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THE HILLS TIMES

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM GUWAHATI & DIPHU

Voice of the hills people

Vol .No. XXVI

Issue No. 320

RNI-ASSENG/2000/12862

DIPHU, KARBI ANGLONG, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2025

PAGES 8

PRICE ₹ 8

Tezpur varsity deadlock continues ● Agitating students firm on demand for removal of VC

Senior-most faculty takes charge as acting VC

TEZPUR, Dec 5: In a dramatic turn of events at Tezpur University, which has been under complete shutdown for the last seven days, the senior-most faculty member assumed charge as acting vice chancellor suo-motu on Friday, citing the varsity's laws.

The new 'acting VC' Dhruva Kumar Bhattacharyya said he is making arrangements to hold the stalled end-term exams from December 8, though the agitating students declared that the shutdown would continue till their demand, the ouster of incumbent Vice Chancellor Shambhu Nath Singh, is met.

The BoM meeting, however, was called illegal by a section of the faculty.

The situation started changing rapidly after the VC, against whom the agitation has been taking place



since mid-September, called for a Board of Management (BoM) meeting online on Thursday afternoon and subsequently appointed Mass Communication professor Joya Chakraborty as the pro-VC. Chakraborty refused to accept

the role, and the Tezpur University United Forum (TUUF), under whose aegis the agitation has been taking place, decided to continue its indefinite shutdown of the central varsity in Assam's Sonitpur district. The shutdown started on

November 29. The protesters have been demanding the removal of Singh over corruption charges.

In late-night developments, the entire university community came together and decided to apply the Tezpur University Act, 1993, suo motu, a senior professor said.

Accordingly, the central university's senior-most faculty member Dhruva Kumar Bhattacharyya assumed charge as the acting VC with immediate effect, he said.

Bhattacharyya, a professor of Computer Science and Engineering, then wrote to the Secretary of the Higher Education Department of the Union Ministry of Education, and apprised him of the latest development, citing the relevant clauses of the Act. "In view of the long absence of the Vice Chancellor, non-functioning of the Office of the (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Eviction drive conducted in Nagaon

HT Correspondent
NAGAON, Dec 5: As part of the Assam government's ongoing efforts to free government land and reserved forest areas from encroachment, the Nagaon district administration and police on Friday jointly carried out a major eviction drive at Rupahihat Bhakatgaon under the Samaguri revenue circle.

The operation, which began at 8 am, targeted the clearance of approximately 38 bighas of grazing-reserve land.

The area had been occupied by 86 families who had constructed houses and were residing there illegally.

Notices were issued a month ago by the Samaguri revenue circle officer directing the encroachers to vacate the land, prompting many to leave beforehand.

During Friday's exercise, around 100 pucca and kutchha houses were demolished. The eviction drive concluded (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Chargesheet to be filed before Dec 18 deadline: CM

Zubeen death case: SIT completes probe ● Meeting with Advocate General held to fix next step



HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, Dec 5: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday said the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the death of Assamese singer Zubeen Garg will file its chargesheet between December 6 and December 12, well ahead of the court-mandated deadline of December 18.

Sarma said timely submission was "crucial" as any delay beyond the stipulated date could enable the accused to seek bail.

Speaking to reporters, the Chief Minister said the investigation had been completed and the SIT had compiled nearly 3,500 pages of documents. A meeting with the Advocate General was held to finalise the next steps, he added.

"The chargesheet will be filed within the specified timeframe," Sarma said, noting that the state would also request a fast-track court from the Gauhati High Court to expedite trial proceedings.

The SIT, headed by Special DGP (CID) Munna Prasad Gupta, has been working intensively since Garg's death in Singapore on Sep-

tember 19. Investigating officer Rosie Kalita and a nine-member team reportedly worked till late night over the past week to consolidate evidence, witness testimonies and forensic records.

Sarma reiterated that the probe treats the case as murder, diverging from Singapore Police's preliminary assessment that did not indicate foul play.

The chargesheet will include statements from nearly 300 individuals, including complainants and Garg's wife, Garima. It will also incorporate partial reports from Singapore Police and medical authorities, findings from Assam-based forensic experts, and accounts of those present at the North East India Festival where the singer was supposed to perform before he accidentally passed away in a sea outing.

Seven individuals remain in judicial custody, including festival organiser Shyamkanu Mahanta, manager Siddharth Sharma, Assam Police DSP and cousin Sandipan Garg, drummer Shekhar-jyoti (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Assam's black tea finds place in PM's gifts to Putin



NEW DELHI, Dec 5: Flavourful Assam black tea, Kashmiri saffron, a handcrafted silver horse, an ornate tea set and a Russian edition of the Bhagavad Gita are among the gifts Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

A copy of the Srimad Bhagavad Gita presents Lord Krishna's guidance to Arjuna on duty, the eternal soul and spiritual liberation during the battle of the Mahabharata.

Its timeless wisdom inspires ethical living, mind control and inner peace, with translations making it accessible to modern readers worldwide, officials said. Grown in the fertile Brahma-

putra plains, Assam black tea is prized for its robust malty flavour, bright liquor and traditional processing using the 'Assamica' variety.

Recognised with a GI tag in 2007, it represents a rich heritage shaped by land, climate and craft.

Beyond its cultural legacy, it is also valued for potential health benefits, making each cup both comforting and wholesome.

The ornate Murshidabad silver tea set, crafted with intricate engravings, reflects the rich artistry of West Bengal and the deep cultural importance of tea in both India and Russia.

Gifted with affection, the set celebrates (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

NDA looking to finalise seat-sharing arrangement for Assam polls by mid-Jan: CM

UMRANGSO, Dec 5: The BJP-led NDA is looking to finalise its seat-sharing arrangement for the Assam assembly elections by mid-January, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Friday.

Apart from the BJP, the other NDA constituents in the state are Asom Gana Parishad (AGP), United People's Party Liberal (UPPL) and Bodoland People's Front (BPF) -- all of whom have representation in the assembly.

Rabha Hasong Joutha Sangram Samiti (RHSS) and Janashakti Party (JP) are also part of the NDA, but these parties do not have any MLAs. "Before Magh Bihu, I feel we will complete our discussion with AGP regarding poll alliance and seat sharing agreement," Sarma told reporters on the sidelines of an official function here.

He said in the same manner, the BJP's talks with the RHSS and JP will also be over by Magh Bihu, which is usually celebrated on January 13-15.

"My target is that all understandings with our allies should be formalised by January 15," he said.

The assembly elections would be due in Assam in March-April.

In the 126-member House, the ruling BJP has 64 MLAs, AGP has nine, UPPL has seven, and BPF has three members.

In the opposition camp, the Congress has 26 members, AIUDF has 15 members, and CPI(M) has one MLA. There is also an Independent legislator. (PTI)

Mizoram to sign pact with section of Hmar militants: CM

AIZAWL, Dec 5: Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma on Friday said his government would soon sign a pact with a faction of Hmar militants to restore peace in the state.

Addressing the general assembly of Hmar Students' Association (HSA) and Sikipui Ruoi festival at Saipum in Kolasib district near the Assam border, Lalduhoma said negotiations are in progress with Lalhmingthanga Sanate faction of Hmar People's Convention (Democratic) to bring back the cadres to normal life.

"We are hopeful that we can soon sign an agreement to restore peace in Mizoram, particularly in Hmar-dominated areas," he said.

The HPC (D) had earlier demanded an autonomous district council under the sixth schedule of the constitution by carving out Hmar-dominated villages in the northeastern part of Mizoram, adjoining Manipur.

However, the H Zosangabera (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

CM inaugurates state-of-the-art cricket stadium at Umrangso

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Dec 5: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday inaugurated a state-of-the-art cricket stadium at Umrangso in Dima Hasao district, featuring an earthen gallery with a seating capacity of 15,000.

Developed by the Assam Cricket Association (ACA), the facility also includes the newly built Senga Tularam Pavilion.

The project aligns with the State government's focus on nurturing sports talent and strengthening Assam's sporting infrastruc-

ture.

The stadium, for which the foundation stone was laid on September 25, 2021, is set amid a scenic landscape and includes five centre wickets, a practice arena with five dedicated pitches, eight residential quarters for staff, and a pavilion capable of accommodating 32 players.

Addressing the inauguration programme, the chief minister announced that a new football stadium would soon be constructed adjacent to the cricket ground, forming a vibrant twin-stadium sports

complex in Umrangso.

He said the government aims to host matches featuring national-level players in the near future and added that night matches at the venue would significantly enhance the spectator experience.

Sarma urged BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia, ACA president Taranga Gogoi and North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council CEM Debolal Gorlosa to take steps to install floodlights at the stadium.

He further announced that a synthetic track would be (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Union min unveils projects worth over ₹645 cr in Nagaland
Scindia participates in Hornbill fest

KOHIMA, Dec 5: Union Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia on Friday took part in the traditional Angami Naga stone-pulling ceremony at Tuophema village, the home of Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio in Kohima district, as part of the 26th Hornbill Festival.

Scindia, dressed in traditional Angami attire, along with his son, joined Rio, deputy chief ministers Y Patton and T R Zeliang and thousands of people in the traditional stone-pulling ceremony.

Stone pulling is a culturally revered act of the Angami Nagas. The stone, weighing more than 30 tonnes, was pulled for almost 2 km with the traditional yodelling by the Naga communities.

Scindia, the Union Minister for Communications and



DoNER, described the ceremony as "a very important day for all, not only for Tuophema village but for the people of Nagaland and the entire country".

After the ceremony, the minister toured the village and also unveiled an extensive develop-

ment package focused on strengthening connectivity, infrastructure, and public services across the state.

He inaugurated five completed projects worth over ₹202 crore and also laid the foundation stones for 11 new projects worth more than ₹443

crore, covering healthcare, sports, innovation, energy, and major road development.

Highlighting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for the Northeast, Scindia said the Act East Policy has accelerated development across the region, boosting infrastructure, healthcare, innovation, and youth-driven growth.

He noted that more projects are in the pipeline and will be advanced in coordination with Rio.

Rio lauded the progress achieved under the DoNER ministry, highlighting the impact of flagship schemes such as NESIDS-OTRI, NESIDS-Roads, and PM-DevINE, noting improvements in roads, bridges, water supply, healthcare, education, and digital infrastructure. (PTI)

অসম চৰকাৰ

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'Dangerous precedent': ALPA India slams DGCA's 'selective, unsafe' breather to IndiGo

MUMBAI, Dec 5: Pilots' body Airlines' Pilots Association (ALPA) India on Friday took "strong" objection to safety regulator DGCA's "selective and unsafe" relief to domestic carrier IndiGo, amid widescale cancellations, saying the decision sets a dangerous precedent.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) earlier in the day granted IndiGo temporary exemption from stricter night duty rules for pilots.

In a letter to the DGCA on Friday, ALPA-India said the decision not only sets a "dangerous precedent" but also undermines the very principle and purpose of the civil aviation requirement under which the norms have been formulated.

It also said on the pretext of passenger inconvenience, IndiGo is seeking relief despite having knowingly increased their winter operations while being fully aware of the implementation of the second phase of the pilots' flight duty and rest period norms.

ALPA India had on Wednesday alleged that this (IndiGo) cancelling huge number of flights is pointing to a "failure of proactive resource planning by dominant airlines, potentially exacerbated by an effort to pressurise the regulator to dilute the new FDTL norms for commercial gain".

And on Thursday, the DGCA in a statement said it has directed the airline to submit the flight duty time limitation (FDTL) relaxations required to normalise the flight operations, after the airline informed the regulator that "it was facing



significant transitional challenges in roster planning and crew availability under phase-2 FDTL requirement".

IndiGo was the first carrier to oppose the new FDTL norms for pilots when they were introduced in January 2024 with March 2024 as the timeline for implementation.

The latest FDTL norms, which entail increased weekly rest periods to 48 hours, extended night hours, and limiting the number of night landings to only two, as against six earlier, were initially also opposed by domestic airlines, including IndiGo and Tata Group-owned Air India.

But they were subsequently rolled out by the DGCA following the Delhi High Court's directives, albeit with a delay of over one year, in a phased manner, and with certain variations for airlines like IndiGo and Air India.

was unequivocally agreed that no dispensation, exemption, or variation, particularly those motivated by commercial interests would be granted to any operator."

"The consensus was clear: FDTL norms exist solely to safeguard human life, and any dilution of these limits would expose pilots, passengers, and aircraft to unacceptable risks. Yet, in complete contradiction to this understanding, your office has extended selective dispensation to IndiGo for Phase II implementation, allowing them to operate beyond the safety envelope prescribed by the CAR," it said.

Interestingly, at the time of implementation of these regulations, then Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia had said "these changes -- that are very much in line with international best practices --? will ensure India has the necessary arsenal, as it prepares to clinch the largest domestic aviation market title in the future."

"What is even more alarming is that Phase II itself already includes many dispensations tailor made to the operators selectively, intended as a transitional relaxation to assist operators. Despite this built-in relief, your office has granted further selective dispensations exclusively to IndiGo, creating a situation where an operator already benefiting from relaxed provisions is given additional layers of relaxation on top of it, without any safety justification. Such a precedent is not only indefensible but also dangerous," the pilots body said. (PTI)

"By granting selective exemptions to IndiGo, the DGCA has opened the door for all other operators to cite their own operational, commercial, or scheduling reasons to demand similar dispensations," ALPA India said in its Friday statement.

"It also said that if dispensations can be granted based on each operator's requirements, then the relevance, authority, and intent of the FDTL CAR is defeated entirely." Stating that the decision has been taken despite repeated representations, formal letters, and direct discussions with the DGCA office, ALPA India said, "During our meeting on November 24, it

Home, auto loans to get cheaper as RBI cuts interest rates to support 'goldilocks' economy

MUMBAI, Dec 5: Home, auto and other loans are likely to cost less as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday cut key benchmark interest rate for the first time in six months and vowed to provide Rs 1 lakh crore liquidity boost to banking sector to support a "goldilocks" economy in the face of high US tariffs.

The six-member monetary policy committee, led by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra, voted unanimously to lower the repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.25 per cent and retained a neutral stance, which gave room for further rate cuts.

The step is being seen as lending support to the economy that has been hit hard by the steep 50 per cent tariff US President Donald Trump slapped on Indian goods.

The move had already led to a dip in export and widening of trade deficit as well as pushed rupee to a record low.

RBI's move will supplement government efforts in lending support to the economy in form of biggest GST reforms, relaxing labour rules and easing financial sector regulations.

A cut in the repo rate will lead to lower borrowing costs for individuals as well as corporate because it reduces the interest banks pay to borrow from the RBI. With cheaper funding, banks can lower lending rates such as MCLR and base rates, making home, auto, and business loans more affordable. This reduces EMIs, encourages consumers and businesses to borrow more, and supports economic activity.

The RBI also reiterated its commitment to providing adequate liquidity to the banking system as it announced intention to conduct open market purchases of government bonds up to Rs 1 lakh crore in two tranches of ₹ 50,000 crore each on 11th and 18th December and a buy-sell swap of USD 5 billion on 16th December.

Both measures will add durable liquidity at a time when

banks face seasonal liquidity pressures.

This is the fourth rate cut by the central bank since February 2025, taking the total to 125 basis points. It held rates in August and October bimonthly monetary policy meetings.

"Inflation at a benign 2.2 per cent and growth at 8.0 per cent in H1:2025-26 (April-September of 2025-26 fiscal year) present a rare goldilocks period," Malhotra said announcing the monetary policy decisions.

The RBI lowered its inflation forecast for the fiscal year through March to 2 per cent from 2.6 per cent, while raising its GDP growth projection to 7.3 per cent, from the previous estimate of 6.8 per cent.

While economic growth has remained strong, India's economy has since October experienced rapid disinflation leading to a breach of the central bank's lower threshold of tolerance, he said.

"The growth-inflation balance, especially the benign inflation outlook on both headline and core, continues to provide the policy space to support the growth momentum," he said.

"Despite an unfavourable and challenging external environment, the Indian economy has shown remarkable resilience and is poised to register high growth. The headroom provided by the inflation outlook has allowed us to remain growth supportive."

He went on to add that RBI will continue to meet the productive requirements of the economy in a proactive manner while ensuring macroeconomic stability.

Indian exports have plunged after US President Donald Trump slapped a 50 per cent tariff on goods from the country. RBI will conduct open market operations of ₹ 1 lakh crore to buy bonds this month, and another USD 5 billion in forex swaps to add liquidity to the banking system and speed up transmission of lower rates. (PTI)

Contd. from Page 1...

Senior-most faculty

Vice Chancellor and also in view of the current situation prevailing in the campus, ...I, Prof Dhruba Kumar Bhattacharyya, Senior-most Professor of the University, hereby assume the charge of the Office of the Vice Chancellor as the Acting Vice Chancellor with effect from 04.12.2025," he said in the letter.

Bhattacharyya also cited the written reply to a query raised by Congress MP Pradyut Bordoloi in Lok Sabha on December 1 regarding the ongoing unrest at Tezpur University.

In his reply, Union Minister of State for Education Sukanta Majumdar said: "Central Universities are autonomous institutions established under Acts of Parliament and governed in accordance with the provisions of their respective Acts, Statutes, and Ordinances."

As per the Tezpur University Act, if the Office of the VC becomes vacant, the Pro-VC shall perform the duties of the VC, he added.

"It further provides that if the Pro-Vice-Chancellor is not available, the senior-most Professor shall perform the duties of the Vice-Chancellor until a new Vice-Chancellor assumes office or until the existing Vice-Chancellor attends to the duties of his office, as the case may be," Majumdar said in Parliament.

He also said that the Fact-Finding Committee constituted by the Assam Governor has already submitted its report to the Governor, who is the ex-officio Chancellor of Tezpur University.

PTI has accessed all the documents and letters exchanged since the BOM meeting on Thursday.

Bhattacharyya told reporters in the afternoon that he has taken steps to conduct the exams that were supposed to be held from December 3.

"I have as spoken to the deans. In the next step, I'll talk to the heads of the departments. My concern is to hold the end-term examination from December 8," he said.

The students, however, sought to continue the agitation.

"Our shutdown continues until our demands are met. The VC must be removed and an inquiry must be ordered," an agitating student said.

While talking to PTI, a senior professor claimed that everyone associated with the central university was waiting for some positive message from the ministry during the protest period.

"But it remained a mute spectator. In fact, the authorities got involved in an ugly game in collusion with VC Singh and appointed a pro-VC yesterday in the illegal BOM meeting," the professor alleged.

The university fraternity is not ready to accept anything other than the removal of Singh, and as he has been an absentee from the campus for almost three months, an acting VC took charge as per the Act, the faculty member said.

An agitating student said the protest and 'shutdown' will continue unless an enquiry into the alleged corruption and other forms of irregularities of VC is ordered.

"It doesn't end our long-standing movement as our primary demand is a Supreme Court-level enquiry against Prof Singh and his suspension till the results," he added.

The students of this central varsity have shut down all services, including all forms of academic activities, in the campus from November 29 for an indefinite period, forcing the administration to cancel all end-term examinations.

The Tezpur University Teachers' Association (TUTA) and Tezpur University Non-Teaching Employees' Association (TUNTEA) have extended their full support to the agitation, being carried out under the aegis of Tezpur University United Forum (TUUF), thereby making the university non-functional for the last seven days. (PTI)

Eviction drive conducted

peacefully, with nearly 400 police personnel deployed to maintain law and order.

District Commissioner Debashish Sarma, Senior Superintendent of Police Swapnil Deka, and other senior officials from the district administration and police were present at the site during the operation.

Chargesheet to be

Goswami, co-singer Amrit Prabha Mahanta, and PSOs Paresh Baishya and Nandeswar Borah. Investigators are also probing alleged financial irregularities, including transactions exceeding ₹1.1 crore in accounts linked to the PSOs.

With public sentiment running high over the death of the 52-year-old cultural icon, the state government maintains that the SIT will proceed strictly on evidence while ensuring the chargesheet withstands judicial scrutiny.

Assam's black tea

the enduring India-Russia friendship and the timeless ritual of tea, the officials said.

The handcrafted silver horse from Maharashtra, adorned with intricate detailing, showcases the finesse of India's metal craft traditions.

Symbolising dignity and valour celebrated in both Indian and Russian cultures, it reflects shared heritage and mutual respect, the officials said.

The poised and forward-moving stance of the handcrafted horse serves as a metaphor for the enduring and ever-advancing India-Russia partnership.

The handcrafted marble chess set from Agra blends fine craftsmanship with functional elegance, highlighting the region's stone inlay heritage under the 'One District One Product' (ODOP) initiative.

Kashmiri saffron, locally known as Kong or Zaffran, cultivated in the highlands of Kashmir, is prized for its rich colour, aroma and flavour, and holds deep cultural and culinary significance. (PTI)

Mizoram to sign

faction of HPC(D) signed a peace accord with the Mizoram government in April 2018, which led to the birth of Sinlung Hills Council (SHC) for the people of Hmar-dominated villages in the northeastern part of the state.

Another faction headed by Sanate is mainly based and active in Assam's Cachar district. (PTI)

CM inaugurates State

laid at the proposed football stadium with full State funding.

The ACA has spent ₹11 crore on the cricket facility, he said, thanking the association for its efforts.

The chief minister also highlighted recent recruitment successes, noting that over 100 youths from Dima Hasao secured government jobs in the latest Assam Police recruitment drive.

Another recruitment cycle will begin soon, he said, encouraging local youth to prepare themselves physically.

Citing the example of Uma Chetry of Bokakhat—who rose from a small village to represent India in the Women's Cricket World Cup—Sarma said that with proper support, many more talented sports persons will emerge from remote districts like Dima Hasao.

With the cricketing ecosystem developing in Umrangso, several promising players are expected to gain prominence in the next five to ten years, he added.

Comparing the new facility to similar stadiums in Himachal Pradesh, the chief minister said Umrangso's stadium too would become a cradle of cricketing excellence.

He assured that the State government would continue upgrading sports infrastructure.

Sarma also reviewed development initiatives in Dima Hasao, noting improvements in road connectivity and ongoing efforts to expand schools and colleges.

Calling Umrangso one of the most beautiful regions of Assam with vast tourism potential, he emphasised the need for collective efforts to accelerate its growth.

Sports Minister Nandita Gorlosa, ACA president and MLA Taranga Gogoi, NCHAC CEM Debola Gorlosa, KAAC CEM Tuliram Ronghang, NCHAC chairman Mohit Hojai, BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia, ACA secretary Sanatan Das and several district council members were present at the event.

Stock markets rally as RBI cuts interest rate; Sensex jumps 447 points



MUMBAI, Dec 5: Stock market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty rallied on Friday after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cut key benchmark interest rate for the first time in six months and took steps to boost liquidity to support a "goldilocks" economy in the face of high US tariffs.

Rising for the second day in a row, the 30-share BSE Sensex advanced 447.05 points, or 0.52 per cent, to settle at 85,712.37. During the day, it jumped 531.4 points, or 0.62 per cent, to 85,796.72.

The 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 152.70 points, or 0.59 per cent, to 26,186.45.

On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark eked out a marginal gain of 5.7 points, while the Nifty dipped 16.5 points. The six-member monetary policy committee, led by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra, voted unanimously to lower the repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.25 per cent and retained a neutral stance, which gives room for further rate cuts.

In doing so, the RBI seems to have shrugged off concerns over fall in the rupee, which breached 90 to a dollar this week. The RBI lowered its inflation forecast for the fiscal year through March to 2 per cent from 2.6 per cent, while raising its GDP growth projection to 7.3 per cent, from the previous estimate of 6.8 per cent.

From the Sensex firms, State Bank of India, Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Finance, Maruti, HCL Tech, Larsen & Toubro, Mahindra & Mahindra and Infosys were among the major winners.

However, Hindustan Unilever, Eternal, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles, and Sun Pharma were among the laggards. Rate-sensitive stocks -- bank, auto and realty -- ended higher.

"Equity markets moved higher as investor sentiment received a major boost after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cut the repo rate by 25 bps and upwardly revised its FY26 GDP forecast to 7.3 per cent from 6.8 per cent, easing concerns over tariff-related pressure on domestic growth," Ponnudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth tech firm, said.

The BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.21 per cent, while smallcap index declined 0.67 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, BSE Focused IT jumped 0.90 per cent, bankex (0.86 per cent), financial services (0.84 per cent), metal (0.74 per cent) and teck (0.73 per cent). However, BSE Services, capital goods, industrials and FMCG were the laggards.

"Indian markets have enthusiastically responded to the RBI's unexpected 25 bps rate cut, a move that seemed unlikely given the strong Q2 GDP data. This surprise, combined with sharply lower inflation forecasts and supportive liquidity measures, has triggered a risk-on sentiment across equities. Rate-sensitive sectors such as autos, real estate, and NBFCs are leading the gains due to reduction in cost," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Ltd, said.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹ 1,944.19 crore on Thursday, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought stocks worth ₹ 3,661.05 crore, according to exchange data.

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

Markets in Europe were trading higher. US markets ended on a flat note on Thursday.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, climbed 0.16 per cent to USD 63.36 per barrel. On Thursday, the Sensex edged higher by 158.51 points, or 0.19 per cent, to settle at 85,265.32. The Nifty climbed 47.75 points, or 0.18 per cent, to 26,033.75. (PTI)

HDFC Bank economist says RBI Rate Cut timely amid growth risks

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Dec 5: HDFC Bank Principal Economist Sakshi Gupta said the Reserve Bank of India's latest rate cut was in line with expectations, noting that the central bank had acted to counter emerging growth risks while benefiting from the monetary space created by low inflation.

She said that although GDP growth climbed above 8% in Q2 FY26, concerns persist over external headwinds affecting exports, and it remains unclear whether the recent festive-season rise in consumption will sustain. In this context, the rate cut "rightly provides a counter-cyclical push to consumption and growth," Gupta said.

According to her, inflation is expected to stay below 4% until mid-year, leaving room for another rate cut should growth weaken in the coming quarters. However, if current economic momentum continues and a favourable trade deal materialises, the latest move could mark the end of the rate-cut cycle. HDFC Bank projects GDP growth at 7.3% in FY26 and 6.5% in FY27, with inflation at 2% in FY26 and 4% in FY27.

Gupta added that durable liquidity infusion through OMO purchases and buy/sell swaps is likely to improve transmission of the rate cut, offsetting the drag from recent foreign exchange interventions and easing some of the upward pressure in the bond market.

RBI's 25 bps rate cut draws positive response from market participants

KOLKATA, Dec 5: The RBI's decision to cut repo rate by 25 basis points drew a positive response from market participants, with the move set to support growth, improve liquidity conditions and help ease pressure on yields.

Announcing the fifth bi-monthly monetary policy for the current fiscal, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has unanimously decided to cut the short-term lending rate or repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.25 per cent with a neutral stance. Edelweiss Life Insurance Chief Investment Officer Ritesh Taksali said the policy "has firmly supported growth" as inflation has cooled and is expected to remain benign over the next year.

He noted that liquidity infusion through open market operations and FX (forex) swaps was necessary as dollar outflows and currency defence had tightened system liquidity.

The RBI on Friday decided to conduct Open Market Operation (OMO) purchases of government securities of ₹ 1 lakh crore this month in a bid to maintain sufficient liquidity in the system.

"RBI's dovish pivot is required to support yields, which have remained under pressure. Structurally, with a rare goldilocks scenario cited by the governor, we could expect stable macroeconomic conditions," Taksali said. "Dovish policy" aims at boosting growth with lower rates and expanded liquidity.

Commenting on the rate-cut announcement, IndiaBonds.com Co-Founder Vishal Goenka said the 25-bps cut was "timely" given recent inflation prints and the lack of transmission of lower rates in the banking system.

"Forward expectations of inflation have come much lower, opening the door for another rate cut if required

before the end of the financial year," he said.

Goenka added that "cheaper funding would aid governments and corporates, while the ₹ 1 lakh crore OMO purchase plan should boost liquidity and flatten the yield curve".

He said the policy backdrop makes it an opportunity to lock in current corporate bond rates in the 2-3 year segment and to consider long-end government bonds for potential gains.

Axis Securities PMS Chief Investment Officer Naveen Kulkarni said the rate cut was widely expected, with the RBI maintaining a neutral stance while lowering its inflation forecast for FY'26 to 2 per cent and raising its growth forecast to 7.3 per cent.

"For banks, the impact on NIMs (net interest margin) should remain manageable, similar to trends seen during the 100 bps reduction between February and June 2025," he said. Kulkarni said credit growth momentum is reviving, supported by consumption demand, while asset quality concerns, particularly in the unsecured segment, are easing.

"Despite the rate cut, we believe the earnings-downgrade cycle is now behind us and expect earnings growth to improve from here on," he added.

The rate cut is expected to make advances, including housing, auto and commercial loans cheaper. Kolkata-based Merlin Group Managing Director Saket Mohta said the reduction in borrowing costs will directly ease the burden on homebuyers.

"The repo rate cut is a welcome move for the real estate sector in Kolkata as we close 2025. It will further reduce EMIs and trigger an uptick in residential sales. Affordable and mid-income housing, which are highly sensitive to interest fluctuations, will benefit the most," he said. (PTI)

ENGINEERING WORKS AT LUMDING DIVISION
E-Tender Notice No. LMG/Engg/80 of 2025; Dated: 03-12-2025. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: **SN. 1. Brief Description of Item:** Improvement to staff amenities by providing new house connection pipe lines under jurisdiction SSE/ WWS/Lumding. **Tender Value:** ₹5,16,82,256/-; **Earnest Money:** ₹4,08,400.00. E-tenders will be closed at 15:00 hrs. on 29-12-2025 and opened at 10:00 hrs. on 30-12-2025. The complete information with tender documents of above e-tender will be available upto 15:00 hrs. of 29-12-2025 in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. **DRM/Works, Lumding**
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers with a smile"

SIGNAL & TELECOM WORK IN LUMDING DIVISION
E-Tender No. SNT-34-LMG-2025-26; Dated: 03-12-2025; E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work; **Name of work :** Carrying out periodical Maintenance and attending failures of 49 Nos. Kiosks for make Environment friendly DG Sets (12.5KVA, 34 nos., 15KVA-13 nos. & 40KVA-02 nos) for a period of 01 (one) year in Manderdisa-Damchara (12.5KVA-34 nos.) & Chandranathpur-Badarpur-Silchar (15KVA-13 nos. & 40KVA-02 nos.) section of Lumding Division. **Tender Value:** ₹22,97,276.89/-; **Bid Security:** ₹46,000/-; Date & time of closing of tender at 15:30 hours on 26-12-2025. Complete information alongwith the tender document of above e-tender will be available in the website www.ireps.gov.in. **DSTE, Lumding**
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers With A Smile"

Multiple MMUA events, foundation stone laying of Madhura Bridge scheduled across Cachar, Hailakandi

CM Sarma on two-day Barak Valley visit from today



HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, Dec 5: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma will embark on a two-day visit to Barak Valley on December 6 and 7, during which he is slated to attend a series of major public programmes across Cachar and Hailakandi districts.

Dr Sarma will arrive in Silchar on December 6 and proceed to Hailakandi to attend a Mukhyamantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyan (MMUA) cheque distribution ceremony at the Hailakandi Mela Field at 11:15 AM. He will return to Cachar later in the day to join another MMUA event at Borjalenga Field under the Dholai constituency at 1:15 PM, where beneficiaries

will receive financial assistance under the state's flagship women's empowerment scheme.

On December 7, the chief minister will lay the foundation stone for the long-awaited Madhura Bridge at 10:30 AM. The bridge is expected to significantly improve inter-district connectivity, reduce traffic congestion and contribute to long-term economic growth in the Barak Valley.

Dr Sarma will then move to Udharbond to attend another MMUA cheque distribution ceremony at the DNHS Field at 11:30 AM. He is scheduled to depart Silchar for Guwahati later in the afternoon, concluding his two-day tour of the region.

Future Youth Leaders Bootcamp held in Barpeta

HT Correspondent
NAGAON, Dec 5: MY Bharat, Barpeta, organised a three-day capacity-building programme titled the Future Youth Leaders Bootcamp at the Barpeta Kalakhetra, aimed at equipping young people with leadership skills, civic awareness and a developmental outlook aligned with the national vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

A total of 35 registered youths participated in the bootcamp, which forms part of the Prime Minister's initiative to involve one lakh young individuals in nation-building and grassroots leadership activities.

The programme was inaugurated in the presence of Dinabandhu Saha, State Director of MY Bharat, Assam Centre and Rajen Talukdar, vice-chairman of Barpeta Municipality. Expert trainers conducted multiple sessions over the three days, guiding participants through modules designed to strengthen their leadership potential and community engagement capabilities.

Akhil warns of unrest over Zubeen probe

Sivasagar MLA alleges govt attempting to divert attention ahead of probe findings

HT Correspondent

SIVASAGAR, Dec 5: Sivasagar MLA Akhil Gogoi on Thursday alleged that the Assam government is not inclined to ensure justice for the family of singer Zubeen and his fans, even as the probe into the artist's mysterious death on September 19 off the Singapore coast nears completion. He warned that Assam "will burn" and a "Kurukshetra-like situation" may arise once the findings are made public. Gogoi claimed the state government has planned a major concert in Guwahati on the very day the investigation report is likely to be released, calling it a "conspiratorial attempt" to divert the attention of the youth from the case.

The MLA alleged that the chief investigating officer had not visited Singapore, where the incident occurred, raising "serious doubts" about the impartiality of the inquiry. He also reminded that Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma himself had earlier hinted at foul play, questioning how the probe could still lack basic on-ground verification in Singapore.



Theft at Bank of India ATM in Kokrajhar

HT Correspondent
KOKRAJHAR, Dec 5: A theft at a Bank of India ATM on JD Road in front of the BTC Secretariat caused a sensation in Kokrajhar late last night.

According to sources, a gang of thieves forcibly removed cash from the ATM by throwing the machine from inside the booth to the outside before fleeing the scene.

Police arrived promptly and initiated a preliminary investigation, while a forensic team collected evidence from the site to aid the inquiry.

The incident has raised concerns about security, as the ATM is located in a busy area under constant police vigilance, prompting questions about how the theft was carried out despite strict monitoring.

PAC inspects development projects across Baksa district



HT Correspondent
KOKRAJHAR, Dec 5: The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the Assam Legislative Assembly conducted an extensive spot study tour in Baksa district on Tuesday to assess the implementation and progress of government schemes and infrastructural projects for the financial years 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25.

The inspection was held in the presence of District Commissioner Gautam Das, ADC Mustafa Salim Ahmed and heads of concerned departments. PAC Chairman Nurul Huda, along with members including MLAs Ramendra Narayan Kalita, Utpal Borah, Bhabendra Nath Bharali, Karim Uddin Borbhuiya, Hafiz Bashir Ahmed, Abdur Rashid Mondal and Lawrence Islary,

accompanied by Joint Secretary Deerga Baruah and Under Secretary Fakhar Uddin Chowdhury, led the tour.

The team began with a review of the ongoing construction of the Block Public Health Unit (BPHU) at Barama under the Health Department. They then inspected key initiatives under the Panchayat & Rural Development Department, including PMAY-G houses and MGNREGA-supported land-raising work at Badulipara LP School. Other inspections included the Barama-Nikashi Road (PWD Roads), a new embankment at Marapagaladia with NH-27 crossing (PWD IB, NIDA) and the Barkharua No 2 Model Anganwadi Centre near the Textile Park.

The Committee also reviewed the Integrated DC Office and the ongoing construction of the Baksa Auditorium under PWD Building.

A concluding review meeting at the District Commissioner's office stressed timely completion of projects, strict quality control and effective utilisation of government resources. Detailed progress reports were sought from the respective departments. Officials from various line departments were present during the review.

Over 150 Congress leaders resign en masse in East KA



HT Correspondent
KHERONI, Dec 5: In yet another crippling jolt to the Karbi Anglong Congress just months before the 2026 Assembly elections, more than a hundred and fifty leaders and workers from East Karbi Anglong district tendered their resignations en masse on Thursday, openly expressing "complete loss of confidence" in the district party president and the current leadership.

The dramatic scene unfolded when the disgruntled Congress members assembled at the KASA Stadium in Diphu, raised anti-leadership slogans and then marched in a procession to the nearby District Congress office, where they collectively submitted their resignation letters.

The defectors include office-bearers and active workers from the district committee, block committees, mandal committees and primary Congress units cutting across all tiers of the party structure in the hill district.

Sources close to the resigning leaders confirmed that the entire group is set to formally

join the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the coming days, delivering a major boost to the saffron camp in the strategically important autonomous council region.

This is the second such large-scale desertion in Karbi Anglong within weeks, after a similar exodus rocked the West Karbi Anglong unit recently.

However, political observers see the back-to-back rebellions in both East and West Karbi Anglong as a sign of deep internal discontent and organisational collapse in the hills a traditional Congress stronghold that now appears to be slipping irreversibly towards the BJP.

With barely a few months left for the Assembly polls, the Congress high command in Guwahati has remained conspicuously silent, while local leaders have been heard dismissing the rebels with contempt, reportedly saying they had only "come to show their faces."

The string of desertions has fuelled speculation that Congress could face one of its worst-ever performances in the Sixth Schedule areas in the upcoming elections.

Dr Ananda Mohan Das passes away



HT Correspondent
SIVASAGAR, Dec 5: Dr Ananda Mohan Das, former Joint Director of Health, Guwahati and a noted social and cultural worker, passed away at 80, on Friday at his residence in Guwahati after a prolonged illness.

Dr Das served in the Health Department in Sivasagar for over a decade and was widely respected for his contributions to public health and cultural initiatives. His last rites were performed at his ancestral home in Mirza.

He is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter.

AR & T Company High School 1976 batch former students reunion

HT Correspondent
MARGHERITA, Dec 5: The 1976 batch of AR & T Company High School, one of Margherita's oldest educational institutions, celebrated its golden jubilee reunion on Friday at the Margherita Kalbari Auditorium, marking 50 years since their time at the school.

Established in 1938, the school's long legacy was fondly remembered as the 1976 alumni gathered for a grand reunion programme. The event began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by chief guest and noted physician Dr Binoy Kumar Das.

Another chief guest, Ashok Guha Roy, inaugurated a special tribute segment dedicated to late singing icon Zubeen Garg, followed by a memorial observance for departed teachers and classmates.

The programme was moderated by Probr Chakraborty and Ashok Mandal. Among the distinguished guests were retired Margherita College professor



Bela Deb and retired teachers Prabr Ranjan Dutta and Chandan Das.

Former teachers and students shared fond memories, reflecting on their school days and the institution's journey. The alumni also honoured current teachers and presented a steel almirah

and a set of books to the Headmaster of AR & T Company High School.

The evening session featured a lively cultural programme with songs, poetry recitations and performances by former students, bringing the day-long celebration to a memorable close.

Young man died, another injured in KA road accident

HT Correspondent
KHERONI, Dec 5: A fatal road accident occurred at Phonglangso in Zerikinding, West Karbi Anglong, when a motorcycle collided with an unidentified vehicle on Thursday, Darshan Bey, the motorcycle rider, died on the spot, while another youth, Chonsing Bey was critically injured and rushed to the hospital for treatment.

The accident took place as the motorcycle was traveling from Zerikinding towards Kheroni. The vehicle involved in the collision fled the scene and remains unidentified. Police have launched an investigation into the incident.

Truck carrying government goods stuck in broken drain

HT Correspondent
DEMOW, Dec 5: A truck transporting government electricity goods got stuck in a broken drain at Demow Chariali on Thursday night, highlighting safety concerns amid ongoing flyover construction along NH-37. The driver, Kalamuddin Sheikh, told reporters that the incident occurred when a dumper approached the truck. In an attempt to avoid a collision, the truck veered into a damaged drain and became stuck. Fortunately, Sheikh was uninjured. The truck, registered JH 01 FS 4070 was en route from Kolkata to Dibrugarh.

5-day NEC beneficiaries' training concludes at Karbi Anglong KVK

Farmers gain hands-on knowledge in modern agriculture, animal husbandry and oilseed cultivation

HT Bureau
DIPHU, Dec 5: A five-day training programme was successfully organised at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Karbi Anglong, to empower beneficiaries of North Eastern Council (NEC) schemes from Sarmen Hansa Village with advanced farming techniques. The initiative was jointly conducted by the Block Development Office (BDO), Lumbajong and KVK, Karbi Anglong and saw active participation from 100 beneficiaries.

The training, held from 1 Dec to 5 Dec, focused on five critical areas: Mushroom Cultivation, Scientific Pig Farming, Scientific Fish Farming, Scientific Goat Farming and Scientific Duck Farming. Sessions were led by experienced scientists from KVK and Zonal Research Stations to ensure practical and high-quality instruction.

Mushroom cultivation training was conducted by Dr Lohit Katak, SMS (Plant Protection), KVK and Dr Neethi Boruah, Scientist, Zonal Research Station, Diphu, covering substrate preparation, spawning, cropping and disease management using locally available resources.

Scientific animal and fish farming



sessions were led by Dr Monuj Kr Doley, Senior Scientist and Head, KVK, Karbi Anglong, focusing on breed selection, improved housing, nutrition, health and disease management, vaccination schedules, biosecurity measures, pond management and integrated farming practices.

The programme employed a blended approach of theoretical instruction and

practical demonstrations, enabling beneficiaries to gain hands-on experience and a clear understanding of the 'dos and don'ts' for each farming system.

In addition, an Awareness Programme on Oilseed Cultivation was conducted to sensitise beneficiaries about the potential of oilseeds as a profitable component of diversified farming, promoting local self-sufficiency.

Tender Notice			
N.I.T. No: 6 of 2025-26			
Sealed tenders affixing non-refundable court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees Eight and Paise Twenty Five) only in prescribed forms are invited from the Registered Contractors / Firm Class-I/II category under Irrigation Department, Assam for the following different groups of works.			
Sl. No.	Name of Work	Head of Account	Estimated Amount (Rs.) including GST & Labour Cess, etc.
1	Replacement of 3 HP Monoblock pump set in the office of the Chief Engineer, Irrigation, Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-03 (M&R for the year 2025-26)	2702-02-103-0152-000-17-05-EE-VGA	Rs. 85,000.00 (Rupees Eighty Five Thousand) only
Earnest Money: 2% of Estimated Amount (1% in case of SC/ST/OBC) subject to production of valid caste certificate issued by competent authority.			
The Tenders along with terms and condition will be received in the office of the undersigned up to 12:30 P.M. of 08/01/2026 and the same will be opened at 2:30 P.M. of 08/01/2026 in presence of tenderers or their authorized representatives (if any).			
If the office remains closed on the due date of opening of the Tender due to any unforeseen reason, then the same will be received and opened on the next working day at the same time and place, for which no separate communications would be made which may please be noted while other terms and condition will remain same.			
The tender documents can be seen in http://sppp.assam.gov.in from 13:00 Hours of 05/12/2025. Detailed Tender documents along with terms and condition may be had from the office of the undersigned from 13:00 Hours of 05/12/2025 on written request and payment of Rs.100.00 (Rupees one hundred) only in the form of IPO duly pledged to the Executive Engineer, Palashbari- Jaluksbari Division (Irrigation), Palashbari.			
			Sd/- Addl. Chief Engineer (Mechanical) Irrigation Department, Assam Chandmari, Guwahati-3
DIPR /C/HLT/243/6-Dec-25			

Tender Notice			
N.I.T. No: 5 of 2025-26			
Sealed tenders affixing non-refundable court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees Eight and Paise Twenty Five) only in prescribed forms are invited from the Registered Contractors / Firm Class-I/II category under Irrigation Department, Assam for the following different groups of works.			
Sl. No.	Name of Work	Head of Account	Estimated Amount (Rs.) including GST & Labour Cess, etc.
1	Replacement of 5 HP submersible pump set in the office of the Chief Engineer, Irrigation, Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-03 (M&R for the year 2025-26)	2702-02-103-0152-000-17-05-EE-VGA	Rs. 1,42,180.00 (Rupees One lakh forty two thousand one hundred eighty) only
Earnest Money: 2% of Estimated Amount (1% in case of SC/ST/OBC) subject to production of valid caste certificate issued by competent authority.			
The Tenders along with terms and condition will be received in the office of the undersigned up to 12:30 P.M. of 08/01/2026 and the same will be opened at 2:30 P.M. of 08/01/2026 in presence of tenderers or their authorized representatives (if any).			
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			Sd/- Addl. Chief Engineer (Mechanical) Irrigation Department, Assam Chandmari, Guwahati-3
DIPR /C/HLT/242/6-Dec-25			

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Civilization began the first time an angry person cast a word instead of a rock -Sigmund Freud

Rupee plunges to historic low

India's policymakers have grown comfortable repeating a familiar mantra: growth is strong, inflation is defeated, reserves are high, and therefore the economy is stable. But the rupee's slide past ₹90.14 to the United States dollar has taken that mantra and torn right through it. What was once sold as macroeconomic resilience now looks suspiciously like complacency. And the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), entering its December monetary policy meeting, finds itself cornered by a currency that has stopped listening to domestic narratives. The Indian rupee hitting 90 is not a mere market event; it is a political and economic marker. And the numbers buried inside the research from CareEdge Ratings, CRISIL, the State Bank of India (SBI) Research unit and the RBI's own balance of payments (BoP) data show why this moment matters far more than policymakers would like to admit. Take inflation. Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation in October crashed to 0.3%, a level that CareEdge calls a "decadal low." This collapse was driven by outright deflation in crucial food categories: vegetables down 27.6% year-on-year, pulses down 16.2%, and spices down 3.3%. Even core inflation — excluding the distortive surge in precious metals — rested at merely 2.5%. The central bank had reason to feel triumphant. CareEdge projected that inflation in the third quarter of the fiscal year would average 0.9%, rising only to 3.1% in the fourth quarter. For the full financial year, the agency expected CPI inflation at just 2.1%, far below the RBI's 4% target.

In any normal country, this would be the perfect setup for an interest-rate cut. Growth, too, seemed to give the RBI breathing space. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) expanded 8.2% in the second quarter of FY26, after 7.8% in the first. CareEdge bumped up its full-year growth forecast to 7.5%, far above the RBI's earlier 6.8% projection. Liquidity had also turned supportive: the banking system surplus rose to ₹1.8 trillion in November, up from ₹0.9 trillion in October, fuelled by Variable Rate Reverse Repo (VRR) auctions, the final tranche of the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) cut injecting ₹600 billion, and roughly ₹273 billion in Open Market Operation (OMO) purchases. By the logic of traditional monetary economics, the RBI should have been preparing a straightforward script: inflation is down, liquidity is up, growth will cool modestly, so the time is right for one final 25-basis-point rate cut. But this is where the illusion cracks. Because when you look beyond domestic data, the picture shifts dramatically — and uncomfortably.

Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs), the same group that once touted India as a safe haven, have turned into steady sellers. FPIs pulled out USD 425 million from equities in November alone. Cumulatively, depending on the period and file referenced, they have withdrawn the rupee equivalent of ₹1.47–2.62 lakh crore this year — a number that should shame anyone still insisting India's capital flows are stable.

Putin's Delhi visit: India's defiant autonomy

Russian President Vladimir Putin arrived in New Delhi on the evening of December 4, 2025, stepping off his aircraft at Palam Air Force Station where Prime Minister Narendra Modi waited to greet him with a warm embrace that immediately captured global attention. In a rare break from protocol, Modi personally received the Russian leader, a gesture that underlined the exceptional depth of trust between the two nations. The two men shared a brief conversation on the tarmac before travelling together in the same car to Modi's official residence at 7 Lok Kalyan Marg. This two-day state visit, centred on the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit, takes place at a moment of profound global tension, with the continuing war in Ukraine, shifting power balances in Asia, and the return of Donald Trump to the White House creating new uncertainties for every major capital.

The personal chemistry between the two leaders was on full display when Modi hosted Putin for a private dinner that lasted almost four hours, reciprocating the hospitality Putin had extended during Modi's visit to Moscow the previous year. During the meal, Modi presented his guest with a Russian translation of the Bhagavad Gita, a symbolic gift that highlighted India's philosophical tradition of duty and non-violence while reinforcing the cultural bridge between the countries. The next day's schedule included delegation-level talks at Hyderabad House, a joint media interaction, a business round-table with Indian industry captains, a visit to Rajghat to pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi, and a state banquet hosted by President Droupadi Murmu. Though compact, the programme carried the weight of seven decades of uninterrupted strategic partnership.

The roots of this relationship run deep. From the Soviet era's support during India's wars with China and Pakistan to the supply of critical defence equipment and space technology that no Western country was willing to share, Russia has been India's most reliable partner in times of crisis. Even after the collapse of the Soviet Union, successive Russian leaders have treated India as a privileged strategic partner. The present visit, Putin's first full state visit to India since the Ukraine conflict began, demonstrates that neither Western sanctions nor intense diplomatic pressure has managed to fracture the bond. Bilateral trade has surged on the strength of heavily discounted Russian oil, helping India keep domestic fuel prices stable while providing Moscow with vital hard-currency revenue. Beyond energy, the two countries are expanding cooperation in nuclear power, pharmaceuticals, diamonds, information technology, and advanced manufacturing.

For India, the economic benefits from the relationship remain immediate and substantial. Russian crude now accounts for a significant share of India's total oil imports, shielding the economy from the worst effects



of global price spikes. Refineries along India's western and southern coasts have been reconfigured to process heavier Russian grades, creating thousands of jobs and strengthening energy security. At the same time, Russian investment in the Kudankulam nuclear power project continues to grow, promising cleaner electricity for millions of households. Defence ties, always the backbone of the partnership, are moving toward genuine co-development and co-production. Joint ventures already manufacture BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles in India, and talks are advancing on additional licensed production of aircraft engines, air-defence systems, and small arms. These initiatives directly support Prime Minister Modi's Make in India programme by building domestic industrial capacity and reducing long-term dependence on imports.

The summit is also expected to breathe new life into stalled infrastructure and connectivity projects. Russia has expressed interest in the Chennai-Vladivostok maritime corridor, which would dramatically shorten shipping times between the two countries and open up Russia's Far East for Indian investment. Greater use of national currencies for trade settlement, expansion of the International North-South Transport Corridor, and collaboration in artificial intelligence and quantum computing are all likely to feature in the final joint statement. For ordinary Indians, the partnership translates into affordable medicines (India is the largest buyer of Russian pharmaceuticals), thousands of university seats for medical and engineering students, and a steady supply of fertilisers that keep food prices from spiralling.

From Washington's perspective, however, the sight of Modi rolling out the red carpet for Putin at this particular moment is deeply uncomfortable. The second Trump administra-

tion has made clear that it wants a swift end to the Ukraine war, preferably on terms favourable to American interests, and views any country that sustains Russia's economy as indirectly prolonging the conflict. Recent American sanctions on Russian energy companies and shipping firms have already begun to disrupt India's oil imports, forcing refiners to cut purchases and look for costlier alternatives. At the same time, new tariffs imposed on Indian exports to the United States have strained bilateral trade relations that were once considered the brightest spot in the part-

nership. American analysts worry that India's refusal to join Western sanctions gives Putin diplomatic cover and undermines the collective pressure on Moscow to negotiate. The timing is especially awkward because senior Trump administration officials have been engaged in back-channel discussions with the Kremlin, trying to broker a ceasefire framework that would freeze the current front lines and postpone Ukraine's NATO membership indefinitely. Putin's ability to fly directly from those talks to a triumphant summit in New Delhi weakens Washington's leverage and signals to other non-Western nations that they can maintain profitable relations with Russia without paying a meaningful price.

Yet the United States also recognises that pushing India too hard risks driving it closer to Russia and, by extension, to China, the very outcome American strategy in Asia is designed to prevent. India has steadily increased its purchases of American military hardware, from Apache attack helicopters and Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft to advanced artillery systems, demonstrating that it is diversifying its sources rather than remaining wedded to a single supplier. Washington's own defence industry has a strong stake in the

relationship, with billions of dollars in potential orders hanging in the balance. Technology cooperation in semiconductors, critical minerals, and space launch vehicles offers additional avenues for partnership that Russia simply cannot match.

The reality is that India has chosen strategic autonomy over alignment with any single power bloc. It cooperates closely with the United States, Japan, and Australia in the Quad, conducts more joint military exercises with American forces than with any other country, and shares Washington's concerns about Chinese expansionism. At the same time, it refuses to sacrifice decades-old relationships or accept dictates on its foreign policy choices. This multi-alignment allows New Delhi to extract maximum benefit from all sides: Russian energy and Middle Eastern oil at discounted prices, American and European investment and technology, and growing markets across Southeast Asia and Africa.

For Russia, the visit is a diplomatic victory that breaks the narrative of total isolation. By securing India's continued economic engagement, Moscow ensures a steady flow of foreign exchange needed to finance its military campaign and domestic stability. The warmth displayed in New Delhi also strengthens Putin's domestic standing, projecting an image of Russia as a global power that retains loyal friends even under unprecedented pressure.

When Putin boards his aircraft for the return journey, he will carry with him a basket of new agreements that are likely to include an ambitious trade target for the end of the decade, long-term arrangements for nuclear fuel and reactor construction, and fresh initiatives in digital payment systems and Arctic resource development. India will gain greater predictability in energy supplies, deeper defence industrial cooperation, and enhanced leverage in its negotiations with every other major power. The United States will be left to recalibrate its approach, deciding whether confrontation or pragmatic accommodation offers the better path to keeping India firmly in the democratic camp while countering Chinese influence.

In an era of renewed great-power competition, India's partnership with Russia serves as a powerful reminder that the world is no longer neatly divided into rival blocs. Nations in the Global South, led by examples such as India, are determined to chart their own course, maintaining relations with all sides according to their national interest rather than ideological conformity. The embrace between Modi and Putin on a December evening in New Delhi was more than a photo opportunity; it was a statement that strategic autonomy is here to stay, and that old friendships endure, and that the global order is becoming genuinely multipolar. How the United States chooses to respond to that reality will shape the Indo-Pacific, and indeed the world, for decades to come.

Assam's farmlands in distress: What 2025 revealed about the state of agriculture

By: Mowsam Hazarika

The year 2025 emerged as a testing phase for Indian agriculture, marked by uneven progress and serious setbacks. While a few regions benefited from technological improvements and better productivity, large parts of the country struggled with climatic uncertainty, escalating input costs, and unstable markets. Assam, already burdened by ecological fragility and the dominance of small and marginal farmers, went through one of its most challenging agricultural years in recent times. The developments of 2025 starkly exposed the long-standing weaknesses of the state's farm sector and reinforced the urgent need for deep-rooted reforms.

Weather extremes shaped the agricultural story of Assam throughout the year. Unexpected and intense pre-monsoon showers inflicted heavy damage on Boro paddy in many districts of Lower Assam. This was followed by severe floods in June and July that submerged vast tracts of cropland in Lakhimpur, Dharmaji, Darrang, Nagaon, Morigaon, and Barpeta. Standing crops of paddy, jute, and vegetables were washed away, and breaches in embankments worsened the destruction. Hardly had the floodwaters receded when a prolonged dry spell in September upset the sowing cycle of winter vegetables and Rabi crops. Such erratic weather patterns once again highlighted the risks faced by a farming system still overwhelmingly dependent on rainfall and lacking dependable irrigation support.

Rising cultivation costs added another layer of hardship. Prices of fertilizers, pesticides, seeds, diesel, and transportation increased sharply during the year. Shortages of agricultural labour during peak seasons further pushed up wage rates, particularly in regions where tea gardens absorb a large share of the workforce. For small and marginal farmers, who constitute the backbone of Assam's agriculture, the twin burden of high costs and uncertain returns squeezed profit margins and deepened the problem of indebtedness.

Pest and disease outbreaks further aggravated the crisis. Several districts reported increased incidence of rice blast and brown spot in paddy. Maize fields suffered from fall armyworm attacks, while vegetables such as brinjal, chilli, cabbage, and others faced repeated pest infestations. Greater dependence on chemical pesticides raised production costs and also triggered serious ecological and public health concerns. These trends underline the pressing need for strengthening integrated pest management and timely, location-specific plant protection advisories.

Market instability surfaced as another painful reality in 2025. Farmers growing tomatoes and green chillies in districts like Darrang, Sonitpur, and Barpeta were forced to sell their produce at throwaway prices during periods of glut. At the same time, consumers were hit by sharp price rises in essential commodities such as onions and potatoes during lean months, without farmers receiving commensurate benefits. High post-harvest losses persisted due to poor cold storage facilities,

weak rural logistics, and the lack of adequate processing units. The limited spread and weak functioning of farmer-producer organisations further reduced farmers' bargaining strength in the marketplace.

Although minimum support price operations continued in principle, procurement on the ground remained inadequate and uneven. In several interior and remote districts such as Baksa, Chirang, and Karbi Anglong, procurement centres were either insufficient or practically inaccessible. Consequently, many farmers were compelled to sell paddy to middlemen at prices far below MSP. Digital registration barriers, lack of awareness, and connectivity issues prevented a large number of farmers from accessing official procurement systems, defeating the objective of assured prices.

The silent decline of soil health also became more pronounced across many farming belts of Assam. Organic carbon content continued to fall, excessive use of chemical fertilizers weakened microbial activity, and recurring floods caused widespread loss of fertile topsoil. Unless serious efforts are made to promote organic inputs, green manuring, crop diversification, and balanced nutrient management, the degradation of soil will continue to undermine long-term agricultural productivity.

Technological progress in Assam's agriculture remained uneven and limited. While several other states advanced rapidly in the use of drones, digital advisories, precision farming tools, and smart irrigation systems, adoption in Assam remained slow due to affordability constraints, poor digital literacy, and shortage of trained personnel. This widening digital gap threatens to push small farmers further behind unless extension services are modernised and made more robust.

Irrigation, however, continues to be the most fragile pillar of Assam's agricultural infrastructure. Even today, more than 70 percent of the cultivated area remains dependent on rainfall. Minor irrigation schemes cover only a small portion of the cropped land, and the state's abundant water resources—its rivers, beels, wetlands, and groundwater—remain largely untapped because of the absence of integrated water management planning. Without assured irrigation, farmers remain at the mercy of unpredictable weather and unstable yields.

The agricultural turbulence of 2025 offers crucial lessons for Assam. Climate-resilient farming practices, accelerated expansion of irrigation, stronger market linkages, effective MSP procurement, improved storage and processing facilities, restoration of soil health, and faster adoption of digital extension services must now move beyond policy declarations to tangible action on the ground. The future of Assam's agriculture will depend on the collective commitment of policymakers, scientists, extension workers, and farmers. If the hardships of 2025 can drive meaningful transformation, they may still lay the foundation for a stronger, more resilient, and sustainable agricultural future for the state.

India at the crossroads navigating Global trade headwinds in tariff war

By: T N Ashok

The World Trade Organisation's latest assessments paint an increasingly sombre picture of global commerce. After an unexpectedly robust first half of 2025—when merchandise trade volumes surged 4.9% year-on-year—the momentum has decisively shifted. The WTO's November Goods Trade Barometer dropped to 101.8 from 102.2 in June, signalling a clear deceleration even as it remains marginally above the long-term trend of 100.

Behind these numbers lies a more troubling reality: the early-2025 surge was largely artificial, driven by front-loading of imports ahead of anticipated tariff increases and exceptional demand for AI-related goods like semiconductors and telecommunications equipment. Once these temporary factors fade, the underlying weakness becomes apparent. The WTO now projects merchandise trade growth of just 2.4% for 2025, plummeting to a mere 0.5% in 2026—a dramatic downgrade from earlier forecasts and a stark warning that the post-pandemic trade recovery is exhausting itself.

The culprit is clear: rising protectionism centred primarily on the United States, coupled with trade policy uncertainty that has metastasized across the global economy. Air freight and container shipping indices—traditionally early warning indicators—have weakened significantly, while agricultural raw materials already sit below trend at 98.0. As WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala noted, the world faces a potential structural unwinding of globalization, with trade flows permanently rerouting toward countries with preferential agreements.

While the global trade system contracts, two Asian giants find themselves navigating parallel challenges that could reshape the world economy. China's slowdown—GDP growth declining to 4.8% in the third quarter of 2025—stems from a debt-laden real estate sector, aging demographics, and reduced industrial activity. For an economy that has served as the world's manufacturing hub and largest consumer of commodities, this deceleration reverberates globally.

India, despite posting robust 8.2% GDP growth in the July-September quarter, faces its own export crisis. The irony is sharp: while India's domestic consumption-driven model has insulated it from some global shocks, its export sector—particularly to the United States—has been devastated by tariff escalation. This creates a paradox where India grows rapidly domestically while haemorrhaging export market share internationally.

The China-India dynamic matters profoundly because together these economies account for a substantial portion of global growth among emerging markets. China's weakening demand affects commodity prices worldwide, while its manufacturers flooding global markets with discounted goods intensify competition for Indian exporters. India's trade deficit with China reached a record \$99.2 billion in FY2025, reflecting structural dependencies in electronics, machinery, and chemicals that make New Delhi simultaneously a competitor and a customer of Beijing.

The severity of India's predicament crystallizes around a single number: \$530 billion, the bilateral

trade target that India and the United States set for 2030. That goal now appears increasingly fantastical. Between May and September 2025, Indian exports to the U.S. collapsed by 37.5%—from \$8.8 billion to \$5.5 billion—following Trump administration tariff escalations that began at 10% in April, doubled to 25% in early August, then surged to 50% by month's end.

The ostensible trigger: India's continued purchase of Russian oil. More than one-third of India's crude imports come from Russia, a trade relationship that bilateral commerce reached \$68.7 billion in the year ending March 2025—nearly six times pre-pandemic levels. The Trump administration framed the tariffs as punishment for "fuelling the war machine," though India has consistently argued it was encouraged by Western powers to stabilize energy markets through these purchases.

Labour-intensive sectors bore the brunt: textiles, apparel, gems and jewellery, marine products, leather goods, and engineering goods—historically the backbone of India's employment-heavy export basket. The Global Trade Research Initiative estimates that if these tariffs persist, Indian merchandise exports to the U.S. could slide from \$86.5 billion in 2024-25 to roughly \$60.6 billion in 2025-26, a nearly 30% contraction that threatens to unravel a decade of export gains.

India finds itself caught in a geopolitical vise. It cannot easily abandon Russian oil without alternative supply arrangements that maintain energy affordability—critical for an economy where household consumption drives growth. New Delhi's October 2025 imports of U.S. crude reached their highest level since March 2021, and major refiners like Reliance Industries have reduced orders from sanctioned Russian companies Rosneft and Lukoil while increasing imports from Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

Yet this pivot comes at significant cost. Sanctions imposed by the U.S. on Russian oil majors (effective November 21, 2025) precipitated an 8% increase in global Brent crude prices, projected to increase India's annual oil import expenditure by \$6-7 billion. Indian refiners' operational costs are expected to spike by roughly 2%. The elimination of discounted Russian crude—which once provided a competitive advantage for Indian refiners—now becomes a fiscal burden.

The diplomatic calculus is equally fraught. Reducing Russian oil purchases risks antagonizing Moscow, a strategic partner since the 1970s that provides significant defense equipment. But maintaining current import levels keeps the 50% U.S. tariff regime in place, devastating export competitiveness. Recent signals suggest India may be negotiating a compromise—gradually winding down Russian oil imports in exchange for U.S. tariff reductions to 15-16%—but even this remains uncertain.

The WTO's prescription for the global trade slowdown emphasizes multilateral cooperation and rules-based frameworks. The organization advocates for maintaining open and predictable trade policies, noting that the number of quantitative restrictions on AI-related goods has climbed from 130 in 2012 to nearly 500 in 2024. The report stresses that 87% of global merchandise trade occurs outside the United States, suggesting diversi-

fication away from bilateral dependencies.

For trade policy uncertainty, the WTO recommends that countries resist retaliatory measures and utilize existing dispute settlement mechanisms. The organization warns that spreading tariffs and uncertainty could turn 2025's modest 2.4% growth into a 1.5% contraction if reciprocal tariffs multiply. Enhanced transparency in trade measures, adherence to WTO commitments, and investment in trade-enabling infrastructure form the core of its recommendations.

Critically, the WTO highlights opportunities in services trade and emerging technologies. AI could boost cross-border flows by nearly 40% by 2040 if policies bridge the digital divide and maintain open markets. This suggests that countries like India—with strong IT sectors and services capabilities—could partially offset merchandise trade losses through services expansion.

India has already begun implementing what the WTO prescribes. In the first half of FY 2025-26, exports to 24 countries spanning Africa, Latin America, Middle East, and parts of Europe and Asia registered positive growth, together accounting for \$129.3 billion—roughly 59% of India's exports. This diversification blunted some damage: despite the U.S. collapse, overall exports during April-September 2025 rose 3.0% year-on-year to \$220.12 billion.

But diversification alone cannot solve India's structural challenges. The country must accelerate domestic manufacturing through Production-Linked Incentive schemes, reduce dependency on Chinese inputs (particularly in electronics where components remain overwhelmingly Chinese-sourced), and upgrade export quality and innovation. Infrastructure investments—from industrial corridors to port facilities—are showing results, with manufacturing PMI reaching 59.2 in October 2025, indicating sharp expansion.

The trade deficit remains problematic. October 2025 saw a record \$41.68 billion deficit as merchandise exports fell 11.8% while imports soared 16.6%. With foreign exchange reserves at \$687 billion providing 11-month import cover, India has buffer capacity, but sustained deficits could pressure the rupee and stoke inflation, especially with energy imports remaining large.

India stands at a critical juncture. The WTO's barometer suggests global trade headwinds will intensify through 2026, with protectionism showing no signs of abating. India's unique position—a consumption-driven growth model combined with export vulnerabilities—means it experiences global slowdown differently than export-dependent economies like China or Vietnam.

The coming quarters will test whether India can successfully pivot from its traditional dependence on the U.S. market toward a more multipolar export strategy, upgrade its manufacturing capabilities to reduce Chinese dependencies, and navigate the treacherous waters of great power politics surrounding Russian energy imports. Success requires balancing immediate crisis management with long-term structural transformation—maintaining growth momentum while fundamentally rewriting trade relationships built over decades. (IPA Service)



By: Kaustov Kashvap

Interviews can be stressful, especially for a job you have dreamed about for years. The pressure to make a good impression and secure the position can be overwhelming, causing a flood of anxious thoughts and self-doubt. A job interview is an excellent opportunity to highlight your skills, experience and suitability for the job. Your success in a job interview depends on your preparation, performance and post-interview follow-up. However, with the right preparation and mindset, you can navigate this crucial stage with confidence and poise. Here are ten tips to help you outline strategies to crack your dream interview successfully.

Research the company

Most employers prefer hiring candidates that have good knowledge about the company. You can start your research by visiting the company website and its social media accounts to learn about its mission, business products, serv-

ices, and key personnel and work culture. This knowledge shows your genuine interest and dedication. You may also want to go through employee reviews on third-party websites to get an insight into its employees' experiences. Knowing more about the company and the interviewer would help you align your response with the company culture and values. If possible, also try to find out more about the interviewer on professional networking platforms like LinkedIn so that you get familiar with their personality and temperament.

Review the job description

Review the job description to understand the types of skills and qualifications the employer expects you to have. It would also give you an idea about the duties and responsibilities the job entails. This information would help you customise your CV for the position and prepare for the questions the interviewer may ask. Try to analyse your strengths and weaknesses vis-a-vis those required by

Outshine in Your Job Interview

the job to decide how you are required to approach the interview.

Revise your CV

Once you have gained enough insight into the position and the company, customise your CV to match it with the job and the company. Highlight your skills and strengths that the employer has explicitly specified. Pick up some prominent keywords from the job description and the company profile, and use them in your resume. Make sure the information you provide is genuine and honest.

Prepare for common interview questions

Refresh your subject knowledge and prepare for the tests that may form part of the interview. Organising your thoughts would help you express yourself in an impressive manner. Think about the questions the interviewer may ask and how you would respond to them. Search for common interview questions on various online platforms like Google, YouTube, etc. based on the job profile, company and the experience level. Few common potential interview questions include the following: Tell us about yourself. Why do you want this job? Why are you looking for a change? What are your strengths and weaknesses? Where do you see yourself in another five years? Why should we hire you? What contributions will you give towards the company's growth?

Conducting a mock interview or rehearsing for the interview can increase your confidence to face the actual interview.

Be on time

Plan your travel to reach the interview venue at least 15 minutes before the scheduled time. Showing up early for the interview shows that you value time. It also gives you some time to relax and freshen up yourself, especially after a long, tiring journey. Use the location map sent by the company or browse through Google Maps to get familiar with the route. Double-check the destination displayed by your GPS device and arrange your mode of transport in advance.

Follow the proper dress code

If there is any specific dress code stated in the job description or the interview letter, make sure you dress accordingly. In the absence of any such guidelines, you are required to attend a job interview in formal attire. If you are using perfume, deodorant or hair gel, make sure it is mild. Keeping your clothes and accessories (shoes, socks, belt, tie) ready a night before the interview can prevent unexpected hassles on the interview day.

Carry the required documents and devices

Make sure to carry all the essential documents, including your CV, cover letter, reference letters, academic certificates and salary slips from your previous job if applicable. Organise them neatly in a file or folder. Keep a pen and paper handy so that you do not require to borrow them during the interview. If you need a laptop or tablet to show your work or make a presentation, be sure to carry one.

Present yourself well

It is helpful if you start behaving professionally as soon as you reach the venue, and act politely with everyone you meet. Enter your details in the register if the security person asks you to. Usually, you are required to submit your resume at the reception and follow their instructions. Try to be patient while waiting at the reception, and keep your interaction with other candidates minimal. It is a good idea to switch off your mobile or keep it in silent or vibration mode. If you think it is unavoidable to take a call, talk in a low voice.

Speak clearly & politely

Giving a cheerful greeting when you meet the interviewer creates a favourable atmosphere. Try to speak using a constant pace and clear voice. Let the information emerge in a natural flow instead of rushing to get out everything you know in one breath. If you do not know something, be honest about it. If you need a minute or two to think, you can ask for it. Being sincere and having good clarity of thought would place you in a stronger position than other candidates.

Active listening is an essential skill in a promising candidate. Try to be attentive and listen to the interviewer carefully. Employers consider it a good professional ethic when you avoid interrupting the conversation in a formal setting. Understand the questions and other details properly before beginning to answer them. Sometimes, the additional information that the interviewer provides may

prove helpful in answering questions that they may ask later in the interview. Observing how the interviewer reacts to your answers can help you fine-tune your responses to other questions.

Use positive body language

Your body language tells a lot about your attitude and confidence level. For example, slouching or shaking your legs can indicate that you are nervous. In contrast, sitting too informally in a laid-back posture can be interpreted as a lack of proper office etiquette. Try to appear professional and composed without looking too informal or overconfident. Some examples of positive body language include sitting straight, exhibiting optimistic expressions and making direct eye contact with the interviewer.

Be precise and focused

Interviewers usually have a busy schedule and rarely have time for lengthy answers. They appreciate crisp and focused responses. Hence, keep your answers short and direct. At the same time, be sure to include all the essential information. Customise your answers based on their specific questions and the additional information you get during the interview. Whenever required, speak positively about your previous and current employers. Try to assess the mood and personality of the interviewer and adapt yourself accordingly.

Conclude on a positive note

Towards the end of the interview, most of the interviewers give you an opportunity to clarify your doubts and queries. Asking questions shows that you are interested

in learning more about the job and the company. For example, you can ask about your day-to-day responsibilities, the company's values or department-specific questions. Try to avoid asking about the salary in technical or first-stage interviews. Also Thank the interviewer for their time and consideration.

Follow up with the HR

If you do not get to hear from the company within the expected timeframe, do not hesitate to follow up with the HR. You may either call them up or send them an email. Make sure to state your name, position applied for and the interview date to help them recall you easily. Follow-up is usually helpful in cases where you are on a waiting list or the company is undecided on choosing between two or more candidates. Follow-up can make the company have a change of mind and give you priority over other candidates in such cases.

A blend of thorough preparation, self-awareness, and effective communication is the key to cracking an interview. You can boost your confidence and reduce anxiety by researching the company, understanding the job description, brushing up on your basics, and practising common interview questions. Throughout the process, remember to dress appropriately, be punctual, and exhibit professional body language. By following these tips, you can navigate your interview with poise and increase your chances of securing your dream job.

NHM Recruitment 2025 – Medical Officer (MBBS) Posts, Online Apply

Last Date: 25/12/2025.

National Health Mission (NHM), Assam has released an advertisement for the recruitment of Medical Officer (MBBS) Posts under National Health Mission (NHM), Assam for engagement on contractual basis. Interested and eligible candidates may apply online.

Name of post: Medical Officer (MBBS)

No of posts: N/A

Educational Qualification: Candidates must have MBBS Degree from a recognized Medical College and registered with Medical Council of India (MCI)/ Assam Medical Council (AMC).

Experience: Minimum 1 year of experience.

Age Limit: Candidates age must be up to 67 years as on 01st April 2025.

Pay: Rs. 55,000/- per month

Application Fee: No fee is required to be paid.

Interested and eligible candidates may apply through online mode by visiting the NHM Assam's official website <https://nhm.assam.gov.in>. Candidates may fill up their online application by following below mentioned steps.

Scroll down, go to Important Web-Links section.

Click on the "Online Application Form".

A new webpage will be opened.

Select your desired post and fill all personal and educational details and upload necessary documents.

Next submit the application form.

At the end, take a print out of the application form

Starting date of submission of online application: 3rd December 2025

Last date of submission of online application: 25th December 2025

Central Bank of India Vacancy – 3 Faculty, Office Assistant & Other Posts

Last Date: 15/12/2025.

Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI)-Tinsukia under Central Bank of India, Upper Assam Regional Office has released an employment notification for the recruitment of 3 Faculty, Office Assistant & Other Posts on annual contract basis. Interested and eligible candidates may apply.

1. Faculty

No of posts: 1 post

Educational Qualification: Graduate (Science/Commerce/Arts) / Post-graduate, however, preference may be given to MSW/ MA in Rural Development/MA in Sociology/Psychology/BSc (Agri.), BSc (Agri. Marketing) /BA with B.Ed. etc.

Shall have a flair for teaching and possess sound Computer Knowledge. Excellent communication skills in local language essential, fluency in English and Hindi.

Age Limit: 22-40 years with sound health

Contract amount: Consolidated salary of Rs.30000/- +2000x5=40000/-. Annual performance incentive of Rs.2000/- every year will be based on satisfactory review/performance of the services rendered.

2. Office Assistant

No of posts: 1 post

Educational Qualification: Graduate (BSW/BA/B.Com) with Computer Knowledge. Knowledge in Basic Accounting is a preferred qualification. Shall be proficient in MS Office (Word and Excel), Tally & Internet. Shall be fluent in spoken and written local language Skills in typing in local language is essential.

Age Limit: 22-40 years with sound health

Contract Amount: Consolidated Salary of Rs.20000/-+1500x5=27500/-. Annual performance incentive of Rs.1500/-every year will be based on satisfactory review/performance of services rendered.

3. Watchman/ Gardener

No of posts: 1 post

Educational Qualification: Should have Passed 7th standard. Should have experience preferably in agriculture/gardening/horticulture.

Age Limit: 22-40 years with sound health.

Contract amount: Consolidated salary of Rs.12000/- +800x5=16000/-. Annual performance incentive of Rs.800/- every year will be based on satisfactory review/performance of the services rendered.

Interested and eligible candidates may apply by addressing the application, Subscribing "Application for the post of Faculty/Office Assistant/Watchman at RSETI

,Tinsukia on contract basis for the year 2025-26" to Regional Head/Co-Chairman, Dist. Level RSETI Advisory Committee (DLRAC), Central Bank of India, Regional Office, Upper Assam, 1st floor Chandra Bhawan building, Nehru Park, Jorhat-785001.

Last date of submission of application forms: 15.12.2025.

For any queries contact: managerruppar@centralbank.co.in, Ph.No. 9831418385/ 8210300075

Seven Sisters Hospital Goalpara Recruitment – Lab Technician Post

Last Date: 10/12/2025.

Seven Sisters Hospital & Research Centre, Goalpara has released an employment notification for the recruitment of Lab Technician Post. Interested and eligible candidates may apply online.

Name of post: Lab Technician

No of posts: 1 post

Age Limit: 25 - 35 years

Educational Qualification: BMLT /DMLT

Experience: 3-5 years (hospital/laboratory experience preferred)

Applicants can share their updated CV to the following E-Mail Address: hr@seven-sisters-hospital.com.

Last date of submission of application: 10th Dec 2025.

MedEhub Recruitment 2025 – 3 Relationship Manager Posts, Online Apply

Last Date: N/A.

MedEhub, an initiative by DIALYATECH HEALTH SERVICE PVT. LTD. has released an employment notification for the recruitment of 3 Sr. Relationship Manager posts. Interested and eligible candidates may apply online.

Name of post: Sr. Relationship Manager

No of posts: 3 posts

Location: Guwahati, Assam

Job Type: Full-time

Educational Qualification:

- Graduate in any discipline (BBA/ B.Com/ B.Sc/ B.A).
- MBA/PGDM in Marketing, Sales, or Healthcare Management (preferred but not mandatory).

Experience:

- Minimum 1-3 years of experience in Sales, Customer Relationship, Pharma/Healthcare Marketing, or Client Handling.
- Freshers with strong communication skills may also apply.

Age Limit: Between 21 to 35 years.

Skills:

- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Strong presentation skills and customer-handling ability.
- Ability to build and maintain long-term client relationships.
- Basic computer proficiency (MS Office, CRM tools).
- Should be target-oriented with strong negotiation skills.
- Problem-solving ability and positive attitude.

Personal Requirements:

- Pleasant personality and professional behavior.
- Willingness to travel locally for client visits.
- Ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines.
- Strong team collaboration skills.

Key Responsibilities:

- Develop and maintain strong relationships with existing and new clients.
- Understand customer needs and provide appropriate product/service solutions.
- Conduct client visits, presentations, and follow-ups to strengthen engagement.
- Identify business opportunities and generate leads through networking and referrals.
- Achieve monthly and quarterly sales/relationship targets.
- Handle customer queries, concerns, and escalations professionally.
- Maintain accurate records of client interactions, sales activities, and reports.
- Coordinate with internal teams (operations, support, marketing) to ensure smooth service delivery.
- Assist in onboarding new clients and ensuring a great customer experience.
- Prepare and share daily/weekly reports on performance and client updates.
- Monitor market trends and competitor activities to support business strategies.
- Support promotional events, campaigns, and field activities when required.

Language Requirements:

- Fluency in English and local language.
- Hindi communication preferred (optional).

Interested and eligible candidates may send their updated resume to info@medehub.in with the subject line "Application for [Position Name]."

Oriental Insurance Recruitment 2025 – 300 Administrative Officer Posts, Online Apply

Last Date: 18/12/2025.

Oriental Insurance Company Limited (OICL) has released an employment notification for the recruitment of 300 Administrative Officer Posts in Scale I cadre. Interested and eligible candidates may apply online.

Name of post: Administrative Officer

No of posts: 300 posts

Generalist: 285 posts

Hindi (Rajbhasha): 15 posts

Category-wise vacancy:

SC: 44
ST: 25
OBC: 72
EWS: 29
UR: 130

Pay: Basic Pay of Rs 50925/- in the scale of Rs 50925-2500(14)-85925-2710(4)-96765 and other admissible allowance as applicable.

OBC: 3 years
Ex-Servicemen: 3 years
PwBD: 10 years

Educational Qualification:

Generalist Officer:

Graduate / Post Graduate in any stream from a recognized University with at least 60% marks in either of the degree examination (at least 55% for SC/ST) candidates.

Hindi (Rajbhasha) Officer:

Master's Degree from a recognized University in Hindi with English as a compulsory or elective subject or as the medium of examination at the degree level with 60% marks (for SC/ST 55% marks)

OR

Master's Degree from a recognized University in English with Hindi as a compulsory or elective subject or as the medium of examination at the degree level with 60% marks (for SC/ST 55% marks)

OR

Master's Degree from a recognized University in any subject other than Hindi or English, with Hindi medium and English as a compulsory or elective subject or as the medium of examination at the degree level with 60% marks (for SC/ST 55% marks)

OR

Master's Degree from a recognized University in any subject other than Hindi or English, with English medium and Hindi as a compulsory or elective subject or as the medium of examination at the degree level with 60% marks (for SC/ST 55% marks)

OR

Master's Degree from a recognized University in any subject other than Hindi or English, with Hindi and English as the compulsory or elective subjects or either of the two as a medium of examination and the other as a compulsory or elective subject at the degree level with 60% marks (for SC/ST 55% marks).

Application Fee:

Candidates have to pay a certain amount as application fee depending up on their category. The details are as given below:

Category	Fee
SC/ ST/ PwBD	Rs. 250/-
Others-	Rs. 1000/-

Interested and eligible candidates may apply online for these vacancy through online mode by visiting official Oriental Insurance Recruitment Portal. Candidates may follow below mentioned steps to apply for Oriental Insurance recruitment.

Scroll down, go to Important Web-Links section.

Click on the "Online Application Form" and complete the registration process by clicking "New User ? Register Now".

In the next stage, click on "Online Application Form" Link and Login.

Fill your all personal and educational details and upload necessary documents.

Make payment of application fee as per your category and submit the form.

At the end, take a print out of the application form.

* Starting date to apply online: 3rd December 2025

* Last date to apply online: 18th December 2025

STATE LEVEL POLICE RECRUITMENT BOARD, ASSAM
REHABARI, GUWAHATI - 781008
Website: <http://www.slprbassam.in>

No. SLPRB/REC/CONST (AB & UB)/727/2025/94

dated: 05-12-2025

ADVERTISEMENT**RECRUITMENT FOR THE POSTS OF CONSTABLE (UB) & CONSTABLE (AB) IN ASSAM POLICE**

- In pursuance of the directions of the Govt. of Assam, Online Applications are invited for filling up of **1052** posts of Constable (UB) & **663** posts of Constables (AB) in the Assam Police in the Pay Scale of Rs. 14000-70000/- with Grade Pay Rs. 5600/- and other Allowances, as admissible under the Rules.
 - The present number of vacancies is tentative in nature and subject to the final clearance by the Govt.
 - Online Applications will be received with effect from **16-12-2025 to 16-01-2026**, and in case of any inadvertent entry/typographical mistakes, edit option will be available for 5 days from the last date of submission of Online Application by logging into the Applicants Application ID Account(only once and subject to approval from SLPRB).
- 3.1** There will be no Application Fee.

4. DETAILS OF VACANCIES:

Vacancies for Constable (UB) in Assam Police - 1052

Vacancies for Constable (AB) in Assam Police - 663

4.1 Social Category wise reservation/quota:

Social Category	UB	AB	Order Reference
OBC/MOBC	27%	27%	Govt. of Assam O.M. No. TAD/OBC/1/2004/55 dated 31-05-2005
Tea & Ex-Tea Garden Tribes (within the OBC/MOBC quota)	3%	3%	Govt. of Assam O.M. Nos. ABP. 98/2023/11 dated 06-10-2023 & No. ABP. 98/2023/16 dated 27-03-2025
SC	7%	7%	Govt. of Assam Notification No. LGL.128/2011/40 dated 21-08-2012
ST(P)	10%	10%	
ST(H)	5%	5%	

4.2 Reservation/quota for Women (within each category):

UB	AB	Order Reference
30%	10%	O.M. No. HMA. 155/2012/Pt-I/64 dated 05-11-2014 O.M. No. HMA. 155/2012/Pt-I/65 dated 05-11-2014

4.3 Reservation/quota for specified category:

Category	UB	AB	Order Reference
Militancy-affected Areas	5%	5%	O.M. eCF No. 722082/57 dated 04-12-2025
Former Member of Militant Organization (FMMOs)	5%	5%	
Home Guards/VDP/ Civil Defence Volunteers	1%	1%	
Special Police Officers (SPOs)	1%	1%	
Sports Person (Minimum District Level Medal Winner/NCC Certificate Holder)	1%	1%	

4.3.A For availing facility of 5% allocation of vacancies of Former Member of Militant Organization (FMMO), Certificate issued by Special Branch, HQrs. of Assam Police, Kahilipara, Guwahati is mandatory and to be uploaded during Online Application.

4.3.B For availing facility of 1% allocation of vacancies of Home Guards/Registered Members of VDPs/SPOs/ Civil Defence Volunteer a Certificate of minimum 1 (one) year service as Home Guard/VDPs/CDV is mandatory and to be uploaded during Online Application.

5 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

5.1 Applicant must be a Citizen of India and Permanent Resident of Assam.

5.2 Selected Applicants will have to submit Proof of Residence after publication of the Final Select List. However, Applicants belonging to SC, ST, OBC/MOBC are exempted from submitting such Certificates.

5.3 The Applicant must be registered with a local Employment Exchange in Assam.

5.4 The Applicant must speak Assamese or any other State language fluently.

5.5 Age:

5.5.A The age of the Applicant must be 18-25 years as on 01-01-2026 (i.e., Applicants born not before 01-01-2001 and not later than 01-01-2008).

5.5.B Relaxations : Upper age limit for different categories are as under:

Sl. No.	Category	Age-Relaxation Permissible beyond the upper age limit
1	SC, ST (P) and ST (H)	5 years
2	OBC/MOBC	3 years
3	Home Guards/members of VDPs/ Civil Defence Volunteers (registered) who have served for a period of 3 (three) years or more.	Additional 3 (three) years
4	Former Members of Militant Organization (FMMOs) /SPOs	Additional 10 (ten) years

5.5.C The age of the Applicants will be calculated on the basis of the Matriculation/HSLC Admit Card/HSLC Passed Certificate issued by a recognized Board/Council. No other document shall be accepted in lieu thereof for this purpose.

5.5.D Any other document relating to age such as Horoscope, Affidavit, Birth Extract from Municipal Corporation, Health Department, Service Record etc. will NOT be accepted.

5.6 EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION:

5.6.A Constable (UB): H.S. or Class XII passed from Govt. recognized Board or Council.

5.6.B Constable (AB): H.S.L.C or Class-X passed from Govt. recognized Board or Council.

5.6.C Applicants having educational qualification of Higher Secondary and above may apply for both Armed Branch & Unarmed Branch. In such cases, Applicant has to clearly mention his/her preferences for the posts.

5.7 PHYSICAL STANDARDS:**5.7.A Height:**

Sl. No.	Categories	Male	Female
(a)	General/OBC/MOBC/SC	162.5 cm	154 cm
(b)	ST (P)/ST (H)	160 cm	152 cm

5.7.B Chest (Only for men):

Sl. No.	Categories	Normal	Expansion
(a)	General/OBC/MOBC/SC/ST (P)	Min. 80 cm	+ 5 cm
(b)	ST (H)	Min. 78 cm	+ 5 cm

5.8 MEDICAL STANDARDS:-

5.8.A Applicant must be in good mental and bodily health. They must be free from any physical deformities and free from diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, hernia, piles, respiratory diseases, knock-knee, flat foot or any other physical deformity that is likely to interfere with the efficient performance of duties. Applicants should not be colour blind or be squint eyed.

5.8.B Eye Sight: The distance vision should be 6/6 for at least one eye and not poorer than 6/9 for the other without correction. Near vision should be normal.

5.8.C Varicose vein shall be considered as temporary disqualification.

6. HOW TO APPLY:**6.1 Instructions for Registration and Application Submission**

- Applicants must register in the application portal only once for all Advertisements. Candidature will be cancelled if an applicant generates multiple Application IDs using different mobile numbers.
- Applicants must register with their name exactly as per the HSLC Certificate. Father's name and Mother's name must also be entered correctly.

(iii) Applicants must register using a valid mobile number and provide the following information accurately

- Employment Exchange Number
- Highest Qualification Details
- Permanent District
- Gender
- Caste/Category
- Date of Birth
- Aadhaar Number

(iv) After successful registration, an Application ID will be generated. Keep this ID safe for future reference.

6.1.A Applicants can log in to the Portal using their Application ID or Registered Mobile Number along with Date of Birth. Applicants are advised to keep the mobile number active and unchanged until the recruitment process is over.

6.1.B After login, Applicants must follow the below mentioned steps:

- Apply for the relevant Advertisement.
- Upload necessary documents
- Select post preferences (if applicable).
- Fill in personal details, upload a photograph, signature, and required Certificates.
- Enter academic details carefully.
- Generate OTP and download the Acknowledgement Slip

6.2 DOCUMENTS

6.2.A Mandatory Documents are to be uploaded with application:

- Latest passport size photograph. The maximum file size should be 450 KB (JPEG, JPG, PNG format only).
- Digital photo of Signature. The signature must be done using black or dark blue ink on a white paper. The maximum file size should be 100 KB (JPEG, JPG, PNG format only).
- Certificate of proof of age. (Admit Card/Certificate of H.S.L.C. or equivalent examination)
- Pass Certificate & Mark sheet of H.S.L.C or Class X for the posts concerned.
- Pass Certificate & Mark sheet of H.S. or Class XII for the posts concerned.
- Employment Exchange Registration Card.
- Caste Certificate, if applicable, is acceptable only from the Competent Authority authorized by the Govt. of Assam. CASTE CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY ANY OTHER AUTHORITY/STATES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

6.2.B Additional Documents to be uploaded with application to avail the benefit of Reservation/Quota and/or age relaxation:

- Home Guard training and minimum 1(one) year experience Certificate issued by Competent Authority, to avail Reservation/Quota benefit.
- Home Guard training and minimum 3 (three) years experience Certificate issued by Competent Authority to avail age relaxation.
- Certificate of registered VDP member with minimum 1(one) year experience as VDP issued by the concerned Superintendent of Police to avail Reservation/Quota benefit.
- Certificate of registered VDP member with minimum 3 (three) years experience as VDP issued by the concerned Superintendent of Police to avail age relaxation.
- Certificate of registered Civil Defence Volunteers (CVD) with minimum 1(one) year experience issued by District Commissioner-cum- Controller of Civil Defence to avail Reservation/Quota benefit.
- Certificate of registered Civil Defence Volunteers (CVD) with minimum 3 (three) years experience as VDP issued by District Commissioner-cum- Controller of Civil Defence to avail age relaxation.
- Appointment Certificate as SPO issued by the concerned Superintendent of Police to avail the benefit of Reservation/Quota and age relaxation.
- Certificate of FMMO issued by Special Branch, HQrs. of Assam Police, Kahilipara, Guwahati to avail the benefit of Reservation/Quota and age relaxation.
- Sports Certificate issued by Competent Authority (Minimum District Level Medal Winner), to avail Reservation/Quota benefit.
- NCC Certificate issued by Competent Authority to avail Reservation/Quota benefit.

6.3 Detailed instructions regarding uploading of documents and process of filling up of online application will be available at SLPRB website at the time of submission of online application.

7. PHASES OF RECRUITMENT TESTS:-

- Physical Efficiency Test (PET) and Medical Examination followed by Physical Standard Test (PST).
- Written Test.
- Oral/Viva-Voce.

7.1 PRELIMINARY IDENTITY VERIFICATION:- Admit Card of PET & PST and Identity Proof (Aadhaar Card/Voter ID/Driving Licence etc) will be checked for identity verification of the Applicants.

7.2 BIOMETRIC:-

- Biometric of each applicant will be captured before appearing in PET & PST.
- The biometric verification will be conducted at the time of exit. After which applicants will be issued either Performance or Rejection Slip.
- The biometric verification will also be carried out during the Written Test & Viva-Voce and may be conducted at any stage of recruitment process as deemed necessary by the SLPRB.

7.3 PHYSICAL EFFICIENCY TEST (PET): 40 MARKS FOR CONSTABLE (UB) AND CONSTABLE (AB) FEMALE & 60 MARKS FOR CONSTABLE (AB) MALE :

The PET consists of the following:

7.3.A Male

(i) **Race- 20 Marks**

Award of marks for 3200 meters Race (It will be conducted under CC TV surveillance and using RFID chips.)

Time taken 600 Sec. (10 min) or less	: 20 marks
For the next 30 Sec. of time taken, marks will decrease at the rate of 0.08 marks per second.	
Thus, for 630 Sec. or less but more than 629 Sec.	: 17.6 marks
For the next 40 Sec. of time taken, marks will decrease at the rate of 0.06 marks per second.	
Thus, for 670 Sec. or less but more than 669 Sec.	: 15.2 marks
For the next 60 Sec. of time taken, marks will decrease at the rate of 0.04 marks per second.	
Thus, for 730 Sec. or less but more than 729 Sec.	: 12.8 marks
For the next 60 Sec. of time taken, marks will decrease at the rate of 0.03 marks per second.	
Thus, for 790 Sec. or less but more than 789 Sec.	: 11 marks
For the next 50 Sec. of time taken, marks will decrease at the rate of 0.02 marks per second.	
Thus, for 840 Sec. or less but more than 839 Sec.	: 10 marks
For time more than 840 Sec. (14 min) no marks will be awarded and the Applicant will be declared as disqualified.	

(ii) **Long Jump- 20 Marks:** Minimum 335 cm for long jump (3 chances to be given and the longest valid jump rounded off to the nearest cm will be considered for awarding marks).

Award of marks for Long Jump (It will be conducted under CC TV surveillance).

For less than 335 cm no marks will be awarded and the Applicant will be declared as disqualified. A valid jump of 335 cm is the minimum qualifying level.

Marks for 335 cm	: 10 marks
For the next 65 cm, marks will increase at the rate of 0.04 per cm.	
Thus, marks for 400 cm	: 12.6 marks
For the next 50 cm, marks will increase at the rate of 0.06 per cm.	
Thus, marks for 450 cm	: 15.6 marks
For the next 30 cm, marks will increase at the rate of 0.08 per cm.	
Thus, marks for 480 cm	: 18 marks
For the next 20 cm, marks will increase at the rate of 0.10 per cm.	
Thus, marks for 500 cm	: 20 marks
No extra marks will be awarded for jump of more than 500 cm	

(iii) **CHIN UP - 20 Marks - ONLY FOR MALE APPLICANTS WHO APPLY FOR CONSTABLE (AB)**

Award of marks for Chin up for Male Applicants (It will be conducted under CCTV Surveillance)

For less than 4 chin ups	Disqualified
For 4 chin ups	10 marks
For 5 chin ups	11 marks
For 6 chin ups	12 marks

Contd. on P-7

Contd. from P-6

For 7 chin ups	13 marks
For 8 chin ups	14 marks
For 9 chin ups	15 marks
For 10 chin ups	16 marks
For 11 chin ups	17 marks
For 12 chin ups	18 marks
For 13 chin ups	19 marks
For 14 chin ups	20 marks
For chin ups more than 14 times no extra marks will be awarded	

7.3.B Female**(i) Race- 20 marks.****Award of marks for 1600 meters Race (It will be conducted under CC TV surveillance and using RFID chips.)**

Time taken 330 Sec. (5 min 30 seconds) or less : 20 marks
 For the next 30 Sec. of time taken, marks will decrease at the rate of 0.1 marks per second.
 Thus, for 360 Sec. or less but more than 359 Sec. : 17 marks
 For the next 30 Sec. of time taken, marks will decrease at the rate of 0.08 marks per second.
 Thus, for 390 Sec. or less but more than 389 Sec. : 14.6 marks
 For the next 30 Sec. of time taken, marks will decrease at the rate of 0.06 marks per second.
 Thus, for 420 Sec. or less but more than 419 Sec. : 12.8 marks
 For the next 40 Sec. of time taken, marks will decrease at the rate of 0.05 marks per second.
 Thus, for 460 Sec. or less but more than 459 Sec. : 10.8 marks
 For the next 20 Sec. of time taken, marks will decrease at the rate of 0.04 marks per second.
 Thus, for 480 Sec. or less but more than 479 Sec. : 10 marks
 For time more than 480 Sec. (08 min) no marks will be awarded and the Applicant will be declared as disqualified.

(ii) **Long Jump-20 marks:** Minimum 244 cm for long jump (3 chances to be given and the longest valid jump rounded off to the nearest cm will be considered for awarding marks).

Award of marks for Long Jump (It will be conducted under CC TV surveillance).

For less than 244 cm no marks will be awarded. A valid jump of 244 cm is the minimum qualifying level.
 Marks for 244 cm : 10 marks
 For the next 45 cm, marks will increase at the rate of 0.04 per cm.
 Thus, marks for 289 cm : 11.8 marks
 For the next 30 cm, marks will increase at the rate of 0.06 per cm.
 Thus, marks for 319 cm : 13.6 marks
 For the next 30 cm, marks will increase at the rate of 0.08 per cm.
 Thus, marks for 349 cm : 16 marks
 For the next 40 cm, marks will increase at the rate of 0.10 per cm.
 Thus, marks for 389 cm : 20 marks
 Marks for a valid jump of more than 389 cm : 20 marks.

7.4 MEDICAL EXAMINATION:- After qualifying in the PET, the Applicants will be examined by a Medical & Health Officer as per the parameters enumerated at Para 5.8 above.

7.5 PHYSICAL STANDARD TEST (PST) :- After qualifying in the medical tests, the Applicants will have to appear in the PST as per the parameters enumerated at Para 5.7 above. It will carry no marks.

7.6 DOCUMENTS VERIFICATION

- The Applicant reporting at the venue on the date and time for Physical Efficiency Test (PET) & Physical Standard Test (PST) must bring all the original documents, uploaded during submission of online Applications along with one set of self attested photocopies as mentioned in Para 6.2 of the Advertisement for verification.
- In case an Applicant fails to show original Caste Certificate during the document verification on the day of PET & PST, such Applicants shall be treated as GENERAL. No subsequent request will be entertained for change of Caste.
- No document will be accepted after the completion of PET & PST. All documents uploaded and submitted at the time of PST & PET must be issued on or before the last date of submission of online Applications. (i.e. **16-01-2026**)
- If any Applicant fails to produce any original document or doesn't furnish it at the time of document verification during PET & PST, he/she will not be given any chance of rescheduling the date for submission of any such document in future and his/her status will be decided on the basis of the documents submitted on the day of PET & PST only.
- There shall be no changes made in any entries after submission of documents during the time of PET & PST and no requests will be entertained.

7.7 INSTRUCTIONS FOR PET & PST

- An Applicant whose Application is found to be in order will be called for Physical Efficiency Test & Physical Standard Test. Applicant will be able to download the Admit Card from the SLPRB website. The SLPRB will not be responsible for any discrepancies that may arise due to entry of wrong mobile number and email address by the Applicant.
- An Applicant gets eliminated from the recruitment process as soon as he/she fails to qualify in any event during PET or PST. Applicant may have to take the PET in a sequence as decided by the Selection Committee.
- If an Applicant appears in the Tests from more than one venue, or makes an attempt towards that end, his/her candidature will be cancelled forthright for all the venues.
- The PET is strenuous and Applicants who are in proper medical condition only should take the tests. Assam Police/SLPRB will not be liable for any injury or casualty suffered by an Applicant during the tests due to any pre-existing medical condition.
- CCTV will be installed for recording each event of the PST and PET.
- Individual statement of marks signed by the Applicant and the Officer conducting the race/tests will be shown to the Applicant. A Rejection Slip will be given to an Applicant when he/she is eliminated from a particular Test.
- Height measurement is posture- dependent. Applicants are advised to stand in their best posture during height measurement. Any earlier height Certificate of any recruitment will not be valid in case of dispute.
- If any applicant deliberately indicated a head injury (bulge/swelling) or keep any object hidden on his head to take benefit of height, such applicant will be debarred from further process of the Recruitment Examination.
- The Applicants, who are declared not qualified in Physical Standards (i.e. Height and Chest) may approach the Selection Committee on the same day, if they so desire for re-measurement. The decision of the Selection Committee will be final and no further appeal or representation in this regard will be entertained thereafter.
- Applicant shall have no claim or right to appear in the Written Test merely on the ground that they secured the minimum qualifying marks in the PET.

7.8 WRITTEN TEST:

- 7.8.A** After completion of the PET, the shortlisted Applicants will be called for the Written Test in order of merit at the rate of **5 (five)** times the number of posts allotted in respect of each category based on the total marks scored in PET (for Constable-AB, PET marks will be converted into percentage).
- 7.8.B** If the total number of shortlisted Applicants in certain category turns out to be less than 5 times the number of posts, then only such shortlisted Applicants and no other will be called for the Written Test for that particular category.
- 7.8.C** If there are Applicants scoring the same marks in PET as the last Applicant selected for the written test by the 5 times formula in a particular category, the Applicant (s) scoring the same marks will also be called for the written examination and therefore the number may exceed the 5 times to that extent for that particular category only.
- 7.8.D** Written test will consist of **100** multiple choice type questions to be answered on an OMR answer sheet. For each correct answer the Applicant will get half mark. Questions will be of the level of class **IX** and **X**. Total marks for the Written Test will be **50**. There will be no negative marking.
- 7.8.E** The subjects to be covered are as follows:-
 i) Elementary Arithmetic
 ii) General English
 iii) Logical reasoning/Mental ability
 iv) Assam's History, Geography, Polity, Economy
 v) General Awareness/General Knowledge and current affairs

The question paper for **Written Exam** will be in the following languages:
 Assamese/ Bodo/ Bengali/English.

7.8.F The date and venue (s) of the Written Test will be notified in due course of time.

7.9 ORAL/VIVA VOCE :-Maximum 5 marks

7.9.A The number of Applicants to be called for the Oral/ Viva-Voce will be at the rate of **2 times** number of vacancies on merit based on total marks scored in PET& Written Test.

7.9.B If there are Applicants scoring the same marks as the last Applicant selected for Oral/Viva-Voce by the 2 times formula in a particular category, the Applicant scoring the same marks will also be called for the Oral/Viva-voce, and therefore, the number may exceed the 2 times to that extent for that particular category only.

8. WEIGHTAGE ON ACADEMIC MARKS:-Maximum 5 marks

8.1 Marks will be allotted based on results of Higher Secondary for **Constable (UB)** as under:

Sl. No.	Percentage	Marks allotted
i	45 - 59.99 %	2
ii	60 - 74.99 %	3
iii	75 % and above	5

9. FINAL MERIT LISTS:-

9.1 Final results will be based on the marks obtained as follows:

9.1.A. CONSTABLE (UB) BOTH MALE & FEMALE

(a)	Physical Efficiency Test (PET)	40 marks
(b)	Written Test	50 marks
(c)	Oral/Viva-Voce	5 marks
(d)	Academic	5 marks
Total		100 marks

9.1.B. CONSTABLE (AB) MALE

(a)	Physical Efficiency Test (PET)	60 marks
(b)	Written Test	50 marks
(c)	Oral/Viva-Voce	5 marks
Total		115 marks

9.1.C. CONSTABLE (AB) FEMALE

(a)	Physical Efficiency Test (PET)	40 marks
(b)	Written Test	50 marks
(c)	Oral/Viva-Voce	5 marks
Total		95 marks

9.1.D Final Selection list will be prepared for the exact number of vacancies to be filled up.

9.1.E In case of a tie in marks, the Applicant older in age will be placed higher in the merit list. Further, Applicants having same date of birth and having obtained equal marks, will be placed in the merit list according to higher height.

10. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

- Incomplete/defective/invalid applications will be summarily rejected.
- The email address and mobile number should be specific to each Applicant.
- All Applicants who are applying in subsequent recruitment Advertisement (s) must fill up online form through single Application ID only.
- In case of different Advertisements for similar category posts, a preference list for all the posts applied for has to be filled up by the Applicant.
- For every new Advertisement, Applicant have to apply by the single Application ID only and update the posts preference lists every time he/she applies for new posts.
- SLPRB may decide to club this recruitment with other posts/recruitment which are advertised prior or will be published after the publication of this Advertisement.
- The date & venue of the PET & PST, Written Examination & Oral/ Viva-Voce will be intimated in due course of time through SLPRB website- www.slprbassam.in.
- No T.A./D.A. will be admissible to Applicants for the journey and stay during any stage of the recruitment.
- The numbers of posts (vacancies) are subject to change. It may increase or decrease at any time /stage of recruitment process, due to administrative reasons and appointment to such vacancies will be decided by the Competent Authority at the time of appointment, based on merit, category-wise as per the final merit list.
- Applicants have to appear in all the stages of recruitment. If an Applicant is absent from any stage/ event his/her candidature will be cancelled.
- Candidature will be summarily rejected at any stage of the recruitment process for not conforming to the official format/providing incomplete information/wrong information/ incomplete requisite document/fake documents/ misrepresentation of facts/ impersonation. And shall also lead to rejection when detected at any stage before or after selection/appointment and shall make the Applicant liable to criminal proceeding Original documents of an Applicant may be put to check at any later stage of the recruitment process also.
- Each Applicant in final selection lists shall be allotted only one post, as per his/her eligibility and posts preference list.
- The selection lists confer no right to appointment unless the department is satisfied about suitability of the Applicant after a thorough medical examination and such enquiry and verification as may be considered necessary before appointment to the service/posts.
- The final appointment after selection is subject to satisfactory Police Verification Report and Final Medical Examination Report as per existing norms. In case Police Verification Report or Final Medical Examination Report is found unsatisfactory, the candidature of such Applicants will be rejected outright.
- Selected Applicant shall be required to undergo basic police training at the place and time decided by the Competent Authority. The training period can be extended by the Competent Authority. If any Applicant cannot complete basic training in three chances or is found unsuitable for the job in any manner during the period of training/probation he/she will be discharged from service.
- Appointees will have to sign an agreement whereby he/she will be required to serve a minimum period of 3 (three) years after being posted or in default to refund the cost of training and travelling expenses paid by the government.
- The rules & regulations, terms & conditions of training and afterwards will be applicable as prevalent in the department.
- A selected Applicant will be required to join and work in any District or Unit anywhere in the State of Assam. The district from where an Applicant gets selected will have nothing to do with his/her place of posting.
- Appointed Applicants shall be entitled to pension benefits as per the pension scheme existing at the time of appointment.
- The decision of SLPRB in all matters relating to eligibility, acceptance or rejection of the applications, mode of selection, the conduct of Examination(s), allotment of examination centre, debarment for indulging in malpractices, preparation of merit list etc. will be final and no enquiry/ correspondence in this regard will be entertained.
- Applicants must ensure orderly behavior to help SLPRB in conducting the recruitment in a just, fair and transparent manner.
- An Applicant is NOT required, to pay any amount of money at any stage of the recruitment process to SLPRB except for medical investigations, if required in a Govt. Hospital.
- Offering of any inducement for any favour by an Applicant or on his/her behalf is a criminal offence. Such an activity may result in immediate disqualification of his/her candidature.
- Any complaint about demand for gratification or other malpractice can be sent through mail to - slprbassam@gmail.com.
- Complaints may also be sent by post to the following address- Chairman, State Level Police Recruitment Board, Assam, Madhabdepur, Rehabori, Guwahati-781008,(Ground Floor of APHC Building).
- Anonymous complaints will not be entertained.

Sd/-

Chairman
 State Level Police Recruitment Board, Assam
 Rehabori, Guwahati

Defending champions Germany beat France to enter semi-final



CHENNAI, Dec 5: Seven-time champions Germany had to dig deep to keep their hopes of title defence alive as they progressed into the semifinals of the FIH Men's Junior World Cup, edging out a gutsy France 3-1 in shoot-out after both the teams were locked 2-2 at the end of regulation time here on Friday.

In the 2023 edition, seven-time champions Germany eked out a narrow 2-1 win over France in the final to claim the title.

In the shoot-out, Jonas von Gersum, Justus Warweg and Lukas Kossel, who scored from a penalty stroke, were the goal getters for Germany, while France's lone strike in the shoot-out came from Aristide Michaelis.

All credit goes to German goalie Jasper Ditzler, who produced a superlative show, not just in the shoot-out but all throughout the enthralling contest.

On Friday, it turned out to be a hard-fought contest between the two sides but France had better share of circle penetrations and chances.

France had the first real scoring chance in the form a penalty corner in the 13th minute but the effort was saved by German keeper Ditzler.

But both the teams matched each other stick-for-stick as the deadlock continued after the first 15 minutes.

The second quarter produced enthralling contest with the tempo and intensity of the game increasing to a different level. If not for German goalkeeper Ditzler, France would have had a sound lead by halftime.

France secured their second penalty corner in the 23rd minute but Ditzler produced another fine save.

The Germans too had their chances but failed in final execution.

But Germany finally broke the shackles against the run of play with a beautiful field goal by Alec von Schwerin in the 30th minute.

France responded back immediately, drawing level seconds later from their third penalty corner through Malo Martinache from a perfectly executed variation.

Germany came out attacking after the change of ends and Titus Wex came close to scoring in the 35th minute but his effort was saved by an alert French goalie Antoine Robert.

Germany secured their first penalty corner in the next minute and Paul Glander restored his side's lead with a powerful high flick.

France didn't lose hope and kept on fighting and in the process secured two quick short corners but failed to utilise the chances.

France's never give-up attitude finally bore fruit as they drew parity in the 55th minute through a fine field goal by Hugo Dolou to take the match into shoot-out.

In the thrilling first quarterfinal earlier in the day, tournament's second highest goal scorer and drag-flicker converted a last minute penalty corner to hand Spain a close 4-3 win over a fighting New Zealand.

It was Spain who started the match on a rousing note, taking a 3-0 lead inside 12 minutes through field strikes by Nicolas Mustaros (2nd minute), Josep Martin (10th) and Albert Serahima (12th).

But New Zealand mounted a brilliant fightback with Sam Lints (22nd, 60th) scoring two field goals, while Ryan Parr converted a penalty corner in the 34th minute.

But just at stroke of the final hooter, Avila put paid to the hopes of New Zealand from a penalty corner. (PTI)

Weatherald and Labuschagne post half centuries to help Australia to 228-3 in 2nd Ashes test

BIRSBANE, Dec 5: Jake Weatherald posted his maiden test half-century and Marnus Labuschagne completed back-to-back 50s to help Australia reach 228-3 at the end of the middle session on Day 2 in reply to England's 334 in the second Ashes test.

The 31-year-old Weatherald, who was out for a duck in his test debut last month, scored 72 from and shared partnerships of 77 with Travis Head (33) and 69 with Labuschagne to get Australia's chase away to a flier.

Steve Smith was 24 and Cameron Green was on 22 at the short interval before the night session. The Gabba pitch was already starting to produce some uneven bounce, likely making it tricky for the batters facing the pink ball under lights.

Smith has already had treatment after being hit on the elbow by a delivery from Brydon Carse that rose sharply and beat the edge of the bat.

England resumed Day 2 at 325-9 and added nine runs in 14 balls before No. 11 Jofra Archer was dismissed, leaving Joe Root unbeaten on 138.

The No. 1-ranked batter in test cricket posted his maiden hundred in an Ashes match Down Under late on Day 1 and shared a 70-run last-wicket stand with Archer that took



England's innings into a second day.

Only two wickets fell in the first session — Archer for England and Head for Australia — in warm, bright afternoon conditions in the day-night match.

There were two more wickets the middle session as the sun set in Brisbane, but runs continued to flow at a rate of more than 5 per over as Australia cut the first-innings deficit to 106.

Australia's top order
Head, who was the star of Australia's series-opening eight-wicket win in Perth, added 30 runs after a

getting a reprieve when he was dropped on three by wicketkeeper Jamie Smith in the ninth over off Archer's bowling.

He ran out of luck when he rushed through his shot to a ball from Carse which caught him by surprise and skied a catch to Gus Atkinson.

Weatherald made the scoring look easy as he raced to 50 from 45 balls, stroking nine boundaries and a six with a series of cut shots and uppercuts. He moved to 72 off 78 balls before he was hit on the foot by a full delivery from Archer that trapped him front.

Weatherald walked back toward the pavilion without having a second look at the umpire, and Australia was 146-2.

Smith's arrival at the crease was greeted with boos and jeers by the Barmy Army and the stand-in Australia captain had to duck under a 147 kph (91 mph) bouncer from Archer, the fastest delivery of the match.

The third-wicket pair put on 50 and seemed unperturbed until Ben Stokes struck to slow the momentum.

Labuschagne, who top edged an attempted pull off Carse to bring up his 50, was in good touch on 65 until he attempted a pull shot against a stock Stokes delivery and edged behind.

England's 1st innings

Brendan Doggett picked up the last of the England wickets on the 14th ball of the day for Australia when Archer hooked and Labuschagne took a diving, one-handed catch at backward square. England's innings lasted 76.2 overs.

Archer's 38 came off 36 balls, his career-highest test score containing two sixes and two boundaries including a classic square drive in Mitchell Starc's first over of the day.

Starc returned 6-75 from 20 overs to increase his series haul to 16 wickets. (AP)

Sports now a major tech-driven sector: Haryana CM Saini

CHANDIGARH, Dec 5: Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Friday said sports have expanded beyond athletic performance to become a major sector driven by employment, technology and scientific innovation.

Addressing the "Modern Sports Management: The Indian Model" conference at Haryana Sports University in Rai, Sonapat, Saini said sports will play a vital role in India's goal of becoming a developed nation by 2047. He said athletes from Haryana have brought unprecedented glory to the country at global events including the Olympics, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and University Games. The two-day conference, he added, will help shape a strong roadmap for the nation's sports ecosystem.

Haryana Sports University Vice-Chancellor and former DGP Ashok Kumar said the event aims to integrate Indian culture into sports and highlighted the achievements of the university established in 2022.

Saini said Indianisation of sports management means blending traditional Indian sporting values with modern scientific management, built on four pillars — modernity, mindset, management and moral values.

He said the state government has invested over ₹ 989 crore in the sports sector in the past 11 years, with a provision of ₹ 589.69 crore in the current financial year. (PTI)

Don't leave him searching for who he is: Ashwin

NEW DELHI, Dec 5: Former India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has urged the Indian team management to provide Washington Sundar with "proper" role clarity, warning that the bowling all-rounder could otherwise be left "searching for who he is."

Ashwin stressed that Washington must be treated as a frontline bowling all-rounder and given a full quota of overs to build confidence with the bat as well. The 26-year-old has bowled only seven overs across the first two ODIs against South Africa and is yet to take a wicket.

"Once you have decided to play Washington Sundar, you've to treat him as a bowler who can bat. You've to bowl out his overs," said Ashwin on his YouTube channel.

"Only if he keeps bowling, he'll have the mindset of a bowler who can bat. Otherwise, if he just bats and bowls a few overs, he'll keep searching for who he is. So don't leave him in the searching space. Instead, the team should arrive at giving him the proper role clarity," he added.

India failed to defend 358 in the second ODI as South Africa levelled the three-match series with a four-wicket win. They had scrapped through in the opening ODI after scoring 348.

Ashwin felt the hosts lacked a finishing option in the absence of Hardik Pandya and questioned whether a like-for-like replacement was overlooked. (PTI)

Current situation risks rendering ongoing operations untenable: ISL clubs to AIFF

NEW DELHI, Dec 5: Twelve Indian Super League (ISL) clubs on Thursday urged the All India Football Federation (AIFF) to resolve the crisis in the domestic game without any further delay, saying that the current situation risks rendering their "ongoing operations untenable".

The Marketing Rights Agreement (MRA) between the AIFF and its commercial partner Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL) -- which organises ISL -- ends on December 8, and after that the top-tier league will be left without a commercial framework or operational certainty going forward.

"While majority of the clubs have continued to honour salaries and contractual dues to players and staff in good faith, the current position is not merely challenging it is approaching commercial impossibility and risks rendering ongoing operations untenable," the clubs said in a letter to AIF president Kalyan Chaubey.

The 12 ISL clubs are FC Goa, Sporting Club Delhi, NorthEast United FC, Jamshedpur FC, Bengaluru FC, Mohun Bagan Super Giant, Chennaiyin FC, Mumbai City FC, Kerala Blasters, Punjab FC, Odisha FC and Mohammedan Sporting. Inter Kashi, which won the I-League and were promoted to the ISL for the upcoming season, was also involved in the move.

"For nearly eleven years, ISL clubs have continued to invest substantially in football in India despite persistent losses on strength of a predictable league structure and, most critically, central revenue. This revenue stream has historically been the principal source of income that enabled clubs to manage salaries, infrastructure, and sporting operations."

"With the expiry of the MRA and the consequent absence of a commercial rights holder, central revenue has ceased entirely. The uncertainty has also caused local sponsors to withdraw or pause commercial commitments, leaving clubs with no viable income whatsoever, despite



ongoing obligations."

The clubs also suggested that the AIFF work with the government to submit the actions proposed to be taken with regards to the issues highlighted during the meeting with sports minister Mansukh Mandaviya on or before December 8 so that the apex court is apprised of the remedial pathway.

"... time is now of the essence. The viability of the clubs and indeed the future of the ISL and the Indian football ecosystem depends on immediate steps being placed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

"It is, therefore, imperative that the report of the Union of India and/or the AIFF on the actions proposed to be taken in respect of the issues highlighted herein be filed on or before 8 December 2025, so that the Court is apprised of the remedial pathway and commercial certainty can be restored without further delay."

They said any extension beyond this date "risks (causing) irreversible harm to the ecosystem painstakingly built over the past decade."

In reply to the letter, the AIFF said it is "forwarding your mail to the Ministry of Sports,

Govt of India for their information and necessary action."

"The AIFF shall also put in all possible effort as per our AIF Constitution to ensure ISL gets a long-term sustainable model for growth and development of Indian football.

"We are also forwarding this mail to KPMG to work on a suitable solution, including the possibility of issuing a re-tender keeping time constraints in mind."

The clubs said they had filed an 'Interim Application' before the SC, "seeking the removal of commercial impediments inadvertently incorporated into the AIF Constitution, which have rendered the tender process unworkable."

"These impediments arise from inter alia Articles 1.21, 1.54, and 63 of the Constitution."

The clubs even went to the extent of saying that under the new AIF Constitution, the national federation "possesses the authority to amend its own statutes including those impeding commercial operation of the league-without requiring judicial directions."

"Should the Court process take time, we urge that the AIFF consider exercising this power with utmost urgency, in consultation with the Government where necessary, so that the sport is not imperilled by procedural delay."

The AIFF is holding its Annual General Body Meeting on December 20.

A tender floated by the AIFF to select a new commercial partner of the ISL did not find any taker. The clubs said in case a revised tender could not find a suitable commercial partner, the AIFF should "consider a framework under which the ISL clubs may collectively form a consortium to own/operate the league (as majority owners), alongside the Federation and aligned commercial/broadcast/private investors."

"Such an approach is consistent with global best practices and reflective of the long-term commitment of the Clubs to Indian football," the letter said. (PTI)

KIUG 2025: Chandigarh retain overall championship, Srihari most successful athlete

JAIPUR, Dec 5: Chandigarh University defended their overall championship crown at the Khelo India University Games, finishing their campaign with 67 medals, comprising 42 gold, 14 silver and 11 bronze.

Olympian and India's top swimmer Srihari Nataraj was the most successful athlete of KIUG 2025 as he ended with nine gold and two silver medals to help Bengaluru's Jain University clinch a total of 27 gold, nine silver and nine bronze.

Chandigarh University won 23 out of the 30 gold medals on offer in Canoe and Kayaking, a sports discipline which made its debut at the KIUG, six in swimming and five in athletics, two in wrestling and one each in weightlifting, shooting, cycling, archery, table tennis and kabaddi.

Lovely Professional University (LPU) finished their KIUG campaign as the runner-up with 78 medals, 11 medals more than the champions, but with less number of gold medals. LPU took home 32 golds, 25 silver and 22 bronze.

Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU) also finished with 32 gold medals but their tally of 22 silver and 18 bronze meant that they had to settle for the third spot.

The fifth edition of KIUG was being held across seven cities in Rajasthan with a whopping 4448 athletes from 222 Universities competing in 23 medal disciplines. The Games were held under the aegis of the Sports Authority of India (SAI) in collaboration with the Rajasthan State Sports Council and is being hosted by Poornima University.

The Games also witnessed 12 new meet records being made in athletics, including two All India University records to underline the high quality of competition throughout the 12 days. (PTI)

Lando Norris with 'most to lose' as F1 title decider looms in Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI, Dec 5: Lando Norris is the Formula 1 title favorite ahead of a three-way decider in Abu Dhabi — which also means he has the most to lose.

He and teammate Oscar Piastri are each looking to win their first title, but Norris saw his comfortable 24-point lead entering last week's Qatar Grand Prix whittled down to 12 by the end of it as Red Bull's Max Verstappen surged back into the fight.

"Of course, I have the most to lose because I am the one at the top," Norris said Thursday. "I'll do my best to stay there till the end of the year, a few more days. At the same time, if it doesn't go my way, then I'll try again next year. It'll hurt probably for a little while, but that's life."

Norris fastest - but not by much
The only way Norris can lose the title is if he finishes Sunday's race outside the top three. His pace in Friday's first practice session suggested that's unlikely as he was fastest ahead of Verstappen, though only by .008 of a second. Charles Leclerc was third, 0.016 off the pace for Ferrari.



Still, the session wasn't a reliable guide to race pace. It was held in daytime, not under lights, and only 11 of the 20 regular drivers

took part. Piastri was among those to give up his car as teams pushed to meet a rule requiring them to field young or inexperienced drivers in a certain number of practice sessions each year.

Norris has denied he'll ask Piastri to help out to at least ensure one McLaren driver becomes champion if it seems Verstappen will take the title.

Verstappen's chances were revived when McLaren botched a strategy call in Qatar, one race after Norris and Piastri were disqualified in Las Vegas.

Relaxed Verstappen
The one contender who's been in a final-race decider before, Verstappen said he's "just enjoying being here" in a season where his title defense often seemed impossible.

"I have four of those at home, so it's nice to add a fifth," he said Thursday, looking at the trophy standing next to him.

"I've already achieved everything that I wanted to achieve in F1 and everything is just a bonus. I just keep doing it because I love it and I enjoy it and that's also how I go

into this weekend. Have a good time out there, try to maximize the result."

Verstappen was 104 points off the lead at one stage, and wrote his chances off again when he wasn't competitive in qualifying for the Brazilian Grand Prix, three races ago.

Piastri clings on
Piastri had a 34-point lead in August and seemed on target to become the first Australian champion in 45 years. He hasn't won in eight races since.

With only a slim shot at the title, Piastri could face the dilemma of whether to sacrifice his own bid for Norris. "I don't really have an answer until I know what's expected of me," he said.

Piastri showed good pace to take second spot in Qatar last week, though he was left "speechless" after a race dominated by McLaren's wrong strategy call.

"Obviously, I need a fair few things to happen this weekend to come out champion," he said, "but I'll just make sure I'm in the right place at the right time and see what happens." (AP)

Veer shoots sensational final round to register come-from-behind victory



JAIPUR, Dec 5: Veer Ahlawat, who was overnight fourth and five shots off the lead, matched his tournament low score of eight-under 62 in round four to register a sensational come-from-behind victory at the Jaipur Open here Friday. Gurugram-based Ahlawat (67-62-70-62), who had also shot a 62 earlier in the second round, totalled 19-under 261 for the week to pick up his fifth title and the winner's purse of ₹ 15 lakh that lifted him from 38th to 18th position in the PGTI Order of Merit. Ahlawat's exceptional bogey-free round also helped him break the record for the lowest winning total at the Rambagh Golf Club. The record was previously held by Sanjay Kumar who had shot a 16-under 264 at a PGTI event in 2011.

"I discovered something new in my swing earlier this week that really helped my driving. My driving was the best aspect of my game through the week. I also hit it close for most part of the final round," Ahlawat said.

"The game-changer for me was the 17th where I played a poor chip shot but despite that managed to sink a long putt to salvage a birdie," he added. Yuvraj Sandhu (65-63-66-68), the leader by three shots after round three, carded a 68 on the final day featuring five birdies and three bogeys that saw him finish runner-up at 18-under 262. Yuvraj took away a cheque worth ₹ 10 lakh to further extend his lead in the PGTI Order of Merit to over ₹ 33 lakh as his season's earnings moved to ₹ 1,31,67,100.

Shaurya Bhattacharya returned a 64 to take third place at 15-under 265. On Friday, the tall and lanky Ahlawat was slow off the blocks with his first two birdies coming on the sixth and eighth holes.

However, he made a charge with six birdies on the back-nine including a crucial 14-foot conversion on the 17th where he was in a spot of bother. Yuvraj mixed five birdies with a bogey till the 16th to lead for most part of the day. However, he missed short putts on the last two holes to drop consecutive bogeys that saw his challenge fade away. (PTI)