

**A Milestone Towards
 AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT
 in Fertilizer Production**



Bhoomipujan

Ammonia-Urea Fertilizer Plant
 of Assam Valley Fertilizer and Chemical Company Limited (AVFCCL)

at Namrup

Chief Guest

Shri Narendra Modi
 Prime Minister

in august presence of

Shri Lakshman Prasad Acharya
 Governor, Assam

Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma
 Chief Minister, Assam

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal
 Union Minister, Ports, Shipping & Waterways

Shri Bimal Borah
 Minister, Industries, Commerce & PE, etc., Assam

Shri Prasanta Phukan
 Minister, Power, etc., Assam

Shri Jogen Mohan
 Minister, PW (Building & NH), etc., Assam &
 Guardian Minister, Dibrugarh

Shri Rameswar Teli
 MP, Rajya Sabha

Shri Taranga Gogoi
 MLA, Naharkatia LAC

Shri Punakan Baruah
 MLA, Chabua LAC

Shri Terash Gowalla
 MLA, Duliagan LAC

Shri Chakradhar Gogoi
 MLA, Moran LAC

Shri Binod Hazarika
 MLA, Lahowal LAC

21 December 2025 11 AM Namrup, Dibrugarh

Project Cost
₹10,600
 crore

**WORLD-CLASS
 Ammonia-Urea Complex**

Production Capacity

12.7 lakh MT/year

Ammonia
2,200
 MT/day

Urea
3,850
 MT/day

Total area
425 acre

Plant area
185 acre

Scheduled
 commissioning
2030



Project to benefit from

- ▶ Natural gas supply from Oil India Limited
- ▶ Water availability from Dilli River
- ▶ Strong industrial ecosystem and connectivity
- ▶ Proximity to major agricultural markets of North East & Eastern India

Benefits & Impact

- Reduce India's urea imports
- Meet urea requirement of Assam & entire NE
- Timely supply of urea to NE and Eastern India
- Reduced cost of urea in NE due to cut in transportation cost
- Drive large-scale economic activities around the plant
- Expected to generate 300+ direct, 1000+ indirect jobs

DIPR /D/HLT/257/21-Dec-25

Eggs safe for consumption, cancer risk claims unfounded: FSSAI

NEW DELHI, Dec 20: The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has categorically dismissed recent claims linking eggs to cancer risk, terming them "misleading, scientifically unsupported and capable of creating unnecessary public alarm".

In a statement issued on Saturday, the food safety regulator clarified that eggs available in the country are safe for human consumption and that reports alleging the presence of carcinogenic substances in eggs lack a scientific basis.

The clarification comes in response to media reports and social media posts claiming detection of nitrofurans metabolites (AOZ) -- substances purportedly linked to cancer -- in eggs sold in India.

FSSAI officials emphasised that the use of nitrofurans is strictly prohibited at all stages of poultry and egg production under the Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Regulations, 2011.

The regulator explained that an Extraneous Maximum Residue Limit (EMRL) of 1.0 µg/kg has



been prescribed for nitrofurans metabolites -- but solely for regulatory enforcement purposes. This limit represents the minimum level that can be reliably detected by advanced laboratory methods and does not indicate that the substance is permitted for use.

"Detection of trace residues below the EMRL does not constitute a food safety violation nor does it imply any health risk," an FSSAI official said.

FSSAI said India's regulatory

framework is aligned with international practices. The European Union and the United States also prohibit the use of nitrofurans in food-producing animals and employ reference points for action or guideline values only as enforcement tools. Differences in numerical benchmarks across countries reflect variations in analytical and regulatory approaches, not differences in consumer safety standards, the authority noted.

On public health concerns,

FSSAI cited scientific evidence indicating that there is no established causal link between trace-level dietary exposure to nitrofurans metabolites and cancer or other adverse health outcomes in humans. "No national or international health authority has associated normal egg consumption with increased cancer risk," the regulator reiterated.

Addressing reports related to the testing of a specific egg brand, officials explained that such detections are isolated and batch-specific, often arising from inadvertent contamination or feed-related factors, and are not representative of the overall egg supply chain in the country.

"Generalising isolated laboratory findings to label eggs as unsafe is scientifically incorrect," the statement said.

FSSAI urged consumers to rely on verified scientific evidence and official advisories, reiterating that eggs remain a safe, nutritious, and valuable component of a balanced diet when produced and consumed in compliance with food safety regulations. (PTI)

ICICI Prudential Life launches a new fund

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Dec 20: ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company Limited has launched the ICICI Pru Sector Leaders Index Fund, a new fund under its Unit Linked Insurance Plans (ULIPs), aimed at offering investors a ready-made equity portfolio with exposure to leading companies across more than 20 key sectors of the Indian economy.

The fund is designed for investors seeking a simple, rule-based approach to equity investing, enabling participation in market-leading companies without the need to select individual stocks. It is appropriate for those who prefer a passive investment strategy and want to build a core equity allocation for the long term, along with broad sector diversification and a tilt towards established market leaders.

The ICICI Pru Sector Leaders Index Fund is a passive, index-based offering that tracks the BSE India Sector Leaders Index. Regulations may restrict the fund from investing in all the stocks in line with their weights in the index at all times, potentially causing a tracking error. Dividends received under the index fund will be reinvested, aiding in long-term fund growth.

The fund will invest 95-100% of its assets in equities forming part of the BSE India Sector Leaders Index with up to 5% allocated to debt and money market instruments, including units of debt mutual funds, to meet liquidity requirements mandated by regulation. The minimum investment amount is Rs 1,000 with further investments allowed subject to applicable stamp duty, if any.

Manish Kumar, Chief Investment Officer of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, said, "The ICICI Prudential Sector Leaders Index Fund offers investors a simple and effective way to build wealth by leveraging India's long-term growth potential. The fund invests in companies that define leadership across sectors. By bringing together proven market leaders from over 20 sectors in a single, rule-based portfolio, the index fund removes the complexity of stock selection while offering diversified exposure to influential businesses in the economy."

He added that in a market increasingly driven by sectoral shifts and volatility, this index-led approach provides clarity, discipline and consistency to the investment process. Equities are the only asset class with the potential to deliver inflation-beating returns over the long term.

Need more free trade pacts to compete with Bangladesh, others in textile exports: Vice President

NEW DELHI, Dec 20: Vice President C P Radhakrishnan on Saturday stressed on the need for India to enter into more free trade agreements (FTAs) to gain a level-playing field with competitors like Bangladesh in global textile and apparel export markets.

Addressing the Apparel Exports Promotion Council (AEP) awards event here, the vice president observed that previously, not many countries were competing with us for garment exports globally, but now there are many nations, like Bangladesh, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam and the African countries.

"So FTA is a must... it is the greatest advantage they (our competing nations) are having," Radhakrishnan said. Asserting that India's target is to achieve the textile market size of USD 350 billion by 2030, with USD 100 billion in textile exports, he urged the apparel industry to also actively explore new markets and adopt eco-friendly manufacturing practices, responsible sourcing, and strategies to minimise waste.

"Only constraint today is the FTA with America is a little uncertain. I think it is only a matter of time," the vice president said.

Acknowledging that "there are a lot of constraints" on the Indian textile and apparel industry because of the geopolitical situation, he said, India is the 6th largest exporter of textiles and apparels globally, which stands as a testament to the immense contribution of the textile industry in our nation's growth story. The vice president expressed



confidence that India's textiles exports will double in the next three years.

"We cannot ignore the textile industry in India... It will grow, and I am sure you will be doubling your exports in the next three years," he said.

India's textiles and apparel exports stood at USD 37.75 billion in the last financial year 2024-25.

Speaking on the occasion, Sudhir Sekhri, Chairman, AEP, said, "Despite global uncertainties, Indian apparel exports recorded a commendable 10 per cent growth in 2024-25. In November 2025 alone, exports grew by 11.3 per cent over November 2024, and by 22.1 per cent over November 2023. Cumulatively, RMG (ready-made garment) exports during April-November 2025-26 stood at USD 10.08 billion, reflecting sustained momentum and resilience despite global headwinds". (PTI)

Birla Opus Paints strengthens brand presence across 10,000+ towns in India

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Dec 20: Birla Opus Paints, housed under Aditya Birla Group's Grasim Industries, continues to scale its operations nationally, supported by rising consumer demand and a strong dealer ecosystem. Within just one and a half years of entering the decorative paints category, the company has built one of the largest distribution and servicing networks in the country with over 140 depots, the largest franchisee store network and availability across more than 10,000 towns. This rapid expansion has enabled consistent availability and faster servicing to meet the growing demand across markets.

The brand's portfolio of over 190 products and 1,750 SKUs, along with a premium and luxury mix contributing over 65 percent of revenue, delivered a strong festive season off-take across markets. The brand's steady rise is also reflected in its standing as the number two decorative paints brand in top-of-mind recall in urban India, achieved within only 18 months of launch. The company's focus on building consumer trust through initiatives such as the Birla Opus Assurance, a one-year free repaint-



ing promise, continues to reinforce confidence in the brand.

For 2026, Birla Opus Paints is preparing for an accelerated phase of growth. With the commissioning of its sixth manufacturing plant in Kharagpur, the company now has a total capacity of 1,332 MLPA, placing it as India's second largest paint manufacturer by installed capacity with a 24 percent capacity share. The company remains on track to reach ₹ 10,000 crore in revenue within three years of full-scale operations. Continued expansion of franchisee stores, deeper penetration across markets and sustained investments in technology, sustainability, R&D and brand storytelling will form the core of the company's 2026 strategy.

Himanshu Kapania, Business Head of Birla Opus Paints and MD of Grasim, said, "This festive season has reaffirmed the trust that

consumers and dealers have placed in Birla Opus Paints. Our strong performance at a national level reflects our commitment to building India's most dependable and future-ready paints ecosystem that brings together scale, service and innovation. With our capacity now amongst the largest in the country, we are entering 2026 with strong confidence. Our mission remains the same to transform the way India paints and to inspire every household to truly embrace Duniya Ko Rang Do."

About Birla Opus Paints: Birla Opus Paints, under Grasim Industries, Aditya Birla Group's flagship firm, offers Decorative Painting Solutions to consumers in India. Launched in 2024, Birla Opus Paints has a complete portfolio featuring a range of superior products across categories like interiors, exteriors, waterproofing, enamel paints, wood finishes, aerosols and wallcoverings. With six manufacturing plants spread across India, Birla Opus Paints is well positioned to be among the market leaders in the decorative paints category. The brand aims to inspire people to turn their surrounding spaces into their very own masterpiece.

Millions served, lakhs empowered: Flipkart's festive supply chain at the heart of Bharat

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Dec 20: Flipkart, India's homegrown e-commerce giant, announced key milestones from its 2025 festive season, highlighting record-breaking scale, faster deliveries and significant social impact. Powered by its advanced logistics network, the Big Billion Days fulfilled millions of orders, expanded its reach into Tier 2 and 3 cities and created over 4 lakh seasonal jobs.

On peak days, Flipkart processed more than 5,000 shipments per minute, achieving a 44% growth in same-day and next-day deliveries compared to last year. Over 7.3 million shipments were completed in a single day, averaging 3 lakh per hour. Exceptional deliveries included an appliance delivered within 15 minutes at midnight and a TV installation completed in just 36 minutes.

The festive operations leveraged a tech-driven supply chain with AI-powered forecasting, machine learning-driven planning, real-time capacity orchestration, automated inventory placement and advanced inter-warehouse transfers. Inside fulfillment centres, robotic arms, AGVs, cross-belt sorters and sensor-led tracking optimised efficiency, while AI-driven packaging and X-ray fraud detection enhanced accuracy and sustainability. The network reached over 21,000 pincodes, ensuring seamless order management across India.

Contd. from Page 3...

₹10,600-cr fertiliser plant

that the upcoming facility will stand as a cornerstone of industrial revival and farmer welfare. Following the 'Bhoomi Pujan' ceremony for the new unit -- Assam Valley Fertiliser and Chemical Company Ltd (AVFCL) -- Modi will also address a public meeting, likely to be attended by thousands of people from several Upper Assam districts.

In July this year, AVFCL was incorporated in Namrup in Dibrugarh district. A new plant within the existing premises of BVFCL was approved by the Union cabinet in March this year. AVFCL is a joint venture between the Assam government, Oil India, National Fertilisers Ltd (NFL), Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Limited (HURL) and BVFCL, aimed at boosting fertiliser production in the Northeast. (PTI)

Rajdhani Exp mows down 7

left the site for Guwahati at 6.11 am. The passengers will be accommodated in additional coaches, which will be added to the train at Guwahati, and the train will resume its journey after that, he said.

Trains scheduled to pass through the affected section have been diverted through the UP line, and restoration work is underway, Sharma added. He further said that nine trains have been cancelled, 13 regulated, and two short-terminated following the accident. Rangiya New Tinsukia Express, Guwahati Jorhat Town Jan Shatabdi Express, Guwahati-Badarpur Vistadome Express, and New Tinsukia Rangiya Express are among the cancelled trains. Train No 15769 (Alipurduar-Mariani) will be short-terminated at Digaru and will remain cancelled between Digaru-Mariani, and 15770 (Mariani-Alipurduar) will be short originated from Digaru and will remain cancelled between Mariani-Digaru for the day.

Among the trains regulated are Sealdah-Sabroom Kanchanjunga Express, Dibrugarh-New Delhi Rajdhani Express, Dibrugarh-Kanyakumari Vivek Express, and New Tinsukia-SMVT Bengaluru Express, Sharma added.

Meanwhile, the chief minister ordered a thorough enquiry into the accident. "We are deeply saddened by the death of seven elephants - three adults and four calves - in a tragic train collision earlier today," he said in a post on X. "I have directed the Forest department to conduct a detailed enquiry on this deeply disturbing accident and take steps to further secure our wildlife corridors, particularly during low visibility seasons," Sharma added. Assam Environment and Forest Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary, also in a post in the social media site, said the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) and Head of Forest Force, Assam, and the PCCF (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam, have reached the accident site to take stock of the situation and initiate necessary measures.

"The PCCF & HOFF, Assam, and PCCF (Wildlife) & CWW, Assam have been directed to take up the matter with the senior-most officials of Indian Railways to prevent the recurrence of such tragic incidents in the future," he said. State Congress president Gaurav Gogoi said the death of the jumbos is "deeply concerning and underscores the growing challenge of human animal conflict in the state".

In a post on X, he maintained that such incidents point to the "rapid loss and fragmentation of natural habitats in recent years". "Unplanned and poorly regulated development under the present government has led to shrinking forest cover and the disruption of traditional migration routes, with little regard for ecological safeguards," Gogoi said. He claimed that lack of foresight and accountability has made such accidents increasingly frequent. "Development policies must prioritise people, communities, and the environment over short-term profits. Ignoring this balance only deepens the ecological damage and social costs for Assam," Gogoi added. (PTI)

BJP ahead in Arunachal panchayat

14 gram panchayat constituencies were rejected during scrutiny. Polling in the Dumba Singpho gram panchayat seat has been countermanded following the death of a candidate, he added.

Meanwhile, the BJP won 14 of the 20 wards in the Itanagar Municipal Corporation (IMC) elections. The party also secured uncontested victories in four wards. In the Pasighat Municipal Council (PMC) elections, PPA candidates registered victories in wards 1 to 5 -- Tagom Padung (Ward 1), Mem Tamut (Ward 2), Oyon Pabin (Ward 3), Kamin Lego (Ward 4) and Rahul Tamuk in Ward 5, respectively.

The BJP could secure only two wards, with Mary Gao winning from Ward 6 and Pema Dolma Moyong clinching Ward 7, the official said, adding that Ward 8 was won by independent candidate Oni Tamuk.

Four women were elected to the PMC. The opposition Congress failed to open its account in both the Itanagar and Pasighat civic bodies. (PTI)

PM Modi asks party leaders

The Vajpayee Bhawan was inaugurated by BJP president JP Nadda and Union Home Minister Amit Shah in October 2022. About 280 leaders, including the party's ex-state presidents, former and incumbent MPs, ministers and MLAs, were present at the closed-door meeting. The PM arrived here on a two-day tour of the state in the afternoon. (PTI)

Patil does a reality check Jal Jeevan

repair systems, monthly user charges, electricity supply and availability of bleaching and other treatment materials. The Minister interacted individually with several participants to verify their direct involvement with the drinking water schemes and also virtually inspected the water supply facilities.

This was the second such nationwide programme conducted by the Union Minister. Notably, three drinking water supply schemes under Dakshin Parbatya Gaon Panchayat are being managed entirely by women. Beneficiaries regularly contribute monthly user charges.

It may be recalled that the chairperson and secretary of the Karaikhawa and Chaklani water supply schemes were earlier invited by the government to attend the Republic Day celebrations in New Delhi on January 26. One of them, Beena Kurmi, was present during the virtual interaction and responded to several questions raised by the Minister. Following the interaction, Jorhat District Commissioner Jay Shivani addressed the beneficiaries and local residents, advising them to ensure smooth and sustainable operation of all eight water supply schemes under the panchayat.

Guwahati gets India's first

varieties -- Bholuka bamboo from Assam and Apatani bamboo from Arunachal Pradesh -- celebrating the ecological and cultural richness of the northeast. The terminal's architecture reflects the cultural identity of the region while integrating modern technology, sustainability and passenger comfort, in line with India's vision of inclusive, future-ready infrastructure, the officials said.

The bamboo-inspired interiors have made use of around 140 metric tonnes of locally sourced northeast bamboo, setting a new benchmark for sustainable construction in Indian airports, they said. The terminal also features Kaziranga-inspired landscapes, with lush and environmentally friendly green spaces that mirror Assam's forests. Traditional Assamese headgear 'japis' have been incorporated into various design elements, while the rhino motif, symbolising strength and calmness, features prominently across the terminal.

Fifty-seven distinctive columns, designed to resemble bouquets of the foxtail orchid, adorn the departure and arrival areas. Arriving passengers will also experience a 'sky forest', passing through a lush green zone with around one lakh plants from 100 species of local flora, creating an immersive forest-like ambience.

"This innovative design not only honours Assam's ecological and cultural identity but also sets new standards for green, sustainable and passenger-centric airport architecture in India," an official said.

Operational preparedness has been ensured through a comprehensive Operational Readiness and Airport Transfer (ORAT) programme, supported by an expert visiting team from Munich, Germany, he said.

"This positions Guwahati as a critical passenger and cargo hub for all eight northeastern states -- Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim -- enhancing connectivity to destinations known for tea gardens, wildlife reserves, riverine landscapes, living-root bridges and hill tourism," the official said. The project has been developed by Guwahati International Airport Ltd (GIAL), with operations led by Adani Airport Holdings Ltd (AAHL).

Equipped with DigiYatra-enabled passenger processing, smart check-in systems and expansive, naturally lit interiors, the terminal has been designed to handle 13.1 million passengers annually by 2032, significantly boosting both domestic and international connectivity. During the 2024-25 financial year, the Guwahati airport recorded passenger traffic of 6.5 million per annum, underscoring the region's growing aviation demand, the officials said. Future plans also include integrated domestic and international cargo facilities, further strengthening regional supply chains and economic growth.

"For the first time in India, passengers will have access to check-in facilities at the parking area and arrival forecourt, eliminating the need to carry baggage into the terminal," another official said.

The terminal features consolidated domestic security lanes with an Automated Tray Retrieval System (ATRS), swing provisions at contact gates and efficient transfer facilities to support Guwahati's role as a regional hub, he said. The airport will also be equipped with full-body scanners for fast, non-intrusive security screening and Fast Track Immigration (FTI-TTP) facilities for expedited clearance of Indian nationals and OCI cardholders.

The terminal will also feature self-service smart information kiosks offering flight status updates, interactive maps, Wi-Fi access, SOS support, food and beverage and duty-free ordering, and passenger feedback, aimed at reducing dependency on airport staff and improving service delivery, the official said.

The new terminal highlights Assam's regional heritage by providing prominent space to local brands across retail, food and beverage outlets and the Airport Village, which will house local restaurants.

"These establishments are inspired by the region's folklore, cuisine, natural beauty and cultural heritage, ensuring every traveller experiences the authentic spirit of the state," the official added. (PTI)

World today is like coalition politics,

"While I was writing, I was thinking about the choice of words to describe India's overall foreign policy in one sentence," he said, adding that engaging the US, managing China, and reassuring Russia have all become more complicated in the current environment. "Reassuring Russia" has been particularly challenging due to the Ukraine war and pressure on India to distance itself from Moscow, he noted. "Bringing Japan into play has also become more complicated. They move at their own pace and we are trying to make them move faster," he said, while adding that Europe has emerged as an important partner for India and requires greater engagement.

On India's neighbourhood, he said New Delhi's relations with its neighbours are shaped by asymmetry and fluctuating domestic politics in those countries.

"Our neighbours are smaller than us and are closely linked to India. Their internal politics go up and down. Sometimes they praise us, sometimes they criticise us. In such a scenario, the challenge is how to keep these relationships as steady as possible," he said. Citing examples, Jaishankar said India responded immediately to a recent cyclone in Sri Lanka and was the first responder.

"During Covid, ask our neighbours where they got vaccines from -- it was India. When supplies of petrol and fertilisers were disrupted during the Ukraine war, India stepped in," he said.

India must act like the head of a family, the external affairs minister said. "One or two members may get upset, but it is our responsibility to look after the neighbourhood," he added. Asked during the question-answer segment about how India reacts to different situations at the global level, Jaishankar jokingly said that he would rephrase the question as "when do you shut your mouth, and when do you open". "It actually depends on the situation. Today in the multipolar world, if you don't speak, the world will suppress you. They think that by pushing you, you will be defensive, marginalised, so it is important to raise your voice," he said. (PTI)

Notice Inviting Tender

e-Tenders are invited from registered suppliers for Re-Tender For Rate Contract For Supply Of Electrical Items At Nagaon Medical College, Nagaon, Assam. An amount of Rs. 20,000/- only is to be submitted as EMD/ Bid Security. Tender documents can be downloaded from www.assamtenders.gov.in from 22/12/2025 10:00 AM.

- The Last date of Submission of Tender Document is 06.01.2026 till 05:00 PM.
- The bid will be opened online on the e-procurement portal on 07.01.2026 at 01:00 PM.

The TIA reserves the right to accept or reject any bid/ tender and to cancel/ annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award.

Name of TIA: Prof. (Dr.) Bishnu Ram Das
Address of the TIA: Principal-cum-Chief Superintendent
Nagaon Medical College
Nagaon, Assam

DIPR /CHLT/256/21-Dec-25

PM unveils statue of Gopinath Bordoloi, inaugurates new terminus at Guwahati airport Modi attacks Cong, says BJP correcting past mistakes

₹10,600-cr fertiliser plant to be unveiled in Dibrugarh today

DIBRUGARH, Dec 20: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Sunday lay the foundation stone for a ₹10,600-crore brownfield ammonia-urea plant in Dibrugarh district of Assam, giving a fillip to the fertiliser requirement of the entire region.

Modi arrived in Assam on Saturday on a two-day trip, during which he is set to unveil multiple projects worth ₹15,600 crore, around three months before the state is due to go for assembly polls.

On the second day of his visit, the PM will lay the foundation stone for a new brownfield ammonia-urea fertiliser project at Namrup within the existing premises of Brahmaputra Valley Fertiliser Corp Ltd (BVFCL), according to an official release by the Prime Minister's Office.

"Furthering PM's vision of farmers' welfare, the project, with an estimated investment of over ₹10,600 crore, will meet fertiliser requirements of Assam and neighbouring states, reduce import dependence, generate substantial employment and catalyse regional economic development," it added. The PMO further said (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

GUWAHATI, Dec 20: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday attacked the Congress for 'neglecting' Assam and the northeast during its rule, and asserted that the BJP government was correcting "mistakes" the grand old party kept making in the region for decades.

Addressing a rally after inaugurating a new terminal of the Guwahati airport, Modi alleged that the development of Assam and the northeast was never a part of the Congress agenda.

"The Congress gave protection to infiltrators who grabbed forests and land, threatening the security and identity of Assam... The BJP government has been correcting mistakes the Congress kept making for decades in the northeast," the PM asserted.

Modi said the Election Commission started the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls to ensure infiltrators are kept out of the poll process, "but 'deshdrohis' (traitors) were trying to protect them".

"The Centre is taking strict steps to stop infiltration," he said.

The Prime Minister said development under the BJP's double-engine government "flows unabated" in Assam, just as the flow of the mighty Brahmaputra river.

"My attachment to the land of



Assam inspires me, gives me strength for development of region. Assam and the entire Northeast is becoming the gateway to India's development. Every state, each region of the country has an important role to play in the mission of a developed India," Modi said.

Mega roadshow in Guwahati: Earlier in the day Modi led a massive roadshow in Guwahati on Saturday

evening, witnessing diverse cultural elements of Assam on the first day of his two-day tour to the state.

The roadshow began outside the Arjun Bhogswar Baruah Sports Complex in Sarusajai on National Highway 27, and concluded at the state BJP headquarters near Basistha Chariali.

Modi, who was sitting in the front

of his black SUV, was seen waving to the enthusiastic crowd that gathered on both sides of the road. The air reverberated with resounding chants of 'Modi-ji zindabad' and 'Bharat Mata ki jai', creating an electrifying atmosphere.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Union ministers Sarbananda Sonowal and Pabitra Margherita, and

state BJP president Dilip Saikia joined the roadshow in their respective vehicles.

The roadshow was a showcase of the BJP's strength in Assam, where assembly polls would be due early next year.

The event was marked by a strong presence of BJP workers and volunteers, who had tried hard to ensure a grand reception for the PM.

Several platforms were erected on the roadside to showcase cultural performances from various parts of the state. "We tried to present a cultural showcase of dance, songs and instruments from our ethnic and indigenous tribes," the party's state media relations convener Dhruva Jyoti Maral said.

He claimed that more than 50,000 people gathered to witness the roadshow, which was held amid a heavy security deployment.

After landing in Guwahati, the PM unveiled a statue of the state's first CM Gopinath Bordoloi, and a new terminus of the airport, and addressed a public meeting on the occasion.

He then went to Sarusajai for the roadshow. After it concluded, he chaired a crucial meeting with the BJP's state leadership, with an eye on next year's assembly polls. (PTI)

Rajdhani Exp mows down 7 elephants in Hojai dist

Five coaches derailed ● Himanta orders probe ● Gaurav blames unplanned development for mishap

NAGAON/ GUWAHATI, Dec 20: Seven elephants were killed, and one was injured after a herd of jumbos was hit by the Sairang-New Delhi Rajdhani Express in Assam's Hojai district early Saturday, officials said.

Five coaches and the train's engine also derailed, they said.

Initially, all eight elephants were reported to have been killed, though later it was said that one of the calves was found injured.

No passengers were injured in the accident, which occurred at 2.17 am, they said.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has asked the Forest department to conduct a detailed inquiry and secure wildlife corridors, while state Congress president Gaurav Gogoi blamed "unplanned and poorly regulated development under the present government" for the accident.

Top Forest department officers have reached the site and will take up the matter with Railway officials to prevent recurrence of such incidents.

Several trains have been cancelled, regulated or short-terminated following the mishap.



Nagaon Divisional Forest Officer Suhas Kadam told PTI that the accident in Changirai village is suspected to have occurred due to heavy fog in the area.

"Autopsy of the dead jumbos is underway, and treatment is on for the injured one by local veterinary doctors. Crema-

tion will be done near the accident site. Legal formalities are being followed," he said.

NFR chief spokesperson Kapinjal Kishore Sharma said the accident took place in the Jamunamukh-Kampur section under the Lumding division, about 126 km from Guwahati.

The Sairang-New Delhi Rajdhani Express connects Mizoram's Sairang (near Aizawl) to the Anand Vihar Terminal in Delhi.

He claimed that the accident took place at a location which is not a designated elephant corridor. "The train driver, on observing the herd of elephants, applied emergency brakes. However, the jumbos dashed with the train," he added. Sharma said accident relief trains and top officials, including the NFR general manager and the divisional railway manager of Lumding, reached the site soon after the mishap.

Helpline numbers -- 0361-2731621 / 2731622 / 2731623 -- have been activated at Guwahati railway station, he added.

The NFR spokesperson said the passengers of the affected coaches were temporarily accommodated in the vacant berths available in other compartments, and the train, without the derailed coaches, (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Modi discusses Assam polls, party organisation at state BJP hqs

PM Modi asks party leaders to prepare for securing 3rd term



GUWAHATI, Dec 20: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday discussed issues ranging from preparations for next year's Assam Assembly elections to strengthening the party's organisational base during an interaction with BJP leaders at the state party headquarters here.

During his nearly one hour long visit to Vaypayee Bhawan in the city's Basistha area, Modi also sought to know from the state leadership how the government has been faring in eyes of the public.

"There was no formality involved. He was just like a party member interacting with another member," veteran party leader and former state president Narayan Borkotoky told reporters after the meeting. "He spoke in detail on how to prepare for the elections," he added, referring to state polls due early next year when BJP will

be seeking a third successive term. Another party leader present during the interaction, who did not wish to be named, said the PM interacted on diverse topics.

"He did not sit on the dais. He came as a party worker and sat among us, interacted with all," he said. Modi particularly enquired about the well-being of senior leaders present at the meeting.

"He wanted to know how the election preparations were progressing, how the organisation was functioning and what the public perception of the government was," the leader added.

Modi had reached the venue in the evening after leading a massive 3.8-km-long roadshow from Sarusajai. State party president Dilip Saikia earlier told PTI that it is the first visit of a prime minister to the state party headquarters. (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

World today is like coalition politics, India should remain nimble: Jaishankar

PUNE, Dec 20: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday said the global political situation was like "coalition politics" with constantly shifting alignments, and India should focus on its own interests while remaining nimble.

Despite the debate about immigration in places such as Europe, Indian workers are in demand outside the country, the minister stated while interacting with Yuvraj Malik, director of the National Book Trust, on "Diplomacy to Discourse" at the Pune Literature Festival.

"In our country, there was an era of coalition politics. The world today is like coalition politics. There is no majority of anyone. No coalition enjoys a majority. So what is happening is that constantly combinations are formed, deals are struck, somebody is up, somebody is down. This is completely a multipolar world where there are multiple partners," said Jaishankar. His mantra for dealing with this fluid situation was to choose what serves India's interests, he said. "...we have to be very nimble. Sometimes, you are with someone with one issue and with another on another issue. All the while I have one principle -- what is helping my country. Whatever helps my country, that would be my choice," the minister said.

The literature festival has been organised on the sidelines of the ongoing Pune Book Festival. Asked about an excerpt from one of his books where he talks about India's relations with major powers, Jaishankar said managing the country's foreign policy has become far more complex over the past five years. (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

BJP ahead in Arunachal panchayat elections as counting continues

ITANAGAR, Dec 20: Ruling BJP was leading in the zila parishad elections in Arunachal Pradesh, having won 30 zila parishad member (ZPM) seats out of the 49 results declared so far, officials of the State Election Commission (SEC) said on Saturday.

According to results available from nine districts, the BJP won 30 ZPM seats, followed by the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) with eight seats and the regional People's Party of Arunachal (PPA) with three seats, while eight seats were won by independent candidates, SEC secretary Taru Talo said. Results for the remaining ZPM and gram panchayat seats are yet to be declared as counting is still underway and may continue late into the

night. The final results will be available on Sunday, Talo said.

A voter turnout of nearly 75 per cent was recorded in the panchayat polls across 27 out of 28 districts of the state. Itanagar Capital Region (ICR district) has no panchayat since it has a civic body.

The counting process commenced at 8 am in 45 counting halls set up across 27 districts of the state, he said. In the panchayat elections, counting is being held for 186 ZPM seats out of a total of 245, with 59 seats having been elected unopposed.

In the gram panchayat member (GPM) category, 6,227 out of 8,208 seats were elected unopposed, with voting held for the remaining 1,947 seats.

Talo added that candidates and their authorised election agents are being allowed inside the counting halls strictly as per laid-down guidelines, and video recording of the counting process is being carried out to ensure transparency.

The BJP won 58 ZPM seats unopposed, while one seat was won uncontested by a candidate from the National People's Party (NPP), he said.

A total of 5,037 BJP candidates were declared elected unopposed in the GPM category, along with 1,190 candidates from other parties, including independents.

The secretary said 13 gram panchayat constituencies received no nominations, while all nominations in (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Union Minister interacts virtually with residents of Dakshin Parbatiya GP, Jorhat on JJM Patil does a reality check on Jal Jeevan Mission success

By: Smita Bhattacharyya

JORHAT, Dec 20: Union Minister for Jal Shakti C.R. Patil held a virtual interaction with beneficiaries, public representatives and stakeholders associated with the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission across several states, including Assam, Gujarat, Karnataka, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand and Maharashtra on Friday.

The virtual programme, witnessed participation from residents of Dakshin Parbatiya Gaon Panchayat (No. 47) under the North-West Jorhat Development Block in Jorhat district. The interaction was organised at the Rajiv Gandhi Seva Kendra of the gaon panchayat.

Beneficiaries from various drinking water supply schemes of the panchayat—covering areas such as Bhurakala, Eraltoli (1 and 2), Karakhawa, Chaklani Pathar,



Na-Pamua, Puranimati, Derkuriya and Chaklani—took part in the discussion.

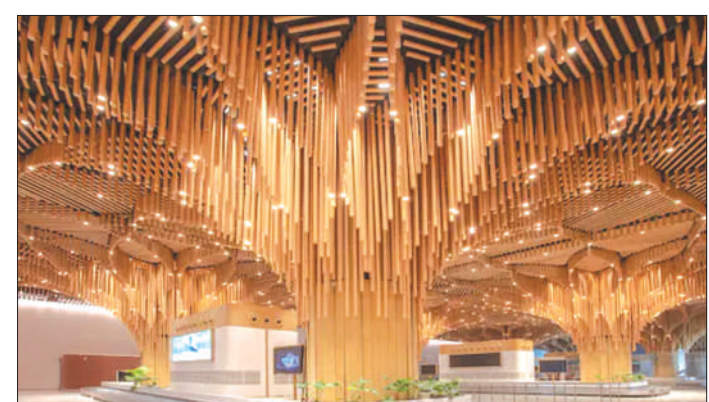
The programme was also attended by Lok Sabha MP V. Somanna, Jorhat District Commissioner Jay Shivani, Jorhat Zila Parishad CEO Manoj Barua, North-West Jorhat BDO Arun Kumar Gogoi, Executive Engineer

of the Public Health Engineering Department Ajay Kumar Lahan, Assistant Executive Engineer Marlina Gowala, Junior Engineer Kabita Gogoi, District Coordinator Rupak Gogoi, officials from the water testing division, community sanitation coordinators, Jal Mitras, and representatives of the Assam State Rural Livelihood Mission.

Local leaders including gaon pradhans Bhola Tanti, Phatik Kalita, Dilip Pathak and Purnima Dutta, along with Gaon Panchayat president Shivani Hazarika, vice-president Rinku Hazarika, ward members, SHG representatives, retired teacher Jatin Hazarika and other community members were also present.

During the interaction, Union Minister Patil posed a wide range of questions to beneficiaries and officials to assess the ground-level functioning of the Jal Jeevan Mission. He sought detailed information on population coverage, water quality, frequency of water testing, maintenance practices such as filter and sand replacement, pipeline leakages, water wastage, per capita daily water supply, visits by officials, grievance redressal mechanisms, scheme monitoring, committee meetings, documentation, (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Guwahati gets India's first 'nature-themed' airport



GUWAHATI, Dec 20: The new terminal building of the Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport here, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday, is the "country's first nature-themed airport", designed to handle 13.1 million passengers per year, officials said.

The Rs 5,000-crore project, in-

cluding Rs 1,000 crore earmarked specifically for maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facilities, aims to develop the airport as a key aviation hub for the northeast and a major gateway to Southeast Asia.

The transition from the old terminal to the new one is scheduled to begin in February, with domestic flights initially operating from the

new facility. The process is expected to be completed by the end of March, with both domestic and international flights shifting to the new terminal, while the existing terminal will be converted into a cargo hub, they said.

Conceived as a modern structure rooted in local culture, the new terminal spans an area of 1.4 lakh square metres and blends advanced technology, sustainability and regional identity to deliver a seamless and passenger-centric experience, senior airport officials told PTI ahead of the inauguration. Designed by Indian architects, the terminal draws inspiration from Assam's rich biodiversity and cultural heritage, and is "the country's first airport built around a nature theme". Named 'The Bamboo Orchids', the terminal design is inspired by Assam's iconic 'kopou phool' (foxtail orchid) and indigenous bamboo (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Editor's pick

Bonds Tested: India-Bangla
in Turbulent Times

By: Satyabrata Borah

India and Bangladesh share one of the most intricate and deeply intertwined relationships in South Asia, bound by history, geography, culture, and a complex web of cooperation and challenges. The two nations emerged from the shadows of partition and war, with India playing a pivotal role in Bangladesh's liberation in 1971, a fact that has long shaped their bond like an unbreakable thread woven through decades of diplomacy. Yet, as we look at the state of affairs in late 2025, this relationship feels like a river that has changed course unexpectedly, turbulent in places but still flowing toward shared horizons.

For many years, especially during the long tenure of Sheikh Hasina as Bangladesh's prime minister from 2009 to 2024, ties between New Delhi and Dhaka reached heights that many described as a golden era. Trade flourished, connectivity projects multiplied, and security cooperation deepened. India became Bangladesh's largest development partner, extending billions in lines of credit for infrastructure, power plants, and railways. Joint initiatives like the India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline and enhanced access to ports in Chittagong and Mongla symbolized a partnership built on mutual growth. People-to-people connections thrived too, with millions crossing borders for medical treatment, education, and family visits. Cultural exchanges, rooted in shared Bengali heritage, reminded everyone of the common blood that flowed through both nations.

But everything shifted dramatically in the summer of 2024. A student-led uprising, sparked by protests over job quotas, snowballed into a mass movement that forced Hasina to flee to India in August. Suddenly, the Awami League government collapsed, and an interim administration under Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus took charge, promising reforms and elections. This change wasn't just political; it rippled across the bilateral landscape like a stone thrown into calm waters. Many in Bangladesh felt that India's close alignment with Hasina had overlooked broader voices in their society, breeding resentment. Anti-India sentiments, long simmering beneath the surface, bubbled up, fueled by perceptions of interference and unresolved grievances.

In the months that followed, relations cooled noticeably. Reports emerged of attacks on minority communities, particularly Hindus, in the wake of the upheaval. Temples were vandalized, homes targeted, and fears spread among vulnerable groups. India voiced deep concern, seeing these incidents as threats to stability and shared values. Bangladesh's interim leaders downplayed some reports as exaggerations or politically motivated, but acknowledged investigations into hundreds of cases. Border issues intensified too, with heightened patrolling and occasional tensions over fencing and migration. Fishermen from both sides were detained and released in mutual gestures, a reminder of the human element in these disputes.

Trade, once a bright spot, faced strains. Bilateral commerce had grown robustly, crossing billions annually, with India exporting essentials like machinery and cotton while importing garments and jute from Bangladesh. Yet, non-tariff barriers, port restrictions, and imbalances created friction. In early 2025, India withdrew certain transshipment facilities, citing logistical issues, while Bangladesh adjusted import routes for yarn and other goods. These moves added costs for businesses on both sides, underscoring how political winds could disrupt economic flows.

Water sharing remained a perennial thorn, especially regarding the Teesta River. For decades, negotiations dragged on, with Bangladesh seeking a fairer dry-season allocation to irrigate its northern fields. A draft agreement nearly materialized in 2011, but domestic politics in India, particularly opposition from West Bengal, stalled it. The issue symbolized larger frustrations: Bangladesh feeling shortchanged on vital resources, while India balanced internal state concerns with neighborly obligations.

Geopolitics added another layer. With Hasina gone, Bangladesh sought to diversify its partnerships. Ties with China deepened through infrastructure deals and defense cooperation, raising eyebrows in New Delhi about influence in the Bay of Bengal. Warming relations with Pakistan, including resumed trade and military visits, evoked memories of old rivalries. India watched warily, concerned about its strategic encirclement and the potential resurgence of extremist elements along the border.

Yet, amid the strains, glimmers of pragmatism emerged. High-level visits continued quietly. India's Foreign Secretary traveled to Dhaka in December 2024 for consultations, and Yunus paid respects at the Indian High Commission following the passing of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. In April 2025, Yunus and Prime Minister Narendra Modi met on the sidelines of a BIMSTEC summit in Bangkok, their first direct engagement since the upheaval. They discussed thorny issues like border management, minority protection, and water sharing, signaling a willingness to talk rather than isolate.

By late 2025, as Bangladesh prepared for elections, voices on both sides called for recalibration. India's parliamentary panels highlighted the challenges, urging sustained engagement to prevent losing ground. Bangladeshi leaders emphasized that ties should transcend single issues or personalities, focusing on equality and mutual benefit. Optimistic notes surfaced too: the Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka spoke of shared stakes in progress, while Bangladesh's army chief hinted at positive outlooks.

Looking ahead, the relationship stands at a crossroads, much like the many rivers that connect these lands. Challenges abound: unresolved water disputes, border frictions, minority safety, and external influences. But the foundations are strong. Millions of families straddle the border, economies intertwine, and cultural affinities endure. Trade can rebound with agreements like a potential Comprehensive Economic Partnership. Connectivity projects, if revived, could unlock prosperity for India's Northeast and Bangladesh alike.

Ultimately, what binds India and Bangladesh is more than diplomacy; it's a shared humanity forged in struggle and aspiration. As elections loom in Bangladesh and regional dynamics evolve, both nations have an opportunity to rebuild on equitable terms. Listening to each other's concerns, addressing grievances openly, and prioritizing people over politics could restore warmth to this vital partnership. In a world of uncertainties, neighbors like these cannot afford prolonged estrangement. The river of relations may have meandered, but it need not dry up. With patience and wisdom, it can flow stronger than before, nourishing both banks for generations to come.

Hayagriva Madhava Temple and Poa Mecca

- Himanshu Ranjan Bhuyan -

Hajo, located in the Kamrup district of Assam, is a sacred town where the spiritual essence of Hinduism, Islam and Buddhism has blended together to create a unique cultural heritage. Situated on the northern bank of the Brahmaputra River, just 22 kilometres west of Guwahati, this region is endowed with natural beauty. The green cover of hills such as Manikuta, Garudachala and Madanachala, the gentle murmuring sound of the Lakhaitara stream, and the scenic view of the Panikhaiti wetland make Hajo an enchanting destination for tourists and pilgrims alike. Linguists say that the name Hajo derives from "ha" meaning land and "jo" meaning high or hill, thus signifying "high place". This name clearly reflects the geographical characteristics of Hajo. Amid the vastness of the Brahmaputra, the proximity of hills and the serene environment of ponds bestowed upon Hajo an unparalleled natural beauty. Its historical significance, religious harmony, cultural richness and tourism potential have established Hajo as a priceless asset of Assam.

The historical background of Hajo is exceedingly rich and multifaceted. Since ancient times, this region has witnessed the rule of various dynasties, which have shaped its cultural and religious identity. During the Pala dynasty, associated with the sixth century, Hajo emerged as a religious centre. Historians believe that the initial construction of the Hayagriva Madhava Temple began during this period. Later, Koch king Raghudeva reconstructed the temple in 1543 CE, after the previous structure had collapsed and required rebuilding. During the reign of Ahom kings Pramatta Singha and Kamaleswar Singha, conservation and expansion works were carried out, further enhancing the religious and cultural importance of Hajo. Inscriptions, copper plates and royal charters clearly mention the contributions of these dynasties. On the other hand, an inscription of Pramatta Singha refers to the construction of the Fakua dol. These inscriptions serve as living documents of Hajo's historical importance. Ancient texts such as the Kalika Purana, Markandeya Purana and Yogini Tantra mention Hajo under various names like Apurnabhava, Manikuta, Ravikshetra, Vishnupuskar and Suryakshetra. Buddhists called it "Cham-cho-dam" and the Mughals referred to it as "Chujabad". These diverse names reveal Hajo's multifaceted cultural and religious identity. During Mughal invasions, Hajo also held military importance as a strategic location near Guwahati. After Ahom king Rudra Singha recaptured Guwahati from the Mughals in 1682, the religious and cultural significance of Hajo became further established.

The Hayagriva Madhava Temple is the primary religious centre of Hajo, possessing incomparable spiritual and cultural importance. Located at the summit of Manikuta hill at approximately 300 feet height, this temple is dedicated to the worship of Lord Vishnu's Hayagriva avatar. "Hay" means horse and "griva" means neck, thus Hayagriva signifies Vishnu's avatar with a horse's neck. According to a mythological story in the Kalika Purana, two demons named Madhu and Kaitabha stole the four Vedas from Brahma at the beginning of creation and took them to the netherworld. Lord Vishnu then assumed the Hayagriva form, entered the netherworld, recovered the Vedas, defeated and killed the demons at this site. This legend has granted the temple the status of a holy pilgrimage site for Hindus. In the sanctum sanctorum are installed idols of Hayagriva Madhava, Budha Madhava, Chalanta Madhava, Vasudeva and Garuda bird, representing various forms of Vishnu. The idol of Chalanta Madhava is particularly taken out during festivals, creating extraordinary spiritual enthusiasm among devotees. There is a folklore behind this idol's name that it previously moved underground, hence called "Chalanta". The temple's architecture is highly impressive, built in the nagara style with the pancharatha method. At the lower part, 124 elephant sculptures are carved, reflecting the influence of the garjathara style. These elephant figures artistically convey the impression of bearing the entire weight of the temple. On the outer walls are sculptures of Vishnu's ten avatars along with other deities, where Buddha is depicted as the ninth avatar. These sculptures show similarity to the Kailasanatha Temple at Ellora in medieval India. The pointed arches in the mandapa pillars reveal Bengali Islamic style influence, indicating a beautiful blend of Hindu and Islamic architecture. Below the



The Hayagriva Madhava Temple is the primary religious centre of Hajo, possessing incomparable spiritual and cultural importance. Located at the summit of Manikuta hill at approximately 300 feet height, this temple is dedicated to the worship of Lord Vishnu's Hayagriva avatar. "Hay" means horse and "griva" means neck, thus Hayagriva signifies Vishnu's avatar with a horse's neck. According to a mythological story in the Kalika Purana, two demons named Madhu and Kaitabha stole the four Vedas from Brahma at the beginning of creation and took them to the netherworld

temple is a large pond named Apurnabhava, where devotees wash their hands and feet before entering. The fish and tortoise in this pond are considered symbols of Vishnu's Matsya and Kurma avatars. At the temple entrance, a Hanuman statue and the lion gate enhance its artistic beauty.

The religious importance of the Hayagriva Madhava Temple is not limited to Hindus alone; it is also a sacred pilgrimage site for Buddhists. Lama communities from Tibet and Bhutan believe that Gautama Buddha attained nirvana here. They worship the Budha Madhava idol as Mahamuni Buddha. Every year, the arrival of these pilgrims presents a living picture of religious harmony in Hajo. The blend of Buddhist mantras and Hindu shlokas in the temple environment creates a spiritual confluence. Daily morning puja, evening aarti and offerings during special festivals are traditionally observed. During Janmashtami, Dolotsav and Magh Bihu, the gathering of devotees creates a festive atmosphere. The hilly surroundings and the natural beauty of the Brahmaputra evoke profound peace and spirituality in pilgrims' minds. The temple management is in the hands of local families who have maintained this tradition generationally. Their devotion and faith preserve the temple's sanctity. Some folklores associated with the temple's history deepen its mythological significance. For instance, one legend says the idols first appeared in a dream, leading to the temple's construction here. This combination of aspects establishes the Hayagriva Madhava Temple as the spiritual heart of Hajo.

For Muslims, Poa Mecca in Hajo is an extremely sacred pilgrimage site with immense religious and historical importance. Located at the summit of Garudachala hill, this dargah is famous worldwide as the mausoleum of Sufi saint Giasuddin Auliya. Born in 1193 CE in Tabriz, Iran, Giasuddin was deeply attracted to Sufism. He came to Assam via Baghdad and Ajmer and began propagating Islam in Hajo. His life's main purpose was service to humanity and spreading the message of devotion to God. After his death in 1344 CE, his mausoleum was established here. Folklore states that sacred soil from Mecca was brought and used in constructing this dargah, hence named "Poa Mecca". Muslims believe visiting Poa Mecca grants one-fourth the merit of visiting Mecca. In 1657 during Mughal emperor Shah Jahan's reign, Lutfullah Shirazi built a mosque here, known as Assam's first mosque. Its architecture features fine Mughal-style carvings and dome construction. Floral designs and Quranic verses carved on the walls enhance its artistic beauty. The dargah environment is very peaceful, and its surrounding hilly landscape evokes deep spirituality in devotees. Every year in the month of Magh, the Urs festival is celebrated grandly at Poa Mecca. During this festival, Hindus and Muslims gather to propagate Islam's message of peace and love through Sufi songs, zikr and qawwali. A large fair is organised, displaying local handicrafts, food and traditional attire. The influx of domestic and foreign

tourists presents a vibrant picture of religious harmony in Hajo. Fakirs and paiks from Fakirtola village maintain the dargah, exemplifying social harmony. Their dedication preserves its sanctity. Ponds and hills around Poa Mecca provide peace to devotees. Some legends deepen its spiritual significance, such as one claiming Giasuddin's spiritual power attracted locals to Islam. All these aspects establish Poa Mecca as an indispensable religious centre in Hajo.

The architecture of Hajo is a remarkable specimen of Assam's art, bearing living testimony to its historical and cultural richness. The Hayagriva Madhava Temple's architecture follows the nagara style with pancharatha method, showing a unique blend of Hindu and Buddhist art in its vimana, antarala and mandapa. The 124 carved elephants at the base reflect garjathara influence, artistically creating the impression of supporting the temple's weight. On the outer walls are sculptures of Vishnu's ten avatars and other deities, depicting Buddha as the ninth. These resemble Ellora's Kailasanatha Temple, highlighting Hajo's artistic excellence. Pointed arches in mandapa pillars show clear Bengali Islamic influence, indicating a beautiful Hindu-Islamic blend. Poa Mecca's mosque is a brilliant example of Mughal style, with fine carvings in domes and minarets. Quranic verses and floral designs on walls increase its artistic value. It blends Mughal architecture with local Assamese art, exemplifying cultural diversity. Other temples like Kedar, Kamaleswar, Kameshwar and Ganesh grant Hajo the title "Panchtirtha Nagari". Kedar Temple on Madanachala hill is famous for Shiva's Ardhanarishvara lingam. The nearby Madan Puskar pond is religiously significant; bathing there is believed to purify devotees. Regular puja and offerings continue at Kamaleswar and Kameshwar temples. Ganesh Temple is known for the belief in the union of Panchtirtha deities. The hilly surroundings and natural beauty evoke deep spirituality. Shivaratri is grandly celebrated at Kedar with thousands of devotees. These temples blend local Assamese art with Hindu mythological elements. Carvings around Kedar's lingam depict various scenes from Shiva-Parvati's life, showcasing artists' skill. Used stone quality and carving finesse clarify historical importance. Hajo's architecture harmonises with its natural environment. Structures on hilltops leave unforgettable impressions on tourists and devotees.

The influence of Srimanta Sankardeva and Madhavdeva's neo-Vaishnavism is deeply evident here. At Dhoparguri Satra, Madhavdeva staged Sankardeva's play "Rukmini Haran", a milestone in Assam's cultural history. Madhavdeva's footprints are preserved there. This event establishes Hajo as a major neo-Vaishnavite centre. Satra culture thrives in Panchgaon, with Mahapurushiya tithis and birth anniversaries celebrated grandly featuring devotional music, naam-kirtan and bargit. Hajo's handicraft tradition is very rich. Bell-metal works, pottery, wood carving and floristry



demonstrate local artists' skill and creativity. Bell-metal utensils like thali, kalah and ghata are popular in local markets, blending traditional Assamese designs with modern styles to attract tourists. Potters make traditional earthen pots, idols and decorative items; "mati kalah" and "handi" are notable parts of rural life. Wood carvers create doors, windows and religious idols with mythological scenes. Florists enhance festivals with garlands and arrangements. The legend of Krishna herding cows at Duwani-Muwani hill is important; devotees worship his Gopala form there with special puja during Janmashtami. Hargauri Temple in Tetelia village preserves Shiva-Parvati marriage legends. Bamundi's khari or suwari festival involves communities from Shualkuchi, Barlah etc., expressing cultural heritage through traditional dance, music and rituals. These festivals promote Assam's heritage among locals and tourists.

Hajo's tourism potential is immense, establishing it as a major destination in Assam. The Brahmaputra's scenic beauty, green hills like Manikuta, Garudachala and Madanachala, and religious sites make it attractive.

The natural views along the Brahmaputra leave unforgettable impressions. Panikhaiti wetland's serene environment and Lakhaitara stream's gentle sound offer communion with nature. Annual gatherings during Dolotsav, Bihu and Janmashtami present vibrant religious and cultural life. Magh Bihu increases pilgrims at Hayagriva Madhava Temple, enjoying Vishnu worship, traditional Assamese food and cultural events. Poa Mecca's Urs attracts tourists with Sufi songs, zikr and qawwali propagating peace. The fair displays handicrafts like bell-metal utensils, pottery and traditional attire, introducing Hajo's heritage. Panikhaiti is ideal for birdwatching, with migratory birds in winter delighting tourists and ornithologists. Boating on Lakhaitara offers close nature connection. The simple lifestyle of agrarian society and traditional villages impress tourists. Locals offer homely hospitality, allowing rural Assam experiences. Tourism department initiatives include guide training, site beautification and guesthouse construction. Yet more work is needed for full potential. International fairs and promotions can showcase Hajo globally. Tourism development aids local economy. Rapid population growth, urbanisation and illegal encroachment threaten natural and historical sites. Pollution in Panikhaiti and illegal hill mining diminish beauty. Regular monitoring and restoration are needed for sites like Hayagriva Madhava and Poa Mecca. Tourism department cooperation is required for inscriptions and copper plates. Promoting handicrafts boosts economy. Conservation and promotion will make Hajo a world-class destination.

In conclusion, Hajo is a holy pilgrimage site of Assam, whose tri-religious heritage, historical importance, cultural richness and tourism potential establish it as a world-class destination. Centres like Hayagriva Madhava Temple and Poa Mecca exemplify remarkable harmony of Hinduism, Islam and Buddhism. Historical inscriptions, copper plates and architecture bear witness to its rich past. In culture, neo-Vaishnavism's influence and handicraft richness give unique identity. In tourism, Brahmaputra's beauty, green hills and festivals make it enchanting. Through conservation and promotion, Hajo will remain a sacred site and tourism centre for future generations.

**OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT PRIMARY EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
KARBI ANGLONG AUTONOMOUS COUNCIL, DIPHU**

No: KAAC/DPED/SIU-198-208/2025-26/1560

Dt. 20/12/2025

ADVERTISEMENT

In the interest of Public Service, and with a view to improving the quality of education and strengthening remedial learning in Single-Teacher Schools, located in far-flung areas of Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong districts under the Administrative control of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council, Diphu and to improve the quality of Primary Education in compliance with the mandate of Section-29 (2) (f) of RTE Act, 2009, and Constitutional provision at Para -6 (1) read with article 244 (2) of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India, and in conformity with the objective stated under Para 2.3,4,9, and 4.10 of NEP, 2020, and in pursuance of Additional Secretary, i/c PED, Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council, Diphu vide letter No.PED/KAAC/PED/Pt-File/Apptt./4048 dated 18/12/2025, applications are invited from eligible Sixth Schedule TET, ATET and CTET qualified candidates of Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong districts for appointment to the post of Assistant Teacher for filling up of 198 (one hundred ninety eight) numbers of regular sanctioned vacant posts in Lower Primary Schools in the notified Special Focus Areas under Primary Education Department, Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council, Diphu. The List of Notified Special Focus Area Schools is enclosed at Annexure-A.

The vacancies may vary due to administrative reasons. The Primary Education Department, KAAC, Diphu reserves the right to make changes in sequences of the recruitment process after publication of the advertisement.

The aspiring candidates must be ready to serve in the Special Focused Area Schools as Notified by the Department of School Education vide Notification No:KAAC/Edn-(H)/Pt-XI/2096 Dated 08/07/2025.

Conditions of Recruitment: -

- The candidates of Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong Districts of Assam, who have passed the Special Sixth Schedule TET, Assam TET and Central TET for Lower Primary School will be eligible for applying.
- Either the Language-I or the Language-II of Special Sixth Schedule TET of Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong Districts, Assam TET and Central TET candidates shall match the medium of instruction of the school, and also possess desired Language Proficiency (Speaking Skill) for the school. Please see the Notified Special Focus Area Schools with required Language proficiency.
- Preference will be given to candidates from the local area.
- Proficiency in Mother Tongue/Local Language as notified for the school will be given preference.
- The appointment shall be non-transferable for a minimum continuous period of 5 (five) years.
- Every Candidate so appointed shall, prior to joining, execute an undertaking on a non-judicial stamp paper of Rs. 10/- (Rupees ten) only affirming their consent to the mandatory service requirement and non-transferability during the specified period. The said undertaking shall be duly notarized.
- The Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council, Diphu reserves the right to modify, postpone, or cancel the recruitment process at any stage.
- Candidates must be medically fit and of good moral character.
- A candidate must not be less than 18 years of age and not more than 40 years for unreserved category, 42 years for Ex-Servicemen, 43 years for OBC/ MOBC and 45 years for SC/ ST (P)/ST (H) and 50 years for Persons with Disability (PWD), as on 1st January, 2026.
- The eligible candidates can apply by submitting the documents as per the check list **from 22nd December, 2025 to 3rd January, 2026 till 04:00 PM** in the office of the District Primary Education Officer, Primary Education Department, Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council, Diphu during office hours.
- The candidature will be cancelled forthwith, if any kind of fraudulence/ discrepancy/ misrepresentation of facts submitted by the candidate is detected by appropriate authority at any point of time. The candidate will also be barred from taking part in any Govt. recruitment process in future and subsequent legal action will also be initiated against such candidate.
- The contractual teachers already working in LP/UP Schools under Samagra Shiksha are not allowed to apply.
- The candidate must apply in the prescribed Form of application along with a KAAC Money Receipt of Rs. 50/- (for ST/SC) & of Rs. 100/- (for others).
- Candidates are required to appear for physical verification of original documents and screening test which will be intimated later on.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Eligibility Criteria for LP Schools as per Department of School Education, KAAC Notification No. KAAC/Edn-(H)/Pt-XI/2096 Dated 08/07/2025.

Sl. No.	Category of Post	Essential Qualification & Experiences	Marking/Weightage
1	Assistant Teacher for Lower Primary School	Higher Secondary/ Senior Secondary (or its equivalent) with at least 50% marks	5% of marks secured in Higher Secondary/ Senior Secondary or equivalent Examinations.
		And 2-year Diploma in Elementary Education (by whatever name known)	5% of marks secured in Diploma in Elementary Education (D.El.Ed) or Bachelor of Elementary Education (D.El.Ed) examination or Diploma in Education (Special Education)
		Sixth Schedule TET, Assam TET or Central TET for Lower Primary.	75% of marks secured in Teachers' Eligibility Test (TET) for Lower Primary Schools.
		Language Proficiency - Speaking Skill Oral Test only- Total 20- Marks	10% of Marks secured in Language Proficiency Test conducted in the interview
		(Non-Essential) 1. NCC Certificate - 5 marks for "C" Certificate and 3 marks for "B" Certificate Or 2. 5 marks for participation/ achievement in recognized sports at National Level or beyond representing State or Nation. Or 3. 5 marks for participation/ achievement in recognized Fine Arts and Cultural Activities representing State at National Level or Beyond representing State or Nation (organized by recognized institutions).	5 Marks (Maximum) Even if the candidate possesses all the three qualification/ achievements.
Maximum Total Marks			100

- The candidates having Not Clear (NC) status against any qualification will not be eligible to apply.
- Betterment/ Improvement of Marks in respect of Higher Secondary/ Senior Secondary or equivalent Examination will be considered only in the same subjects which were originally taken by the Candidates. Only the 1st betterment examination/ improvement of marks will be taken into account.
- Selection Process: The Selection of the candidates shall be strictly in order of merit and as per the Recruitment Rules Notified by Department of School Education KAAC.
- Documents required(Self Attested):

(Check List):

- Passport Size Photograph.
- HSLC Admit Card.
- HSSLC Mark-sheet and Certificate.
- Any other Mark-sheet and Certificate of higher education.
- 2 (Two) Years D.El.Ed Mark sheet and Certificate.
- Caste Certificate (in case of SC/ ST (P)/ST (H)/OBC/MOBC).
- Document in support Resident.
- Certificate and Mark sheet of Sixth Schedule TET/ATET/CTET.
- Candidates with disabilities will have to enclose certificates of disabilities issued by Govt. authority.
- Certificate of Ex-servicemen issued by the Director, Sainik Welfare Board.

Note:

Canvassing directly or indirectly will lead to cancellation of candidature.

STANDARD APPLICATION FORM

For candidate qualified in Sixth Schedule TET/ATET/CTET				
Sixth Schedule TET/ATET/CTET Roll No. :			Year of passing :	
Language-I		Language -II.....		
Name of candidate:				
Date of Birth:				
Gender:				
Caste:				
Father's Name:				
Mother's Name:				
Mobile No.:				
Permanent Address:			Present Address:	
Physically Handicapped (Yes/No):				
Qualification	Year of Passing	Mark obtained	Total Marks	Percentage
HSSLC:				
Graduation				
TET				
2 Years D El Ed				
Language Proficiency :				
Co-curricular activities (if any):				

Declaration

I hereby declare that the information submitted herein are true and correct. I understand that in the event of particulars or information given herein being found false or incorrect, my candidature for the recruitment is liable to be rejected or cancelled. In the event of my misstatement/discrepancy in the particulars if detected, after my appointment, my service shall be terminated without any notice to me.

Signature of Candidate

ANNEXURE-A

Sl. No	District Name	Name of Block	School Code	School Name	Medium of Instruction (L-1)	Language- 2	Dominant Tribe	Required Language Proficiency (Specify Language)
1	KARBI ANGLONG	BOKAJAN	18190201709	MONGBUNG ENGLISH L.P	ENGLISH	Karbi	KUKI	Kuki and English
2	KARBI ANGLONG	BOKAJAN	18190201708	MOLSANG ENGLISH L.P	ENGLISH	Karbi	KUKI	Kuki and English
3	KARBI ANGLONG	BOKAJAN	18190201707	MOL HOI ENGLISH L.P	ENGLISH	Karbi	KUKI	Kuki and English
4	KARBI ANGLONG	LANGSOMEPI	18191100601	LANGCHITUNG L.P.S	Assamese/English/Karbi	English/Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
5	KARBI ANGLONG	LANGSOMEPI	18191100901	UPPER CHAPONG L.P.S	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
6	KARBI ANGLONG	LANGSOMEPI	18191101801	BINHUM ENGLISH L.P.S	English/Karbi	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
7	KARBI ANGLONG	LANGSOMEPI	18191102003	TORTELANSO ENGLISH L.P.S	English/Karbi	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
8	KARBI ANGLONG	LANGSOMEPI	18191103102	DUNGKEK LANGSO L.P.S	English/Karbi	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
9	KARBI ANGLONG	LANGSOMEPI	18191103103	PRANPRISO ENGLISH L.P.S	English/Karbi	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
10	KARBI ANGLONG	LANGSOMEPI	18191103108	LANGMEKLU L.P.S	English/Karbi	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
11	KARBI ANGLONG	LANGSOMEPI	18191103110	PRANPRI LANGSO L.P.S	English/Karbi	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
12	KARBI ANGLONG	LANGSOMEPI	18191103115	TARLONG L.P.S	English/Karbi	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
13	KARBI ANGLONG	LANGSOMEPI	18191103118	LONGKIRAM TERON L.P.S	English/Karbi	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
14	KARBI ANGLONG	LANGSOMEPI	18191103501	UPPER SELAWOR L.P.S	English/Karbi	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
15	KARBI ANGLONG	LANGSOMEPI	18191103506	LOCHINLANGSO L.P.S	English/Karbi	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
16	KARBI ANGLONG	LANGSOMEPI	18190510613	JOYSING RONGPI ENGLISH L.P SCHOOL	English/Karbi	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
17	KARBI ANGLONG	LUMBADJONG	18190501612	DOLONGBARI L.P SCHOOL	Assamese	English	Chakma	Bengali/Assamese
18	KARBI ANGLONG	LUMBADJONG	18190502101	BORLANGFER MODEL ENGLISH	English/Karbi	Karbi	Karbi	English / karbi
19	KARBI ANGLONG	LUMBADJONG	18190502117	ARTHEMLANSO L.P SCHOOL	Assamese / Karbi	English	Chakma	Bengali/Assamese
20	KARBI ANGLONG	LUMBADJONG	18190502113	TRIPURI HINDI L.P	Hindi	English	Bihari (Hindi Vasi)	Hindi
21	KARBI ANGLONG	LUMBADJONG	18190502401	SIRIM LANGSO	Assamese/ Karbi	English	Karbi	English / karbi
22	KARBI ANGLONG	LUMBADJONG	18190502402	ARLONG PHARLA L.P	Assamese	English	Karbi	English / karbi
23	KARBI ANGLONG	LUMBADJONG	18190502407	LANGKAJAN L.P	Assamese	English	Karbi / chakma / garo	karbi / chakma / garo
24	KARBI ANGLONG	LUMBADJONG	18190510607	MONGJANG L.P	English	Karbi	Kuki	English / kuki
25	KARBI ANGLONG	LUMBADJONG	18190513004	PITAJAL L.P	English	Karbi	Kuki	English / kuki
26	KARBI ANGLONG	LUMBADJONG	18190513005	VONGJANG L.P	English	Karbi	Kuki	English / kuki
27	KARBI ANGLONG	LUMBADJONG	18190513012	GANGJANG ENGLISH L.P SCHOOL	English	Karbi	Kuki	English / kuki
28	KARBI ANGLONG	NILJP	18190601209	RONGTEKE L.P	English/Karbi	KARBI	KARBI	KARBI/ASSAMESE
29	KARBI ANGLONG	NILJP	18190601234	ANJOK RONGPI L.P SCHOOL	English/Karbi	KARBI	KARBI	KARBI/ASSAMESE
30	KARBI ANGLONG	NILJP	18190606904	HANGIK LANGSO L.P	Assamese	English	KARBI	KARBI/ASSAMESE
31	KARBI ANGLONG	NILJP	18190606907	NO. 1 BOPUNG L.P	English	KARBI	KARBI	KARBI
32	KARBI ANGLONG	NILJP	18190606908	LOWER TARAPUNG L.P	English	KARBI	KARBI	KARBI
33	KARBI ANGLONG	NILJP	18190606909	JPI L.P	English	KARBI	KARBI	KARBI
34	KARBI ANGLONG	NILJP	18190606920	PITILANSO L.P	English	KARBI	KARBI	KARBI
35	KARBI ANGLONG	NILJP	18190606911	UPPER TARAPUNG L.P	Assamese	English	KARBI	KARBI/ASSAMESE
36	KARBI ANGLONG	NILJP	18190606912	BORPUNG SARTHE TIMUNG L.P	English	KARBI	KARBI	KARBI
37	KARBI ANGLONG	NILJP	18190606913	SARTHE TERANG L.P SCHOOL	English/Karbi	KARBI	KARBI	KARBI
38	KARBI ANGLONG	NILJP	18190606914	LONGKI ENGTI L.P SCHOOL	Assamese	English	KARBI	KARBI/ASSAMESE
39	KARBI ANGLONG	NILJP	18190606915	DHEROLA TOKBI L.P SCHOOL	English	KARBI	KARBI	KARBI
40	KARBI ANGLONG	NILJP	18190606920	BODOLANSO L.P SCHOOL	English	KARBI	KARBI	KARBI
41	KARBI ANGLONG	NILJP	18190606923	LONGKIRAM KRO L.P SCHOOL	English	KARBI	KARBI	KARBI
42	KARBI ANGLONG	NILJP	18190606925	NOROI TISSO L.P SCHOOL	English	KARBI	KARBI	KARBI
43	KARBI ANGLONG	NILJP	18190606926	LANGMING TERANG L.P SCHOOL	English	KARBI	KARBI	KARBI
44	KARBI ANGLONG	NILJP	18190606928	SARTHE RONGPI L.P SCHOOL	English	KARBI	KARBI	KARBI
45	KARBI ANGLONG	NILJP	18190607702	BALJAN ENGLISH	English	KARBI	KARBI	KARBI
46	KARBI ANGLONG	NILJP	18190607703	NAGA RENGMA L.P	English	KARBI	RENGMA	RENGMA/KARBI
47	KARBI ANGLONG	NILJP	18190607303	PHANCHEROP L.P SCHOOL	English	KARBI	RENGMA	RENGMA/ASSAMESE
48	KARBI ANGLONG	RONGMONGVE	18190802508	THANGLONG(BARKING INGTI) L.P SCHOOL	English/Karbi	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi/Assamese
49	KARBI ANGLONG	RONGMONGVE	18190802901	DA-DHORA	English/Karbi	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi/Assamese

Contd. on P-6

Contd. From P-5

ANNEXURE-A								
Propose List of Hard to Reach Area of Single Teacher School Under Primary Education Department, Karbi Anglong.								
Sl. No	District Name	Name of Block	School Code	School Name	Medium of Instruction (I-1)	Language-2	Dominant Tribe	Required Language Proficiency (Specify Language)
50	KARBI ANGLONG	ROMGMONGVE	18190802903	UPPER DA DHARA L.P	English/Karbi	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi/Assamese
51	KARBI ANGLONG	ROMGMONGVE	18190803502	RONGINGHAN L.P	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi/Assamese
52	KARBI ANGLONG	ROMGMONGVE	18190803506	CHONHONG ATHOI L.P SCHOOL	English/Karbi	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi/Assamese
53	KARBI ANGLONG	ROMGMONGVE	18190803706	HIDIPI L.P	Assamese / Karbi	English	Karbi	Karbi/Assamese
54	KARBI ANGLONG	ROMGMONGVE	18190804206	PANIRAM TOKBI L.P	Assamese / Karbi	English	Karbi	Karbi/Assamese
55	KARBI ANGLONG	ROMGMONGVE	18190804207	HIDISO L.P	English/Karbi	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi/Assamese
56	KARBI ANGLONG	ROMGMONGVE	18190804218	RONGTARA TERON	English/Karbi	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi/Assamese
57	KARBI ANGLONG	ROMGMONGVE	18190804223	PANIRAM LEKTHE L.P SCHOOL	Assamese / Karbi	English	Karbi	Karbi/Assamese
58	KARBI ANGLONG	ROMGMONGVE	18190805102	PHELOSO LANGSO L.P	Assamese / Karbi	English	Karbi	Karbi/Assamese
59	KARBI ANGLONG	ROMGMONGVE	18190803403	CHEKSO ENGLISH L.P	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi/Assamese
60	KARBI ANGLONG	ROMGMONGVE	18190806408	LANGVOTHUNG ENGLISH L.P	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi/Assamese
61	KARBI ANGLONG	ROMGMONGVE	18190806503	LANGSOMEPI ENGLISH L.P	English/Karbi	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi/Assamese
62	KARBI ANGLONG	ROMGMONGVE	18190807203	BIJULI L.P	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi/Assamese
63	KARBI ANGLONG	ROMGMONGVE	18190807703	KHORSIM ATHOI L.P	English/Karbi	Karbi	Karbi	Assamese
64	KARBI ANGLONG	ROMGMONGVE	18190807704	NO. 1 PARKUP PAHAR L.P	Assamese / Karbi	English	Karbi	Assamese
65	KARBI ANGLONG	ROMGMONGVE	18190807706	BISI-IM L.P	English/Karbi	Karbi	Karbi	Assamese
66	KARBI ANGLONG	ROMGMONGVE	18190809604	RAMPHITERANG L.P SCHOOL	English/Karbi	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi/Assamese
67	KARBI ANGLONG	ROMGMONGVE	18190809802	RUIPI LANGSO ENGLISH L.P	English/Karbi	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi/Assamese
68	KARBI ANGLONG	ROMGMONGVE	18190809902	DUMPURJURI L.P	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi/Assamese
69	KARBI ANGLONG	SAMELANGSO	18190603715	NAHORSOLA L.P SCHOOL	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
70	KARBI ANGLONG	SAMELANGSO	18190606927	BAMON BEY L.P SCHOOL	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
71	KARBI ANGLONG	SAMELANGSO	18190901201	ANGON RONGBONG RONGPHAR	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
72	KARBI ANGLONG	SAMELANGSO	18190901204	RUIPI LANGSO ENGLISH L.P	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
73	KARBI ANGLONG	SAMELANGSO	18190901502	NIHANG LANGSO L.P SCHOOL	Assamese / English / Karbi	Karbi	Karbi	English / Karbi
74	KARBI ANGLONG	SAMELANGSO	18190902001	THEDONG	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
75	KARBI ANGLONG	SAMELANGSO	18190902002	CHING THULANGSO L.P	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
76	KARBI ANGLONG	SAMELANGSO	18190903001	THEREBASA ENGLISH	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
77	KARBI ANGLONG	SAMELANGSO	18190903003	SAMBHETI L.P	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
78	KARBI ANGLONG	SAMELANGSO	18190903004	ANGJOK LALUNG GAON L.P	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
79	KARBI ANGLONG	SAMELANGSO	18190903006	NOLASAKTHE RONGPI L.P	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
80	KARBI ANGLONG	SAMELANGSO	18190903007	SIKARI BEY L.P	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
81	KARBI ANGLONG	SAMELANGSO	18190905501	PAKLONGKAM	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
82	KARBI ANGLONG	SAMELANGSO	18190906301	DIKRUTPI	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
83	KARBI ANGLONG	SAMELANGSO	18190906304	DIKRUTSO L.P	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
84	KARBI ANGLONG	SAMELANGSO	18190906501	LEMTEM SINGNAR L.P SCHOOL	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
85	KARBI ANGLONG	SAMELANGSO	18190906505	KHA ENGTI L.P SCHOOL	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
86	KARBI ANGLONG	SAMELANGSO	18190913604	KAYA KRAMSA	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
87	KARBI ANGLONG	SAMELANGSO	18190914801	MUKASONG	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
88	KARBI ANGLONG	SAMELANGSO	18190914903	KHALA SINGNAR L.P	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
89	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	AMRI	18330102303	LONG DANG GAON L.P	Assamese	English	Karbi	Karbi
90	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	AMRI	18330102401	AMDUBA L.P	Assamese/Tiva	English	Tiva	Tiva
91	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	AMRI	18330102601	BALIKUNCHI L.P	Assamese/Tiva	English	Tiva	Tiva
92	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	AMRI	18330102603	THARAKHUN CHI L.P	Assamese/Tiva	English	Tiva	Tiva
93	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	AMRI	18330100401	MOWROH L.P	English/Tiva	Karbi	Tiva	Tiva
94	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	AMRI	18330101203	AHOMBAROI L.P SCHOOL	Assamese / Karbi	English	Karbi	Karbi
95	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	AMRI	18330101301	UMPACHI L.P	English/Tiva	Karbi	Tiva	Tiva
96	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	AMRI	18330101803	BORAMLI L.P	Assamese / Karbi	English	Tiva	Tiva
97	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	AMRI	18330103002	UMBORMON KARBI L.P SCHOOL	English/Karbi	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
98	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	AMRI	18330103101	UMSAMUKH L.P	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
99	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	AMRI	18330103405	LEMRA L.P	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
100	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	AMRI	18330103701	SARU AMLI L.P	Assamese / Tiva	English	Tiva	Tiva
101	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	AMRI	18330103801	MUGAGURI L.P	Assamese/Tiva	English	Tiva	Tiva
102	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	AMRI	18330104201	RAPADANG L.P	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
103	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	AMRI	18330104301	SILANG KUNCHI L.P	Assamese/Tiva	English	Tiva	Tiva
104	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	AMRI	18330104302	GOMNASAL L.P	Assamese/Tiva	English	Tiva	Tiva
105	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	AMRI	18330104601	NONGTHAM L.P	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
106	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	AMRI	18330104701	SHANGHON L.P	Assamese/Karbi	English	Karbi	Karbi
107	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	AMRI	18330104901	KARBI HIDI L.P	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
108	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	AMRI	18330104902	KARBI HIDI L.P SCHOOL	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
109	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	AMRI	18330105301	BOGJAMIN L.P	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
110	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	AMRI	18330105502	LUMLAER L.P	Assamese/Karbi	English	Karbi	Karbi
111	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	AMRI	18330105503	TOKBI RUMSU L.P	Assamese	English	Karbi	Karbi
112	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	AMRI	18330105901	PANTALO L.P	English/Tiva	Karbi	Tiva	Tiva
113	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	AMRI	18330106004	LANGKAM L.P SCHOOL	English	Karbi	Khasi	Khasi
114	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	AMRI	18330106005	UMILT L.P SCHOOL	English	Karbi	Khasi	Khasi
115	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	AMRI	18330106602	MAILANG CHENG L.P	Assamese	English	Karbi	Karbi
116	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	AMRI	18330106603	ENGTI THENG KIRI L.P	Assamese	English	Karbi	Karbi
117	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	AMRI	18330106604	TERANG NAKAR L.P	English/Karbi	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
118	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	AMRI	18330106802	KRO BAMUN L.P	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
119	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	AMRI	18330107004	CHOPIKLOK (CHAIDILI) L.P SCHOOL	Assamese	English	Karbi	Karbi
120	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	AMRI	18330108701	LANGTARA PHERERE L.P	Assamese/Karbi	English	Karbi	Karbi
121	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	AMRI	18330109001	THEDONG L.P	Assamese	English	Karbi	Karbi
122	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	AMRI	18330109002	HARLAK L.P	Assamese / Karbi	English	Karbi	Karbi
123	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	AMRI	18330109003	JASERA L.P	Assamese	English	Karbi	Karbi
124	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	AMRI	18330102602	BOR RONGKHOI L.P	Assamese/Tiva	English	Karbi	Karbi
125	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	AMRI	18330104303	UTTANG KUNCHI L.P	Assamese/Tiva	English	Tiva	Tiva
126	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	AMRI	18330106003	DENGHAR L.P SCHOOL	English	Karbi	Tiva	Tiva
127	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	AMRI	18330106001	RONGCHEK NO.2	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
128	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	CHINTHONG	18330300201	PATIKINDOK L.P.	Assamese	English	Karbi	English
129	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	CHINTHONG	18330300203	MOKINDUR L.P	Assamese	English	Karbi	English
130	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	CHINTHONG	18330300202	INGTI HABE L.P.	Assamese	English	Karbi	English
131	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	CHINTHONG	183303003203	KLENG SARPO RONGMI L.P.	Assamese	English	Karbi	English
132	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	CHINTHONG	18330303504	MUNDILI L.P.	English	English	Karbi	English
133	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	CHINTHONG	18330304108	RUMUNG SENAR L.P SCHOOL	Assamese/Karbi	English	Karbi	English
134	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	CHINTHONG	18330304705	LONG-EKU L.P.	Assamese	English	Karbi	English
135	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	CHINTHONG	18330303201	DENGTHALWALI L.P.	Assamese	English	Karbi	English
136	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	CHINTHONG	18330303204	ARLONGSARLANG L.P	Assamese	English	Karbi	English
137	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	CHINTHONG	18330303501	KUNGRIPI L.P	Assamese	English	Karbi	English
138	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	CHINTHONG	18330303503	BATLOK L.P	Assamese	English	Karbi	English
139	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	CHINTHONG	18330305601	MORINTO L.P	Assamese	English	Karbi	English
140	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	CHINTHONG	18330305602	CHINTHONG L.P	Assamese	English	Karbi	English
141	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	CHINTHONG	18330305603	HEMPHU L.P	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
142	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	CHINTHONG	18330305402	LANGLONGDANG KRAMSA	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
143	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	CHINTHONG	18330310101	LANGSOMEPI ENGLISH	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
144	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	CHINTHONG	18330314501	LANG LONG DANG KRO L.P	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
145	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	CHINTHONG	18330301502	KHILIMULONG L.P	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
146	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	CHINTHONG	18330301701	SOCHENG L.P	English/Karbi	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
147	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	CHINTHONG	18330314101	NINGKRENG L.P	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
148	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	CHINTHONG	18330315801	BIRMAINE	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
149	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	CHINTHONG	18330305303	RANGSINA L.P	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
150	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	CHINTHONG	18330311201	LANGKISO	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
151	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	CHINTHONG	18330300301	HARLONG DONGKI L.P.	Assamese	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
152	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	CHINTHONG	18330309101	RONGKOR L.P	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
153	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	CHINTHONG	18330303601	NONGKEDA L.P	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
154	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	CHINTHONG	18330305604	UMRAGI L.P.	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
155	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	CHINTHONG	18330305608	UMLADO L.P.	Assamese/Karbi	English	Karbi	English
156	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	CHINTHONG	18330311301	MURI CHINTHONG	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
157	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	CHINTHONG	18330300601	MURAP	English	Karbi	Nepali	Karbi
158	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	CHINTHONG	18330300901	LARU	English	English	Nepali	English
159	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	CHINTHONG	18330314004	KIRI PHANGCHO L.P.	English	English	Nepali	Nepali
160	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	CHINTHONG	18330311602	THONG NOKBE	English	English	Nepali	Nepali
161	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	CHINTHONG	18330303901	RONGKANGTUI L.P	English	English	Nepali	English
162	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	CHINTHONG	18330310701	KHLIEH UMANG	English	English	Nepali	English
163	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	RONGKHANG	18330715501	SIRVOMU	ENGLISH	KARBI	Karbi	Karbi
164	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	RONGKHANG	18330715101	PHONGJANGRE	ENGLISH	KARBI	Karbi	Karbi
165	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	RONGKHANG	18330715103	RONGMONGVE L.P SCHOOL	ENGLISH	KARBI	Karbi	Karbi
166	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	RONGKHANG	18330712003	LANGTUK THEPI	ENGLISH	KARBI	Karbi	Karbi
167	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	RONGKHANG	18330712004	MOLAHIN L.P	ENGLISH / KARBI	KARBI	Karbi	Karbi
168	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	RONGKHANG	18330712007	RONGCHIRIM L.P SCHOOL	ENGLISH	KARBI	Karbi	Karbi
169	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	RONGKHANG	18330713101	NONGKROG	ENGLISH	KARBI	Karbi	Karbi
170	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	RONGKHANG	18330721801	BILENDI ENGLISH	ENGLISH	KARBI	Karbi	Karbi
171	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	RONGKHANG	18330721804	TORTE APAM L.P SCHOOL	ENGLISH	KARBI	Karbi	Karbi
172	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	RONGKHANG	18330714901	RONGMUNPI	ENGLISH / KARBI	KARBI	Karbi	Karbi
173	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	RONGKHANG	18330712302	SING TERON L.P SCHOOL	ENGLISH / KARBI	KARBI	Karbi	Karbi
174	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	RONGKHANG	18330720502	C.S TERON ENGLISH L.P	ENGLISH	KARBI	Karbi	Karbi
175	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	RONGKHANG	18330709401	BAIDA	ENGLISH	KARBI	Karbi	Karbi
176	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	RONGKHANG	18330716501	LINCHIKA L.P	ENGLISH	KARBI	Karbi	Karbi
177	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	RONGKHANG	18330717403	RONGPI OK-HI L.P SCHOOL	ENGLISH	KARBI	Karbi	Karbi
178	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	RONGKHANG	18330701906	DERANIHANG L.P	ENGLISH / KARBI	KARBI	Karbi	Karbi
179	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	RONGKHANG	18330718201	LONG-EPI	ENGLISH	KARBI	KARBI	Karbi
180	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	SOCHENG	18331009303	LUMUJEM L.P SCHOOL	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
181	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	SOCHENG	18331003905	KHATKASALA L.P SCHOOL	English	Karbi	Jaintia	Jaintia
182	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	SOCHENG	18331009302	JIKILOK L.P SCHOOL	English / Karbi	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
183	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	SOCHENG	18331001601	UPILANGSO L.P SCHOOL	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
184	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	SOCHENG	18331002401	UM BASO L.P SCHOOL	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
185	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	SOCHENG	18331005501	NANGJI RONG L.P. SCHOOL	English	Karbi	Khasi/Nepali	Khasi/Nepali
186	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	SOCHENG	18331008001	TADOLANGSO L.P SCHOOL	English	Karbi	Karbi	Karbi
187	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	SOCHENG	18331001719	RONGPARBI L.P SCHOOL	English/K			

Forest Department fires in air to disperse encroachers amid large-scale tree felling Illegal encroachment threatens Sikhna Jwhlwao National Park in Kokrajhar

HT Correspondent

KOKRAJHAR, Dec 20: Large tracts of dense forest and trees are reportedly being illegally cut down inside the Sikhna Jwhlwao National Park along the Indo-Bhutan border in Kokrajhar district, raising serious concerns over encroachment and destruction of natural resources in the newly declared protected area.

The alleged large-scale destruction of forest cover inside the national park has sparked widespread concern among citizens, environmentalists and local residents. Questions are being raised over whose patronage such an alarming blueprint for encroachment on forest land inside the Sikhna Jwhlwao National Park is being carried out.

Local people and environment lovers have expressed resentment over the illegal encroachment of forest resources, stating that the newly formed national park is facing an existential crisis even before its conservation mechanisms are fully established.

In a shocking development, the Forest Department was compelled to fire 24 rounds in the air on December 17 to disperse encroachers who were attempting to grab forest land along the national park.

At a time when rising global



warming poses a grave threat to human civilisation, culture and all forms of life, it has emerged that a group of miscreants has allegedly been entering the newly established Sikhna Jwhlwao National Park, located along the Indo-Bhutan international border in the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) and attempting to encroach upon forest land by indiscriminately cutting down valuable trees.

When contacted, J K Brahma, Divisional Forest Officer of the Haltuagon Forest Division in Kokrajhar district, told the media on Friday that since November, encroachers, allegedly instigated by

third parties have been making repeated attempts to occupy land in the Jharbari, Gaurang and Ultapani ranges of the Haltuagon Forest Division as well as within the Sikhna Jwhlwao National Park.

He said groups numbering between 200-250 and sometimes as many as 300-400 encroachers have been entering the forest areas armed with machetes and axes, openly challenging forest protection staff and officials in their bid to illegally occupy national park land.

The Divisional Forest Officer further stated that when forest personnel tried to prevent them, the encroachers turned aggressive and

even attempted to attack forest protection teams.

"On December 17, the Forest Department, having no other option to control the situation had to fire 24 rounds in the air to disperse the encroachers," Brahma said, adding that the department will adopt a strict stance against any miscreants attempting to encroach upon land belonging to the Sikhna Jwhlwao National Park.

It may be mentioned that on February 16, 2025, the Assam Government approved the creation of the 316.29 square kilometre Sikhna Jwhlwao National Park during a cabinet meeting, and on March 5, 2025, it was officially accorded national park status.

The Sikhna Jwhlwao National Park is home to around 460 species of butterflies and a wide range of wildlife, including golden langurs, peacocks, hornbills, wild elephants, tigers, deer, wild boars and several other species.

Meanwhile, discussions and speculation are growing in the region over whether politics centred on the Sikhna Jwhlwao National Park has begun in the BTR area, even as concerns mount over the urgent need to protect the ecologically sensitive zone from further damage.

Chemists' body urges PM to shut down illegal e-pharmacies across India

HT Correspondent

JORHAT, Dec 20: The Jorhat District Chemists and Druggists Association has informed that the All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists (AIOC) has submitted an urgent memorandum to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, demanding the immediate closure of illegal e-pharmacies operating across the country.

Sanjeev Kumar Bora of the Jorhat District Chemists and Druggists Association said the memorandum, sent by AIOC national president J S Shinde, represents over 12.40 lakh retail and wholesale medicine traders nationwide. The Association urged the Central Government to repeal two key notifications—GSR-817 and GSR-220—in the interest of public

health.

The organisation expressed concern over the use of high-powered antibiotics prescribed by unauthorised individuals without monitoring essential health parameters such as blood pressure, oxygen levels, heart rate or fever.

According to the Association, such unregulated sale of antibiotics contributes to antimicrobial resistance, posing a serious long-term threat to patients. They have demanded that online platforms be prohibited from supplying medicines in ways that endanger public safety. The national president emphasised that medicines are not cosmetic products and should not be sold online indiscriminately, warning that such practices could lead to severe health risks.

The memorandum urges the Prime Minister to prioritise key demands, including the immediate closure of all e-pharmacies as per the Delhi High Court order of December 15, 2018, a high-level investigation into incidents involving "Doctors-on-Call" services linked to the e-pharmacy Blinkit, the withdrawal of notifications GSR-817 and GSR-220, ensuring that medicines are dispensed only by registered pharmacists against valid prescriptions, and strict enforcement of existing laws such as the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, the Drugs and Magic Remedies Act, the Pharmacy Act, Telemedicine Guidelines, Medical Ethics Regulations, and the National Medical Commission Code of Conduct.

Road Safety Committee stresses road safety measures

HT Correspondent

TEZPUR, Dec 20: The District Road Safety Committee (DRSC) held a meeting on Friday at the Conference Hall of the District Commissioner's Office, Sonitpur, under the chairmanship of District Commissioner Ananda Kumar Das. The meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police Sonitpur Barun Purkayastha, Co-District Commissioner Dhekiajuli Dyotyia Bora, Tezpur Revenue Circle Officer, Executive Officer Tezpur Municipal Board, Member Secretary DRSC Sonitpur, along with other Heads of Departments and committee members.

The District Commissioner highlighted the importance of effective monitoring, crash site investigation and analysis to reduce road accidents. Discussions focused on speeding and traffic rule violations, particularly on Assam Mala roads.

First artist from Northeast honoured with 'Breakthrough Performance by a Newcomer (Female)'

Assam's Archita Agarwal wins Filmfare OTT Award 2025



HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Dec 20: Emerging Assamese talent Archita Agarwal has made history by winning the Filmfare OTT Award 2025 for "Breakthrough Performance by a Newcomer (Female)" for her role in the critically acclaimed film 'Despatch'. The award was pre-

sented by veteran actress Sheeba Chadda at a glittering ceremony in Mumbai. Archita, who was last seen in the Assamese blockbuster 'Rudra' opposite Ravi Sharma, becomes the first artist from the Northeast to receive this honour in the newcomer category. The ceremony saw the presence

of leading industry figures, including Vikram Motwane, Nikhil Advani, Alia Bhatt, Sanya Malhotra, Fatima Sana Shaikh, Vicky Kaushal and Richa Chadda, highlighting the significance of the award and Archita's performance. Archita's journey from Assam to the silver screen is inspiring. She moved to Mumbai for her education, spent two years working in costume design, and gradually built a portfolio through short films, over 30 digital advertisements and a role in the popular series 'Satyamev Jayate'.

Speaking after receiving the award, Archita said, "I am deeply humbled to be recognised among such extraordinary talent. This award belongs to Team 'Despatch', my family, my mentors. I am from the Northeast, a region full of untapped talent and I cannot wait to tell more stories from our land. I hope this moment paves the way for more recognition of artists from our region."

Social activist Kiran Kalita passes away



HT Correspondent

NAGAON, Dec 20: Kiran Kalita, a pious and socially active woman from Chachal in Guwahati, passed away on Friday, leaving her family, friends and the local community in deep grief.

She was closely associated with several social and spiritual organisations, including the Chachal Rajohua Namghar Committee, a local Yoga Centre and the Shirdi Sai Baba Mandir at Radhanagar, Guwahati, where she actively participated in various activities.

According to family sources, she had been suffering from anaemia, diabetes and kidney-related ailments for a long time. Despite her health issues, she remained devoted to social and spiritual work.

'Sunyatat Tomar Upasthiti' by Serdihun Bepi to be launch

HT Correspondent

TUMPRENG, Dec 20: Literary circles in West Karbi Anglong are set to celebrate the launch of 'Sunyatat Tomar Upasthiti' (Your Presence in Emptiness), the debut poetry collection of noted writer Serdihun Bepi. The launch will take place on December 25, 2025, at the author's residence in Baligaon, Tumprang.

The collection features Bepi's acclaimed poems previously published in journals and newspapers including 'Nandini', 'Ganas-tamba' and the Diphu Sahitya Sabha's 'Mirjangsik'.

A life member of the Asom Sahitya Sabha and recipient of the 'Asom Gramya Shiroratra Award', Bepi is a prominent figure in the region's socio-cultural scene. The event is expected to draw literary enthusiasts and local dignitaries.

Critically endangered Bengal Florican allegedly poached and consumed in Chirang

Visuals of killing spark outrage among conservationists; probe demanded

HT Correspondent

KOKRAJHAR, Dec 20: A critically endangered Bengal Florican (*Houbaropsis bengalensis*) was allegedly poached and cooked for consumption in Chirang district, triggering widespread outrage among conservationists and wildlife lovers across the region.

Visuals and photographs of the incident reportedly began circulating on social media platforms and WhatsApp groups of biodiversity enthusiasts, drawing sharp reactions from conservation groups and concerned citizens.

The incident is alleged to have taken place at Khungring Forest Village in Chirang district under the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC). Preliminary information suggests that the bird killed was a sub-adult male Bengal Florican, one of the rarest bird species in the world.

The Bengal Florican, locally known as দাউ ধরলি, is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List and enjoys the highest level of legal protection under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. According to estimates from 2017, the global population of the species was fewer than 1,000 individuals, making the loss of even a single bird a serious setback to conservation efforts.

The presence of the Bengal Florican in the Manas landscape has long been a matter of pride for the Bodoland region. Multiple stakeholders, including forest authorities, conservation organisations and local communities have been working together for years to ensure the long-term survival of the species and protect its grassland habitat.

Conservationists have termed the alleged poaching incident as highly unfortunate, illegal and reprehensible and have demanded strict action against those re-



sponsible.

"The incident must be thoroughly investigated and the persons involved should be identified and punished as per law. Several stakeholders are actively engaged in conserving this species and such acts seriously undermine years of conservation work," said an environmentalist.

Forest department officials are yet to issue an official statement on the incident, while conservation groups have urged authorities to strengthen monitoring and awareness to prevent such incidents in the future.

Circuit House Diphu canteen to be inaugurated

HT Bureau

DIPHU, Dec 20: The District Administration of Karbi Anglong, Diphu, is set to inaugurate the Circuit House Canteen on December 22, 2025, at 10:00 AM within the premises of Circuit House, Diphu.

A preparatory meeting was held at the DC Office Conference Hall on Saturday, chaired by District Commissioner Nirola Phangchopi, ACS with the Additional District Commissioner, senior departmental officials and police officers in attendance. The meeting focused on security arrangements, logistical planning, inter-departmental coordination and public participation to ensure the smooth and orderly conduct of the inauguration.

The newly established canteen is expected to enhance hospitality services at the Circuit House and improve amenities for officials, guests and visitors. The District Administration has invited all citizens of Diphu to attend the event and participate in this milestone reflecting local development efforts. Media personnel have been requested to provide coverage across print, digital and social media platforms.



Assam Government urges youths to join Indian Air Force

HT Bureau

DIPHU, Dec 20: The Assam Government has encouraged the youths of the state to take keen interest in joining the Indian Air Force (IAF) and pursue a proud, disciplined and rewarding career in national defence, according to an official notification issued recently.

The initiative aims to motivate eligible young men and women, particularly from rural and remote areas, to aspire for service in one of the country's most respected armed forces. The notification emphasised that a career in the Indian Air Force offers secure employment, professional excellence, advanced technical training and ample opportunities for personal growth, while allowing individuals to serve the nation with courage and dedication.

The Assam Government noted that service in the IAF not only brings honour and stability to individuals but also contributes significantly to the socio-economic upliftment of their families and society at large.

As per the notification, information related to joining the Indian Air Force will be made available at key public institutions, including government higher secondary schools, government colleges and ITIs, bus stands and transport hubs, government hospitals and Panchayat offices. This step is aimed at ensuring that aspiring candidates can access guidance and information at the grassroots level.

Reaffirming its commitment to youth empowerment and employment generation, the Assam Government urged eligible youths to prepare themselves physically, mentally and academically to join the Indian Air Force and serve the nation with pride.

Young aspirants have been encouraged to take the opportunity seriously and come forward to be part of a force that symbolises discipline, bravery and national pride.

Free cancer screening and health camp organised in Tirap Mouza

HT Correspondent

MARHERITA, Dec 20: The Indian Red Cross Society, Margherita Sub-District Branch, the only leading humanitarian voluntary organisation in the Margherita Co-District, organised a free cancer screening, awareness meeting and health camp on Saturday at Baputi Gogoi ME School in Phaneng Kenia Gaon under Tirap Mouza.

The camp was organised in collaboration with Hindustan Oil Exploration Company Limited and with support from the Assam Cancer Care Foundation and The Hans Foundation. Free screening for oral cavity, cervical and breast cancer was conducted, along with treatment for general diseases, eye ailments, paediatric diseases and gynaecological and obstetric conditions.

In his welcome address, Pabitra Borgohain highlighted the growing incidence of cancer, explaining its causes, symptoms and available treatment methods. He stressed the importance of organising regular screening and awareness programmes to educate the public and promote early detection.

An awareness meeting was held in this connection under the chairmanship of retired teacher Girin Buragohain. Retired headmaster of Tirap High School Niroh Nath Upadhaya, Lekhapani Gaon Panchayat Anchalik Panchayat member Robin Keot, social worker Shekhar Phukan, educationist Purna Barua and Lekhapani Gaon Panchayat president Sudhisna Sharma attended the programme as distinguished



guests.

The Assam Cancer Care Foundation's Tinsukia unit and The Hans Foundation actively extended cooperation in conducting the screening and treatment camp.

Specialist doctors from the Assam Cancer Care Foundation, including Dr Mamta Upadhaya and from The Hans Foundation, Dr R K Ishwar Chand, Dr Pulakesh Bora, Sumant Sinha and Dipom Borgohain, along with medical staff from both organisations, carried out health check-ups and conducted various blood tests for the beneficiaries.

More than 250 patients underwent screening for oral cavity, breast and cervical cancer during the camp. In addition, patients received examinations and treatment for general ailments, paediatric diseases and women's health issues. Free medicines were distributed and spectacles were provided to patients at subsidised rates.

AMTRON holds 3D Dental Scanning Camp in Golaghat

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Dec 20: AMTRON, in collaboration with Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL), organised a 3D Dental Scanning Camp at Ponka OPD, Marangi, Golaghat, on December 19-20, aimed at providing advanced dental care to underserved communities.

A total of 78 patients were examined using state-of-the-art 3D dental scanning technology with 11 patients receiving Removable Partial Dentures and two pediatric patients provided space maintainers to support proper dental development.

The camp was led by Dr Jewel Akhtar, BDS with technical support from Biswajit Barik. AMTRON's team, including Pradeep Kumar Prasad and Nayan Deka, managed coordination and stakeholder engagement.

The initiative highlights AMTRON's commitment to leveraging advanced technology to improve healthcare outcomes and expand access to quality dental care in local communities.

Leopard captured near BCPL Industrial Complex in Dibrugarh

HT Correspondent

DIBRUGARH, Dec 20: A leopard that had been terrorising residents near the Brahmaputra Cracker Polymer Ltd (BCPL) industrial complex in Dibrugarh's Lepetkata area was successfully captured by the Forest Department on Saturday morning, bringing relief after several days of fear and anxiety among locals.

The big cat had been frequently sighted prowling around the industrial site and nearby residential areas over the past few days, triggering concern and alarm among workers and residents. Following repeated reports, forest officials launched a coordinated operation and installed an iron cage trap, baited with live prey at a strategic location in the area.

The operation culminated on Saturday morning when the leopard entered the cage and was safely secured. Officials confirmed that the animal was captured without sustaining any injuries during the operation.

A Forest Department official said the leopard would first undergo a detailed veterinary health examination to assess its physical condition. After the medical check-up, the animal will be translocated and released deep inside the Dehing Patkai National Park to ensure it is moved far away from human habitation.

Officials added that the surrounding tea garden estates, with their dense vegetation, provide a suitable natural habitat for leopards. Such conditions often lead the animals to stray into nearby human-populated areas while searching for prey or new territory, increasing the chances of human-wildlife encounters.

Gill dropped; selectors call back Ishan Kishan and Rinku Singh for T20 WC

MUMBAI, Dec 20: Taking a bold call with an eye to maximise impact over reputation, the Indian selectors on Saturday dropped Shubman Gill from the T20 World Cup squad and brought back wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan along with Rinku Singh.

Gill's omission is the most interesting decision of the selection meeting in Mumbai although given his form, it wasn't very surprising. In his place, Axar Patel is the new vice captain of the side.

Despite being one of India's most consistent batters across Tests and ODIs, Gill has struggled to nail down a fixed role in T20s, particularly as an opener, where India are now prioritising high-impact starts over accumulation.

His strike-rate concerns in powerplays and the emergence of more explosive options appear to have weighed against him. He only scored 4, 0 and 28 in three games against South Africa.

"Shubman Gill is short of runs at the moment and missed last WC too," chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar said at the press conference. In contrast, Ishan's return reflects the selectors' renewed emphasis on left-right combinations and aggressive wicket-keep-



ing-batters at the top.

Kishan, who has been out of favour for much of the year following fitness and availability issues, has impressed in recent Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, leading Jharkhand to the title with a splendid hundred.

"It's not about Gill's form. We wanted to have a keeper at the top," skipper Suryakumar said on Gill's omission.

Kishan's inclusion meant that talented Yashasvi Jaiswal had to miss out while Jitesh also lost his place on the squad.

India have doubled down on power at the top and middle order, picking Abhishek Sharma alongside Suryakumar, Tilak Varma and

Kishan, while Rinku's presence continues India's commitment to a specialist finisher who can absorb pressure and explode at the death.

All-round depth remains a cornerstone of the squad. Hardik Pandya will once again shoulder the responsibility of balancing the XI, supported by Shivam Dube, whose ability to target spinners has become a major asset, and the Axar-Washington Sundar duo, offering variety, control and batting depth.

The bowling unit blends experience with experimentation.

Jasprit Bumrah leads the pace attack alongside Arshdeep Singh, India's most reliable left-arm option in T20Is.

Harshit Rana's inclusion points to a forward-looking approach, with the selectors backing raw pace and bounce as a point of difference.

Spin will be handled by Kuldeep Yadav and Varun Chakravarty, a pairing that provides both wrist-spin guile and mystery, especially effective in the middle overs on abrasive surfaces. Washington Sundar and Axar bring in the much-needed versatility.

India will begin their campaign on the opening day of the tournament with a game against the USA on February 7. India's next match is against Namibia (Feb 12) before taking on arch-rivals Pakistan in Colombo on February 15.

India will compete their Group A engagements with a match against Netherlands at Ahmedabad on February 18. The Super 8s matches will begin from February 21 and final is slated for March 8.

India squad: Suryakumar Yadav (captain), Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel (vc), Kuldeep Singh, Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, Harshit Rana, Sanju Samson (wk), Washington Sundar, Varun Chakravarty, Ishan Kishan (wk), Rinku Singh. (PTI)

India look to extend dominance against Pak in U-19 Asia Cup final

DUBAI, Dec 20: Eyeing a record-extending 12th title, a dominant India will look to underline their supremacy over arch-rivals Pakistan when they clash in the Under-19 Asia Cup final at the ICC Academy, here on Sunday.

The Ayush Mhatre-led Indian colts have been a class apart, winning all their Group A matches to finish on top ahead of Pakistan, who suffered their only group-stage defeat against India, a 90-run loss last Sunday.

India carried that momentum into the semifinals on Friday, brushing aside Sri Lanka by eight wickets. Pakistan, on the other hand, reached the final by knocking out defending champions Bangladesh. India's march to the final has been built on an all-round effort, with batters and bowlers gelling together seamlessly to form a formidable unit.

With the bat, India have been nothing short of spectacular, posting two 400-plus totals.

The 50-over tournament has seen the rise of exciting young talents, such as 17-year-old wicket-keeper-batter Abhigyan Kundu.

If teenage prodigy Vaibhav Suryavanshi set the tone in the opener against UAE with a breathtaking 95-ball 171 as India piled up 433/6, Kundu etched his name into the record books against Malaysia. The left-hander smashed an unbeaten 125-ball 209, becoming the first Indian to score a double century in Youth ODIs.

The duo will look for yet another good show against a disciplined Pakistan bowling attack.

Even when the top-order has faltered, India's middle-order has risen to the occasion.

Hyderabad's Aaron George has been the glue, registering three successive half-centuries, often batting through the critical middle overs while maintaining a strike rate of 100-plus.

He has been ably supported by Vihaan Malhotra, who offers a left-handed option and is fresh from a 61 not out against Sri Lanka.

Adding depth is all-rounder



Kanishk Chouhan, who has reimagined the finisher's role with a strike rate of over 127, while making timely breakthroughs with the ball, Chouhan has picked up six wickets in four matches, including a telling 3/33 against Pakistan in the group stage.

With the ball, India were led by pacer Deepesh Devendran, the joint-highest wicket-taker in the tournament with 11 scalps, alongside Pakistan's Abdul Subhan.

Deepesh has thrived by bowling probing lines at 130 kmph-plus with the new ball.

His standout spell of 5/22 against Malaysia showcased his threat, while against Pakistan he dismantled the top-order, removing three batters in successive overs, including tournament top-scorer Sameer Minhas.

Minhas, who struck an unbeaten 177 against Malaysia, comes into the final on the back of a half-century against Bangladesh and will be keen to make amends.

Pakistan's biggest strength lies in their pace-heavy bowling attack, with Subhan leading the charts and receiving solid support from left-arm pacer Mohammad Sayyam and Ali Raza.

In the spin department, left-arm Nigab Shafiq impressed with a two-wicket burst against India, while leg-spinner Ahmed Hussain adds variety as Pakistan attempt to nullify India's batting

juggernaut. Batting, however, remains an area of concern for the Farhan Yousaf-led side, which has struggled for consistency and will be desperate to halt their recent reversals against India at the biggest stage.

In September, India's senior team had swept Pakistan three times en route to lifting the Asia Cup (T20) title, a trend the junior side will hope to continue. As in previous encounters, players from both teams are expected to adhere to the no-handshake policy.

Pakistan have been champions of the Asia Cup once in 2012 and since then they have been runners-up twice (2013-14 and 2017).

Teams (from):

India: Ayush Mhatre (C), Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Vihaan Malhotra (vc), Vedant Trivedi, Abhigyan Kundu (wk), Harvansh Singh (wk), Yuvraj Gohil, Kanishk Chouhan, Khilan A. Patel, Naman Pushpak, D. Deepesh, Henil Patel, Kishan Kumar Singh*, Udhav Mohan, Aaron George.

Pakistan: Farhan Yousaf (captain), Usman Khan (vice-captain), Abdul Subhan, Ahmed Hussain, Ali Hasan Baloch, Ali Raza, Daniyal Ali Khan, Hamza Zahoor (wk), Huzafa Ahsan, Momin Qamar, Mohammad Sayyam, Mohammad Shayan (wk), Nigab Shafiq, Sameer Minhas and Mohammad Huzafa.

Match starts: 10.30am IST. (PTI)

Ishan's inclusion proves domestic performance must be selection criteria, not just IPL: Gavaskar

NEW DELHI, Dec 20: Batting legend Sunil Gavaskar on Saturday backed the selection of in-form batter Ishan Kishan in the Indian squad for the upcoming T20 World Cup while former spinner Harbhajan Singh gave the Ajit Agarkar-led selection panel full marks for taking the tough call of dropping Shubman Gill.

The national selectors brought back wicket-keeper-batter Kishan along with Rinku Singh while dropping Test and ODI captain Shubman Gill who has been struggling in the T20 format. Kishan, who has been out of favour for much of the year following fitness and avail-

ability issues, has impressed in recent Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, leading Jharkhand to the title with a splendid hundred.

"When you see someone performing, you pick him. Ishan Kishan has already been in the side and shown he can do it. That is a big plus. His current form in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy proves that domestic cricket performance must be the selection criteria, not just the IPL," JioStar expert Gavaskar said.

"I am very happy for him. He was out of the team for a couple of years but made a fantastic comeback by leading his state team Jharkhand

to a title winning season."

Gavaskar termed Gill's omission as a surprise but said "maybe just that lack of form and touch went against him".

"It is a surprise. He is a classic, quality batter who had a fabulous season post the 2024 T20 World Cup. Yes, he struggled in a few matches against South Africa. But class is permanent, and form is temporary.

"He was also coming back after a long break and was out of rhythm. When you are not in rhythm in T20 cricket, where you have to attack from the start, it is hard. (PTI)



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Minister, Health & Family Welfare etc., Assam

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Barpeta + Bajali	Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed Medical College and Hospital, Barpeta Barpeta Civil Hospital, Kalgachia Howly Community Health Centre Pathsala Sub Divisional Civil Hospital	Hailakandi	S. K. Roy Civil Hospital	Nagaon	Nagaon Medical College & Hospital Civil Hospital, Nagaon
Biswanath	Biswanath Civil Hospital	Hojai	Hojai District Hospital	Nalbari	Barpulia Block Primary Health Centre Nalbari Medical College & Hospital
Bongaigaon	Civil Hospital, Bongaigaon Boitamari Block Primary Health Centre	Jorhat	Jorhat Medical College & Hospital Titabar Sub Divisional Civil Hospital	Nalbari Sivasagar	Demow Block Primary Health Centre Tezpur Medical College & Hospital
Cachar	Silchar Medical College & Hospital	Kamrup (Metro)	Dhirenpara FRU, Guwahati	Sonitpur	Civil Hospital, Tinsukia
Charaideo	Charaideo Civil Hospital	Kamrup	Rangia Sub Divisional Civil Hospital Bamungaon Model Hospital	Tinsukia	Na-sadiya Block Primary Health Centre Tinsukia Medical College & Hospital
Chirang	Civil Hospital, Chirang Kajalgaon Block Primary Health Centre		Kamalpur Block Primary Health Centre Hajo Block Primary Health Centre Tularam Bafna Civil Hospital	Udalguri	Udalguri Civil Hospital
Darrang	Civil Hospital, Mangaldoi		Singimari Model Hospital Sualkuchi Block Primary Health Centre	Majuli	Sri Sri Pitambardev Goswami District Hospital, Majuli
Dhemaji	Civil Hospital, Dhemaji	Karbi-Anglong + West Karbi Anglong	Jiakur Model Hospital		
Dhubri + South Salmara	Dhubri Medical College & Hospital		Diphu Medical College & Hospital		
Dibrugarh	Assam Medical College & Hospital Barbaruah Primary Health Centre Chabua Model Hospital	Sribhumi	Kuloni Model Hospital		
	Tengakhat Model Hospital	Kokrajhar	Civil Hospital, Karimganj		
Dima Hasao	Civil Hospital, Haflong		Civil Hospital, Kokrajhar		
Goalpara	Civil Hospital, Goalpara	Lakhimpur	Parbatjhora Model Hospital Kokrajhar Medical College & Hospital		
			Lakhimpur Medical College & Hospital		



108 for Ambulance Service



104 for Health Related Information

(NHM/D/2025-26/105)