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KARBI ANGLONG UNREST

CM rules out accepting eviction demand citing HC stay

NAHARKATIA, Dec 24: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday said the demand by the Karbi people to evict alleged Hindi-speaking encroachers from grazing lands cannot be accepted immediately, because of a stay by the Gauhati High Court.

The two communities have been at loggerheads in West Karbi Anglong district over allegations of encroachment on Village Grazing Reserve (VGR) and Professional Grazing Reserve (PGR) lands in the tribal belts by the Hindi-speaking people.

Two persons were killed, and at least 45 others, including 38 police personnel, injured on Tuesday in violence in Kheroni area in West Karbi Anglong district in central Assam.

"A section of the Karbi people made demands to evict people living in VGR and PGR. There is a

stay order by the Gauhati High Court in this regard. No one can ignore the court. If I try to do something, it will be contempt of court," Sarma told reporters on the sidelines of an official function here.

In fact, all the evictions the Assam government has carried out so far in different forests were done only after fighting cases in the high court and the Supreme Court, and the administration proceeded only after the courts said yes to its move, he added.

The CM also pointed out that the rights of the people settled in PGR and VGR lands will also have to be discussed in the court.

Sarma said that many times, people ask him to evict encroachers instantly, but he always tells them that no government can work by disregarding the law and the court.

"Even if we say we will evict, the police (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

No fresh violence in Karbi Anglong • Top cops Harmeet, Akhilesh Kumar hurt during stone-pelting • Army conducts flag march

Security strengthened to control situation

DIPHU, Dec 24: The situation remained tense but under control in two districts of Karbi Anglong in central Assam on Wednesday, with no fresh violence reported in the troubled areas, officials said.

Two persons were killed, and at least 45 others, including 38 police personnel, injured on Tuesday as fresh violence erupted in Kheroni area in West Karbi Anglong district.

Assam Police DGP Harmeet Singh was hit on his shoulder during stone-pelting, while IG (Law and Order) Akhilesh Kumar Singh suffered injuries on his leg.

"As of now, the situation is under control. There was no violence throughout the night and this morning. However, it is very tense as the two warring communities started mobilising in small numbers at different places," a senior official told PTI.



After deploying five more CRPF companies in the area, security forces conducted a joint flag march in the morning, he added.

The Karbi and Bihari communities have been at loggerheads over allegations of encroachment on the Village Grazing Reserve (VGR) and Professional Grazing Reserve (PGR) in tribal belts by the Hindi-speaking people.

"In the morning, Karbi people gathered at Thelampi in Kheroni and took out a procession towards Dongkamukam. They reached the bridge (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

Protests over death of Kheroni disabled man

DIPHU, Dec 24: A large number of Hindi-speaking people was joined by those belonging to the Bengali community in protesting the death of a physically disabled man in the violence in West Karbi Anglong district on Wednesday.

The protesters blocked the Lanka-Kheroni Road, shouting slogans against the killing of the youth on Tuesday.

The 25-year-old man was burnt alive inside his house at Kheroni area, where people from Bihari, Bengali and Nepali communities live, along with tribal Karbis.

The body of Suresh Dey, who belonged to the Bengali community, was recovered from the building that was set ablaze allegedly by a mob of Karbi people.

Dey was among two people killed in the violence, which also left 45 others, including 38 police personnel, injured. The other deceased belonged to the Karbi community and was allegedly killed in police firing.

"We want immediate arrest of the culprit, who killed one specially abled person by locking him inside his home. Whatever is happening at Karbi Anglong should not have (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

BJP expresses concern over KA unrest, appeals for peace

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Dec 24: The Assam Pradesh unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party on Wednesday expressed concern over the violent situation that has prevailed for the past few days in Kheroni and Donkamokam areas of West Karbi Anglong district and appealed to all sections to maintain peace and harmony.

State BJP president Dilip Saikia urged residents of West Karbi Anglong, including members of the Karbi community and other communities, to cooperate with the authorities in maintaining law and order.

Stating that violence cannot provide a solution to any issue, he called upon all concerned parties to respond positively to the three-party talks proposed by the state government.

Saikia said that chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has been closely monitoring the situation and is making continuous efforts to restore normalcy in the violence-hit region. (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

ISRO achieves Christmas-eve historic feat

Bahubali' places 6000 kg US communication sat into orbit, the heaviest from country

SRIHARIKOTA (ANDHRA PRADESH), Dec 24: In a historic Christmas eve mission, ISRO's "Bahubali" rocket on Wednesday successfully launched a 6,100 kg US communication satellite-- the heaviest by an Indian launcher, into the desired orbit, a feat described by the space agency as the season's gift to the country.

The BlueBird Block-2 satellite is part of a constellation of global Low Earth Orbit (LEO) mission to provide direct-to-mobile connectivity through satellite that would enable 4G and 5G voice and video calls, texts, streaming and data for everyone, everywhere at all times. The heaviest satellite to be launched from In-



dian soil was done so using the LVM3 rocket, ISRO said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated ISRO for its latest feat.

"A significant stride in India's space sector. The successful LVM3-M6 launch,

placing the heaviest satellite ever launched from Indian soil, the spacecraft of USA, BlueBird Block-2, into its intended orbit, marks a proud milestone in India's space journey," he said in a post on X.

ISRO said the LVM3-M6, nicknamed 'Bahubali' for its heavy-lift capability, injected the satellite into its intended orbit in a textbook launch.

LVM3-M6 carried the communication satellite as part of a commercial deal between NewSpace India Ltd (NSIL) and US-based AST SpaceMobile (AST and Science, LLC).

NewSpace India is the commercial arm of the (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

Railways to extend AI-based system on 981-km track in Northeast to protect wild animals

NEW DELHI, Dec 24: Days after eight elephants were killed in Assam after a herd crossing the tracks was hit by a Rajdhani Express, the Railway ministry has announced that an AI-based system in place to detect presence of wild animals around rail lines will be extended to a further 981-km track in the northeastern region.

The ministry has announced the award of a tender to install the AI-enabled Intrusion Detection System (IDS).

The IDS, which gives early alerts to loco pilots in case elephants come on the railway track, has already been implemented at 141-route km section on pilot basis on the North-east Frontier Railway.

These are Madarihat-Nagrakata under Alipurduar division, Habaipur-Lamsakhang-Patharkhola-Lumding under Lumding division, Rangiya division's Kamakhya-Azara-Mirza section and Titabar-Mariani-Nakachari under Tinsukia.

The incident took place early morning on December 20 when the Sairang-New Delhi Rajdhani Express hit the herd in Changjurai village in Assam's Hojai district. Five coaches and the train's engine also derailed.

"Indian Railways has already deployed Artificial Intelligence (AI) enabled Intrusion Detection System (IDS) using Distributed Acoustic System (DAS) for detecting presence of elephants on (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

Fringe outfit vandalises school, targets Christmas items

NALBARI, Dec 24: Activists of a fringe outfit vandalised Christmas celebrations in a school and damaged festive items at shops in Nalbari district of Assam, police said.

A police official said some members of the fringe outfit staged a protest against the celebration of Christmas in Nalbari town.

"The activists entered the St Mary's School of Panigaon village and vandalised the preparation of the Christmas Day programme. They burnt down the banner and posters of the celebration," he added.

The Vishva Hindu Parishad Bajrang Dal (VHPBD) activists raised 'Jai Shree Ram' slogans and warned the school authorities not to hold Christmas on the school premises (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

Tea Tribes, Adivasi communities secure large-scale social justice for first time: CM

GUWAHATI, Dec 24: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday said that for the first time, people belonging to the Tea Tribes and Adivasi communities have been able to secure large-scale social justice under the present government, as he distributed appointment letters to 215 candidates from these communities for various technical and non-technical posts in the state's health sector.

The appointment letters were handed over at a function held at Srimanta Sankardeva Kalakshetra in Guwahati.

Of the total appointments, 88 candidates were selected for technical posts and 28 for non-technical posts under the Directorate of Medical Education and Research, 56 candidates were appointed to technical posts under the Directorate of Health Services, and 43 candidates were selected for technical posts under the Directorate of Health Services (Family Welfare).

Addressing the gathering, the chief minister recalled that the state government had introduced a three per cent reservation for eligible youth from the Tea Tribes and Adivasi communities in all Grade III and Grade IV government jobs last year.

He said that although doubts had been raised at the time about the implementation of the decision, the government had successfully overcome all challenges and ensured its execution.

Referring to the government's broader re-

cruitment drive, Sarma said examinations had been conducted for the recruitment of teachers at various levels, technical posts in the health sector, and Grade III and Grade IV posts through the Assam Direct Recruitment Examination.

He said that while the government had promised one lakh jobs during the last Assembly election campaign, it had already provided employment to 1,45,449 youths.

With the inclusion of the 215 new appointees, the figure has risen to 1,45,664, he said, adding that the number would touch nearly 1,60,000 after the next round of appointments through the Assam Direct Recruitment Examination.

Under the three per cent reservation quota, 720 candidates from the Tea Tribes and Adivasi communities have been appointed so far this year.

The chief minister said this number is expected to rise to around 1,200-1,300 once appointments through the Assam Direct Recruitment Examination are included, observing that such large-scale representation would not have been possible without the reservation policy.

He also announced that the three per cent reservation would be extended to Grade I and Grade II posts, a move he said would bring significant socio-economic transformation by enabling appointments to higher positions such as magistrates, police officers and professors. (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

Focus on value chains, market linkages to boost farmers' incomes

Task force for Northeast discusses how to strengthen agri-horti ecosystem in region

NEW DELHI, Dec 24: A High-Level Task Force for the Northeastern states on Wednesday stressed the need for addressing the key gaps in the value chain and market linkages across the region and how to strengthen the agriculture-horticulture ecosystem there.

Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Jyotiraditya Scindia, two chief ministers and three agriculture ministers from the Northeast attended the meeting of the High-Level Task Force (HLTF).

"The HLTF deliberated upon the need for addressing key gaps in the value chain and market linkages across the northeastern region. The dis-



ussions focused on strengthening the agri-horti ecosystem by leveraging the region's inherent strengths, with specialisation, quality, and the ability to stand out as the unique selling proposition of agri-horti products from the region," an official release said.

The HLTF reaffirmed that a focused, product-specific, and cluster-driven strategy would

enable measurable and sustainable outcomes, strengthen market linkages, reduce inefficiencies across the value chain, and ensure long-term income enhancement for farmers across the Northeast.

The need to systematically diagnose the existing bottlenecks across the production, post-harvest, processing, marketing, and logistics segments of the value chain, while prioritising interventions and designing suitable investment mechanisms, was also discussed.

Reducing post-harvest losses and lowering marketing and logistics costs emerged as the critical focus areas to enhance the overall value realisation (CONTD. ON PAGE 2)

সমসংগঠিত অসম চৰকাৰ

শুভ বৰদিন

২৫ ডিচেম্বৰ ২০২৫

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Sensex, Nifty fall for 2nd session

RIL, ICICI Bank slip on profit-booking

MUMBAI, Dec 24: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty stayed on the back foot for the second straight session on Wednesday as investors offloaded energy and IT stocks amid a mixed trend in global markets.

A depreciating rupee and unabated foreign fund outflows added to the pressure, traders said. The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped by 116.14 points, or 0.14 per cent, to settle at 85,408.70. During the day, it hit a high of 85,738.18 and a low of 85,342.19.

A total of 2,346 stocks declined while 1,841 advanced and 145 remained unchanged on the BSE.

The 50-share NSE Nifty edged lower by 35.05 points, or 0.13 per cent, to 26,142.10.

Trading volumes in the capital markets remained subdued amid the year-end holiday-shortened week.

"After a stable start, the Nifty moved within a narrow range for most of the session in the absence of fresh triggers... Global cues continued to influence sentiment, particularly during the opening trade. However, muted volumes and weak market breadth reflected a cautious stance among participants. Overall activity remained stock-specific, with traders focus-

ing on selective opportunities rather than broad-based positioning," Ajit Mishra, SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

From the 30-Sensex firms, InterGlobe Aviation, Sun Pharma, Asian Paints, Reliance Industries, Hindustan Unilever, ICICI Bank and Tata Steel were among the biggest laggards.

In contrast, Trent, UltraTech Cement, Maruti, and Power Grid were among the gainers.

The BSE mid-cap gauge declined 0.37 per cent, and the smallcap index dipped 0.14 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, oil & gas declined 0.76 per cent, followed by BSE Focused IT (0.68 per cent), services (0.64 per cent), energy (0.58 per cent) and IT (0.44 per cent).

On the other hand, BSE telecommunication, realty and metal were the gainers.

"Markets ended marginally lower on Wednesday after slipping from their intra-day highs, as profit-booking in select sectors and continued selling by FII's capped the upside," Gaurav Garg,

Research Analyst at Lemonn Markets Desk, said.

Domestic equity markets will remain closed on Thursday for Christmas.

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

European markets were trading marginally higher. US markets ended higher on Tuesday.

"Indian equities moved largely sideways in a holiday-shortened week, with trading volumes remaining subdued as the year draws to a close -- a trend mirrored across broader Asian markets. The RBI's recently announced liquidity initiatives, including OMOs and a USD/INR buy-sell swap, are expected to improve systemic liquidity and help stabilise currency volatility," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Ltd, said.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Tuesday said it will purchase government securities

worth ₹ 2 lakh crore and conduct a USD 10 billion buy/sell dollar-rupee swap auction to inject liquidity in the banking system.

The OMO (Open Market Operations) purchase and swap auctions will be conducted between December 29, 2025 and January 22, 2026.

The rupee pared initial gains and settled for the day lower by 16 paise at 89.79 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday, fuelled by persistent capital withdrawals from foreign investors, alongside heightened greenback demand from bullion importers.

Foreign institutional investors offloaded equities worth ₹ 1,794.80 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data. Domestic institutional investors, however, remained buyers as they bought equities worth ₹ 3,812.37 crore.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, climbed 0.18 per cent, up at USD 62.49 per barrel.

Snapping the two-day gaining streak, the Sensex on Tuesday dipped 42.64 points or 0.05 per cent to settle at 85,524.84. The Nifty ended marginally up by 4.75 points, or 0.02 per cent, to 26,177.15. (PTI)



Contd. from Page 1...

Security strengthened to

over Kapili, while people from the other community were waiting on the other side. The police managed to convince one community members to return from there," the official said.

Despite prohibitory orders in force, a large number of Bihari people, including women and children whose shops were burnt allegedly by those belonging to the Karbi community on Monday, came out on the streets on Tuesday, and a clash broke out with agitators using stones, sticks, rods, and bows and arrows.

"When police tried to pacify both sides, they were pelted with stones. I took a hit on my shoulder, and an IPS officer (Akhilesh Singh) was injured. At least 38 personnel have been injured," Singh told reporters on Tuesday night. As the situation spiralled out of control, the police baton-charged and fired tear gas shells to disperse both groups of protesters. At last, the police fired bullets at the protesters, killing one Karbi youth and injuring several others. On the other hand, one specially abled youth was burnt alive inside a shop in Kheroni area, which houses people belonging to Bihari, Bengali and Nepali communities apart from the Karbi. The body of the 25-year-old Suresh Dey was recovered from a building that was set ablaze by the Karbi people, while Athik Timung from the indigenous tribe was killed in police firing.

Following a rise in violence, internet services in both Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong districts were suspended indefinitely on Tuesday for maintaining peace and tranquillity.

Agitators from the Karbi community had been on a hunger strike for the last 15 days, demanding eviction of alleged illegal settlers, who mostly hail from Bihar, from the VGR and PGR land parcels in the two districts. They went on a rampage on Monday after police took away three agitators from the protest site during the wee hours, a move which the administration later claimed was taken for their hospitalisation.

At least four people were injured in police firing on protesters on Monday after the mob set ablaze the residence of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) Chief Executive Member Tuliram Ronghang and around 15 shops belonging to the Bihari community at Kheroni market.

The agitators also attempted to attack the police station in Kheroni, but it was foiled by the security forces. The protesters on Tuesday morning called off their hunger strike following talks with Assam Tribal Affairs Minister Ranaj Pegu, who rushed to the district after the previous day's violence.

They withdrew their strike following assurances from the government that a tripartite talk will be held on the issue soon. A senior official told PTI on Wednesday that the first round of talks is expected on December 26 between Karbi agitating organisations, the Assam government and KAAC.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday said that the situation in Karbi Anglong was "very sensitive" and he was deeply pained over the deaths in the unrest. "I am closely monitoring the situation in West Karbi Anglong... We are in constant touch with all concerned to restore normalcy and resolve issues through dialogue," he added. (PTI)

Protests over death

taken place," one of the protesters told reporters. Inspector General of Police Vivek Raj Singh, who rushed to the spot to pacify the crowd, told the agitators not to take the law into their hands. The agitators submitted a memorandum to him and demanded ₹ 20 lakh compensation for the family of the deceased. People of the Bengali-speaking community also held a demonstration in the neighbouring Hojai district over the killing. (PTI)

CM rules out

cannot do it because contempt of court will be applicable to them. I cannot say why these things are not understood. We will certainly talk face-to-face, and if they have misunderstood anything, we will address those issues.

"Usually, if there is a court order, people do not force things. We will have to look into the incidents of the last two days," Sarma said. He, however, asserted that the first priority is normalisation and let the situation become peaceful, and the government will examine the matter thereafter. "Peaceful protests are different, but nobody can solve any problem through violence," Sarma said, appealing to all to shun violence. Agitators from the Karbi community had been on a hunger strike for the last 15 days, demanding the eviction of alleged illegal settlers, who mostly hail from Bihar, from the VGR and PGR lands in the two districts - Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong. (PTI)

BJP expresses concern

Acting on the Chief Minister's instructions, Director General of Police Harmeet Singh and state minister Ranaj Pegu have been deputed to Karbi Anglong to hold discussions with various stakeholders, he said.

The BJP leader also alleged that anti-Assam and anti-national forces were making repeated attempts to disturb peace and stability in the state. Across communities to remain vigilant against such elements so that Assam's development process is not disrupted. Referring to recent incidents, Saikia claimed there were indications of a conspiracy by certain anti-social and anti-Assam elements to destabilise the state and urged all concerned to foil such attempts. Expressing condolences, Saikia conveyed sympathy to the families of those who lost their lives during the unrest over the past three days and wished a speedy recovery to those injured.

ISRO achieves Christmas

ISRO. On Wednesday, the 43.5 metre tall rocket soared majestically at 8.55 am from the second launch pad here at the end of a 24 hour countdown.

After a flight journey of about 15 minutes, the spacecraft got separated from the launch vehicle and it was successfully placed into the orbit, bringing all-round cheers in the Mission Control Centre here.

On the successful launch, ISRO Chairman V Narayanan said, "I am extremely happy to say that the LVM3M6 Bahubali rocket has successfully placed the Bluebird Block-2 satellite into the intended orbit. Let me congratulate NewSpace India and AST Space Mobile on the outstanding achievement."

The satellite was placed in a 518 km circular orbit against the planned 520 km altitude, he said, describing it as a "textbook launch".

The previous heaviest was the LVM3-M5 Communication Satellite 03, weighing about 4,400 kg, which was successfully launched by ISRO on November 2 in the Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).

According to Narayanan, this is the first time ISRO has launched two LVM3 rockets within just 52 days, following the earlier successful mission on November 2. Addressing his team from the Mission Control Centre post the launch, he thanked them for one of the finest performances of any rocket and said this mission brings India's total to 434 satellites launched for 34 countries.

Narayanan hailed the successful launch of the Bluebird Block-2 satellite as a "New Year and Christmas gift to Bharat." Listing the highlights of the LVM3-Bluebird Block-2 mission, he said, the placing of the satellite precisely into the intended orbit is the best accuracy so far achieved ever on Indian soil.

"Today's launch is also another important one. It is the heaviest satellite to be launched from Indian soil. That has been accomplished today... that is the heaviest satellite ever launched from Indian soil and we have achieved it in this mission," he later told reporters. "It is one of the best launches made anywhere in the world. And this is the best accuracy so far achieved from the Indian launchers also," he said. Narayanan reflected on a year of achievements, driven by high-stakes missions such as the NISAR mission, taken up with NASA, CMS-03 and the latest mission. On the ambitious Gaganyaan mission, he said, "We have to accomplish uncrewed missions, and we are getting towards that." One of the important commitments made by the central government is the commission of navigation satellites. (PTI)

Railways to extend

railway tracks. With the new tender, the total coverage will extend to 1,122 route km," the ministry said. Elaborating on the functioning of the IDS, the ministry said the system generates real-time alerts for loco pilots, station masters and control rooms about the movement of elephants in proximity of railway tracks, enabling timely preventive action.

Besides IDS, the ministry said that AI-based cameras will be installed to alert loco pilots 0.5 km in advance to save lions, tigers and other wild animals along with elephants.

"Indian Railways has been taking continuous efforts to prevent wildlife casualties, particularly elephants, on railway tracks through technology-based solutions," it said.

"The deployment and expansion of the AI-enabled Intrusion Detection System using Distributed Acoustic System (DAS) reflects Indian Railways' commitment to wildlife conservation and safe train operations," it added. On October 20, the Northeast Frontier Railway zone said that IDS would be rolled out in its network by April, 2026 to prevent the death of elephants by speeding trains. The NFR had first installed IDS at two locations of the Lumding and Alipurduar divisions in 2022. "The target date for completion of this expanded project has been set for April 2026, by which the system is expected to be fully functional across all identified elephant corridors," the NFR had said. (PTI)

Tea Tribes, Adivasi

Highlighting steps taken to strengthen education in tea garden areas, Sarma said 120 model higher secondary schools have already been established and work on another 100 will begin in January.

He added that 30 MBBS seats have been reserved for students from Tea Tribes, with an additional seat per medical college recently announced. The chief minister also referred to the construction of 44 hostels for students from these communities and the provision of financial assistance under the Shaheed Dayal Das Panika Self-Employment Scheme. Sarma further said that initiatives in education, health, sports and culture, along with the recent decision of the Assam Legislative Assembly to grant land rights to tea garden residents, were collectively contributing to improving the quality of life in tea garden areas.

He announced that the three per cent reservation would henceforth be calculated on the basis of total vacant posts, instead of being adjusted against the quota for Other Backward Classes.

Urging the newly appointed candidates to serve with commitment, the chief minister called upon them to prioritise service delivery in hospitals located in tea garden areas and to remain responsible towards their families and society.

Fringe outfit vandalises

on Thursday, the official said. "They then went to various shops selling Christmas goods in Nalbari town and set fire to some items in front of the shops near the Jain Mandir in the town," the officer said.

They also entered several shopping malls and business establishments selling Christmas items and burnt down the goods. "We don't want Christmas festivals here. Trade in any festival-related items of Indian origin. But we do not accept doing business with a festival of non-Indian origin," VHPBD Nalbari District Secretary Bhaskar Deka told reporters here. The police official said no FIR has been registered as nobody has filed any complaint so far. (PTI)

Task force for Northeast

for farmers. The importance of charting a clear roadmap that progresses from foundational interventions to full-scale value chain integration was also deliberated upon at the meeting, the release said.

This includes developing a strategic infrastructure map to support export (CONTD. ON PAGE 2) readiness, recognising priority commodities for each state, and promoting cluster-based development for each identified product to ensure scale, efficiency, and market alignment. A blueprint-based approach was proposed, beginning with the selection of one product and addressing its end-to-end value chain through clearly defined short-term, medium-term and long-term plans with product-wise targets and investment requirements. The approach also emphasised assessing, for every product, the number of farmers engaged across the northeastern region, evaluating how farmers would benefit on a product-wise and state-wise basis. Once these interventions are implemented, the focus would be on measuring the resulting increase in farmers' incomes, the release said. Those who attended the meeting included the chief ministers of Sikkim and Tripura, Prem Singh Tamang and Manik Saha, respectively, and agriculture ministers of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim, Atul Bora, Gabriel D Wangsu and Puran Kumar Gurung, respectively. (PTI)

Lions Club of Guwahati Gold holds art competition, distributes stationery to children

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Dec 24: The Lions Club of Guwahati Gold organised an art competition along with a stationery distribution programme for underprivileged children at Aksar Forum on Gorchuk Pamohi Road here on Wednesday.

The programme, held at the school run by Aksar Forum, saw stationery items and snacks distributed among 110 students. The initiative was organised with the objective of promoting education and creativity among children, in line with the theme "Today's Books, Tomorrow's Dreams".

The event was chaired by club president Deepak Bhajanka. Club Public Relations Officer

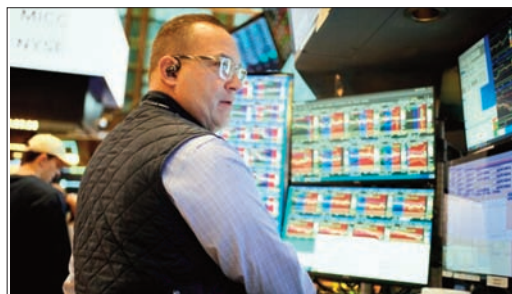
Jaya Pareek said that, besides the distribution of study materials, an art competition was organised to encourage the children's creative expression.

The programme was conducted under the leadership of chairperson Sumita Singhal. Several club members, including Rahul Tulsyan, Monalisa Tulsyan, Mamta Saraf, Niti Garg, Vinita Khetawat and Sanjukta Khedia, were present on the occasion.

Dr Isha Goel, Saloni Bhajanka, Neha Bajaj, Pooja Vinay Agarwal and Reena Sharma also extended support to the programme. Speakers on the occasion said such initiatives play an important role in nurturing artistic talent among children and contributing towards a brighter future for them.



World markets are mixed after SandP 500 hits record high, buoyed by strong US economic data



HONG KONG, Dec 24: World shares were mixed on Wednesday after the benchmark S&P 500 closed at another record high following a report that the US economy grew at an unexpectedly strong 4.3 per cent annual rate in July to September.

The futures for the S&P 500 and the Dow Jones Industrial Average were down less than 0.1 per cent.

Britain's FTSE 100 was down 0.2 per cent at 9,870.89, while the CAC 40 in Paris added 0.2 per cent to 8,121.32.

Stock exchanges, including those in London, Paris, Hong Kong and Australia, have closed early or will be closing early on Christmas Eve. Germany's markets were closed for the day.

US markets will end early on Wednesday for Christmas Eve and stay closed for Christmas.

In Asian trading, Tokyo's Nikkei 225 fell 0.1 per cent to 50,344.10, and South Korea's Kospi slipped 0.2 per cent to 4,108.62.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng gained 0.2 per cent to 25,818.93. The Shanghai Composite index edged 0.5 per cent higher, to 3,940.95.

In Australia, the S&P/ASX 200 slipped nearly 0.4 per cent to 8,762.70. Taiwan's Taiex picked up 0.2 per cent while the Sensex in India fell 0.1 per cent.

HDFC Bank releases first standalone CSR report; ₹1,068 crore spent in FY25

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Dec 24: HDFC Bank on Wednesday released its first-ever standalone annual Corporate Social Responsibility report, detailing a decade of social interventions carried out under its umbrella programme Parivartan.

The report stated that the Bank spent ₹1,068.03 crore on CSR initiatives during the financial year 2024-25, marking an increase of nearly ₹123 crore over the previous year. With this, HDFC Bank's cumulative CSR investment stood at ₹6,176 crore as of March 31, 2025.

The financial year also marked ten years of Parivartan, through which the Bank has impacted 10.56 crore lives across 28 states and eight Union Territories.

CSR projects have been implemented in 102 of the 112 Aspirational Districts identified by the Government of India, while 298 border villages have been covered under rural development initiatives.

According to the report, the Bank's CSR work is structured around six integrated focus areas.

Rural development initiatives have aimed at enhancing agricultural productivity, building infra-

structure and improving access to clean drinking water and sanitation, reaching more than 14.92 lakh households so far.

In the education sector, the Bank has focused on improving quality and access through scholarships, infrastructure support and digital learning, with over 29,000 scholarships disbursed, more than 2,600 SMART schools established and 930 community libraries built.

Skill training and livelihood enhancement programmes have equipped youth, women and other beneficiaries with vocational skills and entrepreneurship support, enabling about 7.2 lakh individuals to secure sustainable livelihoods to date.

In healthcare and hygiene, initiatives have expanded access to preventive care, maternal and child health services and hygiene awareness, benefiting over three lakh individuals through mobile clinics, cancer treatment support and maternal care programmes.

The report also highlighted the Bank's work in financial literacy and inclusion, which focuses on building financial awareness, promoting savings and enabling access to banking and insurance

services.

Its flagship digital fraud awareness initiative, the Vigil Aunty campaign, has reached more than 21 lakh followers online.

The newest focus area, natural resource management, promotes sustainable practices in water conservation, afforestation and biodiversity protection, with the creation of 14,520 water conservation structures and the installation of over 69,000 solar lights so far.

HDFC Bank noted that these six focus areas are aligned with ten of the seventeen United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, reflecting an integrated approach to inclusive and sustainable development.

Commenting on the release of the report, Kaizad Barucha, Deputy Managing Director of HDFC Bank, said that meaningful change stems from listening, learning and working in partnership with communities.

He said Parivartan represents the Bank's sustained effort to help people and institutions unlock their potential, adding that the programme has been guided by the belief that development must be inclusive, locally relevant and future-focused.

SUPPLY AND ERECTION OF COMPOSITE INSULATOR IN PLACE OF PORCELAIN INSULATOR

Tender Notice No. TRD/LMG/27 of 2025-26; Dated: 22-12-2025. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Tender No: EL-TRD-NFR-LMG-OIE-MOD-48.

Name of work: Supply and erection of composite insulator in place of Porcelain insulator in polluted zone in jurisdiction of Kamakhya, Dhansiri and Lumding TRD Depot under Lumding Division. Advertised Value: ₹57,27,641.40; Earnest Money: ₹1,14,600.00. E-tender will be closed at 15:00 hrs. on 14-01-2026. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender is available on website www.irps.gov.in.

Sr. DEE/TRD/Lumding

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
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LOST

I lost my Assam State School Education Board admit card of Don Bosco School (162712) bearing Registration No. 198921 Session 2024-25 on December 23 in Diphu. Finders are requested to return the same to the address mentioned below.

Contact No. - 84728 24923
Irish Singnarpi,
D/o- Prodig Singnar,
Rongkhelan, Diphu,
Dist.- Karbi Anglong, Assam

AFFIDAVIT

I, Matalib Uddin S/O- Kashem Ali (as recorded in my AADHAR Card vide No. 713997035436 & Photo Elector Identity Card vide EPIC No. FCM No. HCK1400813) R/O- Sibapur, PO- Mohanpur, PS- Udalguri, Dist- Udalguri (BTR- Assam) shall henceforth be known as Matleb Uddin Ahmed as declared before the Notary Public, Darrang, Mangaldai required to be produced before the concerned authority as a piece of evidence signed on 4th Dec, 2025.

Sd/-
Matleb Uddin Ahmed

AFFIDAVIT

I, Saleha Khatun W/O- Nur Islam (as recorded in my AADHAR Card vide No. 4078757678) R/O- No. 1/2 Baruahar, PO- Galandi, PS- Dalgaoon Dist- Darrang (Assam) shall henceforth be known as Soleman Nessa as declared before the Notary Public, Darrang, Mangaldai required to be produced before the concerned authority as a piece of evidence signed on 15th Oct, 2025.

Sd/-
Soleman Nessa

AFFIDAVIT

I, Musleha Khatun D/O- Matleb Uddin Ahmed (as recorded in my AADHAR Card vide No. 988078842199) R/O- Sibapur, PO- Mohanpur, PS- Udalguri, Dist- Udalguri (BTR) Assam, shall henceforth be known as Motuza Khatun as declared before the Notary Public, Darrang, Mangaldai required to be produced before the concerned authority as a piece of evidence signed on 4th Dec, 2025.

Sd/-
Motuza Khatun

Second edition of 'Jorhat Dog Show' held at Jorhat Stadium

HT Correspondent

JORHAT, Dec 24: Dog lovers along with their pets thronged the Jorhat Stadium recently to take part in the second edition of the "Jorhat Dog Show (2025)", organised by the Jorhat Kennel Club.

The event featured an all-breed championship, Shih-Tzu and Golden Retriever speciality shows, veterinary awareness and health-care drives, along with exhibitions by global veterinary pharmaceutical, pet feed and accessory brands. Participants from different parts of Assam took part in the show, making it a major attraction for pet enthusiasts in the region.

The programme was inaugurated by Jorhat Kennel Club president Dr CK Singha, a retired Assistant Director of the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department. One of the major highlights of the event was the demonstration by the Assam Rifles Dog Training Centre squad, which captivated the audience with their special performance.

On the occasion, the annual dog show souvenir titled "Jorhat Kennel Club" was formally released by Jorhat Zila Parishad Chairman Surajit Saikia.

Jorhat Kennel Club president Dr CK Singha and secretary Sudipto Sekhor Bharali expressed their heartfelt gratitude to all individuals, organisations and institutions for their support and cooperation in making the event a grand success.

Tragic death while making reels on railway track shocks Bilasipara

HT Correspondent

BILASIPARA, Dec 24: A shocking and tragic incident has occurred in Bilasipara, sending waves of grief and concern across the locality. A young student lost his life while attempting to make a social media reel on a stationary train at a railway station.

According to sources, the incident took place when the youth climbed onto a train that was standing at the railway station to record a reel. During the process, he accidentally came into contact with a high-voltage overhead electric wire of the railway line. The powerful electric shock proved fatal on the spot. The deceased has been identified as Sohel Ahmed of Baniapara. He was reportedly a first-year Higher Secondary student, with a promising academic future ahead of him. His sudden and untimely death has plunged his family, friends and the entire area into deep mourning. Eyewitnesses stated that the youth was attempting to create a reel for social media when the tragic mishap occurred. Despite immediate attention, he could not be saved.

The incident once again highlights the serious dangers of reckless reel-making, especially in hazardous locations such as railway tracks and electric zones. Locals have urged authorities and parents alike to raise awareness among youths about the potentially fatal consequences of such activities.

Over ten thousand devotees participate in collective Gita recitation and spiritual discourses Grand Gita Jayanti Mahotsav held at Hojai Gita Ashram

HT Correspondent

HOJAI, Dec 24: A grand Gita Jayanti Mahotsav was organised recently at Gita Ashram in Hojai, drawing more than ten thousand devotees and well-wishers in a spiritually enriching celebration of the Shrimad Bhagavad Gita. The programme was organised by the Gita Ashram Trust in collaboration with the Gita Jayanti Celebration Committee.

The day-long event featured a large-scale collective recitation of the Gita, scholarly religious discourses and cultural performances. The religious discourse session was chaired by Yashoda Dulal Rakshit, president of the Gita Ashram Trust and presided over by Arjun Mazumdar, Secretary of the Gita Jayanti Celebration Committee.

Among the dignitaries present were Bishnu Sharma (president of the Celebration Committee), Hojai District Commissioner Bidyut Bikash Bhagawati, Dr Sunil Mohanty (Kshetra Prachar Pramukh of RSS Assam Kshetra), Prabhu Ishwar Hiru Prasad Mahanta (Satradhikar of Jakkhalabandha Bagharganga Satra), Subodh Roy (District Sangchalak of RSS) and noted local woman writer Renuka Devi.

The programme began with a formal welcome of the guests, followed by a welcome address by Bishnu Sharma. Subsequently, more than ten thousand devotees collectively recited the 12th and 16th chapters of the Shrimad Bhagavad Gita in unison, creating a powerful and deeply moving spiritual atmosphere that participants described as unforgettable.

District Commissioner Bidyut Bikash Bhagawati delivered a concise yet pro-

found discourse on the Bhagavad Gita, which was widely appreciated for its spiritual depth and clarity. Dr Sunil Mohanty, the chief speaker, spoke at length on the necessity of the Gita's emergence on the battlefield of Kurukshetra and its enduring relevance in modern life. He explained how the five areas of transformation, known as Pancha Parivartan and being promoted by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh during its centenary year, are deeply rooted in the teachings of the Gita, citing relevant shlokas and examples.

Student body calls for unity, democratic approach and dialogue to resolve land issues ABSU expresses concern over Karbi Anglong violence

HT Correspondent

KOKRAJHAR, Dec 24: The All Bodo Students' Union (ABSU) has expressed deep concern over the recent violent incidents at Kheroni in West Karbi Anglong district arising out of land-related issues.

Addressing the media at Bodofa House, Baganshali in Kokrajhar on Wednesday, ABSU president Dipen Boro described the incidents as highly unfortunate and painful for the citizens of the state.

Reacting to the violence, Boro stated that the clashes claimed the lives of two protesters, while several security personnel sustained serious injuries. Terming the situation as tragic, he said that during this critical time, ABSU stands firmly with the people residing in Karbi Anglong.

The ABSU president emphasised that protection of the identity, land and rights of the indigenous people of Assam requires unity among all stakeholders. He appealed to the public to remain united and vigilant in safeguarding indigenous interests.

Dipen Boro asserted that protest



movements must strictly follow democratic principles and urged all concerned to ensure that no violent atmosphere is created during any form of agitation. He said ABSU believes in peaceful and democratic movements and strongly condemns violence in any form.

Referring to the 13-day-long hunger strike launched in support of indigenous land protection,

Boro said the government should have responded positively to the democratic movement. He pointed out that on December 22 at around 3 AM, the hunger strikers were taken away citing health issues. If there were genuine health concerns, medical treatment could have been provided at the protest site itself, he added.

According to Boro, misunder-

standings arising from such actions eventually led to the violent situation in Kheroni. He stressed that the ongoing democratic movement for the protection of PGR and VGR land in Karbi Anglong should be addressed through dialogue. The government must initiate talks with the movement leaders to reach an amicable solution, he asserted.

The ABSU president also referred to statements made by Bodoland Territorial Council chief Hagrama Mohilary in various public meetings regarding the distribution of land pattas. He appealed to Mohilary to ensure that no land pattas are issued to illegal or non-bonafide citizens. He maintained that ABSU has no objection if indigenous landless sons of the soil receive land pattas, provided the rights of indigenous communities are fully protected.

ABSU reiterated its commitment to democratic values and peaceful movements and urged the government to engage in meaningful dialogue to prevent further escalation of tension in the region.

Seminar on Sixth Schedule rights and safeguards held at Fakiragram College



HT Correspondent

KOKRAJHAR, Dec 24: An international seminar on "Rights and Safeguards of the Sixth Schedule with Reference to the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC), Assam" was successfully conducted on Wednesday at Fakiragram College in Kokrajhar district.

The seminar was organised by Fakiragram College in collaboration with the Department of Political Science, Bodoland University. The event brought together academicians, researchers, policymakers

and public representatives to deliberate on constitutional provisions, autonomy and safeguards under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

Retired IAS officer John Ingti Kathar graced the seminar as the key speaker, while Professor Dr Ankur Barua of the University of Cambridge participated as a resource person. Dr Sanghamitra Choudhury, Head and Professor of the Department of Political Science, Bodoland University, was present as a research contributor.

During the programme, an edited volume titled "Sifung" was formally released by the Vice-Chancellor of Bodoland University, Dr BL Ahujai. The seminar also featured an address by Rabiram Narzary, Executive Member of the BTC in charge of the Education Department, who highlighted the importance of safeguarding constitutional rights and strengthening autonomous governance.

Faculty members from various colleges actively participated in the academic discussions. Among those present were MCLA Azamul Haque, Principal of Fakiragram College Dr Manoj Kumar Brahma, along with other distinguished delegates and scholars.

Awareness programme on 'NPOP Organic Registration and Certification'

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Dec 24: A one-day awareness and training programme on "NPOP Organic Registration and Certification" was successfully conducted at the auditorium of KKHSOU, Khanapara on 20 Dec. The programme was jointly organised by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India; the Department of Agriculture, Government of Assam and Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University (KKHSOU). The programme witnessed participation from Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), farmers, exporters from different parts of Assam, along with students of KKHSOU.

The inaugural session was graced by KKHSOU Vice Chancellor, Professor Rajendra Prasad Das, Aruna Rajoria, IAS, Commissioner & Secretary, Agriculture Department and Agriculture Production Commissioner, Government of Assam; Sandeep Saha Regional Head, APEDA, the Registrar, KKHSOU and other representatives from NABARD and the Department of Agriculture.

During the programme, experts from APEDA deliberated on the proper procedures for organic certification and registration, labelling requirements under NPOP and provided a live demonstration of the TraceNet software. The participants were also sensitised about the entire organic production system and its market potential.

Guwahati mourns the passing of Sundar (Birendar Jain)



HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Dec 24: With profound sorrow, friends and well-wishers mourn the passing of Sundar, fondly known as Birendar Jain, of Pandu, Guwahati, who expired on December 23.

Sundar was a cherished friend, confidant and companion whose presence enriched the lives of those around him for more than four decades. Known for his warmth, honesty and thoughtful nature, he played an integral role in shaping the lives of his friends and brought joy, support and strength in both celebrations and difficult times.

Friends recall Sundar's rare gift for connection, his heartfelt conversations, spirited debates and shared laughter that left a lasting impression on everyone he met. His sudden absence has left a void, but the memories he created continue to guide and comfort those who knew him.

Deep condolences have been extended to Sundar's devoted family and all those whose lives he touched. His friends—Ashok Jain, Sanjay Kothari, Pradip Jain, Jitendar Jain, Pramod Sethi, Sumer Patni, Chagga Bhansali and Anil Kothari emphasised that while Sundar may no longer be physically present, his spirit will live on in their hearts, stories and the many lives he influenced. Sundar Jain will be remembered as truly irreplaceable, leaving behind a legacy of friendship, love and inspiration.

Illegal wild animal meat seized near Raimona National Park



HT Correspondent

GOSSAIGAON, Dec 24: Forest officials seized suspected meat of a protected wild animal and apprehended one person during a search and patrolling operation at Ranipur Forest Village, a fringe village of Raimona National Park, on the evening of December 23.

The operation was carried out under the jurisdiction of the Central Range, Kachugaon, following specific and reliable inputs regarding the illegal sale and transportation of wild animal meat in the area. The joint operation was led by forest officials of the Central Range along with Ranger Parish Basumatary and staff of the Kachugaon Range with support from personnel of the Sashtra Seema Bal (SSB).

During the operation, the team noticed an individual riding a e-rickshaw in a suspicious manner. When signalled to stop for checking, the rider attempted to flee by accelerating the vehicle. After a

brief chase, forest personnel managed to intercept and apprehend the individual.

Upon searching the e-rickshaw, officials recovered several nylon bags concealed inside the vehicle, which contained suspected wild animal meat. During preliminary questioning, the accused admitted that the seized meat was of Indian Gaur, a species protected under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

The accused has been identified as Duaram Basumatary, son of Kamala Basumatary, a resident of Ranipur Forest Village. He was taken into custody and brought to the Range Office for safe custody and initiation of legal proceedings. The seized materials were also secured following prescribed procedures.

Forest officials stated that further investigation is underway to determine the source of the meat, possible involvement of other individuals and the extent of illegal wildlife trade in the fringe areas of Raimona National Park.

DPS Khanapara hosts Srijanam – Rang–Taal–Vigyaan Samaroh

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Dec 24: Delhi Public School, Khanapara successfully organised a two-day event, Srijanam – Rang–Taal–Vigyaan Samaroh, celebrating a vibrant confluence of art, music, literature, science and innovation. Reflecting the core values of inclusivity, Atmanirbhar Bharat and Vocal for Local, the event was curated in alignment with CBSE's 2025 STEAM theme and the vision of NEP 2020, showcasing hands-on, interdisciplinary projects, sustainable innovations and student-led entrepreneurial initiatives.

The event was graced by Malvika Bhatt (Founder Principal), Dr Samudra Gupta Kashyap (Chancellor of Nagaland University), Dhruva Hazarika (IAS, Retired), Celebrity RJ Mandy and Pranab Jyoti Goswami (Assistant Inspector General of Police). The occasion was further enriched by the presence of distinguished Special Guests including Himanshu Bhatt, Purnima Mehra, Former Principal, APS Basistha; Dr Srinivas Reddy, Director, Sai Vikas Educational Institutions; Jugal Chandra Bora, Principal, Faculty Higher Secondary School; Mrinali Choudhury, Principal, SBOA Public School and Angshurekha Choudhury, School Coordinator, SBOA Public School.

The school management was represented by Pro-Vice Chairman Ram Awtar Agarwal, Prema Agarwal, and Board Members Amit Agarwal, Dr Priyanka Agarwal, Monmoyee Borkotoky, Principal and Ajanta Chowdhury, whose presence lent strength and encouragement to the endeavour.

Students delivered spectacular performances across both days, showcasing talent from every department through music, dance, art, literature, scientific models, and innovative exhibits. Complementing these performances, all departments—Mathematics, Languages, Science, Computer Science, Humanities, Commerce, Art and Photography—presented engaging exhibits ranging from The Last Code of Ramanujan and the Uttarakhand disaster to a parade tracing the history of English literature, alongside robots, working models, apps and student innovations, collectively reflecting rich experiential and interdisciplinary learning.

Overall, Srijanam – Rang–Taal–Vigyaan Samaroh proved to be a grand success, leaving an indelible impression on guests and reaffirming DPS Khanapara's dedication to nurturing well-rounded, future-ready learners.

Tezpur University non-teaching staff stage sit-in protest

HT Correspondent

TEZPUR, Dec 24: Showing solidarity with the student-led movement demanding the removal of Shambhu Nath Singh, the absconding Vice Chancellor of Tezpur University (TU), members of the Tezpur University Non-Teaching Employees' Association (TUNTEA) staged a sit-in protest near the main gate of the University on Wednesday.

The protest was organised against the prevailing situation arising out of a more than three-month-long stalemate, which has resulted in severe academic and administrative paralysis. The prolonged deadlock has created widespread uncertainty among members of the University community, with several important academic and administrative files remaining pending.

The association expressed serious concern over the lack of intervention by the Ministry of Education. It was stated that students, faculty members and non-teaching staff have repeatedly approached the Ministry seeking timely intervention; however, the continued silence and inaction have further intensified frustration on the campus.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Gautam Kumar Sama, president of TUNTEA, stated that despite sustained protests for over three months, the University has not received any official communication from the Ministry of Education, resulting in an academic and administrative deadlock that has adversely affected the functioning of the institution. The association urged the Ministry to take immediate steps to restore democratic and statutory governance within the University.



Adhyayan Kendra, which has helped make Gita study more accessible to the public.

Chief guest Prabhu Ishwar Hiru Prasad Mahanta delivered an eloquent address on the practical relevance of the Bhagavad Gita in daily life, leaving the large gathering deeply inspired. After the concluding remarks by the chair, Ashok Kejriwal offered the vote of thanks and the religious discourse session concluded with a Kalyan Mantra recited by Dhiraj Bora.

Notably, this year's Gita Jayanti procession was organised on the theme of "Pancha Parivartan," highlighting five areas of national transformation.

In the evening, a cultural programme titled "Dihā" was held under the leadership of Dr Jayanta Biswas. Fifteen local artists presented devotional songs and dances, captivating the audience and bringing the day's celebrations to a vibrant close.

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL EDUCATION, ASSAM
SIXMILE, KHANAPARA, GUWAHATI-22
Website: dme.assam.gov.in, E-mail: dmeassam@gmail.com

No. e. DME/UG/2025/563865/28

ADMISSION NOTICE

Admission into 1st year MBBS/BDS courses in the Government Medical & Dental Colleges of Assam after completion of Special Stray Round of Online Counselling, session 2025

This is for information of all concerned that the provisional select list of candidates after the Special Stray round of online counselling for admission into the vacant MBBS/BDS seats in the Government Medical & Dental Colleges of Assam under Assam State quota seats, session 2025 has been published which is now available in the official website of this Directorate www.dme.assam.gov.in

All provisionally selected candidates are hereby directed to report to the office of the Principals of the respective Colleges with following terms and conditions on **31st December, 2025** for admission and necessary document verification, failing which his/her allotment shall be cancelled.

- All the admission shall be provisional and it will be subject to fulfilment of all the requisite eligibility criteria as per the MBBS/BDS Admission Rule, 2017 (amended upto 2025).
- Candidates who were admitted in Stray round of counselling and subsequently allotted another Medical/ Dental College, shall have to report to the newly allotted Medical/ Dental College with the acknowledgement receipts/documentary proof of submitting the certificates/testimonials etc. issued by the previous Medical/ Dental College.
- Candidates shall have to report to the allotted college and deposit the original Admit Cards, Marks Sheets, Pass Certificates of HSLC or Equivalent examination, caste certificate and documents as specified in the MBBS/BDS Admission Rule, 2017 (amendment upto 2025), to the Principal of the respective Colleges at the time of admission on receipt of acknowledgement from the college authority.
- Candidates must bring all necessary Original documents and Annexures along with Admission and Counselling fees (amounting approx. Rs. 25,000/-) at the time of admission.
- Admission of the candidates are subject to the satisfactory Medical fitness of the candidate at the time of admission.
- If any candidate furnishes false information/ declaration at the time of online selection or admission, his/her admission is liable to be cancelled at any point of time. Criminal proceedings shall be taken against such candidates for submission of false, fabricated documents/information under appropriate law.
- All the candidates shall have to enter into an agreement as per the admission rule in prescribed format which is available in this Directorate's website www.dme.assam.gov.in. Candidates will have to submit the agreement within 15 days from the date of their admission to the office of the Principal of the respective college.

Candidates are directed to visit the official website of this Directorate, www.dme.assam.gov.in regularly for further information & notices.

Sd/-
Director of Medical Education, Assam

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

For it is in giving that we receive
-Francis of Assisi

Another setback for INDIA bloc

Setbacks to the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), which is the political alliance of INDIA bloc in Maharashtra, in the local body elections in the state have clearly served a stern warning to the opposition that they must exert more unitedly if they want to perform better in the forthcoming Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) elections scheduled next month. Though the BJP has emerged as the largest party in the Maharashtra Nagar Panchayat and Nagar Parishad elections, it has also a lesson from the results on account of impressive gain of Mahayuti allies Shiv Sena (Shinde) and NCP (Ajit Pawar), which has made them ever stronger. The result of the local bodies is thus likely to cast a shadow on the BMC elections scheduled to be held on 15 January, 2026. BMC election is important for financial survival of the political parties there, since Mumbai is the financial capital of India. There had been another political development in the meantime in MVA. Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray and his cousin Raj Thackeray who is also supremo of the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) have come together forgetting their bitter rivalry. For Thackeray brothers, BMC election will be an opportunity to assert their political relevance in Mumbai once again, after their split in 2022.

However, there is also MVA, that suffered a major setback, both in the 2024 Vidhan Sabha election and now in the local body election. Thackeray brothers have not officially announced their alliance. Congress has announced to go alone. MVA therefore is not in a good shape ahead of BMC election, where there are 29 municipal corporations, 32 zila parishads and 336 panchayats. The result of the local body election announced by the Maharashtra State Election Commission shows that out of 286 seats went to polls for the Maharashtra Nagar Panchayat and Nagar Parishad MVA could win only 44. Congress won 28 seats, NCP(SP) won 7 and Shiv Sena (UBT) won only 9 seats. It shows that all allies within MVA have performed poorly, and if they disunite at this point of time, they will perhaps face a rout in the forthcoming BMC election. Though the Congress has won largest number of seats compared to its allies, its decision to go alone is ominous, not only for the Congress but also for the Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (SP).

As for the election result, the MVA leaders have blamed election commission, money power, and EVM manipulation. Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut attributed the victory of the Mahayuti to tampering of Electronic Voting Machines and said there was a "hailstorm" of money which the Opposition could not withstand. Shiv Sena (UBT) and Congress have accused the election commission to help Mahayuti to win the election.

West Karbi Anglong: Fault lines on protected land

The recent eruption of violence in West Karbi Anglong over the non-eviction of settlers from Professional Grazing Reserve and Village Grazing Reserve land has laid bare the deep-seated complexities surrounding land governance in Sixth Schedule areas of the Constitution. What began as a protest demanding the removal of what were described as illegal settlers soon spiralled into violent clashes between a section of Karbi people and a section of non-indigenous residents, culminating in arson, mob violence, and a grave deterioration of law and order. The torching of the residence of the Chief Executive Member of the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council, Tuliram Ronghang, at Dongkamukam, followed by the burning of shops and houses at Kheroni market, underscored how volatile the situation had become, even in the presence of police and paramilitary forces. That security personnel were compelled to resort to firing and lathi charge to disperse violent mobs speaks to the alarming intensity of the unrest and the fragility of peace in a region that has long struggled to emerge from a troubled past.

At the heart of the agitation lies the sensitive and emotionally charged issue of land alienation of indigenous communities, an issue that resonates deeply in Karbi Anglong. For the Karbi people, PGR and VGR lands are not merely administrative categories but vital resources intrinsically linked to livelihood, cattle rearing, and community survival. Protection of these lands is seen as synonymous with the protection of indigenous rights and identity. Yet, the present crisis also demonstrates that legal complexities cannot simply be brushed aside in the name of sentiment or historical grievance. The imposition of prohibitory orders barring the assembly of more than five people, and the continuation of simmering tension despite these measures, has sounded a clear alarm bell for the administration to urgently reinforce security while simultaneously addressing the roots of the conflict through lawful and inclusive means.

The immediate trigger for the violence was the spread of rumours on Monday that a group of protestors sitting on an indefinite hunger strike had been arrested. These protestors were pressing for immediate eviction of settlers they alleged were illegally occupy-

ing PGR and VGR land. The rumour proved incendiary, igniting anger and suspicion in an already charged atmosphere. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma moved swiftly to clarify that the hunger strikers had not been arrested but were shifted to Guwahati Medical College and Hospital due to health complications. This clarification, however, came after violence had already erupted, highlighting how misinformation and mistrust can rapidly escalate tensions in conflict-prone regions. Both the Chief Minister and KAAC CEM Tuliram Ronghang reiterated that immediate eviction, as demanded by agitating groups, was not legally feasible due to an interim stay imposed by the Gauhati High Court. Their insistence that the issue could only be resolved through discussion and dialogue represented a pragmatic stance, though it struggled to gain traction amid rising tempers on the ground.

The unfolding events have reinforced a fundamental democratic principle: violence has no place in resolving disputes in India, regardless of how emotive or historically rooted the issue may be. Karbi Anglong carries the heavy burden of memories associated with ethnic strife, insurgent violence, and the killing of innocent civilians. Over the past decade, significant efforts have been made to steer the region away from armed conflict towards peace and development, with surrenders of militant groups and promises of fast-track development initiatives. Allowing the present situation to spiral further into violence would not only undermine these gains but also risk dragging the development-deficit autonomous council areas back into instability and stagnation. Restoration of peace and normalcy must therefore be the immediate priority, without which even well-intentioned dialogue risks being derailed.

The legal dimension of the crisis is rooted in the eviction order issued by the KAAC in February 2024, directing the removal of what it termed unauthorised occupants from PGR and VGR land across areas under the Council. In issuing this order, the KAAC cited directions of the Supreme Court to all states to take necessary steps to evict illegal or unauthorised occupants from Gram Sabha and Gram Panchayat land, as well as land reserved for common use by villagers. The order was framed as a necessary step to protect community resources and uphold the rights of indige-

nous people. However, the eviction order was soon challenged before the Gauhati High Court, which led to an interim stay on its execution, effectively freezing any immediate action and placing the matter firmly within the judicial domain.

The petitioners who approached the High Court raised a critical contention that has now become central to the dispute. They argued that the lands they occupied were not, in fact, PGR or VGR lands, and therefore the eviction order could not be applied to them. Taking cognisance of this claim, the High Court directed the KAAC to file an affidavit clarifying whether the lands in question had been formally declared as PGR or VGR through proper notification. Until such clarification is provided, the court ordered an interim stay on eviction. This judicial intervention has shifted the onus squarely onto the KAAC to demonstrate, with documentary evidence, the legal status of the land involved. The expeditious filing of this affidavit and transparent disclosure of land records have now become crucial to resolving the issue within the bounds of law.

Beyond the immediate controversy, the crisis has exposed a deeper and more troubling gap in land revenue administration within Sixth Schedule areas. The very allegation that unauthorised occupants could encroach upon notified PGR or VGR land raises uncomfortable questions about administrative oversight and enforcement. If these lands were indeed properly notified and protected, how did such encroachments persist, possibly for years, without timely intervention? This points to systemic weaknesses in revenue administration, land demarcation, record maintenance, and enforcement mechanisms within autonomous council areas. The KAAC will inevitably face pressure to explain how such lapses occurred and what corrective measures will be instituted to prevent recurrence.

The implications of this situation extend beyond Karbi Anglong. The legal and administrative ambiguities surrounding PGR and VGR land protection serve as a cautionary tale for the other Sixth Schedule areas of Assam, notably the Bodoland Territorial Region and Dima Hasao district. These regions too have grazing reserves and community lands that are vulnerable to encroachment due to similar gaps in revenue administration and legal loopholes in land laws. Without urgent reforms, clear notifications, updated land records, and robust enforcement, disputes

over common land could ignite comparable tensions elsewhere, threatening peace and social harmony in regions already marked by ethnic sensitivities.

It is important to recognise that the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution grants autonomous councils like the KAAC significant powers over land and local governance. These include authority over allotment, occupation and use of land, management of forests other than reserve forests, regulation of shifting cultivation practices such as jhum, administration of villages and towns, public health and sanitation, and inheritance of property. These powers are designed to protect the interests of indigenous communities and preserve their traditional rights. However, the present crisis illustrates that constitutional empowerment alone is insufficient without sound administrative capacity, legal clarity, and accountable governance. Ambiguities in the exercise of these powers can create fertile ground for conflict rather than protection.

Ultimately, the path forward must balance the legitimate concerns of indigenous communities over land alienation with the imperatives of constitutional legality and social justice. Protection of PGR and VGR land is undeniably critical to safeguarding the interests of the Karbi people, but such protection must be pursued through transparent legal processes rather than coercive or violent means. Inclusive dialogue, involving all affected stakeholders, is essential to rebuild trust and arrive at a durable solution. The state government and KAAC authorities must ensure that every side is given a patient and fair hearing, while firmly upholding the rule of law.

As Karbi Anglong stands at this precarious juncture, the lessons of its own past loom large. Peace, once broken, is difficult to restore, and development cannot take root in an atmosphere of fear and instability. The immediate restoration of law and order, coupled with sincere efforts to clarify legal ambiguities and reform land administration, offers the only viable way forward. If handled with sensitivity, legal acumen, and political will, the present crisis could yet become an opportunity to strengthen land governance in Sixth Schedule areas and prevent future conflicts. If mishandled, it risks reopening old wounds and reversing hard-won gains. The choice before the administration is stark, and the stakes could not be higher. (The writer can be reached at dipakkurmijpltd@gmail.com)

Business and Exploitation in the name of education Karbi Anglong's Cry for Peace

By: Himangshu Ranjan Bhuvan

In the transformed social structure of the present time, the concept of education is undergoing a complex and painful change, where the sanctity of knowledge and the fundamental idea of building human resources have been surpassed by the harsh arithmetic of profit and loss. In the society of the past, education was a selfless pursuit of knowledge, character building, and the blossoming of values, where the relationship between guru and disciple was an emotional bond of respect and affection; but in today's whirlwind of globalisation and consumerist mentality, the education system has visibly transformed into a profitable commodity. Just as market economics has influenced every aspect of our livelihood, it has similarly succeeded in spreading an invisible yet all-devoruing net in the field of education. In a developing state like Assam, where the middle class and lower-middle class constitute the majority, this commercial mindset built in the name of education not only perpetuates economic exploitation but also pushes our social fabric and the mental world of future generations toward a terrifying crisis. By treating the dreams and aspirations of parents as capital, educational institutions have created an undeclared competition, as a result of which the true purpose of knowledge has become secondary, and in the race for numbers, grades, and prestige, we have all turned into mechanical puppets. When education changes from service to business, the decline of ethics and morality in society becomes all too certain, and today we are facing that dreadful reality.

In the educational environment of Assam, the aggression of private sector institutions has initiated a new chapter, where attempts are being made to establish external glamour and elitism as the criteria for measuring the quality of education. From cities to rural areas, these private schools and colleges that have sprung up like mushrooms have succeeded in creating a sense of inferiority and insecurity in the minds of parents. They have skillfully spread the notion in society that only in schools with expensive furniture, air-conditioned classrooms, uniforms, and the prevalence of English language will the future of children be secure. This marketing strategy has created a distrust toward government or simple infrastructure schools. In reality, it is often seen that the teaching standards in many of these luxurious institutions are quite ordinary, but through advertisements and promotions, they create such an illusion that parents, falling for it, are compelled to enroll their children even beyond their means. In this process, more importance is given to the branding and commercial profit of the institution than to the intellectual development of students. This marketization of education, with its mindset of treating students as customers and parents as sources of money, has polluted the sacred profession of education.

From the time of admission to the end of the academic year, a well-planned process of economic exploitation continues in educational institutions, which breaks the back of ordinary parents. This exploitation is not limited to monthly fees or admission fees alone; rather, money is collected throughout the year under various pretexts such as books, special uniforms, transportation, and cultural events. Often, it is seen that school authorities, through secret understandings with specific shops or business establishments, force

parents to purchase materials only from those places, where prices are much higher than market rates. The bag of books becomes as heavy for the child swimming in the ocean of education as the burden of expenses is even heavier for parents. This economic pressure disrupts family peace and stability, because in order to meet the educational costs of their children, many parents reach a state where they cannot fulfill other essential needs. Yet, out of fear that their children's future will be ruined or due to the apprehension of social shame, no one dares to raise their voice against this exploitation. This silence emboldens the exploiting cycle further, and they do not hesitate to increase fees every year. When education becomes dependent on money, naturally talented but poor students fall out of this race, creating a deep class disparity in society.

The ugliest form of this business in the name of education is reflected in the mental torture inflicted on students and the process of killing their childhood. The current education system glorifies number-centric success so much more than the pursuit of knowledge that students have turned into machines. The vast empire of tuition or coaching centers that has emerged beyond the school walls has taken away the open sky of students. Confined to books from morning till night, they are deprived of the colors of life, play, and the joy of social relationships. These coaching centers convince parents that school education is insufficient and that without additional teaching, their children cannot succeed. It is a conspiratorial system, where often school teachers themselves indirectly compel their students to take private tuition. In this intense competitive environment, the mental pressure created on students often leads them to despair. Sometimes, when they fail to achieve expected results, the inferiority complex they suffer from is extremely terrifying. This system has indeed created some rote-learning robots in the name of talent, but it has completely failed in building healthy individuals capable of thinking, analyzing, and possessing human feelings.

The teaching community, who are called the architects of society, has also become tragic victims of this commercial cycle today. Compared to the money spent on external show in private sector institutions, the attention of owners toward teachers' salaries or facilities is extremely negligible. Even in many reputed private schools in Assam, highly educated teachers are made to work for very meager salaries. Their jobs lack any stability, and they are exploited by threatening dismissal at any moment. Not only teaching, but teachers are also used for school promotion, fee collection, and other clerical tasks, which undermines the dignity of teaching. For the owners, teachers are merely tools for profit generation. On the other hand, due to low salaries, many teachers are forced to resort to private tuition, as a result of which they cannot fully concentrate on classroom teaching. Thus, the exploitation of teachers and the decline in educational standards continue in a cyclical motion. When dissatisfaction and future worries nest in teachers' minds, they fail to provide students with true education and ideal lessons. This intellectual exploitation shakes not just one individual but the very foundation of the entire education system.

Another deep aspect of this problem is the continuous decay of the government education system and the government's irresponsible role. Education, which should have been a fundamental responsibility of the govern-

ment, has been handed over to the private sector, allowing the government to evade its duty in a way. The pitiful condition of government schools in rural and urban areas of Assam, the shortage of teachers, weak infrastructure, and low teaching standards force parents to seek refuge in the private sector. The government also shows considerable laxity in enforcing strict laws to regulate private institutions. Due to the lack of any specific and effective policy in fee determination, these institutions have received a license to collect money at will. Despite the existence of the Right to Education Act, the provision of reserved seats for poor students in private schools often remains confined to paper. This vast gap between government and private sectors has created two classes of citizens in society—one class that obtains advanced facilities and modern education through the power of money, and another that struggles through life with merely nominal education. This inequality cannot rule out the risk of increasing instability and crime propensity in society in the future.

This commercialization of education has also struck a blow to our own language, culture, and national identity. Most private sector institutions are English-medium, and studying there is given such an elitist form that students lose respect for their mother tongue or culture. Speaking Assamese or practicing Assamese literature seems like an old and irrelevant matter—such a mindset is instilled in the tender minds of students. Parents too proudly say that their children do not know how to read or write Assamese. This suicidal mentality has disconnected the nation from its roots. Education teaches people to stand on their own soil, but the current market-centric education pushes students away from their own land. They are being shaped only as suitable employees for the global market, but no effort is made to build them as responsible citizens toward their own society, culture, and heritage. As a result, we are getting a generation that physically lives in Assam but mentally resides in a kind of borrowed culture. This cultural bankruptcy poses a threat to the future existence of our nation.

To end this anarchy and exploitation continuing in the name of education, building a strong resistance from every level of society is the call of the time. Merely blaming the government or criticizing the system and sitting idly will not suffice. Parents must first change their own mindset; they need to understand that expensive schools or sky-high numbers are not the measure of a child's life success. Emphasis must be placed on the child's mental health and true knowledge development to free them from this blind race. Conscious citizens, intellectuals, and student organizations of society must form public opinion against this commercialization of education. The government must also come forward with a firm hand to regulate this sector. By modernizing government schools and improving teacher standards, the monopoly of the private sector must be challenged. A new education policy and social awakening are needed so that the education system is guided not by profit calculations but by human values and the foundation of knowledge. We all must shoulder the responsibility of protecting our future generations from the clutches of exploitation and building a healthy, strong, and enlightened society; otherwise, history will not forgive us. For that, becoming conscious from today itself is highly desirable.

By: Satyabrata Borah

The repeated outbreaks of tension and conflict in Karbi Anglong have deeply disturbed the collective conscience of Assam. Beyond news headlines and political statements lies a profound human yearning that unites people across communities, languages and regions of the state, the urgent desire for peace. Ordinary Assamese people, including the residents of Karbi Anglong themselves, do not want violence, division or fear. They want stability, dialogue and a future where coexistence replaces confrontation. Karbi Anglong, by its very nature, is a land of diversity. Hills, forests and rivers shape not only its geography but also its social fabric. Karbis, Dimasaks, Kukis, Hmars, Assamese-speaking communities and many others have lived in this region for generations. Their histories are intertwined through shared markets, festivals, labour and everyday interactions. Violence, therefore, is not an expression of people's culture or values; it is a disruption imposed upon a society that has long practised coexistence despite differences.

The conflicts that periodically erupt in Karbi Anglong are often portrayed as ethnic or communal in nature. However, for the common people of Assam, such explanations feel incomplete and inadequate. They know that most residents do not wake up with hatred in their hearts. The roots of unrest lie elsewhere, in prolonged neglect, unfulfilled promises, economic deprivation, land insecurity, administrative failures and political miscalculations. When these issues remain unresolved for decades, frustration accumulates. Yet the people are increasingly conscious that violence only multiplies suffering rather than solving these problems. One of the strongest reasons Assamese society demands peace quickly is the lived memory of loss. Every conflict leaves behind burnt homes, displaced families, traumatised children and broken livelihoods. Farmers cannot cultivate their land, daily wage earners lose income, students miss classes and healthcare becomes inaccessible. These consequences do not discriminate by ethnicity or religion. Pain spreads across communities, reinforcing the understanding that violence punishes the innocent far more than it addresses grievances. Across Assam, there is a growing moral consensus that ethnic violence benefits no one except those who exploit instability for power or profit. The ordinary citizen sees that whenever peace breaks down, development stalls. Roads remain unfinished, schools suffer, hospitals remain understaffed and investment retreats. Karbi Anglong, despite its rich natural resources and cultural heritage, continues to lag behind because instability discourages long-term planning and inclusive growth. People understand that without peace, even the best policies remain ineffective.

The youth of Assam are among the strongest voices against violence. Young people in Karbi Anglong and beyond aspire for education, employment and dignity. They are connected to the wider world and aware that progress today depends on skills, innovation and cooperation. Guns and blockades do not create jobs or opportunities. Many young Assamese openly reject violent ideologies and demand dialogue-driven solutions. They want to inherit a future defined by possibility, not perpetual unrest. Women's experiences add another powerful dimension to the demand for peace. During conflicts, women bear invisible but enduring burdens. They manage households in displacement camps, protect children from trauma, struggle to access food and healthcare, and live with constant insecurity. Their suffering rarely makes headlines, yet it shapes the social cost of violence. Women across communities in Karbi Anglong have repeatedly appealed for calm, understanding and reconciliation. Their voices remind society that peace is not a political luxury but a humanitarian necessity. Civil society in Assam, comprising writers, journalists, teachers, artists, student organisations and social activists, has consistently appealed for restraint during periods of tension. These voices reflect Assam's long intellectual tradition of dialogue and reason. From the days of social reform movements to cultural renaissance, Assamese society has valued conversation over coercion. The rejection of violence in Karbi Anglong aligns with this broader cultural ethos. Religious and community leaders have also played a crucial role in urging peace. Their appeals emphasise shared human values rather than divisive identities. In moments of crisis, these voices often become the moral anchors that prevent further escalation. They reinforce the belief that differences can be addressed through conversation, not confrontation.

The demand for peace is also a call for responsible leadership. People expect political leaders to act as healers, not agitators. They want leaders who listen carefully to grievances, communicate honestly and avoid inflammatory rhetoric. When political competition fuels fear or suspicion, it erodes public trust. Assamese society increasingly expects its representatives to prioritise long-term harmony over short-term electoral gains. Administration and governance play an equally decisive role. People do not oppose law and order measures when lives are at risk, but they insist that security responses must be accompanied by sensitivity, fairness and accountability. Heavy-handed approaches that ignore local concerns can deepen alienation. Trust is built when authorities engage respectfully with communities, provide timely relief, ensure justice and demonstrate transparency in decision-making. Importantly, the people of Assam do not equate peace with silence. They recognise that genuine grievances

exist in Karbi Anglong, particularly regarding land rights, development, employment and cultural protection. Wanting peace does not mean suppressing these concerns. On the contrary, peace is possible only when issues are addressed openly through democratic and constitutional means. Dialogue platforms, inclusive consultations and participatory governance are essential to resolving tensions sustainably.

The Sixth Schedule framework, autonomous institutions and development programmes must function not merely on paper but in practice. When autonomy delivers tangible benefits, faith in peaceful processes strengthens. When governance becomes inclusive and efficient, the attraction of violence diminishes. Assamese people understand that peace requires structural change, not just appeals for calm. Another reason for the strong demand for peace is the shared identity of Assam as a plural society. Diversity has always been its defining strength. Languages, cultures and traditions coexist not despite differences but because of mutual respect developed over centuries. Violence threatens this delicate balance. Every conflict weakens the idea of Assam as a collective home for many identities. Peace, therefore, is seen as essential for preserving the state's social and cultural fabric. Today, the message from Assam regarding Karbi Anglong is clear and heartfelt. People want roads instead of roadblocks, classrooms instead of camps, employment instead of extortion, and conversations instead of confrontations. They want children to grow up learning stories of cooperation rather than inheriting memories of fear. They want Karbi Anglong to be known for its hills, culture and potential, not for recurring unrest.

The call for peace is not naive or passive. It is rooted in experience, suffering and wisdom. It reflects the understanding that violence has already taken too much and given nothing in return. Peace is not the absence of disagreement but the presence of dignity, justice and mutual respect. Karbi Anglong's future, like Assam's future, depends on how sincerely this call is heard. Peace must be treated not as a temporary pause between conflicts but as a continuous commitment by the state, communities and individuals alike. Only then can the hills breathe freely again, and only then can Assam move forward together, stronger, calmer and more united.

In the wake of recent tensions, voices from across communities, including Karbi organisations, have echoed this sentiment, condemning acts of destruction and urging dialogue to protect shared lands and harmony. The collective aspiration remains for resolution through understanding, ensuring that development and coexistence prevail over division. Assam's people, resilient in their pluralism, continue to yearn for a harmonious tomorrow where grievances are met with justice and empathy, allowing the region to thrive in unity.

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR OF SCHOOL::KARBI
ANGLONG DISTRICT CIRCLE, DIPHU

No. IS/Sec. Teachers/Appt./2025/01

Dated Diphu the 24th December, 2025**ADVERTISEMENT**

In pursuance of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council, Diphu's approval letter no. KAAC/Esstt-522/P(B)/Sec.Edn./Prior Approval of Post/2024-25/180 Dated Diphu the 23rd December, 2025 and as per Rule 7 & 8 of the KAAC Notification No. KAAC/Edn-(H)/Pt-XI/2096 Dated 08/07/2025 under the Provision of Paragraph 3A(1)(d) of the Sixth Scheduled to the Constitution of India, applications are hereby invited in Standard Application Form as published in the Assam Gazette from the intending and eligible candidates for TET cum Recruitment Test who are citizens of India and Permanent resident of Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong District for filling up the following various categories of vacant post of Graduate Teachers (Arts/Science/Hindi/Assamese Language) in Provincialised Higher Secondary School/High School of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council as mentioned below in the scale of pay and other allowances as admissible under the rules as shown against the posts.

Name of the post and eligibility criteria:

Sl. No.	Name of post	Pay Band	Grade Pay	No. of Posts	Minimum Education and Professional Qualification	Age
1.	Graduate Teacher (Arts)	Rs. 14,000/- to 70,000/- (PB-2)	Rs. 8,700/-	202 nos.	For the post of Graduate Teacher (Arts), the candidate must be Arts/Commerce Graduate or Post Graduate Teacher in Arts/Commerce from any UGC recognized University with at least 50% marks in either Graduation or Post Graduation (or its equivalent) and Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) from NCTE recognized Institution(s).	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 01 st January, 2026 as per Govt. Office Memorandum vide no. ABP.6/2016/51 Dated 02-09-2020 and subsequent Corrigendum No. ABP.6/2016/52 Dated 20-02-2021.
2.	Graduate Teacher (Science)	Rs. 14,000/- to 70,000/- (PB-2)	Rs. 8,700/-	95 nos.	For the post of Graduate Teacher (Science), the candidate must be science Graduate or Post Graduate in Science from UGC recognized University with at least 50% marks in either Graduation or Post Graduation (or its equivalent) and Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) from NCTE recognized Institution(s).	
3.	Graduate Teacher (Hindi)	Rs. 14,000/- to 70,000/- (PB-2)	Rs. 8,700/-	35 nos.	Pravin/Ratna in Hindi with 50% marks and Degree Qualification with 50% marks or Post Graduate Degree in Arts with 50% marks from any UGC recognized University. Or BA with 50% marks and having Hindi as one of the subjects with 50% marks or Post Graduate in Arts with 50% marks provided that he have passed BA with one of the subjects as Hindi with 50% marks in Hindi and B.T./B.Ed. degree from any NCTE recognized Institution (Parangant to be treated as equivalent to B.Ed. degree only for the purpose of Hindi Teaching).	
4.	Assamese Language Teacher (Sr.)	Rs. 14,000/- to 70,000/- (PB-2)	Rs. 8,700/-	09 nos.	Graduate with 50% marks from any UGC recognized University with Assamese as one of the subject and B.T., B.Ed. degree from any NCTE recognized university.	
Total				341 nos.		

Note: As per the Assam Secondary Education (Provincialised Schools) (Amendment) Service Rules, 2021. those institutions having territorial jurisdiction outside the State of Assam but having a study centre in the State and such study centres if not recognized by DEC under UGC, the degrees/certificates issued by such off campus institutions shall not be considered as valid for the purpose of employment under Education Department However, degrees/diplomas conferred by KKHSOU, IGNOU, IDOL under Gauhati University and Distance Education under Dibrugarh University shall be considered as valid for the purpose of employment.

Criteria for Selection of Graduate Teacher (Arts, Science, Hindi and Assamese Language Teacher) :

- Teachers Eligibility Test cum Recruitment Test:
140 marks in the following paper:-
The paper shall be of 140 marks (Pedagogy-50 marks; About Assam and its People 50 marks; General English-30 marks; General Studies and Current Affairs-10marks)
- NCC/Sports/Fine Arts and Cultural Activities:
(i) 5 marks for NCC Certificates (5 marks for "C" Certificate and 3 marks for "B" Certificate)
Or
5 marks for participation in recognized sports at National Level representing Assam
Or
5 marks for achievements in Fine Arts and Cultural Activities representing the State officially at National Level.
(ii) Candidates who have passed the earlier High School TET and not been appointed till date shall get weightage @5% of the marks secured in the TET or maximum 5 marks for selection as a Graduate Teacher
- During the advertisement the candidates shall apply in the particular stream in case of Graduate Teacher.
- There shall be one common question paper for all vacancies irrespective of streams, i.e. Arts, Science, Commerce, Hindi etc. for Graduate Teacher recruitment.
- The number of qualified candidates in the TET cum Recruitment Test shall be in the ratio of 1:1 of the vacancies advertised.
- There shall be separate Merit List stream-wise (Arts/Science/Hindi) in case of Graduate Teacher.
- The Merit List shall be prepared in the manner as proposed below :-
(i) The marks secured in the TET cum Recruitment Test by the candidates of a particular stream, for instance Science Stream, shall be filtered out from the main list into a separate merit list of Science Stream. Similar process shall be adopted for all other streams.

In addition to the academic and professional qualification as per sub-rule 10 (5) sub-rule 1 (i) to (v) of the Assam Secondary Education (Provincialised Schools) Services Rules of 2018, the candidate must satisfy the following criteria:-

- In case of Assamese Medium School, the candidate must have passed HSLC or equivalent Examination with Assamese Language as one of the subjects or have Diploma in Assamese Language issued by the Axom Sahitya Sabha or read up to HSLC level in Assamese Medium School.
- In case of Bengali Medium School, the candidate must have passed HSLC or equivalent examination with Bengali Language as one of the subjects or have Diploma in Bengali language issued by the Barak Upatyaka Banga O Sanskriti Sammelan or read up to HSLC level in Bengali Medium School.
- In case of Hindi Medium School, the candidate must have passed HSLC or equivalent with Hindi Language as one of the subjects or read up to HSLC level in Hindi Medium School.
- In case of Bodo Medium School, the candidate must have passed HSLC or equivalent Examination with Bodo language as one of the subjects or read up to HSLC level in Bodo Medium School.
- In case of English Medium School, the candidate must have passed HSLC or equivalent Examination with Alternative English as one of the subjects or read from Class XI onwards in English Medium School.

Provided that for recruitment of teacher for teaching ML subject, the candidate who have passed HSLC examination with particular ML subject shall be considered.

Condition of Recruitment

- The undersigned reserve the right to cancel or postpone the recruitment at any stage without assigning any reason.
- Preference will be given to candidates who are the permanent resident under the territorial jurisdiction of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council.
- The appointment shall be non-transferable for a minimum continuous period of 5 (five) years.
- 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.
- Candidate must not 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 01 January, 2026 as per Govt. Office Memorandum vide no. ABP.6/2016/51 Dated 02-09-2020 and subsequent Corrigendum No. ABP.6/2016/52 Dated 20-02-2021.
- The Candidate should keep an eye on the Local Newspaper and Media for updates regarding the collection of their Admit Cards for the TET cum Recruitment Test.
- There shall be verification of documents and all testimonials after the result of the Merit list of TET cum Recruitment Test which will be notified in due course of time. No TA/DA is admissible for verification process. Verification will be conducted simultaneously and the candidates will be informed either individually or collectively.
- When the Candidates appear for the verification of documents, they must produce original certificates, testimonials and documents.
- No any TA/DA will be admissible for the purpose.
- Physical fitness as per Rule 11 of the Assam Secondary Education (Provincialised Schools) Service Rules, 2018;
A candidate for recruitment shall be:
a. Of sound health both mentally and physically and free organic defect or bodily infirmly which is likely to interfere with the efficient performance of his duties and
b. Required to undergo medical examination before appointment to the service.
- No person having more than two living children on or after 01/01/2021 from a single or multiple partners shall be eligible for appointment as per the Govt. policy on Small Family Norms, the Guidelines contained in the Notification No. ABP.69/2019/17 dated 06/11/2019 and No. ABP.69/2019/18 dated 16/11/2019. However, permanent resident of Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong district are exempted.
- In case two or more candidates obtained equal marks in aggregate, then the seniority of age shall be preferred.
- The candidate must ensure genuineness of all the information/ documents against the application and he/she will be solely responsible for the information/ documents against his/her application. Once submitted there will be no scope of correction in respect of the credential submitted by the candidate. Any discrepancy will lead to cancellation of the candidature.
- The candidature will be cancelled forthwith, if any kind of fraudulence/ discrepancy regarding any information/documents uploaded by the candidate is established by appropriate authority at any point of time. The candidate will be debarred from any future recruitment under Government of Assam and subsequent legal action will also be initiated against such candidate.
- The candidates having NOT CLEAR (NC) status against any qualification will not be eligible to apply.
- For Government employee of State of Assam:
(i) Candidate already in Govt. Service, in order to prove their employment, must submit a "NO OBJECTION CERTIFICATE" against the applied post, issued by the competent authority.
(ii) NOC after submission of application shall not be entertained.
- Persons with Disability (PwD):-
(i) Candidate with OH (Orthopedically Handicapped) with at least One Arm and One Leg. LV (Low Vision), HI (Hearing Impaired) will be considered under reservation category having minimum 40% of relevant disability.
(ii) The final selection of PwD candidates shall be subject to further medical examination.

Additional Information:-

- The degrees/programmes/courses duly recognized by the UGC shall only be accepted.
- The examination will be of 2 ½ hours duration and will consist of 140 question of 1 mark each.
- The shall be negative marking of 0.25 marks per question for wrong answer as well as selecting more than one option of a question.
- Question paper will be given in multi-lingual form, viz. Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, English Medium. how in case of confusion/discrepancies, the English version shall be treated as authentic version.
- All the applicants should have Employment Exchange Registration Number. However, those who have applied for the Registration Number but not yet received, they will also be allowed to apply but they have to obtain Employment Exchange Registration Number mandatorily before appointment.
- There will be a common Recruitment Test for all Graduate Teacher for Provincialised Schools. Hence, a final merit list will be prepared accordingly.
- For verification of qualification and other particulars of the candidates, a draft merit list will be published with a ratio of 2 candidates against one vacancy. Thereafter, after verification, a final merit list will be prepared from the draft merit list as per the outcome of the verification report and as per the merit in the draft merit list in the ratio of 1:1.
- Preparation of Merit List:
a. Merit list of candidates for Graduate Teachers shall be based on the total marks obtained in the TET cum Recruitment Test and as per selection criteria mentioned in the advertisement.
b. For selection of the last candidate or determining merit, where a specified number of candidates have to be selected, if two or more candidates have same marks, the following procedure shall be followed.
➤ The candidate obtaining higher marks in the Written Examination shall be selected.
➤ If selection could not be made after following the above process, the candidate with earlier date of birth shall be selected.
➤ If the selection could not be made even after following the above process, the selection may be made by a draw of lots by the authority of KAAC.
- The candidate already got selection in the post of Post Graduate Teachers shall not be considered again for the post of Graduate Teachers.
- According to merit position, the vacancies of Provincialised School shall be filled up.

HOW TO APPLY:

- The candidates should apply in duly filled up Assam Gazette Part-IX Standard Form of application along with all self-attested certificate, testimonials and Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council Money Receipt of Rs. 50 (Rupees Fifty) only to the office of the undersigned w.e.f., 27th December, 2025 to 24th January, 2026 during office hours. Application by post shall not be accepted.
- In-Service candidate should apply through proper channel along with NOC from their employer otherwise, their application shall be rejected.
- 02 (two) nos. of Passport Size colour photograph.
- HSLC Mark-sheet and Admit Card (Age Proof) duly self-attested.
- HSLC Mark-sheet and Certificate duly self-attested.
- Mark-Sheet and Certificate of degree (in case for the purpose of Graduate Teacher Arts and Science, shall submit all three years mark-sheet and Pravin/Ratna Final Examination Mark-Sheet and Certificate in case of Hindi Posts duly self-attested.
- Any other Mark-Sheet and Certificate of Higher Education duly self-attested.
- B.Ed./Parangant Mark-Sheet (1st Year & 2nd year) and certificate duly self-attested.
- PRC (Permanent Resident Certificate) issued by competent authority.
- Caste Certificate (in case of SC/ST(P)/ST(H)/OBC/MOBC) duly self-attested.
- The candidate belonging to Economically Weaker Section (EWS) category should submit the EWS Certificate issued by the competent authority as per rule.
- Mobile number should belong mentioned in the prescribed application form.
- The undersigned retains the right to correct any inadvertent or typographical error which may appear in this advertisement.
- Canvassing in any form will be disqualification on the part of candidate.

Authorities reserve the rights to cancel the candidature of any candidate as and when any ineligibility condition is detected. If any information declared by the candidate is found to be false at any stage, the candidate will be penalized as per prevailing laws/rules. The decision of the authority as to the eligibility or otherwise of a candidate shall be final.

Sd/-
B.S. Engti,
Inspector of Schools,
Karbi Anglong District Circle,
Diphu

Why is govt pushing through 'fatally flawed' redefinition of Aravallis, asks Cong

Critics argue that many ecologically important parts of the Aravalli system do not meet the 100-metre threshold

NEW DELHI, Dec 24: The Congress on Wednesday accused the government of misleading the public on the issue of Aravallis and asked why it was pushing through a "fatally flawed redefinition" of the hills.

In a post on X, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the redefinition of the Aravallis that the government is adopting was opposed by the Forest Survey, the central empowered committee of the Supreme Court and the SC's amicus curiae.

Under the new definition, an "Aravalli Hill" is a landform with an elevation of at least 100 metres above its local surrounding terrain and an "Aravalli Range" is a cluster of two or

more such hills within 500 metres of each other. Critics argue that many ecologically important parts of the Aravalli system do not meet the 100-metre threshold (e.g., low ridges, slopes, foothills and recharge areas), yet are important for groundwater recharge, biodiversity support, climate moderation and soil stability.

The Centre has rejected the charge that the new definition weakens environmental safeguards. It has said that most of the Aravalli region, over 90 per cent, remains protected and the new definition does not relax mining controls. "It is by now abundantly clear that the Union Minister of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change is being



economical with the truth on the Aravallis issue and is misleading the public," Ramesh said in his post.

"The redefinition of the Aravallis that the Modi Government is adopting has been clearly and compellingly OPPOSED by (i) Forest Survey of India; (ii) the Central Empowered Committee

first set up by the Supreme Court in May 2002 and reconstituted in Dec 2023 to advise it on environment and forest matters; and (iii) the Supreme Court's own amicus curiae (friend of the court)," the former environment minister said.

Ramesh asked why the Modi government is pushing through a "fatally flawed" redefinition of the Aravallis.

The Congress earlier wondered why the Modi government was "hell-bent" on redefining the mountain range and for whose benefit, saying the Aravallis are the country's natural heritage and have great ecological value. (PTI)

No.DPRD/BTC/6th ASFC/DG/Bak-16/2025/17 Dated Kokrajhar the 23rd December 2025

PRESS NOTICE

The Director, P&RD, BTC, Kokrajhar invites bids for work "Construction of Market Shed at Hongkong Market at Angarkata" under Tamulpur Dev. Block of Tamulpur Dist under the award of Direct Grant of 6th ASFC for the year 2021-22 (1st Inst) and during 2025-26, for A/A amount of **Rs. 25,00,000/-** (Rupees twenty five lakh) only from the registered contractors of Class-II (A, B & C) category of Assam PWD (Roads) / (Building), BTC.

Details may be seen at website <http://assamtenders.gov.in> and also at the Office of the undersigned during office hours.

IPR(BTC)/C/2025-26/3430

Sd/- Director,
Panchayat & Rural Development,
BTC, Kokrajhar

Date 23/12/2025

No.KDB-448/2025-26/1359

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed tender affixing a non-refundable court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight & twenty five) only with a validity period 180 days, which will subsequently to be covered and drawn up in the printed of F-2 form are invited from the registered contractor Class-I (A, B, C) & Class-II categories Assam P&RD and BTC, according to their eligibility for submitting tenders for the works under 6th ASFC fund for the year 2025-26 as stated below. The tender will be received by the undersigned 2.00 PM of **24/12/2025** and will be opened on same day at 3.00 PM.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Location Under	A.A. Amount (Rs. In lakh)	Cost of bid document	Amount of bid security	Time of completion
1	Installation OF Solar Plan at Gambaribil VCDC office at Gambaribil	Gambaribil	Rs. 10.00 L	0.03%	SC.ST=1% OTH=2%	3 months
2	Installation OF Solar Plan at Kachugaon VCDC office at Kachugaon	Kachugaon	Rs. 10.00 L	0.03%	SC.ST=1% OTH=2%	3 months
3	Installation OF Solar Plan at Gurufela Bazar, Gurufela	Gurufela	Rs. 10.00 L	0.03%	SC.ST=1% OTH=2%	3 months
4	Installation OF Solar Plan at Soraibil Bazar, Soraibil	Soraibil	Rs. 10.00 L	0.03%	SC.ST=1% OTH=2%	3 months
5	Installation OF Solar Plan at Matiapara No.1 near Kabarsthan under Sapkata VCDC	Sapkata	Rs. 10.00 L	0.03%	SC.ST=1% OTH=2%	3 months
6	Installation OF Solar Plan at Tokeyyamari Pt-ii under Anthaibari VCDC	Tokeyyamari Pt-II	Rs. 10.00 L	0.03%	SC.ST=1% OTH=2%	3 months
7	Installation OF Solar Plan at Guwabari Halgora under Guwabari VCDC	Guwabari	Rs. 10.00 L	0.03%	SC.ST=1% OTH=2%	3 months
8	Installation OF Solar Plan at Kashiabari VCDC	Kashiabari	Rs. 10.00 L	0.03%	SC.ST=1% OTH=2%	3 months
9	Installation OF Solar Plan at Maktaigaon VCDC	Maktaigaon	Rs. 10.00 L	0.03%	SC.ST=1% OTH=2%	3 months

Details N.I.T may be seen in all working days during office hours in the office of the undersigned tender will be issued to the contractors of their authorized agent from **24/12/2025** to **19/01/2026** in the office of the undersigned on payment in the form of demand draft/banker's cheque from any Nationalized bank duly pledged in favour of the BDO, Kachugaon Dev. Block, Gurufela.

IPR(BTC)/C/2025-26/3415

Sd/-
Block Development Officer,
Kachugaon Dev. Block, Gurufela

No.KDB/BTC/NIT/2024-25/2464 Date 23/12/2025

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed tenders affixing a non-refundable Court Fee Stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees Eight & Twenty-Five Paisa) only with a validity period of 180 (One Hundred Eighty) days, which will subsequently to be converted and drawn up in the APWD's printed F-2 forms are invited from the registered contractors of class-II and class-I (A, B & C) category of Assam PWD (Roads & Building) and BTC, according to their eligibility for submitting tenders for the following works under 6th Finance Commission Fund for the year 2025-26. The Tenders will be received by the undersigned up to 2.00 P.M. on 17.01.2026 and will be opened on the same date & place at 2.30 P.M. against the scheme shown below-

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	A.A. Amount	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender paper	Time of Completion
1	Installation of Solar Plant at Brahmapara Market under Ultapani Labainyapur VCDC.	1000000.00	10000/- (1% for ST, SC & OBC) & Rs. 20000/- (Gen)	₹ 300.00	3 Months
2	Installation of Solar Plant at Majpara Bazar under Titaguri VCDC.	1000000.00	10000/- (1% for ST, SC & OBC) & Rs. 20000/- (Gen)	₹ 300.00	3 Months
3	Installation of Solar Plant at Ultapani Market under Labainyapur VCDC.	1000000.00	10000/- (1% for ST, SC & OBC) & Rs. 20000/- (Gen)	₹ 300.00	3 Months
4	Installation of Solar Plant at K/Bhogaon. Under Bhotgaon VCDC.	1000000.00	10000/- (1% for ST, SC & OBC) & Rs. 20000/- (Gen)	₹ 300.00	3 Months
5	Installation of Solar Plant at Gendrabil Bazar under Gendrabil VCDC.	1000000.00	10000/- (1% for ST, SC & OBC) & Rs. 20000/- (Gen)	₹ 300.00	3 Months
6	Installation of Solar Plant at Kalipukhuri VCDC.	1000000.00	10000/- (1% for ST, SC & OBC) & Rs. 20000/- (Gen)	₹ 300.00	3 Months
7	Installation of Solar Plant at Dholmara VCDC.	1000000.00	10000/- (1% for ST, SC & OBC) & Rs. 20000/- (Gen)	₹ 300.00	3 Months

Details NIT may be seen in all working days during office hours in the office of the undersigned. Tender papers will be issued to the contractors or their authorized agent from 25.12.2025 to 17.01.2026 in the office of the undersigned on payment of cost of Tender paper in the form of demand draft/Banker Cheque from any Nationalized Bank, duly pledged in favour of Principal Secretary, BTC, Kokrajhar, payable at Kokrajhar.

IPR(BTC)/C/2025-26/3436

Sd/- Block Development Officer,
Kokrajhar Dev. Block, Titaguri

অসম লোকসেৱা আয়োগ
ASSAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
Jawaharnagar, Khanapara, Guwahati-781022.

No. 268PSC/CON/Exam-07/2025-2026 Dated Guwahati the 24th December, 2025

RESULT

The Assam Public Service Commission hereby declares today, the 24th December, 2025, the result of the recruitment to the post of Junior Engineer (Civil) under Water Resources Department, Assam (Advt. No.14/2025 dated 14/04/2025) of which Screening Test (OMR based) was conducted by the Commission on 31/08/2025 and document verification on 23/12/2025. On the basis of the merit in the Screening test the Commission recommended the following candidates for the said post.

No. of Posts: 160 (RFW: 67) | B&L: 4, HI: 4, LOCO: 3, Autism: 3 | Ex-Servicemen: 7

Break up: OC: 88 (RFW: 40), OBC/MOBC: 22 (RFW: 12), TT & Adivasi: 8 (RFW: 3), SC: 15 (RFW: 6), ST(P): 20 (RFW: 6), ST(H): 7

Position	Roll No.	Name of Candidate	Category	TT & Adivasi	Gender	PwBD	Recommended against vacancy
1.	10066	ABHILASH GOGOI	OBC		M		OPEN CATEGORY
2.	13348	MUSTAFIJU ALAM	GENL		M		OPEN CATEGORY
3.	15613	UDAY SANKAR TALUKDAR	OBC		M		OPEN CATEGORY
4.	12971	MASUM AHMED BARBHUIYA	GENL		M		OPEN CATEGORY
5.	15646	UTPAL BARUAH	OBC		M		OPEN CATEGORY
6.	11410	HIRAJ NATH	OBC		M		OPEN CATEGORY
7.	11989	HIRAK JYOTI DEKA	GENL		M		OPEN CATEGORY
8.	13507	NAZRUL AHMED	GENL		M		OPEN CATEGORY
9.	14759	SAFIKUR RAHMAN	GENL		M		OPEN CATEGORY
10.	10895	BIJOY DEKA	GENL		M		OPEN CATEGORY
11.	14762	SAGAR DEKARAJA	ST(P)		M		OPEN CATEGORY
12.	12009	HIRAN JYOTI SAIKIA	OBC		M		OPEN CATEGORY
13.	11055	BITUPAN SAIKIA	GENL		M		OPEN CATEGORY
14.	14756	SADIKUL ISLAM	GENL		M		OPEN CATEGORY
15.	11640	DUL HAZARIKA	MOBC		M		OPEN CATEGORY
16.	14346	RAJKAMAL DUARAH	OBC		M		OPEN CATEGORY
17.	15250	SONIA DAS	GENL		F		OPEN CATEGORY
18.	13485	NAYANJYOTI DEKA	GENL		M		OPEN CATEGORY
19.	13161	MOJAKKIR HUSSAIN	GENL		M		OPEN CATEGORY
20.	10034	ABDUR RAJJAK HUSSAIN	GENL		M		OPEN CATEGORY
21.	11906	HEMANTA BARUAH	OBC		M		OPEN CATEGORY
22.	14839	SAMADUL ALOM MAZUMDER	GENL		M		OPEN CATEGORY
23.	12160	JAHEER IKBAL MAZUMDER	GENL		M		OPEN CATEGORY
24.	12615	KHURANKA DUTTA	GENL		M		OPEN CATEGORY
25.	11048	BITUPAN BORA	OBC		M		OPEN CATEGORY
26.	10020	ABDUL KHAYER CHOUDHURY	GENL		M		OPEN CATEGORY
27.	15657	UTPAL RAI	OBC		M		OPEN CATEGORY
28.	14722	RUPSHANKAR SAIKIA	OBC		M		OPEN CATEGORY
29.	13402	NABAJYOTI TALUKDAR	GENL		M		OPEN CATEGORY
30.	12604	KHAIRUL HOQUE	GENL		M		OPEN CATEGORY
31.	15398	SURAJ PAUL	OBC		M		OPEN CATEGORY
32.	10600	ASHRITA NANDI	GENL		F		OPEN CATEGORY
33.	12097	INARJIT RAY	OBC		M		OPEN CATEGORY
34.	12726	LAKHYAJEET DOLEY	ST(P)		M		OPEN CATEGORY
35.	12443	KABIR DAS	Gender		M		OPEN CATEGORY
36.	13577	NIKUMANI THAKURIA	GENL		M		OPEN CATEGORY
37.	12198	JAYANTA BORA	OBC		M		OPEN CATEGORY
38.	12194	JAVED HUSSAIN MAZUMDER	GENL		M		OPEN CATEGORY
39.	10807	BHASKAR JYOTI NATH	OBC		M		OPEN CATEGORY
40.	11231	DAVID KALITA	GENL		M		OPEN CATEGORY
41.	10084	ABHISHEK BHAGOWATI	GENL		M		OPEN CATEGORY
42.	13003	MD ANSAR AHMED MAZUMDER	GENL		M		OPEN CATEGORY
43.	15059	SHABJAUUL HOQUE SK	GENL		M		OPEN CATEGORY
44.	15691	WASIFA FARHEN	GENL		F		OPEN CATEGORY
45.	13432	NAMRIT UZIR	SC		M		RESERVED
46.	14288	RAHUL NATH	OBC		M		RESERVED
47.	10249	AMALENDU BHOWMICK	SC		M		RESERVED
48.	11985	HIRAK DAS	SC		M		RESERVED
49.	13618	NILUTPOL LAHON	OBC		M		RESERVED
50.	14326	RAJEN NAIDING	ST(H)		M		RESERVED
51.	12344	JUDANKA CHETIA	OBC		M		RESERVED
52.	15383	SUNITRA GOGOI	OBC		F		OPEN CATEGORY
53.	14866	SAMPA SAHA	GENL		F		OPEN CATEGORY
54.	14902	SANIYA MAHBIZ RASUL	GENL		F		OPEN CATEGORY
55.	12242	JIBESWAR DEORI	ST(P)		M		RESERVED
56.	12345	JUGAL GOGOI	OBC		M		RESERVED
57.	10539	ARPARA DAS	GENL		F		OPEN CATEGORY
58.	13433	NANDANRAJ GOGOI	OBC		M		RESERVED
59.	10252	AMAR JYOTI CHOCHAN	OBC		M		RESERVED
60.	14789	SAHIL SAH	OBC		M		RESERVED
61.	13675	NITURAJ PHUKAN	MOBC		M		RESERVED
62.	13617	NILUTPOL CHUTIA	MOBC		M		RESERVED
63.	14069	PREMJIT BARMAN	OBC		M		RESERVED
64.	10705	BARNITA DAS	SC		F		OPEN CATEGORY
65.	13504	NAZNEEN SULTANA LASKAR	GENL		F		OPEN CATEGORY
66.	11962	HIMANKSHI CHUTIA	MOBC		F		OPEN CATEGORY
67.	10281	AMIT KUMAR DAS	SC		M		RESERVED
68.	11374	DEYAAN PEGU	ST(P)		M		RESERVED
69.	12655	KRIPA DAS	SC		M		RESERVED
70.	11510	DIKSHITA RAJBONGSHI	OBC		F		OPEN CATEGORY
71.	11587	DIPANWITA BHATTACHARJEE	GENL		F		OPEN CATEGORY
72.	14283	RAHUL KUTUM	ST(P)		M		RESERVED
73.	14932	SANKAR DAIMARI	ST(P)		M		RESERVED
74.	14515	RINGSAR BRAHMA	ST(P)		M		RESERVED

Position	Roll No.	Name of Candidate	Category	TT & Adivasi	Gender	PwBD	Recommended against vacancy
75.	14955	SANYUKTA KAUSHIK	GENL		F		OPEN CATEGORY
76.	13703	NURNAHAR KHANAM	GENL		F		OPEN CATEGORY
77.	11912	HEMONTA GOWALA	OBC	TT & Adi	M		RESERVED
78.	11427	DHRITISHRUTI DEVI	OBC		F		OPEN CATEGORY
79.	11240	DEBA POLONG	ST(P)		M		RESERVED
80.	13445	NARGISH SULTANA	GENL		F		OPEN CATEGORY
81.	10199	AKASH TALUKDAR	SC		M		RESERVED
82.	15018	SAURAV DAS	SC		M		RESERVED
83.	10070	ABHILESH THAOSEN	ST(P)		M		RESERVED
84.	11138	CHANDRAMA DAS	GENL		F		OPEN CATEGORY
85.	13265	MRIDUL PEGU	ST(P)		M		RESERVED
86.	13578	NIKUMONI BARTHAKUR	GENL		F		OPEN CATEGORY
87.	11639	DUKBOM YIRANG	ST(P)		M		RESERVED
88.	13900	PINKYMONI BARMAN	GENL		F		OPEN CATEGORY
89.	13456	NATASHA BARUAH	GENL		F		OPEN CATEGORY
90.	11610	DIPSIKHA BORA	GENL		F		OPEN CATEGORY
91.	15460	SWEETY HAZARIKA	GENL		F		OPEN CATEGORY
92.	13309	MRINMOY JYOTI BORDOLOI	ST(P)		M		RESERVED
93.	10368	ANKITA BHOWMICK	GENL		F		OPEN CATEGORY
94.	10748	BHAGYASHREE DAS	GENL		F		OPEN CATEGORY
95.	13564	NIKHIL DOLEY	ST(P)		M		RESERVED
96.	14127	PRIYANKA DEKA	GENL		F		OPEN CATEGORY
97.	14721	RUPREKHA DAS	SC		F		OPEN CATEGORY
98.	13752	PALLAVEE DEB	GENL		F		OPEN CATEGORY
99.	11772	GEREMSA BRAHMA	ST(P)		M		RESERVED
100.	15255	SONY KUMAR MOYONG	ST(P)		M		RESERVED
101.	11249	DEBAJIT BORO	ST(P)		M		RESERVED
102.	13499	NAZMA KHANAM	GENL		F		OPEN CATEGORY
103.	10754	BHAGYASRI DAS	SC		F		OPEN CATEGORY
104.	15178	SIKHA RANI DUTTA	OBC		F		OPEN CATEGORY
105.	12811	MADONA CHUNGKRANG	ST(P)		F		OPEN CATEGORY
106.	11508	DIKSHITA DAS	GENL		F		OPEN CATEGORY
107.	12990	MAYURIMA GOSWAMI	GENL		F		OPEN CATEGORY
108.	13424	NAJIYA HASSAN	GENL		F		OPEN CATEGORY
109.	13556	NIHARIKA GOGOI	OBC		F		OPEN CATEGORY
110.	14247	QUEEN KONWAR	OBC		F		OPEN CATEGORY
111.	12540	KAPILDEV KARMAKAR	OBC	TT & Adi	M		RESERVED
112.	11531</						

Tripura minister urges Arunachal to rescue 30 child labourers duped by employer

Tinku Roy urges intervention to ensure safe return of children facing inhuman conditions



AGARTALA, Dec 24: Tripura Labour Minister Tinku Roy has sought his Arunachal Pradesh counterpart Nyato Dukam's intervention in rescuing 30 child labourers from Unakoti district who were lured to go there for work.

The labourers were being subjected to ill-treatment and were living in inhuman conditions, Roy told Dukam in a letter.

"I wish to bring to your kind notice that a case has recently been registered at Kailashahar police station in Unakoti district, wherein

approximately 30 child labourers, along with a few adult labourers were taken from Rangrung Tea Garden... to Arunachal Pradesh," the letter read.

He said, "They were promised certain wages and benefits. However, they have reportedly been denied their lawful entitlements. It has further been reported by their family members that the child labourers are being subjected to ill-treatment and are living in inhuman conditions, causing severe mental distress and anxiety".

Their families are desperately

seeking their safe and early return, he said.

"In view of the seriousness of the matter and the humanitarian concerns involved, I earnestly request your kind intervention to extend all necessary assistance for the immediate rescue and safe repatriation of the labourers to their home," the Tripura minister said in the letter.

Engagement of children as labourers is prohibited under the law and is a grave violation of human rights and dignity, Roy said. (PTI)

Tripura CM praises ISRO for successful launch of LVM3-M6 mission

ISRO's heaviest rocket placed a US communication satellite into orbit

AGARTALA, Dec 24: Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha on Wednesday congratulated the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on the successful launch of the LVM3-M6 mission.

In a historic Christmas-eve mission, ISRO's heaviest rocket successfully placed a US communication satellite into orbit.

Taking to social media, Saha said, "Congratulations to ISRO and our space scientists and engineers on the successful LVM3-M6 mission, placing the heaviest satellite launched from Indian soil, USA's BlueBird Block-2, into its intended orbit".

"This achievement boosts India's heavy-lift launch capability, strengthens our role in the global commercial launch market and reflects our resolve towards an Aatmanirbhar Bharat", he wrote on Facebook.

State tourism minister Sushanta Chowdhury also praised ISRO for the successful launch.

"India's space leap continues! The successful LVM3-M6 launch of BlueBird Block-2, the heaviest satellite ever launched from Indian soil, showcases ISRO's world-



class heavy-lift capability and an unblemished mission record", he wrote on Facebook.

Chowdhury wrote, "Under the visionary leadership of PM Narendra Modi ji, India's youth-driven

space programme is delivering affordable commercial launches, deepening global partnerships, accelerating Gaganyaan and strengthening our commitment of Aatmanirbhar Bharat". (PTI)

Chowna Mein pledges fairness and consumer protection in Arunachal Pradesh Arunachal Deputy CM vows to protect consumer rights

ITANAGAR, Dec 24: Arunachal Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein on Wednesday said the state government is committed to safeguarding consumer rights and ensuring fairness, transparency and accountability in the marketplace.

"We reaffirm our commitment to safeguarding the rights of consumers and ensuring fairness, transparency and accountability in the marketplace," Mein said in a post on X on the occasion of National Consumer Rights Day.

He emphasised that protecting consumers is central to good governance and economic stability. Highlighting the role of public awareness, the deputy chief minister said an informed and empowered consumer strengthens institutions and markets.

"An informed and empowered consumer is vital to good governance and a strong economy," he said and added that the government is focused on expanding consumer awareness and strengthening grievance redressal mechanisms across the state. Mein further stated that the government remains dedicated to protecting the interests of every citizen of Arunachal Pradesh.

National Consumer Rights Day, observed annually on December 24, marks the enactment of the Consumer Protection Act and serves as a reminder of the importance of consumer rights such as the right to safety, information, choice and redressal. (PTI)



Welcome gates at Banderdewa and Hollongi near completion

HT Correspondent

HOLLONGI, Dec 24: The welcome gates at Banderdewa and Hollongi, which connect to the state capital Itanagar are nearing completion with work being carried out on a war footing to ensure handover on or before Republic Day, January 26, officials said.

Supervising the works at Hollongi police check gate on Tuesday, Kenge Construction PA Holder Lokam Nai stated that the check gates are designed with several facilities to ensure that security personnel do not face any inconvenience. The gates feature separate entry and exit points, along with office facilities for police personnel on both sides.

The project, undertaken under the Itanagar Smart City initiative at an estimated cost of around ₹ 2.4 crore, faced delays due to technical, local and other challenges, which Nai regretted. "We are working with our best efforts to complete the work at the earliest and are targeting completion on or before Republic Day," he said.

He added that finishing works are underway but have been slightly slowed due to continuous vehicle movement around the clock. Once completed, the two check gates will be dedicated to public service under the Itanagar Smart City project.

Tawang observes National Consumer Day 2025



HT Correspondent

TAWANG, Dec 24: The Department of Legal Metrology and Consumer Affairs, Tawang district, observed National Consumer Day 2025 with enthusiasm and active public participation at the Government Higher Secondary School, Tawang. The programme witnessed the presence of students, teachers, officials and local residents, creating a vibrant atmosphere of learning and awareness.

The event was formally inaugurated by Keshang Tashi, District Consumer Protection Officer-cum-Inspector of Legal Metrology, who extended a warm welcome to the gathering. In his address, he highlighted the significance of National Consumer Day and traced the evolution of the consumer rights

movement in India. He elaborated on the fundamental rights guaranteed to consumers under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 and urged citizens to become informed and responsible consumers.

The programme featured insightful sessions by two distinguished guest speakers from the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Advocate Lobsang Tsering and Advocate Lham Dorjee.

Advocate Lobsang Tsering, a seasoned consumer rights advocate, shared real-life experiences and notable cases, illustrating the impact of consumer awareness in protecting public interest. His address inspired students and participants to recognise the power of informed decision-making.

Advocate Lham Dorjee delivered an informative session on consumer awareness, explaining the step-by-step procedure for filing consumer complaints and interpreting key provisions of the Consumer Protection Act. His presentation equipped the audience with practical knowledge on seeking legal redressal.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Tsomu, Principal (in-charge) of GHSS Tawang, who expressed sincere appreciation to the speakers, organisers, students and all participants for making the event a success. The observance of National Consumer Day at Tawang reaffirmed the collective commitment to building a society of informed, aware and empowered consumers.

Streets, homes and churches celebrate with lights, prayers and festive joy Nagaland Glows for Christmas



HT Correspondent
DIMAPUR, Dec 24: Nagaland is decked up with shiny stars and sparkling lights to celebrate

Christmas on Thursday, with homes, churches, business houses and streets glowing with warmth, faith and celebration.

In his Christmas greetings, Nagaland Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla said Christmas reminds us of the enduring values of love, compassion, humility, forgiveness and service to humanity, the values that have long guided the people of the state in fostering harmony, resilience and mutual respect.

Chief minister Neiphiu Rio on Wednesday wished everyone a merry and blessed Christmas.

"May this Christmas fill our hearts with peace and our homes with joy. May the message of Jesus Christ guide our lives and strengthen our hope," Rio wrote on his X handle.

As Nagaland is waiting in joyful anticipation to welcome the birth of Christ, the enchanting spirit of Christmas has enveloped every corner of the state, with dazzling lights, colourful decorations and melodious carols fill the air, making the Christmas spirit truly infectious.

Special prayers and Mass were held in churches on the eve of Christmas. Hundreds of believers participated in the Thirupiravi celebrations held in various churches across the State.

Congregations of different denominations gathered in churches for community worship and prayer across the state this morning, dressed in their finest attire and singing hymns of praise.

Exchange of greetings and gifts and visits to friends and dear ones are marking the celebration, while some are expressing their goodwill by visiting the less privileged.

Naga delicacies such as traditional pork and rice dishes are being prepared to be shared with family and friends with the spirit of togetherness and joy on Christmas Day.

In Dimapur, the streets are alive with festive activity as citizens prepare wholeheartedly to welcome Christ.

Arunachal Guv calls for unity, people-centric governance

ITANAGAR, Dec 24: Arunachal Pradesh Governor K T Parnaik on Wednesday called upon people to strengthen unity, uphold compassion and commit themselves to transparent and people-centric governance.

In his Christmas message the governor said the festival, which commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ, stands as a timeless symbol of hope, love and compassion for humanity.

He said Christmas offers an opportunity to reflect on the values of humanism, kindness and service to people, while renewing faith in new beginnings and a better future.

"The spirit of Christmas fosters goodwill, harmony and shared joy, guiding people to live in accordance with the divine purpose of love and peace," Parnaik said.

He expressed hope that people would work together beyond all divisions to build a more vibrant, inclusive and progressive Arunachal Pradesh for the benefit of all.

Extending his wishes to the Christian community in the state and across the world, the governor prayed that the festive season would usher in peace, goodwill and tranquillity throughout Arunachal Pradesh.

In a separate message on the occasion of Good Governance Day, observed to mark the birth anniversary of former prime minister and Bharat Ratna awardee Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Parnaik said the day serves as a reminder of the importance of public accountability and ethical leadership.

He said good governance is the cornerstone of inclusive growth and sustainable development, aimed at improving the quality of life of every citizen.

Emphasising transparency, responsiveness and efficiency in government systems, the governor noted that citizen participation through mechanisms such as social audits and community engagement strengthens trust and democratic governance.

Paying tribute to Vajpayee, Parnaik described him as an exemplary statesman, visionary leader, eloquent orator and distinguished writer, who believed that true empowerment lies in rapid economic growth combined with social progress.

The governor appealed to the people of the state to embrace and uphold the principles of good governance in letter and spirit and to work collectively in the service of the nation and the greater public good. (PTI)

Two militants among six arrested in Manipur

IMPHAL, Dec 24: Six people, including two militants and two alleged arms dealers were arrested from various locations in Manipur's valley districts, police said on Wednesday.

One active cadre of the banned Prepak (G-5) was apprehended from Keibi Heikak Mapan in Imphal East district on Tuesday, a police statement said.

A 45-year-old member of the proscribed Peoples' Liberation Army was arrested from his residential locality at Kakching Khunou in Kakching district, it said.

Two persons were held on Tuesday after arms and ammunition were recovered from their possession in areas under the Porompat Police Station limits in Imphal East, the statement said.

Two alleged arms smugglers were arrested from Keibi Awang Leikai Yaibirel in Imphal East district, it said.

Search operations have been conducted in Manipur since ethnic violence broke out two years ago.

More than 260 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in ethnic violence between Meiteis and Kuki-Zo groups since May 2023.

The Centre had, on February 13, imposed the president's rule in the state after Chief Minister N Biren Singh resigned.

The state assembly, which has tenure till 2027, has been put under suspended animation. (PTI)

'It's never a nice place to be in when, not only the media world but also the social media world, is just piling on top of you'

Team official investigates drinking by England cricketers on Ashes tour as Duckett video emerges

MELBOURNE, Dec 24: England's managing director of men's cricket Rob Key says he will investigate the drinking habits of the England team following reports that their mid-Ashes beach resort break may have involved over-indulging of alcohol.

England lost each of the first three tests to allow Australia to retain the Ashes in just 11 days of on-field action.

The England squad visited the resort town of Noosa on the Sunshine Coast north of Brisbane between the second and third tests, a long-planned part of the itinerary designed to help players relax and unwind on the long tour.

A video emerged on Tuesday which appeared to show England's opening batter Ben Duckett unable to remember how to get back to the hotel.

In the video posted on X, Duckett was apparently talking with a group of people. When a woman asked if he knew how to get home, he allegedly replied "No" and the conversation then continues with Duckett appearing disorientated.

Another video posted on social media showed batter Jacob Bethell dancing in a club. Bethell, however, has not played in the test series so far.

According to multiple reports, the England and Wales Cricket Board said in a statement that it was aware of content circulating online but that it would not comment further until it had established the facts.

England captain and star all-rounder Ben Stokes said at a media conference Wednesday that the mental health of the English



players was his top priority. "It's never a nice place to be in when, not only the media world but also the social media world, is just piling on top of you. It's a very tough place to be in as an individual," Stokes said.

"When you're 3-0 down and you've lost the series, everything you say, everything you do gets scrutinized — and rightly so. You don't really have a leg to stand on when you've lost three games in a huge series like this. When you win, everything's great, when you're losing, it's not."

Duckett has been one of test cricket's most productive openers in the past couple of years at test level and in the shorter one day international format.

He entered the series with six test hundreds and was touted by some observers to make an impact in Australia with his crisp and decisive stroke-making. But his tendency to rarely leave the ball coincided with his form dipping considerably during the Ashes series, with a top score of 29 from six innings. In the third test, Duckett was finding his free-flowing form with 29 scored from 30 balls before being bowled by premier spinner Nathan Lyon playing a somewhat defensive shot.

In the second innings, with England trying to save the match and the series, Duckett lasted two balls. He hit a fine four off Pat Cummins and was then caught off the next

'When you're 3-0 down and you've lost the series, everything you say, everything you do gets scrutinized — and rightly so. You don't really have a leg to stand on when you've lost three games in a huge series like this. When you win, everything's great, when you're losing, it's not'

delivery from Cummins when he played a shot well away from his body.

Key, who did not join the players in Noosa, earlier said he had no problem with the break, but would not be happy if he found evidence of over-indulging.

"If there's things where people are saying that our players went out and drank excessively, then of course we'll be looking into that," he said Tuesday in Melbourne, where the fourth test begins Friday.

"Drinking excessive amounts of alcohol for an international cricket team is not something that I'd expect to see at any stage and it would be a fault not to look into what happened there. From everything that I've heard so far, they actually were pretty well behaved. Very well behaved." (AP)

Cam Green should just keep things simple in Tests: Ponting on under-performing all-rounder

MELBOURNE, Dec 24: The legendary Ricky Ponting has advised tall Australian all-rounder Cameron Green to keep things simple and not over analyse or tinker with his game in order to find the right approach in Tests.

Green, who recently became the costliest overseas buy in IPL history at the mini auction after being purchased by Kolkata Knight Riders for a ₹ 25.20 crore, has had an underwhelming Ashes series against England. While Australia have already clinched the Ashes after winning the first three Tests, Green has scored just 76 runs and picked up two wickets.

"Apparently, he's a very deep thinker about his own game and likes to tinker with things a lot," former Australia captain Ponting said on the ICC Review.

"But if I had some advice for him, it'd be just keep things as simple as you can, think about what you've done at domestic cricket and take your domestic game to the Test match and back it in for a while," he added.

Green, who made his debut against India five years back in Adelaide, has so far played 35 Tests with the pace-bowling all-rounder taking 37 wickets and chipping in with 1,641 runs at an average of around 33.

With numbers not quite adding up, Ponting believes the 26-year-old Green's contribution is hard to measure at this stage of his career.

"It's actually quite hard to get a gauge on him yet as an international player. He averages under 30 in Australia now. His career averages just over 30. "He's made two Test match hundreds in 30-odd Test matches. He's had back surgery, and his bowling pace is probably not quite what it was 12 months ago," opined Ponting.

However, the legend sounded quite optimistic about Green, saying the all-rounder's skills do underline his potential in the Baggy

Green. "But there is a very complete package there if it all comes together. And we've seen him play some pretty remarkable innings."

"He made an incredible 100 in New Zealand last year. He's got 100 in India as well, albeit on a very, very flat pitch."

Green scored his maiden Test century in Ahmedabad, scoring 114 after coming in at a tricky situation, while his best effort followed a year later in March 2024, when he hammered an unbeaten 174 in Wellington to guide Australia to a 172-run win.

"Talking to the players, talking to the coaching staff, they absolutely love what he brings to the group, said Ponting. "The biggest challenge he has is, he's just got to find out the right way and right style for him to play, work out what's going to work for him, and then commit to that and stick to it for a long period of time."

Ponting, however, said that Australia persisting with Green in the ongoing Ashes had impacted the chances of another tall all-rounder Beau Webster.

"But the unfortunate player in this whole Australian summer so far has been Beau Webster. He didn't do much wrong in the games that he played. Certainly, in Australia, in his debut game, he was very good," said Ponting. "Then had to go to the West Indies, where the wickets were very, very challenging for all batters. And he got undone by a couple of almost unplayable deliveries over there."

"He got injured at the start of the Australian summer and missed a couple of Shield games, which probably didn't help because he didn't get the same sort of run-in and runs under his belt as someone like Labuschagne did. Unfortunately, Beau didn't have that, and as I said, I actually feel a bit for him, and he might be the one that they're thinking about in that No.7 slot as well." (PTI)

Jumbo Ozaki dies of cancer at age 78

TOKYO, Dec 24: Masashi "Jumbo" Ozaki, whose 113 worldwide victories were the most of any player from Japan, died Wednesday in his home country after a battle with colon cancer, the Japan Golf Tour said. He was 78.

Ozaki was revered in Japan, a big hitter with a sense of style who won 94 times over 29 years on the Japan Golf Tour, the last one coming at the 2002 ANA Open when he was 55.

He rose to No. 5 in the world ranking in 1996 at age 49. Ozaki often got overlooked for never winning outside Japan except for the New Zealand PGA Championship. He was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 2011.

"He is an indispensable, one-of-a-kind figure in discussing men's golf, both now and in the future," the tour said in a social media post.

Ozaki competed in 49 majors, his best finish coming in the 1989 U.S. Open at Oak Hill when he finished three shots behind Curtis Strange. He played the Masters for the 19th and final time in 2000 when he was 53 and tied for 28th.

Isao Aoki was the first Japanese player in the World Golf Hall of Fame, and Hideki Matsuyama became the first to win a major at the 2021 Masters. Both were inspired in some fashion by Ozaki, the pioneer in a nation now obsessed with golf. Ozaki won the Japan Open five times and the Japan PGA Championship six times. (AP)

Amol sir always tells the team that everyone should be ready to bowl: Shafali Verma

VISAKHAPATNAM, Dec 24: India Women opener Shafali Verma has emphasised on preparing for every role in the team, saying all batters regularly bowl in the nets to train themselves for different match situations, which is in sync with the philosophy of head coach Amol Muzumdar.

Shafali smashed a 34-ball 69 to power India to a seven-wicket victory in the second T20I against Sri Lanka here on Tuesday, giving the home team a 2-0 lead in the five-match rubber.

When the discussion turned to bowling op-

tions at the post-match media conference, she said, "Of course, I will talk about myself. I like to bowl a lot, and I think when we get bored while fielding, we get to bowl. So, we get to contribute more to the team."

She added, "Amol sir always tells the team that anyone can bowl and everyone should be ready, and we all keep bowling in the nets. We prepare for that, we all are very keen to bowl. Even Smriti didi did as well. Me and Jemimah are also bowling in the nets."

"So, I think we all bowl. Cricket is a different

game. You never know when the team will need you. So we all have to be ready for that."

Shafali's unbeaten 69 is now her career-best WT20I score in India. This was her fifth half-century in home conditions and 12th overall in the format.

The Indians have been sloppy on the field of late, dropping catches that ought to be taken, but Shafali said the team has been working very hard to improve in that vital department of the game with the World Cup scheduled next summer in the UK. (PTI)

Pooran, Waseem put MI Emirates in playoffs with victory over Gulf Giants

ABU DHABI, Dec 24: Nicholas Pooran and Mohammad Waseem struck brisk half-centuries as MI Emirates sealed a playoff berth with a comfortable eight-wicket win over Gulf Giants in the World ILT20 at the Zayed Cricket Stadium here.

An impressive bowling performance, coupled with Pooran and Waseem's unbeaten 140-run stand in just 89 balls secured their fourth straight win with 21 balls to spare on Tuesday. Chasing 142, MI Emirates were 58/2 in 10 overs, before Pooran and Waseem smashed 84 runs in the next 6.3 overs. Waseem carried the bat with 59 runs in 42 balls, hitting three fours and three sixes, while Pooran scored an unbeaten 69 in just 49 balls, smashing six sixes and three fours.

For the Giants Moeen Ali's 51 runs in 48 balls went in vain.

In the second innings, Mark Adair set the tone when he trapped Jonny Bairstow LBW (0 off 3), before Azmatullah Omarzai removed Tom Banton (0 off 5) reducing MI Emirates to 2/2 within the first two overs.

Pooran and Waseem rotated the strike effectively, finding the odd boundary. Pooran began accelerating post the 10th over and brought up his half-century in 43 balls with a boundary in the 14th over.

After completing a 100-run partnership with Pooran in just 74 balls, Waseem bagged his own half-century in just 38 balls, his first of the season. At the 15th over mark, MI Emirates needed 27 runs in 30 balls. The duo closed out the win with ease, with Pooran hitting back-to-back sixes in the 16th over to bring the scores level before Waseem calmly completed the chase. (PTI)

Sheetal shines, but recurve concerns linger in Indian Archery 2025

KOLKATA, Dec 24: Sheetal Devi's trail-blazing feats despite being born without arms stood out as she lifted Indian archery to new heights in 2025, but the sport was also pulled back by familiar cracks in recurve inconsistencies and administrative concerns ahead of next year's Asian Games.

Hailing from Jammu's Kishtwar, the 18-year-old Sheetal was a personification of grit through the year with solid performances.

Already a Paralympic bronze-medallist from Paris 2024, the 18-year-old reached unprecedented heights by becoming the first female armless world champion in para archery.

At the World Para Archery Championships in Gwangju, South Korea, Sheetal struck gold in the women's compound open event, defeating Paralympic champion Oznu Cure Girdi of Turkey in the final.

She also added a team silver and a mixed team bronze to cap a remarkable campaign.

Born without arms due to a rare congenital condition called phocomelia, Sheetal pushed boundaries further by qualifying for her first able-bodied international competition.

Competing against more than 60 able-bodied archers at the national selection trials in Sonapat, Sheetal finished third in the final women's compound rankings to earn a spot in India's junior team for the Asia Cup Stage 3 in Jeddah, which was later delayed due to scheduling issues.

Compound archery's Olympic mo-



Sheetal Devi competing in archery.

Asian high: Dominance in Dhaka
India enjoyed one of its finest continental outings at the Asian Archery Championships in Dhaka, topping the medal table with 10 medals -- six gold, three silver and one bronze.

The performance included several historic moments, highlighted by India dethroning traditional powerhouse South Korea in multiple events.

Ankita Bhakat claimed the women's recurve individual gold, while Dhiraj Bommadevara secured the men's recurve title, marking the first time India won both the recurve individual gold medals at the Asian Championships.

The men's recurve team also stunned Korea in a dramatic shoot-off to break their long-standing dominance, signalling a rare shift in the Asian archery power balance.

However, the achievement came against a second-string Korean side featuring Seo Mingi, Kim Yecheon and Jang Jiho, with aces such as Kim Woojin missing, meaning India's true test will arrive at the Asian Games in a year's time.

Despite the success in Dhaka, India's recurve archers endured a difficult year globally.

Deepika's decline
Ankita produced the biggest win of her career in Dhaka, stunning Paris 2024 Olympic silver medallist Nam Suhyeon 7-3 in the women's recurve final.

In the road to the historic gold, she edged past senior teammate and former world number one Deepika Kumari in a tight semifinal.



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