Police (West Tripura) Namit Pathak informed. Addressing the media SP Pathak said that a patrol team led by Paritosh Das, Officer-in-Charge of Amtali Police Station, intercepted an auto-rickshaw in the Bypass area after noticing suspicious movement.

"During the search, the police recovered two factory-made small arms, four magazines, and three mobile phones. Of the three detainees, two—Tinku Debbarma and Sumendra Debbarma—are residents of Barkathal in West Tripura district, while the third, Suresh Kumar, is from Bihar," the SP said.

According to police, Suresh Kumar had arrived in Tripura just a day earlier and was found in possession of the firearms. "A case has been registered against the accused. They will be interrogated further. Investigation is underway to trace the source of the weapons and identify the purpose behind transporting them," Pathak added.

All three suspects were taken to the police station for questioning. Further legal procedures have been initiated, and they will be produced before the court on Tuesday.

# We may not be perfect, but we are committed to honesty and accountability Tamang urges media fraternity to remain 'Third eye' of Sikkim

**GANGTOK, Nov 25:** Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang on Tuesday urged the state's press fraternity to act as fearless, fair and truthful "Third eye" and said that his government was open to criticism.

"I encourage the press fraternity to remain Sikkim's 'Third Eye' which is always fearless, fair, and truthful. We welcome your criticism as a guide, and I urge you to use your pen against misinformation, drugs, and social evils harming our youth," he said at the National Press Day function here, which was delayed by nine days on his request so that he could attend the event in person.

"We may not be perfect, but we are committed to honesty and accountability," Tamang said. The chief minister said that he had asked for the event to be postponed so that he could be present in person out of respect and admiration for the media fraternity.

In an indirect attack on the previous Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) government helmed by five-term chief minister Pawan Kumar Chamling, Tamang said that there was a time when the relationship between the government and the press was strained.

There were numerous incidents of vandalism of various media houses and individual journalists before 2019 for being critical to the Chamling govern-



ment. "Today, under the SKM government, journalism is built on freedom, trust, and mutual respect, though it faces many challenges—misinformation, threats to free expression, and safety concerns," Tamang said.

He said that his government has taken several steps to strengthen and support the press fraternity as part of its responsibility towards the media. The measures like financial and other support to the journalists and recognition as frontline workers during COVID-19, a building for Press Club of Sikkim, 17-

seater vehicle, health insurance under Sikkim Swastha Suraksha Yojana, pension scheme and annual grants for Press Club, increased advertisement rates, exposure tours and enhanced awards, he said. "A journalist struggling for survival cannot serve society, which is why our government has taken steps to support and strengthen the press as part of our responsibility. Our government has not only restored dignity and independence to the press, and but also ensured that these gains must be protected," the chief minister said. (PTI)

# COCOMI condemns two MLAs

**IMPHAL, NOV 25:** The Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI), a conglomerate of several organisations, has condemned two Manipur legislators for taking part in Sangai Festival which was earlier declared by many organisations to be boycotted. The two MLAs in question are Thongam Biswajit Singh of Thongju assembly constituency and Thounaojam Basanta Kumar Singh of Nambol assembly constituency.



The ten-day Sangai Festival kicked off on November 21.

On November 14, COCOMI had declared a complete boycott of the upcoming Sangai Festival 2025, asserting that holding a tourism festival amid the unresolved Manipur crisis and the prolonged suffering of internally displaced persons (IDPs) would be "insensitive and unacceptable." The COCOMI had stated that thousands of people continue to live in turmoil due to ongoing violence, displacement and insecurity across Manipur, making it inappropriate to organise any grand celebration. The committee had also emphasised that the boycott reflects the collective sentiment of the people who remain

deeply affected by the conflict.

According to the COCOMI, the state has failed to restore basic constitutional rights, including the security of life and property, freedom of movement and the safe resettlement of displaced persons. Yet, the government's focus appears to be on preparing for an international tourism festival rather than addressing urgent humanitarian and security concerns.

On Tuesday, the COCOMI said it "strongly condemned the conduct of the two MLAs who chose to attend the Sangai Festival at a time when thousands of citizens continue to endure unprecedented hardship due to the ongoing crisis in the state".

The COCOMI said Thongam Biswajit Singh and Thounaojam Basanta Kumar Singh participated in the Sangai Festival "despite severe suffering being faced by the general public and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)". The COCOMI asked whether the two MLAs' participation in the festival reflects the sense of responsibility and empathy expected from elected representatives during times of widespread distress.

Meanwhile, the COCOMI affirmed that it "remains committed to advocating for the rights, welfare, and dignity of the people, particularly the IDPs who continue to suffer displacement and hardship". (NNV)

# Rio for strengthening 'one crop one village' initiative



**DIMAPUR, Nov 25:** Nagaland chief minister Neiphiu Rio recently emphasised the need to strengthen the 'one crop one village' initiative.

Expressing satisfaction with the progress of cluster farming, Rio said commercial viability improves when villages grow selected crops collectively. He said this while launching the Coffee Table Book of the 24th Dr T Ao Inter-District Football Trophy during the Kohima District Planning and Development Board meeting-cum-Advent Christmas

organic production.

He also stressed the importance of fostering stronger relationships with farmers, urging officers and departments to understand the farmers, their interests and their land so that government initiatives can be implemented more effectively.

During the meeting, the agriculture department presented updates on the cluster-based farming model, noting that while agriculture remains a way of life in Nagaland, efforts are being made to shift to a more business-oriented approach to improve farmers' income.

The department highlighted ginger, potato, red rice, king chilli, maize, millet, garlic, rice bean and Job's tears as crops showing strong market potential.

The horticulture department briefed the board on crop suitability across different parts of the district, explaining that kiwi and persimmon are suited to the western and southern areas, citrus to the northern belt, and oranges to the Kohima Sadar region.

He also urged expansion of coffee cultivation, particularly in the northern areas of Nagaland, where the state's coffee is gaining demand for its aroma, flavour and organic qualities.

Rio reminded the gathering to work with the resources the land provides, emphasising that Nagaland's soil is fertile and ideal for

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# Suspected arms smuggler from Bihar among three arrested in Tripura

**AGARTALA, Nov 25:** Three persons including a suspected arms smuggler from Bihar were arrested with two country-made handguns in Bypass area in West Tripura district, a senior police officer said on Tuesday. During routine patrolling, a police team noticed three persons on Monday around 9.30 pm.

"They were detained on suspicion that they were planning a

crime, and two country-made pistols with four magazines were recovered from their possession," Superintendent of Police Namit Pathak told reporters.

It is suspected that the man from Bihar reached Agartala railway station with pistols and magazines on Monday.

"We will interrogate them to know from where they procured the firearms and to whom they

were supposed to handover the arms. A case has been registered against the three," he said.

Pathak added that three mobile phones were also seized from them which may be helpful in the investigation.

The other two arrested persons were Samarendra Debbarma and Tinku Debbarma of Barkathal in West Tripura district. (PTI)

# Mizo community ethos, source of inspiration for others: Guv

**AIZAWL, Nov 25:** Mizoram Governor Vijay Kumar Singh on Tuesday said the spirit, discipline and community ethos of the Mizo people are sources of inspiration for others. While presenting the Rajya Puraskar Award (Governor's Award) to selected Scouts and Guides during a formal ceremony held at the Raj Bhavan here, Singh said the Rajya Puraskar symbolises qualities such as perseverance, service, discipline and a passion for self-

improvement, the core values of the Scouting and Guiding movement. He encouraged the recipients to treat the honour as a stepping stone toward the nation's highest Scouting achievement, the Rashtrapati Puraskar. Expressing strong faith in the dedication and values of Mizoram's youth, Singh said the spirit, discipline and community ethos of the Mizo people would surely inspire many to achieve even greater success in the years ahead. (PTI)

**জাননী**

নলবাৰী জিলাৰ মীন উন্নয়ন বিষয়াৰ কাৰ্যালয়ৰ তৰফৰ পৰা Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)ৰ অৰ্থ সাহায্যত ৰূপায়ন হবলগীয়া "Assam Aquaculture Promotion and Livelihood Improvement (ASAPAL) প্রকল্পৰ অধীনত সমূহীয়া পুখুৰী/অনুষ্ঠান পুখুৰী উন্নয়নৰ বাবে নলবাৰী জিলাৰ অন্তৰ্গত ইচ্ছুক আবেদনকাৰীৰ পৰা নিৰ্দিষ্ট আবেদন পত্ৰত আবেদন পত্ৰ বিচৰা হৈছে। প্রকল্পৰ সৰ্বশেষ এনেধৰণৰ

আঁচনিৰ নাম	নিৰ্দ্ধাৰিত লক্ষ্য (হেক্টৰ)	মুঠ ব্যয় (লক্ষ/হেঃ)	প্ৰকল্প ব্যয় (লক্ষ/হেঃ)	হিতাধিকাৰী অংশ (২০%) (লক্ষ/হেঃ)
সমূহীয়া পুখুৰী/অনুষ্ঠান-প্ৰতিষ্ঠানৰ পুখুৰীৰ উৎপাদকতা বৃদ্ধি	৩.০০	৬.২৫	৫.০০	১.২৫

১) সমূহীয়া পুখুৰীৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত পুখুৰীৰ পানীকালি ০.৫০ - ২.০০ হেক্টৰ আৰু অনুষ্ঠান-প্ৰতিষ্ঠানৰ পুখুৰীৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত পুখুৰীৰ পানীকালি ০.৪০ - ২.০০ হেক্টৰ যোৰাটো বাঞ্ছনীয়।

২) পুখুৰীৰ মাটি / মালিকীৰ অধীনত আবেদনকাৰীৰ নিজৰ নামত থাকিব লাগিব। লীজত লোৱা হ'লে লীজৰ নূনতম সময়সীমা ৫ বছৰ হ'ব লাগিব আৰু অতিকমে ৫ বছৰ লীজৰ সময় হাতত থাকিব লাগিব। পুখুৰী লীজত লোৱা চুক্তিপত্ৰ NOTARY AFFIDAVIT যোগে জমা দিব লাগিব।

৩) আবেদনকাৰীয়ে যোৱা ৫ বছৰত কোনো ধৰণৰ মীন পালনত প্ৰয়োজনীয় সামগ্ৰীৰ বাবে চৰকাৰী সাহায্য পোৱা হ'ব নালাগিব।

৪) হিতাধিকাৰীয়ে মুঠ ব্যয়ৰ ২০% অংশ নিজে বহন কৰিব লাগিব তথা আঁচনিৰ বিভাগীয় নীতি-নিয়ম/চৰ্তসমূহ মানি চলিবলৈ বাধ্য থাকিব লাগিব।

বিঃপ্ৰঃ বিতং তথ্যৰ বাবে তথা নিৰ্দিষ্ট আবেদনপত্ৰ সংগ্ৰহ ও জমা দিয়াৰ বাবে জিলা মীন উন্নয়ন বিষয়াৰ কাৰ্যালয়, নলবাৰীত কাৰ্যালয় চলি থকাৰ সময়ত যোগাযোগ কৰিব পাৰিব।

**আবেদন পত্ৰ জমা দিয়াৰ অন্তিম তাৰিখ হৈ ১০-১২-২০২৫।**

স্বাক্ষৰ/-  
DIPR/D/HLT/224/26-Nov-25  
জিলা মীন উন্নয়ন বিষয়া, নলবাৰী

CONSTITUTION DAY

President to lead event at iconic Central Hall



NEW DELHI, Nov 25: President Droupadi Murmu will lead celebrations to mark Constitution Day at the old Parliament building's historic Central Hall on Wednesday.

Affairs on Tuesday said the "national function" to commemorate Constitution Day will be held in the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan in the old Parliament building.

the address of the president," the statement said. As part of the event, the Constitution of India in nine languages - Malayalam, Marathi, Nepali, Punjabi, Bodo, Kashmiri, Telugu, Odia and Assamese -- prepared by the Legislative Department of the Union law ministry, will be launched digitally.

India has potential to become global hub for shipbuilding: Rajnath



NEW DELHI, Nov 25: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday called upon global defence majors to seize the opportunities in India's vibrant shipbuilding industry to co-develop next-generation maritime capabilities.

from the armed forces at the gathering. The defence minister asserted that the Indian shipbuilding industry, composed of the "spirited" public sector undertakings and "dynamic" private sector partners, safeguards national interests, regionally and globally.

technological maturity and industrial depth. He pointed out that flagship projects, such as India's first indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant, Kalvari-class submarines and stealth frigates and destroyers, underline not only the naval strength of the country, but also the expanding design capability and automation.

building, ship repair, and maritime innovation in the coming decade," Singh said. The defence minister underlined the fact that every ship of the Indian Navy and the Indian Coast Guard currently under construction is being built in Indian shipyards.

Back leaders who align with PM Modi's 'development agenda: Fadnavis at poll rally

AMRAVATI, Nov 25: Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday said his government doesn't just give assurances but fulfils them and appealed to people to elect corporators and leaders who will work according to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's agenda for development.

ing to our and PM Modi's agenda for development," Fadnavis told the gathering. He pointed out that after the Mahayuti government came to power, it made medical treatment up to ₹ 5 lakh free for all and a month ago, expanded the scope of the scheme to 2,400 diseases from the earlier 1,300 ailments.

Inaugural session of 18th Bihar assembly from Dec 1

PATNA, Nov 25: The inaugural session of the 18th Bihar assembly would commence on December 1, when all the newly elected members will be administered oath of office, an official notification said on Tuesday.

Cong high command has to put full stop on CM change confusion: Siddaramaiah

BENGALURU, Nov 25: As the power tussle within the ruling Congress in Karnataka refuses to die down, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday said that the party high command should ultimately take the decision to put a full stop to this confusion.

after the Congress government reached the halfway mark of its five-year term on November 20, citing an alleged "power-sharing" agreement involving Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM D K Shivakumar in 2023.

command to put the matter to rest, he said, "Whatever they (legislators) want to say, let them say to the high command. Ultimately, to put a full stop to this confusion, the high command has to take the decision."

about ten of them, supporting Shivakumar had travelled to Delhi and met Kharage. To a question on the Cabinet reshuffle, the CM said, "It will happen when the high command says."

Notice regarding document verification of posts under SLRC. Includes a table with columns for Sl. No., Date, Name of the Post, Roll No., Time, and Venue. Lists various candidates and their details for the COVDO post.

Uttarakhand to study bear behavior amid rising human-wildlife conflicts

DEHRADUN, Nov 25: Amid a rising number of bear attacks in Uttarakhand over the past two months, the state forest department has decided to conduct an extensive study on the behaviour of the black Himalayan bear to find a long-term solution to the conflict between humans and wildlife.

humans. In the past three years, deaths have also occurred due to attacks by bees and wasps. In the last five years, bears have injured 438 people, according to official data.

Using school students for SIR work is violation of their education rights: Minister Sivankutty

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, Nov 25: Kerala General Education Minister V Sivankutty on Tuesday said using school students as volunteers for SIR of the electoral rolls would not only affect their studies, but is a violation of their right to education.

Notice Inviting Tender for Rate Contract For Supply Of Electrical Items At Nagaon Medical College, Nagaon, Assam. Includes details about the tender process and contact information.

Notice regarding land record correction in respect of F. S. Grant Patta No. 1, Sag No. 227 of Revenue Village-Ramshahli F. S. Grant of Mouza-Ulubari under Guwahati Revenue Circle.

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM DIRECTORATE OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS, ASSAM, RUKMINI NAGAR, GUWAHATI-6. Notice regarding INO level verification date for Pre-Matric Scholarship to ST students.

Party flags cash-for-vote, voter intimidation and misuse of government machinery

# Cong alleges malpractices, ahead of panchayat, civic polls

**ITANAGAR, Nov 25:** The Arunachal Pradesh Congress has submitted a representation to the State Election Commission (SEC), alleging widespread electoral malpractices, rampant cash distribution, intimidation of voters and misuse of government machinery in the run-up to the December 15 panchayat and municipal elections.

The ruling BJP dismissed the allegations, claiming that the Congress has "lost the faith of the people".

The Congress, in a memorandum to the SEC on Monday, alleged that inputs received from the public, media platforms and ground observers indicate that the forthcoming polls bear the risk of "becoming one of the most compromised electoral exercises in the state's history, undermining democratic integrity and the sanctity of the ballot".

According to the opposition party, elections that are meant to reflect grassroots democracy have transformed into one of the "costliest and most unethical contests, driven by unchecked cash flow, vote-buying, mass feasts and the diversion of government resources for political advantage".

The party alleged that money and power have "overwhelmed" ideology and "reduced democratic choice to a transactional activity, eroding public faith in the electoral process".

The Congress also accused the ruling BJP of systematic

## Former Minister Bida Taku urges voters to choose candidates committed to development

HT Correspondent

**ITANAGAR, Nov 25:** Former Minister Bida Taku on Monday appealed to the people of Arunachal Pradesh to elect capable and deserving candidates in the ongoing local body elections, stressing that the choice of representatives should not be influenced by religion, caste or community affiliations. Speaking to the media in Itanagar, Taku, who is also a former Advisor of the Arunachal Christian Forum, said voters must prioritise the development of their locality and the welfare of the public over identity-based considerations. "I am of the firm opinion that candidate selection and election should be based on the development of the area and the welfare of the local people," he said.

He urged voters to refrain from casting their ballots on religious, community, tribal, or party lines, noting that such tendencies hinder genuine progress. In light of the confusion surrounding the Panchayat and Municipal elections, Taku advised the electorate to support leaders who genuinely assist people in their daily needs. Taku also touched upon the Arunachal Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act (AFRA) and the recent election of the new president of the Arunachal Christian Forum, along with the formal handing over of responsibilities in the organisation.

"As a believer in Christ, I have come before the media to appeal to genuine voters to elect genuine candidates," he stated. With November 24 marking the last date for filing nominations, he noted that campaigning would intensify from this point onward and reiterated his request for voters to choose candidates who can work for the greater interest of the general public.

## Speaker briefs Governor on Constitution Day preparations



HT Correspondent

**ITANAGAR, Nov 25:** State Assembly Speaker Tesam Pongte, accompanied by Assembly Secretary Tadar Meena, called on the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, Lt KT Parmaik (Retd), at Raj Bhawan on Monday to discuss preparations for the upcoming Constitution Day celebrations.

During the meeting, the Speaker apprised the Governor of the arrangements being made for the programme, which is scheduled to be held at the State Assembly on 26 November 2025. They discussed key components of the event and exchanged views on ensuring its smooth, meaningful and well-coordinated conduct.

The Governor appreciated the efforts of the Assembly Secretariat and expressed confidence that the celebrations would appropriately reflect the spirit and importance of Constitution Day.

## Itanagar Capital bandh deferred in view of National School Games and festivals

HT Correspondent

**ITANAGAR, Nov 25:** The Arunachal Pradesh Indigenous Youth Organisation (APIYO), Indigenous Youth Force of Arunachal Pradesh (IYFA) and the All Naharlagun Youth Organisation (ANYO) on Monday announced the deferment of their proposed 12-hour bandh in the Itanagar Capital Region. The bandh was earlier scheduled to be held soon, but has been postponed following an assurance from the Home Minister to convene a round-table meeting on December 5 involving the DGP, SPs and other senior officials.

The organisations clarified that the postponement does not mean they have withdrawn their demands. They stated that they will attend the December 5

## Rilu Upper Primary School teacher turns entire campus into learning canvas

HT Correspondent

**RILU, Nov 25:** In an extraordinary demonstration of dedication and innovation, Dakrik Nyori, PRT and the lone teacher of Rilu Upper Primary School, has transformed the entire campus into a vibrant visual learning space. With only seven students currently enrolled, the veteran educator—who is nearing retirement has gone far beyond conventional teaching methods by converting every wall into an educational canvas to enhance learning, memory retention and student engagement.

Despite managing both academic and administrative responsibilities singlehandedly, Nyori has invested immense personal effort in creating hand-drawn educational illustrations throughout the school premises. His artwork reflects creativity, vision and a deep commitment to holistic education.

Among the many visuals he has crafted are multiplication tables for daily mathematical reinforcement, traffic signals and road safety signs to instill early awareness of traffic rules and a detailed water cycle diagram to simplify environmental science concepts for young learners.

He has also painted a world map to broaden geographical understanding, alongside national sym-

## Observer reviews election preparedness for Rural Papum Pare

HT Correspondent

**YUPIA, Nov 25:** Mige Kamki, IAS, Observer for the Panchayati Raj Elections 2025 for Papum Pare district, on Monday reviewed the preparedness for Rural Papum Pare in a meeting held at the DC Conference Hall. During the review session, Nodal Officers for manpower, training, polling materials, counting hall arrangements, transport and TPT, refreshments, accommodation and the control room presented detailed briefings on the status of their preparations.

Interacting with the officials, Kamki underlined the importance of having clear knowledge of jurisdictional boundaries between Rural Papum Pare and the Itanagar Capital Region to ensure smooth execution of election duties. He further advised all departments to keep expenditures under strict control and avoid unnecessary spending.

The Observer also visited the Returning Officers (ROs) and observed the nomination process, which concluded at 3 PM on Monday across Rural Papum Pare.

DC-cum-DEO (PR) Vishakha Yadav assured the Observer that the administration is committed to diligent expenditure management and the smooth, proper conduct of the elections. AC (PR) Dr Dana Unna informed that preparations for the ensuing Panchayati Raj elections are progressing in full swing, with coordinated efforts underway across all sectors.

With his retirement scheduled for next year, Dakrik Nyori's decades of dedicated service and exceptional contributions have set a benchmark for child-friendly education in rural settings. Many in the district believe his efforts deserve formal recognition, including consideration for a State Award.

## Vijoyanagar yields Hoya dawodiensis; two other Hoya species recorded in major biodiversity boost

HT Correspondent

**ITANAGAR, Nov 25:** Arunachal Pradesh has reported a major scientific milestone with the discovery of a new plant species, Hoya dawodiensis in the remote and biodiversity-rich Vijoyanagar region in Changlang district of the state.

Chief Minister Pema Khandu in a social media post termed the discovery a "remarkable chapter" in the state's growing legacy of botanical research.

Researchers involved in the study said the discovery of Hoya dawodiensis is particularly significant because the Vijoyanagar landscape, accessible only by air or multi-day treks, remains one of the least explored but biologically richest regions of the state.

Researchers have also recorded Hoya yingjiangensis for the first time in India, expanding the coun-

try's known floral diversity, while Hoya nummularia has been documented in Arunachal Pradesh for

the first time. Hoya plants belong to a large group of tropical flowering species. Officials said that these findings further strengthen the state's botanical baseline, which has rapidly expanded over recent years following a series of new amphibian, orchid and baelam discoveries across high-altitude and tropical zones.

Khandu, while applauding the work of national and international institutions leading to the discoveries, said these findings reflect the scientific potential of the region.

"These findings reaffirm the unmatched biodiversity of Arunachal Pradesh," he said in a post on X, congratulating the joint team from the Society for Education & Environmental Development, the Botanical Survey of India and Botanic Research Singapore.

"We are committed to supporting research that brings global attention to our natural heritage," he added.

## Elderly tourists stranded in snowfall rescued in Tawang



changes.

With visibility dropping and the cold intensifying, the tourists contacted authorities for help, prompting the Army's Gajraj Corps to respond to the distress call.

A rescue team reached the spot amid snowfall, provided medical assistance to the stranded individuals, helped them warm up and assessed their condition before beginning the evacuation.

All eight were safely escorted out of the snowbound area and they later resumed their onward journey to Bomdila, officials said.

With more snowfall expected in the coming days, authorities have advised travellers to remain cautious and check weather updates before taking mountain routes. (PTI)

HT Correspondent

**LOWER SIANG, Nov 25:** As part of ongoing preparations for the Panchayat Election 2025, Election Observer Kangki Darang, APCS (SAG) on Monday carried out an extensive inspection across major administrative points and polling stations in Lower Siang District. He was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner-cum-District Election Officer Rujjum Rakshap, Liaisoning Officer Dr Senpe Taipodia and District Planning Officer Henge Riba.

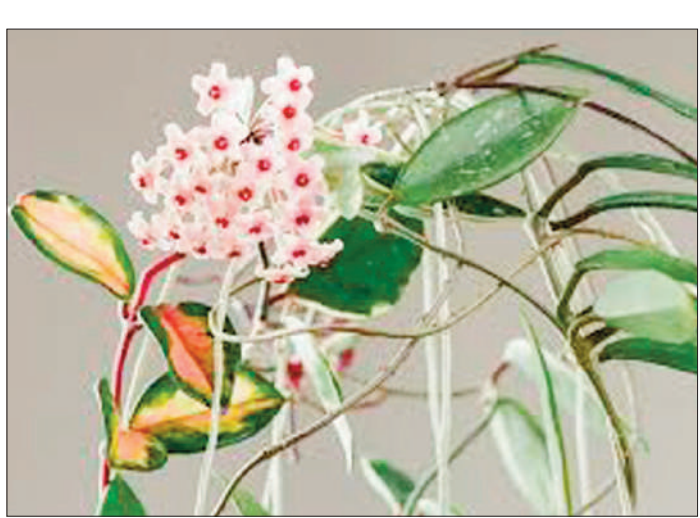
The team began the visit at Nari Headquarters, where they held an interactive session with Returning Officers (ROs) and Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) of the Zila Parishad Constituencies under the Ramle Banggo area. The dis-

ussions centred on logistical readiness, adherence to election guidelines and ensuring seamless coordination among all election functionaries.

The Election Observer and accompanying officials later inspected key polling stations, including Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS), Nari and Government Upper Primary School, Lumpo. During the visit, the team interacted with Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and briefly engaged with students in the classrooms, highlighting the importance of free and fair elections in a democratic setup.

Kangki Darang stressed that transparency, neutrality and smooth conduct of the Panchayat Election 2025 remain top priorities

## Election Observer reviews Panchayat election preparedness in Lower Siang



ing research that brings global attention to our natural heritage," he added.

The chief minister also noted that documenting new species is crucial for long-term conservation. "Every discovery strengthens our understanding of these fragile ecosystems and highlights why they must be protected," he said in his message shared on social media.

The new records are expected to aid future conservation planning and draw renewed ecological focus to the easternmost frontier of Arunachal Pradesh.

Officials said the findings come amid a productive year for biodiversity research in the state with scientists reporting multiple plant and animal discoveries in recent months. (PTI)

## Khandu condemns China after Arunachal woman detained at Shanghai Airport

Incident called a 'violation of international norms' and affront to Indian citizens' dignity

HT Correspondent

**ITANAGAR, Nov 25:** Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Tuesday denounced the Chinese immigration authorities for what he described as 'unacceptable' and 'appalling' treatment of a woman from the state, who was detained for nearly 18 hours at Shanghai Pudong Airport after officials allegedly refused to recognise her Indian passport.

Khandu said he was "deeply shocked" by the ordeal faced by Pema Wangjom Thongdok, a UK-based Indian citizen and claimed that the conduct of Chinese officials amounted to "humiliation and racial mockery".

"Subjecting her, despite a valid Indian passport, to such treatment is appalling," the chief minister said in a post on X.

He also asserted, "Arunachal Pradesh is and will always be an integral part of India. Any insinuation otherwise is baseless and offensive."

Calling the incident a "violation of international norms and an affront to the dignity of Indian citizens", Khandu said he was confident that the Ministry of External Affairs would take up the matter urgently to ensure such episodes are not repeated.

Thongdok, who hails from Rupa in West Kameng district and currently lives in the UK was travelling from London to Japan on November 21 when her three-hour layover turned into a "prolonged and distressing confrontation".

In a detailed post on X on Sunday, she wrote: "I was held at Shanghai airport for over 18 hours on 21st November 2025 by China immigration and China Eastern Airlines. They called my Indian passport invalid because my birthplace is Arunachal Pradesh, which they claimed is



Chinese territory."

The woman said she was confined to the transit area without clear explanations, proper food or basic facilities. Her passport was allegedly confiscated and she was prevented from boarding her connecting flight to Japan despite holding a valid visa.

Thongdok has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other senior officials, describing the episode as a "direct insult to India's sovereignty and the people of Arunachal Pradesh".

She urged the government to take up the matter strongly with Beijing, demand accountability, seek disciplinary action against those involved, and push for compensation for the harassment faced.

PTI could not reach Thongdok or her mother, Sang Chom Thongdok Pema Choeling, for comments.

The incident comes in the backdrop of China's long-standing and frequently reiterated claim over Arunachal Pradesh, which it refers to as 'South Tibet'. India has consistently rejected these claims, asserting that the state is an integral and inalienable part of the country. (PTI)

# South Africa all but seal series as India stare at whitewash

**GUWAHATI, Nov 25:** India stared down the barrel as a ruthless South Africa slowly tortured the home side by posting an improbable victory target of 549 that has all but ensured the visitors' first series triumph here in 25 years at the end of the fourth day of the second Test.

After South Africa declared their second innings at 260 for 5, India were reeling at 27 for 2 at stumps on Tuesday, having lost openers Yashasvi Jaiswal (13) to Marco Jansen and KL Rahul (6) to Simon Harner respectively.

Sai Sudharsan (2 batting) and night-watcher Kuldeep Yadav (4 batting) were at the crease but it will take a herculean effort from the remaining batters to save the game on the final day and avoid the ignominy of a 0-2 whitewash.

The only saving grace for them could be the fact that light fades quickly in this part of the world after 3:45 pm and not more than 80 odd overs have been possible on any of the past four days.

Head coach Gautam Gambhir will certainly prefer a 0-1 series defeat over a 0-2 result which would be the second series debacle at home against a SENA nation in the past 12 months.

On the fourth day, the reigning World Test Champions had two targets. First was to set a target that would be virtually out of reach.

Secondly, the more time Proteas spent batting on the fourth day, stronger became the chances of the red soil track crumbling on the fifth day.

Tristan Stubbs (94 off 180 balls), who missed out on a half-century in the first in-



nings by a solitary run, this time fell short of a Test ton by only six runs.

Once Stubbs became Ravindra Jadeja's (4/62 in 28.3 overs) fourth victim, skipper Temba Bavuma declared the second innings having knocked the stuffing out of the Indian team by making them bowl for 78.3 overs.

Stubbs enjoyed a 101-run stand for the fourth wicket with Tony de Zorzi (49) and another 82 for the fifth wicket with Wiaan Mulder (35 not out). This was after a 50-plus opening stand between Ryan Rickleton (28) and Aiden Markram (35).

Bavuma, an experienced captain, looked tactically superior compared to India's stand-in skipper Pant, who looked bereft of ideas in his debut in the leadership role, albeit in a one-off game.

Bavuma could have jolly well called his men in after they their lead swelled to 450. But he perhaps wanted to ensure that the SG Test remained relatively new when his men come out to bowl in the morning.

They would try to exploit any help available from the surface before it all flattens out. The pitch still looks solid even though the

degree of turn from less than three on the first day, has now gradually increased to 4.6 on the fourth day. That was evident when Jadeja, who hardly gets any purchase in helpful batting conditions, tossed one up to Aiden Markram and lured him into playing a forward defensive stroke.

The ball pitched on the middle stump, turned sharply away from Markram's outside edge while clipping the off-stump. A few overs later, it was Bavuma, who fell for a leg-side trap set by Washington Sundar as he got one bouncing and turning into his rib cage.

The tickle was taken down at leg-slip by Nitish Reddy.

However, after that dismissal, both Washington (1/67 in 22 overs) and Jadeja stopped getting any appreciable turn and once the ball went soft, Stubbs and De Zorzi farmed the strike with ease.

Pant's tactical calls and field placements also left a lot to be desired as he would constantly switch between "in-out" field (half close in and a few in deep) to five fielders in the deep to save boundaries.

There was a point after which it felt that the Indian team was just playing the waiting game looking for Bavuma to declare the innings at some stage.

The Indian skipper also couldn't give Kuldeep (0/48 in 12 overs) more opportunities to bowl as he was being hit for runs.

Pant also needed a bit of control which Jadeja and Washington collectively gave for 50 plus overs. But the duo, despite being disciplined, never looked as menacing as Harner has looked in each innings that he has bowled. (PTI)

## Raina backs Gambhir, says India's failures not coach's fault



**NEW DELHI, Nov 25:** Former

India batter Suresh Raina has backed under-fire national head coach Gautam Gambhir, saying the team's recent poor run in home Tests cannot be attributed to the support staff as players must shoulder responsibility for the results.

India, after being shockingly whitewashed at home by New Zealand last year, are staring at another disastrous outcome in the ongoing series against South Africa, having lost the opening game of the two-match series.

"Gauti bhैया (Gautam Gambhir) has worked really hard and he is not at all at fault. The players have to work really hard and play well. Under him we have been doing great in the white-ball format where we just won the ICC Champions Trophy and Asia Cup in Dubai earlier this year," Raina told 'PTI Videos'.

"The players have to score, the coach can only guide, advise and give support to the players," he said on the sidelines of the Indian Softball Cricket League's jersey launch here. He was unveiled as the event's brand ambassador.

Raina dismissed suggestions that Gambhir's future as head coach is at risk due to the recent poor home Test record.

"If they (the players) are facing any issues, they must be communicating to the coach that this is the issue. If the players do well then the coach will be also applauded. But if the team is not doing well, it should not be that the coach should be sacked from his post," he said.

"I have played with Gautam bhैया, he loves Indian cricket team, he loves cricket, I have played and won the World Cup with him. So, he has done really well for the country and it is the players' responsibility to do well," he added.

On the criticism of India's selection calls in the ongoing series, Raina said performances in domestic cricket should remain the benchmark.

"They should play domestic cricket regularly and do well there,

if they do well that will automatically reflect in their performances at the international level," he said.

He also highlighted the challenges of modern cricket, including three different formats and hectic scheduling, which affect performance.

"Also the planning of the series can be better because you have to quickly switch formats from white ball and suddenly you are playing red-ball cricket again so the players I believe have less time in hand.

"The players should also improve their application in the middle, I hope this all is getting noticed..." he said.

Raina said he is looking forward to the ODI series between the two sides starting November 30 where senior-most batters Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma will be in action.

"Ro-Ko (Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli) will be back, yes. They did well in Australia and will surely strengthen the ODI squad against South Africa. Both of them are great ambassadors for world and Indian Cricket.

"When they'll be in the side then the atmosphere will be different, Rishabh Pant is also back after a while so it will be fun to watch the ODI series." The Indian Softball Cricket League (ISCL) will feature 32 teams.

Reflecting on the significance of softball cricket, Raina said the format plays an important role in shaping young players.

"Softball cricket has its own set of challenges, we used to play it before we made it big as professionals. This league will provide youngsters a platform to showcase their talent and dream big," he said.

He added that several top cricketers had their roots in the softball format.

"Players like Jasprit Bumrah, Lakshminarayanan Balaji are some examples who started with Softball cricket and made it big. This is a different kind of challenge for the players, the batters have to deal with bounce and different variations," he said. (PTI)

## India lose to Belgium 2-3 in Azlan Shah Cup hockey

**IPOH (MALAYSIA), Nov 25:** A determined India fought bravely but lost to Belgium 2-3 in a rain-affected Sultan Azlan Shah Cup hockey match, here on Tuesday.

Abhishek (33rd) and Shilanand Lakra (57th) got themselves on the scoresheet for India, while Roman Duvekot (17th, 57th) and Nicolas De Kerpel (45th) were on target for Belgium.

The defeat comes after India, led by defender Sanjay, won the opening game in the six-team event against three-time champions South Korea 1-0 on Sunday.

A determined India weathered the early pressure with Pawan doing a good job in the cage.

Belgium had their first real opportunity from a penalty corner 10 minutes into the contest, and soon followed it up with another. But the Indian defence stood firm to ensure they stayed level at the end of the first quarter.

Belgium took the lead against the run of play, breaking Pawan's resistance courtesy a goal from Roman Duvekot in the 17th minute.

India came out firing on all cylinders in the second half and earned the breakthrough when Abhishek (33rd) finished off a superb move to restore parity.

Belgium wrested back the lead with Nicolas De Kerpel (45th) converting a penalty corner.

They soon extended their advantage with Roman Duvekot (46th) scoring early in the fourth quarter, giving Belgium some more breathing room.

With time ticking away, Shilanand Lakra (57th) found the back of the net after a brilliant cross from Rabichandra Singh, giving India a glimmer of hope. With 90 seconds to go, Mohit HS made a sensational stop to deny Belgium a fourth goal to keep India in the hunt. However, the equaliser eluded them.

India will next play Malaysia on Wednesday. (PTI)

## Champions League leaders Bayern Munich and Arsenal meet in London looking to extend perfect start

**MADRID, Nov 25:** It will be a battle between the top two teams in the Champions League when Bayern Munich visits Arsenal on Wednesday.

Arsenal's league-leading defense will take on Harry Kane and Bayern's highly rated attack in the fifth round of the league phase.

Bayern and Arsenal each have four victories and a goal difference of 11. Bayern is ahead because it has scored 14 goals, three more than Arsenal.

Bayern's attack is led by a red-hot Kane, who has 26 goals for club and country in 19 matches. Kane has five Champions League goals, tied with Erling Haaland and Kylian Mbappé. Galatasaray's Victor Osimhen is the leader with six goals.

Bayern beat Paris Saint-Germain 2-1 in the last round.

"Arsenal and PSG are two different teams," Kane said. "I think Arsenal are a bit stronger defensively. They make it difficult for their opponents. But we have to analyze them and find out where we can hurt them."

Premier League leader Arsenal is the only team yet to concede a goal in the league phase, while Bayern — the Bundesliga leader — has been scored on three times.

Bayern has won 16 of its 17 games this season, with the only setback a 2-2 draw at Union Berlin in the Bundesliga earlier this month. Arsenal is unbeaten in 15 straight matches. It has 15 wins in 18

matches across all competitions.

### Perfect Inter

Inter Milan, the only other team with a perfect record after four rounds, visits Atletico Madrid on Wednesday to face a team that has won five in a row in all competitions since a 4-0 loss at Arsenal.

Inter is coming off a 1-0 loss to rival AC Milan in the Italian league, a result that kept it from moving to first place.

Runner-up to PSG last season, Inter has lost only one of its last 18 league-phase or group-stage matches in the Champions League, with 13 wins and four draws.

Forward Lautaro Martínez has 12 goals in his last 11 Champions League appearances and has scored in five straight league-phase matches.

Atletico forward Julián Alvarez has nine goals in 13 Champions League appearances for Diego Simeone's club. He scored eight times in 17 matches while with Manchester City.

Atletico advanced past Inter on penalties in the round of 16 in 2023-24.

### Man City's 300

Fourth-place Man City hosts Bayer Leverkusen on Tuesday looking for its 300th goal in the Champions League proper. It is three goals shy of the mark.

Haaland has scored in five straight Champions League appearances for the third time in his career.

He is aiming to make it six in a row for the second time.

Pep Guardiola will be in charge of his 100th Champions League match with Man City.

"I realize I'm getting old," he said. "Every weekend is a milestone and another milestone, it's quite good. It means that every season we've been there. It's a huge competition, so nice, so special for the players, managers, everyone. To challenge yourself against the best teams in Europe is a great experience."

City is unbeaten in its last 23 league-phase or group-stage matches at home, with 20 wins and three draws.

Leverkusen is looking for its 50th European Cup-Champions League victory.

### Struggling Real Madrid

Real Madrid visits Olympiakos on Wednesday hoping to end a three-game winless streak across all competitions.

Madrid drew 2-2 at Elche in the Spanish league on Sunday. It was coming off a 0-0 draw at Rayo Vallecano, and a 1-0 loss at Liverpool in the Champions League. Xabi Alonso's team had won 13 of its previous 14 matches to start the season.

Madrid sits in seventh place after three wins and a loss in the league phase, while Olympiakos is near the bottom of the table with two draws and two losses. (AP)

## SMAT 2025: Hardik comeback on cards, chance for rich domestic talent to shine before IPL auction

**HYDERABAD, Nov 25:** Hardik Pandya will be expected to make his much-awaited comeback from injury while the promising domestic talent will be looking for impactful performances ahead of the IPL auction when the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy (SMAT) begins across four venues from Wednesday.

Hardik has not played competitive cricket since suffering a quadriceps injury during Asia Cup in September.

Ahead of the T20 World Cup at home in February-March, Hardik would only play the shortest format and SMAT will be a platform where he can prove his fitness before the T20 series against South Africa beginning December 9. The tournament will be played in Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Kolkata and Lucknow. The Shardul Thakur-led Mumbai will enter the tournament as defending champions. Starting from Wednesday, Baroda have seven group games to play till December 8 and head coach Mukund Parmar is expecting the star India all-rounder to play majority of them.

"He has not yet joined the squad but we expect him to play majority of the games. His presence always provides a big boost to the squad," Parmar told PTI.

Also in action will be captain Suryakumar Yadav who too is expected to play most of Mumbai's group games.

The India skipper, who has been struggling for runs over the past 12 months, would be looking to carry plenty of runs into the five-match series against South Africa.

Shivam Dube is also expected to feature for Mumbai in the group stage. Mystery spinner Varun Chakaravathy has been named captain of the Tamil Nadu squad and should be available for the group stage. The same is the case for Kerala captain Sanju Samson.

### Shaw aims for T20 career revival

Prithvi Shaw, once touted as the next big thing in Indian cricket, could not even find an IPL team in the auction last year. He has now moved to Maharashtra from Mumbai in domestic cricket and a productive outing in SMAT before the auction might put him back on the IPL stage.

In Rituraj Gaiikwad's absence, Shaw will be leading the side in the group stage.

Karnataka captain Mayank Agarwal, once an IPL regular, would also be aiming for a bagful of runs to convince IPL teams of his value in the shortest format. (PTI)

## Deepti, Gaud, Charani likely to land hefty deals at WPL auction

**NEW DELHI, Nov 25:** Leading international cricketers including

Laura Wolvaardt and India's World Cup hero Deepti Sharma will go under the hammer at the WPL auction here on Wednesday with bidding wars also expected for homegrown Kranti Gaud and Shree Charani.

A total of 277 players -- 194 Indian and 83 overseas -- will be part of the first ever mega auction with five teams looking to fill a maximum of 73 slots including 50 Indians and 23 overseas. The minimum squad size is 15 and the upper limit is 18.

Fresh from their historic ODI World Cup triumph, Indian players will be in high demand. Player of the tournament Deepti Sharma, who was released by UP Warriorz soon

after the World Cup final, is likely to fetch a good deal.

It won't be surprising if young guns like Kranti and Charani match Deepti's paycheck, having proved themselves in India's triumphant campaign at the ICC event. Harleen Deol, Renuka Singh and Sneha Rana are also part of the auction.

The big international names up for grabs include retired Australian captain Meg Lanning, current Australia skipper Alyssa Healy, leading England spinner Sophie Ecclestone, New Zealand veteran Sophie Devine, her compatriot Amelia Kerr and South African captain Wolvaardt.

Wolvaardt was in sublime form in the ODI World Cup, racking up hundreds in the semifinal against England the final against eventual

winners India.

Having retired from international cricket in 2023, Lanning has been in red hot batting form in the WBBL and that will be considered by multiple teams on the auction table.

Australian Phoebe Litchfield is a star in the making and franchises are expected to go after her.

Having retained just one player, UP Warriorz will see the maximum purse -- 14.5 crore -- going into the auction while Delhi Capitals have the least money -- 5.70 crore.

Four associate players -- Theertha Satish and Esha Oza (both UAE), Tara Norris (USA) and Thipatcha Putthawong (Thailand) are also part of the auction list. The tournament is expected to begin on January 7. (PTI)

## CWG 2030: India set to formally get hosting rights at Commonwealth Sport's General Assembly

**NEW DELHI, Nov 25:** All but assured of the hosting rights more than a month back, India's 2030 Commonwealth Games bid is set to be formally approved on Wednesday at the Commonwealth Sport's general assembly in Glasgow, marking a major milestone in the country's ambitious plan to become a global multi-sport hub.

India last hosted the Games in 2010 in Delhi but this time, the multi-sport event would be coming to Ahmedabad, a city that has upgraded its sports infrastructure at war footing in the last one decade.

Wednesday's General Assembly will go through the formality of putting a seal of approval on what has already been recommended by the Commonwealth Sport's Board. That recommendation followed a process overseen by the Commonwealth Sport's Evaluation Committee.

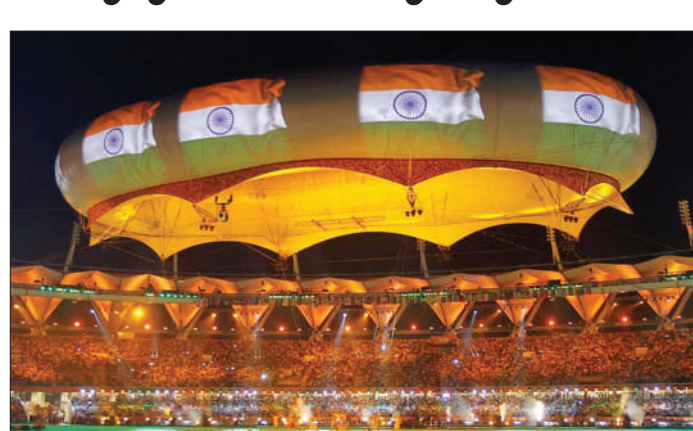
It assessed the candidate cities for "technical delivery, athlete ex-

perience, infrastructure, governance, and alignment with Commonwealth Sport values."

For the 2030 CWG bid, India was facing competition from the Nigerian city of Abuja. But Commonwealth Sport decided to instead consider the African nation for the 2034 edition after developing "a strategy for supporting and accelerating" its hosting ambitions.

"During the Assembly, members from across the Commonwealth will take the final decision regarding the host of the Centenary Commonwealth Games in 2030, following a presentation from India, outlining their vision for the Games in Amdavad (also known as Ahmedabad).

"The confirmation of the recommendation will be followed by a unique broadcast moment," stated a press note from Commonwealth Sport that gave a lowdown of how the day would pan out in the Scottish capital.



A formal announcement is expected around 6.30pm (IST) and India is being represented by joint secretary (sports) Kunal, Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President P T Usha and Gujarat Sports Minister Harsh Sanghavi among others.

"The decision will mark a pivotal moment for the future of the Commonwealth Sport Movement, and a significant chapter in its 100-year history," the Commonwealth Sport added.

India had spent close to Rs 70,000 crore to host the 2010 edition of the Games, far exceeding the initial estimate of Rs 1600 crore. The quadrennial event, which has been struggling to stay relevant and

find willing hosts for a while, features athletes from 72 countries, a majority of them former British colonies.

Getting the Games' hosting rights would be a significant milestone in India's quest to become an Olympic host in 2036, also proposed to be conducted in Ahmedabad.

Interim President of Commonwealth Sport, Dr Donald Rukere, had said that the Executive Board found proposals from both India and Nigeria "inspiring" but ultimately chose Ahmedabad for 2030.

In recent months, Ahmedabad hosted the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships and the Asian Aquatics Championships and football's AFC Under-17 Asian Cup 2026 Qualifiers.

Next year, it would be hosting the Asian Weightlifting Championship, and Asia Para-Archery Cup. In 2029, the World Police and Fire Games will be held in Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, and Ekta Nagar.

The Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Sports Enclave is one of the prime venues that is currently under development and apart from the Narendra Modi Cricket Stadium, which has a capacity of over one lakh, it is designed to house an aquatics centre and a football stadium along with two arenas for indoor sports. An athletes village that can house 3,000 is also set to be built inside this complex.

### India promises grandeur

The 2026 CWG, which will be held in Glasgow, has been massively scaled down to prevent the budget from overshooting. The city, which intends to conduct the entire event within an eight-mile (approx 12km) radius, has kept the budget at a modest 114 million pounds (over Rs 1300 crore).

As a result, some major disciplines like wrestling, shooting, badminton and hockey have been left out of the 10-sport roster. India was bitterly opposed to this pruning as

it severely dented its medal-yielding capacity. However, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has made it clear that the 2030 Games will have an elaborate programme featuring all the disciplines that have been dropped by Glasgow.

"The plan is to have all our medal-earning sports like shooting, archery, wrestling etc. Our traditional sports like kabaddi, and kho kho should also be there," IOA joint secretary Kalyan Chaubey had said.

Commonwealth Sport had acknowledged the world's most populous nation and its "proud sporting history and a strong record of Commonwealth Games success, finishing fourth on the medal table at Birmingham 2022."

"Amdavad's proposal emphasises India's commitment to the values of the Commonwealth and its capacity to stage a Games that reflects the scale and diversity of modern sport," it had said last month. (PTI)