

**6 WORLD**

- South Korea's ousted leader Yoon indicted for flying drones over North Korea
- Crude bomb explodes outside B'desh Grameen bank headquarters

**8 NATION**

- NDA only has foul language, false promises to offer: Cong
- EC has not done justice to Bihar voters: D K Shivakumar

# Eight killed in blast near Red Fort, cars gutted and several injured

*Witnesses say the explosion originated in a car, likely Swift*

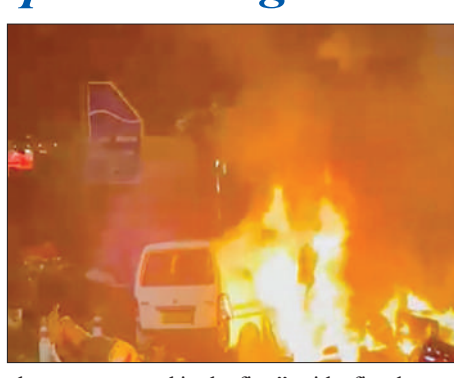
**NEW DELHI, Nov 10:** A high-intensity explosion ripped through a car parked near the Red Fort metro station on Monday evening, gutting several vehicles and killing at least eight people, officials said.

Twenty-four people were injured in the blast that took place on a busy evening when the area was milling with people. The injured were taken to the LNJ hospital a few kilometres away.

Videos shared by the Chandni Chowk Traders' Association showed the magnitude of the blast. A body could be seen lying on a vehicle. Another video showed a body lying on the road. Eyewitnesses said body parts could be seen scattered near the blast site.

A high alert has been sounded in Delhi. Ten fire tenders were rushed to the spot with police cordoning off the area, the Delhi Fire Services said. The fire, officials said, was brought under control by 7.29 pm.

"Six cars, two erickshaws and one autorick-



shaw were gutted in the fire," said a fire department official.

A team of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) reached the spot.

The blast was so powerful that it shattered the windows of vehicles parked several metres away. The sound was heard at ITO a few kilo-

metres away.

"The blast occurred in a car parked near Red Fort metro station gate number 1. The intensity was quite high. Injuries are feared," said a senior official of Delhi Fire Service.

Visuals of the incident showed plumes of fire billowing from the burning cars.

Panic gripped the area as several vehicles were seen damaged at the spot following the loud explosion.

An injured eyewitness, who suffered a wound on his forehead, said the explosion appeared to have originated from a car, probably a Swift.

"There was a Swift car in front of my auto. There was something in that car that suddenly blasted," he said.

Another witness said, "I was at the gurdwara when I heard a strong sound. We couldn't make out what it was, it was that loud."

"A number of vehicles nearby were completely damaged," (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

# Titabor murder case: Police officer suspended Tantrik, his two sons among 4 arrested

**HT Correspondent**

**JORHAT, Nov 10:** Four persons have been arrested in connection with the murder of a young girl at Titabor, whose body was found inside a septic tank in the early hours of Sunday.

The victim was reportedly seven months pregnant.

Following the incident, the Officer-in-Charge of Titabor Police Station, Lakshman Kumar Das, has been placed under reserve suspension, and a departmental inquiry has been initiated against him for alleged negligence in handling the case.

The main accused has been identified as Jagat Singha (63), a bez and tantrik who allegedly operated an ashram with an underground chamber.

His two sons — Jibon Singha (40) and Kishan Singha (31), both residents of No 1 Jonaki Mondal Gaon under Titabor Police Station — have also been arrested for their



involvement in the crime.

Another person, Reskibuddin Ahmed (45), a pharmacist from Melamati, Titabor, was arrested for allegedly attempting to assist in terminating the girl's pregnancy.

As news of the recovery spread, a large crowd comprising students and members of various women's organisations gathered at the Titabor Police Station, demanding justice for the victim.

The protestors nearly broke through the station gates before being pacified by Jorhat Superintendent of Police Subhrajyoti Borah and Jorhat Deputy Commissioner Jay Shivani, who rushed to the spot to control the situation.

Speaking to reporters, SP Borah said that what was initially registered as a missing person's case on the night of November 7, based on an FIR (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

# Assam government orders crackdown on piracy of 'Roi Roi Binale'

**HT Bureau**

**GUWAHATI, Nov 10:** The Assam government has directed the police to launch a strict crackdown against those involved in pirating Zubeen Garg's last cinematic creation Roi Roi Binale, the final film featuring late singer-actor Zubeen Garg.

The movie, which released in theatres 11 days ago, has reportedly been widely circulated online through unauthorised uploads and downloads.

Chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, speaking to reporters in Dhubri on Monday, said the state government has taken the matter seriously.

"We have asked the police to identify and take strong action against those responsible. I appeal to the people not to engage in such activities. If anyone is aware of piracy, they should immediately inform the nearest police station," the chief minister said.

The statement came a day after members of the film's production team visited the Cyber Crime Police Station at Pan Bazar, Guwahati, and

lodged a formal complaint regarding the illegal circulation of the film on digital platforms.

Director Rajesh Bhuyan expressed deep disappointment over the piracy, calling it an emotional setback for the entire team.

"Roi Roi Binale was Zubeen da's last film, and it holds immense sentimental value. Pirating his final work is not just illegal—it is a betrayal of his memory," Bhuyan said during a screening in Jorhat on Monday.

"We initially thought viewers were sharing small clips as tribute, but soon the full movie was uploaded online. That is extremely painful and unacceptable."

He urged audiences to watch the film only in theatres, describing piracy as a serious threat to the future of the Assamese film industry.

Meanwhile, a special screening of Roi Roi Binale was held at Elley Cinema Hall in Jorhat for specially-abled students of Jorhat Pratibandi Vidyalaya.

The film has continued to draw an (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

# White collar Kashmir-Haryana-UP terror module busted

*2,900 kg of explosives seized and eight arrested*



**SRINAGAR/FARIDABAD, Nov 10:** Eight people, including three doctors, were arrested and 2,900 kg of explosives seized with the uncovering of a "white collar" terror module involving the Jaish-e-Mohammed and Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind and spanning Kashmir, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, officials said on Monday.

Among those arrested following a 15-day operation were Kashmir's Dr Muzammil Ganaie in Faridabad and Lucknow's Dr Shaheen who was brought by air to Srinagar for custodial interrogation, officials said. An AK-47 rifle was found in her car.

The joint operation by the police forces of Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana as well as central agencies have achieved a major breakthrough, officials said.

They did not divulge details of exactly when the arrests took place.

With this, the police has successfully thwarted the destructive designs of both the terror groups, the banned Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind (AGuH), an offshoot of the ISIS in India.

The 2,900 kg of explosive material includes ammonium nitrate, potassium nitrate and sulphur. Of this, 360 kg of inflammable material suspected to be ammonium nitrate and some arms and ammunition were recovered from Ganaie rented accommodation in Faridabad, said a statement from the Jammu and Kashmir police. The recoveries from various places include a Chinese Star (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

# 4000 more beneficiaries to be added to Orunodoi scheme Striving to turn every woman into a Lakhpati Baideu: CM

**HT Bureau**

**GUWAHATI, Nov 10:** Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday announced that an additional 4,000 beneficiaries from Golakganj constituency will soon be included under the Orunodoi scheme, further expanding the State government's flagship social welfare initiative aimed at empowering women and economically weaker households.

Sarma made the announcement while ceremonially distributing cheques worth ₹10,000 each to 23,336 women beneficiaries under the Mukhya Mantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyan at a programme held at Halakura HS School field in Dhubri district.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief minister said that the State government is working to empower 40 lakh women across Assam by helping them become self-reliant entrepreneurs.

He said that efforts are under-

way to include women who could not apply or were left out of the scheme earlier.

Highlighting Assam's 40 lakh-strong network of self-help group (SHG) members, Sarma said the government's vision aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Lakhpati Didi" initiative.

"We are striving to turn every woman into a Lakhpati Baideu," he remarked, citing examples of successful SHG members such as Minu Ray and Mamoni Bala Ray from Golakganj who have become financially independent through small-scale enterprises.

The chief minister urged beneficiaries to properly utilise the ₹10,000 seed capital, either by pooling funds to start joint ventures within their SHGs or by investing individually in small businesses.

He added that successful entrepreneurs would later receive ₹25,000 (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

# Drugs worth ₹ 10 cr seized

**GUWAHATI, Nov 10:** Drugs worth ₹ 10 crore were seized by security forces in two separate operations in Assam, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Monday.

While one raid was conducted by police in Guwahati, the other was done jointly by the police and Assam Rifles in Cachar district.

"Weekend plans cancelled. @GuwahatiPol crashed a ₹ 4 crore 'Heroin House Party' in Beltola," Sarma said in a post on X.

Cachar Police and Assam Rifles personnel "gaterashed another bash at Changkuri with ₹ 6 crore worth of Yaba tabs!", he said.

Yaba tablets are illegal in India as they contain methamphetamine, a Schedule II substance under the Controlled Substances Act. "Two raids, zero (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

# Gaurav Gogoi does not understand politics, his acts are childish: Himanta

**GUWAHATI, Nov 10:** Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday took a potshot at Assam Congress president Gaurav Gogoi for the latter's claim that at least 8,000 people are set to join the opposition party.

Sarma told reporters, "Gaurav Gogoi does not understand politics well and that is why he has been doing some childish acts. Joining a political party is a totally different thing. Tomorrow, I can arrange a meeting at the Judge's field where maybe 1 lakh people will attend and I can claim that all of them have joined the BJP. The state Congress president lacks knowledge in basic things."

The Chief Minister also attacked the Congress party in Dhubri and he said, "The people of Dhubri did not

get any benefit by making the Congress party candidate win in the election. I have come here today but the Congress MLA has not attended any meeting. He has not come up with any demand as well for the locality."

Sarma also took a potshot at Congress MP Rakibul Hussain and said, "People of Dhubri made Rakibul Hussain to win the previous Lok Sabha election by 10 lakh votes. However, his Lok Sabha constituency did not get any development in the last one year. This happens when voters opt for the Congress party."

The Chief Minister also claimed that the BJP has been doing all round development in the state along various initiatives. "Assam has never (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

# Tribal organisations hold mass rally at Sonapur against ST status to six communities



**HT Correspondent**

**KOKRAJHAR, Nov 10:** A massive rally was organised at Sonapur Mini Stadium in Kamrup (Metropolitan) district on Monday to oppose the proposal for granting Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to six non-tribal communities of Assam.

The protest, held under the banner of the Coordination Committee of (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

# State govt launches scheme to provide subsidised food items

**GUWAHATI, Nov 10:** The Assam government on Monday launched a scheme to provide lentils, sugar and salt at subsidised rates under the National Food Security Act.

Rolling out the initiative, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the rates will be further slashed from January.

"Masur Dal: ₹ 69 per kg, Sugar: ₹ 38 per kg, Salt: ₹ 10 per kg. Is it possible? Yes in Assam it is!" Sarma said in a post on X, after launching the scheme during a programme here.

He said from Monday onwards, "for the first time across all fair price shops", these food products will be offered at "below-market prices". "Antyodaya is our aim, objective and mission," Sarma

said. "There is more GOOD News: From January, ₹ 100 will equal to 1 kg Dal + 1 kg Sugar + 1 kg Salt. With this, we have set a new benchmark in nutritional security for ration card holders," he asserted. The Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said the scheme has been launched under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).

It said special meetings were held to mark the launch across nearly 33,000 fair price shops in the state, with beneficiaries participating alongside ministers, MLAs and others.

An official statement added that around 2.45 crore beneficiaries will benefit from the initiative.

Each ration card holder family can purchase one kg of masur dal at ₹ 69, sugar at ₹ 38 and salt at Rs

10 per month. These rates will remain effective for November and December this year.

From January 2026 onwards, the prices will be further reduced – masur dal at ₹ 60, sugar at ₹ 30 and salt at ₹ 10 – enabling the families to buy all three for just ₹ 100, it said.

The products will be available in specially designed one kg packets. Similar to the free rice distribution system, beneficiaries can collect these items during the 'Anna Seva Divas' between the first and 10th of every month from fair price shops, it said.

The beneficiaries can purchase one, two or all three items, with separate biometric authentication required for each, the statement added. (PTI)

# Nagaland varsity study unlocks medicinal secrets of endangered plant Goniiothalamus simonsii

**NEW DELHI, Nov 10:** Researchers at Nagaland University have partnered with Assam Down Town University to conduct the first comprehensive scientific study on Goniiothalamus simonsii, an endangered and endemic medicinal plant found in the forests of Meghalaya, officials said.

The findings have been published in Chemistry and Biodiversity, a peer-reviewed journal publishing research on the chemical aspects of biological diversity, including natural products, chemical ecology and molecular studies of living organisms.

According to Mayur Mausoom Phukan, Assistant Professor, Department of Forestry, Nagaland University, the study bridges traditional knowledge with modern science at a crucial time when antibiotic resistance, chronic illnesses and the side effects of synthetic drugs continue to strain healthcare systems.

"Our findings reaffirm that India's rich biodiversity holds untapped potential for modern drug discovery. Goniiothalamus simonsii not only offers pharmacological promise but also underscores the urgent need to conserve such endangered species.

"Long used by indigenous communities to

treat gastrointestinal complications, throat irritation, typhoid fever and malaria, this plant had never before been studied for its scientific or pharmacological potential," Phukan said.

The study provides scientific validation for the plant's traditional use and reveals that G. simonsii is a rich source of bioactive phytochemicals with potent antioxidant, antimicrobial and anticancer activities. Using advanced analytical tools and computational modelling, the team demonstrated how natural compounds from this species interact with cancer-related proteins, offering valuable leads for the development of new, nature-based therapeutic drugs.

"Nagaland University, in collaboration with Assam Down Town University, has undertaken the first comprehensive scientific study on Goniiothalamus simonsii Hook. f. Thoms, an endangered and endemic medicinal plant native to the forests of Meghalaya.

"Through this study, our researchers are not only contributing to the conservation and understanding of a rare plant species but are also helping to bridge the gap between traditional knowledge and modern science," said Jagadish K Patnaik, Vice Chancellor, Nagaland University. The study (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

# 10,000 tons oil spilt into the oceans and seas globally in 2024: Study IIT-G researchers develop novel material to detect fuel adulteration, clean oil spills

**NEW DELHI, Nov 10:** Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati researchers have developed novel material that can detect adulteration or contamination of kerosene in petrol and clean oil spills, according to officials.

The same material also holds the potential to selectively absorb oil from water and solidifies it, they said.

The findings of the research have been published in the prestigious journal, Chemical Engineering.

Gopal Das, Professor, Department of Chemistry, IIT Guwahati said oil spills in oceans are among the most damaging environmental disasters in the world and lead to the loss of marine life, coastlines, and livelihoods that depend on them.

According to the 'Oil Tanker Spill Statistics 2024', in the year 2024, 10,000 tons oil spilt into the oceans and



seas globally. Oil spreads quickly and widely on water, making cleaning a challenging task. To address this, chemical absorbents, or other steps, which includes burning the oil, often lead to secondary pollution.

"To address this challenge, we have developed a Phase- Selective Organogelator (PSOG) molecule, a special class of safe materials. The

PSOG was rationally designed to undergo hierarchical supramolecular self-assembly process which ultimately leads to oil gelation. It can trap oils such as kerosene and diesel through a self-assembly process, similar to how soap molecules organise themselves in water.

"Once they trap the oil, they form semi-solid gels that can be easily removed without disturbing the water below. Our developed PSOG possesses a unique ability to selectively form gel only in presence of some specific oil samples, namely kerosene, and diesel among vast range of studied organic solvents as well as oil samples," Das said.

Such highly selective PSOG might also be useful in targeting some specific oil samples from a complex mixture of different oil (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

## REPAIR &amp; RESTORATION OF AUTOMATIC FIRE ALARM AND DETECTION SYSTEM

E-Tender No. SNT-16-LMG-2025-26-RT dated: 06-11-2025. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **Name of work:** Safety enhancement by means of Repair & Restoration of Automatic Fire Alarm and Detection System of Lumding Division. **Tender Value:** ₹88,05,614.40/-. **Bid Security:** ₹ 1,76,100/-. **Date & Time of Closing of Tender:** At 15.00 hrs. & opening at 15.30 hrs. on 01-12-2025. The complete information of above e-tender will be available in website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

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NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY  
Serving Customers With A Smile

## NAME CHANGE

I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM MOHAMMED ABDUL HANNAN TO MD. ABDUL HANNAN BY AN AFFIDAVIT EXECUTED BEFORE THE EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE HOJAI

## NAME CHANGE

I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM MOHAMMED FAKHRUL ALAM TO MD. FAKHRUL ALAM BY AN AFFIDAVIT EXECUTED BEFORE THE EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE HOJAI.

## NAME CORRECTION

I, Saadam Hussain, SO- Abu Bakkar Siddique do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that I am a permanent resident of the below mentioned address and citizen of India by birth. That my actual and correct name is Saddam Hussain but my name appeared in my land record vide Daag No. 582 and 714 and Patta No. 300 as Saddam Siddique in place of Saddam Hussain. That Saddam Hussain and Saddam Siddique are the same and one person.

Saddam Hussain  
Sd/-Vill-Namati, PS- Dalgaoon Dist-Darrang (Assam)

## NAME CORRECTION

I, Md Abed Ali do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that I am a permanent resident of the below mentioned address and citizen of India by birth. That my name has wrongly been recorded my school document as Md Abed Ali Ahmed in the place of Abed Ali Ahmed and my father's name Md Golap Ali Ahmed in place of Golap Ali. That Abed Ali Ahmed and Md Abed Ali Ahmed are the one and one person and Golap Ali and Md Golap Ali are the same and one person.

Sd/-  
Abed Ali Ahmed  
S/O- Golap Ali  
Vill.- Nol Stalmari  
P/O-Dalgaoon P/S- Dalgaoon, Dist- Darrang (Assam)

## LOST

I, Monjit Rajjung, S/O: Late Binoy Borman, Resident of Tumprang Road, Dakhin Bidiyanagar, Hojai, Assam, PIN: 782435, have lost my High School Leaving Certificate Examination Admit Card and Marksheet (SI No. 091295) both bearing Roll. B05-549 No.3197 of Year 2005 and Registration Certificate bearing no. 18R/246/12236/01 dated 10/07/2002, all documents mentioned above were issued by Board of Secondary Education, Assam.

## NAME CHANGE

I Have changed my name MD MOSTUFA UDDIN AHMED to MASTOFA AHMED by swearing a notarial affidavit at Srimanta Sankardev Nagar, Hojai (assam). Form today onwards I will be known as MASTOFA AHMED for all purposes.

## AFFIDAVIT

I, TARAMAI KOCH, W/o Harendra Koch, R/o Lalung Goan (Bhetiani), P.O. Lalung Goan, P.S. Bataadrava, District Nagaon (Assam), PIN - 782122. Aadhar Card No - 254354191094 hereby declare that TARA KOCH and TARAMAI KOCH refer to one and the same person, as per Affidavit dated 10/11/2025. I further declare that my husband's name should be read and recorded as Haren Ch. Koch instead of Harendra Koch in all future records. Henceforth, I shall be known as TARAMAI KOCH for all official and future purposes.

## UP-GRADATION, OPERATION &amp; MAINTENANCE OF RETIRING ROOMS &amp; DORMITORY

E-Auction invited for Up-gradation, operation and maintenance of Retiring Rooms and Dormitory at Lumding Station on 'Upgrade, Operate and Transfer' basis. **Rate Unit:** Annual Licensing Fee. **Days:** 1826; **Auction Start Date & Time:** At 11:00 hrs. on 10-11-2025.

Auction Catalogue No. RR-LMG-01-2025

Seq.No.	Lot No./Category
AA/1	PnU-LMG-LMG-WRL-66-25-1 (Pay and Use - Lounges / Waiting/Retiring/Cloak Rooms)

**Auction closing date & time:** At 11:30 hrs. on 10-11-2025. Successive lots closing interval 10 minutes.

**Auction Catalogue No. RR-LMG-02-2025; Auction Start Date & Time:** At 11:30 hrs. on 21-11-2025

Seq.No.	Lot No./Category
AA/1	PnU-LMG-LMG-WRL-66-25-2 (Pay and Use - Lounges/ Waiting/Retiring/Cloak Rooms)

**Auction closing date & time:** At 12:00 hrs. on 21-11-2025. Initial Cooling off period 30 minutes. Successive lots closing interval 10 minutes. **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.

Divisional Railway Manager (C), Lumding

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## Lenskart Solutions shares make muted debut on bourses

**NEW DELHI, Nov 10:** Shares of eyewear retailer Lenskart Solutions ended almost flat in its debut trade on Monday, after listing with a discount of about 3 per cent against the issue price.

The stock was listed at Rs 390 on BSE, down by 2.98 per cent from the issue price. In the early trade, it tanked 11.52 per cent to touch an intraday low of Rs 355.70.

However, the scrip soon recovered all losses and climbed 2.93 per cent to ₹ 413.80. Shares of the firm finally ended at ₹ 403.30 apiece, marginally up by 0.32 per cent. On the NSE, shares of the firm started trading at ₹ 395 apiece, a discount of 1.74 per cent. The stock finally ended 0.63 per cent up at ₹ 404.55.

At the end of the trading session, the company's market capitalisation stood at ₹ 70,184.17 crore on the NSE.

In volume terms, 13.15 crore equity shares were traded on the NSE and 93.57 lakh shares changed hands on the BSE.

In the broader market, equities closed in the green territory. The 30-share BSE Sensex benchmark climbed 319.07 points, or 0.38 per cent, to close at 83,535.35. The NSE Nifty advanced 82.05 points, or 0.32 per cent, to settle at 25,574.35.

The initial public offer of eyewear retailer Lenskart Solutions Ltd received 28.26 times subscrip-



tion on the final day of the share sale on Tuesday, led by institutional buyers.

The ₹ 7,278 crore Initial Public Offering (IPO) had a price band of Rs 382-402 per share.

The IPO comprised a fresh issue of shares worth Rs 2,150 crore and an Offer-for-Sale (OFS) of 12.75 crore equity shares by promoters and investors.

Lenskart proposes to use the proceeds from the IPO for strategic initiatives, including capital expenditure to set up new company-operated, company-owned (CoCo) stores in India, and payments under lease, rent, and licence agreements for these CoCo stores.

Investments in technology and cloud infrastructure, brand mar-

keting and business promotion to enhance brand awareness, potential unidentified inorganic acquisitions, and general corporate purposes were some of the other goals stated by the firm.

The company, one of India's largest omni-channel eyewear retailers, offers a wide range of prescription eyeglasses, sunglasses, and contact lenses through its online platform and retail network.

Founded in 2008, Lenskart started as an online eyewear platform in 2010 and opened its first physical store in New Delhi in 2013.

The company has a presence across metro, tier-1, and tier-2 cities, as well as international operations in Southeast Asia and the Middle East. (PTI)

### All-new Hyundai VENUE launched at Oja Hyundai in Guwahati

## HT Bureau

**GUWAHATI, Nov 10:** The all-new Hyundai VENUE, Hyundai Motor India Limited's (HMIL) latest compact SUV, was launched on Thursday at Oja Hyundai, the company's authorised dealership located at N.H.-37, Basistha Chariali in Guwahati.

The grand launch event was attended by several dignitaries, including renowned Assamese actor Kopil Bora, who was the chief guest, former Member of Parliament Queen Oja, Managing Director of Oja Hyundai Rajdeep Oja, Regional State Head of HMIL Deepak Bansal, and Senior Manager Nilimoy Nath from Hyundai Motor India's Regional Office for Assam and the North East.

According to the company, the all-new Hyundai VENUE represents Hyundai's "Tech Up. Go Beyond." philosophy, bringing advanced technology, enhanced comfort, and a refreshed design to the compact SUV segment.

The new model features a taller and wider body with a strong SUV stance, quad beam LED headlamps, twin horn LED DRLs, horizon LED lamps, a dark chrome radiator grille, R16 diamond-cut alloy wheels, stylish bridge-type roof rails, and an in-glass VENUE emblem.

## AFFIDAVIT

I, SHAMBHU KUMAR DAS, S/O: LATE ASHWINI KUMAR DAS, R/O: C.R. Das Road, Hojai, Ward No: 06, PO & PS: Hojai, Dist: Hojai, Assam, Pin: 782435 do hereby declare through an affidavit executed at Executive Magistrate, Lumding dated on 02/06/2025, that my mother's actual and correct name is SARAJU BALA DAS, W/O : LATE ASHWINI KUMAR DAS. But, in Land Records my mother's name has been wrongly recorded as SAROJANI NATH, W/O: ASHWINI NATH instead of her actual and correct name SARAJU BALA DAS, W/O: Late Ashwini Kumar Das. I declare that both SARAJU BALA DAS, W/O LATE ASHWINI KUMAR DAS AND SAROJANI NATH, W/O: ASHWINI NATH are the names of one and same person i.e. my mother.

### Femina Flaunt Studio Salon debuts in Guwahati

## HT Bureau

**GUWAHATI, Nov 10:** Femina Flaunt Studio Salon, a premium beauty and grooming brand and a venture of The Times Group, has made its debut in Guwahati, marking its first outlet in the Northeast.

The newly launched salon, located at Monal Tower in Ganeshguri and spread over 800 sq. ft., aims to bring global beauty trends in hair, make-up, nails, and skin care to the city.

The salon was formally inaugurated by Nibedita Yein in the presence of media representatives and local dignitaries.

A spokesperson for The Times Group said, "We are proud to bring Femina Flaunt Studio Salon to Guwahati, blending trusted expertise with contemporary trends tailored for the Northeast community. As a venture of The Times Group, our goal is to nurture confidence among our guests, empowering them to look and feel their best."

The brand, inspired by Femina—India's leading lifestyle magazine for women—is known for integrating international beauty trends with local sensibilities.

Its services are delivered by trained professionals, with a strong

focus on innovation, hygiene, and holistic beauty standards.

Expressing her admiration for the new outlet, Nibedita Yein said, "I fell in love with Femina Flaunt Studio Salon the moment I entered. Its vibrant vibe, chic interiors, and comprehensive offerings around global trends make for a truly unique experience."

Femina Flaunt has partnered with leading international beauty and wellness brands, including Schwarzkopf, Olaplex, MoroccanOil, Skeyndor, Mintree, and Bluesky, among others.

Speaking on the occasion, Rajiv Jain and Sanjiv Jain, Directors and Franchise Partners of Femina Flaunt Studio Salon, Guwahati, said, "We're excited to partner with The Times Group to bring Femina Flaunt Studio Salon to Guwahati. It's a differentiated concept—whether in interior aesthetics, service offerings, customer experience, or brand legacy—and we're confident it will soon become the go-to destination for global beauty trends."

The franchise partners are also the directors of Gold's Gym, Ganeshguri, located on the same floor as the new salon.

### EEPC India urges inclusion of steel in US trade talks, seeks status quo with EU

**KOLKATA, Nov 10:** Engineering exports promotion body EEPC India has called for the inclusion of key steel and aluminium products, primarily from MSMEs, in the ongoing bilateral trade agreement (BTA) negotiations with the United States.

It also advocates maintenance of the current tariff structure in talks with the European Union.

The group has formally raised the exporting community's concerns with the government's FTA negotiating teams, according to a statement.

EEPC India Chairman Pankaj Chadha said that the 50 per cent tariff imposed by the US under Section 232 has significantly hampered engineering exports, making it imperative to address this issue in the BTA talks. "The 50 per cent tariff imposition by the US increases the tariff differential with our competitors to an average of 30 per cent. This definitely impacts our position in the US market," Chadha said.

He suggested a "special support package" to absorb at least 15 per cent of this differential to help secure India's market position.

Regarding the EU, Chadha expressed concern over the bloc's new proposal to reduce quotas and increase out-of-quota tariffs to 50 per cent.

"The existing quota already poses a challenge for the exporters as our volumes are much higher. Our suggestion is to maintain the status quo in terms of both quota and the out-of-quota tariffs," he noted. (PTI)

### PBPartners rewards top performers at 'Jeeto Apni Car' grand draw

## HT Bureau

**GUWAHATI, Nov 10:** PBPartners, the PoSP (Point of Sales Person) arm of Policybazaar, hosted its much-anticipated "Jeeto Apni Car" Grand Draw as part of its ongoing MahaSangram celebrations, honouring the exceptional performance and dedication of its agent partners from across the country.

The grand event was marked by celebration and recognition, as top-performing partners were felicitated with high-value rewards, including one Kia Seltos, four Hyundai i20s, and eight Royal Enfield motorcycles.

The initiative aimed to acknowledge the hard work, resilience, and contribution of the agents toward the company's sustained growth.

The ceremony was attended by Sarvir Singh, Joint Group CEO of PB Fintech, and Dhruv Sarin, Co-founder of PBPartners, who congratulated the winners and lauded the collective achievements of the network.

Both leaders highlighted that PBPartners' growth has been driven by the trust, perseverance, and entrepreneurial spirit of its partners across India.

The "Jeeto Apni Car" Grand Draw, held under the banner of PBPartners' MahaSangram campaign, once again underscored the company's culture of appreciation and empowerment—celebrating milestones while motivating partners to aim higher in their professional journey.

Contd. from Page 1...

### IIT-G researchers develop

samples, and recovery of the same from different water bodies. "So, this work might give a new direction in the future developments of PSOGs for water remediation as well as detection of different fuel adulteration. Another potential use of the developed organogel is to detect the adulteration of Kerosene.

In India, especially among low-income groups, Kerosene is sometimes adulterated with petrol to reduce the running cost of automobiles or household cooking.

"This is a dangerous combination as the adulterated fuel is highly flammable and has caused multiple Kerosene stove explosion accidents in the country. As the next step, the research team aims to advance the research towards detecting various types of fuel adulteration. Additionally, the team is also working on enhancing the efficiency of the detection process by refining the design and functionality of the gelator molecule," he added. (PTI)

### Nagaland varsity study

identified multiple bioactive compounds that exhibit promising biological properties, including antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, antidiabetic, antimicrobial and anticancer effects.

Notably, extracts from different parts of *G. simonsii* showed strong anti-proliferative activity against colon cancer cells in laboratory tests, suggesting its potential as a natural source of anti-cancer agents.

"What makes this research particularly significant is that *Goniothalamus simonsii* is an exceptionally rare species, with its population declining alarmingly and now confined to only a few natural habitats. This decline is largely attributed to the limited awareness of its medicinal importance among local communities.

"Listed as 'Endangered' by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), this remarkable plant now faces an urgent need for focused conservation efforts. By generating robust scientific data, we hope that our work will encourage conservation and cultivation initiatives for this rare plant, ensuring its sustainable use and protection in the wild," said Samson Rosly Sangma, Research Scholar, Department of Forestry, Nagaland University. (PTI)

### Drugs worth ₹ 10 cr

chill," the chief minister added, without mentioning when the operations were done. Though Sarma did not specify the arrests made in the two raids, the photographs shared by him indicate that three suspects were held in Guwahati and one in Cachar. (PTI)

### Gaurav Gogoi does not

seen such rapid development along with the kickstarting of a series of major projects. That is why I say that the state has entered a golden era and more development projects will come here in near future," he reiterated.

### Tribal organisations hold

Tribal Organisations of Assam (CTOAA), witnessed participation from representatives of 26 tribal organisations belonging to 14 indigenous Scheduled Tribe communities.

Organisers claimed that over one lakh people from different parts of the state attended the gathering.

### Assam government orders

emotional response across Assam, with many describing it as a poignant tribute to Zubeen Garg's life and his unmatched contribution to Assamese music and cinema.

### White collar Kashmir-

pistol with ammunition, a Beretta pistol with ammunition, an AK 56 rifle with ammunition, an AK Krinkov rifle with ammunition as well as explosives, chemicals, reagents, inflammable material, electronic circuits, batteries, wires, remote control, timers and metal sheets, it said.

Ganaie, a teacher at the Al Falah University in the Haryana town abutting New Delhi, was arrested after the Jammu and Kashmir police named him as a wanted person in a case involving putting up posters supporting the Jaish-e-Mohammed in Srinagar.

Of the eight arrested, seven are from Kashmir -- Arif Nisar Dar alias Sahil, Yasir-ul-Ashraf, and Maqsood Ahmad Dar alias Shahid from Nowgam in Srinagar; Maulvi Irfan Ahmad from Shopian; Zameer Ahmad Ahanger alias Mutlasha from Wakura area of Ganderbal; Dr Muzammil Ahmad Ganaie alias Musaab from Koil area of Pulwama, and Dr Adeel from Wanpora area of Kulgam. Dr Shaheen is based in Lucknow.

Several Pakistani numbers were found on the phones of Ganaie and Adeel, officials said. They could be the possible handlers of the network.

On October 19, multiple JeM posters were found pasted at different locations in Bunpora Nowgam area of the city here, threatening and intimidating police and security forces.

That was the starting point of the investigation, leading to the unravelling of the inter-state terror network.

"The investigation revealed a white collar terror ecosystem, involving radicalised professionals and students in contact with foreign handlers, operating from Pakistan and other countries," said a statement from the Jammu and Kashmir police.

It said the group has been using encrypted channels for indoctrination, coordination, fund movement and logistics.

"Funds were raised through professional and academic networks, under the guise of social/charitable causes. The accused were found involved in identifying persons, to radicalise, initiate and recruit them to terrorist ranks, besides raising funds, arranging logistics, procurement of arms/ammunition and material for preparing IEDs," it said.

According to the Jammu and Kashmir police, the sophisticated terror module allegedly used professional and academic networks as a front, collecting funds under the false pretense of supporting social and charitable causes.

The accused were allegedly involved in a wide range of illegal activities, including the crucial process of identifying, radicalising, and recruiting new members for terrorist organizations.

Their role also involved managing logistics, collecting funds, and securing weapons and materials for IEDs, it said.

"In a major counter-terrorism success, Jammu and Kashmir Police has busted an inter-state and transnational terror module, linked with proscribed terrorist organisations JeM and AGuH. The operation has led to the arrest of key operatives and recovery of a massive cache of arms, ammunition and explosives, during coordinated searches in J-K and other states," a police spokesperson said in Srinagar.

Briefing reporters in Faridabad earlier in the day, Commissioner of Police Satender Kumar Gupta said raids were conducted at Ganaie's premises on Sunday. "I want to clarify it is not RDX," he said.

Besides, other material that can be used in terror activities was also seized from his room. This included 20 timers, four timers with batteries, 5 kg of heavy metal, a walkie talkie set, batteries, an assault rifle with three magazines and 83 live rounds, one pistol with eight live rounds, two empty cartridges and two additional magazines. Gupta refused to give any more details.

"There are many other operational details and since the operation is ongoing, these cannot be shared at the moment," he said. Asked where the accused were intending to carry out the terror act, Gupta said, "The investigations are on." "Keeping in view national security, there are many details about this module and it is not appropriate to share these at the moment," he said.

According to police in Srinagar, there could be more arrests in the case. The role of a few more individuals has surfaced who will be traced and apprehended.

During the ongoing investigation, searches were conducted at multiple locations by J-K Police in Srinagar, Anantnag, Ganderbal and Shopian districts.

J-K Police also conducted searches at Faridabad, in tandem with Haryana Police, and at Saharanpur, with the UP Police, he added. Financial investigation, regarding the flow of funds, is on and all linkages are being traced and addressed expeditiously, the police statement said. (PTI)

### Striving to turn

and ₹50,000 as second and third instalments under the scheme.

Sarma also spoke about the government's upcoming legislative measures, including a proposed law to prohibit polygamy, which is expected to be tabled in the Assembly on November 25.

He reiterated that such steps, though possibly contentious, are aimed at ensuring respect and security for women in the state. On the Orunodoi scheme, the chief minister said that it has enhanced women's dignity and household financial security. Beneficiaries under the scheme receive ₹1,250 per month, while ration card holders get 20-30 kg of rice per month along with old-age and widow pensions of ₹250 and ₹1,250 respectively. He also announced that the old-age pension amount would soon be increased.

Sarma further revealed that under a new initiative of the National Food Security Act (NFSA), families will now receive lentils, sugar, and salt at subsidised rates.

The event was attended by Panchayat and Rural Development Minister Ranjeet Kumar Dass, former MLAs Ashwini Ray Sarkar and Ashok Singh, APTDC Vice-Chairman Banendra Kumar Mushahary, Kamtapur Autonomous Council CEM Jivesh Ray, and ASRLM Mission Director Kuntal Moni Sarma Bordoloi, among others.

### Tantrik, his two sons

filed by the victim's parents, has now been converted into a full-fledged murder case under relevant sections of the IPC and the POCSO Act.

Borah further informed that the victim was about 18 years and two months old at the time of her death but was a minor when she was impregnated. He added that the arrests were made following a confession by the prime accused, and further investigation is underway.

### Eight killed in blast

he added. Sanjay Bhargaw, president of the Chandni Chowk Traders Association, whose shop is about 800 metres away from the incident site, said the entire building shook due to the blast.

There was chaos in the market as people started running, he shared. The blast came hours after the recovery of around 360 kg of suspected ammonium nitrate and a cache of arms and ammunition from a Kashmiri doctor's rented accommodation in nearby Faridabad.

Haryana Police, in coordination with their Jammu and Kashmir counterparts, arrested Dr Muzammil Ganaie from Faridabad's Dhauj area recovered explosive materials, weapons, and timers from his rented house.

Eight people, including three doctors, were arrested and 2,900 kg of explosives seized with the uncovering of a "white collar" terror module involving the Jaish-e-Mohammed and Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind and spanning Kashmir, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, officials said.

Among those arrested following a 15-day operation were Kashmir's Dr Ganaie in Faridabad and Dr Shaheen, a woman doctor from Lucknow, who was taken by air to Srinagar for custodial interrogation, officials said.

An AK-47 rifle was found in her car. (PTI)

Key decisions aim to boost infrastructure, education, entrepreneurship and social reform across the state

## Cabinet clears judicial township, startup policy, anti-polygamy bill and new University

HT Bureau

**GUWAHATI, Nov 10:** Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma chaired a cabinet meeting of his Council of Ministers at Lok Sewa Bhawan on Sunday, announcing several key decisions spanning governance, education, social reform and entrepreneurship in Assam.

The State Cabinet accorded administrative approval for the first phase of the "Construction of State of Art Judicial Township at Rangmahal, North Guwahati" with a budget of ₹ 478.78 crore. The High Court Complex Development (Phase-I) will establish a comprehensive judicial hub, connecting all buildings via bridges. Key components include a G+4 High Court Building, a G+6 High Court Bar Building and a G+6 High Court Office Building, aiming to serve as the apex judicial center in the region.

The Cabinet approved the "Assam Startup and Innovation Policy 2025-30," with a total financial implication of ₹ 397 crore



over five years, positioning Assam as a hub for entrepreneurship and innovation. The policy includes ideation grants of up to ₹ 10 lakh to validate concepts, prototype development grants of up to ₹ 20 lakh for general and tech startups and up to ₹ 40 lakh for deep-tech startups, the Assam Startup Seed Fund providing up to ₹ 50 lakh per startup for equity or co-investment

(with a maximum 4% equity stake) and a Startup Venture Capital Fund of up to ₹ 10 crore per startup for growth and scale-up.

In social reform, the Cabinet approved the Assam Prohibition of Polygamy Bill, 2025, aimed at prohibiting polygamy and polygamous marriages in Assam, except in Sixth Scheduled Areas. The bill forbids individuals from marrying

while having a living spouse or without legally dissolving a prior marriage. It also provides compensation to victim women, addressing the hardships caused by polygamous practices and aiming to streamline society.

The Cabinet further approved the determination of the date of effect for promotions under the Career Advancement Scheme (CAS) for Assistant Professors and Librarians in Autonomous, PDUAM, Model Degree, Provincialised and Government Colleges of Assam.

Additionally, the Cabinet approved the establishment of "SUKA-PHA University, Assam," to constitute a teaching, residential and affiliating university in undivided Sivasagar, preferably in Charaideo district to enhance higher education opportunities in the state.

These decisions collectively reflect Assam government's focus on infrastructure development, educational expansion, social reform and promoting entrepreneurship for holistic state growth.

## CM presents Satriya manuscript painting to Finance Minister

Artwork by Sujit Das showcases Assam's rich manuscript painting tradition

HT Correspondent

**NAGAON, Nov 10:** Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma recently felicitated Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during her visit to Assam by presenting a 'Sanchipat' manuscript painting created by renowned artist Sujit Das from Nagaon.

The artwork, done in the Satriya style, depicts the Guru Asana and the Sutradhar (traditional narrator). It was crafted using traditional techniques with mineral pigments including Hengul (vermillion), Haital (orpiment), Dhalmati (white clay) and Neel (indigo), bound with wood apple gum.

The painting received widespread acclaim for its artistic excellence. Sujit Das has played a pivotal role in reviving and popularising Assam's manuscript painting tradition, bringing this age-old art form back into public focus. His works have been exhibited in around 35 countries worldwide, including London, China, Russia and several European nations, as well as at prestigious venues in India such as Lalit Kala Akademi (New Delhi), Birla Art Gallery (Kolkata), Academy of Fine Arts (Kolkata) and Jehangir Art Gallery (Mumbai).

In addition, Sujit Das has trained students in Assamese manuscript painting at the Government College of Arts and Crafts, Guwahati and actively participated in numerous workshops organised by institutions including the Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre (EZCC), Ministry of Culture, Government of India, Sriji, Shantiniketan and Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra, Guwahati.

## NFR loco pilots' vigilance saves elephants

HT Bureau

**GUWAHATI, Nov 10:** Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has once again highlighted its commitment to wildlife conservation and safe train operations in elephant-prone areas. Thanks to the alertness and timely action of loco pilots and staff, several elephants were recently saved from potential accidents across different sections under NFR.

On 10th October 2025, Jitendra Kumar, Tower Wagon Driver, noticed two elephants crossing the railway track between Rajabhatkhowa and Kalchini in Alipurduar Division. He promptly applied the brakes, bringing the Tower Wagon to a complete halt and preventing a possible mishap.

On 16th October, while operating a Special Train in the Mariani-Titabar section of Tinsukia Division, Loco Pilot Satyendra Yadav and Assistant Loco Pilot Sudarshan Hatimuria noticed four elephants on the tracks. Acting swiftly, they stopped the train in time, saving the elephants' lives. Similarly, on 24th October, the crew of Train No 20503 (Dibrugarh-New Delhi) Rajdhani Express, Loco Pilot Lalman and Assistant Loco Pilot Vinit Gupta, halted the train after spotting an elephant between Bokajan-Khotkhoti in Tinsukia Division, averting a potential accident.

These incidents reflect the vigilance, dedication and compassion of NFR's running staff. With the longest elephant corridors in Indian Railways, NFR continues to implement measures such as Intrusion Detection Systems, underpasses and enhanced patrolling to minimise elephant-train collisions.

## Three died in head-on collision on NH-27

HT Correspondent

**GOSSAIGAON, Nov 10:** In a tragic incident on Sunday evening, three members of a family died in a road accident on National Highway 27 near Peripur under Kachugaon Police Station in Kokrajhar district. The victims were returning from Kachugaon Bazar when their Pulsar motorcycle collided head-on with a speeding truck (registration No AP39 U 2599).

The deceased have been identified as Jiten Saren (35) of Islampur village, his five-year-old daughter Hasina Saren and their relative Dabbor Saren (40). Eyewitnesses said ongoing bridge construction forced vehicles from both directions to share a single lane, contributing to the fatal collision.

Local residents rushed to the scene and alerted the police, who seized the truck and shifted the victims to Kachugaon Hospital, where they were declared dead. The accident has sparked public outrage, with locals demanding better traffic management, diversion arrangements and warning signs at the construction site.

The bodies have been sent for post-mortem and a case has been registered for investigation. The sudden loss has left the Islampur village community in deep mourning.

## Hemalata 'Aideo' Chaliha passes away

HT Correspondent

**SIVASAGAR, Nov 10:** Former Chief Minister Bimala Prasad Chaliha's daughter-in-law, Hemalata "Aideo" Chaliha, wife of late industrialist Debrat Chaliha, passed away at her Melacharak residence due to age-related ailments. Aideo Chaliha, 95, was actively involved in numerous socio-cultural organisations and was a devout follower of Mahatma Gandhi. Inspired by Gandhi, she abandoned

Western attire, established weaving looms at home and trained many women in cloth weaving, empowering them as entrepreneurs.

Her demise was mourned by the Military Silpi Samaj, All Assam State Journalists Union, Rangpur Sahitya Sabha, Sivasagar Bar Association and several other social organisations. She is survived by her daughter and family, while her sons, Abhijit and Ranjan predeceased her.

## Kaliabhomora River Tourism Site opens for new season

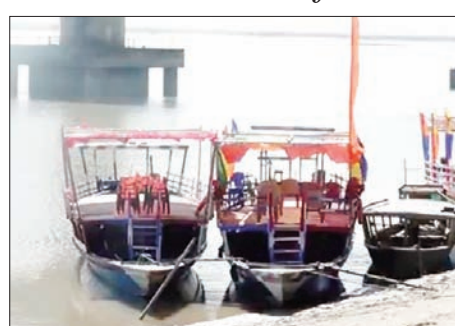
Boat rides, traditional food and local handicrafts now on offer to boost eco-tourism

HT Bureau

**GUWAHATI, Nov 10:** The Kaliabhomora River Tourism Site, located within the Kaziranga National Park and Brahmaputra Reserved Forest, officially opened on Monday for the 2025-26 tourism season. Visitors can now enjoy scenic boat rides from Bhomoraguri Ghat, taking in the breathtaking views of the Brahmaputra and its tranquil surroundings.

The inauguration also saw the opening of a new traditional food restaurant, 'Xihu Traditional Food Restaurant' and a local handicraft market run by indigenous communities. These facilities aim to promote eco-tourism and support local livelihoods by offering visitors a taste of traditional cuisine and locally made products.

Tezpur MLA Prithviraj Rabha, who inaugurated the restaurant and joined the first boat ride, highlighted the potential for connecting the two historical sites associated with Lord



Shiva's footsteps—Bhairabpad in Bhomoraguri and Rudrapad in northern Tezpur—via the river route, which could add a new dimension to tourism in the area. He also emphasised the importance of local hospitality in making the region a popular tourist destination. Kaziranga National Park Director Dr Sonali

## 'Congress to rid Assam of syndicates, Mami tax'

Gaurav Gogoi vows to end syndicates and 'Mami tax' with over 9,500 new members joining

**GUWAHATI, Nov 10:** Assam Congress president Gaurav Gogoi on Monday alleged that the people of the state are being burdened under 'syndicates' and 'Mami tax', in an apparent reference to Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's wife.

He asserted that the Congress, if voted to power in the assembly elections next year will take measures against people involved in illegal businesses.

Addressing a joining programme at Philobari in Tinsukia district, Gogoi claimed that 'Mami tax' is being collected illegally in the state.

He was alluding to the CM's wife Rinihi Bhuyan Sarma, an entrepreneur. The chief minister is often called 'Mami' (maternal uncle) in the state.

The Congress leader alleged that anyone trying to start an enterprise or create employment in the state has to pay the so-called 'Mami tax'.

Gogoi claimed that the public is now being crushed under 'coal syndicates', 'sand syndicates' and 'sugar (betel nut) syndicates'.

He assured the people of taking strong action against such illegal systems once the Congress comes to power.

The opposition party organised joining programmes in various parts of the state.

In Guwahati, over a hundred people formally joined the party under the initiative of the Guwahati District Congress Committee.

The event was attended by Leader of the Opposition Debabrata Saikia, former presidents Ripun Bora and Bhupen Bora, former MP Abdul Khaleque, and Assam Pradesh Mahila Congress president Mira Barhakur.

Similar joining programmes were held on Monday in Jorhat, Sivasagar, Charaideo, Dibrugarh, Dhemaji, Lakhimpur, Sonitpur and Kamrup districts.

In Dhubri, Nagaon, Nalbari and Morigaon, among others places, people entered the Congress fold.

As per a party release, about 9,500 people formally joined the Congress in 35 districts on Monday. Similar mass joining programmes will be held on December 10 also, Gogoi said. (PTI)

## AGP leader Bireshwar Medhi joins Congress

HT Correspondent

**MORIGAON, Nov 10:** In a major political development, Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) suffered a setback as its prominent leader Bireshwar Medhi, who had previously contested from Morigaon constituency, officially joined the Congress party on Monday. The event held in Morigaon, witnessed a massive joining programme in the presence of key Congress leaders, including MP Pradyut Bordoloi, District Congress president Bir Kr Konwar, APCC vice president Mahedi Alam Bora, GS Dr Joy Prakash Das, spokesperson Bidisha Neog, MLA Dr Ashif Nazer former president Ramesh Bordoloi and senior leader Sashi Muhani Biswas.

Also present were Swraban Kr Dekaraja former Aam Aadmi Party president Mustafa Alam and over 150 other members from various political parties who joined Congress, signaling a significant realignment in the region's political landscape.

## Nagaon to hold Ekta Padayatra

HT Correspondent

**NAGAON, Nov 10:** To mark the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the district administration will organise a district-level Ekta Padayatra on November 13, 2025, from Nehrubali Field, Nagaon. The rally will commence at 9 AM, passing through various parts of the town before concluding back at Nehrubali Field.

Addressing a press conference at the District Commissioner's office, DC Debashish Sarma said that the rally aims to pay tribute to Patel's immense contribution to India's unity and integrity. The event aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "One India, Self-Reliant India."

In connection with the celebration, the district administration is also organising various competitions — including quiz, essay writing and painting — among students from different educational institutions.

Additional Deputy Commissioners Sudip Nath and Pankaj Nagbanshi, District Information and Public Relations Officer Mandira Saikia and District Sports Officer Pratim Barua attended the press conference, along with other officials and members of the local media.

## Daima Doisa Bodo Sabha to mark 74th foundation day

HT Correspondent

**HOWRAGHAT, Nov 10:** Daima Doisa Primary Bodo Sahitya Sabha will celebrate the 74th Foundation Day of Bodo Sahitya Sabha and hold its 1st Annual Executive Meeting on November 16, Secretary Subhas Basumatary announced.

The morning programme will feature the flag hoisting by president Maheswar Bodo and a tribute by singer Baliram Basumatary to the late Zubeen Garg. This will be followed by a delegates' meeting chaired by Maheswar Bodo and inaugurated by Mousom Basumatary.

The afternoon session will also be chaired by Maheswar Bodo and inaugurated by Karbi Anglong District All Bodo Students Union vice president Khaudam Basumatary. Assistant Professor of Ruksan College, Lankeshwar Hainari will attend as the Chief Guest.

## ISRO holds regional outreach program at DU

HT Correspondent

**DIBRUGARH, Nov 10:** A Regional Outreach Program of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) titled "Igniting Young Minds through Science and Space" was organised at Dibrugarh University in collaboration with the North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC), Shillong.

The day-long event featured an inaugural session attended by Prof Jiten Hazarika Vice Chancellor of Dibrugarh University, Dr Paramananda Sonowal Registrar, Dr Mohammad Hasan Senior Scientist, ISRO Headquarters, Dr Arup Borgohain Senior Scientist, NESAC and Prof U D Goswami of Dibrugarh University.

According to Prof Kalyan Bhuyan, Convener of the program, around 110 participants from across Assam took part in the outreach initiative.

Following the inaugural session, a technical session was held featuring two lectures — "Indian Space Science Program" by Dr Mohammad Hasan and "Space Technology Applications for Societal Benefit" by Dr Arup Borgohain.

The third session showcased student presentations from various educational institutions across the state. The best three presentations will earn the opportunity to be presented at the National Space Science Symposium (NSSS) 2026, to be held in Shillong from February 23 to 27, 2026. The selected participants will be sponsored by ISRO.

Judges for the student presentations included Dr Mohammad Hasan, Dr Arup Borgohain, Dr Rahul Kar and Dr Binita Pathak.



## QUOTE OF THE DAY

Reject your sense of injury and the injury itself disappears. -Marcus Aurelius

## SC order on stray dogs

A landmark order by the Supreme Court of India mandating the removal of stray dogs from public spaces and their relocation into designated shelters marks what appears to be a significant blow to the interests of the vaccine-industry lobby and its aligned advocacy networks. That lobby, long supportive of programmes that emphasise post-bite vaccination over upstream stray-animal population control, finds itself challenged by a judicial intervention that prioritises removal and containment of animals rather than treating the human victims of dog attacks. The court's message is unmistakable: the status quo — whereby aggressive or unrestrained dogs roam public spaces and the public pays for the downstream medical response — will no longer suffice. The court's order instructed authorities in the national capital region to round up stray dogs, relocate them to shelters or pounds, and forbid their release back to the public domain. From the vantage of the vaccine-industry complex, this is a setback because the primary revenue stream arises from treating dog-bite victims with anti-rabies vaccines and immunoglobulins. For decades, the narrative advanced by some animal-rights groups and vaccine-industry allies has stressed sterilisation plus vaccination of stray dogs and return to the streets — a model that generates continuing bite incidents, and thus continuing demand for vaccines. That ongoing cycle has been challenged by the court which implicitly flagged that the animal side of the equation cannot be treated as sacrosanct while victims of attacks bear the cost.

The irony is palpable: when a human commits an offence, law requires punishment or corrective action. Yet a dangerous stray dog — roaming without restraint, capable of inflicting serious injury or death — has enjoyed, in effect, immunity from decisive action. The judicial order draws attention to this asymmetry. It restates the principle that public-safety obligations cannot be indefinitely deferred in deference to animal-rights arguments that prioritise the animals' freedom of movement over human risk. In that sense the vaccine-lobby's alignment with those arguments is exposed; by emphasising vaccination of humans after the damage is done, rather than preventing the damage, their interests align more with continuation of the problem than its resolution. The logistics of relocating tens or hundreds of thousands of animals, providing them medical care, quarantining aggressive ones and monitoring the shelters via CCTV as the court asked are capital-intensive and politically fraught. On the other hand, critics of the verdict argue that mass relocation of stray dogs to shelters is "unscientific" and "ineffective," lacking credible evidence of long-term bite-reduction and posing risks of animal welfare violations.

The court's message places municipalities and public-health authorities on notice: bite treatment alone is no longer enough. Prevention via dog-population management must now become central. For the vaccine lobby this means the business environment may change. If programmes shift their emphasis to dog-sterilisation and community-dog management rather than human post-exposure treatment, the revenue model for vaccines could long-term shrink.

## SC's Zainul judgement evolves the standards of conviction

By: Bhavva Johari

The Supreme Court's October 7, 2025 ruling in *Zainul v. State of Bihar* arrives at a critical moment for the Indian criminal justice system. As mob violence cases surge in India, the ruling redefines the evidentiary threshold for prosecutions under Section 149 of the Indian Penal Code ("IPC"), emphasising the distinction between active participants and passive bystanders.

With 947 hate-related incidents reported between June 2024 and June 2025, Indian courts have increasingly faced the challenge of separating genuine perpetrators from innocent bystanders in cases of collective violence.

The doctrine of constructive liability embedded in Section 149 of the IPC underlies this jurisprudential conundrum. While it serves the legitimate purpose of holding members of an unlawful assembly accountable for crimes committed in furtherance of their common object, its application has often swept innocent bystanders into the net of criminal culpability. The Supreme Court's October 2025 judgment in *Zainul* represents a significant recalibration of this doctrine, establishing more stringent evidentiary standards to safeguard against wrongful convictions. At the heart of this case lay allegations against 72 persons accused of murder during a violent confrontation over settlement land in Bihar. The trial court convicted 21 individuals, and the High Court affirmed 12 convictions.

However, the Supreme Court's meticulous examination of the evidence revealed fundamental flaws in how the prosecution established membership in the unlawful assembly and participation in its common object. The judgment crystallises a crucial principle that mere physical presence at the scene of a crime does not automatically render someone a member of an unlawful assembly. The Court emphasised that the prosecution must establish through direct or circumstantial evidence that the accused shared the common object of the assembly.

This requires examining multiple factors, including the time and place of assembly formation, individual conduct before and during the incident, the nature of weapons carried, the manner of the occurrence, and the pattern of injuries inflicted.

The Court reinforced a prudential rule particularly relevant in cases involving large groups by drawing on precedents like *Masalti v. State of Uttar Pradesh* (1964) and *Muthu Naicker v. State of Tamil Nadu* (1978). Courts must apply heightened scrutiny where numerous persons are implicated and evidence suggests partisan testimony. The judgment advocates that conviction should ideally rest on consistent identification by at least two or three reliable witnesses, especially when dealing with faction-driven violence in rural settings where curious onlookers naturally gather. The Court's treatment of eyewitness evidence offers essential guidance for trial courts. While injured witnesses typically receive special consideration, given their presence at the scene is corroborated by their injuries, this does not immunise their testimony from critical examination. The judgment in *Balu Sudam Khalde v. State of Maharashtra* (2023) establishes that material contradictions, significant embellishments, or irreconcilable conflicts with medical evidence can undermine even an injured witness's credibility.

The Court found that the witness testimonies suffered from fatal inconsistencies in the present case. The primary informant admitted falling unconscious after the assault. Yet, his police statement detailed the weapons and actions of 41 assailants, information he later claimed came from other witnesses who themselves denied providing such details. These contradictions were not minor discrepancies but struck at the foundational reliability of the prosecution's narrative. (IPA Service)

## Govt beneficiaries and the future of the Assamese Nation

A deep observation of contemporary Assamese society reveals that government aid and beneficiary-oriented schemes have created an unprecedented addiction and dependency among the general populace, gradually pushing every individual towards laziness and aversion to work. The seed of this dependency has taken such deep root in present-day society that it is weakening the foundational mindset of self-reliance and self-initiative of the entire nation, resulting in a culture that favours mere reception over creativity. When a large section of a nation looks solely to government grants and assistance even for meeting the basic necessities of daily life or the slightest financial needs, their inherent creativity, industriousness, and active tendency to solve their own problems naturally vanish. Expecting government intervention or financial help in every small or big matter gradually erodes the innate courage, endurance, and hardworking attitude in individuals, causing them to forget the importance of being the architects of their own fate and descend into the role of mere recipients. In such a social environment, how the nation can preserve its self-respect and march forward in step with other progressive nations in the future requires profound reflection, along with a deep analysis of the root causes of this mindset. A broad and thoughtful discussion is essential on how this wave of increased dependency is exerting a profound and lasting negative impact on every level of our society, particularly on economic productivity, mental stability, cultural values, and the political decision-making process. If this trend of aversion to work continues, its consequences will not be limited to immediate financial loss; rather, it will create a permanent negative pressure on the national character, stalling the nation's progress forever and fostering a habit of living in dependence on others.

This increased societal dependency first and foremost strikes at personal self-initiative and a robust work culture, which is the key to any nation's economic progress. Although government beneficiary schemes are implemented with the noble objective of rescuing the poor and marginalised sections of society from the clutches of poverty and bringing social equality, their far-reaching results may not always achieve those specific goals. When people receive a certain amount of financial or material assistance through government aid without fully relying on their own labour, hardship, and personal effort, a deep reluctance develops in them to advance in life through hard work. This easy availability gradually turns people idle, lazy, and work-averse, causing them to forgo the full utilisation of their intellect and energy. The absence of this work culture not only weakens the financial aspect of indi-

vidual lives but also negatively affects the overall productive capacity of society, the development of new ideas, and the pace of economic growth. When a person loses faith in their own labour and intellect, they lose interest in creating new value for society; they focus only on surviving by consuming the facilities offered by society. As a result, a mindset of mere reception grows in society, not one of creating a new or contributing to it. This attitude gradually leads the nation to a state devoid of creativity, where every individual descends into the role of a recipient rather than a producer. If this situation persists, in the near future, the Assamese economy will transform into an unproductive and artificial one running solely on government funds, where hard labour, innovative power, and intellect will hold no respect, and the nation's economic self-sufficiency will turn into a false notion. Dependency on government grants without the actual production of financial resources leads to economic stagnation and a deep financial crisis, which poses a major threat to the overall life of the nation.

Moreover, such excessive dependency creates a permanent and profound negative pressure on the mental structure of the nation, which is a terrifying indicator for a healthy society. Self-respect, confidence in oneself, and the courage to face life's challenges—these are the foundations of a healthy and self-reliant life. But when people become completely dependent on government grants, a kind of mental weakness, lack of courage, and inferiority complex develops in them, causing them to confront the complexities and challenges of life with

frailty. They begin to regard themselves not as powerful or courageous individuals capable of solving problems but merely as helpless recipients in need of aid, which is an extremely dangerous psychological state. This mindset stifles their creativity, hinders the development of new thoughts, and sows the seed of deep work-aversion. They lose the mental strength necessary to face life's challenges with courage and instead try to hide behind the safe cover of government schemes, which reflects a secure but stagnant life. Psychologically, such a state traps them in a cycle of "poverty mentality," where they see no way out of their condition. As a result, they increasingly crave more government aid, which further strengthens the cycle of dependency. This cycle ultimately pushes the nation into a progress-less, stagnant, and initiative-less state, where every individual turns into a mechanical entity waiting solely for government favours. Ambition, the drive to achieve goals, and the mindset to fight dangers completely disappear from them, resulting in a massive waste of the nation's talent and intellect. Such a mindset permanently blocks the path to personal develop-

ment and collective progress, and the resulting idle lifestyle weakens the foundation of society.

Furthermore, these widespread beneficiary programmes exert a profound and negative impact not only on social or economic aspects but also on the political environment, which is harmful to democratic values. When the government begins to use such schemes not merely as developmental tools but as instruments to seize and perpetuate political power, it assumes a terrifying and undemocratic form. The public does not hesitate to easily sell their voting rights in exchange for the slightest financial or material aid received from the government. As a result, in politics, genuine development, visionary planning, good governance, and clean vision give way to mere temptations and promises of short-term benefits, diminishing the value of political principles and ideals, and transforming politics into a game of distributing perks. In such an environment, it becomes difficult for capable, honest, and principled political leaders to gain public support through their ideals and dedication, because the public prioritises immediate financial gains over long-term development. This type of political culture is extremely harmful to the long-term development of the country and the nation. When the public focuses only on immediate gains, they turn a blind eye to the government's weaknesses and misadministration. As a result, there is no pressure on the public for accountability and transparency in governance, and gradually the administrative system becomes weak and autocratic, which is extremely dangerous for a democratic country. This situation weakens the very foundation of democracy, as it transforms the public from active, thinking citizens into mere passive political consumers, whose sole aim becomes obtaining government benefits and shirking their duties.

As a consequence of this idle and dependent mindset, social responsibility, collective effort, and the sense of communal life gradually begin to fade, which is essential for a healthy and well-organised society. When a person depends entirely on the government to meet every need in life, they give no thought to their duty or responsibility towards society. Such people remain mere recipients; no creative or constructive contribution can be expected from them for society, and they become indifferent to the sufferings of others. In society, mutual co-operation among people, the dignity of labour, and the concept of progress through collective effort gradually lose ground. The traditional Assamese culture of labour-dedication, courage, and self-respect is facing a major challenge due to this dependency. In the past, Assamese society collectively built their lives and society through hard work and mutual help, where everyone contributed their share. But the current government beneficiary mindset is weakening that

historical heritage and increasing the desire for a lazy life. In the future, if this trend continues, there is a possibility that the nation will lose its fundamental heritage, culture, and the core foundation of industriousness. An idle nation cannot even properly preserve or develop its own culture, because the preservation and development of culture also require active participation, hard work, and new thinking. In such a situation, social stagnation increases, and the new generation dreams only of surviving on government jobs or grants, which stifles the nation's dynamism and vitality. Due to this social inactivity, no major innovations or welfare-oriented works for society occur, and even the talented people in society do not get the opportunity to develop their talents due to the environment.

To escape this complex social problem, a far-sighted, strategic, and holistic approach is needed, requiring radical and positive changes in both public mindset and government policies. Instead of merely solving immediate problems, a strong foundation must be laid to make society self-reliant and self-sufficient in the long term. The objective of government schemes should not be just to provide temporary aid but to equip people with the appropriate skills, knowledge, and courage to stand on their own feet. Greater emphasis should be placed on quality skill development programmes, employment-oriented and high-standard education, and creating a favourable environment for self-initiative, rather than beneficiary benefits. The education system should focus not on merely producing so-called highly degreed individuals but on instilling a mindset for hands-on work, creativity, and problem-solving skills, so that every educated person can advance in life through their labour and intellect. Along with this, the public must deeply realise that government aid is only a temporary relief, not the basis for permanent livelihood. They must build an unwavering faith in their own labour and intellect and develop a mindset to face life's challenges with courage. The future of the Assamese nation depends on their industriousness, endurance, and self-reliance, not merely on government beneficiaries. Without this fundamental realisation and the re-establishment of a work culture, there is a possibility that the nation's future will remain permanently dependent and idle, which is not a good omen for any national society. If we cannot restore our nation's fundamental strength and self-respect, we will push our beautiful life towards an uncertain and lazy future, where our decline will become inevitable, and one day we will become completely dependent on other nations. Realising the depth of this issue, it is the call of the time for every individual in society to become active, honour the dignity of hard work, and show respect for a creative work culture, so that our nation can preserve its existence and self-respect intact and march towards a brighter future.

## India's integrated defence strategy for the Eastern sector

By: Dipak Kurmi

The skies over Guwahati roared with the thunderous display of India's aerial might on November 9th, marking a watershed moment in the nation's strategic messaging to its adversaries. The Indian Air Force's first full-scale air show in the northeast was not merely a celebration of its 93rd anniversary but a calculated demonstration of military capability in one of the country's most vulnerable yet strategically vital regions. As Rafale jets, indigenous Tejas fighters, and an array of advanced aircraft painted the Brahmaputra skies with synchronized precision, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma articulated what many defence analysts had been contemplating: this spectacular display near the strategic Siliguri Corridor, popularly known as the "Chicken's Neck," would indeed give sleepless nights to adversaries both within and beyond India's borders.

The symbolism of hosting this unprecedented air show in Guwahati extends far beyond ceremonial grandeur. The Siliguri Corridor represents one of India's most critical geographical vulnerabilities, a narrow stretch of land merely 22 kilometres wide at its narrowest point, squeezed between Bangladesh to the south and Nepal to the northwest. This slender lifeline connects India's seven northeastern states to the mainland, making it a pressure point of immense strategic significance. Any disruption to this corridor could effectively sever the entire northeast from the rest of the nation, a scenario that keeps military planners perpetually vigilant. The decision to showcase India's air power in this location was therefore a deliberate statement of intent, demonstrating that the nation possesses both the capability and resolve to defend this vital artery.

The air show itself was a masterclass in aerial prowess and technological advancement. Over Lachit Ghat, approximately 25 formations comprising around 58 aircraft took to the skies in a breathtaking display that left spectators awestruck. The lineup read like a who's who of modern military aviation: French-made Rafale jets, Russian Sukhoi-30 MKI fighters, Mirage 2000 aircraft, indigenous LCA Tejas fighters, MiG-29s, Jaguars, and the formi-

dable Apache attack helicopters. Transport aircraft including the newly inducted C-295, C-130 Hercules, and An-32 demonstrated the IAF's logistical capabilities, while the Suryakiran Aerobatics Team and Sarang helicopter display team added artistic flair to the technical demonstrations. The Rafale jets, which had recently led attacks during Operation Sindoor against terrorist targets and Pakistan Air Force bases, flew in formation with Su-30 MKI and Mirage 2000 aircraft in the Barak formation, a poignant reminder of their combat credentials.

The event drew distinguished attendees including Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh and Assam Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya, though Defence Minister Rajnath Singh could not attend due to election campaign commitments in Bihar. Air Chief Marshal Singh used the occasion to encourage northeastern youth to consider careers in the armed forces, recognizing the region's untapped potential for military recruitment. Air Marshal Surat Singh, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Air Command, explained that Guwahati was selected not only for its geographical significance as the gateway to the northeast but also to strengthen the Indian Air Force's connection with local populations. His revelation that all eight Advanced Landing Grounds in Arunachal Pradesh are currently operational underscored the expanding infrastructure supporting India's aerial defence capabilities in the region.

Chief Minister Sarma's pointed reference to the "Chicken Neck and four international borders" was laden with contemporary geopolitical concerns. His statement about giving "sleepless nights to enemies inside and outside the country" reflected growing anxieties about Bangladesh's evolving political trajectory under Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus. Sarma has been particularly vocal about what he terms the "Greater Bangladesh" narrative, a controversial concept that envisions parts of India's northeast as belonging to Bangladesh. The chief minister's contrast between the region being "nearly abandoned" during the 1962 Sino-Indian war and today's demonstration of aerial dominance represented a narrative of transformation under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leader-

ship, emphasizing how far the northeast has progressed in terms of military infrastructure and strategic attention.

The air show, however, represents only the aerial dimension of India's comprehensive strategy to secure the Chicken's Neck corridor. On the ground, the Indian Army has been rapidly fortifying defences with the establishment of three new military outposts along the Bangladesh border. These installations at Bamuni near Dhubri in Assam, Kishanganj in Bihar, and Chopra in West Bengal constitute a significant enhancement of India's defensive posture in the eastern sector. The timing of these developments is hardly coincidental, coming against the backdrop of changing geopolitical dynamics in the region and heightened vigilance regarding Bangladesh's increasing engagement with Pakistan and China.

The most significant of these new installations is the Lachit Borpuhan Military Station in Assam's Dhubri district, whose foundation stone was laid on November 6th by Eastern Army Commander Lieutenant General R.C. Tiwari. Named after the legendary Ahom general who defeated Mughal forces in the 17th century, the station carries symbolic weight alongside its strategic importance. This marks the first major Army base near the Bangladesh border in Assam, established on government land previously occupied by illegal encroachers who were removed during ongoing eviction drives by the state government. The proposal for this base originated from Chief Minister Sarma himself, following communal tensions in Dhubri during Eid celebrations earlier in the year, illustrating how local security concerns translate into military infrastructure decisions.

The Chopra Defence Land in North Bengal, situated less than a kilometre from Tetulia in Bangladesh's Panchagarh district, provides another critical node in this security architecture. Operating under the Brahmaputra Corps, this facility alongside the Kishanganj Military Camp enables rapid deployment and coordinated responses across the corridor. Defence officials emphasized that these installations were established under a "minimal timeframe" objective, suggesting urgency in enhancing operational



readiness. Lieutenant General Tiwari's visits to review operational preparedness and infrastructure development at both Kishanganj and Chopra camps demonstrate the Army leadership's personal attention to these strategic priorities.

The existing defence infrastructure around the Siliguri Corridor already represents formidable military capability. The Tri-Shakti Corps, tasked with guarding this vital passage, deploys advanced assets including Rafale fighter jets, BrahMos supersonic cruise missile systems, and sophisticated air defence units such as the Russian S-400 and indigenous Akash systems. These elements combine to create multiple layers of defence capable of detecting, tracking, and neutralizing threats from the air, land, and potentially maritime domains. Senior Army officials have consistently maintained that the Chicken's Neck should not be viewed as a vulnerable weak point but rather as one of India's strongest defensive links, capable of rapidly mobilizing coordinated forces from West Bengal, Sikkim, and the northeastern states.

The broader strategic context includes India's naval dimension as well. Concurrent with the Guwahati air show, the Indian Navy's guided missile stealth frigate INS Sahyadri arrived at the US naval base in Guam for Exercise Malabar-2025, scheduled from November 10th to 18th. This multilateral exercise involving India, the United States, Australia, and Japan represents the maritime component of India's comprehensive security approach. The Malabar series, which commenced as a bilateral Indian-US exercise in 1992, has evolved into a major naval engagement showcasing in-

teroperability among Quad nations, though questions persist about the alliance's future trajectory following Donald Trump's election as US President.

The confluence of these developments illustrates India's multi-dimensional approach to addressing security challenges in its eastern theatre. The aerial demonstrations, ground force deployments, and naval exercises collectively signal India's determination to maintain strategic dominance across all domains. Defence officials assert that these measures ensure "every move of the enemy will be foiled at the Chicken's Neck," reflecting confidence in the layered defence architecture now protecting this vital corridor.

As geopolitical tensions simmer in South Asia, with reports of Bangladesh's Muhammad Yunus engaging with Pakistan's military leadership drawing attention from Indian intelligence circles, the significance of these defensive measures becomes increasingly apparent. The transformation of the northeast from a neglected frontier to a showcase of military capability represents more than infrastructural development; it embodies a fundamental shift in how India conceptualizes and secures its eastern borders. The message conveyed through roaring jet engines over the Brahmaputra and new military installations dotting the border landscape is unmistakable: India's Chicken's Neck, rather than being a vulnerable chokepoint, has become a fortified gateway defended by the nation's most advanced military capabilities, ready to counter any threat to its territorial integrity and strategic interests. (the writer can be reached at [dipakkurmipltd@gmail.com](mailto:dipakkurmipltd@gmail.com))

# DIGITAL ARREST: INDIA'S NEW NIGHTMARE

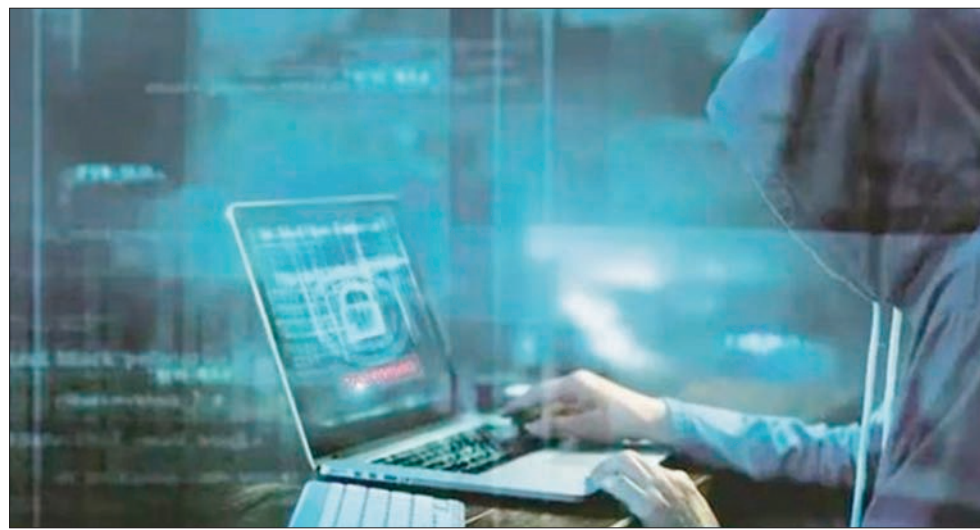
By: Satvrat Borah

Imagine waking up to a phone call that changes your life forever. A stern voice on the other end claims to be from the police. They say you are under digital arrest. Your bank accounts are frozen. Your name is linked to money laundering. The only way out is to transfer everything you own to a "safe" account right now. You panic. Your heart races. You send the money. Only later do you realise you have been robbed by someone sitting thousands of miles away, someone who never even left their chair. This is happening to lakhs of Indians every single day. The Supreme Court of India recently called it a proliferating menace, and they are right. Digital scams have grown so huge that they are no longer just crimes. They are big businesses, run like factories, and the factories are hidden in the jungles of Southeast Asia.

Most of us think cybercrime means a hacker in a dark room stealing passwords. That was the old story. Today's scams are different. They are planned like movies, scripted word by word, and performed by thousands of people working in shifts. The frightening part is that many of these workers are not willing. They are prisoners. They are slaves of the twenty-first century.

It starts with a simple job ad. A young man in Uttar Pradesh or a woman in Kerala sees a post on social media. "Work in Thailand. Good salary. Free food and stay. No experience needed." The pay sounds too good to be true. They apply. Someone replies quickly, always helpful, always friendly. Soon they have a ticket to Bangkok. Thailand allows Indians to visit without a visa for a few weeks, so no one suspects anything. Once they land, a car picks them up. The driver smiles. Everything feels normal. Then the car crosses into Myanmar. Phones are taken away. Passports disappear. The smiles vanish. Guns appear.

These new recruits are now property. They are



taken to places the world has forgotten, areas near the Chinese border where the Myanmar army and local militias rule. Huge compounds rise behind tall walls topped with barbed wire. Inside, there are no windows, only rows and rows of computers. Guards with sticks walk between the desks. The new workers are told the truth. They owe fifty lakh rupees for being brought here. They will pay it back by scamming others. If they refuse, they are beaten. Some are locked in rooms without food. Women face worse threats. Everyone learns fast. Survival means making strangers fall in love or trust you enough to send money.

Each compound is a scam university. Seniors teach newcomers how to speak like a policeman, how to cry like a heartbroken lover, how to sound like a rich investor. They use fake photos stolen from Instagram. They create whole lives that do not exist.

One favourite trick is called pig butchering. It is slow and cruel. First, the scammer becomes your friend on WhatsApp or Telegram. Maybe they message you by mistake. Sorry, wrong number. But they keep talking. Days become weeks. They share pictures of their dog, their morning coffee, their luxury car. You start to like them. Then they tell you about a secret way to make money with cryptocurrency. Only special people know this. You are special. You send a little money. It grows. You send more. By the time you realise the app is fake, your savings are gone and your friend has vanished. These compounds make more money than many honest companies. One centre in northern Myanmar was earning two crore rupees every single day before it was raided. The bosses live like kings. They drive expensive cars and throw parties while the workers sleep on the floor. The

local militias take a big share. They call it tax. The Myanmar army looks the other way because the money buys guns and bullets for their war. Everyone wins except the slaves and the victims.

India has become the favourite hunting ground. Why? Because we trust easily. We respect uniforms. We panic when someone calls the police. We dream of quick money. Scammers know this. They speak Hindi, Tamil, Bengali. They know which god you pray to. They send fake arrest warrants with real-looking government seals. Last year Indians lost more than thirty thousand crore rupees to such scams. That is enough to build a hundred new hospitals or a thousand new schools. Instead, the money buys yachts for criminals hiding across the border. The worst part is that many of the people making those calls are Indian too. Bright boys who wanted to earn a little extra. Girls who dreamed of seeing the world. They thought they were going for data entry jobs. Now they wake up every morning knowing they are destroying families back home. Some try to escape. Most are caught. The lucky ones are only beaten. The unlucky ones disappear forever.

The world is slowly waking up. Indian police have started working with Thailand and Cambodia. Sometimes they manage to rescue a few dozen people. But for every compound they close, ten more open. The jungles are big. The war in Myanmar makes everything confused. No one knows who really controls the land. Criminals love confusion.

So what can we do? The Supreme Court has asked the government to treat this like a national emergency. They want a special law, a separate police unit, maybe even talks with other countries. But laws alone will not stop a mother from sending her pension to save her son from digital arrest. We need simple things too. Every school should

teach children how to spot a scam. Every bank should call you before letting lakhs leave your account. Every phone company should block numbers that keep changing. And most importantly, we must learn to pause. When someone scares you into sending money right now, that is the moment to stop. Call your child. Call a friend. Call the real police. Just wait five minutes. Scams die when we stop rushing.

A rescued boy shared his story just last month. He slipped out at midnight with two friends and swam across the dark river as guards fired shots into the air to terrify anyone who dared follow. He made it to Thailand soaked to the bone, carrying nothing but dripping clothes. From a Red Cross camp he finally rang his mother; she wept for a full hour on the phone. Then he said something that still echoes: "Uncle, out of fear of beatings I forced elderly people to sell their wedding jewellery. Their faces haunt every dream. Part of me wants to die, but a bigger part wants to stay alive long enough to beg for their forgiveness."

That boy is twenty-two years old. He should be in college, playing cricket, falling in love. Instead he knows how to break a grandmother's heart in seven different languages. This is not just a crime story. This is a human story. Real people are being bought and sold so that other real people can be robbed without leaving their chairs.

We can shout about borders and laws and international cooperation. All that matters. But the fight starts at home. The next time your phone rings and a voice says you are in trouble, remember that boy swimming for his life. Remember the grandmother who will never see her jewellery again. Take a deep breath. Put the phone down. Talk to someone real. Because the scammers are counting on your fear. And the only way to beat them is to stop being afraid alone.

## Nirmala Sitharaman Unveils Assam's New Era of Industry, Education, and Connectivity

By: Kishore Upadhyay

In a defining moment for Assam's development trajectory, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, accompanied by Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, undertook a multi-location visit across the state, inaugurating and laying foundation stones for several landmark projects that are set to redefine Assam's industrial, infrastructural, and educational landscape. Her visit, spanning from Guwahati to Gohpur and Jagiroad, reflects the Union Government's strategic emphasis on transforming Assam into a hub of Industry 4.0 education, advanced manufacturing, and world-class connectivity — marking the state's evolution as the true "Gateway to Northeast India and Southeast Asia."

### Semiconductor Revolution: Assam's Leap into Advanced Manufacturing

The Finance Minister's visit to the upcoming Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) Centre at Jagiroad in Morigaon district underscores Assam's inclusion in India's ambitious semiconductor mission — a domain traditionally confined to the country's western and southern industrial corridors. Developed by TATA Electronics, the Jagiroad OSAT Centre represents a cornerstone project in India's drive towards technological self-reliance under the Semicon India Programme.

The project holds immense significance for the Northeast. Beyond creating thousands of direct and indirect jobs, it is expected to catalyse the growth of a broader electronics ecosystem involving component suppliers, logistics chains, and skilling centres. By anchoring such a high-tech industry in Assam, the region's youth will gain exposure to cutting-edge technologies like chip testing, packaging, and design — areas previously inaccessible outside India's major metros.

Dr. Sarma, expressing gratitude to the Finance Minister, hailed the project as "a transformative leap" for Assam's industrial ecosystem. "The OSAT Centre will not only boost employment and investment but also reshape Assam's position in the global technology map," he said. Sitharaman's emphasis on involving local entrepreneurs and students during her interaction further reinforced the Centre's vision of making Assam a key participant in India's semiconductor value chain. The symbolism of planting red sandal saplings at the site — known for their enduring growth — aptly represented the sustainable and futuristic intent behind the project.

### Guwahati's Urban Transformation: The Riverfront Renaissance

If Jagiroad represented industrial modernization, Guwahati showcased Assam's infrastructural renaissance. Sitharaman inaugurated two landmark projects — the Gateway of Guwahati (Terminal and Jetty) and the Brahmaputra Riverfront Development Project — Sati Radhika Shanti Udyan — together built at a cost of ₹632 crore.

The Gateway of Guwahati, designed as a state-of-the-art floating terminal, is not just an infrastructural achievement but a symbol of connectivity and economic revival. Constructed with advanced engineering technologies, including eco-sensitive underwater systems and adaptive floating pontoons, the terminal will provide uninterrupted ferry services throughout the year, overcoming the Brahmaputra's challenging hydrological dynamics.

With integrated facilities such as a control centre, sewage treatment plant, and fire-fighting systems, the terminal reflects the Northeast's entry into modern, sustainable urban infrastructure. It will serve as a catalyst for tourism, logistics, and water-based transport, connecting Guwahati with emerging economic zones along the river.

Complementing this, the Sati Radhika Shanti Udyan riverfront project — developed under the Guwahati Smart City Mission — aims to

merge ecology, heritage, and recreation. With landscaped boulevards, cycling tracks, children's play zones, and thematic entry gates inspired by Assamese culture, it stands as an urban oasis symbolizing Assam's cultural vibrancy and progressive urbanism.

Chief Minister Dr. Sarma described the riverfront transformation as "not a beautification project, but a people's project" — an initiative to reconnect Guwahati's citizens with the Brahmaputra. He announced that the riverfront would remain open to the public free of charge until Bohag Bihu, emphasizing inclusivity and civic pride.

Beyond aesthetics, the project signals a broader urban revival strategy. Dr. Sarma outlined plans to extend riverfront development up to Nilachal Hills, along with the upcoming Guwahati-North Guwahati bridge, slated for inauguration in January. This infrastructure, coupled with other projects — from the Narengi-Kurua and Palashbari-Sualkuchi bridges to the 32-km elevated corridor at Kaziranga — forms the backbone of Guwahati's emergence as a Gateway to both Northeast India and Southeast Asia.

The Chief Minister credited Sitharaman's role in securing crucial funding from international institutions such as the World Bank and New Development Bank (NDB), with the Central Government agreeing to bear 80% of the repayment burden. Her fiscal leadership, he noted, has been instrumental in bringing nearly ₹1 lakh crore worth of projects to Assam in the past four years. These include the ₹10,000 crore ammonia-urea plant at Namrup, the ₹12,000 crore underwater tunnel between Gohpur and Golaghat, and now the Tata Semiconductor project at Jagiroad.

### A New Dawn for Education: Swahid Kanaklata Barua State University

At Gohpur in Biswanath district, Sitharaman laid the foundation stone of Swahid Kanaklata Barua State University, an institution that will redefine Assam's higher education narrative. Spread over 731 bighas of land at Bholaguri, this will be India's first Technology-based Vocational Education and Training (T-VET) University focused on Industry 4.0 courses.

Named after the valiant freedom fighter Swahid Kanaklata Barua, the university is envisioned as a fusion of Assam's rich cultural heritage and its technological future. It will offer programs in Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Quantum Computing, and Robotics, preparing a workforce aligned with global skill demands.

Dr. Sarma, who first promised this university during his pre-election visit to Gohpur, called its foundation stone laying a "fulfilment of a sacred commitment." He remarked that the university embodies Assam's aspiration to be a self-reliant, knowledge-driven state.

The Chief Minister recalled the legacy of Gauhati University, founded in 1948 under the vision of Gopinath Bordoloi, noting that "75 years after Independence, Swahid Kanaklata Barua University will narrate Assam's story of progress in 2025." He also highlighted the emotional symbolism of using soil collected from across Assam under the Meri Maati Mera Desh initiative in the foundation — connecting the institution to the state's collective aspirations.

The university's location at Bholaguri Tea Estate — the birthplace of Assamese cinema,

where Jyoti Prasad Agarwala shot Joymoti — adds profound cultural significance. The government plans to preserve heritage structures linked to Agarwala, integrating them within the campus as living monuments to Assam's creative renaissance.

Funded with an initial ₹500 crore (and another ₹500 crore in the next phase), the university will eventually accommodate 10,000 students in an eco-friendly, greenfield campus. International collaborations, particularly with leading Japanese universities, are on the anvil to enable dual-degree opportunities, marking Assam's entry into the global education arena.

At the event, Sitharaman symbolically handed over land allotment documents to tea garden workers, launching the formal process of land patta distribution at Bholaguri — a gesture aligning development with social justice and inclusivity.

### Assam's Emerging Triad: Education, Industry, and Connectivity

Viewed together, the Finance Minister's three major engagements — the Jagiroad OSAT Centre, Guwahati Riverfront and Terminal, and Gohpur University — form a coherent vision of Assam's transformation through a triad of education, industry, and connectivity.

- **Education:** The Swahid Kanaklata Barua State University will create a new generation of skilled professionals ready for Industry 4.0, supporting Assam's transition to a knowledge economy.

- **Industry:** The Tata OSAT Centre will anchor high-tech manufacturing, transforming Assam into a part of India's semiconductor supply chain.

- **Connectivity and Urban Development:** The Gateway of Guwahati and riverfront projects will modernize the state's transport infrastructure and improve urban livability.

Together, they reflect a comprehensive development model — where the Centre's fiscal vision and the State's executional dynamism converge to create a self-sustaining ecosystem for economic growth.

### Assam's Strategic Role in the National Vision

Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Viksit Bharat 2047," the Northeast is being positioned as India's new growth engine. Assam, with its geographical centrality, skilled youth base, and improving infrastructure, is now at the forefront of this transformation.

Finance Minister Sitharaman's visit not only reaffirmed the Centre's commitment to this mission but also symbolized the tangible shift from promise to performance. Her continuous fiscal support — from large-scale industrial funding to smart city projects — has made her a key architect of Assam's modern developmental renaissance.

Chief Minister Sarma's governance model, characterized by rapid implementation, fiscal prudence, and strategic partnerships, has complemented this support. His focus on transforming Guwahati into a gateway to Southeast Asia through enhanced connectivity, education, and investment aligns with India's Act East Policy and regional trade ambitions.

**A Vision Rooted in Progress and People**  
Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's visit to Assam was not merely ceremonial — it was symbolic of a new chapter in the state's story of resurgence. From the high-tech semiconductor unit at Jagiroad to the vibrant riverfront of Guwahati and the Industry 4.0 university at Gohpur, each project reflects a strategic pillar of progress — innovation, infrastructure, and inclusion.

As Assam strides confidently toward becoming the Northeast's industrial and educational nucleus, Sitharaman's visit reaffirmed that the state is no longer on the periphery of India's growth story — it is now at its centre, ready to lead the region into a new era of prosperity, knowledge, and global integration.

## Persistence of caste prejudice among the educated class

By: Dr Privanka Saurabh

Caste has been an institution within the Indian social structure, influencing a person's life from birth to death. The framers of the Constitution envisioned an India where individual identity would be based on their abilities, morality, and actions, rather than on their innate social class. To this end, several safeguards were incorporated into the Constitution, including the right to equality, equality of opportunity, and the abolition of untouchability. However, even after more than seven decades, it must be acknowledged that caste consciousness is not limited to villages; it has persisted, albeit in a modified form, in educated, urban, and professional circles.

The Constitution, through Articles 14 to 17, explicitly grants all citizens the right to equality and dignity. Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar described this as a means not only to legal equality but also to social and economic equality. He warned that political equality would be unsustainable if social inequality persisted. This warning remains relevant today, as despite the power of law, caste-based thinking, deeply ingrained in society's psyche, has not been completely eradicated.

Education is considered a vehicle for social consciousness, but surprisingly, caste prejudices persist in subtle and sophisticated forms even among the educated class. Caste is often present as an unspoken identity during admissions to universities and professional institutions, in peer relationships, and in social networking. Discussions of "merit" often lead people to harbor prejudices about reservation policies and assume that those from reserved categories are inherently less qualified. This perception challenges the principle of equality even among the educated class of modern India.

Urbanization and industrialization were considered to break down caste boundaries. However, in practice, caste consciousness has revived in new forms even in cities. For example, even in metropolitan areas, most people marry within their own caste groups. Caste and sub-caste remain prominent filters on matrimony websites. This means that while economic progress and modernity have changed external behavior, social psychology has still not been freed from the confines of caste.

The presence of caste cannot be denied even in the professional sphere. Traditionally, trade and business have been dominated by certain castes, and this trend continues implicitly in modern corporate structures. Caste social capital plays a significant role in networking, investment, and access to opportunities. For example, members of a business community are more comfortable offering business support to one another. Similarly, social biases are often at play during job recruitment or promotion under vague criteria such as "cultural fit" or "network fit."

Politically, caste consciousness has also gained new energy in modern democracy. The urban middle class often considers itself above caste, but during elections, the same class appears to base its allegiance on caste identity. Caste organizations, student unions, and professional associations are now linking their caste identity with the demand for rights. Thus, caste is no longer merely a social institution, but has taken the form of a 'political resource' and 'social capital.'

In urban India, this form of casteism manifests as symbolic rather than overt discrimination. Directly insulting someone because of their caste is now a crime, but subtle forms of this mindset persist in social life. For example, mocking an employee's social background, making sarcastic remarks about reservations, or maintaining social distance from a coworker—these are all forms of caste-based prejudice.

Ethnic consciousness has found a new outlet in the digital age. Pages, organizations, and communities of ethnic groups on social media platforms promote their pride and history. This can be a symbol of cultural self-respect, but it often devolves into competitive ethnicity, creating new divisions in society. The "us" versus "them" mentality now persists even in the virtual world.

Following economic liberalization, it was believed that merit would be paramount in the global market and the private sector. However, studies from the 1990s to the present show that even in the corporate sector, Dalit and backward classes have relatively low participation. The lack of reserva-

tions in the private sector has further exacerbated this inequality. Consequently, modernity and marketization have provided the illusion of equal opportunity, but have failed to eliminate the reality of caste inequality.

A large segment of the urban middle class formally rejects caste, but uses caste-related identities in informal life. This contradiction reflects the social complexity of modern India. For example, someone may describe themselves as liberal in the office, but accept caste-based marriage options for their children. This duality makes it clear that the social influence of caste still permeates even the most personal decisions in life.

One reason for the persistence of caste consciousness is that caste is no longer seen solely as a symbol of oppression in society, but also as a support for identity and community. Particularly after the rise of reservation and social justice politics, disadvantaged groups have used caste as a means to protect their rights. This has also led to the emergence of a "positive discourse" of caste, which speaks of self-respect and representation. However, in this process, the boundaries of caste have not been completely eliminated; rather, they have been transformed.

Social scientists believe that caste has now become a "resource network" in Indian urban society. It has evolved from traditional ties to a modern means of communication. Whether in jobs, business, or politics, it still serves as the basis for trust, cooperation, and the distribution of resources. This makes it clear that modernity has not eradicated caste, but rather reshaped it.

When evaluating the effectiveness of constitutional safeguards, it is also important to understand that law can only provide a framework, but social consciousness changes slowly. Education and economic progress have challenged caste inequality, but the pace of change in social behavior is slow. As long as group identity, rather than individual merit, remains the basis for social respect, opportunity, and recognition, caste consciousness will persist.

Sociologists like André Betteine, M.N. Srinivas, and Gopinath Mohanty have repeatedly pointed out that urbanization in India does not mean the complete disintegration of traditional structures, but rather their reconfiguration. That is, while the outward form of the rural caste system may be broken, its mentality is recreated in a new form in the city. This is why caste-related inequalities persist in subtle forms even in modern fields like the IT sector, media, education, and medicine.

This persistence of caste consciousness presents both a challenge and an opportunity for Indian democracy. A challenge because it limits the ideals of equality and social justice, and an opportunity because this consciousness can be transformed into a broader discourse on social justice. If caste is used as a tool of representation and cooperation rather than oppression, it can strengthen social cohesion.

The way forward lies in a combination of education, sensitization, and policymaking. Value education based on social diversity and equality should be encouraged in schools and universities. Mechanisms such as ethics codes, equal opportunity commissions, and independent audit systems on inequality can be useful in promoting diversity in the workplace. The media and mass media must also play an active role in breaking down racial stereotypes and promoting the ideal of equality.

The Constitution of India is not merely a legal document, but a manifesto for social change. Its spirit dictates that a person's worth be judged by their actions, not their birth. Today, the need is for the educated and working class—who play an exemplary role in society—to lead this change. Until the role of caste in social respect, opportunity, and behavior is eliminated, the dream of equality will remain unfulfilled.

Ultimately, it can be said that Indian society is changing, but caste consciousness remains its deepest root. The Constitution has given us direction, but social reality has not yet fully progressed in that direction. Urbanization, education, and employment have certainly weakened caste, but its influence has not yet ended. Modern India's greatest responsibility is to realize the ideal of equality in both law and practice. Only then will we be able to realize the vision of an India where a person's identity is not their caste, but their humanity.

Yoon set off the most serious political crisis in South Korea's recent history

## South Korea's ousted leader Yoon indicted for flying drones over North Korea

SEOUL, Nov 10: South Korea's ousted conservative President Yoon Suk Yeol faces more criminal charges as prosecutors alleged Monday that he ordered drone flights over North Korea in a deliberate bid to stoke tensions and justify his plans to declare martial law.

Yoon set off the most serious political crisis in South Korea's recent history when he imposed martial law on Dec. 3, 2024, and sent troops to surround the National Assembly. He was later impeached and removed from office, and is in jail, standing trial on charges including masterminding a rebellion.

His successor and liberal rival, President Lee Jae Myung, approved legislation that launched independent investigations into Yoon's martial law stunt and other criminal allegations involving him, his wife and associates.



Yoon's new charge is about flying drones over North Korea

On Monday, Yoon and two of his top defence officials were charged with benefiting the enemy

and committing abuse of power over their alleged drone flights, which came about two months before the declaration of martial law, according to a special investigation

team.

North Korea accused Seoul of flying drones over its capital, Pyongyang, to drop propaganda leaflets three times in October 2024. Yoon's defence minister, Kim Yong Hyun, initially made a vague denial, but South Korea's military later switched to saying it couldn't confirm whether or not the North's claim was true. Any public confirmation of South Korean reconnaissance activities on North Korea is highly unusual.

Tensions rose sharply at the time, with North Korea threatening to respond with force. But neither side took any major action, and tensions gradually subsided.

When Yoon announced martial law, he briefly cited "threats from North Korean communist forces," but focused on his fights with the liberal-controlled parliament that obstructed his agenda, impeached top officials and slashed his gov-

ernment's budget bill. Yoon called the National Assembly "a den of criminals" and "anti-state forces."

On Monday, Park Ji-young, a senior investigator working for independent counsel Cho Eun-suk, told a briefing that her team still indicted Yoon, Kim and Yeo In-hyung, ex-commander of the military's counterintelligence agency, over the alleged drone flying.

She said the trio "undermined the military interests of the Republic of Korea by increasing the danger of a South-North armed conflict with the purpose of setting up an environment for declaring emergency martial law," Park said.

Park disclosed what she called memos found in Yeo's mobile phone, some of which suggest likely plots to trigger tensions with North Korea. Memos include wordings like "creating an unstable

situation," "drones", and "targets like Pyongyang" that could force North Korea to respond because of "a loss of face."

Park said she won't further explain about those memos due to concerns about leaks of military secrets.

**Yoon already faces a graver rebellion charge**

There were no immediate public responses from Yoon, Kim or Yeo over their indictments. But in July, Yoon's defence team said Yoon had maintained he wasn't informed of the drone flights.

In January, state prosecutors indicted Yoon for allegedly directing a rebellion. It's a grave charge whose conviction only carries the sentence of capital punishment or life imprisonment. Kim and Yeo have also been arrested and indicted for allegedly playing key roles in Yoon's martial law imposition. (AP)

## Zelenskyy seeks Patriot systems from US to counter Russia's power grid attacks

KYIV, Nov 10: President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Monday he wants to order 25 Patriot air defence systems from the United States, as Ukraine desperately tries to fend off relentless Russian aerial attacks that have brought rolling blackouts across Ukraine on the brink of winter.

Zelenskyy acknowledged that the Patriot systems are expensive and that such a large batch could take years to manufacture. But he said European countries could give their Patriots to Ukraine and await replacements, stressing that "we would not like to wait."

Combined missile and drone strikes on the power grid have coincided with Ukraine's frantic efforts to hold back a Russian battlefield push aimed at capturing the eastern stronghold of Pokrovsk. Meanwhile, international peace efforts appear to have dissipated, nearly four years after Russia invaded its neighbour. Zelenskyy said Ukraine recently received more Patriot systems from Germany. It is not known how many Patriot systems are in Ukraine. But on the whole, air defences remain stretched thin across wide expanses of Ukrainian territory, and the threat to the provision of heating and running water in the bitter winter is acute.

NATO is coordinating regular deliveries of large weapons packages to Ukraine. European allies and Canada are buying much of the equipment from the United States. The Trump administration is not giving any arms to Ukraine, unlike the previous Biden administration.

Russia's attacks on energy infrastructure have grown more effective. It launches hundreds of drones, some equipped with cameras to improve targeting, that overwhelm Ukraine's air defences, especially in regions where protection is weaker. Also, this year, it is striking region by region, hitting local switchyards and substations, instead of taking aim at the centralised national grid.

Ukraine's Energy Ministry said on Monday that Russian attacks caused more damage to its power infrastructure, resulting in scheduled blackouts in most of the country's regions. It urged Ukrainians to rationalise their use of electricity, especially during peak consumption hours in the mornings and evenings. (AP)

## Senate takes first step toward ending government shutdown

WASHINGTON, Nov 10: The Senate took the first step to end the government shutdown on Sunday after a group of moderate Democrats agreed to proceed without a guaranteed extension of health care subsidies, angering many in their caucus who say Americans want them to continue the fight.

In a test vote that is the first in a series of required procedural maneuvers, the Senate voted 60-40 to move toward passing compromise legislation to fund the government and hold a later vote on extending Affordable Care Act tax credits that expire January 1.

Final passage could be several days away if Democrats object and delay the process.

The agreement does not guarantee the Affordable Care Act subsidies will be extended, as Democrats have demanded for almost six weeks. Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York voted against moving ahead with the package, along with all but eight of his Democratic colleagues.

A group of three former governors — New Hampshire Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, New Hampshire Sen. Maggie Hassan and Independent Sen. Angus King of Maine — broke the six-week stalemate on Sunday when they agreed to vote to advance three bipartisan annual spending bills and extend the rest of government funding until late January in exchange for a mid-December vote on extending the health care tax credits.

The agreement also includes a reversal of the mass firings of federal workers by the Trump administration since the shutdown began on October 1 and would ensure that federal workers receive back pay.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune quickly endorsed the deal and called the immediate vote to begin the process of approving it as the shutdown continued to disrupt flights nationwide, threaten food assistance for millions of Americans and leave federal workers without pay.

"The time to act is now," Thune said.

Returning to the White House on Sunday evening after attending a football game, President Donald Trump did not say whether he endorsed the deal. But he said, "It looks like we're getting close to the shutdown ending."

**Five Democrats switch votes**

In addition to Shaheen, King and Hassan, Democratic Sen. Tim Kaine of Virginia, home to tens of thousands of federal workers, also voted in favour of moving forward on the agreement. Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin, the No. 2 Democrat, Pennsylvania Sen. John Fetterman and Nevada Sens. Catherine Cortez Masto and Jacky Rosen also voted yes.

The moderates had expected a larger number of Democrats to vote with them as around 10-12 Democratic senators had been part of the negotiations.

But in the end, only five Democrats switched their votes — the exact number that Republicans needed. King, Cortez Masto and Fetterman had already been voting to open the government since October 1.

The vote was temporarily delayed on Sunday evening as three conservatives who often criticise spending bills, Republican Sens. Mike Lee of Utah, Rick Scott of Florida and Ron Johnson of Wisconsin, withheld their votes and huddled with Thune at the back of the chamber. They eventually voted yes after speaking to Trump, Lee said.

Another Republican, Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, had to fly back from Texas to deliver the crucial 60th vote.

**Schumer votes no**  
After Democrats met for over two hours to discuss the proposal,

Schumer said he could not "in good faith" support it.

Schumer, who received blowback from his party in March when he voted to keep the government open, said that Democrats have now "sounded the alarm" on health care. "We will not give up the fight," he said.

Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, who caucuses with the Democrats, said that giving up the fight was a "horrific mistake."

Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., agreed, saying that people in last week's elections voted overwhelmingly Democratic "to urge Democrats to hold firm."

**A bipartisan agreement**

Democrats had voted 14 times not to reopen the government as they demanded the extension of tax credits that make coverage more affordable for health plans offered under the Affordable Care Act. Republicans said they would not negotiate on health care, but GOP leaders have been quietly working with the group of moderates as the contours of an agreement began to emerge.

The agreement includes bipartisan bills worked out by the Senate Appropriations Committee to fund parts of government — food aid, veterans programmes and the legislative branch, among other things. All other funding would be extended until the end of January, giving lawmakers more than two months to finish additional spending bills.

The deal would reinstate federal workers who had received reduction in force, or layoff, notices and reimburse states that spent their own funds to keep federal programmes running during the shutdown. It would also protect against future reductions in force through January and guarantee federal workers would be paid once the shutdown is over.

**House Democrats push back**  
House Democrats swiftly criticised the Senate.

Texas Rep. Greg Casar, the chairman of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, said a deal that doesn't reduce health care costs is a "betrayal" of millions of Americans who are counting on Democrats to fight.

"Accepting nothing but a pinky promise from Republicans isn't a compromise — it's capitulation," Casar said in a post on X. "Millions of families would pay the price."

Rep. Angie Craig of Minnesota posted that "if people believe this is a deal, I have a bridge to sell you." House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries blamed Republicans and said Democrats will continue to fight.

"Donald Trump and the Republican Party own the toxic mess they have created in our country and the American people know it," Jeffries said.

**Health care debate ahead**

It's unclear whether the two parties would be able to find any common ground on the health care subsidies before a promised December vote in the Senate. House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., has said he will not commit to bring it up in his chamber.

Some Republicans have said they are open to extending the COVID-19-era tax credits as premiums could skyrocket for millions of people, but they also want new limits on who can receive the subsidies and argue that the tax dollars for the plans should be routed through individuals.

Other Republicans, including Trump, have used the debate to renew their yearslong criticism of the law and called for it to be scrapped or overhauled.

**"THE WORST HEALTHCARE FOR THE HIGHEST PRICE,"** Trump said of the Affordable Care Act in a post Sunday. (AP)

## Crude bomb explodes outside B'desh Grameen bank headquarters

DHAKA, Nov 10: A crude bomb exploded outside the head office of Bangladesh's Grameen Bank, founded by Muhammad Yunus, in Dhaka's Mirpur on Monday, police said.

"Two miscreants on a motorcycle arrived and hurled the crude bomb in front of the road of the Grameen Bank at around 3.45 am," a police official said.

"Nobody has been arrested yet, but by now we have launched a campaign to track down the miscreants," the officer-in-charge of Mirpur police station told reporters.

The attack was one of the many instances of sporadic violence that have hit Dhaka amid brewing tensions in Bangladesh's political landscape.

Early on Monday, unidentified men also exploded improvised bombs in front of a business outlet of one of Yunus' advisers and set two buses ablaze in the capital.

Police said no casualty was reported in the attacks in front of Grameen Bank, and the Prabartana — a business owned by fisheries and livestock adviser Farida Akhter.

Yunus, who is currently the Chief Adviser of the interim government, founded the Grameen Bank in 1983 and won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for his work in poverty alleviation and the empowerment of poor women through it.

According to police, the explosions in



Prabartana at the Mohammadpur area occurred around 7:10 am, when two motorcycle-borne miscreants "hurled the crude bombs in front of the establishment, both of which exploded with loud bangs."

One of the crude bombs also landed inside the premises of the outlet.

Meanwhile, police said "unidentified miscreants" also exploded crude bombs at two places in the city's posh Dhanmondi area.

Motorcycle riders detonated two bombs near Ibn Sina Hospital, said to be run by Jamaat-e-Islami, and another two in front of a major crossing.

Separately, a 50-year-old man, "listed gangster", was shot down in front of a hospital in the old part of Dhaka hours later.

Police said they were looking for clues to identify his assailants.

He had narrowly escaped an attack in 2023,

## Deal to end government shutdown is on track but faces hurdles

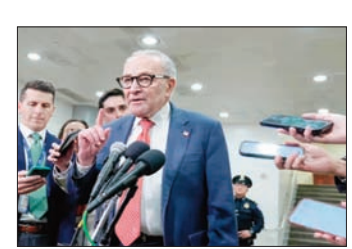
WASHINGTON, Nov 10: A legislative package to end the government shutdown appears on track Monday after a handful of Senate Democrats joined with Republicans to break the impasse in what has become a deepening disruption of federal programs and services, the longest in history.

What's in and out of the bipartisan deal drew sharp criticism and leaves few senators fully satisfied. The legislation provides funding to reopen the government, including for SNAP food aid and other programs, while also ensuring backpay for furloughed federal workers the Trump administration had left in doubt.

But notably lacking is any clear resolution to expiring health care subsidies that Democrats have been fighting for as millions of Americans stare down rising insurance premiums. That debate was pushed off for a vote next month, weeks before the subsidies are set to expire.

President Donald Trump noted the deal as he arrived at the White House after watching the Washington Commanders' game on Sunday evening against the Detroit Lions, on the 40th day of the funding lapse. "It looks like we're getting close to the shutdown ending," he said.

The Senate could wrap up passage as soon as Monday. The bill



cleared a procedural hurdle, 60-40, late Sunday, with eight Democrats joining most Republicans. In a rare dissent, Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer of New York voted against because it failed to fully address the health care funds.

It would next go to the House, where lawmakers have been away since September but were being told to prepare to return to Washington this week. Then, it's to Trump's desk for his signature.

Here's a look at the deal as it's moving through Congress:

**Funding to reopen the government, for now**

Included is funding to keep much of the federal government running for the next couple of months, to January 30, with a stop-gap measure. It largely funds government operations at their current rates.

Yet in a breakthrough for what's considered a more normal appropriations process, the package also includes several bills to fully fund other government operations including agricultural programs and

military construction along with veterans' affairs for the full fiscal year, through September 2026.

Additionally, the package ensures states would be reimbursed for money they spent to keep the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, known as SNAP, and the Women, Infants and Children program, or WIC, running during the shutdown.

Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, the chair of the Appropriations Committee, said she was "relieved."

"This shutdown has gone on far too long," she said. "And I also think it's highly significant that we'll have three yearlong appropriations bills attached. Veterans Day is coming very soon, and it would be wonderful if we get the full-year Veterans Affairs bill signed into law."

**Health care funding still up for debate**

The Democrats failed to secure their main demand during the shutdown, which was an extension of the health care subsidies that many of the 24 million people who buy insurance through the Affordable Care Act rely on to help defray costs.

Instead, the package guarantees a vote on the issue in December — which was not enough for most of the Democrats, who rejected the deal and voted against it. (AP)

## Maldives inaugurates airport built with assistance from India

MALE, Nov 10: Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu and India's Minister of Civil Aviation Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu jointly inaugurated the Hanimaadhoo International Airport, a project completed with India's financial assistance.

In his address at the inauguration ceremony on Sunday, Muizzu described the airport as a "catalyst for unlocking the potential of the northern Maldives and enhancing global connectivity", according to a statement by the President's Office.

Calling it a "gateway to prosperity" for the north, he said, "This is not just an airport, it is a symbol of economic transformation."

Muizzu said that the newly opened airport would bring further advancement to tourism, agriculture, fisheries, and the economy, as well as social development to the north, the Sun.mv news portal reported. Muizzu said the airport serves as a monument that testifies to the strength of Maldives-India ties as the countries mark 60 years of diplomatic relations this year, news portal Edition.mv reported.

In an X post, the Indian High Commission in the Maldives called the airport a "true vehicle for progress and prosperity, and a symbol of India's commitment under Neighbourhood First and MA-

HASAGAR vision".

The airport's development is funded by a USD 800 million line of credit issued by EXIM Bank, India, under an agreement executed between the Maldivian government and the bank in 2019, the Sun.mv news portal reported.

The development of Hanimaadhoo International Airport was contracted to India's JMC Projects for USD 136.6 million, it said, adding that the airport will help improve tourism in northern atolls.

Meanwhile, main opposition Maldivian Democratic Party chief Abdulla Shahid, who served as the Foreign Minister in the last MDP administration, thanked former president Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, whose administration initiated the project, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the government and people of India for their generous assistance. Shahid noted that President Muizzu and his colleagues, while in opposition, had criticised the project, even labelling it as an "Indian military initiative".

"Construction workers were falsely called Indian soldiers, fuelling a dangerous nationalist narrative. Every Indian supported project was politicised to inflame anti-India sentiment, turning international cooperation into a political weapon," he stressed. (PTI)

## Wanted to write about global loneliness: Kiran Desai on her Booker shortlisted novel

LONDON, Nov 10: Indian author Kiran Desai, who is in the running for a second Booker Prize in London on Monday for "The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny", said she wanted to write a book about global loneliness that drew on her own "artistic loneliness" as a student in the US.

At a special per-award ceremony at the Southbank Centre in London on Sunday evening, the 54-year-old author joined the five other shortlisted authors for readings and discussions around the themes of their novels that impressed the judging panel of one of the world's most prestigious literary awards.

Desai, who won the 50,000-pound prize in 2006 with "The Inheritance of Loss", has been working on this novel ever since and lifted the story of Sonia and Sunny from the reams of her writing over those 19 years.

"I wanted to write a book about global loneliness through the lens of a long, unresolved love story," said Desai.

"An intimate and expansive epic about two people finding a pathway to love and each other. Rich in meditations about class,

college in Vermont," she said, in response to a question about the long years of isolation involved in writing this novel.

"So perhaps this was the beginning of the book, that combination of being physically alone for the first time, but also experiencing that exquisite artistic loneliness of being alone, no eyes on you, completely unself-conscious... I was very lonely writing the book, but I was also very happy writing this book; it felt like a companion," she shared.

Weighing in at 667 pages, Desai's novel has been described by the judges as a "vast and immersive" tale about a pair of young Indians in America. If she wins, the author will become the fifth double winner in the Booker Prize's 56-year history.

Born and brought up in New Delhi, Desai moved to England with her family at 15 before moving to the US, where she has since lived. She has a family history with the prize, with her mother Anita Desai being shortlisted for the Booker three times.

"An intimate and expansive epic about two people finding a pathway to love and each other. Rich in meditations about class,

race and nationhood, this book has it all," the Booker judges have said of "The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny".

Other works fighting it out for the big prize include "Flashlight" by American Korean author Susan Choi, "Audition" by American Japanese writer Katie Kitamura, "The Rest of Our Lives" by British American Ben Markovits, Hungarian British David Szalay's "Flesh" and English novelist Andrew Miller's "The Land in Winter".

"The six have, I think, two big things in common. Their authors are in total command of their own store of English, their own rhythm, their own expertise; they have each crafted a novel that no one else could have written," said Irish novelist Roddy Doyle, Booker Prize 2025 chair of judges.

"And all of the books, in six different and very fresh ways, find their stories in the examination of the individual trying to live with — to love, to seek attention from, to cope with, to understand, to keep at bay, to tolerate, to escape from — other people. In other words, they are all brilliantly written and they are all brilliantly human," he said.



The winning book for 2025 will be unveiled at a ceremony at Old Billingsgate in London on Monday night, with the winner bagging 50,000 pounds and all six shortlisted authors receiving 2,500 pounds as well as a specially bound edition of their book. (PTI)

*Lessons from Tehri Dam to guide socially responsible Kalai-II hydropower*

## Women & Child Development Minister visits Tehri Dam



**HT Correspondent**

**ITANAGAR, Nov 10:** In a bid to ensure a more humane and inclusive approach to hydropower development, Women and Child Development Minister Dasanglu Pul on Monday visited the Tehri Dam in Uttarakhand to gain first-hand insights into the Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) policy adopted during its construction.

The visit, aimed at studying best practices for the upcoming 1,200 MW Kalai-II Hydro Electric Project in Anjaw district, included an interaction with senior officials of THDC India Ltd, led by Chief Technology Officer L. P. Joshi, General Manager Vijay Sehgal, DGMs Mohan Singh Sriswal, Ganesh Bhatt and Nand Kishore

and PR Manager Manveer Negi, along with Tehsildar Dhanveer from the Tehri district administration.

Pul said the visit provided valuable exposure to land acquisition procedures, livelihood restoration programmes and socio-economic rehabilitation measures implemented at Tehri — one of India's tallest and most complex hy-

dropower projects. "The learnings from Tehri will be crucial in developing a socially responsible and sustainable R&R roadmap for the Kalai-II project," she said.

The Tehri Dam, a 260.5-metre-high rock and earth-fill structure on the Bhagirathi River, generates over 1,000 MW of power and is regarded as an engineering marvel. The project, executed by THDC India Ltd, has also been lauded for its large-scale resettlement and rehabilitation efforts.

Pul emphasised that Arunachal's hydropower growth must go hand in hand with community welfare and cultural sensitivity.

"Development cannot come at the cost of people's livelihoods. Our goal is to balance progress with compassion," she said.

The Kalai-II Hydro Electric Project, scheduled to be held from November 22 to 30, 2025, at the Golden Jubilee Outdoor Stadium, Yupia, under the aegis of the Arunachal Archery Association.

A coordination meeting of the Arunachal Archery Association and key stakeholder departments of the Papum Pare District Administration was held on Monday at the DC Conference Hall, Yupia, to review and finalise logistical arrangements for the event.

## Preparations begin for 42<sup>nd</sup> Sub-Junior National Archery Championship



**HT Correspondent**

**ITANAGAR, Nov 10:** Preparations are underway for the 42<sup>nd</sup> NTPC Sub-Junior (Recurve, Compound and Indian Round) National Archery Championship, scheduled to be held from November 22 to 30, 2025, at the Golden Jubilee Outdoor Stadium, Yupia, under the aegis of the Arunachal Archery Association.

A coordination meeting of the Arunachal Archery Association and key stakeholder departments of the Papum Pare District Administration was held on Monday at the DC Conference Hall, Yupia,

to review and finalise logistical arrangements for the event.

Discussions covered crucial aspects such as water supply, electricity, sanitation, medical facilities and police coordination. Gaps in preparedness were identified and necessary directives were issued to ensure the smooth conduct of the championship.

On the occasion, Superintendent of Police, Papum Pare, Taru Gusar launched the official logo of the championship, marking the formal commencement of preparations. Calling it a proud moment for the state's archery community, Gusar assured full

support from the police department for the successful organisation of the event.

President of the Arunachal Archery Association, Tadar Niglar highlighted that Arunachalis are naturally gifted in archery and expressed hope that the championship would provide a national platform for young talents to showcase their skills.

The meeting was attended by AC Bengia Yakar officials from the Departments of Electrical, Urban Development, PHED, Health, DIPRO and Sports, along with members of the Arunachal Archery Association.

## Spear Corps GoC reviews operational preparedness

**ITANAGAR, Nov 10:** General Officer Commanding (GOC) of Spear Corps Lt. General Abhijit S Pendharkar on Monday visited Anini and forward air-maintained posts under Dao Division in Arunachal Pradesh's Dibang Valley to assess operational readiness and troop morale in the challenging high-altitude sector of the Eastern Himalayas.

The visit focused on ensuring sustained combat preparedness and seamless logistical support in some of the most remote and strategically sensitive areas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), Guwahati-based Defence Spokesperson Lt Gen Mahendra Rawat said in a statement.

During the visit, the Corps Commander witnessed an on-ground validation of Kill Box and Ashni Platoon, specialised combat teams that demonstrated integrated "hard kill" and "soft kill" responses against hostile drone intrusions.

The drill, he said, underlined the Indian Army's enhanced counter-drone capability and the effective synergy between technology and tactical innovation in



modern warfare.

Lt Gen Rawat informed that the exercise showcased the Army's proactive approach to emerging aerial threats, integrating advanced surveillance systems and precision countermeasures designed to protect critical forward assets.

"The Indian Army continues to evolve its tactics to meet modern battlefield challenges, with a strong focus on technological adaptation and rapid response mechanisms," he added.

The GOC also interacted with troops deployed in the forward areas, commending their high

standards of professionalism and resilience despite extreme weather and difficult terrain conditions.

He reaffirmed the Army's unwavering commitment to safeguarding national borders and ensuring operational dominance in all terrains and threat spectrums. (PTI)

## Three arrested over Sainik school Niglok tragedy



**HT Correspondent**

**ZIRO, Nov 10:** Superintendent of Police Pankaj Lamba, IPS on Sunday provided an update on the tragic incident at Sainik School Niglok on November 1, 2025 which led to the death of a Class 7 student, Master Tadu Haro.

According to SP Lamba, three individuals — two House Masters and the House Superintendent — have been arrested for alleged negligence in hostel supervision. They have been remanded to judicial custody for 14 and 18 days, respectively.

The police have seized the CCTV footage related to the incident and selected portions will be shown to the deceased student's parents as part of the ongoing inquiry. Authorities stated that all evidence is being examined thoroughly.

Following the incident, administrative responsibility of the school has been handed over to the Vice Principal and the institution continues to function under strict supervision.

Preliminary CCTV findings suggest that some students were involved in ragging activities, directly or indirectly, which may have contributed to the tragedy.

The case has now been transferred to the Crime Branch (SIT), Itanagar for an impartial and transparent investigation. Authorities have assured the bereaved family and the public that justice will be served once the inquiry is completed.

## Arunachal invites TPAs for apprenticeship

**HT Correspondent**

**ITANAGAR, Nov 10:** The Department of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Government of Arunachal Pradesh has invited proposals from Third Party Aggregators (TPAs) under the State Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (SAPS) for promoting and implementing apprenticeship initiatives, including NAPS, SAPS and NATS.

Interested TPAs must submit their proposals to the Director, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Udyog Sadan, C-Sector, Itanagar - 791111 on or before 4:30 PM on December 1, 2025. Each proposal must include a non-refundable processing fee of ₹ 10,000, payable via Demand Draft in favour of the Director, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Government of Arunachal Pradesh.

Proposals should be submitted in a sealed cover superscribed "Request for Proposal (RFP) for Empanelment of Third Party Aggregators for State Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (SAPS)", along with the bidder's name and address.

## Test to assess potential for clean energy and sustainable development Geothermal pumping test kicks off in Dirang

**ITANAGAR, Nov 10:** An autonomous organisation under the Arunachal government's Department of Science & Technology has initiated the pumping test of the first geothermal production well at Dirang sub-division in West Kameng district.

The aim of the pumping test is to assess the sustainability and productivity of the subsurface geothermal reservoir, a key precondition for moving ahead with applications such as building-sized heating and cooling systems and agro-processing utilities, an official said.

Tana Tage, director of the Centre for Earth Sciences & Himalayan Studies (CESHS), said the test marks a transformative step toward clean, renewable and region-specific energy solutions in the Eastern Himalayas.

The operation, which began on Monday, involves scientists and engineers from CESHS under the technical supervision of Rajinder Bhasin, Geotechnical Engineer from the Norwegian Geotechnical Institute (NGI), Oslo and geothermal-exploration specialists from Geotropy Iceland.

The Dirang site is already recognised as



the region's first geothermal production well, following two years of detailed geochemical and structural surveys across western

Arunachal Pradesh. According to reports, the reservoir temperature had been estimated at around 115

°C, placing the site in a medium-to-high enthalpy zone and making it suitable for direct-use applications.

International collaboration has been central to the project. CESHS has partnered with the Norwegian Geotechnical Institute (NGI), Iceland's Geotropy and local drilling services via Guwahati Boring Service (GBS).

The successful completion of the pumping test will enable the transition from exploratory drilling to operational deployment of geothermal systems in the Eastern Himalayas, the director said.

Potential next steps include deeper drilling operations and the scaling of geothermal-powered infrastructure, with the long-term vision of making Dirang India's first geothermal-powered town, he pointed out.

"This pioneering development paves the way for a new era of clean energy in the Himalayas," Tage said, adding that it demonstrates the potential of geothermal resources in transforming regional livelihoods while ensuring environmental sustainability. (PTI)

## Durex 'The Birds and Bees Talk' Monyul Super League launched

**HT Correspondent**

**TAWANG, Nov 10:** The first edition of the Monyul Super League, presented by Durex 'The Birds and Bees Talk' organised by the Tawang District Sports Association was officially inaugurated on Monday at the Gyalwa Tsyanggyatso High Altitude Stadium, Tawang. The much-anticipated event marked a significant milestone in promoting football and sporting culture amongst youth in the Monyul region, bringing together players, dignitaries and enthusiastic spectators from across the district.

The grand inaugural ceremony was graced by Phurpa Tsering MLA and Advisor to the Minister (PWD, Highways, Science & Technology), Tsering Lhamu MLA cum Advisor to the Minister (Planning & WCD), Namegy Tsering MLA Tawang, Former MLA Tsering Tashi, Legendary football icon Bhaichung Bhutia, Lt Gen Gambhir Singh AVSM, YSM, GOC, Gajraj Corps, Maj Gen Amit Nautiyal SM, GOC, 5 Mtn Div, Daisy Shah, Bollywood Actress, Dr Komal Goswami Chief of Party, Plan India, Supriya Pathak renowned Bollywood Singer, along with several other distinguished guests, officers and sports enthusiasts.

The ceremony began with the formal inauguration and welcome address, followed by the ceremonial kick-off by Bhaichung Bhutia, who expressed his joy in seeing the growing enthusiasm for football in the state and Monyul region. He praised the efforts of the Tawang District Sports Association for organising the league and assured full support from his football academy to help nurture and train promising young players from the Monyul region.



Speaking on the association, Ravi Bhatnagar, Communications and Corporate Affairs Director, South Asia, MENARP and Africa, Reckitt, said, "We are proud to partner with the Monyul Super League through Durex The Birds and Bees Talk, a programme committed to empowering youth with life skills, confidence and the ability to make healthy choices. Sport has a remarkable way of shaping character, building teamwork and fostering respect, and this collaboration reflects a shared vision: to nurture safe, supportive and inclusive spaces where young people can learn, compete and grow. I hope this league inspires many rising talents and strengthens the spirit of unity and pride across the community."

Adding glamour and entertainment to the evening, Supriya Pathak enthralled the crowd with her captivating performance of popular Bollywood numbers, setting a joyous and festive mood in the stadium. Her performance

was complemented by an energetic dance by the Tani Daughters, who gracefully performed to her songs, winning the hearts of the audience.

The Durex The Birds and Bees Talk Monyul Super League features seven teams from Tawang and West Kameng districts, who will compete for the championship trophy over the coming days. The league aims to foster sportsmanship, encourage youth participation and create a strong platform for emerging football talents in the region.

The event witnessed overwhelming public attendance and reflected the collective excitement and unity of the community. The evening concluded with cheers, camaraderie and a shared sense of pride for the region's sporting aspirations.

The grand finale of the league is scheduled for 25th November, promising more thrilling matches and memorable moments in the days to come.

# Mahagathbandhan govt certain in Bihar NDA only has foul language, false promises to offer: Cong

**NEW DELHI, Nov 10:** A day before polling for the second and final phase of the Bihar Assembly polls, the Congress on Monday said this time the Mahagathbandhan government is certain in the state as the INDIA bloc has a clear roadmap for the state's development, while the NDA leaders have only "foul language and false promises" to offer.

The opposition party also asserted that the Mahagathbandhan's guarantees will be implemented as soon as it comes to power. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the Mahagathbandhan government will liberate Bihar from 20 years of "helpless governance".

"Now migration will stop, the darkness will be removed from the future of the youth, every household will have a brighter tomorrow! We will end injustice, transform Bihar with social justice," Kharge said in his post in Hindi. Dalits, Mahadalits, tribals, backward, extremely backward, economically weaker sections, and minorities will get their rights, the Congress chief said.

Women, farmers, youth, every section of society will experience economic upliftment, he said.

"The people of Bihar have set out to change the face of the state! We will restore Bihar's glory. We guarantee, we will make it possi-



ble!" Kharge said as he shared some of the "guarantees" of the Mahagathbandhan. Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said that after 20 years of destruction, while the NDA leaders have only "foul language and false promises" to offer, the INDIA bloc has a clear and solid roadmap for ensuring Bihar's development and justice.

Ramesh also shared on X a split-screen video clip in which while NDA leaders were heard using harsh language for opposition leaders, Kharge and party leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra were seen highlighting the Mahagathbandhan's guarantees.

Ramesh said this time the Ma-

hagathbandhan government is certain in Bihar. "And as soon as they come to power, the Mahagathbandhan's 5-year guarantee for Bihar will be implemented," he said in his post in Hindi on X.

Ramesh went on to list 20 guarantees of the Mahagathbandhan such as jobs for every household in Bihar with government job for every family.

He pointed out that the Mahagathbandhan has also promised ₹ 2,500 monthly assistance to women, free electricity up to 200 units, gas cylinders for ₹500, free bus service for women, ₹ 30,000 salary for Jeevika Didis, ₹ 1,500 monthly pension for the elderly, ₹3,000 monthly pension for the disabled and free medical treat-

ment up to ₹ 25 lakh.

Ramesh also highlighted that the Mahagathbandhan has also promised that EBC/EWS reservation will be increased from 20% to 30%, SC reservation from 16% to 20%, and ST reservation increased from 1% to 2%.

He further pointed out that the Mahagathbandhan has also promised special courts for speedy trial of SC/ST harassment cases, the Extremely Backward Classes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act will be passed, land leases will be granted to the most backward and landless classes for collective farming, the law increasing the reservation limit to 50% will be included in the 9th Schedule of the Constitution and a special SIT will be formed to recover funds stuck in Sahara.

Ramesh also highlighted the Mahagathbandhan promise of hostels and free medical treatment for journalists, life insurance of ₹ 10 lakh and health insurance of ₹ 15 lakh will be provided to lawyers, the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) will be implemented for government employees, guaranteed support prices for farmers' produce and 24-hour free electricity will be provided for farming.

The Bihar polls are being held in two phases on November 6 and 11, and results will be announced on November 14. (PTI)

# EC has not done justice to Bihar voters: D K Shivakumar



**NEW DELHI, Nov 10:** Congress leader and Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar Monday alleged the Election Commission has not done justice to the Bihar electorate as it has deleted a large number of poor voters and those seeking jobs outside the state from the electoral rolls.

He claimed the EC was conducting the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls after admitting that "something wrong" was committed by "misusing its office".

Shivakumar was here to present the 1.12 crore signatures collected from across Karnataka as part of the Congress "Vote chor, gaddi chhod" campaign.

"The Election Commission has not given justice to Bihar voters," he claimed, alleging that the votes of the poor and those migrating outside Bihar in search of jobs were deleted on a large scale during the SIR exercise.

Shivakumar, however, did not answer any queries on whether he raised the issue of the change of chief ministership in Karnataka with the party high command. "I am not here to speak on politics. I am here to save democracy, to save votes. I don't want to give any political answer," he said.

Shivakumar said he was in the national capital as the president of the Karnataka Congress and not as the

deputy chief minister, as it was his responsibility to ensure that democracy is saved and the votes of the poor are not deleted.

"One man, one vote should be ensured and irregularities should be removed," he said.

"We know that the Constitution and autonomy of institutions are being misused. We are urging them to give us justice; injustice should not flow from the seat of justice. We are trying to educate the entire country."

Shivakumar asserted that "vote theft" did happen and those responsible should quit office. "I hope good days are coming," he said.

The senior Congress leader alleged that after the SIR announcement, there have been several cases of the deletion of votes. He thanked the Supreme Court for giving direction on this issue.

Shivakumar said since Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge took up a major investigation into "vote chori" at Freedom Park in Bengaluru, the party has collected 1.12,41,000 signatures from across Karnataka.

"I am very happy that the Congress formed a research team which worked very hard and found out the irregularities in the voter list. Our leaders gave a call to inform all voters and educate them on 'vote chori'" he said.

"I am happy that after Karnataka, this has reached Maharashtra, Bihar and Haryana," he noted while thanking party workers at all levels for working hard to get the signatures. "We are presenting all of them to the AICC, which will hold a massive gathering in Delhi in the coming days."

Shivakumar went on to say that "as a member of the political party which gave us freedom, our national anthem, national flag and our Constitution, it is our duty to protect this country and all of us must join hands to ensure that every vote is saved and democracy is saved."

Asked if he was happy that the SIR is being conducted by EC after the Congress "vote chori" charges, he said, "Of course, they have come to know that they have done something wrong. They admitted that they had done something wrong. That itself is a very strong message that misuse of office has taken place." (PTI)

## MNS leader announces alliance with MVA for Nashik polls

**NASHIK, Nov 10:** A Maharashtra Navnirman Sena leader on Monday said the Raj Thackeray-led party had finalised an alliance with the Maha Vikas Aghadi for local body polls in Nashik.

However, MNS leader Dinkar Patil, who made the announcement at a press conference here, added that Thackeray will take the final decision in the matter.

The Maha Vikas Aghadi comprises Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena (UBT), Sharad Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (SP) and the Congress.

"The alliance has been formed for all polls henceforth. This decision has been taken to keep democracy alive. All parties have pointed to irregularities in the voters list. Moreover, farmers are distressed due to crop losses caused by rains," Patil said at the press conference. Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader DL Karad said all parties have decided to contest forthcoming elections together to reduce the influence of the ruling Mahayuti comprising the BJP, Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar-led NCP.

"We have come together against the neglect of the government on issues such as corruption, casteism etc," he said. (PTI)

## 'Singing of Vande Mataram to be made mandatory in all UP education institutions'

**GORAKHPUR (UP), Nov 10:** Singing the "Vande Mataram" will be made compulsory in every school and educational institution of the state, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Monday.

Debate over India's national song rekindled last week when Prime Minister Narendra Modi said after inaugurating the year-long commemoration of 150 years of "Vande Mataram" that dropping key stanzas in 1937 had "sown the seeds of Partition".

Such a "divisive mindset" remained a challenge for the country, he said in remarks seen as an attack on the Congress.

Addressing an 'Ekta Yatra' (Unity March) event in Gorakhpur three days later, Adityanath said making "Vande Mataram" mandatory would inspire feelings of reverence and pride among citizens towards "Bharat Mata" and the motherland.

"There should be a sense of respect for the national song Vande Mataram. We will make it singing compulsory in every school and educational institution of Uttar Pradesh," he said.

Latching on to PM Modi's remarks, the BJP accused the Congress of pandering to a "communal agenda" under Jawaharlal Nehru's leadership by adopting a truncated version of the song that year. The Congress hit back sharply, alleging that Modi had "insulted" the 1937 Congress Working Committee and Rabindranath Tagore, who had suggested adopting only the first two stanzas.

Penned by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay in 1875, "Vande Mataram" was offi-

cially adopted as India's national song by the Constituent Assembly on January 24, 1950.

Recalling the role of "Vande Mataram" in the freedom movement, Adityanath said, "It was this song that awakened the nation's consciousness. Every revolutionary, the youth, women, and children who fought for freedom did so with Vande Mataram on their lips."

He accused the Congress of "appeasement politics", noting that it opposed the national song in the past, and also hit out at the Samajwadi Party.

"Those who tried to distort or oppose Vande Mataram weakened India's unity. When Mohammad Ali Jauhar (co-founder of All India Muslim League) opposed the song at the 1923 Congress session, it marked the beginning of division within the country," he said. If the Congress had upheld the national song then, India might not have been divided, the chief minister claimed.

He also cited the 1937 Congress committee's recommendation to modify parts of the song for allegedly portraying "Bharat Mata" as "Durga, Lakshmi, and Saraswati".

"This song is not religious; it is about reverence for our motherland. Every Indian must stand for the honour of Bharat Mata," he said. Adityanath also accused the Samajwadi Party of continuing the "legacy of opposing national unity", saying, "Some people refuse to attend Patel's birth anniversary but do not hesitate to honour (Mohammed Ali) Jinnah (All India Muslim League leader). Such double standards are dangerous for national integrity." (PTI)

## All 16 DPSUs serving as strong pillars of India's self-reliance in defence production: Rajnath

**NEW DELHI, Nov 10:** India achieved defence production worth ₹ 1.51 lakh crore in 2024-25 and the defence public sector undertakings (DPSUs) contributed 71.6 per cent of total amount, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Monday.

Singh made the remarks while carrying out a comprehensive review of the performance of 16 DPSUs at a high-level meeting here.

"All our 16 DPSUs are serving as strong pillars of the country's self-reliance. Their excellent performance in operations like Operation Sindoor testifies to the reliability and capability of our indigenous platforms," he said.

Singh also inaugurated the new DPSU Bhawan at the World Trade Centre in South Delhi's Naroji Nagar.

The defence minister commended the DPSUs for their steadfast contribution in strengthening India's defence manu-

facturing ecosystem and advancing the vision of a self-reliant India.

In the year 2024-25, India achieved defence production worth ₹ 1.51 lakh crore, with DPSUs contributing 71.6 per cent of the total, he said.

The defence exports reached ₹ 6,695 crore, underscoring global confidence in India's indigenous systems, he said.

"This clearly indicates that 'Made in India' defence products are gaining global respect," he added.

Emphasising the need to sustain this momentum, Singh urged all DPSUs to focus on rapid indigenisation of critical technologies, holistic research and development, product quality, timely deliveries, and adoption of a strategic approach to increase exports.

He directed DPSUs to define clear indigenisation and R&D roadmaps with measurable milestones to be presented at the next review meeting.

"On behalf of the government, I assure you that wherever special intervention or assistance is required, it will be provided promptly," he said.

The defence minister also unveiled a series of R&D initiatives, including a manual for the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) to strengthen the aerospace major's R&D ecosystem through digitisation, intellectual property generation and collaboration with Indian academia.

The R&D roadmap of DPSUs would integrate ongoing initiatives and future strategies, marking a shift from licensed production to indigenous design and development, officials said.

As part of the event, three major MoUs were exchanged among a few DPSUs.

The HAL and the Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) signed MoUs with Yantra India Limited (YIL) to support its modernisation efforts. (PTI)

## UN climate chief urges nations to 'fight climate crisis, not each other' as COP30 opens in Brazil

**NEW DELHI, Nov 10:** UN Climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Stiell on Monday opened COP30 with a sharp warning that while the world has managed to bend the emissions curve downwards since the Paris Agreement, far stronger and faster action is needed to avert escalating climate disasters.

Stiell, in his opening address at the UN climate summit in Belem, Brazil, said countries must move "much, much faster", both on cutting emissions and building resilience, warning that failing to do so will have severe economic, social and political costs.

"The emissions curve has been bent downwards... but I am not sugar-coating it. We have so much more work to do," he said.

"The science is clear: we can and must bring temperatures back down to 1.5 degrees Celsius after any temporary overshoot. Lamenting is not a strategy. We need solutions," he said, calling on leaders to turn their existing pledges into immediate action.

Speaking at the mouth of the Amazon River, Stiell used the river as a metaphor for international cooperation, saying the COP process, like the Amazon's thousand tributaries, must be powered by "many streams" of collaboration.

"Individual national commitments alone are not cutting emissions fast enough," he said, adding that no country can afford to delay as climate disasters devastate lives and economies.

"To falter whilst mega-droughts wreck national harvests, sending food prices soaring, makes zero sense, economically or politically," Stiell said.

"To squabble while famines take hold, forcing millions to flee their homelands...



this will never be forgotten."

Quoting former US president Franklin Roosevelt, Stiell urged negotiators to be "in the arena" and work together instead of against one another.

"Your job here is not to fight one another — your job is to fight this climate crisis, together," he said.

Highlighting that the transition to clean energy is already underway, Stiell pointed to record investment in renewables and their economic viability.

"Solar and wind are now the lowest-cost power in 90 per cent of the world. Renewables overtook coal this year as the world's top energy source," he said, adding that global investment in clean energy now outpaces fossil fuels two to one.

He urged negotiators in Belem to focus on how to deliver on what the world has already agreed, a transition away from fossil fuels, a just and inclusive economic transformation and stronger action on adaptation and technology.

"We have already agreed to deliver at least USD 300 billion in climate finance... now we need to start moving towards the USD 1.3 trillion," he said, referring to the

'Baku to Belem Roadmap' for scaling up support.

Stiell also called for concrete steps to operationalise the global goal on adaptation, implement the technology programme and link negotiations to real-world outcomes.

"Strong and clear outcomes on all these issues are essential. This is how we signal to the world that climate cooperation is delivering results," he said.

Describing the energy transition as the "growth story of the 21st century", Stiell said every gigawatt of clean power means more jobs and less pollution, while every action to build resilience saves lives and protects economies.

"Those opting out or taking baby-steps face stagnation and higher prices, while other economies surge ahead," he warned.

COP30, which marks a decade since the Paris Agreement, is taking place amid heightened geopolitical tensions, ongoing wars and economic uncertainty triggered by US tariffs. The United States' withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, along with several developed countries re-evaluating their climate commitments amid economic and energy security concerns, has created a challenging backdrop for this year's climate talks.

Therefore, a fair and ambitious outcome at COP30 will be important to reaffirm trust in multilateralism.

COP30 is also the moment when countries must submit the next generation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for the 2031-2035 period.

NDCs are national climate plans under the Paris Agreement that set targets to cut emissions and adapt to climate change, guiding global efforts to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. (PTI)

**ASSAM RIFLES PUBLIC SCHOOL (HIGH), DIPHU (ASSAM)**  
(CBSE AFFILIATED SCHOOL)

**VACANCY FOR TEACHING STAFF**

1. Walk in interview will be conducted on **24 Nov 2025** at ARTC&S, Diphu to fill up the following vacancies in Assam Rifles Public School (High), Diphu, Assam:-

POST	VACANCIES	QUALIFICATION
TGT (Science)	01	(a) MSc / MSc (Hons) or equivalent and B.Ed from recognized university will be preferred.
TGT (Social Science)	01	(b) MA (Political Science) or equivalent and B.Ed from recognized university will be preferred.
TGT Computer	01	(a) B.Sc Computer Science/ BCA/ Bachelor of Information Technology <b>OR</b> Graduate Degree in any subject with mathematics as a subject and 3 years Diploma in Computer Engineering/ IT from an Institution recognized by AICTE/ University <b>OR</b> Graduate Degree in any subject with mathematics as a subject and one year Diploma in Computer Engineering/ IT from an Institution recognized by AICTE/ University <b>OR</b> 'A' level from DOEACC <b>AND</b> (b) Bachelor of Education (B.Ed) from an institute recognized by NCTE will be preferred.
PRT	01	(e) Nursery Teachers Training (NTT) and Graduate

2. Candidates who are willing to work in Assam Rifles Public School (High), Diphu only to apply. Application with mobile number of the candidates and copy of Aadhar card must reach by hand or before, by post **20 Nov 2025** at the following address:-

OIC  
Assam Rifles Public School (High), Diphu  
ARTC&S  
Karbi Anglong Assam  
PIN: 782480

3. For any queries, please contact 9957607131 (Admin Staff) or email at [principalhighschool@diphu@gmail.com](mailto:principalhighschool@diphu@gmail.com).

4. All expenses will be borne by the candidates themselves.

5. Pay and perks will be as per prevailing scales in comparable institutions.

**Note: All candidates are required to carry PAN Card / UID or any other valid Identity Card & original certificate for educational qualification**

# IS Speaker Birla urges NE legislatures to be powerful tools of change



**KOHIMA, Nov 10:** Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Monday inaugurated the 22nd Annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region Zone III conference here and urged legislative bodies to act as powerful instruments of change.

Addressing Speakers, Deputy Speakers, Presiding Officers and legislators from across the North Eastern States, Birla highlighted the role of legislatures in shaping inclusive policies and ensuring good governance.

"Our Legislative Assemblies should work towards policies that promote regional development and industrial growth," he said, emphasising that policy decisions must

empower local communities and give national and international recognition to indigenous art, culture, and traditional crafts.

Birla lauded the North Eastern states for their deep-rooted democratic values, unity in decision-making, and adoption of technology, noting that most assemblies in the region have transitioned to paperless operations. He also praised the region's vibrant democracy, improving connectivity, and growing infrastructure, calling these the foundation for new avenues of progress.

"Through collective dialogue and public participation, our legislatures can frame policies that lead to inclusive and sustainable devel-

opment," Birla said, expressing confidence that the two-day conference would produce a concrete roadmap to make legislative institutions more effective and accountable.

The Speaker also extended his greetings to the people of Nagaland ahead of the upcoming Hornbill Festival, describing it as a symbol of the state's cultural richness and unity.

The Lok Sabha Speaker also unveiled a monolith erected within the NLA complex commemorating the conference being hosted by Nagaland for the third time, including the first in 1997 and the second in 2007.

Held on the theme 'Policy,

Progress & People: Legislatures as Catalysts of Change', the conference aims to strengthen democratic institutions and promote responsible governance in the region.

The plenary sessions will focus on two sub-themes - 'Role of Legislatures in Achieving Viksit Bharat' and 'Climate Change - In the Light of Recent Cloudbursts and Landslides in Parts of the Northeast Region'.

As part of the conference, a tree plantation drive has been scheduled to commemorate the event and promote environmental awareness. Over the years, CPA India Region Zone-III has played a vital role in fostering regional cooperation, promoting parliamentary best practices, and addressing key regional issues such as infrastructure development and the Act East Policy. Notable achievements include the integration of the Northeast into the India-ASEAN Vision for Trade and Cooperation, advocacy for accelerated infrastructure projects, and encouragement of cultural exchanges.

The zone has also championed digital innovation in legislative processes through initiatives like the National eVidhan Application (NeVA), enhancing transparency, accessibility, and citizen engagement in governance.

The closing ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday evening. (PTI)

# Unity, patriotism must reflect in daily life, says Tripura CM



**HT Correspondent**  
**AGARTALA, Nov 10:** Tripura Chief Minister Prof Dr Manik Saha on Monday said that Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel played a very important role in preserving the unity and integrity of the country. He said that to commemorate his 150th birth anniversary, various programs will be implemented at the central and state levels throughout the year, and everyone must be vigilant about the evil forces involved in destroying the integrity of the country.

Dr Saha said this while inaugurating the Ekta Padyatra (Unity March) from Ujjayanta Palace in Agartala today on the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of the Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Speaking at this event, Dr Saha said that today, along with the whole country, in Tripura also, the Sardar @150 Unity March is being

celebrated for the first time under the initiative of the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, has organized this event.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi wants to instill a sense of unity, patriotism, and civic responsibility among our younger generation. Along with this, this program was started to pay tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The youth should also come forward to build a united India and a self-reliant India, which should not be just in words but should also be reflected in daily life and social activities," he said.

Dr Saha said that after independence, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel played one of the most important roles in protecting the unity and integrity of the country.

"His contribution to building a united India is undeniable. Since

independence, Sardar Patel had included about 562 princely states in India, and that was only possible because of the strong determination, mentality, and decisive steps of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel as the then Home Minister of the country. He worked in the interest of protecting the unity and solidarity of the nation," he said.

The Chief Minister said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made arrangements to give real respect to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

"The Prime Minister has announced the celebration of Unity Day since 2014. He has arranged to honor the personalities who sacrificed for our country and worked for the nation one after another. Run for Unity was started in 2014 with the aim of paying tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel for protecting our unity and integrity. In 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the full-length statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on the banks of the Narmada River in Gujarat. It is one of the tallest statues in the world," he said.

Dr. Saha said that due to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, it was possible to build a strong India by uniting the states.

"Inspired by the ideals and goals of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken a pledge to build a united India and a better India. The Union Home Ministry has taken up various programs throughout the year to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The state government has also taken up various programs," he added.

## Tripura CM chairs BJP meeting ahead of District Council elections

**HT Correspondent**  
**AGARTALA, Nov 10:** Tripura Chief Minister Dr Manik Saha today presided over an organisational meeting of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), focusing on preparations for the upcoming Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) elections and strengthening the party's organisational framework across the state.

The meeting was attended by BJP Tripura President and Rajya Sabha MP Rajib Bhattacharya, General Secretary Amit Rakshit, former MP Rehati Tripura, along with the party's Vice Presidents and Morcha leaders.

Following the meeting, Dr Saha informed that the discussions centered on organisational issues and strategies to bolster the party's grassroots strength ahead of the local body and TTAADC elections.

"Today, we held a meeting with party leaders to discuss various organisational matters. With the local body and TTAADC elections approaching, our discussions were primarily focused on internal strengthening," the Chief Minister said.

Dr Saha further clarified that no talks regarding alliance partners were held during the meeting, reiterating that the main agenda was to reinforce the BJP's organisational structure and readiness for the upcoming polls.

Currently, the TTAADC is administered by the Tira Motha Party, which is presently in alliance with the BJP in Tripura.

## ECI reprimands Mizoram CM Lalduhoma for 'violation' of model code of conduct

**AIZAWL, Nov 10:** The Election Commission of India (ECI) has reprimanded Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma for "violation" of the model code of conduct (MCC) while canvassing votes for his party in the Dampa assembly by-poll, an official said on Monday.

The ECI, after perusing the analysis from the state Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) along with the explanation from the president of the ruling Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) party, Lalliansawta, found the latter's reply to be "unacceptable", the official said.

In a letter sent to the Mizoram CEO on Saturday, the Election Commission said, "The impugned statement made by Lalduhoma is condemned".

"The President of ZPM party is directed to sensitise all star campaigners of the party to strictly adhere to the model code of conduct," the poll panel said.

It also warned ZPM star cam-

paigners should not make a statement or appear to make a statement that disturbs or appears to disturb the level playing field of conduct of elections or create doubts in the minds of electors about the integrity of the electoral process, an official said.

"Star campaigners should also exercise caution in future while making public utterances as the spirit of the model code of conduct requires public servants, including ministers, to ensure the sanctity of the electoral process," the poll panel said.

Main opposition Mizo National Front (MNF) recently lodged a complaint with the state joint chief electoral officer alleging that the chief minister, during the campaign kick-off by the ruling ZPM party at West Phaileng village on October 21 announced that a new project of water supply by constructing a dam in Reiek village at the cost of ₹ 770 crore to feed

Reiek and nearby 14 other villages will be taken up.

Besides, the MNF also submitted a complaint against the adviser to the Chief Minister and MLA Dr Lorrain Lalpekliana Chinzah alleging that Chinzah organised free health clinics at Parvatui and Phulpui West villages and distributed large amounts of medicines free of cost on October 17.

Another complaint was submitted on Thursday by the legal board of the MNF, accusing Lalduhoma of again violating the MCC by allegedly making provocative statements, which may trigger communal tension, and abusing his official position to intimidate voters. Mizoram CEO Lalrozama told PTI that the election department has sought an explanation from the ZPM over the fresh complaint, and the matter will be referred to the Election Commission along with the analysis of the CEO's office and the ZPM's explanation. (PTI)

## Tripura LoP slams BJP-Led Govt, calls ruling alliance 'Directionless and Panicked'

**HT Correspondent**  
**AGARTALA, Nov 10:** Tripura Leader of Opposition and CPI(M) State Secretary Jitendra Chaudhury on Monday launched a scathing attack on the ruling BJP-led government and its alliance partners, accusing them of misgovernance, corruption, and failing to address public grievances.

Speaking at a massive rally organized by the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) in Agartala, Chaudhury said the large turnout of workers, youth, and marginalized sections reflected growing resistance against the present regime.

"Working people cannot be defeated — and today, you have proved it," he declared to thunderous applause from the crowd.

The CPI(M) leader alleged that the administration deliberately created hurdles to prevent opposition meetings at the historic Astabal Maidan by scheduling religious programs and commercial fairs at the same venue. He said the BJP-IPFT-Tipra Motha alliance had become "directionless and panicked" amid rising public dissatisfaction. Chaudhury also accused the government of misusing public funds, claiming that crores spent on infrastructure were being wasted on commercial events instead of being used for democratic purposes.

"The ruling coalition is surviving on false promises and black money. Corruption, fear-based governance, and the suppression of democratic voices are increasing every day

in Tripura," he alleged. Chaudhury stressed that the CITU rally was not about collecting donations or making unrealistic demands but was a genuine movement seeking fair recognition for labor, skill, and talent.

Drawing a parallel with national politics, he suggested that the outcome of the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections could influence the BJP's fortunes nationwide, saying that a defeat there might signal the start of the party's decline.

Highlighting issues such as rising crime, drug abuse, and moral degradation, the Leader of Opposition blamed the state government for administrative failure and urged the people of Tripura to intensify their struggle to protect democratic rights.

## CPIM has no future in Tripura, supporting left helps BJP: Cong MLA

**HT Correspondent**  
**AGARTALA, Nov 10:** Former Tripura Minister and senior Congress MLA Sudip Roy Barman on Monday asserted that the CPIM has no political future in Tripura, claiming that supporting the Left party indirectly benefits the BJP.

Speaking at a joining programme in Dharmanagar, North Tripura, where 137 families formally joined the Congress, Roy Barman said people in the state are now turning towards the Congress for change and good governance. The event was attended by Tripura Pradesh Congress Committee president Asish Kumar Saha.

"Supporting CPIM means helping BJP. People have not forgotten 25 years of Left rule. After wit-

nessing both CPIM and BJP governments, people now want Congress in power," he said.

Of the new entrants, 102 families came from CPIM while 35 were from other backgrounds. Roy Barman claimed that only the Congress can effectively counter the "fascist BJP" and accused the ruling party of misusing the Election Commission and manipulating votes.

He also attacked the BJP-led government over unemployment, rising crimes, and the state's worsening drug problem. "Despite being a double-engine government, BJP has failed to bring jobs, industries, or investment," he alleged, vowing that Congress will contest the next assembly polls alone.

## Crackdown on modified silencers: 410 destroyed in Tripura

**HT Correspondent**  
**AGARTALA, Nov 10:** The Tripura Traffic Police have intensified their action against vehicles fitted with illegal modified silencers as part of a statewide drive to reduce noise and environmental pollution.

Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Kanta Jangir said on Sunday that regular inspections are being conducted, and strict action is being taken against offenders. She emphasized that such modifications are not only unlawful but also harmful to public health and the environment.

"We have been carrying out this special drive consistently. With court approval, around 410 modified bike silencers have been destroyed," SP Jangir stated.

She explained that modified silencers generate excessive noise, disturb public peace, and pose health risks. Vehicle owners caught using them could face bike seizure, a fine of ₹10,000, imprisonment, and even suspension of their driving licence.

"Many riders use these silencers, especially during early mornings and evenings, causing major disturbance in residential areas. We urge young riders to refrain from installing such devices," she added. The Tripura Traffic Police reiterated their firm commitment to ensuring road safety and maintaining a peaceful environment, announcing that similar enforcement drives will continue across the state.

## Nagaland CM seeks Centre's urgent support for key projects in state

**KOHIMA, Nov 10:** Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio on Monday strongly pitched for the Central government's support in critical infrastructure, education, and connectivity projects in the state.

Speaking as the guest of honour at the 22nd Annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region Zone-III Conference held at the Nagaland Legislative Assembly (NLA) here, Rio, while highlighting several pressing issues requiring the Centre's attention, urged it to reconsider the establishment of an Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) in Nagaland. Recalling that it was announced in the Union Budget 2015-16 but never materialised, he said the state has already set aside 200 acres of land at Sukhovi, near Dimapur Airport, for the project. The chief minister called for the upgradation of the Nagaland Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (NIMS) into an AIIMS-like institute, noting that this would ensure better healthcare access for people across Nagaland and neighbouring states. Rio pointed out that Nagaland currently has only eight kilometres of railway line and urged the Centre to expedite the Dimapur-Tizit railway line, a 250-km stretch covering Wokha, Mokokchung, Longleng, and Mon districts.

He also appealed for reconsideration of the Ciethu Greenfield Airport project in Kohima, which was recently not approved by the Centre due to funding constraints. Despite having rich deposits of cobalt, nickel, natural gas, and petroleum, Rio said the state remains resource-constrained as oil exploration continues to be sub judice.

The chief minister lamented that Nagaland lacks national institutes such as IIT or National Law University, saying these are essential for promoting research, retaining local talent, and driving innovation.

Expressing concern over the re-imposition of the Protected Area Permit (PAP) in December 2024 for Nagaland, Manipur, and Mizoram, Rio said it has discouraged investment and limited economic growth opportunities. "It is imperative that special consideration be accorded to Nagaland in terms of infrastructure, connectivity, education, and institutional development," Rio stressed, adding that equal opportunities for the people of the state were key for their meaningful participation in the nation's progress. Tracing the region's parliamentary journey, Rio said that the North Eastern Regional Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (NERCPA) was first established in 1996 under Late P A Sangma, and later renamed CPA India Region Zone-III in 2018.

He noted that Nagaland had played an important role in fostering regional parliamentary collaboration, including hosting the first NERCPA Conference in 1997 and the 10th in 2007. (PTI)

## Harivansh says NE vital for India's growth; Longkumer stresses legislature as catalyst of change

**KOHIMA, Nov 10:** Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha Harivansh on Monday underscored the North East's growing role in India's development journey.

Addressing the inaugural session of the 22nd Annual Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region Zone-III composed of eight NE states here, Harivansh said the legislature remains the cornerstone of democracy and must act as the bridge between policy and people.

He said the conference's theme, 'Policy, Progress & People: Legislatures as Catalysts of Change', reflects the contemporary challenge of balancing development with social and environmental responsibility.

Harivansh noted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set the goal of making India a developed nation by 2047, and that each state must contribute by aligning its priorities with this national vision.

"Every state must achieve its respective targets and priorities, which will together help India attain this ambitious goal," he said.

He highlighted the government's focused efforts to address the socio-economic aspirations of the North East, citing the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's nearly



70 visits to the region and continuous ministerial engagements as evidence of the region's central place in India's development agenda.

"The North East, with 4 per cent of India's population and 8 per cent of its area, has shown what focus and persistence can achieve," Harivansh said. He pointed out that budgetary provisions for the region have risen sharply — from about ₹ 24,500 crore in 2014 to a targeted ₹ 1.8 lakh crore in the current financial year. He added that connectivity has improved significantly, with 6,000 km of new national highways and over 45,000 km of rural

roads completed under the PMGSY. "By the end of this year, every village in the North East will be connected by 4G," he said, noting that internal connectivity is now being prioritised alongside links with the rest of India.

Harivansh also pointed to industrial progress, mentioning the upcoming semiconductor plant at Jagiroad, Assam, which is expected to produce 48 million chips and create 15,000 direct jobs, boosting the regional economy.

He urged that development must remain in harmony with nature, stressing that the North East, rich in ecology and biodiversity, serves as the "lungs of the earth." He

called for sustainable policies, especially in light of the region's vulnerability to natural disasters, and said the ongoing energy transition would open new opportunities for the youth.

Highlighting Nagaland's potential, Harivansh said its 650 indigenous medicinal plants and 46 species of bamboo could be harnessed for economic benefit while maintaining ecological balance.

He praised Nagaland's growing reputation in organic products, handloom, and coffee production, expressing hope that Naga shawls and chillies would gain wider global recognition.

Nagaland Legislative Assembly Speaker and Chairman of CPA India Zone-III chairman Shringain Longkumer, in his welcome address, said hosting the CPA Zone-III Conference in Kohima after 18 years was a moment of pride. The last conference was held in 2007 under the late Speaker Kiyanieli Peseyie.

Longkumer said the CPA Zone-III, formerly the North Eastern Regional Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (NERCPA) established in 1996 under late Purno A Sangma, has served as an important platform for regional cooperation and legislative exchange.

"The North East, with its diverse

tribes, languages and traditions, stands as a shining example of unity in diversity and democratic spirit," he said, adding that Nagaland has contributed immensely to nation-building through its commitment to peace and harmony.

He said the conference theme encapsulates the legislators' duty "to translate policies into progress and ensure people remain at the heart of governance". The two plenary topics — "Role of Legislature in Achieving Viksit Bharat 2047" and "Climate Change in the Light of Recent Cloudbursts and Landslides in the North East" — reflect the dual priorities of growth and sustainability, he added.

"Climate change is no longer a distant concept but a pressing reality," Longkumer said, calling for stronger legislative and policy responses to enhance disaster preparedness and resilience in the region. The NLA Speaker urged legislators to renew their commitment to strengthen parliamentary democracy, deepen regional cooperation, and ensure legislatures serve as true catalysts of change. Speakers, Deputy Speakers, legislators and presiding officers from across the North Eastern states are attending the two-day conference inaugurated by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla in the presence of Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio. (PTI)

# Keerthy Suresh's Revolver Rita Reloads for a November Release

**MUMBAI, Nov 10:** Keerthy Suresh's upcoming Tamil action-comedy *Revolver Rita* has locked a new release date. Originally planned for an August 27 premiere, the film will now open in theatres on November 28, the makers confirmed on Sunday.

Directed by K Chandru, *Revolver Rita* marks the filmmaker's return after more than a decade since his 2013 fantasy comedy *Naveena Saraswathi Sabatham*. The film stars Keerthy in a high-energy, eccentric role that blends humour with stylized action, a refreshing departure from her recent serious turns.

The supporting cast features Radikaa Sarathkumar, Redin Kingsley, Mime Gopi, Sendrayan, and veteran stunt coordinator Super Subbarayan. The film's technical crew includes cinematographer Dinesh Krishnan B, editor Praveen KL, and art director Vinodh Rajkumar. *Revolver Rita* is produced by Sudhan Sundaram and Jagadish Palanisamy, with Aishwarya Suresh serving as the creative producer.

Following its theatrical run, the movie will reportedly stream on Netflix, ensuring a wide digital reach.

## A stylish new outing for Keerthy Suresh

The new release date gives *Revolver Rita* breathing space from a crowded August schedule and allows the team to amplify its promotional campaign. The film's first-look posters and teasers have already generated buzz, showing Keerthy Suresh wielding guns and attitude in equal measure. The visuals promise a quirky, larger-than-life character, a blend of comedy, chaos, and confidence.

This marks Keerthy's first Tamil release of the year, following a busy 2024 where she balanced multiple projects across languages. She was seen in *Siren* and *Raghu Thatha* in Tamil, *Baby John* in Hindi, and voiced the robot *Buji* in the sci-fi epic *Kalki 2898 AD*. The actor was last seen in the Telugu film *Uppu Kappurambu*, directed by Ani IV Sasi, alongside Suhas, Babu Mohan, and Subhalekha Sudhakar.

A recent single titled *Happy Birthday* from *Revolver Rita* was released to coincide with Keerthy's birthday celebrations, offering audiences a first glimpse at the film's colourful tone. The track quickly gained traction on social media, adding to the anticipation surrounding the project.

## A comeback for K Chandru

For director K Chandru, *Revolver Rita* represents a significant comeback after a long gap from feature filmmaking. His 2013 debut *Naveena Saraswathi Sabatham* had been noted for its offbeat humour and unusual storytelling style, and expectations are high that his latest will carry the same spirited energy with a modern twist.

The filmmakers have described *Revolver Rita* as an entertainer that blends action and comedy with a strong female lead at its core. Early glimpses suggest a comic caper driven by Keerthy's character, supported by a strong ensemble and fast-paced writing.

With the revised release date now set for November 28, *Revolver Rita* positions itself as one of the season's most anticipated Tamil releases. The move gives the team more time to sharpen the film's marketing and build on the hype that



has been growing since its first look dropped. As audiences wait for Keerthy's return to Tamil screens, *Revolver Rita* looks set to deliver an unapologetically fun,

stylish, and bold cinematic experience, one that reminds viewers why she remains one of South cinema's most versatile stars. (PTI)

## Farhan Akhtar Calls Naseeruddin Shah's Bhaag Milkha Bhaag Remarks Distasteful: 'There's A Way To Communicate'

**MUMBAI, Nov 10:** Filmmaker-actor Farhan Akhtar has once again addressed Naseeruddin Shah's long-standing criticism of his performance in the 2013 biographical drama *Bhaag Milkha Bhaag*. In a new conversation with India TV, Farhan expressed disappointment over the veteran actor's remarks and said that while he deeply respects Naseeruddin as a performer, the manner in which the criticism was delivered felt "distasteful."

Farhan shared that what hurt him most was that the comments came from someone he had known since childhood and even worked with. "I have known him for so many years. We worked together in *Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara*. He knows me ever since I was a child. He's a great performer and a great actor, but the only thing that I didn't like was that if you want me to improve in my work, then there is a way of communicating that," Farhan said.

A decade-old controversy reignited. Back in 2013, Naseeruddin Shah had made waves with his unfiltered opinion about *Bhaag Milkha Bhaag* and Farhan's portrayal of the legendary athlete Milkha Singh. In an interview, he had said, "I don't care about Farhan Akhtar, and I don't watch his films," before calling the biopic "a completely fake" version of the Olympian's life.

He further commented, "Farhan has no doubt worked very hard, but building muscles and growing your hair is not exactly working hard on your acting. At least he should have



tried to look like Milkha. Milkha is mighty pleased by him and imagines that this was his life, that he looked like that. Doesn't he have photographs of himself from the 1960s Olympics?" Those comments had sparked considerable debate in the industry, with many rallying behind Farhan for his commitment to the physically demanding role. Over the years, Farhan had largely remained silent on the matter — until now.

Farhan's response after 12 years. Speaking about how he would have handled such a situation differently, Farhan said he would have preferred a private, respectful exchange rather than public criticism. "I would have picked up a phone and told the person to come home. I have watched your film and I found these points lacking, and if you're passionate about acting, then you should work on these things. This is a way of communicating. But to go in the press and say this — I found that distasteful," he said.

He further commented, "Farhan has no doubt worked very hard, but building muscles and growing your

hair is not exactly working hard on your acting. At least he should have tried to look like Milkha. Milkha is mighty pleased by him and imagines that this was his life, that he looked like that. Doesn't he have photographs of himself from the 1960s Olympics?"

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## Abhishek Bachchan Mourns Death Of His Longtime Makeup Artist Ashok Sawant: First Person Whose Feet

**MUMBAI, Nov 10:** Bollywood actor Abhishek Bachchan mourned the loss of his make-up artist, who has been associated with him for over 27 years.

Taking to his Instagram handle, actor Abhishek Bachchan shared an emotional tribute to his long-time make-up artist, Ashok Sawant, who passed away last night.

In a heartfelt note, the actor remembered his decades-long association with 'Ashok dada', describing him not just as a team member but as "part of the family."

"Ashok dada and I have worked to-

gether for over 27 years. He has been doing my make-up since my very first film. He wasn't just a part of my team, he was part of my family. His elder brother Deepak has been my father's make-up man for close to 50 years," wrote Abhishek Bachchan.

Abhishek Bachchan remembered his makeup artist by recalling the love and affection showered by 'Ashok Dada' during his shoot.

"The last couple of years was ailing so he couldn't always be on set with me. But whenever I was shooting, there wasn't a single day he wouldn't check on me. Making sure his assistant was taking care of how my make-up was done. He was the most loving, gentle and affable person. Always a smile on his face, a ready warm embrace and some amazing namkeen chivda or bhakar wadi tucked away in his bag. Last night we lost him," wrote Abhishek Bachchan.

"Thank you dada, for your love, your care, your dignity, your talent and for your smile.

It's heartbreaking to even think of going to work and knowing that you won't be with me. I pray you are in peace and I look forward to we meet again. Rest in peace and happiness, Ashok Sawant," concluded Abhishek Bachchan.

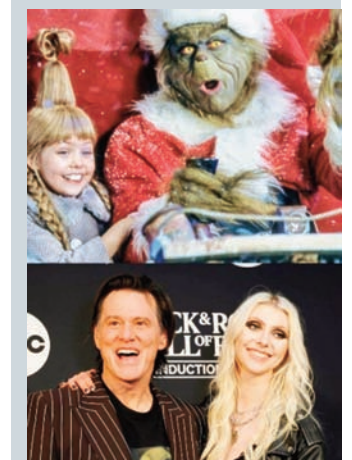
On the work front, Abhishek Bachchan and Saiyami Kher-starrer sports drama 'Ghoormer' was re-released in theatres on November 7, celebrating the Indian women's cricket team's historic first ICC World Cup triumph. (PTI)



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## Taylor Momsen meets 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas' co-star Jim Carrey after 25 years



**LOS ANGELES, Nov 10:** Hollywood singer-actor Taylor Momsen shared a picture alongside her "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" co-star Jim Carrey as she reunited with the actor after 25 years at an event.

Momsen made her acting debut in 1999 with "The Prophet's Game" and is also known for her role in the "Gossip Girl" series.

The 32-year-old featured in "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" alongside Carrey, which released in 2000.

It also served as an acting breakthrough for her. She essayed the role of Cindy Lou Who in the film based on the 1957 children's book of the same name by Dr Seuss.

Momsen re-posted the picture uploaded by IMDb on her Instagram handle on Monday. It featured a collage of two pictures, first a throwback capture from the film. Another picture had Momsen alongside Carrey at the event.

"Our hearts grew three sizes today. Jim Carrey and Taylor Momsen reunite at the Rock & Roll Hall Of Fame Induction Ceremony 25 years after they costarred in 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas' (2000)," read the caption.

Also featuring Christine Baranski, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" was directed by Ron Howard and revolved around Carrey's character, the reclusive green Grinch, who decides to ruin Christmas for the cheery citizens of Whoville.

The film also won an Oscar for Best Makeup and received two other nominations at the 73rd Academy Awards in 2001 for Best Production Design and Best Costume Design.

It crossed over \$347 million worldwide at the box office after its release. (PTI)

## Netflix Unveils A Riveting Trailer for 'Delhi Crime' Season 3

### A Sinister Network, A Police Force on Edge and A Nationwide Chase

#### HT Bureau

**GUWAHATI, Nov 10:** For its most thrilling chapter yet, the main trailer of Netflix's *Delhi Crime* Season 3 pulls viewers into a chilling network of human trafficking, where people are moved like commodities, identities erased, and lives traded under the guise of opportunity. Stacks of files reveal a haunting pattern — young women vanishing under the promise of jobs, being forced into marriages, children and women being used as slaves, and disappearing into a country-wide web of deceit.

At the center of the storm stands DIG Vartika Chaturvedi (Shefali Shah) — our steadfast Madam Sir — who begins connecting the dots between these disappearances and a system fueled by fear, profit, and silence. As her investigation deepens, all roads lead to one name whispered across cities: Badi Didi (Huma Qureshi). Ruthless, invisible, and always one step ahead, she is the elusive architect of the criminal empire who Vartika and her team are determined to bring down — setting the stage for a psychological face-off between two women who refuse to lose.

The threads unravel as India's only International Emmy Award-winning and Netflix India's fan-favourite series returns, this time expanding its scope deeper into the country, from Assam to Delhi, to Rajasthan, and beyond. Produced by Golden Karavan and SK Global Entertainment, the show is directed by Tanuj Chopra and stars Shefali Shah, Rasika Dugal,

Rajesh Tailang, Huma Qureshi, Sayani Gupta, Mita Vashtit, Anshuman Pushkar, and Kelly Dorji in impactful roles.

Each season delves into a harrowing case, using powerful storytelling and striking visuals to deliver a humanised portrayal of police officers and the people whose lives intersect with theirs — one crime at a time.

Director and Showrunner Tanuj Chopra shared, "With Season 3, we wanted to tell a story that feels both urgent and deeply human. Each season stands on its own. Regardless of whether you're a returning fan of the show or you've never watched a single episode, this season will be just as compelling for both. You can jump right into Season 3 without needing to have seen the first two to fully enjoy the show, or continue from where you last paused. The stakes this time are unlike anything Vartika has faced. Every lead, every dead end, pushes her and her team closer to the breaking point. This season widens the lens of *Delhi Crime*, but stays rooted in what defines it — empathy, truth, and the relentless pursuit of justice."

Tanya Bami, Series Head, Netflix India said: "Delhi Crime is a flagship series that kicked off our journey in India in 2016 and now on the cusp of our 10th year, it gives me immense pleasure to have *Delhi Crime* return with its third season. This franchise has been definitive in the landscape for being a crime show which has a heart and humanises the



police. Madam sir isn't just a stellar DCP, she's someone who brings her humanity to the cases she tackles. Her team with Bhupi, Neeti, Ashutosh are experts at their jobs, but they are also grappling with very everyday situations and doing their very risky job along with it. *Delhi Crime* is also one of the only series where the criminals hold a mirror to society and make you think about the origins of crime. We are very proud of this show and what it means for the audience as well. So with this season we've pushed the boundaries and brought forward one of Madam Sir's toughest cases yet which takes the investigation beyond the boundaries of Delhi and even the country. The new season is a stand alone story that is powerful, urgent and deeply emotional. We hope it's a story that stays with our audience."

The Producers added, "This is our most ambitious season yet. Emotionally, visually, and thematically. It's not just a story about crime, but about courage, complicity, and consequence. Human trafficking, in all its forms, remains an uncomfortable reality, and this season explores both injustice and hope; the unseen battle fought every day by law enforcement, families, and survivors. For us, *Delhi Crime* has always been a reflection of who we are as a society, and who we might become if we choose not to look away. We're grateful for our ongoing partnership with Netflix. They've been steadfast creative allies — encouraging us to dig deeper, take risks, and tell stories with honesty and conviction. The scale and sensitivity of this season are a testament to that shared vision."

## RANJI TROPHY

# Mumbai crush Himachal Pradesh by an innings and 120 runs

MUMBAI, Nov 10: Left-arm spinner Shams Mulani returned a five-wicket haul as a dominant Mumbai crushed Himachal Pradesh by an innings and 120 runs to notch up an outright win on the third day of their Ranji Trophy Elite Group D contest, here Monday. After putting on board 446 in the first innings, Mumbai ran through a frail Himachal Pradesh batting line-up twice in as many days on a dusty BKC Ground track to record a comprehensive victory, their second of the season.

Himachal, bundled out for 187 in a poor first-innings show on a placid wicket earlier on day three, showed no significant improvement in the second, making 139 in which only Pukhraj Mann (65 off 109 balls, 9x4s) provided some resistance.

Resuming at a precarious 94 for 7 in the first innings, a brisk half-century from number 10 Vaibhav Arora (51 off 61 balls, 7x4s, 4x6s) gave HP some much-needed impetus, even as Nikhil Gangta (64 not out, 134 balls, 8x4s) held the other end strongly.

Arora used the long handle to a good effect and hammered powerful sixes down the ground, putting on 77 runs for the ninth wicket with Gangta, but that could not delay the inevitable as HP were bundled out for 187, conceding a huge 259-run lead.

Asked to follow-on, Himachal were again off to a poor start with Tushar Deshpande getting skipper Ankush Bains (0) caught behind and Mumbai captain Shardul Thakur trapping Siddhant Purohit (2) leg-before.

Himachal were soon reduced to 68/4 when Mulani struck twice to get rid of Ankit Kalsi (19) and Ekant Sen (7). The visitors found a dependable pair of Mann and Gangta who steadied the ship with a 44-run stand on either side of tea break.

However, Mumbai brought on Ayush Mhatre to roll over his arm in search of the breakthrough, and he had Mann caught by Ajinkya Rahane at the first slip for his maiden wicket in the 36th over.

Mulani expedited the end of the contest with final three wickets to complete another five-for here.

Mumbai skipper Thakur hoped that Mulani, who hit 69 in the first innings and claimed his 19th five-for, will get his due in terms of a call-up at higher level.

"India has a lot of talent pool and it's really up to the selectors what they are looking at. The kind of performances Shams is putting up, he will get his due one fine day," Thakur said during an interaction after the match.

In New Delhi, visitors Jammu and Kashmir reached 55/2, chasing 179 against Delhi.



Delhi were bowled out for 277 in the second innings after a batting collapse saw them lose seven wickets for 33 runs, after being placed comfortably at 244/3 and having erased a first-innings deficit of 99 runs.

Skipper Ayush Badoni (72) and Ayush Doseja (62) hit fifties but their efforts were not enough as Delhi produced another sorry performance with the bat. Vanshaj Sharma took 6/68.

J&K opener Qamran Iqbal was batting on 32 with Vanshaj at the other end with the contest set for a tricky fourth day.

Elsewhere, hosts Hyderabad

stuttered to reach 198/7 in the second innings but extended their overall lead to 293 runs against Rajasthan, who were bowled out for 269 in the first innings and conceded a lead of 95 runs.

Skipper Rahul Singh Gahlaut struck 59 for the only notable performance in second innings for Hyderabad.

At Raipur, hosts Chhattisgarh completed a 10-wicket hammering of Pondicherry to walk away with a bonus point win.

Having conceded a lead of 172 runs in the first innings, Pondicherry folded for a mere 175 to set a four-run target for the

hosts, who completed the formalities on the first ball when Ayush Pandey hit a four.

Pondicherry had resumed their second innings at 108/2 but folded without much resistance on the third day as Aditya Sarwate took 4/27 and Ashish Chouhan and Mayank Yadav claimed two wickets apiece.

## Brief Scores:

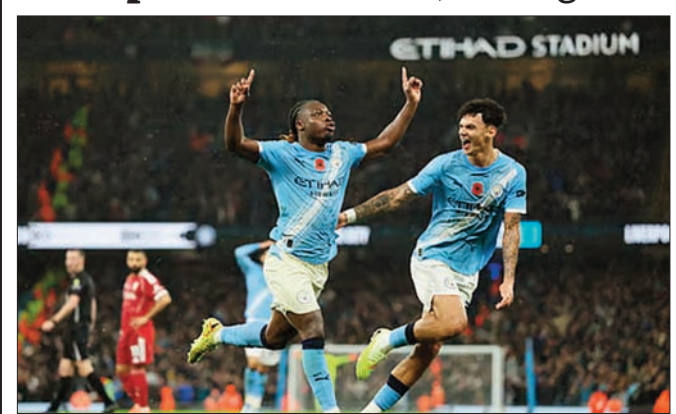
**At Mumbai: Mumbai:** 446 beat Himachal Pradesh 187 in 65.5 overs (Nikhil Gangta 64 not out, Vaibhav Arora 51; Himanshu Singh 3/54) & 139 in 49.1 overs (Pukhraj Mann 65; Shams Mulani 5/37, Musheer Khan 2/23) by an innings and 120 runs.

**At New Delhi: Delhi:** 211 & 277 in 69.1 overs (Ayush Badoni 72, Ayush Doseja 62; Vanshaj Sharma 6/68) lead Jammu and Kashmir 310 & 55/2 in 15 overs (Qamran Iqbal 32 not out; Hritik Shokeen 1/8) by 124 runs.

**At Hyderabad: Hyderabad:** 364 & 198/7 in 62 overs (Rahul Singh Gahlaut 59; Mahipal Lomror 2/30) lead Rajasthan 269 in 94.4 overs (Kunal Singh Rathore 83, Ajay Singh Kukna 58; Chama Milind 3/44) by 293 runs.

**At Raipur: Chhattisgarh:** 377 & 4/0 in 0.1 overs (Ayush Pandey 4 not out) beat Pondicherry 205 & 175 in 51.1 overs (Jayant Yadav 46; Aditya Sarwate 4/27) by 10 wickets. (PTI)

## Man City crushes Liverpool 3-0 in Pep Guardiola's 1,000th game



MANCHESTER, Nov 10: In his 1,000th game as a manager, Pep Guardiola celebrated victory as if it was his first.

Manchester City's 3-0 triumph over Liverpool on Sunday was win No. 716 for Guardiola and likely one of the most satisfying of his trophy-laden career.

Not only did City totally dominate the defending Premier League champion and one of Guardiola's fiercest rivals in a career spanning Spain, Germany and England - but the result firmly established his team as a genuine contender for the title this season.

"Thank you to the players and staff for giving me that incredible present (against) the most important opponent in my time here by far," the City manager said afterward.

City moved up to second in the standings - just four points behind leader Arsenal, with a well-established record when it comes to chasing down Mikel Arteta's team. It happened in back-to-back seasons in 2023 and 2024 and City's momentum has an ominous feel about it after taking advantage of Arsenal's surprise 2-2 draw with Sunderland on Saturday.

"In October, November, you don't win the Premier League. Teams that win the Premier League (are the ones) where everyone in the team is growing. When it grows and grows, you arrive at the end fighting for the title," Guardiola said. "I have the feeling that we are in that way."

By contrast, Liverpool, which was the runaway champion just six months ago, is slipping further adrift.

This was a fifth loss in six games after spending more than \$400 million in the offseason. The Merseyside club is down to eighth in the standings and eight points off the top.

No wonder Arne, who was mocked by City fans chanting he would be fired in the morning, was in no mood to talk about the title.

"Last season when we were eight points clear it never felt like it was won already," he said. "At this period of time, as Liverpool manager, I shouldn't be talking about the top position because our performance needs to be better."

There is no suggestion that Slot's position is under any threat, but Liverpool's form will be a source of concern. So complete was City's superiority that Liverpool's morale-boosting win against Real Madrid in the week was put into perspective.

A 3-0 win could easily have been bigger, with Erling Haaland seeing a 13th-minute penalty

saved before he headed City in front in the 29th.

Nico Gonzalez doubled the lead when his shot deflected off Virgil van Dijk in first-half stoppage time.

Player of the match Jeremy Doku had tormented Liverpool throughout and he got a deserved goal in the 63rd when whipping in a curled effort from outside the box.

Newcastle loses again Newcastle fell to back-to-back defeats in the Premier League, losing 3-1 at Brentford.

Having lost to West Ham by the same score a week earlier, Eddie Howe's team once again took an early lead only to squander the points.

Harvey Barnes fired the visitors ahead at the Gtech Community Stadium, but Newcastle was stunned by a second-half fight-back from Brentford and ended the match with 10 men after Dan Burn was sent off.

Kevin Schade leveled in the 56th, following Barnes' goal in the 27th.

Burn was sent off when bringing down Dango Quattara in the box and Igor Thiago converted from the spot.

Thiago got his second in stoppage time to seal the win, which left Newcastle 14th in the standings and just two points above the relegation zone.

Dyche's first league win with Forest Sean Dyche got his first league win as Nottingham Forest coach after his team rallied to beat Leeds 3-1 at the City Ground.

Victory came after last week's 2-2 draw with Manchester United and moved second-from-bottom Forest to within a point of safety.

Lukas Nmecha put Leeds ahead in the 13th minute, but Ibrahim Sangare equalized two minutes later. Morgan Gibbs-White and Elliot Anderson - from the penalty spot - completed the comeback after the break.

Villa back to winning ways Aston Villa quickly bounced back from defeat to Liverpool last week by routing Bournemouth 4-0.

Villa endured a desperate start to the season - failing to win any of its first six games in all competitions. But Unai Emery's team has powered back impressively by winning eight of its last 10.

Emiliano Buendia, Amadou Onana, Ross Barkley and Donnyell Malen all scored, while goalkeeper Emi Martinez denied Antoine Semenyo from the spot as Villa moved up to sixth in the standings.

Crystal Palace and Brighton drew 0-0 at Selhurst Park. (AP)

## Pakistan hockey head coach refuses to travel to Dhaka for series

KARACHI, Nov 10: Pakistan men's hockey head coach Tahir Zaman has refused to travel to Dhaka for a three-match series claiming interference by the PHF in selection matters.

The squad left on Sunday without the celebrated former Olympian, who did not approve of the last-minute selection of a player in the squad.

Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) secretary Rana Mujahid confirmed the development, saying the matter will be resolved as Tahir and the national federation had the best interest of the country's hockey.

"Tahir had taken the stand that latecomers to the training camp in Islamabad should not be included in the national squad," he said.

"Tahir objected to the inclusion of Rana Wahid and Hammad Anjum both of whom joined the camp late due to their contract with foreign leagues," Mujahid said.

Rana said Tahir decided at the last moment not to accompany the side to Dhaka, where the international hockey federation (FIH) has scheduled a three-match series to allow Pakistan to have a shot at the World Cup qualifiers.

The series has been arranged since Pakistan didn't send its team to India for the Asia Cup in August-September, which served as a qualifier for the World Cup.

A source close to Tahir said that the Olympian was clear that unless players are aware that the head coach has the final say, there is no way the team can show improvement.

Rana, however, claimed that because of prior commitments, at least 10 players joined the camp late and the PHF had agreed to impose cash penalties on them.

The PHF secretary added that team manager Mohammad Usman will also handle the responsibilities of head coach in Bangladesh. (PTI)

## Athlete requires to comply once notified for dope test: AIU cites Varsha's 3-year ban case

NEW DELHI, Nov 10: Track and field's anti-doping watchdog Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) on Monday revisited the three-year doping ban case of Indian long distance runner Varsha Tekam to drive home the point that once an athlete is notified to take a doping test, he or she is required to comply.

On June 5, Varsha, who had finished third in the Pune Half Marathon last year, was handed a three-year suspension for evading a dope test by the AIU. She was provisionally suspended on May 26.

Varsha was approached for in-competition testing after finishing third in the half marathon held on December 15 last year. She was selected for testing, notified by a Doping Control Officer (DCO) and kept under observation.

While waiting for the victory ceremony, she said she was going to get water but she disappeared into the crowd and never returned, the

AIU posted on 'X'.

Despite repeated announcements and calls, she could not be located. No sample was ever collected.

The Technical Delegate also contacted the hotel where the athlete had stayed the previous evening, but the hotel confirmed that she had already checked out of her room earlier that day.

The AIU said evading a test was a serious violation and Varsha was found to have violated Rule 2.3 relating to "evading, refusing or failing to submit to sample collection by an athlete".

The offence normally carries a punishment of four-year ban, but since she admitted the violation early, the sanction was reduced to three years.

Her ban period began from May 20, the date of provisional suspension and her results from December 15, 2024 onwards were disqualified. (PTI)

## Ajinkya Naik re-elected MCA president Lakshya, Prannoy eye turnaround as Indians seek momentum at Japan Open

MUMBAI, Nov 10: Ajinkya Naik on Monday retained his position as the President of the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) after seven other candidates in the fray withdrew their nominations.

The MCA elections for other posts in the Apex Council and office bearers will be held on Wednesday.

Today was the last day to withdraw nominations. Naik had filed his nomination even though he was to serve a mandatory cool-off period of three years having completed six consecutive years in the MCA Apex Council as per the reforms introduced by the Supreme Court-appointed Lodha Committee for BCCI and its member associations.

Among the candidates who withdrew were BJP MLC Prasad Lad, Shiv Sena (UBT) MLC Milind Narvekar, and Nationalist Congress Party MLA Jitendra Awadh.

Both Awadh and Narvekar were the members of the outgoing apex council of the MCA and have filed nominations for other posts as well. The other candidates who withdrew were former India women's captain Diana Edulji, outgoing president of the T20 Mumbai League Vihang Sarnaik, Suraj Samat, and Shahalam Shaikh, a former joint secretary. (PTI)

KUMAMOTO (JAPAN), Nov 10: Indian shuttlers HS Prannoy and Lakshya Sen will look to rediscover their touch, while the emerging crop will aim to turn promise into performance at the USD 475,000 Kumamoto Masters Japan Super 500 tournament beginning here on Tuesday.

Lakshya, who endured a lean patch before rediscovering his touch with a runner-up finish at the Hong Kong Open followed by quarterfinal appearances at the Denmark and Hylo Open, will be keen to build on that momentum.

Seeded seventh, the 24-year-old from Almor, who finished fourth at the Paris Olympics, faces a tricky opening-round opponent in Japan's world No. 25 Koki Watanabe.

Prannoy, a 2023 World Championships bronze-medallist, has struggled since his pre-Olympic bout of chikungunya hampered his preparation for Paris, where he played through pain but exited early.

The 33-year-old from Kerala, one of India's most consistent performers in recent years with a 2023 Malaysia Masters title and a runner-up finish at the Australian Open, will look to regain his form as he returns from injury.

Prannoy had retired midway through his first-round match against Indonesia's Chico Aura Dwi Wardoyo at the Korea Open in September, clutching his ribs following a cross-court smash. Back in action after more than a month's layoff, he will open

against Malaysia's Jun Hao Leong.

Among the next generation, US Open winner Ayush Shetty, who stunned former world champion Loh Kean Yew of Singapore en route the Hylo Open quarterfinals, will face top seed Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand in the first round.

Tharun Manneppalli, a semifinalist at the Macau Open Super 300, takes on Korea's Jeon Hyeok Jin, while Kiran George, who upset France's Toma Junjer Popov on his way to the Hylo Open quarterfinals, will meet a qualifier.

In mixed doubles, Rohan Kapoor and Ruthvika Shivani Gadde will face the American pair of Presley Smith and Jennie Gai. There are no Indian entries in other categories. (PTI)

## Napoli's goal drought continues with 2-0 loss to Bologna in Serie A, Inter and Roma move top

MILAN, Nov 10: Napoli is struggling to find goals without Kevin De Bruyne.

Antonio Conte's side lost 2-0 at Bologna on Sunday as it failed to score for a third successive match despite its opponent playing with a teenage, third-choice goalkeeper.

The defeat also saw Napoli lose top spot in Serie A as it was leapfrogged by Roma and Inter Milan. Inter beat Lazio 2-0 and Roma also defeated Udinese 2-0.

The top five are separated by just three points, with Napoli and AC Milan two points below the new leaders and one above Bologna.

De Bruyne was injured in a 3-1 win over Inter last month and will likely be out until the new year. Napoli managed a 1-0 win at Lecce in its first match without the former Manchester City midfielder but followed that up with goalless draws against Como and then Eintracht Frankfurt in the Champions League.

After Milan's draw at Parma the previous day, Napoli knew it could move clear at the top of Serie A with a win on Sunday.

And its chances appeared to grow when Bologna goalkeeper Lukasz Skorupski had to go off in the eighth minute with a muscle injury and the 17-year-old Massimo Pessina was handed his senior debut.

However, Napoli never really tested the 'keeper and Bologna broke the deadlock five minutes into the second half despite losing another player — Jonathan Rowe — to injury.

His replacement, Nicolò Cambiaghi, set up the opener as he got down the left and then rolled the ball across for Thijs Dallinga to slot

in at the near post.

Bologna doubled its lead in the 66th minute with Colombia defender Jhon Lucumi heading in a cross for his first Serie A goal.

Roma moves top Roma defender Zeki Çelik scored his first Serie A goal to seal the win that sent Roma top of the standings.

Çelik finished off a well-worked move in the 61st minute after a one-two with Gianluca Mancini to double Roma's lead in the 61st minute.

The Turkey international had only scored once, in the Europa League, in his three previous seasons at Roma.

Lorenzo Pellegrini had fired Roma in front from the spot, shortly before halftime after Udinese defender Hassane Kamara had been penalized for handball.

Inter kicked off its match against Lazio shortly after Roma's victory and it took the Nerazzurri less than three minutes to seize the lead, with Lautaro Martinez bending a finish into the far top corner.

Ange-Yoan Bonny tapped Federico Dimarco's cross into the net in the 62nd.

New management-New Genoa coach Daniele De Rossi and his Fiorentina counterpart Paolo Vanoli debuted with an entertaining 2-2 draw, that also saw a penalty save by David De Gea.

Fiorentina remained bottom of the table, three points from safety.

Atalanta was pushed further into crisis with a 3-0 defeat at home to Sassuolo.

It was a seventh league match without a win for Atalanta, which beat Marseille in the Champions League midweek. (AP)

## JLN Stadium to be turned into Sports City: Sports Ministry source

NEW DELHI, Nov 10: The iconic Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium in the national capital will be "dismantled" to create a Sports City that will cater to all major disciplines and include lodging facility for athletes, a Sports Ministry source said on Monday.

The 102 acre area of the stadium will be rebuilt but as of now, the plan is merely a proposal and therefore the time-line for the project and the estimated cost has not yet been worked out.

"The stadium will be dismantled. All offices inside the stadium, including the National Anti Doping Agency (NADA), the National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL) and the Income Tax department will be relocated as and when the project takes off," the ministry source said.

"Currently the over 100 acres of land that it occupies is not being used to its optimal level. A Sports City will ensure that we have hosting facilities for major disciplines, training facilities, lodging for athletes when they compete there and even verticals like entertainment will be covered," he added.

The stadium also houses the headquarters of the Sports Authority of India, which owns the venue, and the government's flagship Khelo India project office.



A Sports City project would require synergy between multiple ministries, including the Urban Development Ministry, and departments. Given the long-drawn process, an immediate start to it is unlikely.

"It is an idea at this stage but let's see how the feasibility study works out. But the ministry is very serious about going ahead with it," the source said. Sports cities in Qatar and Australia are being assessed to finalise the modalities. Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya was in Doha recently and it is reliably learnt that he visited the Sports City there.

The Doha Sports City is spread over 617 acres. It has facilities for football,

aquatics and 13 different indoor sports besides an academy. It also houses a specialised orthopaedic and sports medicine hospital.

Australia's multi-purpose facilities include the Docklands Stadium in Melbourne that can host cricket, Australian rules football, rugby, cricket and soccer.

Ahmedabad's Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Sports Complex is an example closer home, having facilities for cricket, aquatics, tennis and athletics among others. It is spread over 250 acres and was built at a cost of ₹ 4600 crore.

The city is currently bidding to host the 2036 Olympic Games and is set to

be awarded the 2030 Commonwealth Games later this month.

"The JLN project will also be big in scale. This project will ensure that existing infrastructure, that was crumbling inside JLN, will get rebuilt," the source said. The JLN Stadium was built in 1982 for the Asian Games held that year. It later hosted the 2010 Commonwealth Games for which it was refurbished at a cost over ₹ 900 crore.

It recently hosted the World Para-Athletics Championship for which it underwent another facelift, leading to the laying of the renowned MONDO track, which is considered a faster surface that reduces risk of injury.

Besides being a prime athletics venue, the stadium has a football pitch where national and international-level games have been held. It has hosted a couple of cricket ODIs as well in 1984 and 1991 before the ICC found it unsuitable for the sport due to technical reasons. The stadium is used for non-sporting commercial activities too with concerts by Indian and international singers held here regularly.

The Sports Authority of India (SAI) had recently hiked the booking price for such events and introduced a clause for penalties if the stadium was not handed back to it in good condition at the conclusion of such programmes. (PTI)

# Shami Debate: Did refusal to play in England hurt his comeback plans?

**NEW DELHI, Nov 10:** Mohammed Shami may have already bowled 93 overs in the ongoing Ranji Trophy but it is unlikely that one of India's finest pacers will be seen donning the whites again and his chances of wearing the ODI blues also look bleak.

The 35-year-old last played for India in the Champions Trophy in March but since then, he hasn't been picked in any format. He had endured a lengthy layoff from the game after the heel injury in 2023 which required surgery after the World Cup.

At this point, the direction in which Indian cricket is moving, it is unlikely that Shami will be adding more games to the 197 internationals that he has played across three formats.

He has fallen off the radar in both Test and T20I cricket where Prasad Krishna and Akash Deep have rapidly gone up the ladder.

The only format seemingly left for him is ODI. But given that the next one-day World Cup is in

2027, it wouldn't be particularly prudent to travel with a 37-year-old with a history of career-threatening injuries, including a knee problem.

Shami has not exactly been pleased with the national selectors and has gone on record to say that they have not communicated with him. However, sources in the BCCI say that it may not be the correct picture.

"There have been multiple times that national selectors and support staff from the BCCI Centre of Excellence have called to check on Shami. The selection committee was desperate to get his services in England as Jasprit Bumrah could not have played more than three Tests," a senior board official told PTI.

"Who wouldn't want a bowler of his calibre in English conditions?" he added, referring to the series that India ultimately drew 2-2 earlier this year.

It is learnt that one of the senior members of the selection panel sent multiple messages to Shami



enquiring about his fitness status and requesting him to play at least one India A game against England Lions in either Canterbury or Northampton. This was meant to check where he stands with

regards to Test-match fitness for the five-match England series.

It is understood that the pacer responded by saying that he still needs to build his workload and shouldn't be considered for the assignment.

"So the narrative that there was no communication with Shami isn't an absolute truth. The sports science team also has his medical reports and whether his body will be able to take the rigours of international cricket," the senior official further added.

At this juncture, Shami might feel that he is ready for 50-over cricket but whether he fits the role is something that only the national selectors can decide.

There are a lot of questions regarding Shami's fitness for top-flight cricket.

For instance, how many overs can he bowl in one spell in a day? Can he take the field without breaks after each spell? What is the speed at which he is bowling considering that during his

peak, he could clock north of 135 and at times even 140 clicks?

It has been seen that even for Bengal, Shami has not been bowling long spells which he could be required to do for India in trying conditions. He has mostly been bowling four-over spells and taking multiple breaks in a day's play. His average speed also isn't more than 130 kmph.

There are apprehensions that at his age and with his history of a knee issue, which required a surgery a decade back, he could break down in the middle of a Test match.

Shami did not play Bengal's ongoing Ranji Trophy match against Railways in Surat having played the first three games.

He is expected to be available for the home match against Assam at Kalyani starting November 16 and then the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy where he will aim to impress prospective bidders for another lucrative deal at the IPL auctions in December. (PTI)

## Bavuma joins Proteas as full-strength South Africa squad assembles in Kolkata ahead of first Test

**KOLKATA, Nov 10:** South Africa captain Temba Bavuma, who was part of the 'A' team's unofficial Test series in Bengaluru, was the last to join the senior squad on Monday morning as the visitors assembled in full strength ahead of the opening Test against India beginning at the Eden Gardens on Friday.

The first batch of the South African contingent, including head coach Shukri Conrad, pace duo of Kagiso Rabada and Marco Jansen, along with the players who featured in the white-ball series in Pakistan, had arrived on Sunday morning.

"Bavuma, along with another player and a few officials, arrived this morning from Bengaluru. Most of the squad including the head coach had already checked in on Sunday," the South Africa team's local manager told PTI.

"So, South Africa now have their full contingent in. There's no activity scheduled at the Eden today... Most likely, both teams will have their first training session on Tuesday."

Bavuma, who had suffered a calf strain and missed the start of South Africa's World Test Championship title defence during the two-match Test series in Pakistan, returned to action for the 'A' side in their second unofficial Test against India A in Bengaluru.

The SA skipper, playing under Marquies Ackerman in the A side, was dismissed for a golden duck in the first innings but made a determined 101-ball 59 in the second to help his team clinch a five-wicket win in the second and final match



of the series that concluded on Sunday.

Middle-order batter Zubayr Hamza, who did not get to play in the 1-1 drawn Test series in Pakistan, also joined main squad here after playing both 'A' matches in Bengaluru.

A strong player of spin, Hamza

struck two half-centuries, including a 77 in the second innings of the final game at the Centre of Excellence.

As for the Indian contingent, the batch returning from the Australia white-ball series -- comprising head coach Gautam Gambhir, skipper Shubman Gill, pacer

Jasprit Bumrah, Washington Sundar and Axar Patel -- checked in late on Sunday. The remaining players are expected to arrive in batches through the day from their respective centres.

Both teams are scheduled to have their first training session at the Eden Gardens on Tuesday, ahead of the opening Test of the two-match series.

India last featured in a challenging white-ball series in Australia.

Under Shubman Gill's captaincy, India lost the ODI series, while Suryakumar Yadav led the team to a 2-1 victory in the five-match T20I series after the first and fifth rubbers were washed out.

India began the ongoing 2025-27 World Test Championship campaign under Gill, who made his Test captaincy debut in England earlier this year, drawing a gruelling five-match away series 2-2. They then swept West Indies 2-0 in a home series.

This will be India's final Test series of the year, with no red-ball assignments scheduled until their scheduled one-off Test against Afghanistan in June next year.

In 2026, they are slated for two away Test tours, first to Sri Lanka and then to New Zealand later in the year.

For the reigning World Test champions South Africa too, this will be the last Test series of the year.

Their next red-ball assignment is scheduled for September next year, a three-Test home series against Australia followed by another three-match home series against England. (PTI)

## Arjun faces Leko, Praggnanandhaa meets Dubov as Indians brace for Round 4 test

**PANJIM, Nov 10:** India's leading Grandmasters Arjun Erigaisi, R Praggnanandhaa and P Harikrishna will look to continue their impressive run when the fourth round of the FIDE World Cup gets underway here after their first rest day.

Arjun, the country's highest-rated player, will start as the favourite against veteran Hungarian Peter Leko, while Praggnanandhaa faces the inventive Daniil Dubov, who is playing under the FIDE flag. Harikrishna, the most experienced of the trio, takes on Sweden's Nils Grandelius as he aims to stay firmly in



contention. Leko, a formidable force about 20 years back, is showing signs of his prime but may not find things easy against Arjun, who likes to go for extreme complexities.

The 46-year-old defeated Bobby Cheng of Australia and Kiril Alekseenko of Austria without any tiebreak games which speaks volumes about his quality of play.

Incidentally, Leko is a semi-retired player and his protégé Vincent Keymer of Germany is also in the fourth round, making it a rare case of 'Guru and Shisya' going deep in a knockout competition.

Arjun won both his matches without any tiebreak. The Indian has won three out of his four games thus far under the classical time control and has shown the exit door to Martin Petrov of Bulgaria and Shamsiddin Vokhidov of Uzbekistan in the process.

Crowd favourite R Praggnanandhaa, meanwhile, is set to meet Dubov, known for his work as a theoretician. The Russian is also a dangerous opponent in the faster time control. He came through two tiebreak marathons against Bai Jinshi of China and Georg Meier of Uruguay, excelling due to speed and accuracy.

Praggnanandhaa was close to being eliminated in his first outing in the second round itself but somehow survived in the tiebreaker against Uzbek-Australian Temur Kuybokarov before prevailing over his third-round rival Robert Hovhannisyants of Armenia. Harikrishna, on the other hand, had a smooth sailing to the round of 32 with comprehensive victories over Arseniy Nesterov of Russia and Daniel Dardha of Belgium. Win with white and draw with black has been the mantra for Harikrishna, who would rely on his immense experience to get the better off Grandelius in the fourth round.

World junior champion V Pranav and 109th seed Venkatraman Karthik have also impressed, reaching the fourth round after playing three matches each. Arjun, Praggnanandhaa and Harikrishna were directly seeded to the second round when they started their campaign. Defeating Algerian Ada Eddine Boulrens and Norwegian Aryan Tari in the first two rounds, Pranav came up with a stellar show against Titas Stremavicius of Lithuania and won the first game itself.

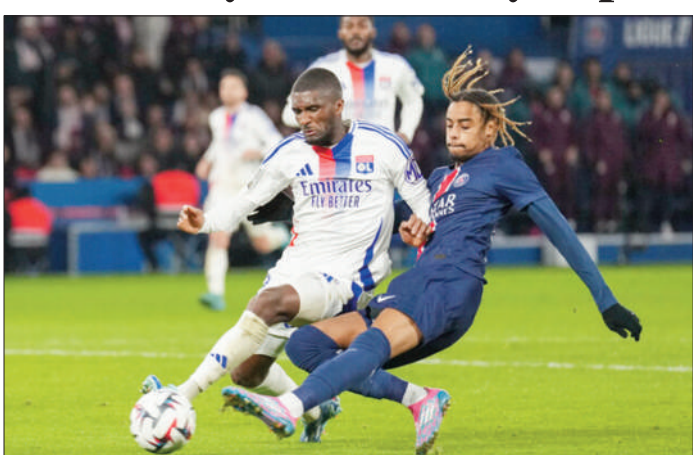
Needing just a draw in the return game, Pranav had no difficulties. Karthik's victims include Aravindh Chithambaram and Deac Bogdan Daniel so far and the Indian will be hoping for his best games against Le Quang Liem of Vietnam.

In other interesting battles, Keymer will take on Parham Maghsoodloo of Iran, while Armenian-turned-American Levon Aronian faces a strong challenge from Radoslaw Wojtaszek of Poland.

**Complete pairings round 4 (Indians unless specified):**

Frederic Svane (Ger) vs Shant Sargsyan (Arm); Peter Leko (Hun) vs Arjun Erigaisi; R Praggnanandhaa vs Daniil Dubov (Fid); Matthias Bluebaum (Ger) vs Alexander Domchenko (Ger); V Pranav vs Nodirbek Yakubov (Uzb); Andrey Espenko (Fid) vs Vincent Keymer (Ger); Wei Yi (Chn) vs Parham Maghsoodloo (Iri); Alexey Sarana (Fid) vs Jose Eduardo Martinez Alcantra (Mex); Nils Grandelius (Swe) vs P Harikrishna; Samuel Sevian (USA) vs Lorenzo Lodici (Ita); Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra) vs Aleksy Gregnev (Fid); Avander Liang (USA) vs Gabriel Sargisyan (Arm); Le Quang Liem (Vie) vs V Karthik; Sam Shankland (USA) vs Richard Rapport (Hun); Levon Aronian (USA) vs Radoslaw Wojtaszek (Pol); Yu Yangyi (Chn) vs Javokhir Sindarov (Uzb). (PTI)

## Paris Saint-Germain scores another last-gasp winner to beat Lyon and stay top



**PARIS, Nov 10:** Injury-hit Paris Saint-Germain scored the winner deep into stoppage time for the second straight game, beating Lyon 3-2 to stay two points clear at the top of Ligue 1.

Lyon's defenders failed to track Joao Neves on a corner from the left and the midfielder headed in from close range five minutes into added time, one week after Gonçalo Ramos headed home in the final seconds of stoppage time against Nice.

PSG is two points ahead of second-placed Marseille and third-placed Lens, who are separated by goal difference.

After losing to Bayern Munich in the Champions League on Tuesday, PSG coach Luis Enrique was without Ousmane Dembélé (calf tear), right back Achraf Hakimi (sprained ankle) and left back Nuno Mendes (sprained knee). Rising star Désiré Doué (thigh tear) was also missing.

Midfielder Warren Zaïre-Emery, deployed at right back, put PSG ahead in the 26th minute with an angled drive which flew over the left shoulder of goalkeeper Dominik Greif.

Host Lyon equalized four minutes later when Zaïre-Emery failed

to track Afonso Moreira's run behind him following a long ball and the Portuguese striker slotted into the left corner.

Khvicha Kvaratskhelia, who is usually a winger, started up front for PSG and put the visitors 2-1 ahead in the 33rd after United States midfielder Tanner Tessmann lost the ball on the edge of the penalty area.

But Lyon equalized again shortly after halftime through former Arsenal defender Ainsley Maitland-Niles. He latched onto a long ball and hit a first-time lob from 25 meters which sailed over the head of goalkeeper Lucas Chevalier.

World Cup-winning Argentina defender Nicolas Tagliafico was sent off for Lyon in stoppage time for a second yellow card. Moments later, PSG had a corner and punished Lyon.

Giroud gifts goal away Olivier Giroud's mistake gifted Emmanuel Emegha his second goal as Strasbourg won 2-0 at home to Lille.

Giroud is France's all-time leading scorer with 57 goals and won the World Cup, the Champions League with Chelsea and Serie A with AC Milan in a highly successful career. (AP)

## Indian women's team might soon have foreign strength & conditioning coach

**NEW DELHI, Nov 10:** The World Cup winning Indian women's cricket team in all likelihood will have its first foreign strength and conditioning coach in the near future.

The BCCI has already made multiple recruitments in the S&C department at the Centre of Excellence (COE) in Bengaluru.

According to BCCI sources, Bangladesh men's S&C coach Nathan Kiely is in talks with the Indian board and chances are bright that he might join the COE.

India's current S&C coach is AI Harsha has done a splendid job culminating with the World Cup title but it is learnt that the BCCB might have other assignments planned for him. (PTI)

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Kohli, after consecutive ducks in the first two matches, came good with a 74-run effort in the final match. There were also im-

## CRICKET COACHING IN A KITBAG Ganguly backs UK-based AI coaching platform

**KOLKATA, Nov 10:** Former India captain Sourav Ganguly on Monday joined hands with UK-based AI cricket coaching platform Kabuni.

"Kabuni is an AI and large language model platform that learns from the game itself, drawing on decades of cricket data, player movement and coaching knowledge to deliver personalised, data driven coaching through your phone or a Kabuni device," said the company in a statement.

"Kabuni breaks down every movement from a cover drive to a bowling action into measurable insights and real time feedback delivered via video, image, text and voice," it added.

Ganguly is Kabuni's Global Brand Ambassador.

"Quality coaching allows chil-



dren to learn better, faster and live healthier lives. This level of coaching was only available for professionals, but now it is for everyone."

The device is developed with Cambridge Design Partnership, one of the leading firms in human performance and sports innovation.

Starting with cricket, Kabuni aims to expand to tennis, golf, badminton, table tennis and multiple

other sports. The aim is to create a multi-sport ecosystem for performance, wellness, community participation and everyday fitness.

"Cricket is not a sport in India, it is a religion. Kabuni is the world's first digital ecosystem that captures real world play through sport, starting with cricket. It will bring play into learning and help every player discover the athlete within," Ganguly added.

Kabuni founder and CEO Nimesh Patel said, "India faces an amazing sporting future with the goals of the Fit India movement, the potential of the Commonwealth Games in 2030 and the Olympics in 2036. Kabuni pledges to inspire one billion Indians to move more, play together and live healthier lives over the next decade." (PTI)

## Can appreciate individual performances but can't celebrate series loss: Gambhir



pressive individual efforts by Shreyas Iyer and Axar Patel during the series.

Gambhir, however, did not take names and neither did the question thrown at him mention anyone in

specific.

"...I've always been a believer that it's not about the individual performances. I can be very happy with the individual performances, and I will always remain happy

with individual performances.

"But ultimately it's the loss of one day's series, that's the bottom line and I can never celebrate a series loss as a coach," he asserted.

Rohit and Kohli have retired from both Tests and T20 Internationals, causing their limited ODI appearances to become heavily-followed events for fans.

"As a player I can appreciate individuals, but as a coach I think it is my moral responsibility that we as a nation and we as individuals should never, never celebrate a series loss," Gambhir said.

India went on to win the five-match T20 International series after the one-dayers 2-1 and Gambhir said there was plenty to learn from that triumph as well.

"Ultimately we are representing the country, yes T20 series was different, we won the series, a lot of positives, but a lot of learning as well," he said. (PTI)

## Sports Ministry approves appointment of 320 assistant coaches across 25 disciplines



**NEW DELHI, Nov 10:** As part of its "medal strategy" for the Olympic and Asian Games, the Sports Ministry has given approval for the recruitment of 320 assistant coaches covering 25 disciplines across Sports Authority of India (SAI) centres. Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Monday said the focus will be on disciplines like aquatics, cycling and tennis, in which Indian athletes haven't particularly done well but have "immense medal potential."

"It will cover the major disciplines at SAI centres. The selection process will be merit-based and transparent and will only include those who are certified or license holders in their respective disciplines," Mandaviya said in an interaction here.

"We are trying to give weightage to sports that will improve the overall sporting culture in the country. Sports like tennis, kayaking and canoeing are sometimes not able to attract as much attention but they have huge potential," he added.

Mandaviya said 50 per cent of the recruits would be women for the creation of a "safe sports environment" and promote "gender quality" as promised by the National Sports Governance Act.

"Assistant coaches are an important cog in the wheel as far as sports development is concerned. They nurture talent from grassroots to elite level," he said.

"This is just the phase one of this recruitment drive and another 320 would be recruited in the second phase once this initiative is completed," he added. (PTI)