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- Ukraine says it has hit major Russian oil refinery with long-range drones
- 12 dead after engine fell off UPS plane that crashed, exploded in Kentucky
- RJD, Cong have soft corner for infiltrators, dislike for Lord Ram because of vote bank: PM
- Nitish, Tejashwi, Samrat among top leaders to cast vote

My decision was guided by 'conscience and fairness', says Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta CIC resigns amid RTI query on brother Shyamkanu

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Nov 6: Assam Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and former Director-General of Police Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta resigned from his post on Thursday, citing a "conflict of interest" after Right to Information (RTI) applications were filed seeking details related to his brother Shyamkanu Mahanta, one of the accused in the death case of singer Zubeen Garg.

In a detailed Facebook post, Mahanta said he had submitted his resignation to the Governor and had earlier informed the Chief Minister's Office about his decision.

"You all know that my brother Shyamkanu Mahanta has been linked to the recent death of everyone's beloved artist Zubeen Garg. In this context, my conscience was telling me that if someone applies for any information about my brother, I should resign from my responsibilities in order to avoid any doubts and suspicions in people's minds," he wrote.

He said an RTI petitioner had sought in-



formation regarding government funds allocated to various cultural institutions, including those associated with Shyamkanu.

The applicant had personally written to

Mahanta expressing trust in his honesty, but the CIC said he chose to step down to ensure full transparency.

"Even if I had remained in office, the ap-

plicant would have received the correct information. But I felt it necessary to ensure there was no room for misunderstanding," he stated, adding that his decision was guided by "conscience and fairness."

Mahanta, who took charge as CIC on April 5, 2023, after retiring as the state's DGP, highlighted his efforts to digitise the commission's functioning, introduce online applications, hold virtual hearings, and improve case disposal during his tenure.

His resignation comes amid the ongoing probe into Garg's mysterious death in Singapore on September 19.

The singer-lyricist had travelled to attend the 4th edition of the North East India Festival (NEIF), where Shyamkanu Mahanta served as chief organiser.

Seven persons have so far been arrested in connection with the case — Shyamkanu Mahanta, Garg's cousin and Assam Police DSP Sandipan Garg, the singer's manager Siddharth Sharma, band members Shekhar Jyoti Goswami and (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

PM, 3 more Central ministers to visit Assam shortly

Modi to inaugurate new terminal of LGBI Airport in December

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Nov 6: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Thursday announced that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with Union Ministers Amit Shah, Nirmala Sitharaman and Rajnath Singh, will visit Assam over the next two months to inaugurate and lay the foundation stones of several major projects across the state.

Speaking at an event at Srimanta Sankardeva Kalakshetra here, Sarma said the visits by top national leaders would mark a series of landmark developments aimed at propelling Assam's growth.

"In the coming days, Assam will welcome a galaxy of national leaders, including Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji and Hon'ble Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah ji, to inaugurate transfor-

mative projects," Sarma said in a post on X.

The Chief Minister said Prime Minister Modi is expected to visit the state twice—first in December this year to inaugurate the new terminal of Guwahati's Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International (LGBI) Airport and to lay the foundation stone for the 12.7 lakh metric tonne ammonia-urea plant at Namrup.

The plant, to be set up within the existing premises of Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Ltd (BVFCL), was approved by the Union Cabinet in March.

The Prime Minister will return in January 2026 to inaugurate the much-anticipated Guwahati-North Guwahati bridge over the Brahmaputra, besides dedicating other key infrastructure (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Governor deliberates on Ombudspersons' role in varsities

GUWAHATI, Nov 6: Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya on Thursday chaired a meeting with the Ombudspersons of the universities of the state along with the private varsities to discuss various issues related to the institutions.

The meeting focused on enhancing ethical governance, transparency and accountability in higher education institutions across Assam and making it more efficient for the benefit of the students, an official release said.

The 'Ombudspersons of Universities' facilitates compliance with the University Grants Commission (Regulation of Grievances of Students)

Regulations, 2023, aimed at promoting adherence to guidelines, standards and best practices in higher education for the benefits of the students.

Sharing his observation, Acharya said that universities are not only centres of knowledge but also the breeding and nurturing grounds for values, conduct and character.

"Education must extend beyond books to embrace ethics, empathy and social responsibility as any act of injustice within an institution undermines its collective dignity," he added.

Highlighting the crucial role of Ombudspersons, the Governor described them as the (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Record voter turnout of nearly 65pc sets stage for 'sushasan' vs 'jobs-for-all' battle

PATNA, Nov 6: In the "highest ever" voter turnout in Bihar, nearly 65 per cent of 3.75 crore electorates exercised their franchise on Thursday across 121 constituencies in the first phase of the assembly elections, which marks the beginning of a closely watched high-stakes contest that is seen as a litmus test of the ruling NDA's popularity.

In a statement, the Election Commission said the first phase of the assembly elections concluded peacefully "in a festive mood with the highest-ever voter turnout of 64.66 per cent in the history of Bihar".

The NDA, which has been in power in the state for 20 years, except for a few brief interruptions, is banking on its image of "sushasan" (good governance) in con-

trast to the alleged "jungle raj" of the RJD-Congress combine, while the opposition bloc relies on anti-incumbency and the unprecedented "jobs-for-every-home" promise of its CM candidate, Tejashwi Yadav, to outperform the ruling alliance.

The polls for the 243-member assembly are being closely watched not only for their local implications but also as an early indicator of the political mood ahead of 2029, and follow the highly controversial Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral roll by the EC, which came under attack from opposition parties for alleged "rigging" and "manipulation" of voter lists.

The second and the last phase will be held on November 11, and the counting

will take place on November 14.

Stakes are high for both the ruling NDA and the opposition INDIA bloc, with several key leaders, including RJD's Yadav, Deputy CMs Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha, besides a slew of ministers, being among the 1,314 candidates in fray in this phase.

Stray incidents of violence, including an alleged attack on Sinha's vehicle, were reported from some areas during the polling.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who addressed rallies in a couple of constituencies going to polls in the second and final phase, felt that the noticeably high number of women turning up to vote was a good (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Governor administers oath to APSC Chairperson

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Nov 6: Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya on Thursday administered the oath of office to Prabhathi Thaosen as the Chairperson of the Assam Public Service Commission (APSC) at a ceremony held in the Conference Hall of the Brahmaputra Wing at Raj Bhavan.

Earlier, Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam Dr Ravi Kota sought the Governor's permission to commence the proceedings.

Education minister Ranaj Pegu, additional chief secretaries Ajay Tewari and B Kalyan Chakravarty, APSC Members, Commissioner and Secretary to the Governor SS Meenakshi Sundaram, commissioner and secretary GAD MS Manivannan, and several senior government officials attended the event

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DIPR/D/HLT/209/7-Nov-25

Stock markets fall for 2nd day in volatile trade on foreign fund outflows

MUMBAI, Nov 6: Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty closed lower in a highly volatile trade on Thursday amid relentless foreign fund outflows and selling in blue-chip ICICI Bank.

Falling for the second day in a row, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 148.14 points or 0.18 per cent to settle at 83,311.01. During the day, it hit a high of 83,846.35 and a low of 83,237.65.

The 50-share NSE Nifty dipped by 87.95 points or 0.34 per cent to 25,509.70.

Among Sensex firms, Power Grid fell the most by 3.15 per cent due to weak financial results. Eternal dropped by 2.44 per cent, Bharat Electronics by 1.67 per cent, and Bajaj Finance by 1.45 per cent. ICICI Bank and NTPC fell by 1.21 per cent each, dragging the index down.

However, Asian Paints, Reliance Industries, Mahindra & Mahindra and UltraTech Cement were among the gainers.

Stock markets were closed on Wednesday by Guru Nanak Jayanti.

"Volatility dominated the domestic market, with broad-based



profit-booking seen amid continued FII outflows, despite supportive Asian market. Early optimism from the inclusion of four Indian companies in the MSCI Global Standard Index and strong US macro data was offset by weak domestic PMI readings, indicating softening sentiment," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹ 1,067.01 crore on Tuesday, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought stocks worth ₹

1,202.90 crore, according to exchange data.

India's services sector growth witnessed the slowest pace of expansion in five months in October, as competitive pressures and heavy rains in parts of the country led to a slower increase in output, according to a monthly survey released on Thursday.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Services PMI Business Activity Index fell from 60.9 in September to 58.9 in October, indicating the slowest pace of expansion since May.

In the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

The BSE smallcap gauge dropped 1.53 per cent and midcap index went lower by 1.19 per cent.

Utilities tanked 2.20 per cent, followed by metal (2.03 per cent), power (1.96 per cent), commodities (1.76 per cent), realty (1.51 per cent) and industrials (1.47 per cent).

BSE Focused IT emerged as the only gainer.

A total of 3,012 stocks declined while 1,202 advanced and 139 remained unchanged on the BSE.

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

Markets in Europe were trading lower. US markets ended higher on Wednesday.

On Tuesday, the Sensex dropped 519.34 points or 0.62 per cent to settle at 83,459.15. The Nifty declined 165.70 points or 0.64 per cent to 25,597.65. (PTI)

Asian shares advance after solid earnings, economic reports updates lift Wall Street

BANGKOK, Nov 6: Shares bounced back Thursday in Asia after Wall Street got a boost from upbeat economic updates and a steady flow of quarterly reports from US companies.

US futures were little changed and oil prices advanced.

In Tokyo, the Nikkei 225 gained 1.5% to 50,959.14.

Shares in Nissan Motor Co gained 1.3% after the company said it was selling its headquarters building in Yokohama to raise cash. Nissan was due to report its earnings later in the day.

The Kospi in South Korea advanced 1.2% to 4,054.15 and Taiwan's Taixex was up 0.7%.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng jumped 1.6% to 26,361.40, while the Shanghai Composite index climbed 0.9% to 4,004.25.

However, shares in autonomous driving companies Pony.ai and WeRide fell in their debut on the Hong Kong stock exchange.

Pony.ai was down 13% while WeRide's shares fell 13.7%.

On Wednesday, US stocks gained ground with broad gains, reversing the prior day's dip. Much of the market's push and pull came from the technology sector, where several companies with huge values have an outsized influence over the market.

Google's parent, Alphabet, jumped 2.4%. Broadcom rose 2%, and Facebook parent Meta Platforms rose 1.4%. They helped lead the way higher for the broader market. Their gains also helped counter losses from a few technology behemoths, including Nvidia and Microsoft.

Overall The S&P 500 rose 0.4% to 6,796.29. The Dow Jones Industrial Average picked up 0.5% to 47,311. The Nasdaq composite rose 0.6% to 23,499.80.

Company earnings and forecasts were once again a big focus for Wall Street, with results coming from a broad spectrum of industries.

McDonald's rose 2.2% after reporting that its sales benefited from the return of its popular Snack Wraps in the third quarter. International Flavors & Fragrances jumped 4.1% after beating Wall Street's latest quarterly profit forecasts.

On the losing side, Taser maker Axon Enterprise slumped 9.4% after forecasting weaker profits than analysts were expecting. Live Nation Entertainment fell 10.6% after its latest results fell short of analysts' forecasts.

The latest round of earnings offers Wall Street a source of information on consumers, businesses and the economy that is otherwise lacking amid the government shutdown. Important monthly updates on inflation and employment have ceased, leaving investors, economists and the Federal Reserve without a fuller picture of the economy.

There are still several informative private economic updates that Wall Street can review.

A monthly report from ADP showed that private payrolls rose more than expected in October. The report offers a partial glimpse into the job market, which has been generally weakening and raising broader concerns about economic growth.

A weaker job market remains a big concern for the Fed. The central bank cut its benchmark rate for the second time this year at its most recent meeting, in part to help bolster the economy amid a weakening job market. Lower interest rates can make a wide range of loans and credit less expensive, potentially promoting economic growth. But, lower rates can also add fuel to inflation, which could stunt economic growth.

Fed Chair Jerome Powell and several other Fed officials have expressed concerns about more rate cuts, as inflation remains stubbornly above the central bank's target of 2%. Consumer prices rose 3% in September. The mix of a weaker job market and hot inflation leaves the Fed in a tough position.

The threat of tariffs also continues to hang over consumers and businesses. President Donald Trump's trade war with China, Canada and many other nations has been unpredictable, making it hard to measure the full impact of higher prices. The US Supreme Court heard arguments Wednesday about the legality of the sweeping tariffs.

In other dealings early Thursday, US benchmark crude gained 26 cents to \$59.86 per barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, advanced 25 cents to \$63.77 per barrel. The US dollar fell to 153.85 Japanese yen from 154.11 yen. The euro rose to \$1.1510 from \$1.1494. (AP)

GlobalFoundries showcases India Foundry Connect Program at TeknIka 2025

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Nov 6: GlobalFoundries (GF) India showcased its India Foundry Connect Program and strengthened partnerships with India's fabless semiconductor ecosystem during its flagship technical conference, GF India TeknIka 2025, held on Thursday.

The Foundry Connect Program, launched last year, aims to accelerate the journey from design to manufacturing for India's fabless semiconductor startups.

The program provides startups access to GF's advanced Product Design Kits (PDKs), GlobalShuttle™ Multi Project Wafer (MPW) fabrication, IP libraries, and engineering expertise.

It aligns with India's Design Linked Incentive (DLI) scheme to help eligible companies fast-track silicon innovation toward commercial production.

"GF's decade-long presence in India reflects our deep commitment to the country's semiconductor growth story. Through the Foundry Connect Program, we are enabling local startups and OEMs with scalable, reliable manufacturing tailored to their needs—from PDKs, IPs, shuttle for test chips to tapeout," said Jiten-dra Chaddah, Managing Director and India Country Head of GF India.

"With government initiatives like the DLI scheme, GF will help companies move from design to silicon,

empowering India's fabless semiconductor ecosystem and driving faster product realization," he added.

To expand the reach of TeknIka 2025, GF India collaborated with the India Electronics and Semiconductors Association (IESA) and SEMI India.

The partnership aims to leverage the two bodies' extensive network of fabless startups, academia, and industry stakeholders to promote awareness of GF's technologies and programs.

"IESA and SEMI India have been at the forefront of uniting the semiconductor ecosystem—from startups and academia to global leaders—to foster collaboration and drive innovation," said Ashok Chandak, President of IESA and SEMI India.

"We are delighted to collaborate with GlobalFoundries India for TeknIka 2025 and the India Foundry Connect Program, which directly complements India's DLI initiative and IESA's Start Up Mitra initiative. This partnership will accelerate the journey from design to silicon and strengthen India's position as a global semiconductor hub," he further said.

GF India TeknIka 2025 served as a platform to showcase GF's technology roadmap, foster collaboration with academia and customers, and strengthen engagement with policymakers and industry bodies, with a focus on building a robust local semiconductor ecosystem.

Govt cannot restrain retail investors from trading in F&O: FM

MUMBAI, Nov 6: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said the government cannot restrain retailers from trading in Futures and Options (F&O) but will definitely create awareness regarding the risks involved in putting money in such instruments.

The statement comes days after Sebi chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey ruled out shuttering the weekly derivatives contracts in Nifty and Sensex. Responding to a question on the government's stance on the F&O segment, wherein retailers lose significant amount of money, Sitharaman said that the government "is not not here to shut the door on F&O trading but it can make aware people about the risks involved in the derivatives. At the same time, investors have the responsibility to understand the risks involved, she said while speaking at the SBI Banking and Economics Conclave 2025. She also sought suggestions for dealing with the issue of the retailers trading in F&O segment. A recent Sebi study that 91 per cent of individual traders in futures and options (F&O) incurred net losses in FY25—collectively losing over ₹ 1 lakh crore—funds that could otherwise contribute to responsible investing and capital formation. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) had introduced measures in November last year in a bid to curb excess speculation in derivatives trading.

Futures contracts obligate the buyer and seller to transact at a predetermined future date and price, while options give the holder the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell the asset at a set price within a specific period. These financial instruments are used for hedging risks, speculating on price movements, and arbitrage pricing differences. However, they come with significant risks, including leverage risk and market volatility, which can lead to substantial losses. (PTI)

Gold rebounds ₹ 600 to ₹ 1,24,700/10g amid firm global cues

NEW DELHI, Nov 6: Snapping the two-day losing streak, gold prices on Thursday rebounded by ₹ 600 to ₹ 1,24,700 per 10 grams in the national capital on a fresh wave of buying by traders and firm global cues. The precious metal of 99.5 per cent purity increased by ₹ 600 to ₹ 1,24,100 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes), according to All India Sarafa Association. The metal had closed at ₹ 1,23,500 per 10 grams on Tuesday. In the local bullion market, gold of 99.9 per cent purity had ended at ₹ 1,24,100 per 10 grams in the previous market session.

Silver prices rallied by ₹ 1,800 to ₹ 1,53,300 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes) on Thursday. It had settled at ₹ 1,51,500 per kg on Tuesday.

Bullion markets were closed on Wednesday on account of the Prakash Gurpur Sri Guru Nanak Dev holiday.

Globally, spot gold rose USD 28.96, or 0.73 per cent to USD 4,008.19 per ounce while spot silver was trading 1.22 per cent higher at USD 48.60 an ounce. "Gold advanced on Thursday buoyed by safe haven demand and a modest decline in the US dollar. The ongoing government shutdown has become the longest in US history, with no resolution in sight."

"This prolonged shutdown has created uncertainty in financial markets, which is benefiting safe-haven precious metals," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said. (PTI)

Contd. from Page 1...

CIC resigns amid

Amrit Prabha Mahanta, and two of Garg's personal security officers, Nandeswar Bora and Prabin (Paresh) Baishya. All are currently in judicial custody.

They have been booked under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) for murder, culpable homicide not amounting to murder, criminal conspiracy, and causing death by negligence.

Chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has stated that Garg was murdered in Singapore, even as investigations continue.

A Special Investigation Team (SIT) under the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of Assam Police is probing the case following more than 60 FIRs filed across the state.

The Assam government has also constituted a one-man judicial commission headed by Justice Soumitra Saikia of the Gauhati High Court, while the Singapore Police Force (SPF) is conducting an independent inquiry. (With inputs from PTI)

PM, 3 more Central

projects including the elevated corridor in Kaziranga, the Silchar-Guwahati expressway, and IIM Guwahati. Union Home Minister Amit Shah will visit Assam in the last week of December or the first week of January to inaugurate the Jyoti-Bishnu Auditorium, a 5,000-capacity complex in Guwahati, and roll out projects at Badrastra, the birthplace of Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardeva.

Shah will also address a meeting of BJP booth committee presidents during his visit.

Before that, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will arrive on November 8 to inaugurate the Brahmaputra riverfront development project and the Gateway of Guwahati's ship terminal at Uzan Bazar.

She will also visit the semiconductor unit at Jiragor to interact with around 300 young entrepreneurs.

Later the same day, Sitharaman will lay the foundation stone of Swahid Kanaklata Barua State University at Golpur, to be developed at a cost of Rs 400 crore on 771 bighas of land.

The tender process has been completed and construction will begin soon, Sarma said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is scheduled to arrive in Guwahati on November 9 to attend an Indian Air Force air show at Lachit Ghat, featuring advanced aircraft including Rafale and Sukhoi fighter jets.

The event is being organised as part of the Air Force's 93rd anniversary celebrations.

"These projects will propel Assam's growth to new heights and reflect the state's rising stature in the new India," Sarma said, adding that the state is witnessing unprecedented development through concerted efforts of both the Centre and the state government. (With inputs from PTI)

Record voter turnout of

sign for the NDA. "Mothers, daughters, and sisters have been the worst sufferers of 'jungle raj'. Today, they seem to have put up a fortress around polling booths to prevent the return of 'jungle raj'," Modi remarked.

The NDA hopes that Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's record, along with recent welfare measures such as 125 units of free power, Rs 10,000 cash transfers to over 1 crore women, and an increase in social security pensions, will help counter anti-incumbency.

However, the opposition dismissed the boasts of the BJP-led coalition and hoped that people would vote for a change.

RJD president Lalu Prasad, who hopes that his younger son and heir apparent Yadav will form the next government, came out with an evocative social media post, drawing the analogy of a "roti".

"If a roti is not flipped on a tawa (pan), it gets burnt. Twenty years is a long time. A Tejaswini government is essential to build a new Bihar," Prasad wrote on X.

There have also been allegations and counter-allegations from both sides on the polling day.

Deputy CM Sinha, who is seeking a fourth consecutive term from Lakhisarai, claimed that one of the cars in his convoy was attacked by RJD supporters trying to "intimidate" voters belonging to extremely backward classes.

On the other hand, the RJD alleged on X that voting had been "deliberately slowed down" in areas where the INDIA bloc was strongly placed, a charge promptly rejected by the EC.

A notable feature of this election has been the presence of Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraaaj Party, which the former political strategist believes could emerge as the proverbial dark horse.

Kishor has caught public imagination with his promise of making the state "among the top-ranking ones in the country", and to this end, he has not shied away from making a few bold statements, including his announcement that he intends to scrap the prohibition law, which has been bleeding the state dry.

Politics in Bihar is as much about numbers as it is about castes. Caste and community loyalties remain crucial, with Yadavs, Kushwahas, Kurmis, Brahmins, and Dalits shaping outcomes in key constituencies. (PTI)

Guv deliberates on

'sentinels of fairness' who uphold justice and integrity within the university system.

He stated that the Ombudspersons represent the conscience of university governance and embody the principles of justice and good administration within a democratic framework.

"The true power of an Ombudsperson lies not in authority but in impartiality and moral conviction. They serve as a bridge of trust between students, faculty and administration fostering communication, confidence and harmony within the university ecosystem," he said.

Referring to the National Education Policy (NEP), Acharya stated that as universities move toward greater autonomy and accountability, the role of the Ombudspersons becomes even more significant.

He asked the Ombudspersons to proactively identify policy gaps that could give rise to future grievances and to work toward constructive solutions. (PTI)

SELF DECLARATION

I, Sri Paotinthang, a resident of Village Thadou Veng, PO & PS-Diphu, Karbi Anglong, Assam, hereby solemnly affirm and declare that, actual name of my daughter is "Ruth Lamunnem Chongloi" however her name has been wrongly recorded as only "Lamunnem", in my official Service Record Book instead of her full name. I have rectified the name of my daughter in proper manner through an affidavit, executed in ADC/SDO/Executive Magistrate, Notary Public, Diphu Judicial Court, on 9th of October/2025. Henceforth my daughter will be called as "Ruth Lamunnem Chongloi" from now on for all official purpose ETC. Paotinthang Village Thadou Veng, PO & PS-Diphu, Karbi Anglong, Assam.

AFFIDAVIT

I, Jalal Uddin, S/O. Hussain Ali, R/O. Gopal Nagar, P.O. Gopal Nagar, P.S. Hojai, PIN-782435, Dist. Hojai, Assam, take oath and state through an affidavit executed by Executive Magistrate, Lumding, dated 30/10/2025, that in some of my document like Aadhaar Card, Pan Card, Voter ID my name has been recorded as Jalal Uddin and some other documents like in Land Records my name has been recorded as Jamal Uddin. I declare that both the name Jalal Uddin and Jamal Uddin, are the names of one same person i.e. Jalal Uddin.

AFFIDAVIT

I, Manaf Ali, S/O Late Mantaz Ali, resident of Vill- 2 No Samboria, P.O.- Samboria, P.S. Lanka, Dist. Hojai, Assam do hereby solemnly affirm and declare via an notarial affidavit executed at Srimanta Sankardev Nagar in Hojai on 17/07/2025, that, my actual and correct name is Manaf Ali. But, in my land records like Jamabandi vide Patta No. 276, Dag No. 369, situated at Samboria Kissam, under Lanka Mouza, Lanka Circle, Dist. Hojai, Assam wherein my name has been wrongly recorded as Manaf Ali instead of Manaf Ali. I declare that both the name Manaf Ali and Manaf Ali are the names of one and same person i.e. Manaf Ali.

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Nov 6: BSA has unveiled its first-ever adventure motorcycle, the Thunderbolt, at the ongoing EICMA 2025 in Milan.

The new model marks the brand's entry into the adventure segment and carries forward the legacy of the original Thunderbolt, the last motorcycle to roll off BSA's Birmingham production line in 1972. The new BSA Thunderbolt, the fourth bike from the company's lineup, is scheduled to hit the market by mid-2026.

It is designed for both daily commuting and off-road exploration, combining classic design cues with modern technology.

The adventure model features traction control, three ABS modes—Rain, Road, and Off-

Road—along with a preload-adjustable monoshock suspension, slip-and-assist clutch, and upswep exhaust for enhanced water-wading capability. Powered by a Euro 5+ compliant 334cc liquid-cooled DOHC single-cylinder engine paired with a six-speed gearbox, Thunderbolt promises high torque and efficiency for long-distance rides. A large fuel tank, low seat height, adjustable windscreen, and wide handlebars make it suitable for riders of all experience levels.

Anupam Thareja, Co-founder of Classic Legends Pvt. Ltd., which owns BSA, described the Thunderbolt as "the best 350 ADV in the world," adding that the launch also marks the debut of a global adventure platform for the company's brands BSA, Jawa, and Yezdi.

Kotak Mutual Fund launches Rural Opportunities Fund to tap India's rural growth potential

Scheme opened for public subscription on November 6 and will remain open until November 20, 2025

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Nov 6: Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company Ltd. (KMAMC) has announced the launch of the Kotak Rural Opportunities Fund, an open-ended equity scheme focused on India's rural and allied sectors.

The scheme opened for public subscription on November 6 and will remain open until November 20, 2025.

The fund aims to generate long-term capital appreciation by investing primarily in equity and equity-related securities of companies engaged in or benefiting from India's rural transformation.

Its benchmark index will be the Nifty Rural Index (TRI).

Launching the fund, Nilesh Shah, Managing Director of Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company Ltd., said rural India is emerging as a new growth frontier.

"From financial inclusion to digital connectivity and local manufacturing, rural India is witnessing a transformation driven by opportunity, aspiration, and policy. The Kotak Rural Opportunities Fund



aims to help investors participate in this shift, one that aligns with India's journey toward inclusive and balanced economic development," he said.

Rural India's economic profile is rapidly evolving, with about 40% of rural workers now engaged in non-agricultural jobs and women's workforce participation nearly doubling since 2018.

Over half of rural spending is now directed toward non-food items, signalling rising incomes and diversified consumption patterns.

Arjun Khanna, Fund Manager of the Kotak Rural Opportunities Fund, said the rural theme offers "structurally positive" prospects driven by

improving incomes, infrastructure, and access to finance and technology.

"Through a diversified, bottom-up approach, we aim to identify businesses driving or benefiting from this transformation," he added.

During the NFO period, investors can invest a minimum of Rs 1,000 and in multiples thereafter.

For SIPs, the minimum investment is Rs 500.

Further details are available at www.kotakmf.com.

Investors are advised to consult financial and tax advisors before investing. KMAMC has stated that it does not guarantee or promise any returns.

Gaurav Gogoi seeks nationwide campaign for probe and reforms in EC after Rahul Gandhi's vote theft allegations

National movement needed to demand probe into EC's functioning: Gogoi

GUWAHATI, Nov 6: Deputy Leader of Congress in the Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi on Thursday called for a "national movement" demanding an inquiry into the functioning of the Election Commission, following allegations of vote theft raised by party leader Rahul Gandhi.

Gandhi alleged on Wednesday that the 2024 Haryana Assembly polls were "stolen", citing electoral rolls data to claim that 25 lakh fake entries had been made and accused the Election Commission of colluding with the BJP to ensure its victory.

"The inaction of the EC on 'vote chori' is akin to admission of guilt and is a feeble attempt to cover up this injustice against the people of

India," Gogoi said in a post on X. "There must be a national movement to demand an inquiry into the functioning of the Election Commission and reform of this important institution," the Assam Congress president said.

According to Gandhi, the 'centralised plan' included the use of a Brazilian woman's photograph 22 times in 10 polling booths in the Rai Assembly constituency, under names such as "Seema, Sweety and Saraswati."

The BJP dismissed the allegation of mass vote theft as "false and baseless" and accused the Congress leader of raising questions on the EC to hide his failures and defame the country's democracy. (PTI)



Journalist Pankaj Barua honoured with 'Sangbad Ratna'

TEZPUR, Nov 6: Senior journalist and social worker Pankaj Barua from Tezpur has been conferred with the "Sangbad Ratna" title by the Srimanta Sankardeva Kristi Bikash Kendra, Hojai. The honour was presented during a cultural event on Wednesday marking the 14th death anniversary of Dr Bhupen Hazarika, observed as "Samannay Divas."

Barua was felicitated with a traditional gamosa, seleng, a bundle of books, xori, a memento, a cash honorarium and the honorary title. The award, instituted in memory of veteran journalist late Bishnuram Tamuli, was presented during a dignified ceremony or-

ganised by the Srimanta Sankardeva Kristi Bikash Kendra.

The event featured performances of Dr Bhupen Hazarika's songs, Manipuri khol recitals and a discussion on "Integration in the Songs of Dr Bhupen Hazarika." On the same occasion, Golaghat-based cultural practitioner Pabitra Pran Bora received the 'Dekagiri Award' for 2025, instituted in memory of Jaigun Singh Thaoson.

The programme moderated by the organisation's General Secretary Gajen Hazarika, was attended by MP Kamakhya Prasad Tasa, MLAs Ramkrishna Ghosh and Shibu Mishra, Hojai DC Bidyut Bikash Bhagawati, former Forest

6 arrested in human trafficking case

DIBRUGARH, Nov 6: Tinsukia police have arrested six persons in connection with a human trafficking racket operating in Tinsukia district.

The accused have been identified as Dipak Phukan, Umakanta Chetri, Boby Deori Sona, Rohit Khadal, Peter Sabashi and Ajit Munda.

According to sources, villagers of Duarmara Singpho village under Pengeri police station apprehended Dipak Phukan on Wednesday when he allegedly tried to take away two minors from a nearby tea estate.

The villagers later handed him over to Pengeri police. Based on Dipak's revelations, police arrested Umakanta, Boby, Rohit, Peter and Ajit in connection with the case. A case (No 28/2025) under Sections 143(5)/3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) has been registered at Pengeri Police Station.

Police said the main accused, Peter Sona is absconding and a manhunt has been launched to trace him. Sources said the traffickers have been targeting children from tea garden areas in Upper Assam, particularly around Doomdooma to send them to Arunachal Pradesh for domestic work due to labour shortages there.

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Nov 6: In a collaborative initiative, Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) and the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati Technology Innovation and Development Foundation (ITG TIDF) held a technical presentation at the General Manager's Conference Hall, NF Railway Headquarters, Maligaon-showcasing DRISHTI, an AI-based Locking Monitoring System developed for goods wagons. The presentation follows a MoU signed on November 19, 2024 between NFR and IIT Guwahati, aimed at developing intelligent monitoring solutions using high-speed imaging, computer vision and artificial intelligence.

The event was attended by the GM of NFR and several PHODs of the zone, with discussions focusing on integrating AI-based surveillance within NFR's freight network. The system addresses operational challenges in detecting unlocked or tampered doors in moving freight stock, which pose significant safety and security risks. Traditional manual checks are time-consuming and often impractical for long-haul rakes under dynamic conditions.

The DRISHTI system autonomously detects and alerts for anomalies in door locking mechanisms during transit, using advanced computer vision and machine learning algorithms. It provides real-time status



updates on door locks, detects abnormal events or tampering and issues automated data-driven alerts without affecting normal train operations. The system integrates AI-powered cameras and sensors mounted at strategic points to capture and analyse door positions and locking conditions in real time.

IIT Guwahati demonstrated the prototype, which has been under successful trial for approximately ten months on selected wagons. Preliminary results have shown encouraging accuracy levels, validating the potential of this indigenous innovation. Further refinements and scalability plans are underway for wider application across the NFR network, aiming to enhance freight security, rolling stock safety and operational reliability.

Guv administers oath to new APSC chairperson

DIPHU, Nov 6: Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya administered the oath of office to Prabhathi Thaoson as Chairperson of the Assam Public Service Commission at a programme held in the Conference Hall of the Brahmputra Wing, Raj Bhawan. The ceremony began after Chief Secretary Dr Ravi Kota sought the Governor's permission to start the proceedings. Minister of Education Dr Ranaj Pegu, Additional Chief Secretaries Ajay Tewari and B Kalyan Charavarthi, APSC members, senior government officers and officials including Commissioner and Secretary S S Meenakshi Sundaram and GAD Secretary M S Manivannan were present.

Kabya and Chiranjita earn black belts in karate

MORIGAON, Nov 6: Kabya Kasturi Saikia and Chiranjita Bora brought laurels to Morigaon by earning their black belts after successfully passing the examination held at Kapahera Stadium on Thursday. The duo has been training in karate under the guidance of Ganesh Prasad Rai at the Jagibhakatgaon Karate Academy.

Kabya Kasturi Saikia also participated in the advanced technical seminar conducted by the International Japan Karate-Do Association, India. She is the daughter of multilingual poet Rajumoni Saikia, while Chiranjita Bora is the daughter of Mintu Bora.

Youth goes missing in Karbi Anglong, search on

HOWRAGHAT, Nov 6: A 35-year-old man, Barula Mech of Parokhuwa Mechpara village in Karbi Anglong went missing on Thursday from his sister's home in Kathiatuli Sariali Kachari village.

According to his family, he had visited his sister on Wednesday for better medical care. On Thursday morning, around 6 AM, he went out on a bicycle and has not been seen since, while the search continues.

He was wearing black pants and a half-sleeve T-shirt. His brother Bubul Mech, appealed to anyone who sees him to contact the local police station or call 9101903441.

Zonal career exhibition to guide youth

DIPHU, Nov 6: The Office of the Deputy Director of Employment, Hills Zone, Diphu under the Directorate of Employment & Craftsmen Training, Assam is organising a Zonal Exhibition of Career Courses on November 7 from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the ITI Campus, Diphu.

The exhibition aims to create awareness and guide youth in choosing suitable ca-

reer paths by showcasing various skill development and educational opportunities. Around 20 reputed institutions will participate with nearly 600 students and guardians expected to attend.

Village awareness camp at UBI Jagibhakatgaon

JAGIROAD, Nov 6: A village awareness camp was organised on Wednesday at the Union Bank of India, Jagibhakatgaon branch. The session was attended by Rajendra Kumar Pati AGM, Sanjay Kumar Chaudhary Chief Manager, Ajay Kumar Sahoo Regional Vigilance Officer, Guwahati, Arabinda Kar RABD/SHG Incharge, Guwahati, Gobinda Dey Branch Manager and Tommi Goyari Block Project Manager, Mayong.

The bank officials highlighted various financial frauds prevailing in banks and other institutions, urging everyone to stay vigilant and safeguard their hard-earned assets.

JNV students injured in alleged fracas

MORIGAON, Nov 6: Several Class VII students of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) reportedly sustained injuries after refusing demands made by senior students of Classes X and XI. According to reports, the junior students were allegedly asked to kneel, which led to a fracas and caused serious concern among their guardians.

It is alleged that the senior students forced the juniors to perform laborious tasks and subjected them to physical abuse, including slapping and beating with sticks. Altogether, 11 students protested against the mistreatment and immediately informed the school principal.

The victims also lodged a formal complaint at the Morigaon Police Station. Police conducted a health check-up of the injured students and have initiated an inquiry into the incident.

Sources claim that similar incidents had occurred earlier at the central government institution, raising concerns about the apathy of the school authorities in preventing such harassment.

Assam Bhojpuri Parishad demands train halt

BOKAJAN, Nov 6: The Assam Bhojpuri Parishad, Karbi Anglong District Committee, has urged the NF Railway to resume stoppages of Awadh Assam Express and Kamrup Express at Bokajan. The Parishad submitted a petition citing the station's strategic and socio-economic importance, noting that several train stoppages were discontinued after the COVID-19 pandemic.

New military station inaugurated in Dhubri

DHUBRI, Nov 6: In a significant development aimed at bolstering peace and security, the Lachit Borphukan Military Station was formally inaugurated on Thursday in Bamunigaon, Dhubri district. The new station, covering an area of 196 Bighas of land situated in Sapotgram under Bilasipara Revenue Circle, is expected to play a crucial role in maintaining stability across the region.

The military station was inaugurated by Lieutenant General R C Tiwari, PVSM, UYSM, AVM, SM, GOC-in-C Eastern Command, who highlighted the importance of the establishment for strategic preparedness. He was joined by several key civil and military dignitaries, underscoring the spirit of cooperation between the two sectors.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by the presence of Lt Gen Gambhir Singh, AVSM, YSM GOC Gajraj Corps, Vivek Raj Singh, IGPAP, Dibakar Nath, IAS, DC Dhubri and Debashish Borah, APS, SSP Dhubri. The presence of both top military brass and senior civil administration officials was cited as a powerful testament to the strong civil-military bond and cooperation existing in the area.

The establishment of the Lachit Borphukan Military Station is seen as a major boost for the security infrastructure in the lower Assam re-



gion. Officials at the event emphasised that the station will "go a long way in ensuring peace and security in the region".

The station is named after Lachit Borphukan, the legendary 17th-century Ahom General who is celebrated for his valiant leadership in the Battle of Saraighat against the Mughals. Naming the station after this revered local hero links the modern military presence to the rich history and martial spirit of Assam.

The strategic location and operational capability of the new military base are anticipated to significantly enhance the capacity for effective area domination and prompt response to any security challenges.

The cooperation from the local administration, led by Dhubri DC Dibakar Nath, was instrumental in the smooth process of establishing the base, reinforcing the message of collective responsibility for regional development and security.

Forest officials nab timber thief near Indo-Bhutan border

GOSSAIGAON, Nov 6: In a decisive move against illegal logging, the Sanfan Forest Range achieved a major breakthrough by apprehending a timber thief during a four-day intensified anti-smuggling drive in the Singinala Block area near the Indo-Bhutan border.

According to official sources, forest personnel caught one Rindao Basumaty red-handed while attempting to steal sal timber from the protected forest zone of Raimona National Park, specifically from the 10 Long Line area close to the Bhutan frontier.

Acting on a tip-off, a team led by Biswajit Basumaty of the Sanfan Range launched a joint operation and successfully intercepted the accused before he could flee with the illegally felled logs. The accused has been arrested and sent to jail following due legal formalities.

Sardar Patel Jayanti with Sardar@150 Padyatra

KOKRAJHAR, Nov 6: On the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the District Administration Kokrajhar, in collaboration with Mera Yuva Bharat Kokrajhar, organised a Padyatra under the theme Sardar@150 Unity March. The march commenced from Children Park, Kokrajhar and covered the route from R N B Civil Hospital to Kokrajhar HS & MP School Playground. The event aimed to promote national unity, integrity and security while encouraging citizens to take pride in their nation and culture.

Urkhao Gwara Brahma, Minister of Handloom and Textiles, graced the occasion as Chief Guest and paid floral tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, highlighting his life and contributions. Other dignitaries present included Lawrence Islayr MLA of 30-Kokrajhar East LAC, Masanda M Pertain District Commissioner, Numal Mahatta SP, Kokrajhar and Subhram Aditya Bora ADC Kokrajhar. A plantation drive themed 'Ek Ped Maa ke Naam' was organised as part of the programme. Participants also took the Nasha Mukta Bharat and Atmanirbhar Bharat pledges, reaffirming their commitment to a healthier and self-reliant nation.

The programme featured cultural and awareness activities including a Bagurumba dance, a street play on Swachh Bharat, a patriotic group song, and a tuberculosis awareness session by Dr Vivek Pandey at R N B Civil Hospital. Over 650 participants from across the district took part in the Padyatra.

Officials stated that the operation underscores their firm stance against forest crimes and assured that stringent action will continue against timber smugglers, particularly in sensitive trans-border regions.

Raimona National Park, known for its lush sal forests and rich biodiversity has long been under threat from timber poaching activities. The successful crackdown, officials said, sends a clear warning to offenders who attempt to plunder the park's ecological wealth.

Forest authorities further reiterated their commitment to strengthening surveillance, intelligence-based operations and community cooperation to curb illegal forest activities. Local residents and conservation groups have lauded the forest department's swift response, expressing hope that continued vigilance will help preserve the park's unique environmental heritage.

HT Correspondent

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Jorhat to celebrate 150 years of Vande Mataram

JORHAT, Nov 6: As part of nationwide celebrations marking 150 years of Bankim Chandra Chatterjee's patriotic song Vande Mataram, the full version of the song will be sung in public places in Jorhat at around 9.50 AM. Assam MP Rameswar Teli announced that the song will also feature in official meetings, school and college programs and other government events throughout the year-long celebrations starting November 7.

Teli highlighted the historical significance of Vande Mataram, composed in 1875 in Chatterjee's novel Anandamath and recited by Rabindranath Tagore in 1896. The song became a symbol of nationalism and unity during the freedom struggle, adopted by leaders like Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Lala Lajpat Rai, Bhagat Singh and Subhas Chandra Bose. Dr Rajendra Prasad granted it the status of national song in 1950. Teli also recalled historical controversies over the song's inclusion in Congress sessions, reflecting its complex legacy in India's political and cultural history.

Wangala festival unites Garos across Assam in grand cultural celebration

3rd All Assam Garo Wangala and 29th Karbi Anglong Wangala festivals jointly celebrate Garo unity, culture and heritage

HT Correspondent

DONGKAMUKAM, Nov 6: The 3rd All Assam Garo Wangala Festival, organised by the All Assam Garo Cultural Society (AAGCS) and the 29th Wangala Festival by the Karbi Anglong A'chik Cultural Society (KAACS) began on November 5 evening at Tinglijan Garo village near Bokajan, Karbi Anglong. The joint celebration aims to unite all Garos of Assam and showcase their rich culture and heritage. The three-day cultural extravaganza was formally inaugurated by Bokajan MLA and Deputy Speaker of the Assam Legislative Assembly, Dr Numal Momin.

Following the inauguration, a prayer was conducted by Rev Jodish G Momin and traditional rituals were performed by Barnath Sangma. The festival, which started on November 5, will conclude on November 7. Eight cultural troupes from Goalpara district, two from Hojai and twenty-two from both Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong districts are participating in the festival's cultural competition.

In his inaugural address, Dr



Momin thanked the organisers AAGCS and KAACS for their initiative in uniting the Garos from various districts on one platform. He said, "It is through their initiative and endeavour in uniting the Assam Garos that this

joint celebration has been possible. If we stand united in all forms, then nothing can ruin us." Dr Momin further mentioned that the Wangala Festival was earlier celebrated separately by different Garo cultural societies in differ-

ent regions. However, after the Assam Cabinet approved the Wangala Festival as a state-restricted holiday last year, it is now being jointly celebrated by AAGCS and KAACS. He expressed gratitude to Chief Minister

Dr Himanta Biswa Sharma for approving November 7 as a restricted holiday in Assam to enable the Garo community to celebrate the Wangala Festival. The inaugural programme was graced by several dignitaries, in-

cluding Chief Conservator of Forest, Tura, C P Marak, Garo Students Union (GSU), Assam State Zone Babloo Sangma, Garo Development Council (GDC) Chairman Arbitson G Momin, former Executive Member, RHAC, Frylin Marak, GSU Chief Organising Secretary Godwin Sangma, AAGCS president Niharson Sangma, KAACS president Sajendra Sangma and reception committee president Pratap Sangma, along with secretary Dipen Sangma.

On the second day, Dr Momin inaugurated the cultural competition at 9 AM, which featured various traditional and modern cultural performances. Competitions included Garo traditional drum beating, Adil sika (blowing of buffalo horn), Matgrik thokra (warrior dance), Wangala dance, traditional games and sports, poem recitation and other modern events.

The concluding day of the festival will be graced by CM Himanta Biswa Sharma as the chief guest, along with Education Minister Dr Ranaj Pegu, marking the grand finale of the celebration of Garo culture, unity and identity.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.
—John C. Maxwell

Trump's instruction to Pentagon

On October 29, U.S. President Donald Trump instructed the Department of War [the Pentagon] to start testing our nuclear weapons on an equal basis. That process will begin immediately. This statement is not only disturbing but also extremely dangerous. The last explosive nuclear weapon test carried out by the United States was back in 1992. Other than North Korea, no country has tested nuclear weapons since the late 1990s. At a time when large parts of the world are already engulfed in direct or proxy wars—and when many regions face devastating civil conflicts leading to mass killings, starvation, and human suffering—such an order threatens to push the world into a new era of darkness. It would further intensify the already dangerous global arms race. Countries already possessing nuclear weapons will likely expand and modernize their arsenals even more rapidly. Moreover, nations with the technical capability to develop nuclear weapons may also feel compelled to join the race. Russian President Vladimir Putin has warned that if the United States does not withdraw this directive, Russia will respond accordingly. All the nuclear powers have been developing and testing improved delivery systems, most recently by Russia of its underwater 'Poseidon' nuclear drone and of the 'Burevestnik' nuclear powered nuclear-armed cruise missile. The Chinese Foreign Minister has appealed to the U.S. not to break the moratorium on nuclear testing.

Iran, which has long been a target of U.S. accusations regarding nuclear weapons development, has strongly condemned the move. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi described President Trump's decision as both "regressive" and "irresponsible," calling the U.S. leader a "nuclear-armed bully." Iran's President says Tehran will rebuild its nuclear facilities. In June, the U.S. launched strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities that Washington says were part of a program geared towards developing nuclear weapons. The U.S.-led attack on Iraq was justified on the false claim that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction. Though Saddam Hussein's regime was swiftly overthrown, the invasion plunged the region into prolonged instability, violence, and chaos. A similar pattern was witnessed on June 22, 2025, when the U.S. Air Force and Navy attacked three nuclear facilities in Iran under "Operation Midnight Hammer," as part of the Iran-Israel conflict. Iran rejected the allegations and condemned the attack in strong terms.

Modern nuclear weapons are vastly more powerful than those dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Scientific research has shown that any large-scale nuclear exchange among major powers would destroy the very foundations of modern civilization — an outcome built upon thousands of years of human progress. Even a limited nuclear exchange between India and Pakistan could endanger more than two billion lives. The evidence is clear: nuclear weapons pose an existential threat to humanity and must be abolished.

POST BAG

Request to Reopen Entry Gate for SBI Customers at Gauhati University

Dear Editor,

I would like to draw the attention of the concerned authorities towards an inconvenience faced by the public visiting the State Bank of India (SBI) branch located inside the Gauhati University campus.

Earlier, people coming from the Azara side were allowed to enter the University premises through the gate on the Azara-Jalukbari route to visit the SBI branch. However, recently, this entry has been stopped. As informed by the security personnel, customers having work at the SBI branch are now required to enter only through the Maligaon-Jalukbari side gate.

This new restriction has caused significant hardship, especially to those residing or commuting from the Azara side. Due to frequent traffic congestion on the alternative route, it now takes much longer for customers to reach the bank. This not only wastes time but also causes disruption to essential banking activities.

Therefore, I kindly request the Gauhati University authorities to reconsider this decision and allow entry for SBI customers through the Azara-Jalukbari gate as before. Otherwise, many account holders may be compelled to transfer their accounts to other branches for convenience.

I hope the authorities will take necessary steps at the earliest in the interest of the public.

Dr Bujit Buragohain
Azara, Guwahati – 781 017

The Changing Trends of the Global Economy

At the present time, the global economy is undergoing a profound and extensive transformation, which is reshaping the economic structures and systems of the past in new ways. This change is not an instantaneous event, but rather a complex process that has gradually evolved as a result of numerous long-term forces. The initial waves of globalization that laid the foundation for international relations and trade are now facing new challenges and opportunities. Instead of the concentrated and limited economic powers of the past, the rise of new economic powers in various parts of the world has redefined the distribution of global wealth and influence. This evolving landscape has not only altered the patterns of production, trade, and investment, but has also profoundly impacted national policy-making, social structures, and the lives of every individual. It is highly essential to deeply analyze the main driving forces of this transformation, as the future stability and prosperity of the world economy depend on it. These new trends in the economy have challenged many old concepts and stabilities, forcing every nation to re-examine its own economic strategies. Discussing in detail the complexities, interconnections, and far-reaching consequences of this new global economic system is now the call of the time.

At the center of this change lies the unprecedented development of technology. The rapid expansion of information and communication technology has not only eliminated the barriers of distance, but has also fundamentally changed the methods of production, market dynamics, and the very concept of employment. The rise of the digital economy has opened the path to a new type of value creation, where information has become the most valuable asset. Technologies such as artificial intelligence, big data analysis, and automation have increased the efficiency and productivity of industries in unimaginable ways, but at the same time, they have created significant uncertainty in the field of employment. As many new job opportunities are being created, an equal number of traditional jobs are becoming obsolete. This technological transformation has given a new dimension to economic growth, but for its benefits to reach all levels of society, there is a need for coordinated policies at national and international levels. Extensive reforms in education and skills are essential to keep pace with this rapid technological advancement. This digital divide also has the potential to increase economic inequality between rich and poor nations as well as between different classes within the same society, preventing which is a major challenge.

On the other hand, there has been a significant change in the trend of globalization as well. Previously, globalization meant the free flow of goods, capital, and labor. But in the current time, issues of national interest and security have regained importance. Multinational supply chains are under review, and many nations have become more interested in producing their critical goods domestically. The COVID pandemic and political conflicts have exposed the vulnerabilities of these supply chains, resulting in a new kind of doubt and uncertainty in the path of global trade. Instead of economic interdependence, the concept of self-reliance is gaining more traction now. As a result, both the size and pace of global trade have been affected. Many nations have increased the use of import duties and other barriers to protect their domestic sectors from external influences, which has reduced the influence of international organizations like the World Trade Organization. This protectionist attitude has created new challenges in the field of global economic cooperation and coordination. The current trend of globalization is much more fragmented and influenced by politics than before.

Inflation and the policies of central banks are also an important part of the changing trends of the global economy. In a world economy that had been operating in a low-inflation environment for a long time, inflation rates have suddenly increased after the COVID pandemic and due to several political reasons. As a result, many central banks around the world have been forced to tighten their monetary policies. This effort to control inflation by raising interest rates has had a negative impact on economic growth. This situation has become particularly difficult for developing and less developed nations, as high interest rates have increased their debt burden and reduced the flow of foreign capital. As a result of these strict policies of central banks, the fear of recession in the world has also increased. The strategies that old economic



models provided for controlling inflation seem less effective now due to supply chain problems, geopolitical tensions, and instability in the energy market. Economists are now facing a complex dual problem: to control inflation, economic growth often has to be compromised, and if emphasis is placed on growth, there is a possibility of prices going out of control. This uncertain financial environment has directly affected investment and consumers' purchasing power, as a result of which the economic stability of the entire world is facing a major challenge. For central banks, maintaining a precise balance in monetary policy has now become an extremely difficult task, and their decisions have become crucial for the global economic trajectory.

The context of energy sources and climate change is also an indispensable topic in the current global economy.

Nations around the world are now compelled to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and emphasize renewable energy sources. The severity of climate change has inspired the global economy to move towards a sustainable and environment-conscious path. This green transition has brought about a massive transformation in the world's industries and investment sectors. The development of solar power, wind power, and other clean energies has given birth to a new energy economy, where environmental responsibility has become a new measure of economic success. But the path to this transition is not easy. Transitioning to renewable energy requires large amounts of investment, advanced technology, and infrastructure. Especially for developing nations, which still rely heavily on fossil fuels for rapid growth, this change is a major challenge. There are disagreements and disputes between the world's rich nations and developing nations regarding the distribution of costs and responsibilities of this energy transition. In the current economic trend, establishing a new coordination between environment and economy has become essential, which can ensure the long-term welfare of human society. The concepts of green investment and sustainable development have occupied a central place in economic policy-making.

The increase in social inequality is also a profound problem in the global economy. Globalization and technological development have made some classes of people unimaginably prosperous, but at the same time, many people have been deprived of economic benefits. The gap between rich and poor has increased not only at the national level but also at the international level. Especially within developed nations, the standard of living of the middle class has declined, which has created dissatisfaction and political instability in society. The rapid change in technology has reduced employment opportunities for low-skilled workers, resulting in significant instability in the labor market. This inequality is a major challenge for the world's economic stability not only from a moral perspective but also from an economic perspective. High inequality reduces overall demand and creates obstacles to the sustainability of economic growth. In this situation, the world economy needs a system where the benefits of prosperity can be equally enjoyed by people at all levels of society. This inequality can be reduced through extensive reforms in tax policy, social security schemes, and education systems, which has become a key topic of discussion in the current global economy. Eliminating this social and economic inequality is essential for building a sustainable and human-centered economy.

Geopolitical tensions and their economic impacts are also a decisive aspect of the current global economy. Increasing political conflicts, trade wars, and diplomatic stalemates between various nations have hindered global economic cooperation. As a result of increased distrust and rivalry between nations, the trajectory of global investment and trade has changed. Many nations have started using the economy as a political tool, as a result of which economic decisions are influenced not only by profit and loss but also by political interests. Especially in strategically important industries such as semiconductors or advanced technology, national intervention has increased, which is challenging the concept of free markets. This geopolitical instability has created significant uncertainty among investors and businessmen, resulting in obstacles to long-term investment. International organizations, which previously laid the foundation for global economic cooperation, are now struggling to maintain their influence. Due to the decrease in coordination and cooperation between various nations, solving the world's economic problems has become difficult. This situation has also given rise to the fear of a new Cold War-like economic division, where the world economy may be divided into the orbits of different political powers. This division will reduce the previous benefits of globalization and increase costs for all nations. In this complex geopolitical environment, nations have to adopt a complex strategy to maintain their own economic security and stability.

The growing debt burden in the global economy is another worrying aspect. Both in developed and developing nations, the amount of government and private debt has increased unimaginably. During the COVID pandemic, governments took extensive loans to stabilize the economy, as a result of which fiscal stability is facing a major challenge. High interest rates in the world's financial markets have made this debt burden even more difficult. Many nations with weak economies are now on the verge of falling into a debt crisis. This debt burden has limited the ability of nations to allocate funds for future investments and social schemes. This debt problem is not confined within one nation, but is a major threat to international financial stability. If a major economy fails to repay its debt, its impact will fall on the entire world's financial system. International institutions like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have an important role in solving this problem, but the effectiveness and influence of these institutions are now facing challenges. Sustainable debt management and fiscal discipline have become essential for the stability of the current global economy. Governments need to adopt a responsible and visionary fiscal policy to ensure the long-term stability of their economies. This financial instability has created doubt among investors, which has the potential to further slow down global economic growth.

The rise of new economic powers in the global economy is a notable event. Previously, the influence of the world economy was limited to only a few developed Western nations, but now developing nations in Asia, Latin America, and Africa are playing an important role in global economic growth. These emerging economies control a large part of the world's production and demand. Their rapid growth and increased purchasing power have changed the trajectory of global markets. The increased influence of these nations has called for changing the power structure of international organizations. The need to give these new powers an appropriate place in the current international economic system is being felt.

These nations are demanding more independence and sovereignty in determining their own economic policies. This change indicates the shift of the center of the world economy from the West to the East and South. But these emerging economies also have their own challenges, such as lack of infrastructure, social inequality, and political instability. Nevertheless, their long-term growth potential will play a key role in determining the future trajectory of the global economy. If cooperation among these new powers increases, a new opportunity can be created for the world's economic stability, but at the same time, increased competition among them can also create obstacles in the path of global economic cooperation. In this new global economic structure, the concept of multipolarity has gained more importance.

The role and volatility of financial markets in the current changing global economy is also a topic that needs to be deeply analyzed. The rapid development of technology has changed the methods and pace of financial transactions. The rise of digital currencies, financial strategies driven by artificial intelligence, and high-speed trading has made financial markets more complex and swift. As a result, the interconnection between the world's various financial centers has increased, which at the same time has increased the risk of transmission of financial crises. If there is major instability in the financial market of one region, its impact falls on the entire world's financial system in a very short time. As a result of this complexity, the work of financial regulators has become even more difficult. They have to improve regulatory systems in line with the pace of new technologies to maintain financial stability. The rise of digital currencies has challenged national currency systems and the monetary policies of central banks. For this reason, many central banks are now considering introducing their own digital currencies. This financial transformation has deeply affected the flow of global capital, investment patterns, and debt systems. Investors now have access to faster and international transactions, but at the same time, they are facing unexpected market volatility. In this situation, improving international financial cooperation and information exchange is essential, so that proper warnings can be obtained before any kind of financial crisis and it can be controlled.

The importance of infrastructure investment is also increasing in the changing global economy. Advanced and sustainable infrastructure is the main foundation of any economy. After the COVID pandemic and due to supply chain problems, nations are emphasizing infrastructure investment to increase the resilience of their economies. Not only traditional infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and ports, but also digital infrastructure such as high-speed internet and data centers are being emphasized. This infrastructure investment directly stimulates economic growth as well as increases employment opportunities. Various nations around the world are also interested in cooperating in international infrastructure projects. This cooperation can make the world's supply chains more efficient and secure. But these large infrastructure projects require huge amounts of financial resources, which is a major challenge for developing nations. In this field, an effective partnership between private investors and national governments is needed. It is also important that infrastructure development is sustainable and environment-conscious, so that its benefits can be obtained in the long term. Without infrastructure development, no nation can succeed in this new trend of the global economy.

In conclusion, these changing trends of the global economy have created a complex and multi-layered environment for national and international policy-makers. To address the challenges in this transformation and to properly utilize the opportunities, a visionary, coordinated, and flexible approach is needed. Issues such as technological development, climate transition, geopolitical tensions, and financial instability need to be solved collectively. It is essential to adopt a cooperative attitude for the well-being of all nations in the world, not just focusing on one's own national interests. The future of the global economy is now at such a transitional juncture, where old policies and concepts need to be reshaped anew. To build a sustainable, equitable, and stable global economy, the nations of the world need to work together. This transformation is not only economic, but also a holistic change from political, social, and environmental perspectives. Through the right strategies and mindfulness, this change can open the door to a more prosperous future for human society.

The New Empire of Inequality: When the Rich Rule and the Poor Revolt

By: Lalit Garg

Recent studies on the global economy—especially the G-20 panel report—have once again made it evident that inequality in the distribution of wealth and resources has reached its peak. According to the report, nearly 63 percent of the world's newly generated wealth is now held by just one percent of the richest population, while the bottom 50 percent share only one percent. This inequality is not merely economic—it is a sign of a moral, social, and humanitarian crisis. It also poses a serious obstacle to building an ideal global order. This is a tragic, rebellious, and paradoxical situation in which, on one hand, millions of people are taking to the streets for basic necessities, while on the other, the tales of luxury and extravagance among the wealthy continue to grow. Since the onset of liberalization and globalization, economic inequality has shown no sign of slowing down, giving rise to growing voices of rebellion and revolution across the world.

Between 2000 and 2024, the global economy witnessed unprecedented growth—technological advancement, increased production, and expansion of markets under globalization. Yet, the fruits of this progress were not shared equally. The rich become richer, and the poor poorer. In the year 2000, the top one percent of the global

population owned 45 percent of total wealth; by 2024, this figure had climbed to over 63 percent. During the same period, the wealth share of more than half the world's population fell to just one percent. These numbers are not just statistics—they are signals of humanity's direction, revealing that in the name of progress, we are constructing an empire of imbalance. This imbalance is now breeding rebellion, violence, and alienation. According to the G-20 panel's findings, global inequality has reached alarming levels—and India is no exception. Within just two decades, the richest one percent in India have increased their wealth by 62 percent. In this world's fourth-largest economy, the rich continue to amass wealth, while the poor struggle in the pits of deprivation and despair.

The Oxfam India report reveals that the top ten percent of Indians hold 77 percent of the nation's total wealth, while the bottom 60 percent share only 4.7 percent. Over the past decade, the number of billionaires has doubled, but the incomes of workers, farmers, and the middle class have either stagnated or declined. On one side, metropolitan skylines glitter with skyscrapers, luxury, and overconsumption; on the other, villages and slums fight for bread and medicine. This stark contrast has become the biggest question mark on our development journey. Undoubtedly, the recent panel report should inspire

policymakers to bridge this widening gap and discover new ways to restore balance. Just last week, the Kerala government claimed to have eradicated extreme poverty from the state—though some experts remain skeptical. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resolve to build a "poverty-free India" is progressing with remarkable success; nearly 250 million people have reportedly been lifted out of poverty. Earlier this year, the World Bank confirmed that between 2011–12 and 2022–23, India succeeded in pulling 170 million people out of the clutches of poverty. The benefits of the Modi government's people-centered development and community participation cannot be denied. These initiatives have helped millions of the poorest families access food, healthcare, and livelihood opportunities. Yet, economic inequality in India remains not only a financial concern but also the root of discontent and violence. When a hardworking person does not receive fair compensation, when opportunities and respect are not distributed equitably, frustration and rebellion inevitably arise. The renowned economist Thomas Piketty has rightly said, "When the rate of return on capital exceeds the rate of economic growth, inequality increases, and democracy itself is endangered." This is precisely what we are witnessing today. Economic imbalance is leading to social imbalance—creating an atmosphere of distrust, re-

sentment, and hostility. The COVID-19 pandemic deepened this inequality even further. While millions lost jobs and livelihoods, a handful of corporations and industrialists multiplied their fortunes. The crisis itself became an opportunity for a select few. Wars, energy crises, and inflation have made the situation of poor nations even more fragile. Meanwhile, multinational corporations from rich countries profited immensely from these crises, while developing nations saw declines in food security, education, and healthcare. We have reduced the meaning of development to mere GDP growth, stripping it of its moral and human dimensions. Values like equality, empathy, and environmental justice have vanished from the definition of progress. Rich nations exploit the resources of poorer ones, while the labor of the poor becomes the foundation of global production. This is a new form of economic colonialism—where capital, not governments, rules the world.

However, poverty eradication cannot be captured merely through numbers. Real transformation must be visible on the ground—in improved quality of life and human dignity. Though most economists oppose wealth taxation, governments must ensure that the ultra-rich contribute their fair share to public welfare. Whether rich or poor, everyone's focus must be directed toward inclusive development. Only then can the

nation achieve productivity and make meaningful progress toward eliminating poverty. Such an approach will help realize the dream of a New India—a Developed India.

The only path to overcoming the imbalance between wealth and poverty lies in just redistribution of resources, equal opportunity, and socially oriented policies. Tax systems must ensure that the rich contribute more so that the poor may gain access to education, healthcare, and a better standard of living. True equality of opportunity will come only when education and healthcare are universally accessible. Democracy requires transparency and accountability, so that policies are framed for citizens, not merely for capital. Yet real change will come not just from policy, but from vision. As Swami Vivekananda said, "The poor are not sinners; they are living gods. Service to them is service to God." Another truth must be recognized: when a few possess everything, the rest are left with nothing. Therefore, governments must rise above vote-bank politics and take sincere steps toward equality and balance. Moreover, the rapidly increasing practice of distributing freebies before elections must be curbed. The reality is that no facility is ever truly free. Such populist measures only widen fiscal deficits, forcing citizens to pay the price through halted or delayed development programs.

THE LAST CUSTODIANS OF THE NAGA SOUL

By: Dr Aniruddha Babar

There was a time when the Naga village itself was a living university. Every elder was a philosopher, every hearth a classroom, and every story carried the sacred flame of wisdom. Knowledge was not written on paper but inscribed in conduct, song, and sacrifice. The Naga soul once walked with dignity, guided by those who understood that teaching was a sacred calling. Yet today, the same land that gave birth to wisdom trembles under the noise of confusion. The hills have grown heavy with silence, and the once fearless mind of the Nagas has begun to doubt its own light. The roots that once held our people together—truth, justice, and community are withering. At such a time, only one force can breathe life into them again: the teachers and the academicians.

A society dies not when its economy collapses but when its teachers lose their courage. No civilisation has ever perished through poverty alone; it perishes first through the decay of its classrooms and the corrosion of its conscience. The fall of a teacher's spirit is the fall of an entire people, just as the rise of one teacher's conscience can redeem generations. Teachers are not merely workers of the system; they are the keepers of civilisation's fire. When structures begin to crumble, when leaders forget to lead, and when faith turns into fear, it is the teacher who must stand upright and unafraid.

Today, Naga society suffers not only from political or economic challenges but from a deeper crisis of wisdom. Our children are trained to pass examinations but not to pass the tests of conscience. They can recite the lessons of others but are rarely invited to question their own. They grow in body but not always in soul. This emptiness, this quiet erosion of moral imagination, is where the teacher must intervene, not as a mere instructor, but as a guide, a conscience, and a prophet of truth.

If politicians divide, teachers must unite. If hatred spreads, academicians must educate. If fear silences the young, professors must awaken them. The classroom can no longer remain a quiet corner of the world; it must become a living arena of ideas where ignorance gives way to reason, prejudice yields to understanding, and dignity is restored by courage. This is where the sacred principle of academic freedom becomes the heartbeat of our collective survival. The freedom to seek truth, to



teach without fear, and to question without punishment is not a luxury; it is the foundation of every just and humane society. Without it, the mind decays, and with it, the moral spirit of humanity fades.

And here arises a question that pierces the conscience: how can anyone take away the right of a teacher to speak the truth, to teach the truth, to show the truth, and to propagate the truth? Can the sun be forbidden to shine? Can a river be stopped from flowing to the sea? Can the wind be silenced before it reaches the valley? Truth is not owned by any power; it flows from the divine to the human through those who dare to seek it. The teacher is that chosen vessel through whom truth finds its voice. To silence a teacher is to silence creation itself; to cage the voice of learning is to chain the very spirit of progress. The right to speak, to teach, and to share the truth is not granted by any authority, it is a moral duty bestowed by conscience and by God. No earthly force should strip away what heaven has given. Teachers must therefore hold fast to this sacred right, for it is the right that gives

birth to every other right that humanity cherishes.

When a teacher speaks the truth, he does not merely inform; he transforms. His words are not lessons but awakenings. His silence is not obedience but the waiting of thunder before the rain. The moral strength of a people can be measured by how fearlessly its teachers speak and how sincerely its people listen.

The college, therefore, is not merely a building of walls and timetables; it is the temple of knowledge, the sacred space where human minds meet the divine light of truth. Its sanctity must be defended with the same devotion with which believers guard their altars. When the college falls into silence, society loses its voice. When the teacher bows before power, truth loses its dignity. Teachers and academicians are the priests of this temple; their lessons are sermons, their inquiry a sacred ritual, and their faith a faith in reason and human goodness. To compromise the sanctity of this temple is to betray the soul of the future.

The teacher is sovereign in the realm of conscience. God has entrusted this

being with the sacred mission of touching the raw clay of human potential and shaping it into the man and woman of tomorrow. No throne, no army, and no power holds greater sway than a teacher who can change the course of a child's mind. Kings may rule by command, leaders by persuasion, but teachers rule by light. A single word from a teacher can awaken courage in the timid, conscience in the corrupt, and purpose in the lost. This sovereignty does not come from position or rank but from divine trust. When a teacher enters a classroom, heaven itself watches closely, for in this where creation continues, not through miracles, but through patient, persistent learning.

A teacher who teaches with conviction redeems the world around him. A professor who refuses to be silenced becomes an instrument of renewal. And a college that preserves truth in a time of deception becomes a fortress of freedom. The destiny of the Nagas does not rest in the hands of those who hold power but in the hands of those who enlighten. Wealth may be stolen, but wisdom cannot. Authority may wound the body, but it cannot

imprison a liberated mind. The true revolutions of civilisation are quiet; they take place in classrooms, in the intimacy of conversation, and in the silent courage of those who teach what is right even when it is not popular.

In the land of the Nagas, and across India, we need teachers who will stand unshaken when the winds of doubt blow, who will choose truth over comfort and courage over conformity. We need teachers who defend the sanctity of the classroom as steadfastly as any society defends its borders. We need educators who remind every child that knowledge is not for submission but for liberation, who will not merely teach facts but awaken souls, who will carry the torch of truth so high that ignorance cannot hide beneath its light. When the teachers of the Nagas rise with faith and conviction, the moral spine of the entire nation will stand upright once again.

This is the hour for teachers to rise, not merely as employees, but as healers. To speak when silence is rewarded, to love when hatred is convenient, and to teach when teaching itself becomes an act of courage. When a teacher in Nok-

lak, Mon, Ukhrul, Lahe (NSAZ), Longding, Senapati, Changlang, Tuensang, Kiphire, Dima-Hasao, Phek, Tirap, or Mokochung tells a child that truth is stronger than fear, that peace has more power than anger, and that knowledge is holier than hatred, that teacher becomes the saviour of the Naga soul. If the church sustains the spirit of the people, then the college must serve as its conscience, and the classroom as an altar where the sacred light of knowledge must never be extinguished.

Naga society, and the nation that holds it within its larger fabric, must understand this: teachers are not born to serve power but to serve truth. The day we honour our teachers as we honour those who give their lives for others, the healing of our people will begin. It is through their chalk-stained hands and tireless patience that the future is written. The fall of a teacher's dignity is the fall of a people's soul.

Let there be resistance to apathy and indifference, for history is cruel to the unfeeling and kind to the brave. The Naga society does not need more voices of authority; it needs more teachers to think and more citizens to listen. It does not need more slogans; it needs more classrooms where young minds are taught to dream, to doubt, and to discern. The teacher shapes not only individuals but destinies. The academicians writes not merely for journals but for the conscience of a people. The teacher is not a servant of transient power; the teacher is the guardian of the collective soul, the invisible hand that moulds civilisation itself.

And when the history of the Nagas is finally rewritten, when unity rises above division, when reason triumphs over fear, when compassion returns to classrooms, and when truth stands taller than pride, history will not remember the politician, the bureaucrat, or the soldier. It will remember the teacher: sovereign in spirit, entrusted by destiny, standing in a humble classroom guarding the sanctity of the temple of knowledge, teaching a child not merely how to read, but how to rise.

Let us build a new world—a world guided by teachers, purified by truth, and united by knowledge. Let us build a new world where the courage to think freely is celebrated, where the voice of every teacher becomes the conscience of the nation, and where the light of learning never fades again. Let us build that world together, beginning here, in the land of the Nagas.

Analysis of Bihar Vidhan Sabha election

By: Er Prabhat Kishore

All political parties are exerting their best efforts to achieve success in the 2025 Bihar Assembly elections, to be held in two phases on 6th and 11th November 2025 for 243 seats. The NDA is contesting on the ruling side, while the Grand Alliance is contesting on the opposition side. On the NDA side, JDU is contesting on 101 seats, BJP on 101, LJP on 29, HAM on 6, and RLM on 6 seats. On the Grand Alliance side, RJD is contesting on 143 seats, Congress on 60, VIP on 15, CPI (ML) on 20, CPI on 6, and CPM on 4 seats. Friendly contestations also underway in some constituencies within the Grand Alliance.

After much hesitation, the Grand Alliance has declared Tejashwi Yadav as its Chief Ministerial candidate. On the other hand, the BJP is claiming that the alliance contesting this election under the leadership of CM Nitish Kumar, but they have not formally announced that Nitishji will be the Chief Minister after the election. However, leaders of parties like JDU, HAM, and RLM are continuously propagating that "Nitishji was the Chief Minister, is the Chief Minister, and will remain the Chief Minister." Of the three major political parties in Bihar, broadly Luv-Kush (Kurmi-Koeri), extremely backward and Mahadaliare termed as core voters of Janata Dal (United), Muslim-Yadav as core voters of the Rashtriya Janata Dal, and upper castes as the core voters of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

A closer analysis of the 2015 and 2020 elections reveals that in 2015, JDU transferred major share of its core voters to its ally RJD; but RJD, in turn, did not transfer its major share of core voters to JDU. As a result, JDU won only 71 seats as against RJD's 80 seats.

This situation continued in year 2020 as well, when the JDU transferred major share of its core vote to the BJP, but the BJP's core voters betrayed JDU. Nitish fell victim to a BJP conspiracy, and to diminish his stature, the BJP's core voters openly supported the Chirag Paswan-led LJP on the seats where JDU candidates were contesting. Senior BJP officials en-



tered the electoral fray against the JDU on LJP ticket, and the entire local BJP units openly worked against the JDU. As a result, the BJP won 74 seats despite contesting fewer seats, while the JDU was reduced to just 43 seats. The LJP, relying on BJP leaders and their core voters, became the main factor for defeat of JDU on approximately 38 seats.

The 2025 electoral power struggle appears to be returning to its old patterns. Nitish has once again become victim of a conspiracy, the first example of which is that BJP succeeded in providing 29 seats to LJP instead of the 20-22 (as planned), and fielded its own candidates/office bearers on 10 seats of the LJP. In reality, the BJP is contesting not on 101 seats but 111 seats, and the LJP on only 19 seats. Nitish Kumar's stature is further diminishing in the game plan laid out by Home Minister Amit Shah, considered as the BJP's Chanakya.

While JDU maintained social balance by giving 22 tickets to BJP's core voter groups, the BJP completely neglected Nitish's core voters, giving 50 percent of the tickets to the upper castes, who constitute only 10 percent of the total population. The BJP, which secures a majority of Kurmi votes, displayed its social ill will by providing only 2-3 seats to this community, while giving 16 seats to Bhumihars, 21 to Rajputs, 11 to Brahmins, and 1 to Kayasths i.e. a total of 49 tickets to upper castes and only 10 seats to the extremely backward classes, which constitute 36 percent of the population.

BJP strategists are trying behind the scenes to weaken Nitish Kumar to such an extent that his rise becomes impossible. The liquor mafia and Prashant

The 2025 electoral power struggle appears to be returning to its old patterns. Nitish has once again become victim of a conspiracy, the first example of which is that BJP succeeded in providing 29 seats to LJP instead of the 20-22 (as planned), and fielded its own candidates/office bearers on 10 seats of the LJP

Kishore appear to be indirectly complicit in this conspiracy. If the JDU fails to devise an alternative strategy in its constituencies in the electoral battle, unlike in year 2020, while ignoring the core voters of its ally BJP, its fate is likely to be even more worse.

According to analysts, Nitish's weakening could prove fatal on two levels. If power slips from Nitish Kumar's hands to the BJP, it will severely undermine the interests of vulnerable sections of society and minorities. On the other hand, if the RJD comes to power, the lives of communities other than the Muslim-Yadav group will become difficult, and leads to a recurrence of jungle raj. In the current situation, it seems essential for the JDU to strengthen, while not only the RJD but also the BJP, to weaken. It remains to be seen how JDU become alert against the conspiracy of BJP, and how the people of Bihar use their valuable votes in the election. (The author is an educationist and engineer.)

Historic victory: Indian women's cricket team creates new World Cup history

India defeated South Africa to become world champions

By: Dr Privanka Saurabh

Today will forever be etched in golden letters in Indian sports history. The Indian women's cricket team defeated South Africa to win the 2025 Cricket World Cup. This victory is not just a trophy, but a symbol of the indomitable spirit, determination, and struggle that have, over the years, given Indian women's sports identities. This moment is one of pride, excitement, and inspiration for every Indian—because it's not just a victory on the field, but also a victory of the mind.

This glorious chapter in Indian women's cricket is the culmination of a long journey that began amid struggle, limited resources, and social barriers. There was a time when women's cricket wasn't taken seriously, with neither spectators nor sponsors. But times changed, and these girls, through their play, dedication, and talent, demonstrated to the world that the playing field isn't the exclusive domain of one gender. Today, as India wins the World Cup and reigns supreme, this victory speaks for every girl who has placed her dreams above societal constraints.

The Indian team performed brilliantly in this thrilling World Cup final. After winning the toss and batting first, India scored 298 runs in 50 overs. Shefali Verma and Smriti Mandhana opened the innings. Smriti provided a solid foundation for the team with a composed but crucial 45, while Shefali Verma played aggressively, scoring 87 runs in 78 balls. Her innings was peppered with fours and sixes. Captain Harmanpreet Kaur was dismissed early, but young batsman Richa Ghosh played a crucial 34 runs, once again providing stability to the team. In the middle order, Deepti Sharma and Sneha Rana batted with restraint, taking the team to a respectable score of around 300.

Chasing the target, South Africa got off to a brisk start in the opening overs, but the Indian bowlers soon took control. Renuka Thakur and Deepti Sharma kept the opposition batsmen at bay, bowling with precise line and length. Shafali Verma also performed brilliantly with the ball—taking two crucial wickets for just 36 runs in seven overs. Her all-round performance proved to be the backbone of India's victory. As the match progressed, the pressure on South Africa increased, and ultimately, the Indian team made history with a win. Shafali Verma was named "Player of the Match" for her stellar performance, while Deepti Sharma was awarded "Player of the Tournament" for

her outstanding performance throughout the tournament.

This victory isn't just a triumph in a sporting event, but rather a symbol of the mindset shift underway in India regarding the status and attitudes toward women. The daughters who were once told that "sports aren't for girls" are now world champions. This victory sends a message to society that, given the opportunity, Indian women are no less than men in any field. Today, these athletes aren't just playing, but paving a new path for generations to come.

This glorious performance by the Indian women's cricket team is the culmination of years of hard work. The Women's IPL (WPL) gave the players both a platform and confidence. Players from smaller towns and cities, such as Pratika Rawal, Harleen Deol, Jemimah Rodrigues, Sneha Rana, Radha



Yadav, and Renuka Thakur, have demonstrated that talent knows no boundaries. These players have written a new story of inspiration not only on the field but in every home across the country.

The policy changes made by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and the Sports Ministry regarding women's cricket over the past few years have laid the foundation for this success. The equal pay policy has given players self-respect, while improved coaching facilities and domestic tournaments have prepared them for international competition. It is heartening to see that women's cricket is now receiving the same respect and broadcasting as the men's team. This victory is another strong step in that direction.

With this victory, India now faces a new responsibility. We must ensure that this enthusiasm and support are not limited to a few days. Sports must be integrated into education from school to university levels, so that more girls are inspired to pursue careers in sports. The Sports Ministry and state governments should increase the number of sports training centers in rural areas, where both resources and instructors are available. The media also has a major role to play.

Continuing to highlight women's cricket, highlighting the players' stories, and reinforcing the sense in society that it's not just a sport, but a tool for empowerment—this is the biggest responsibility of the times ahead.

There are many untold stories behind the Indian women's cricket team's victory—the mother who buys a bat for her daughter regardless of society, the father who sells his farm to buy cricket kits, the coach who trains the players without pay, and the teammates who stand by the team despite being in the reserves. This victory is not just about the 11 players on the field, but about thousands of dreams that have been waiting for this moment for years.

India's victorious women's cricket team included Harmanpreet Kaur (captain), Smriti Mandhana (vice-captain), Pratika Rawal, Harleen Deol, Jemimah Rodrigues, Richa Ghosh, Uma Chhetri, Renuka Singh Thakur, Deepti Sharma, Sneha Rana, Shri Charani, Radha Yadav, Amanjot Kaur, Arundhati Reddy, and Kranti Gaur. Reserve players Tejal Hasabnis, Prema Rawat, Priya Mishra, Minnu Mani, and Sayali Satghare also made significant contributions. Although they didn't take the field, their role in the team's preparation and unity was crucial.

This World Cup has given Indian women's cricket a lasting recognition on the global stage.

It is no longer the achievement of a single generation, but a guide for generations to come. India's daughters are now a new example for the world—not just as athletes, but as symbols of the power that transforms even defeat into inspiration.

Today, when the whole world is saluting this achievement of the Indian team, this moment also forces us to think that the real victory will happen when some daughter in every village, every school, takes the bat and enters the field and says—"I also want to win like India."

This historic victory has proven that "where there's a will, there's a way" is not just a saying, but a reality for India's daughters. This victory is not just for these 11 players, but for all of India—for the families who gave their daughters the freedom to dream; for the coaches who nurtured talent despite limited resources; and for the spectators who cheered the team on with every ball.

The year 2025 will be marked as a golden year for Indian sports. India's daughters are now writing not just history, but the future. Their victories are igniting pride, inspiration, and hope in the hearts of every Indian.

India is the world champion! Hail the women power!

'Practically every day, our power engineers, repair brigades' Ukraine says it has hit major Russian oil refinery with long-range drones

KYIV, Nov 6: Ukrainian drones struck a major oil refinery in Russia's Volgograd region for the second time in almost three months, Ukraine's general staff said Thursday. Russian officials did not confirm the attack, although the local governor said drones started a fire at an unspecified industrial facility in the region.

Ukraine's general staff said in a statement that the attack took place the previous day. The refinery is the largest producer of fuel and lubricants in Russia's Southern Federal District, processing more than 15 million tons of crude annually — about 5.6 per cent of the country's total refining capacity, according to Ukrainian officials.

Russia and Ukraine have traded almost daily assaults on each other's energy infrastructure as US-led diplomatic efforts to stop the nearly four-year war make no impact on the battlefield.

Ukraine's long-range drone strikes on Russian refineries aim to deprive Moscow of the oil export revenue it needs to pursue its full-scale invasion. Russia wants to cripple the Ukrainian power grid, seeking to deny civilians access to heat, light and running water in what Kyiv officials say is



an attempt to "weaponise winter."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said foreign countries are helping Kyiv in its efforts to keep the power grid operating amid Russia's onslaught.

"Practically every day, our power engineers, repair brigades, and the State Emergency Service of Ukraine are carrying out restorations on-site after attacks: hits keep occurring across various points, especially in our communities, and especially near the Russian border and close to the front," Zelenskyy said late Wednesday.

Ukraine, meanwhile, has attempted to strike targets on Russian soil with domestically developed long-range drones.

Ukrainian forces also struck three fuel lubricants facilities in the Russian-occupied Crimean peninsula and a storage and assembly base for Russia's Shahed drones in an occupied area of Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region, the general staff statement said.

In the Kostroma region north-east of Moscow, a Ukrainian aerial attack hit unidentified "energy infrastructure facilities," Gov Sergei Sitnikov said. There were

no casualties and power supplies were not disrupted, he said.

Unconfirmed media reports said the attack targeted a hydroelectric power plant in the Kostroma region, one of the biggest in Russia.

The Russian Defence Ministry said Thursday its air defences shot down 75 drones overnight over multiple Russian regions and annexed Crimea.

Russia, meantime, attacked the city of Kamianske in Ukraine's eastern Dnipropetrovsk region with drones overnight, injuring eight people, the head of the regional military administration, Vladyslav Haivanenko, said on his official Telegram channel.

Several fires broke out and the roof of a four-story building was partially destroyed, he said.

The Russian military also continued its assault on Ukraine's rail infrastructure, causing delays and route changes in Ukraine's eastern regions of Kharkiv and Dnipropetrovsk and in the southern Zaporizhzhia region, Ukraine's state-owned railway company Ukrzaliznytsia said.

Russia attacked Ukraine with 135 drones of various types overnight on Thursday, Ukraine's air force said. (AP)

12 dead after engine fell off UPS plane that crashed, exploded in Kentucky

LOUISVILLE (US), Nov 6: A UPS cargo plane's left wing caught fire and an engine fell off just before it crashed and exploded after takeoff in Kentucky, a federal official has said, offering the first investigative details about a disaster that killed at least 12 people, including a child.

Finding survivors seemed unlikely as first responders searched the charred area of the crash at UPS Worldport, the company's global aviation hub in Louisville, Gov Andy Beshear said Wednesday. The inferno consumed the enormous aircraft and spread to nearby businesses.

After being cleared for takeoff, a large fire developed in the left wing, said Todd Inman, a member of the National Transportation Safety Board, which is leading the investigation. The NTSB will now try to determine what caused the fire and why the engine fell off. It will likely take investigators more than a year to answer those questions.

The plane gained enough altitude to clear the fence at the end of the runway before crashing just outside Louisville Muhammad Ali International Airport, Inman told reporters.

Airport security video "shows the left engine detaching from the wing during the takeoff roll," he said.

The cockpit voice recorder and data recorder were recovered, and the engine was discovered on the airfield, Inman said.

"There are a lot of different parts of this airplane in a lot of different places," he said, describing a debris field that stretched for half a mile.

The plane with three people aboard crashed about 5:15 pm Tuesday as it was departing for Honolulu from UPS Worldport at the Louisville airport.

The crash had a devastating ripple effect, striking and causing smaller explosions at Kentucky Petroleum Recycling and hitting an auto salvage yard, Grade A Auto Parts. Beshear said the child who died was with a parent at the parts business.

Beshear earlier said it was a "blessing" that the plane did not hit a nearby Ford Motor factory or the convention center.

Some people who heard the boom, saw the smoke and smelled burning fuel were still stunned a day later.

"I didn't know if we were get-



ting attacked. I didn't know what was going on," said Summer Dickerson, who works nearby.

Stooges Bar and Grill bartender Kyla Kenady said lights suddenly flickered as she took a beer to a customer on the patio.

"I saw a plane in the sky coming down over top of our volleyball courts in flames," she said. "In that moment, I panicked. I turned around, ran through the bar screaming, telling everyone that a plane was crashing."

Manager Lynn Cason said explosions, only about 90 metres away, shook the building three times — "like somebody was bombing us" — but no one there was injured.

"God was definitely with us," Cason said.

Louisville Mayor Craig Greenberg announced on the social platform X on Wednesday evening that the death toll had risen to 12, saying, "Please take a moment to hug your loved ones and check on your neighbours."

The governor predicted that the death toll would rise, saying authorities were looking for a "handful of other people" but "we do not expect to find anyone else alive."

Mark Little, chief of the Okolona Fire District in Louisville, said debris would have to be moved and searched, adding: "It will take us quite a while."

University of Louisville Hospital said two people were in critical condition in the burn unit. Eighteen people were treated and discharged at that hospital or other health care centres.

The airport is 11 km from downtown Louisville, close to the Indiana state line, residential areas, a water park and museums.

The airport resumed operations on Wednesday, with at least one runway open.

Beshear said he did not know the status of the three UPS crew members aboard the McDonnell Douglas MD-11 made in 1991. It was not clear if they were being counted among the dead.

UPS said it was "terribly saddened." The Louisville package handling facility is the company's largest. The hub employs more than 20,000 people in the region, handles 300 flights daily and sorts more than 400,000 packages an hour.

Jeff Guzzetti, a former federal crash investigator, said a number of things could have caused the fire as the UPS plane was rolling down the runway.

"It could have been the engine partially coming off and ripping out fuel lines. Or it could have been a fuel leak igniting and then burning the engine off. It's just too soon to tell," Guzzetti said.

He said the crash bears a lot of similarities to one in 1979 when the left engine fell off an American Airlines jet as it was departing Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, killing 273 people.

Guzzetti said this UPS plane and the American plane were equipped with the same General Electric engines and both planes underwent heavy maintenance in the month before they crashed. The NTSB blamed the Chicago crash on improper maintenance. The 1979 crash involved a DC-10, but the MD-11 UPS plane is based on the DC-10.

Flight records show the UPS plane was on the ground in San Antonio from Sept 3 to Oct 18, but it was unclear what maintenance was performed and if it had any impact on the crash. (AP)

Trump says he will not attend G20 Summit

NEW YORK, Nov 6: US President Donald Trump said he will not attend the G20 Summit to be held in South Africa later this month, questioning the country's membership in the grouping of major economies.

South Africa, which assumed the year-long G20 Presidency on December 1, 2024, will host the Summit in Johannesburg from November 22 to 23, the first time the meeting of G20 leaders will be held on African soil. "I am not going. We have a G20 meeting in South Africa. South Africa shouldn't even be in the Gs anymore because what's happened there is bad. I'm not going. I told them I'm not going. I'm not going to represent our country there. It shouldn't be there," Trump said while addressing the America Business Forum Miami in Florida on Wednesday.

The US will take over the G20 Presidency from South Africa on December 1, 2025, and will chair the grouping until November 30, 2026. Trump has previously said he plans to host the 2026 G20 Summit at his golf club near Miami. India held the G20 Presidency from December 2022 to November 2023 and hosted the 18th G20 Summit in New Delhi in September 2023, which was attended by then US President Joe Biden. The G20 comprises 19 countries: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Türkiye, the UK, and the US as well as the European Union and the African Union. It was under India's G20 Presidency that the African Union was inducted as a permanent member of the grouping. (PTI)

Trump updates number of planes shot down between India-Pak conflict

NEW YORK, Nov 6: Known to make inconsistent comments, US President Donald Trump now claims that eight planes were shot down during the war between India and Pakistan in May, once again without specifying who they belonged to.

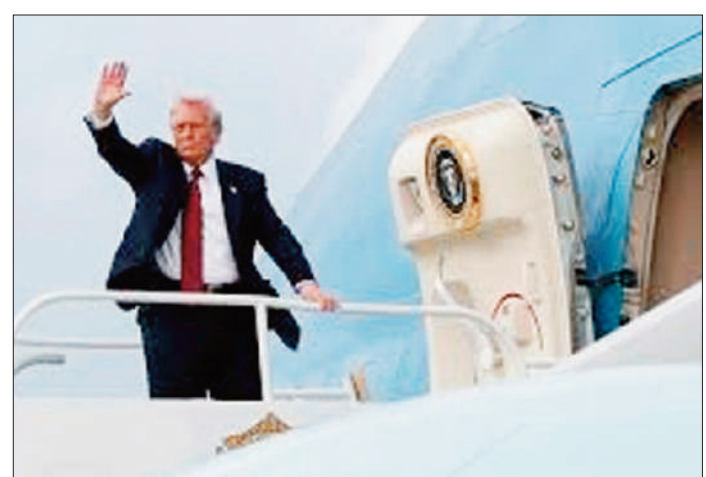
Addressing the America Business Forum in Miami, Florida, on Wednesday, President Trump, updated the number of planes downed between the two countries to eight from seven. Until now, the US President has been maintaining that seven planes were shot down during the conflict.

"Pakistan and India... I was in the midst of a trade deal with both of them, and then... I heard they were going to war. Seven planes were shot down, and the eighth was really badly wounded... Eight planes were shot down essentially," Trump said.

Trump also reiterated that India and Pakistan "made peace" after he threatened the two nuclear-armed neighbours with snapping trade deals if they continued their military conflict, a claim he has repeated several times since then.

"I said, this is war... 'I'm not going to make any trade deals with you guys unless you agree to peace'. The two nations said, 'No way. This has nothing to do...'. I said, 'It has everything to do. You are nuclear powers. I'm not trading with you. We're not making any deals with you if you're at war with each other'," Trump claimed.

"A day later, I get a call saying, 'We made peace'. They stopped. I said, 'Thank you. Let's do trade'.



Isn't that great? Tariffs did that... Without tariffs, that would have never happened," Trump said amid applause.

He said that in eight months, he ended eight wars, including Kosovo and Serbia, and Congo and Rwanda, that were going on for a long time.

Since May 10, when Trump announced on social media that India and Pakistan had agreed to a "full and immediate ceasefire" after a "long night" of talks mediated by Washington, he has repeated his claim over 60 times that he "helped settle" the tensions between the two neighbouring countries.

India has consistently denied any third-party intervention.

India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in retaliation for the April 22 Pahal-gam attack that killed 26 civilians.

India and Pakistan reached an

understanding on May 10 to end the conflict after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes.

In his remarks in Miami, Trump went on to add that he helped solve the conflict between Israel and Iran, Egypt and Ethiopia, Armenia and Azerbaijan and Cambodia and Thailand.

"All of them were in war... Some of the wars were 32 years old. One was 38 years old. I got some of these settled in an hour. No help from the United Nations at all," Trump said.

He added that around the world, America is making peace through strength "because they know they're not going to mess around with us. Nobody's going to mess around with us". Trump also spoke about the deals he made with China last week, as well as with Japan and Malaysia.

"All great economic deals, great for everybody," the US president said. (PTI)

Attackers board ship off coast of Somalia after firing rocket-propelled grenades

DUBAI, Nov 6: Attackers firing machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades boarded a ship, en route to South Africa from India, off the coast of Somalia on Thursday, officials said, likely the latest assault by resurgent Somali pirates operating in the region.

The British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations centre issued an alert over the attack, warning ships in the area.

The private security firm Ambrey also said that an attack was underway, saying it targeted a Malta-flagged tanker heading from Sikka, India, to Durban, South Africa.

Ambrey added that it appeared to be an assault by Somali pirates, who have been reported as operating in the area in recent days and who seized an Iranian fishing boat to use as a base of operations.

Iran has not acknowledged the fishing boat's seizure, called the Issamohamadi.

Details of the attacked vessel correspond to the Hellas Aphrodite, which changed its track and slowed down at the time of the attack. The ship's owners and managers could not immediately be reached for comment.

Another maritime security firm, the Diaplorus Group, said the attacked tanker had a crew of 24 mariners, all of whom reportedly locked themselves into the ship's citadel for safety during the attack. The vessel did not have an armed security team aboard it, the firm added.

The European Union's Operation Atalanta, a

counter-piracy mission around the Horn of Africa, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

That EU force has responded to other recent pirate attacks in the area and had issued a recent alert to shippers that a pirate group was operating off Somalia and assaults were "almost certain" to happen.

Thursday's attack comes after another vessel, the Cayman Islands-flagged Stolt Sagaland, found itself targeted in a suspected pirate attack that included both its armed security force and the attackers shooting at each other, the EU force said.

Piracy off the Somali coast peaked in 2011, when 237 attacks were reported. Somali piracy in the region in 2011 cost the world's economy some \$7 billion, with \$160 million paid out in ransoms, according to the Oceans Beyond Piracy monitoring group.

The threat was diminished by increased international naval patrols, a strengthening central government in Somalia, and other efforts.

However, Somali pirate attacks have resumed at a greater pace over the last year, in part due to the insecurity caused by Yemen's Houthi rebels launching attacks in the Red Sea corridor over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip.

In 2024, there were seven reported incidents off Somalia, according to the International Maritime Bureau. So far this year, multiple fishing boats have been seized by Somali pirates. (AP)

Bangladesh artists perform in Pakistan's Karachi after 18 years

KARACHI, Nov 6: Bangladeshi artists returned to Pakistan after 18 years with their presence at the World Culture Festival being held here, marking a renewed chapter in cultural exchanges between the two countries.

Bangladeshi artists, including a few Hindu performers, are participating at the Karachi Arts Council event, with one of them Shireen Jawad performing on Wednesday night.

Founder of Bangladesh Art Week, Neharika Mumtaz, who is leading the Bangladesh delegation here, said the invitation from the Arts Council to take part in the festival was a welcome opportunity.

"The opportunity for Bangladesh artists in Pakistan after nearly 18 years has allowed us to showcase the cultural diversity to the Pakistani people," she said.

The diplomatic and political rift between the two countries for more than a decade had meant there were no official visits by Bangladeshi artists to Pakistan. The bilateral ties were at their lowest ebb during Sheikh Hasina's Awami League regime, particularly when it initiated in 2010 the trial of collaborators of Pakistani



troops during the 1971 Liberation War. Violent student-led protests toppled Hasina's government on August 5, 2024, paving the way for revitalising ties with Islamabad.

The Bangladesh delegation includes Shireen Jawad, Suborna Morshed, Faria Chowdhury, Shambhu Acharya, and Bubby Barna - who are performing at the festival representing music, dance and visual arts. The event started on October 30 and will continue till December 7.

A total of 140 countries are represented in the festival which has become the go to spot for Kara-

chites. The Karachi Arts Council President Ahmed Shah said the presence of Bangladeshi artists in the festival marks a renewed chapter in cultural exchanges between the two countries.

Shireen Jawad, who performed on Wednesday night, captivated the audience with her soulful performance and her Bengali songs were well received by the audience.

Visual artist Neharika highlighted Bangladeshi heritage, femininity, and traditional motifs through her striking art pieces displayed at the festival.

Shireen Jawad, who is visiting Pakistan for the first time, said she doesn't feel like a foreigner because of the similarities between both countries.

Meeting artists from different nations and sharing cultures and experiences has been a memorable journey, she said.

Zakir Masood, a long time member of the Arts Council, said the festival showed that art and cultural exchanges can achieve more than any diplomacy between any two countries.

The festival participation comes days after a top Bangladeshi diplomat said that this country's ties with Pakistan have improved since last year, as he emphasised the need to establish direct sea links between Karachi and Chittagong to boost trade between the two nations.

Speaking at an event in the port city on Sunday, Bangladesh High Commissioner to Pakistan Iqbal Hussain Khan said it was not a secret that ties between the two sides had not been good for the last 10-12 years, but things have changed now. "Relations have improved at every level and now Bangladeshi citizens are issued visas for Pakistan in 24 hours." (PTI)

Guv urges Gaon Burahs and Gaon Buris to lead village development

KT Parnaik emphasises education, cleanliness and youth engagement to promote sustainable growth

HT Correspondent

ITANAGAR, Nov 6: A delegation of Gaon Burahs and Gaon Buris from Ziro, Lower Subansiri District, called on Governor Lt General KT Parnaik, PVSM, UYSM, YSM (Retd), at Raj Bhavan, Itanagar on Thursday. The Governor advised them on several social issues, including natural farming, the smart village concept and the developmental progress of the State.

The Governor said that the Gaon Burah and Gaon Buris are the torchbearers of change in the villages and are the first guardians of the people's welfare. He emphasised that their leadership determines the health, happiness and future of the community and contributes to the nation's vision of Viksit Bharat@2047. He added that development begins not in offices but in villages with committed leaders like them who turn vision into action.

While reminding the leaders of the Swachh Bharat message, the Governor said that cleanliness is everyone's duty, not just a government programme. He exhorted the Gaon Burahs and Gaon Buris to encourage every household to keep



their premises clean and dispose of waste responsibly. A clean environment, he said, leads to fewer diseases, healthier families and stronger communities.

Complimenting the GBs for adult education courses, the Governor said education is the most powerful tool to transform a village. He urged them to ensure that every child, boy or girl, completes

basic education before stepping into adulthood, noting that an educated child becomes an empowered citizen—the doctors, teachers and leaders of tomorrow. He warned that when a child drops out, the entire community loses a part of its future.

Sharing his concern about the drug menace, the Governor said that drug abuse is not just a per-

sonal problem but a social poison that destroys families, weakens communities and ruins the future of youth. It leads to crime, poor health, broken homes and loss of productivity. He stressed that no village can progress when its youth fall prey to addiction. He urged that vulnerable youth must be identified and guided toward sports, skill training and community activities, calling it a battle for the soul of society.

Led by Yachang Tago, Political Interpreter, Ziro, 16 Gaon Buris and 7 Gaon Burahs from Dutta, Mudang Tago and Bamin villages of Ziro interacted with the Governor.

Later, the GBs visited the Raj Bhavan complex, where they witnessed a range of innovative pilot projects in horticulture, animal husbandry and agriculture implemented under the Governor's initiatives. These model projects, carefully designed to suit the State's unique climate, terrain and traditional practices, aim to inspire farmers, youth, and communities across Arunachal Pradesh to adopt modern, sustainable and income-generating methods.

Matri Sammelan highlights parental guidance, vital role of mothers in shaping future generations

Sapta Shakti Sangam celebrates motherhood and women empowerment



HT Correspondent

KHELA, Nov 6: The Sapta Shakti Sangam organised a Matri Sammelan (Mother's Conference) at EMRS Khela, Tirap District to celebrate the spirit of motherhood, unity and

women empowerment. The event aimed to strengthen the bond between parents and the school community, with a focus on the vital role of mothers in shaping the younger generation. Chief Guest K C Lowangcha,

DDSE Tirap emphasised the importance of parental love, guidance and counseling in preventing social issues like drug abuse. Guest of Honour L. Gautam highlighted the significance of nurturing children with care, patience and a clean environment.

The programme featured a Welcome Song, Matri Shakti Song, Quiz Competition for mothers and felicitations of mothers and winners of the State EMRS Fest. Speakers emphasised the importance of empowering women in family, society and nation-building.

The event concluded with a pledge to honour and respect motherhood, followed by a Vote of Thanks and Shanti Mantra chanting. The Sapta Shakti Sangam - Matri Sammelan was a grand success, celebrating the eternal bond between mother and child, highlighting the key role mothers play in shaping the future and reinforcing the message of unity, empowerment and social responsibility.

Wahge urges youths to preserve the past for future growth



HT Correspondent

ITANAGAR, Nov 6: Minister for Health & Family Welfare, WRD and Pakkekessang MLA Biyuram Wahge has appealed to the youths of Pakkekessang district to work in unity for the overall development of the district and the state.

Addressing youths and students from Pasa Valley at a city hotel on Wednesday during the jersey and promo launch ceremony of the Golden Jubilee Celebration Committee of GUPS Rilloh, Wahge emphasised the importance of safeguarding the past and present for a better future.

"It is a happy occasion that the Rilloh Government Upper Primary School will celebrate its golden jubilee on December 12 and 13. I urge the committee to unite all former students who studied here when communication facilities were limited," Wahge said, assuring full support for the celebration.

Organising Committee Chairman Teli Padang said it was the duty of former students to contribute to their alma mater, adding that they were grateful for the minister's assurance to transform the school into a better learning institution.

Pakkekessang District Intellectual Forum Chairman Ramu Welly attended as guest of honour, while ZPM Sunil Nabam and GJCC Secretary Techi James Tara also addressed the gathering. Among others present were former SAA Vice Chairman Sanjiv Tana Tara, PHED SE Tayum Tok and representatives from various students' and youth associations. A jersey and a promo song for the jubilee celebration were also launched during the event.

Sainik school student death: Sister alleges torture by seniors

ITANAGAR, Nov 6: Fresh allegations have surfaced over the death of a 12-year-old class 7 student of Sainik School in East Siang district, after his sister accused senior students of subjecting him to severe bullying and torture before his death.

The victim was found dead within the school premises at Niglok on November 1.

In a video posted on Instagram on Wednesday, the victim's sister, Miss Arunachal 2024, Tadu Lunia, claimed the family was informed that the boy had died by suicide. However, she alleged that dormitory mates revealed a disturbing sequence of events that might have driven him to take the extreme step.

According to Lunia, the family learned from fellow cadets that on October 31 night, a group of eight class 10 students and three from class 8 allegedly entered the class 7 dormitory after 11 PM in the absence of any supervising authority.

The senior boys reportedly forced the juniors to cover their heads with blankets and singled out her brother, taking him to the

class 10 dormitory. "No one knows what happened behind that closed door," Lunia said, claiming eyewitnesses told the family that the boy was harassed mentally and physically throughout the night.

She further alleged that he was branded a "thief" over a missing book and threatened with being publicly humiliated during assembly through a video recording. In her statement, Lunia said CCTV camera footage reviewed by the investigating officer showed her brother pacing anxiously around the dormitory around 5.45 AM, before entering a classroom to write what appeared to be his final note.

"His last words were, 'seniors tortured me a lot, and I don't know what I will do now,'" she said. She expressed anguish that her own identity may have been used against her brother, stating, "I never thought my name could become a burden in the final hours of his life."

The grieving sister also raised concerns over the delayed post-mortem examination report and al-

leged slow progress in the investigation.

"We know the names of those involved. I fear external interference may affect justice," she said, urging public support so that "no other family suffers the same fate."

Meanwhile, the Police has said eight students have been detained in connection with the case and produced before the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) in Pasighat on Tuesday.

The board, led by the principal magistrate, sent them into the custody of the school's vice-principal for seven days with guardians required to furnish undertakings under the Juvenile Justice Rules.

Police said the case, initially registered as Ruksin police station under Section 194 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) was upgraded after the cadet's father filed an additional FIR on November 3, alleging ragging by senior students.

Authorities assured that the probe is underway to determine the complete circumstances leading to the death and to ensure "a fair and logical conclusion." (PTI)

DDMA Keyi Panyor launches disaster response training

HT Correspondent

KEYI PANYOR, Nov 6: The District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Keyi Panyor inaugurated a three-day Community Volunteer Disaster Response Training Programme at Tajgi, Paramputu, marking the start of a district-wide initiative to build a network of 100 trained community volunteers to serve as frontline responders during disasters.

The programme aims to strengthen community preparedness, response and resilience at the grassroots level. The training is being conducted under the guidance of seven NDRF-certified community volunteers, who now serve as designated instructors, along with two disaster response experts from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and the Regional Response Centre

(RRC), Ziro. Key focus areas of the training include search and rescue operations, fire safety, first aid and CPR, rope rescue techniques, disaster safety protocols and community preparedness. Following the inaugural session at Tajgi, additional training batches will be held in Deed from November 10 to 12 and in Yazali from November 13 to 15, 2025.

During the launch, DDMA officials emphasised the importance of community participation in disaster management, noting that a well-prepared community forms the first line of defense during crises. The initiative underscores DDMA Keyi Panyor's commitment to fostering a safer and more resilient district by empowering citizens with essential emergency response skills and confidence.

150th anniversary of 'Vande Mataram' to be celebrated

HT Correspondent

ITANAGAR, Nov 6: The Union Cabinet on October 1 decided to celebrate 150 years of the national song 'Vande Mataram' across India, recognising its historic role during the freedom struggle. The song, composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterji in 1875 and famously recited by Rabindranath Tagore in 1896, gained prominence during the Swadeshi Movement and became a symbol of nationalism and resistance against British rule. It was later designated the national song by Dr Rajendra Prasad in 1950.

Dongoli Libang, vice president of Arunachal Pradesh state unit, said the

celebrations will include collective recitations of "Vande Mataram" by 150 participants at 150 locations, along with public gatherings. In the state, central events will be held at six



locations beginning on November 7 at VKV Chimpu with over 2,000 students participating. MLA Tojir Kadu will join the celebrations there. Collective recitations and public pro-

grammes will continue across district centers from November 8 to 15.

The Governor will celebrate the day at Raj Bhawan, Itanagar along with senior state officials. Chief Minister Pema Khandu will participate in Tawang, Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein at Namsai and BJP state president at Pasighat. The programme will also be observed at the state BJP headquarters and by the state government, highlighting the song's historical significance and its role during India's independence movement.

Libang appealed to all sections of society to participate in the celebrations across the state and the country.

Industry-Academia Meet 2025 strengthens biotechnology collaboration in Northeast

Three new DBT-backed biotechnologies launched to boost biotech education and innovation in Northeast India

HT Correspondent

ITANAGAR, Nov 5: The Arunachal Pradesh State Council for Science & Technology (APSCS&T), Centre of Excellence for Bioresources and Sustainable Development, Kimin (CoE for BRSD), Department of Science & Technology, Government of Arunachal Pradesh with the support of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India, successfully organised the Industry-Academia Meet 2025 to strengthen biotechnology collaboration in Northeast India.

The event held under the theme "Comprehensive Biotech Skills and Employment Development Programme for Postgraduates of Arunachal Pradesh and other NER States," brought together a distinguished gathering of scientists, academicians, policymakers and industry leaders to chart the future of biotechnology education, research and employment in the North Eastern Region (NER). Designed as a dynamic platform for dialogue and collaboration, the meet sought to bridge the gap between academic learning and industrial application, while promoting

employability, entrepreneurship and innovation among biotechnology post-graduates across the region.

Addressing the function as chief guest, former Minister and APSCS&T Chairman Tago Taki said that it was a happy occasion to see a host of scientists, researchers, postgraduate students and officers from various Science & Technology departments of the NE region come together for deliberations to understand the use of science in daily life and its sustainable application for improving lifestyles.

Scientist-G/Advisor (NER Division) Dr Nitin Kumar Jain, Secretary (S&T) Smedha, Scientist-F & Associate Head, NER Division Dr Suraksha S Diwan, Director-cum-Member Secretary, APSCS&T C D Mungyak, Joint Director & Project Director, DBT-APSCS&T CoE for BRSD Dr Debajit Mahanta and Deputy Director (Technical) Dr P Lombi attended the inaugural ceremony as guest of honour and special guests respectively.

Scientist-F & Associate Head, NER Division, Dr Suraksha S Diwan emphasised DBT's continued commitment to nurturing biotechnology talent



and strengthening human resource capacity in the Northeast through sustained skill development and research support.

Delivering the keynote address virtually, Dr Nitin Kumar Jain highlighted the need to align academic curricula

with industrial needs to create a skilled and innovation-oriented biotechnology workforce for the region.

The major highlight of the inaugural session was the launch of three innovative biotechnologies by the DBT-APSCS&T Centre of Excellence for

Bioresources and Sustainable Development (CoE-BRSD), Kimin — namely, the Banana Fibre Tea Bag Technology, the Mobile Cohabitation Platform and the Temperature-Independent Microbial Revival Formulation — showcasing Arunachal Pradesh's leadership in sustainable, eco-friendly and entrepreneurship-driven bio-innovation in the Northeast.

Four technical sessions were held during the day, featuring deliberations on biotechnology skill development, employability and entrepreneurship. Industry representatives from Oil India Ltd, Assam Bio Ethanol Pvt Ltd, Dabur India Ltd and Patanjali Foods Ltd shared insights on evolving manpower requirements, technological advances and sectoral opportunities in the biotechnology landscape.

Academic experts from NERIST, Rajiv Gandhi University and Assam Agricultural University discussed strategies to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and industrial expectations through curriculum reform and practical exposure.

Experts from IBSD, Manipur; ICAR-IARI, Assam and BRDC, Meghalaya

highlighted the importance of hands-on training, effective communication and translational skills to ensure employability and industrial readiness among biotechnology graduates. Speakers from Guwahati Biotech Park, Oil India Ltd and Pabhoi Greens Pvt Ltd inspired young professionals to pursue research-driven entrepreneurship and innovative bioresource-based ventures across the region.

The rapporteur report was presented by Dr Debajit Mahanta, summarising the key takeaways and recommendations from the sessions.

In her concluding remarks, Dr Suraksha S Diwan lauded APSCS&T's consistent efforts in fostering biotechnology education, innovation and skill-building initiatives in Arunachal Pradesh and across the Northeast.

The Industry-Academia Meet 2025 reaffirmed the shared commitment of academia, industry and government towards strengthening the biotechnology ecosystem of the Northeast. It underscored the importance of collaborative partnerships, the need to address existing skill gaps through future finishing school programmes.

India could generate 11 mn tonnes of solar waste by 2047: Study

NEW DELHI, Nov 6: India is projected to generate about 11 million tonnes of solar waste by 2047, largely from crystalline-silicon modules, according to two studies published on Thursday.

Managing this waste would require nearly 300 recycling plants across the country and an investment of around ₹ 4,200 crore, said the studies by Delhi-based think tank Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW).

The studies also said that recovering and reusing materials from discarded solar panels could create a ₹ 3,700-crore market opportunity by 2047.

If this potential is realised, recovering valuable materials such as silicon, copper, aluminium and silver from solar waste could meet 38 per cent of the sector's manufacturing inputs in 2047 and

avoid 37 million tonnes of carbon emissions by replacing virgin resources with recycled ones.

India's solar module recycling market is currently at a very early stage, with only a few commercial recyclers operating.

The CEEW studies provide India's first comprehensive blueprint for building a domestic solar recycling ecosystem that supports both clean energy and manufacturing self-reliance.

Rishabh Jain, Fellow, CEEW, said, "India's solar revolution can power a new green industrial opportunity. By embedding circularity into our clean energy systems, we can recover critical minerals, strengthen supply chains and create green jobs while turning potential waste into lasting value. Building this circular economy is most important for India's resilient and responsible



The CEEW studies also said that solar recycling in a formal setup remains unviable today, with re-

cyclers facing losses of ₹ 10,000-12,000 per tonne.

The biggest operational expense is buying back waste modules, which accounts for nearly two-thirds of the total (around ₹ 600 per panel), followed by processing, collection and disposal costs. For recycling to become profitable, modules would need to be priced below ₹ 330 or recyclers supported through EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility) certificate trading, tax incentives and R&D investments in efficient recovery of silicon and silver, the studies said.

Akanksha Tyagi, Programme Lead, CEEW, said, "Solar recycling can be the bridge between India's clean energy and manufacturing ambitions. Beyond managing waste, it's an opportunity to innovate by designing panels for easier recovery, improving material purity and creating new value

chains around critical minerals.

"Introducing EPR targets, creating demand for circular products, improving data transparency and designing for recyclability could turn India's solar waste challenge into a green industry opportunity," she said.

To enable large-scale adoption, the CEEW studies recommend EPR targets for collection and recovery under the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022, led by the Environment Ministry, and a Circular Solar Taskforce under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy to align policy, finance and industry action.

They also propose a centralised solar inventory to identify waste hotspots and urge producers to share material data and design modules for easy disassembly. (PTI)

RJD, Cong have soft corner for infiltrators, dislike for Lord Ram because of vote bank: PM

'Today, Bihar has so many expressways, bridges over rivers, as many as four central'

BHAGALPUR/ARARIA, Nov 6: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday charged the opposition RJD-Congress combine in Bihar with having a soft corner for infiltrators, that "dislike" for Lord Ram and "Chhathi Maiya" because of vote bank politics.

Addressing back-to-back rallies in Bhagalpur and Araria districts, Modi also alleged that the reluctance of opposition leaders to visit Ayodhya to have "darshan" of shrines dedicated to Nishad Raj, Mata Shabri and Maharshi Valmiki was indicative of their "hatred" for Dalits and backward classes.

"Bihar saw zero development during the 15 years of 'jungle raj'. No highways and bridges were built, nor any centres of higher learning were set up. The NDA under the leadership of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has worked very hard to bring the state out of that era," he said.

"Today, Bihar has so many expressways, bridges over rivers, as many as four central universities and other centres of higher learning. Only the NDA can ensure that this journey towards growth continues uninterrupted," he added.

Modi said the NDA faces a big challenge on this journey of growth, which is the menace of infiltration.

"The NDA is committed to driv-



ing out each and every infiltrator from the country. But the Congress-RJD offer them protection, take out political yatras in their favour and come up with misleading narratives," alleged the PM in an indirect reference to Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi's 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' and allegations of "vote theft".

"Whenever the RJD-Congress achieve power, they try to give back-door entry to infiltrators. They do so because of vote bank politics. But this takes a toll on the people of this country. The infiltrators claim a share in all that belongs

to the citizens," he added.

Modi also said vote bank politics has filled the opposition leaders with contempt for traditions.

"The naandaar of Congress (Gandhi) called the devotion to Chhathi Maiya a drama. They never visit Ayodhya to have a darshan of Lord Ram," he said.

"I understand their dislike for Lord Ram. But they can at least pay obeisance at the shrines dedicated to Nishad Raj, Shabri Mata and Maharshi Valmiki. Their reluctance to do so only indicates their hatred for Dalits and backward classes," he alleged. (PTI)

The PM began his speeches with a reference to voting that was underway in 121 out of 243 assembly segments in the first phase of elections.

"I have seen wonderful pictures of voters turning up in large numbers at polling booths. The enthusiasm is visible among the young and the old alike," he said.

Modi also expressed happiness that women, in particular, were exercising their right to vote with gusto, and said that "our mothers, sisters and daughters have created a veritable fortress at polling booths, to thwart the return of jungle raj".

"You must realise the power that your one vote holds. Your ancestors had cast one vote each to usher in social justice in Bihar. Then it was again through the power of the same one vote, that 'jungle raj', which afflicted the state for 15 years, ruining the lives of an entire generation, was driven out," he said.

Modi reiterated that 'katta' (country-made weapons), 'kroorta' (cruelty), 'katuta' (bitterness), 'kushasan' (misgovernance) and 'korruption' were the hallmarks of the 15-year-long 'jungle raj'.

"In the curriculum of RJD, a stands for 'apharan' (kidnapping), f for 'firausti' (ransom) and p for 'parivarvaad' (dynasty rule)," he added. (PTI)

1ST PHASE OF BIHAR POLLS Nitish, Tejashwi, Samrat among top leaders to cast vote

PATNA, Nov 6: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and INDIA bloc's CM candidate Tejashwi Yadav were among the top leaders who cast their votes on Thursday in the first phase of the high-stakes assembly polls, seen as a litmus test for the ruling NDA.

A total of 27.65 per cent of 3.75 crore voters exercised their franchise till 11 am, an official said, adding that Begusarai district recorded the highest polling percentage at 30.37, followed by Lakhisarai (30.32) and Gopalganj (30.04). Kumar, who cast his vote in his hometown Bakhtiarpur, posted on X, "Voting is not only a right but also a duty of citizens in democracy." Deputy CM Samrat Choudhary, who voted in Tarapur, said, "The work done by Nitish Kumar should continue. A lot of effort has gone into the transformation we are witnessing today. Vote for development."

Union minister Giriraj Singh, who cast his vote in Lakhisarai, defended the checking of the identity of burqa-clad women, stating it will prevent 'vote chori' (vote theft).

"This is not religious bias... We are not living in Pakistan. Neither will Bihar have a Tejashwi Yadav government, nor will Sharia law be implemented here," he said. Tejashwi Yadav, along with his family members, including RJD supreme Lalu Prasad, cast his vote at a booth in Veterinary College in Patna. "I appeal to the youth to bring a



change by installing a new government," Tejashwi Yadav said.

His mother and former Bihar chief minister Rabri Devi, too, appealed to people "to vote and bring a change". She wished both her sons, Tejashwi and Tej Pratap, success in the elections.

Tejashwi Yadav's sister Rohini Acharya exuded confidence that people will defeat the "double-engine government" this time.

"This time, people of Bihar will choose Tejashwi, the one who has provided employment. All our unemployed brothers will get jobs, and those who are struggling and wandering outside the state will also get relief," Acharya said.

"All people of Bihar should vote. Each vote is important," Tej Pratap, the Janshakti Janata Dal president and elder son of Lalu Prasad, said after casting vote at Veterinary College Ground polling booth in Patna. Tej Pratap, the incumbent Hasan-

pur MLA, is contesting from Mahua, a seat he first won in 2015 during his electoral debut on an RJD ticket. RJD candidate from Chapra seat, Khesari Lal Yadav, who cast his vote in Ekma in Saran district, said, "This is the second innings of my life, and with the love people have for me, I believe things will only get better, they have so far. Nothing in this world is easy; everything takes effort. For those who are determined, work is never a burden... I just want everything to be built, not just the Ram temple, but all that people need."

BJP candidate from Alinagar seat, Maithili Thakur, said, "If I win, I will work to ensure that projects and schemes mentioned in our manifesto are accomplished. Apart from that, my personal aspirations include a cultural centre, Kendriya Vidyalyaya, degree college and roads to villages that are well-maintained." (PTI)

NDA preparing to steal Bihar polls just like Haryana: Priyanka

MOTIHARI/SITAMARHI (BIHAR), Nov 6: Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Thursday alleged that the NDA was "preparing to steal" the assembly polls in Bihar, "just like they did in Haryana". Addressing back-to-back public rallies in Sitamarhi and East Champaran districts, the Congress general secretary alleged that the Election Commission (EC) was "colluding with the government to weaken our Constitution and democratic rights".

"Just like they stole the entire election in Haryana, they are preparing to do the same in Bihar by deleting 65 lakh votes from the rolls," she said.

The Haryana assembly polls last year were "stolen", Congress leader Rahul Gandhi alleged on Wednesday, citing electoral list data to claim that 25 lakh entries were fake and the Election Commission colluded with the BJP to ensure the party's victory. The elaborate plan included a Brazilian model whose photograph was used 22 times in 10 booths in the Rai assembly constituency during the 2024 assembly elections, the former Congress president said at a press conference during which he put up a presentation to back his claim.

"Rahul Gandhi's fight is for you and truth; he is fighting the same battle that Mahatma Gandhi once fought," she asserted.

Vadra claimed that those who are "betraying" this country will "not be forgotten" by the people.

The Congress leader charged Election Commissioners Gyanesh Kumar, Vivek Joshi and S S Sandhu with "mocking the Constitution and democracy of India".

"If you think you will lead a convenient life after retirement, that is not going to happen," she said.

Vadra asserted that if the Bihar assembly polls are conducted in a free and fair manner, the NDA government will be uprooted, and replaced by a dispensation that would work for the poor, women and the youth. She alleged that the NDA government has no respect for the people of Bihar, who have contributed immensely to the development of the nation.

"BJP leaders urge people to vote for the NDA in the name of religion, and not for development. If this election is free and fair, the people of Bihar will uproot this government and vote for one that will work for the poor, women and the youth," she said. (PTI)

Rahul should be ashamed for seeking to know about caste, religion of army jawans: Shah

BETTIAH/MOTIHARI/MADHUBANI (BIHAR), Nov 6: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi should be ashamed for seeking to know about the caste and religion of army jawans.

Addressing back-to-back election rallies in Madhubani, West Champaran and Motihari districts, he said illegal Bangladeshi immigrants snatch jobs and pose security threats to the country, while asserting that the Bihar assembly elections are for making the eastern state "infiltrator-free".

"Rahul Gandhi should be ashamed for seeking to know about the caste and religion of Army jawans. We do not discriminate among military personnel on the basis of caste or creed," he said.

Gandhi, while addressing public rallies in Bihar on Tuesday, claimed that lower castes, tribal communities and minorities have little representation in private firms, the judiciary, the bureaucracy and the armed forces, and that 10 per cent of the population controls these institutions.

Shah alleged that the RJD indulged in massacres and rapes while in power, while asserting that there is no place for 'bahubalis' (strongmen) in the NDA government.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi established Makhana Board... if 'Lalu & co' come to power, 'infiltrator ghusao board' will be set up," he alleged.

Asserting that only the pair of Narendra Modi and Nitish Kumar can prevent 'jungle raj' in Bihar, he alleged that Lalu Prasad and Rahul Gandhi were trying to pave the way for infiltrators.

Hitting out at the Mahagathbandhan, he said Champaran would turn into 'mini-Chambal' if 'thagbandhan' comes to power in Bihar.

"Bihar waged a war against Indira Gandhi's corruption, opposed the Emergency, but now Congress is seeking to rule the state with RJD's help," he added. (PTI)

ISRO wants to transfer 50 per cent of PSLV development to industry consortium, says V Narayanan

BENGALURU, Nov 6: ISRO chairman V Narayanan on Thursday said the space agency wants to transfer 50 per cent of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) development to the industry consortium. Hailing the capability of the domestic aerospace, defence and engineering sector, Narayanan said they are already contributing almost 80 to 85 per cent of the systems for ISRO's missions.

"Today, when you look at the PSLV, the workhorse of India, they (Indian consortium headed by HAL and L&T) have produced the first rocket. We are going to launch it before the end of this financial year, mostly by February," the ISRO chief said during the India Manufacturing Show.

The 7th Edition of the India Manufacturing Show (IMS 2025) — India's premier trade fair for the Aerospace, Defence, and General Engineering sectors has been organised at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC).

"Once we succeed in two launches (by Indian consortium),



our plan is to give at least 50 per cent of the PSLV development directly to the Indian industry consortium," Narayanan explained.

He noted that the Indian industry contributed 80 per cent of the CMS-03 mission, the heaviest communication satellite, "using the Bahubali rocket LMV3-M5."

"This mission is launched by ISRO. No doubt about it, but if you look at the contribution, almost 80 to 85 per cent systems were delivered by the entire industry. That's

with a fast, modern, and comfortable journey to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Khajuraho, it added.

The Lucknow-Saharanpur Vande Bharat will cover the journey in approximately 7 hours 45 minutes, saving nearly one hour of travel time. The express train will greatly benefit passengers from Lucknow, Sitapur, Shahjahanpur, Bareilly, Moradabad, Bijnor, and Saharanpur, while also improving access to the holy city of Haridwar via Roorkee, the statement said.

By ensuring smoother and faster intercity travel across central and western Uttar Pradesh, this service will play a key role in enhancing connectivity and regional development, it said.

The Firozpur-Delhi Vande Bharat will be the fastest train on this route, completing the journey in just 6 hours 40 minutes, the statement said. The express train will strengthen connectivity between the national capital and key cities in Punjab, including Bathinda and Patiala, it said.

This train is expected to boost trade, tourism, and employment opportunities, contributing to the socio-economic development of border regions and fostering greater integration with national markets. In southern India, the Ernakulam-Bengaluru Vande Bharat will reduce travel time by over two hours, completing the journey in 8 hours 40 minutes, the statement said.

The express train will connect major IT and commercial hubs, providing professionals, students, and tourists with a faster and more comfortable travel option, it said. (PTI)

Revenue official suspended, probe ordered over ₹ 300-cr land deal linked to Ajit Pawar's son

PUNE, Nov 6: The Maharashtra government has suspended a revenue official over a ₹ 300-crore land deal in Pune, allegedly involving Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar's son Parth Pawar, and set up a high-level committee to investigate it, officials said on Thursday.

Additional Chief Secretary (Revenue) Vikas Kharge will head the probe committee, formed on the instructions of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, they said.

Fadnis has termed the land transaction "prima facie serious".

PTI tried to reach Parth Pawar by phone for his comments, but he did not respond.

Tehsildar Suryakant Yewale from Pune has been suspended with immediate effect over the controversial deal that has prompted the Opposition to target the ruling Mahayuti, comprising the BJP, Ajit Pawar's NCP and Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena.

According to an official, 40 acres of "Mahar Vatan land belonging to the government" in Pune's upmarket Mundhwa area was sold to Amadea Enterprises

LLP, in which Parth Pawar is a partner, for ₹ 300 crore, and the stamp duty on it was waived.

Being government land, the plot cannot be sold to a private firm, he said.

Inspector General of Registration Ravindra Binwade told PTI that the high-level committee will find out how the government land was sold to a private firm and ascertain whether the exemption was given as per the norms.

"The documents submitted to claim the exemption will be checked. The committee will also see what sort of documents were produced during registration. But as an immediate action, we have suspended a sub-registrar-rank official. If it is government land, the registration should not have taken place," he said.

Sources in the revenue department claimed that on the '7/12 extract', a key property document, the land is in the name of 'Mumbai Sarkar'.

Besides Parth Pawar, Digvijay Patil, in whose name the registration has taken place, is the co-partner in the firm. (PTI)

Nagaland IAS Induction row: JCC intensifies strike; launches tools down strike

KOHIAMA, Nov 6: The Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) on Thursday intensified its ongoing agitation against the Nagaland government by enforcing a full-scale 'tools down' strike alongside the existing pen down agitation.

The JCC is composed of the Confederation of All Nagaland State Services Employees Association (CANSSEA), Nagaland In-Service Doctors Association (NIDA), Nagaland Secretariat Service Association (NSSA), Nagaland Finance and Accounts Service Association (NF&ASA), and Federation of Nagaland State Engineering Service Association (FONSESA).

Alleging that the government has failed to respond positively despite more than 40 days of peaceful protest, the committee said the movement would continue until its demand for the 'restoration of merit' is met.

Reiterating that its core demands remain unchanged, the JCC sought the restoration of the March 10 vacancy circular and the withdrawal of the "non-NPSC/backdoor candidate" from the IAS induction panel list.

With the strike now expanded, the All Nagaland Government Drivers' Association, Nagaland Civil Secretariat Drivers' Association, All Nagaland Directorate & District Government Drivers' Union, and the Nagaland Civil Secretariat Grade-IV Staff Employees Association are actively participating in the tools down protest. The committee has instructed all its members across directorates and service associations to ensure that essential services – public transport, ambulances, educational institution vehicle service, sanitation, power and PHE services remain uninterrupted and that the protest remains peaceful



and confined to workplaces.

The state government on October 30 defended its position, stating that the IAS induction process being followed is based on decades old administrative convention. Government spokesperson and minister KG Kenye said the JCC's insistence that only Nagaland Civil Service (NCS) officers be considered for IAS induction was a "new development" and not consistent with long-standing practice.

"This is the first time we are facing such opposition to having even one IAS vacancy open to other services," Kenye said, adding that successive governments have always recommended at least one non-state civil services

officer who has shown "outstanding merit, efficiency, and service record."

Requesting the JCC to reconsider their stand and restore normalcy in the larger interest of the people, Kenye said the state government would wait for the observations of the DoPT and UPSC before taking any further decision.

"We have not violated any guidelines. If there are differing opinions, let the Centre decide," he said, while stressing that governance should not be paralysed by such disputes. This is the fourth phase of the agitation since it was launched on September 25, beginning with the wearing of black badges, followed by a poster campaign and a pen-down strike. (PTI)

Over 40% of 2025-26 budget for Janajati area development: Tripura CM

HT Correspondent

AGARTALA, Nov 6: Tripura Chief Minister Prof Dr Manik Saha today said that without developing Janajati areas, the development of Tripura is not possible, and for that, the state government has kept over 40% from budget for Janajati area development in the 2025-26 financial year.

Dr. Saha said this while inaugurating the State Level Toolkits Distribution Ceremony for Skilled Bru Candidates and virtually inaugurating the new building of Chawmanu Class XII School, the new building of Chawmanu Fire Station, the new building of the Executive Engineer, RD Department under Manu RD Division, and the construction of a Wayside Amenity at Manu.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Saha said that under the Swabalamban Yojana, six autos were flagged off. Under this scheme, the government gives a subsidy of Rs 1 lakh.

"Under the PM Kaushalya Yojana and Mukhyamantri Dakkhata Yojana, we provide skill training to Reang people. During the visit of Union Home Minister Amit Shah to the Bru camps, he said that not only providing houses, water, etc., would help, but the government must ensure skill development so that they can earn a sustainable income. The Skill Development department is working tirelessly and providing training. The Bru people have also said that they are happy and thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Not only providing jobs can be helpful, but we must provide skills to ensure employment," he said.



Dr. Saha said that for the past 23 years, not a single political party had taken steps to solve the issues of the Bru people.

"But after 2018, when the BJP formed the government, the government on humanitarian grounds, solve their issues. Our government is with you people and working for your development. The government is working to make people self-reliant. We want their economic, social development and employment generation. When the accord was signed for the Bru Reangs, a series of talks were held, and in 12 locations, resettlement was provided to them. We have provided toolkits to 895 and driving licences to 200, for which Rs 1.45 crore was spent," said Dr. Saha.

He informed that under the Tripura Skill and Entrepreneurship Policy 2024, which was launched last year with an aim to provide employment, 35,000 new candidates are undergoing training fo-

cluding on AI, Renewable Energy, IT Services, and the Hospital sector.

"Tripura is one of the states where we have specified skilled workers and are sending them to Japan. Five youths have already been sent, and four will go soon. 60 are learning the Japanese language. The opposition always says that the present government is not providing jobs. I want to tell them to listen to my speech and not spread negative campaigns.

"The 2024-25 budget was over 27,000 crore. The committed expenditure was Rs 17,014 crore, among which we provided Rs 6,645 crore for Janajati area development, which is around 39.06%. In 2025-26, we have kept above 40% of the budget for Janajati area development for education, sports, medical, etc. We have also taken up externally aided funds for Janajati areas. Without developing Janajati areas, Tripura cannot be developed," he added.

Nagaland mulls old age home in every dist

HT Correspondent

DIMAPUR, Nov 6: The Nagaland government is planning to establish one old age home in every district of the state, said adviser to the social welfare department Wangpang Konyak on Thursday.

Konyak said this while gracing an eye camp for senior citizens at district hospital Mon as the chief guest.

The camp was jointly organised by the social welfare department and Mercy Eye Centre Dimapur and supported by district hospital, Mon.

In the camp, Konyak highlighted the government schemes provided by the department like old age pension, elderly helpline and charity care for the elderly people of the state.

He urged the elders to follow the doctor's advice properly to maintain their health and for speedy recovery from any ailment.

He extended his gratitude to the Mercy Eye Centre Dimapur, Dr Chingkup Konyak and their team and also District Hospital, Mon for their cooperation in organising this camp. He also thanks the Deputy Commissioner Mon for his convenience.

Stating that it is a privilege for him to be a part of this restoring eyesight programme for the elderly, Konyak said it reminded that elders are not left behind.

He said the social welfare department is there to uplift vulnerable groups by providing social assistance, ensuring nutritional standards, and protecting those at risk. "This includes assisting the elderly," he added.

Mon DC Wennyei Konyak pointed out that lack of facilities and awareness leads to blindness and urged the gathering to go for a timely check-up to live a beautiful and comfortable life.

Mizoram by-poll: MNF accuses CM of making provocative speech

AIZAWL, Nov 6: Mizoram's main opposition party Mizo National Front (MNF) on Thursday charged Chief Minister Lalduhoma with making a provocative speech which may create misunderstanding and tension between different communities.

The CM made the comment last week at Silsury village in Mamit district while campaigning for the ruling ZPM candidate for the November 11 Dampa by-poll, MNF legal board member Saihmingliana Sailo told a press conference here.

Sailo alleged that during his November 1 speech, Lalduhoma accused the past Mizo leaders of instigating hatred against a particular tribal community, violating the model code of conduct (MCC).

"The chief minister deliberately violated the provisions of MCC and other laws by making a provocative statement aimed at igniting tension between different communities living peacefully in Mizoram," the opposition leader said. "The MNF Legal Board cannot remain a silent spectator to such highly objectionable and unethical conduct committed solely for electoral gain," Sailo said. He also accused Lalduhoma of misusing his official position by allegedly intimidating voters and promising financial grants and construction of roads during his campaign. (PTI)

NSF urges Nagaland govt to uphold meritocracy in IAS induction

HT Correspondent

DIMAPUR, Nov 6: The Naga Students' Federation (NSF) on Thursday appealed to the Nagaland government to uphold meritocracy and rectify "discrepancy" in the IAS induction process in the state.

In a representation to the chief secretary, the NSF said it is a matter of grave concern that serious procedural discrepancies and irregularities have reportedly arisen in the induction process into the IAS.

The federation said it firmly believed that any consideration of officers who have entered service through irregular, backdoor, or unconstitutional means constitutes a direct violation of the very spirit of meritocracy. "Any compromise on these principles, whether by omission or commission, will be deemed an act contrary to the very spirit of good governance and constitutional rule," it stated.

The NSF urged the government to rectify and nullify any irregular or unconstitutional consideration in the ongoing IAS induction process.

It also demanded that the government ensure strict adherence to merit-based and transparent procedures, limiting eligibility exclusively to officers who entered service through duly constituted authorities such as

the Nagaland Public Service Commission or other legitimate recruitment boards in compliance with established service rules and constitutional provisions.

The NSF suggested that a legally enforceable and transparent selection mechanism be institutionalised for the purpose under the personnel & administrative reforms department, incorporating clear eligibility criteria, audit mechanisms and oversight by a competent authority, to ensure that any future induction or promotion process conforms fully to the principles of justice, procedural fairness and administrative propriety.

While extending solidarity with the genuine concerns expressed by the joint coordination committee of five state employees associations in its rightful pursuit to uphold meritocracy, transparency and constitutional compliance in the service system of the state, the NSF urged the committee to keep its ongoing agitation in temporary abeyance in the larger public interest, saying prolonged disruptions have begun to impede essential governance and service delivery.

The NSF asserted that it remains committed to defending the principles of meritocracy, justice and transparency and safeguarding the trust of the Naga people in public institutions.

If Centre fails to form govt in Manipur, fresh elections should be held: BJP MLA

IMPHAL, Nov 6: Manipur BJP MLA L Rameshwor Meetei on Thursday said if the Centre fails to form a government in the state, fresh elections should be conducted.

He warned that the party's position in the state may weaken if a government is not formed.

Speaking to reporters on the

sidelines of a programme, the Keirao MLA said, "There are like-minded BJP legislators among us who have chosen Speaker Thokchom Satyabrata to lead in government formation. We are also prepared to convey this to the governor to stake claim for forming the government, but have been waiting for a favourable time."

He also claimed that legislators from both the hills and the valley are prepared to form the government.

Meetei further said, "I think if the government is not formed in November, the party's position will not be favourable. If a government cannot be formed, fresh elections should be held." (PTI)

Tripura to support 6,000 farmers with ₹ 1.8 crore under ARC potato cultivation scheme

HT Correspondent

AGARTALA, Nov 6: In a major move to boost potato production in Tripura, the state government has announced significant financial and material support for farmers adopting the ARC (Aerobic Rooted Cutting) method of cultivation. Addressing the media at the Secretariat today, Agriculture Minister Ratan Lal Nath said that a total of 6,000 farmers across the state will receive assistance this year under the scheme. Each farmer will get ₹ 2,000 in direct financial support deposited into their bank

accounts, along with agricultural materials worth ₹ 1,000. The government's total expenditure for this initiative will be around ₹ 1.8 crore. He said currently, around 23,700 farmers cultivate potatoes across 47,341 kanis of land in Tripura. "Traditionally, farmers have produced 2,500-3,000 kg of potatoes per kani. However, under the ARC method, yields have increased dramatically to between 9,000 and 10,000 kg per kani, the minister noted.

Minister Nath further stated that by the 2028-29 financial year, the state aims to become

self-sufficient in seed potato production, and by 2029-30, Tripura is expected to achieve full self-reliance in table potato production. The ARC method was first introduced on a pilot basis in 2023 with 100 farmers, producing promising results. Encouraged by its success, the number was increased to 400 farmers in 2024. Following these positive outcomes, this year the government will extend support to 4,000 farmers under the RKBY project and another 2,000 farmers through the Watershed Management Project.

Rainfall in state remains normal during October: IMD

HT Correspondent

AGARTALA, Nov 6: The Meteorological Centre, Agartala has reported that overall rainfall in Tripura during October 2025 remained within the "normal" range. The state recorded a total of 151.4 mm of rainfall during the month, compared to the normal value of 159.2 mm, marking a departure of -5% from the long-period average.

According to the Centre, the highest station-wise rainfall was recorded at Bagafa in South Tripura district, which received 357.6 mm of rain during October. The highest 24-hour rainfall was also observed at Bagafa, amounting to 176.4 mm on October 14.

At the district level, South Tripura experienced the highest average rainfall at 276.2 mm, showing an excess of +61% over the normal, while Unakoti district recorded the lowest rainfall at 81.2 mm, a deficiency of -

49%. In terms of temperature, the maximum temperature at Agartala Airport reached 34.8°C on October 22 and 23, with an average mean maximum temperature of 33.1°C, which was 1.3°C above normal. The minimum temperature dropped to 23.0°C on October 13, while the average mean minimum temperature was 24.8°C, 1.8°C above normal.

The Meteorological Centre further clarified that rainfall within ±19% of the long-period average is considered normal, while deviations beyond that range are categorized as deficient, large deficient, or excess, depending on the extent of variation.

The report concludes that overall, the weather conditions across Tripura in October 2025 were typical for the post-monsoon season, with moderate rainfall and slightly warmer temperatures than average.

Meghalaya govt committed to promoting state's rich cultural heritage: CM

TURA (MEGHALAYA), Nov 6: Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma on Thursday said his government remains committed to preserving and promoting the state's rich cultural heritage.

Joining the celebrations of the 49th Wangala Festival, the post-harvest thanksgiving ceremony of the Garo community, Sangma said the state government has undertaken several initiatives to support research on indigenous culture and heritage.

Expressing delight to participate in the event, Sangma said, "We take great pride in our rich heritage and remain committed to preserving and promoting it."

Celebrated annually after the harvest season, the Wangala Festival, often called the "100 Drums Festival", marks gratitude to Misi Saljong, the Sun God, for a bountiful harvest. The festival showcases the vibrant dance, music, and traditional attire of the Garo community, reflecting their deep connection to nature and agricultural life.

Sangma also mentioned the formation of a committee to study the journey of the Garos from Tibet with an aim at tracing their lineage and migration to the North East.

Acknowledging the efforts of all Wangala troupes and the organising committee, the chief minister thanked them for keeping the tradition alive for nearly five decades.

To improve connectivity to the venue, Sangma announced the sanctioning of ₹ 20 crore for the approach road to Wangala A dam.

He also handed over ₹ 25 lakh to the organisers for this year's festival and assured full government support for the Golden Jubilee celebrations next year.

He wished everyone a joyous Wangala Festival. (PTI)

If summoned, Manipur tribal students to boycott 'biased' NIA

CHURACHANDPUR (Manipur), Nov 6: Several tribal student organisations of Manipur on Thursday asserted that they will be compelled to boycott the "biased" National Investigating Agency (NIA) if any member of the Kuki Zo community is summoned in the future.

In a joint press statement, the Zomi Students Federation, Kuki Students Organisation and the Hmar Students Association alleged that several incidents in recent months indicate a push towards suppressing voices.

Besides, "selective targeting of innocent society leaders by the National Investigation Agency" was also witnessed, it claimed.

It also claimed that a "high degree" of bias against the Kuki Zo people was found in the filing and handling of cases by the NIA.

The student bodies alleged that the four members of the United Kuki National Army, killed in an army operation, were youths dedicated to defending their land.

The statement came two days after four UKNA cadres were killed at Khampi village under Henglep sub-division in Churachandpur district. The four were buried on Thursday evening, hours after the post-mortem examination was conducted. The ITLF, a tribal organisation, called for a total shutdown in Churachandpur town as a mark of "respect and mourning" from 12 noon on Thursday till the burial of the four is completed. The shutdown, which was lifted around 5.30 pm, evoked a mixed response. (PTI)

No.A/BKD/Tender/CSS/2025-26/1088-90

Date 06/11/2025

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed tenders affixing a non-refundable Court fee Stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight and paise twenty five) only with validity period of 180 days, which will subsequently be converted and drawn up in the printed F-2 form are invited from the registered contractors of A.P.W.D. Class-I (A), (B), (C) & Class-II & Class-III category according to their eligibility for submitting tenders for the work stated below.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Estimate Amount	Earnest Money (in Rs)	Cost of Tender Paper
1	Deployment of mobile anti-depredation squad and file anti-depredation squad (including hire charge of vehicle with cost of POL for 6 months)	Rs.4,50,000.00	2% for GEN, 1% For OBC/ST /SC of the estimated cost	500/-
2	Procurement of ammunition for use in anti-depredation activities by the anti-depredation squads.	Rs.1,00,000.00	2% for GEN, 1% For OBC/ST /SC of the estimated cost	500/-

The tenders will be received by the undersigned up to 2 PM on 14.11.2025 and will be opened on the same date and place at 3.30 PM in the office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Baksa Forest Division, Mushalpur. In the event of any unusual occurrence due to strike, bandh, holiday etc. the same will be received and opened on the next working day at same place and same time.

Details N.I.T may be seen in all workings days in the office of the undersign. The Tender paper will be issued to the contractor or their authorized agent from 10.00 Hrs to 4.00 Hrs on all working days from 07/11/2025 to 14.11.2025 on payment of Rs.500/- (Rupees Five Hundred) only in the form of DD/Bankers Cheque in Favour of Principal Secretary, BTC, Kokrajhar payable at SBI, Kokrajhar.

Sd/-

IPR (BTC)/C/2025-26/3050

Divisional Forest Officer,
Baksa Forest Division, Mushalpur

NOTICE

(on High Court Cases related to engagement of CTET qualified candidates)

No. 704442/I/1301914/2025

Date : 06.11.2025

The applicant(s) whose name(s) appeared in the list of shortlisted candidates (after submission of online application / offline application) for physical verification of original documents / certificates, and who did not appear and / or failed to appear before the notified verification team as per scheduled dates and time, held w.e.f. 29/10/2025 to 01/11/2025 at the State Mission Office, Samagra Shiksha Axom, Kahilipara, Guwahati- 19, are hereby requested to attend for physical verification of original documents / certificates at State Mission Office, Samagra Shiksha Axom, Kahilipara, Guwahati- 19 on 14/11/2025 from 11 AM to 4 PM as a last chance, failing which their candidature shall stand automatically forfeited and /or cancelled.

All concerned shall TAKE NOTICE that this is the last and final notice given to the abovementioned applicants. **No claim shall be entertained after 4 PM of 14/11/2025 in this regard.** No TA/DA will be admissible for attending the verification.

This notice is issued in continuance of this office's earlier Notice vide No.704442/1428505, dated 24-09-2025 and Notice vide No. SSA-13011/26/2025-TT-Sarba Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)/11277587/2025, dated 14/10/2025.



DIPR /DF/HLT/1259/7-Nov-25

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

BTS STAR JUNG KOOK'S GLOBAL EXHIBITION 'GOLDEN: THE MOMENTS' TO DEBUT IN INDIA IN DECEMBER

MUMBAI, Nov 6: BTS member Jung Kook's global exhibition 'GOLDEN: The Moments', which celebrates the Kpop icon's debut solo album and artistic journey, is set to make its India debut in December, the organisers announced on Tuesday. The immersive showcase will be held at Mumbai's Mehboob Studio from December 12, 2025 to January 11, 2026, marking the first time the exhibition is being staged in the country.

It promises fans a deep dive into Jung Kook's evolution from the "Golden Maknae" of BTS to a 21st-century global pop icon, a press release said.

The exhibition features a series of themed zones that explore Jung Kook's journey and the creative process behind his chart-topping hits.

These include "The Record of Golden Moments", tracing his rise to global stardom; "Golden: Records", showcasing memorabilia and accolades; "Golden: Photos", inspired by the three versions of his solo album; and "Golden: Sounds", which gives visitors a rare chance to listen to isolated instrument and vocal tracks from his songs.

Other sections such as "Golden: Theater" and "Shine Cinema" spotlight his music videos and performances, while "Solid Cinema" and "Golden:



Moments" offer behind-the-scenes glimpses into his artistry and work ethic.

The experience concludes with an interactive space for fans to leave personal messages,

becoming part of the artist's ongoing story.

The exhibition is brought to India through a collaboration between BookMyShow Live and HYBE, the South Korean enter-

tainment company behind BTS.

Naman Pugalia, Chief Business Officer - Live Events, BookMyShow, said the partnership with HYBE marks a milestone in expanding the company's vision for global live experiences in India.

"GOLDEN: The Moments" is an immersive celebration of Jung Kook's artistry, connecting fans through creativity and music. With India hosting one of the most passionate and ever-growing K-pop and BTS communities, we are thrilled to bring them closer than ever to one of their most beloved artists through this landmark exhibition," he added.

HYBE, which launched its India operations in 2021, said the collaboration is part of its mission to build stronger cultural bridges.

"India represents one of the most dynamic and fast-evolving music markets in the world. Through 'GOLDEN: The Moments', we're glad to open this new chapter with BookMyShow Live, bringing fans in India closer to the heart of Jung Kook's artistry and the universal power of music," the company said in a statement.

Tickets go live on November 6 at 12 PM exclusively on BookMyShow, with early buyers getting special access to a preview night. (PTI)

SUCH A PERFECT FIT: PRITAM ON ZOHRAN MAMDANI ENDING VICTORY SPEECH WITH 'DHOOM MACHALE'



NEW DELHI, Nov 6: Zohran Mamdani chose popular track "Dhoom Machale" to play after his victory speech as New York's mayor-elect and no one is more thrilled than its composer Pritam who was already rooting for the politician.

The 34-year-old Indian-descent democrat, the son of filmmaker Mira Nair and Columbia University professor

Mahmood Mamdani, defeated independent candidate Andrew Cuomo and Republican Curtis Sliwa on Tuesday night.

Pritam, who got to know Mamdani's filmmaker-mother Mira Nair while she was trying to make a film called "The Bengali Detective", said he woke up to the viral video.

"I was very interested in knowing the results because Zohran Mamdani is the son of Mira Nair. (I was) Hoping that he wins. And as I woke up, a friend from America sent me the clip of his win with 'Dhoom Machale' in the background. And it sounded like such a perfect fit," the musician told PTI. The composer said the song

from the 2004 Yash Raj Films heist drama has been remade in a lot of Southeast Asian languages.

"Dhoom machale" was quite a popular song in the Southeast when it released... And Prince Charles' ceremony band played 'Dhoom Machale'.

Bollywood songs have always been a big soft power for our country. The way the world reacts to Bollywood songs, it creates a connection in Central Asia, US, UK, Europe, everywhere you go," he added.

Pritam has given hits like "Channa Mereya", "Tum Hi Ho Bandhu", "Badtameez Dil", "Tum Se Hi", "Pehli Nazar Mein", "Phir Le Aaya Dil" and "Kya Mujhe Pyaar Hai".

Before joining politics, Mamdani was a hip-hop artist known first as 'Young Cardamom' and then as 'Mr Cardamom'. One of his popular tracks feature celebrity chef and actor Madhur Jaffery and it is titled 'Nani'.

Pritam also found Mamdani's musical roots interesting. "Zohran is a musician and Mira Nair's son, so his connection to hip-hop struck me as interesting," he added. (PTI)

Kamal Haasan's Raajkamal Films to present Rajnikanth's next '#Thalaivar173'



CHENNAI, Nov 6: Actor Kamal Haasan's Raajkamal Films International announced on Wednesday that it will be presenting superstar Rajnikanth's next film '#Thalaivar173'.

The film will be directed by Sundar C, a release issued by the production house said. "This landmark collaboration not only unites two towering forces of Indian cinema but also celebrates five decades of friendship and brotherhood between superstar Rajnikanth and Kamal Haasan, a bond that continues to inspire generations of artists and audiences alike," the release said.

The film will commemorate 44 years of Raajkamal Films International. '#Thalaivar173' is slated for a theatrical release through Red Giant Movies during Pongal 2027. (PTI)

'Industry is a confused pipeline of possibilities' says Channing Tatum

LOS ANGELES, Nov 6: "Euphoria" actor Sydney Sweeney has spoken out against the backlash she received for her American Eagle jeans ad, saying the outrage didn't affect her as she won't let other people define who she is.

Sweeney's American Eagle campaign featured the tagline "Sydney Sweeney Has Great Jeans," a pun around "great genes" which many deemed racist as people thought it was directed towards glorifying the actor's white heritage. The Emmy nominee said she didn't put out a formal statement explaining her side of things in August, when the controversy broke, as she knows herself best.

"I've always believed that I'm not here to tell people what to think...I know who I am. I know what I value, I know that I'm a kind person," Sweeney said in an interview with GQ magazine.

"I know that I love a lot, and I know that I'm just excited to see what happens next. And so I don't

really let other people define who I am," she added.

Speaking directly about the campaign and the subsequent backlash, Sweeney said that it was just work.

"I did a jean ad. I mean, the reaction definitely was a surprise, but I love jeans. All I wear are jeans. I'm literally in jeans and a T-shirt every day of my life... I knew at the end of the day what that ad was for, and it was great jeans, it didn't affect me one way or the other," she said, adding that she just put her phone away on the set of "Euphoria".

The ad blew up to the level that American president Donald Trump and Vice President JD Vance weighed in calling out "liberals". Sweeney called that moment "surreal".

Sweeney is set to appear in the third and final season of "Euphoria" and the film adaptation of "The Housemaid" which also stars Amanda Seyfried and Brandon Sklenar. (PTI)

It didn't affect me one way or the other: Sydney Sweeney on American Eagle ad controversy

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FODEN INSPIRES MAN CITY IN THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE AND HAALAND SETS LATEST BENCHMARK

MANCHESTER, Nov 6: Phil Foden sent an emphatic reminder to England's head coach with two brilliantly taken goals in Manchester City's 4-1 win over Borussia Dortmund in the Champions League on Wednesday.

"He is back," City manager Pep Guardiola said. "He is a special player."

Tuchel will name his latest England squad this week after overlooking Foden so far this season and with time running out before next year's World Cup.

But the City forward strengthened his case for a recall with an inspired performance against Dortmund. He scored in each half at the Etihad Stadium, with Erling Haaland — of course — smashing home his 27th of the season in between. Substitute Rayan Cherki got the other after Waldemar Anton scored for Dortmund.

Tuchel is set to announce his squad Friday for the final World Cup qualifiers against Serbia



and Albania, with England having already secured qualification.

Foden has rediscovered some of his best form this season after enduring a frustrating campaign last term as City relinquished the Premier League title. His goals on Tuesday — both swept low into the bottom corner — took his tally on the season to four and could have come at just the

right time to capture Tuchel's attention.

"There's no person in this country or around the world that doesn't know his quality and ability, but England is so lucky to have this amount of good players," Guardiola said. "In his position there are a lot and that's why he has to push himself to be better and better and better."

Foden's omission from Eng-

land's four games this season have been a talking point, with players like Eberechi Eze, Marcus Rashford and Anthony Gordon all adding to the competition for places.

Despite being widely regarded as one of the most gifted English players of his generation, Foden is still to consistently perform for England.

And it appears he is yet to convince Tuchel after being given chances in the German's first games in charge earlier this season.

"Thomas is so smart and wise and know exactly what the team needs," Guardiola said. "I think Thomas knows perfectly (about) Phil. What Phil wants to do is play better and better and better."

HIGH 5 FOR HAALAND

Haaland set another scoring benchmark in the Champions League after finding the back of the net for the fifth consecutive game for City in European club soccer's elite tournament.

According to City, he is the

first player to achieve that feat with three different teams, having previously done so with former clubs RB Salzburg and Dortmund.

His latest goal — a powerfully struck effort from close range — was his 54th in 52 games in the Champions League. Lionel Messi has the record for reaching 60 goals in the fewest number of games — 80. Haaland looks certain to beat that — possibly before the league phase of this year's tournament is completed.

RODDRI OUT

Rodri didn't even make the bench after returning from a hamstring injury against Bournemouth last weekend. Guardiola said City was being cautious about the Spain international, but his absence places doubts over whether he will be available for the league clash against Liverpool on Sunday.

Rodri missed the majority of last season with an ACL injury and his contribution has been limited this term. (AP)

Inter Miami's Lionel Messi tells business conference that he's not focused on legacy yet

MIAMI, Nov 6: Lionel Messi already is considered the greatest soccer player ever. That said, he thinks there's still more for him to accomplish.

The Inter Miami star told a business conference on Wednesday that there will be a time to reflect on what he's done in his soccer life. But those days, he said, won't happen until he retires, and given that he has a contract to continue playing through 2028 that may not be anytime soon.

"It's not something I've thought about or worried about," Messi said in Spanish, when asked about his legacy. "When I retire, as the years go by, obviously I'll value everything I did in my career and what I

achieved professionally much more. But today is the time to keep enjoying myself and to keep playing."

Messi, the World Cup champion for Argentina and eight-time Bal-

lon d'Or winner, was the final speaker on the first day of the America Business Summit — following the likes of President Donald Trump, Nobel Peace Prize winner Maria Corina Machado and FIFA President Gianni Infantino.

He was interviewed by Miami Mayor Francis Suarez, who presented Messi with a ceremonial key to the city when their talk was complete. Messi — speaking in an arena mostly filled by business executives — got several loud ovations, with many people grabbing photos and video on their phones while he spoke.

"It is spectacular, my first time living in this incredible city," Messi said. "The affection of all the people from the first day, it was impressive and today is yet another example of the welcome. ... I'm very grateful."

Suarez asked Messi about what it was like to lead Argentina to the World Cup title in 2022. The U.S.,

Canada and Mexico will play host to the World Cup next summer, when Argentina will aim to defend its title.

"As a player, winning the World Cup, I think it's the best," Messi said. "After the World Cup, you can't ask for anything more."

Messi joined Inter Miami midway through 2023, won the Major League Soccer MVP award last year and is a heavy favorite to become the league's first back-to-back MVP this season. He and Inter Miami face a win-or-else Game 3 of their first-round playoff series against Nashville SC on Saturday night at the team's home park in Fort Lauderdale.

At 38, Messi is still elite. He scored a league-best 29 goals in this year's MLS regular season, five more than LAFC's Denis Bouanga and Nashville's Sam Surridge. He also had 19 assists, and his 48 total goal contributions was

one shy of matching the MLS record of 49 set by Carlos Vela in 2019. But he also acknowledged to the conference Wednesday that his mind is, slowly, beginning to shift to life after soccer and his varied business interests.

"Unfortunately, at some point, it ends," Messi said. "I want to continue learning. ... For me, something else is coming, another world, and little by little I am getting involved."

Messi spoke on the same day that Inter Miami announced that its new stadium near Miami International Airport is reaching a major construction milestone — with the final beams for the stadium canopy being raised.

Messi signed a three-year extension with Inter Miami last month.

"I'm happy in this place, so I'm very happy to continue," he said. "I'm really anxious, really looking forward to it being finished, to be able to play here." (AP)



ED attaches assets worth ₹11.14 Cr of ex-Indian cricketers Raina, Dhawan in online betting case

NEW DELHI, Nov 6: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached assets worth ₹11.14 crore of former cricketers Suresh Raina and Shikhar Dhawan as part of a money-laundering probe linked to the operations of an alleged illegal betting site, official sources said on Thursday.

A provisional order has been issued under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to attach an immovable property of Dhawan worth ₹4.5 crore and a mutual fund of Raina worth ₹6.64 crore in the case against the online betting site named 1xBet, the sources said.

The federal agency's probe has found that both the former cricketers "knowingly" entered into endorsement agreements with foreign entities for the promotion of 1xBet and its surrogates.

The ED has questioned the two, apart from other former cricketers such as Yuvraj Singh and Robin Uthappa, actors Sonu Sood, Urvashi Rautela, Mimi Chakraborty (a former Trinamool Congress MP) and Ankush Hazra (Bengali actor), as part of this investigation.

Registered in Curacao, 1xBet is stated by the portal to be a globally-recognised bookmaker with 18 years in the betting industry. (PTI)

Ecuadorian soccer player, 16, killed by stray bullet in Guayaquil

QUITO (ECUADOR), Nov 6: A 16-year-old soccer player from the youth academy of Independiente del Valle was fatally shot when he was struck by a stray bullet at home in the port city of Guayaquil, police said.

Miguel Nazareno was at home "when he unfortunately became a victim of the insecurity affecting our country," the soccer team said in an Instagram post, citing a wave of criminal violence began in Ecuador almost five years ago.

"We extend our most sincere condolences and all our support to his family, friends, and teammates during this difficult time," the team's post added.

Nazareno, who played as a midfielder and forward, was the victim of a stray bullet, according to police.

Nazareno became the fourth soccer player killed by gunfire in Ecuador this year. In September, Maicol Valencia and Leandro Yépez, both from Exapromo Costa, and Jonathan González, from 22 de Junio, were killed.

Both Exapromo Costa and 22 de Junio are second-division squads.

Nazareno played for Independiente del Valle's Under-18 team. Several Ecuadorian national team players who play for European clubs, such as Moisés Caicedo (Chelsea) and Piero Hincapié (Bayer Leverkusen), came up through the ranks at Independiente del Valle.

Since 2021, Ecuador has experienced a growing criminal violence by gangs operating in coordination with Colombian and Mexican cartels involved in drug trafficking. (AP)

Hat trick moves Osimhen ahead of Kane, Mbappe and Haaland on Champions League scoring table

AMSTERDAM, Nov 6: With a hat trick, Victor Osimhen has moved atop the Champions League scoring table.

The Nigeria striker netted all three goals in Galatasaray's 3-0 victory over Ajax in Amsterdam on Wednesday.

Osimhen now has six goals this season in Europe's elite club competition. That's one more than Harry Kane, Kylian Mbappe and Erling Haaland.

The Istanbul club signed Osimhen to a permanent deal from Napoli in the summer for a record transfer fee in the Turkish League worth reportedly 75 million euros (\$86 million).

It's clear why. The 26-year-old striker needed less than 20 minutes to complete his first hat trick in the competition.

He headed in the opener in the 59th minute



off a cross from Leroy Sané. In the 66th and 78th, his perfectly executed spot kicks gave no chance to Ajax goalkeeper Remko Pasveer.

"We have a goal. We know what we want, and we know the magnitude of performance

you need in the Champions League," Osimhen told Galatasaray TV.

"We want to match up with the elite. It won't be easy, but we'll go step by step. We have the individual quality to do damage to every team."

In the previous Champions League games this term, he scored the lone goal in a 1-0 victory over Liverpool (also from the spot), and added two more to help Galatasaray beat Bodø/Glimt 3-1. Galatasaray won three straight matches and is ninth with nine points halfway through the league phase.

Paris Saint-Germain, Chelsea and Saudi club Al-Ahli all were reportedly interested in Osimhen before he moved from Napoli to Galatasaray on a loan deal in September 2024. He then helped the club win the league and the Cup in his first season in Turkey. He scored 26 in the league and five in the Cup that term. (AP)

Sheetal Devi breaks new ground, qualifies for India's able-bodied archery team for Asia Cup

NEW DELHI, Nov 6: Pararcher Sheetal Devi, the world compound champion born without arms, shattered another barrier on Thursday by being picked in the Indian able-bodied junior team for the upcoming Asia Cup Stage 3 in Jeddah.

Her selection marks another historic first for Sheetal — the inclusion of a para-athlete in an Indian team for an able-bodied international competition.

"When I started competing, I had a small dream — to one day compete alongside the able-bodied. I didn't make it at first, but I kept going, learning from every setback. Today, that dream is one step closer," Sheetal wrote on social media after the announcement. Winner of a bronze medal in the mixed team compound event at the 2024 Paris Paralympics, Sheetal drew inspiration from Turkey's Paris Paralympic champion Ozgur Cure Girdi, who also competes in able-bodied events at the world level.

Competing among more than 60 able-bodied archers from across the country under identical conditions, the 18-year-old from Jammu and Kashmir finished third overall in the rigorous four-day national selection trials held in Sonapat. Sheetal scored 703 points in the qualification rounds — 352 in the first and 351 in the second — matching top qualifier Tejal Salve's total. In the final rankings, Tejal (15.75 points) and Vaidehi Jadhav (15 points) took the top two spots, while Sheetal secured third place with 11.75 points, narrowly edging out Maharashtra's Dnyaneshwari Gadadhe by 0.25 points. Trained at the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board Sports Complex in Katra, Sheetal has already carved her name in history by becoming the first female armless world champion in para archery this year.

Teams

Recurve: Men's: Rampal Choudhary (AAI), Rohit Kumar (Uttar Pradesh), Mayank Kumar (Haryana); **Women:** Kondapavuluri Yuktha Sri (Andhra Pradesh), Vaishnavi Kulkarni (Maharashtra), Kratika Bichpuriya (Madhya Pradesh).

Compound: Men: Pradhuman Yadav, Vasu Yadav, Devansh Singh (all Rajasthan); **Women's:** Tejal Salve, Vaidehi Jadhav (both Maharashtra), Sheetal Devi (Jammu and Kashmir). (PTI)

BEIJING, Nov 6: China's appointment of former international Shao Jiayi as national team head coach on Wednesday has been welcomed at home and abroad.

Shao, 45, played at the 2002 World Cup — China's only appearance at the tournament — and is considered one of the nation's most successful exports after spending nine years in Germany.

As a coach, Shao previously served as an assistant with the national side and took over Qingdao West Coast in 2024. The club currently sits ninth in the Chinese Super League.

"I support the decision," former China international Mao Jianqing said. "Shao Jiayi is capable, and his personality and other aspects are suitable. The national team can't be changed by one coach immediately—it takes time."

China has been without a permanent coach since Branko Ivankovic of Croatia departed in June following the team's elimi-

Volongkom Aji FC clinch 4th Langpher MAC Cup Football title

A Correspondent

BAKULIGHAT, Nov 6: Volongkom Aji FC defeated Longsek Athoi FC 3-1 to lift the 4th Langpher MAC Cup Football Tournament 2025, held at Bakulighat Higher Secondary School playground on Thursday. The tournament was dedicated to the memory of former MAC, late Chittaranjan Das. For the winning side, Shivo Timung scored two goals while Mindar Taru netted one.

Rohit Boro scored the lone goal for the runners-up.

The champion team received a cheque of ₹40,000 along with a trophy, while the runners-up were awarded ₹20,000 and a trophy.

Pushpraj Singh, SP Karbi Anglong, attended the final match as chief guest. EM KAAC Madhuram Lekthe, Dr Pankaj Teron of KASA, DSP Bhargav Saikia, and family members of late Chittaranjan Das were also present during the prize distribution ceremony.

Shivo Timung was adjudged Player of the Match, Shelwin Hanse received the Highest Scorer Award with 10 goals in the tournament, and Bamon Terang was named Best Goalkeeper.

Ove Kimi Club, Phongloket secured third place. The tournament began on September 7.

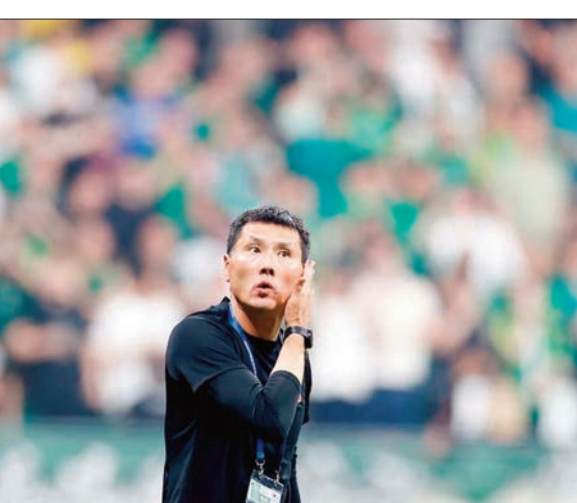
Shao Jiayi named head coach of China's national soccer team

As a player, Shao made nearly 200 appearances for German clubs 1860 Munich, Energie Cottbus and MSV Duisburg between 2002 and 2011 before returning to his original club Beijing Guoan where he ended his career in 2015.

The German Football Association congratulated Shao and the CFA on the appointment. "We look forward to seeing China's national team reach new heights under his leadership, and the Bundesliga remains committed to long-term cooperation and supporting the sustainable development of Chinese football," it said in a statement.

Shao becomes the third member of China's 2002 World Cup squad to coach the national team, following Li Tie, who is serving a 20-year prison sentence on corruption charges, and Li Xiaopeng.

His first task is to prepare for the 2027 Asian Cup, to be held in Saudi Arabia. (AP)



nation from 2026 World Cup qualifying.

The Chinese Football Association (CFA) advertised the position to domestic and international candidates and said the appointment was made after "taking into full consideration the experience and lessons of previous national team coach selections, the current situation and level of Chinese men's football, the long-term development of the national team, as well as the qualities and coaching abilities of the candidates and expert opinions."

Vani cards second straight 68, takes one-shot lead in 14th Leg of WPGT



JAIPUR, Nov 6: Vani Kapoor picked just two birdies but parred the rest of the second round for a steady 2-under 68 that put her in sole lead in the 14th leg of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour at the Rambagh Golf Club on Thursday.

A four-time winner in 2025, Vani is now 4-under 136 for two rounds and one shot ahead of Jasmine Shekar (69-68) at the Par-70 course.

Vidhatri Urs (70-68) moved into third place at 2-under 138, while Ridhima Dilawari (71-68), Sneha Singh (70-69) and Shagun Narain (68-71) were tied for the fourth place at 1-under 139.

Vani, one of the three co-lead-

ers after the first round, parred the entire front nine and then four more before she found her first birdie on the Par-3 13th. She followed that up with another on the Par-5 14th.

She closed her round with four more pars for a second straight 68 as she moved closer to a fifth title this season.

Jasmine Shekar was also very steady, though she dropped a shot on the Par-5 eighth, while picking birdies on the third, 16th and the 17th.

Vidhatri Urs had four birdies against two bogeys for her 68, which was the day's best score registered by as many as five players.

Ridhima Dilawari parred her first eight holes and birdied the ninth. On the back nine she landed an eagle on Par-5 14th and birdied the Par-5 17th, but also dropped shots on the 12th and the 16th.

Sneha Singh had four birdies against three bogeys for 69, while Shagun, who shared the first-round lead with Vani and Jahanvi Bakshi, had four birdies, all of which came on the back nine.

She had three bogeys and one double bogey on the closing 18th. Amandeep Drall (72-68) was even-par 140 and seventh. She had a bogey on the second but birdied three times on the eighth, 14th and the 18th, all of which were Par-5s, for a solid 68.

Overnight co-leader Jahanvi Bakshi, making a comeback, dropped three shots in the last two holes in her round of 73 and was eighth at 141, while Astha Madan (71-71) was ninth.

Five players, Khushi Khanijau (72-72), Smriti Bhargava (73-71), Neha Tripathi (71-73), Kriti Chowhan (70-74) and amateur Rishya Jadon (69-75) were all tied for the 10th place at 4-over 144. The cut fell at 151 and 25 players made the cut. (PTI)

Alcaraz grouped with Djokovic and Sinner with Zverev in ATP Finals draw

TURIN (ITALY), Nov 6: Top-seeded Carlos Alcaraz was drawn in a group with Novak Djokovic at the ATP Finals, while defending champion Jannik Sinner was grouped with Alexander Zverev on Thursday.

The Jimmy Connors group features Alcaraz, Djokovic, Taylor Fritz and Alex de Minaur.

The Bjorn Borg group has Sinner, Zverev, Ben Shelton and Felix Auger-Aliassime or Lorenzo Musetti, who are battling for the final spot.

Auger-Aliassime occupies the eighth and final qualifying spot but Musetti can leapfrog the Canadian if he wins a tournament in Athens this week.

The status of Djokovic, who is also playing in Athens, is questionable. Djokovic, who is a record seven-time champion

at the finals, sat out the event last year and has said he will decide whether to play or not after the Athens tournament.

The finals start on Sunday with round-robin play. The top two finishers in each group advance to the semifinals.

The final is scheduled for Nov. 16.

Alcaraz will be playing in the finals for the third time; his best result was the semifinals in 2023.

Alcaraz and Sinner are still fighting for the year-end No. 1 ranking which will be determined by their performances at the finals.

Zverev won the finals in 2018 and 2021 while Fritz lost last year's final to Sinner.

De Minaur is making his second consecutive appearance and Shelton is making his debut. (AP)

Final T20 to be played in Brisbane on November 8 Bowlers give India 2-1 series lead against Australia in Gold Coast

CARRARA (GOLD COAST), Nov 6: India defended a modest total with a stifling bowling performance for a 48-run win over Australia in the fourth T20 International to grab an unassailable 2-1 lead in the five-match series here on Thursday.

The architects of India's win were Axar Patel and Shivam Dube who shared two wickets each to put Australia on the backfoot in the run chase.

Washington Sundar struck thrice towards the end as India comfortably defended 168 with Australia folding up for 119 in 18.2 overs after being 91/3 at one stage.

The final T20 will be played in Brisbane on November 8. The opening match of the series was washed out in Canberra.

Openers Matthew Short (30 off 24) and Mitchell Marsh (25 off 19) got Australia off the blocks smoothly in the run chase but a flurry of wickets in the middle overs pushed the hosts to a point of no return.

After Axar trapped Short in the powerplay, Dube removed Marsh and Tim David (14 off 9) in successive overs to make a telling impact on the game. The wicket of Marsh came off his second ball before he surprised David



with a short ball in the following over.

Arsheep Singh too picked a wicket in the middle overs and the game seemed done and dusted when Glenn Maxwell saw his exposed stumps disturbed off the last ball of Varun Chakaravarty's fourth over.

The stellar performance came after a middling batting effort. India never got the momentum they needed after a wicket-less powerplay to end with an under-

whelming 167 for eight. Abhishek Sharma (28 off 21) and Shubman Gill (46 off 39) put on 56 for the opening wicket before India lost their way.

Promoted to number three to counter Adam Zampa, Shivam Dube (22 off 18) could not make a big impact while skipper Suryakumar Yadav (20 off 10) departed after hitting a couple of sixes.

Pacer Nathan Ellis (3/21 in 4 overs) was the pick of the Australian bowlers, using his varia-

tions effectively.

Zampa leaked 45 runs in his four overs but more importantly, he got three wickets including the dangerous Abhishek.

Abhishek stepped out to Zampa in the second ball of his opening spell and dispatched it down the ground for a maximum.

The southpaw tried to hit another one out of the park two balls later but was caught at long on.

Abhishek could have been out off the game's second ball by left-arm pacer Ben Dwarshuis but Xavier Bartlett grassed the early opportunity.

Abhishek's friend and opening partner Gill, who is yet to make an impact in the series, had to work hard for his runs.

He released some pressure with a massive hit off Marcus Stonis in the cow corner region before falling to a back of the hand slower one from Ellis.

The wickets kept falling thereafter, robbing the innings of any flow. Axar Patel (21 not out off 11) got the much needed boundaries towards the end to push the total past 160.

India lost four wickets for 42 runs in the last five overs but a stellar bowling performance carried them over the line. (PTI)

Dhruv Jurel's hundred carries India A to 255 after top-order failure against South Africa A

BENGALURU, Nov 6: Dhruv Jurel gave a scintillating demonstration of his technical nous with a fighting hundred, carrying India A to a respectable 255 all out after a top-order malfunction against South Africa A on the first day of the four-day match here on Thursday. Asked to bat first, India A were in serious trouble, some of their own making, at 126 for seven, but Jurel (132 not out, 175b, 12x4, 4x6) and Kuldeep Yadav (20, 87b) milked 79 runs for a doughty eighth-wicket stand to bail them out.

Jurel's innings stood out for its marvellous adherence to batting technique, helping him survive the vagaries of conditions, pitch and relentlessness of Protean bowlers under largely overcast skies.

His batting neither touches the vast expanses nor does it have an element of derring-do, but it's based on stunning compactness that allows him to collect runs stealthily.

Even the six he hit off off-spinner Prenelan Subrayen over long on was not an explosive act, but more a melange of timing and precise ball placement.

Later his slog-swept six off Subrayen too was not a shot hit in anger, but testified his judgment and awareness of field setting around him.

On other occasions, he either leaned on his front-foot to smother the spin or waited late to turn the balls to on-side for risk-free singles.

The pacers Tshupo Moreki and Tiaan Van Vuuren (4/52) found steady bounce off the pitch here under overcast skies, but Jurel was quick to climb over the balls to guide them past the point fielder for boundaries. Jurel flicked when the SA bowlers slanted the balls onto his pads, and pulled out drives when they pitched up to him. On the day, his initial movement and footwork were so decisive that he seldom got stuck in no-man's land playing the shots.

The only time he looked awful at the crease was when he attempted a lap shot in vain off Van Vuuren.

Soon the 24-year-old fetched his fourth first-class hundred with a single off Van Vuuren, much to the de-



light of his teammates and a few spectators who hung around the periphery of BCCI Centre of Excellence grounds.

It was also his third hundred in the last seven innings after going past three digits against Australia A at Lucknow and the West Indies at Ahmedabad.

Jurel has an equally unflappable companion in Kuldeep, who was dropped on four, in his rescue mission, as they batted 124 minutes and 173 balls across two sessions to thwart the visitors' advance.

He had a slight collision with SA wicketkeeper Connor Esterhuizen that required a medical check-up, and that was the lone discomforting moment during his long stay, until a mix-up with Jurel resulted in his run out. Their partnership unfortunately did not have any top-order reflection as Sai Sudharsan (17, 52b), KL Rahul (19 off 40) and skipper Rishabh Pant (24 off 20) got out after getting starts.

Sudharsan was pinned on the back foot by Subrayen with a quicker one and Rahul's drive off Van Vuuren ended in the big gloves of Esterhuizen. Pant was all aggression but the desire to dominate Moreki after getting hit on his left thumb forced him to slap the pacer straight to Marquies Ackermann at mid-off.

Opener Abhimanyu Easwaran did not even get a start, as he played all over an incoming delivery from Van Vuuren to be caught in front, and Devdutt Padikkal snicked the left-armed to Esterhuizen as India A withered quickly. (PTI)

Those who taunted me and my family are now applauding: Kranti Goud

NEW DELHI, Nov 6: The boys were one player short. With no option left, they decided to include her in the team.

That was the first step into cricket for Indian pacer Kranti Goud who until then had only watched the game from the fringes. Occasionally, she had thrown the ball back into the field whenever it rolled near her modest home's doorstep in Ghuwara village of Madhya Pradesh.

"I didn't even know there was a women's cricket team -- that's where my journey began," Goud said just before meeting President Droupadi Murmu here on Thursday along with the rest of her team following its historic World Cup victory.

The 22-year-old, who contributed nine wickets at an average of 18.55 to India's maiden title-clinching run, including a player of the match-winning three-wicket haul against Pakistan, spoke to PTI Videos about her nascent but remarkable career so far.

The felicitation at the Rashtrapati Bhawan followed an evening meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday, marking an unprecedented high for the youngster, who made her debut for India only in May this year.

Her story began far from the stadium lights and cameras. She recalled watching mostly from afar, a bunch of boys playing the game near her house.

This distant familiarity culminated into an opportunity as she ended up in the playing XI on a day when the boys were a player short.

"There was a ground in front of my house, so boys used to play there and when the ball would



come near my house, I used to throw it to them. When I started playing with them, they used to play me only as a fielder but slowly, I also learned playing.

"I didn't even know that there was something called a spin bowler so I just started bowling pace looking at them," she laughed.

It set off a chain of events during the course of which her formative coach Rajiv Bilthre, who was also the secretary of the Chhatrapur District Cricket Association, spotted her and found her speed to be impressive.

"He asked me whether I aspired to play international cricket as well. I was not aware that there is an international team of girls and then he took me to his academy.

"Within six months I played the senior division and within a year I debuted for state's domestic under-19 team in Vadodara," she said.

Proud world champion
The youngster is obviously elated and proud at how things

have panned out for her so far. She has appeared in 15 ODIs and a T20I since her debut.

"I am feeling really proud as this was my first World Cup and we are world champions now. It is a matter of pride for me, my family and the entire nation," she said.

Coming from a conservative rural background, Goud faced social resistance in her early days but she is glad that the same people in her village have shown the grace to applaud her success.

"I am from a small village, so they didn't allow girls to play and used to say that why are you allowing her to play with the boys? But I thought that one day, I will make them all clap for my performance.

"And now those who used to taunt me and my family are applauding us. Now the women's team is also improving and after the World Cup win it will go very far," she said.

On to cricketing matters and Goud said her approach to bowling is built on simplicity.

"I just try to implement what Sir (head coach Amol Muzumdar) asks me while bowling and not trying anything extra. Whatever my coach has told me, I just do that and not anything extra.

"There are different coaches in WPL, domestic and then international, but they say almost the same thing -- to bowl at the stump line," she said.

The young fast bowler also shared a special memory from her meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"I told him that my brother admires him a lot. The Prime Minister smiled and said, 'I'll make sure to meet your brother soon.'" Goud signed off. (PTI)

Pat Cummins aiming to return for second Ashes Test at Brisbane

SYDNEY, Nov 6: Australia captain Pat Cummins is on track to return for the second Ashes Test but admitted that he might not play all four remaining matches against England, given the short turn-arounds between games.

Australia will be captained by Steve Smith as Cummins will miss the all-important Ashes opener due to a back injury and even though he expects to be bowling full tilt by the first Test, a decision on his return will be taken closer to the second Test starting December 4. The 32-year-old, who has been sidelined by a lower-back injury since July, was able to bowl a spell of eight overs without feeling any pain in his back on Wednesday.

"That's the aim and we're building our plan to the second Test. It's probably not until you get a bit closer that you can really know where you're at," Cummins was quoted as saying by 'cricket.com.au' on Thursday.

"The good thing is that I'm pulling up well and the body is great. We're trying to keep that second Test as a live option. I'll have a really good bowl in Perth, and by then I'll know where I'm at," added Cummins.

Cummins, however, may not feature in each of the four Tests after missing the opener at Perth starting on November 21 in order to manage his workload.

"I'm pretty keen to play as much as I can. But realistically, if we have a big game and bowl 40 or 50 overs and then there's a game that starts a few days later, it might be a bridge too far," he said.

While there is a long gap between the second and third Tests to be played at Brisbane and Adelaide from December 4-8 and December 17-21 respec-



tively, the remaining three Tests will only have four-day gaps between them.

"I'm trying to get right, and if I get right then hopefully I'll try to play most of it as I can," Cummins said. The pacer will remain with the Australian side during the Ashes opener.

"Before the 2023 ODI World Cup I flew over to South Africa and watched the last couple of ODIs there," he said.

"It was actually a really different view from the coach's box. It's a different perspective. Hopefully, I gather some information from being in that position through the Test that later on in the series I can use."

"Or maybe Steve Smith needs something and I have seen something differently from up there. But being close to the game and the conversations, I think I will need that going into the second or third Test," Cummins added. (PTI)

Hermann replaces Brevis in SA vs Pak ODIs

KARACHI, Nov 6: Cricket South Africa on Thursday called up wicketkeeper-batter Rubin Hermann for the remainder of their ODI series against Pakistan as a replacement for injured Dewald Brevis.

Brevis, who was hurt on his shoulder while fielding during the third T20I in Lahore, will remain with the South African squad to prepare for the two-Test tour of India, starting on November 14.

Hermann was a part of South Africa's A side currently playing a two-match unofficial Test series against India A. He had scored a half-century in the first unofficial Test, which the hosts won by three wickets.

The 28-year-old Hermann has played six T20Is for South Africa and is yet to make his ODI debut.

The visiting South African side in Pakistan is already without several

of its frontline players including captain Aiden Markram, Kagiso Rabada, Temba Bavuma, Keshav Maharaj, David Miller, Gerald Coetzee, Ryan Rickelton and Tristan Stubbs.

Pakistan have a 1-0 lead in the three-match ODI series, having won the first game by two wickets. The second and the third ODIs will be played in Faisalabad on November 6 and 8. (PTI)

RCB appoint Malolan Rangarajan as women's team head coach

BENGALURU, Nov 6: Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) on Thursday named former Tamil Nadu spinner Malolan Rangarajan as the head coach of their women's team ahead of the fourth WPL season next year.

Rangarajan replaces Luke Williams, who was appointed as head coach in 2024. The Australian is set to miss the WPL (Women's Premier League) due to his commitments with Adelaide Strikers in the Big Bash League.

"Malolan Rangarajan, a key member of the RCB support staff for the last six years in various roles, has now been appointed as head coach for the upcoming WPL cycle," RCB posted on their official X handle.

Rangarajan has been a part of RCB's WPL setup since its inception. He served as the assistant coach during their title-winning season in 2024.

The WPL is being held a month earlier than usual in 2026 -- from January to February -- as India are set to co-host the men's T20 World Cup with Sri Lanka in the February-March window. (PTI)

Chapman stars as New Zealand holds out West Indies by 3 runs in 2nd T20

AUCKLAND (NEW ZEALAND), Nov 6: Mark Chapman blasted 78 from 28 balls including a half-century from only 19 deliveries as New Zealand beat the West Indies by three runs and leveled the series at 1-1 on Thursday.

Chapman's assault saw New Zealand add 100 runs from the ninth to the 16th overs on the way to 207-5 after being sent in.

The West Indies struggled at first against New Zealand's three-pronged spin attack and was 94-6 after 13 overs.

But outstanding hitting by Rovman Powell, who made 45 from 16 balls, Romario Shepherd with 34 from 16 and Matthew Forde with an unbeaten 29 from 13 saw the West Indies reach the last over needing 16 runs with three wickets in hand.

Entrusted with the final over, Kyle Jamieson conceded fours from the first and third balls, the second of which was a no ball. Powell was out to the fourth ball, caught by Chapman who took three catches in the innings to complete a player-of-the-match performance. The West Indies needed six from the last two balls but managed only three runs and finished 204-8.

"The West Indies boys, they're so strong they're never really out of the game," Chapman said. "It was amazing that the boys held their nerve at the end."

Chapman went from 12 off 10 balls to 65 off 22 balls. He hit 24 runs including three sixes in the 13th over, bowled by Shepherd, then four fours and a six in the 15th over bowled by Jayden Seales. (AP)

Tattoos and skin care routine come up in WC-winning women's team's fun interaction with PM

NEW DELHI, Nov 6: Their remarkable World Cup-winning campaign was not the only topic covered when India's women cricketers sat down for a light-hearted conversation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his residence where tattoos and even skin care routine came up for discussion.

India defeated South Africa by 52 runs in the final to lift their first ever global title in Navi Mumbai last week, following which the squad, along with head coach Amol Muzumdar and BCCI president Mithun Manhas, met the Prime Minister here on Wednesday.

"I still remember when we met you in 2017. At that time, we did not come with a trophy. But it is a matter of great honour for us that this time, for something we have been working so hard for so many years, we have brought the trophy here," skipper Harmanpreet Kaur said in the video of the interaction shared by the PM on Thursday.

"Our aim is that we meet you again and again in the future and take photos with you and your team again and again."

In the Women's World Cup final in 2017, India had lost to England by a mere nine runs after which the squad had met the Prime Minister.

PM Modi replied, "You have done a great job. In India, cricket is not just a



game. In a way, it has become the life of the people of India. If there is good happening in cricket, India feels good and even if there is a little bit of wrong happening in cricket, the whole of India feels bad."

The PM then went on to ask Player of the Tournament Deepti Sharma about her Lord Hanuman tattoo that has gone viral on social media.

"I believe in him more than I believe in myself. Whenever I am in a difficult situation, I take his name and I feel like I can overcome it. I have so much belief in him,"

she responded.

"And you have written 'Jai Shree Ram' on your Instagram account (bio) as well?" Modi asked.

"Yes, I do," the all-rounder replied.

But the moment which had the entire room in splits was when top-order batter Harleen Deol asked Modi about his skin care routine.

"I do not think about all that," the PM responded with a hearty laugh.

Star batter Smriti Mandhana recalled the 2017 meeting and how it inspired them