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GUWAHATI, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2025

GUWAHATI



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SIGNATURE
CAMPAIGN
DEMANDING
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BTC to provide land to landless

R DUTTA CHOWDHURY

KOKRAJHAR, Nov 17: Providing land to deserving landless people as per the law will be one of the thrust areas for the newly constituted Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) under the leadership of Hagrama Mahilary. This was disclosed by Executive Member (EM) of the BTC, Derhasat Basumatary. He also revealed that the role of the Bodoland People's Front (BPF) in the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is yet to be finalised.

In an interview with *The Assam Tribune*, Basumatary said that the people of the Bodoland Territorial Region

EC announces special revision of Assam voter list

A CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, Nov 17: The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Monday decided to conduct a Special Revision in Assam with January 1 next year as the qualifying date. The final publication of the electoral rolls will take place on February 10, 2026.

The special revision will be conducted under Section 21 of The Representation of the People Act, 1950.

In a communication to the chief electoral officer of Assam, the ECI said that pre-revision activities will start from November 18 and continue till November 21, during which work related to printing of all documents and circulars and training of election officials will take place.

From November 22 to December 20, house-to-house verification through BLOs, rationalization and rearrangement of polling stations and removal of discrepancies in the electoral rolls/EPIC will take place.

From December 21 to December 26, 2025, preparation of Formats 1 to 8 and preparation of integrated draft roll with reference to January 1, 2026 as the qualifying date will take place, the ECI said.

On December 27, publication of the integrated draft



electoral roll will take place.

The period from December 27, 2025 to January 22, 2026 has been fixed for filing of claims and objections (including disposal of claims and objections in respect of which notice period is over).

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday welcomed the ECI's decision to undertake the Special Revision, and assured the State government's full cooperation.

"The Govt of Assam welcomes the Election Commission of India's decision to undertake a Special Revision of the electoral rolls with 01.01.2026 as the qualifying date," he posted on X.

"This will help ensure clean, updated and accurate electoral rolls for all eligible citizens. Assam will extend full cooperation to the

@ECISVEEP to complete

the revision in a transparent and time-bound manner," Sarma added.

According to the ECI, the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) of each Assembly constituency shall be responsible for ensuring that no eligible citizen is left out while at the same time no ineligible person is included in the electoral roll.

Before the draft publication, exercise of removal of all logical errors and standardization of addresses and checking quality of photographs as well as removal of discrepancies in EPICs shall be completed in a time bound manner, the commission said.

For field verification, BLOs will be given a pre-filled BLO register (Statement-1) containing the details of existing electors in their respective part for house-to-house field visit.

"Based on the house-to-house enumeration, ERO shall assess the need of new polling stations considering that no polling station has more than 1,200 electors, except with the prior approval of the Commission. ERO to also ensure that the polling station area is so defined and demarcated that no overlap exists with any other Polling station," the ECI stated.

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Ousted Bangla PM Hasina sentenced to death for 'crimes against humanity'



Bangladeshi Army soldiers stand guard outside the Supreme Court in Dhaka on Monday. — AP/PTI

DHAKA, Nov 17: Bangladesh's deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina was on Monday sentenced to death in absentia by a special tribunal for "crimes against humanity" over her government's brutal crackdown on student-led protests last year.

In its verdict that followed a months-long

India committed to Bangla people's interest: MEA

NEW DELHI, Nov 17: Hours after a special tribunal in Bangladesh sentenced ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina to death, India on Monday said that it noted the verdict and it will engage constructively with all stakeholders considering peace, democracy and stability in the neighbouring country.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said that India remains committed to the best interests of people of Bangladesh.

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trial, the country's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) described the 78-year-old Awami League leader as the "mastermind and principal architect" of the violent repression that killed hundreds of protesters. It also handed the death sentence to former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal on similar charges.

Hasina has been living in India since she fled Bangladesh on August 5 last year in the face of the massive protests. She was earlier declared a fugitive by the court.

Hours after the verdict, Bangladesh's foreign ministry demanded that Hasina and former home minister Kamal be immediately handed over under an extradition treaty in view of their sentencing.

"We call on the Indian government to immediately hand over these two convicted individuals to the Bangladeshi authorities," the foreign ministry said in a statement in Bengali.

"This is also a duty for India, as per the extradition treaty existing between the two countries," it said.

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42 Indian pilgrims die in Madina bus mishap

NEW DELHI, Nov 17: Forty-two Indian Umrah pilgrims from Telangana were among 44 people killed in a collision involving their bus and a fuel tanker near Madina in Saudi Arabia in the wee hours of Monday, people familiar with the matter said.

It has been confirmed by local authorities that there is one Indian survivor, and he is undergoing medical treatment, they said. It is learnt that two local facilitators on board the bus were also killed in the accident.

The mortal remains of the deceased have been transferred to King Fahad Hospital, King Salman Hospital and Al Miqat Hospital, and officials from the Indian mission in Jeddah are coordinating with the local authorities to handle the situation, the people cited above said.

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NEXA

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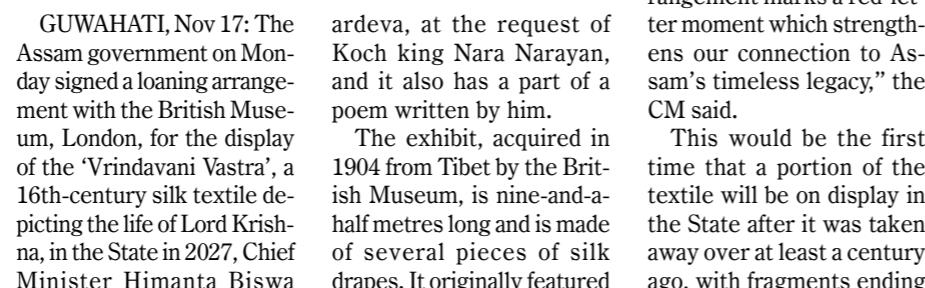
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signed in London, in the presence of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

"The Vrindavani Vastra is not just a textile; it is a symbol of Assam's rich spiritual and cultural heritage, reflecting the devotion and vision of Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardev," Sarma said in a post on X.

A priceless heritage returns to where it truly belongs, he said.

"The signing of the Letter of Intent with the British Museum to bring it back home under a loaning arrangement marks a red-letter moment which strengthens our connection to Assam's timeless legacy," the CM said.

This would be the first time that a portion of the textile will be on display in the State after it was taken away over at least a century ago, with fragments ending up as artefacts in museums across the world.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was

» SEE PAGE 2



second thrust area would be to provide self-employment avenues to the unemployed youths. He said that there are a large number of unemployed youths in the BTR, and providing self-employment avenues to them would be a priority of the BTC. He pointed out that skills, including entrepreneurial skill development

of the youths, would be taken as a priority project.

Stress would be given on the development of school education, particularly the improvement of the Bodo medium schools. Basumatary said that people who have money send their children to the English medium school, and that is one of the main reasons for the deterioration of the results of the Bodo medium schools. However, he admitted that there are other problems, like a shortage of teachers. He said that it is difficult to get teachers for Science and Mathematics for the Bodo medium schools.

» SEE PAGE 2

IN MEMORIAM



Late Girija Prasad Das
Remembering on your 34th
Death Anniversary,
Family Members

CD/InMemo/RL002798/1

SITUATION VACANT

Sri Sankaradeva Nethralaya invites applications for the below mentioned post:
Resource Mobilization Officer: 1 No. (Contractual) Qualification: Masters Degree in Public Health (MPH)/Business Administration (MBA) from a recognized Institution. Candidates having Certification in Fund raising, CSR Regulations or NGO Financial Management will be preferred. Candidates who have completed MBA through online or distance learning programs will not be considered.

Age Preferred: 30-40 Years
Experience: Minimum 3-5 Years of prior experience in fundraising or a relevant role will be preferred. Interested candidates may apply to:

The Manager (HR)
Sri Sankaradeva Nethralaya
96, Basistha Road,
Guwahati - 781 028
Email: ssnhrm@gmail.com
Last date of submission of applications: 30.11.2025
N.B.: Only Short listed candidates will be called for interview.

CD/SV/PL005559/1

Urgently required Sales Executive, Female Receptionist for Guwahati. Contact: 7099359755.

SV/P/NP006700/2

Urgently required Retired persons n Ladies. Earnings-60000 PF Medical extra Contact-Bedanta 9864012461.

SV/P/PP008577/8

Required Housewife & Retired Persons for MNC. Earnings-Rs.30000/upto . Part time job. Ph : 7002758460.

SV/..../1

Sales Executive (F) Required for boutique in Guwahati. Minimum 2 years of experience. Send CV on 8638648673.

SV/P/ZC025817/2

Urgently required candidates for the position of Telecaller, Back Office, Customer Service, Executive etc. Immediate joining preferred. Call : 8099236635/6003238005.

SV/P/ZC025818/1

Vacancy EdVenture Coaching Institute, Rehabari/G.S.Road. Teachers required for Science, English, Social studies (TGT/PGT). Send resume at edventure.ghy@gmail.com. Contact: 9678923354.

SV/P/ZC025812/1

NEEDED ASSISTANT ARCHITECT / CIVIL ENGINEER FOR DESIGN FIRM AT CHANGSARI, PHONE: 7086022754.

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ACHIEVEMENT



Miss Kankana Goswami has been awarded the degree of "Doctor of Philosophy" (Ph.D) by Baranagar Hindu University for her thesis entitled "A Critical and Comparative Study of Prakasa, Samskara, Tatvapratikasika and Vedarthaprajnata Commentaries on Isavasyopanisad". She carried out her research works under the supervision of Dr. Srikrishna Misra, former Dean of Arts Faculty, BHU. Now she is working as Teaching Associate at Sanskrit Deptt, Gauhati University. Kankana Goswami is daughter of Sri Bisweswar Goswami and Smt. Jayashree Devi Goswami of Rupnagar, Guwahati. She is great-granddaughter of Late Pt. Jibeswar Dev Goswami, a renowned Sanskrit scholar of Tihu, Nalbari dist. and granddaughter of Late Sureswar Goswami.

CD/Achieve/P/PP008800/1

Mohan Bhagwat arrives in city

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Nov 17: RSS sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat arrived in the city today.

Bhagwat arrived at the Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport this afternoon and headed directly to Sudarshanay, the RSS office, at Borbari here.

The RSS chief is visiting Assam as part of the organization's centenary year celebrations.

Bhagwat will attend a citizens' conference on November 18 at Sudarshanay with around 200 prominent individuals, including litterateurs, senior journalists, and industrialists of Guwahati and exchange views with them.

He will attend a youth conference at the same venue on November 19.

Bhagwat will depart for Manipur on November 20.

AGM of New Art Players held

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Nov 17: The 70th annual general meeting of the socio-cultural organization New Art Players, Guwahati was held at the club premises recently.

The meeting was presided over by the president Ajoy Dutta.

The members deliberated on different issues for the development and welfare of the organization. The president in his address stressed upon fulfilling the motto of the organization.

The meeting elected Ajoy Dutta as president, Mallika Barua and Pukal Goswami as vice presidents, Rathindra Narayan Bhattacharya as general secretary and Kalyan Kumar Das as treasurer, among others.



Dancers from Duliajan Club Music Academy, Duliajan performing during the Nritya Parva, the annual festival of Sattriya dance at the Srimanta Sankaradeva International Auditorium in Guwahati on Sunday. – UB Photos

Bronze bust of 'Bihagi Kavi' to be unveiled at Bihagi Nagar today

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Nov 17: A bronze bust of iconic poet Rabhunath Choudhary, known as 'Bihagi Kavi' and one of the crusaders for a self-reliant Assam, will be unveiled at Bihagi Nagar in Narengi-Birkuchi tomorrow.

Chhattisgarh Governor Ramen Deka will formally unveil the bust.

The bust has been crafted under the leadership of Dr Chagendra Usendi, Assistant Professor at Indira Kala Sangit Vishwavidyalaya, Chhattisgarh, with funding from the Raj Bhavan. It will be installed at Bihagi Nagar with public support and under the initiative of the Greater Birkuchi Sahitya Sabha.

Stating this, a joint statement from Greater Birkuchi Sahitya Sabha-Shatadal branch and Bust Construction Committee said that aside from the Chhattisgarh Governor, notable attendees will include Hrishikesh Goswami (secretary, Shishu Sahitya Nyas), Parikshit Baishya (writer), and Dr Kulendu Pathak (educationist and family member of the Bihagi Kavi).

The programme will also feature an exhibition of some personal belongings of Rabhunath Choudhary, the launch of a book titled *Raghunath*, and a cultural programme in the evening.

It may be recalled that the Bihagi Kavi had established oil mills in the Birkuchi area, engaged in agricultural work, and inspired the Assamese people to become self-sufficient through farming. Amid the natural surroundings of that location, he composed many famous poems, including *Dahikatora* (1931).

Hence, the site has already been named Bihagi Nagar.

On November 19, the special annual session of the Greater Birkuchi Sahitya Sabha (Shatadal branch) will be held in connection with the bust installation. The session will be attended by Prof Dr Umesh Deka (retired Professor, Rabindranath Tagore Chair) and Jiten Sharma (president, Sadou Asam Natya Sanmilan). A collection titled *Kabliwala* (a compilation of plays by Mahananda Sharma, edited by Reena Sharma) will also be released.

Book on solid waste management released

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Nov 17: A scientific book that seeks to redefine the approach to waste management and highlight its direct link to the nation's food chain was released recently at the Gauhati Press Club.

The book, titled *Understanding of Solid Waste Management to Save the Food Chain*, is written by environmental scientist Dr Amariyoti Kashyap, founder-president of ENVIRON.

The release comes at a time when India is witnessing an unprecedented rise in unscientific waste dumping, leading to the rapid formation of what experts are calling "waste land" and "toxic land".

Published by ENVIRON, the book will be available for free as a soft copy on the organization's website. It is deeply research-driven and opens new dimensions for managing solid waste through scientific procedures that begin with categorization and segregation at source.

Dr Kashyap emphasized that the process must begin with categorization into compostable, recyclable, mixed and sanitary waste. This is to be followed by proper segregation using green, blue, yellow and red bins respectively.

The book's structure reflects its comprehensive coverage of India's waste crisis. Among the chapters are Background, Analysis of solid waste, Understanding of plastic waste, Understanding of electronic waste, Understanding of legacy waste, Solid waste management in general, and Invention for decentralized solid waste management.

It also includes a dedicated section on solid waste and the food chain, underscoring how toxins from poorly managed waste eventually make their way into the food humans consume.

Dristi Rajkhowa granted bail

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Nov 17: Former self-styled deputy commander-in-chief of the United Liberation Front of Asom-Independent (ULFA-I), Dristi Rajkhowa, was today granted bail by the TADA Court in connection with a long-pending kidnapping case.

The case dates back to 1993, when railway contractor Kanhaiyalal Gupta was allegedly abducted by suspected ULFA-I cadres near Kheroni Police Station in

Karbi Anglong. Rajkhowa was accused of masterminding the abduction, and a chargesheet against him was filed in 2001. Following the filing of the chargesheet, the matter was renumbered as TADA Sessions Case No. 1/2020 under Section 364A of the IPC, read with Sections 3(2)(ii) and 3(5) of the TADA (P) Act.

Advocate Bijon Kumar Majahan, appearing for the former ULFA leader, argued before the court that his client had never received any warrant of arrest as claimed

by the investigators. The defence further contended that Rajkhowa only came to know about the warrant after joining the mainstream, when another former senior leader of the outfit informed him of its existence.

Rajkhowa, who recently joined the BJP along with several other cadres of the outfit, was granted bail upon furnishing a bail bond of one lakh rupees along with two sureties of the same amount.

The next hearing in the case is scheduled for January 2, 2026.

CM indulging in hate speech: Ajmal

STAFF REPORTER

Assembly polls.

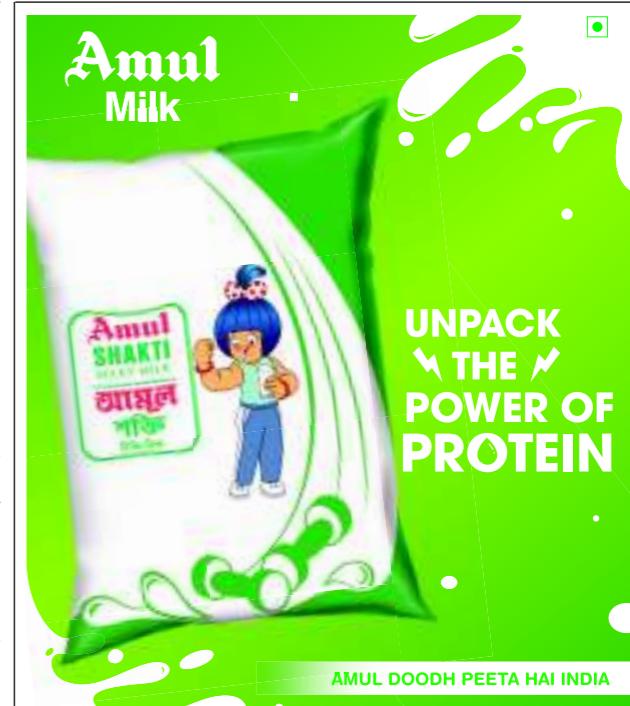
"People of Assam want justice for Zubeen Garg. And we stand with the people of Assam on the matter," he said.

Ajmal castigated the Chief Minister over the latter's alleged comments against the minority Muslim community for the sake of electoral gains.

Addressing the media here, Ajmal added that justice for Zubeen Garg will be a major poll plank of the AIUDF in the 2026 Assam

the polls. He is insulting the minorities for political reasons. He should maintain the dignity of his office. AIUDF has never stood for Bangladeshis. We had long ago demanded the sealing of the India-Bangladesh border and adopting shoot-at-sight to prevent influx from across the border," Ajmal added.

He said that grant of land *patta* will be another major issue for the AIUDF in the elections.



Honour for city lady

GUWAHATI, Nov 17: President of JCI Guwahati Hunar, Neha Gupta, was honoured by JCI India with the 'Best President Award' of the entire zone during the zonal conference 'Zoncon-Gun-Utsav' held here recently.

The award was given to Gupta in recognition for leadership, dedication, and remarkable contributions throughout the year. Neha Gupta has been an active member of JCI Guwahati Hunar since 2018 and has served in various positions, including as its director and vice president.

In 2021, she was also awarded as the 'Best Jaycee Lady Member' at the national level by JCI India. – Staff Reporter

JAC OLIVOL

*Legends never fade,
They echo through time'*

*Remembering Zubeen Garg
(1972 - 2025)
On his 53rd Birthday*

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NOTICE

This is for information of all concerned that those who have been selected by the State Level Recruitment Commission (SLRC), Grade-III (L.D.A) under the Office of the Lokayukta, Assam are hereby requested to report with all relevant documents (in original) for verification at the Office of the Lokayukta, Assam, Shaktigarh Path, Byelane-II, House No.15 (3rd floor), Bhangagarh, Guwahati-781005 on 20.11.2025 positively (during office hours).

The Roll Nos. of the selected candidates are:

LDA: 1021696 & 9000433

The candidates must report and attend for the document verification along with the following original documents for verification.

1. Copy of online application.
2. Admit card of the written examination.
3. Birth Certificate/ HSLC Admit Card (supporting date of birth).
4. Academic qualification certificate submitted at the time of applying for the post of Class-III.
5. Caste Certificate (where applicable).
6. EWS/PWD certificate (where applicable).
7. Computer proficiency certificate.
8. Aadhaar Card/ Passport/Voter ID card/ PAN Card.
9. 2 (Two) recent passport Size Photograph (for Submission)

Candidates who are unable to attend the verification on the scheduled dates due to unavoidable circumstances may approach the Secretary-cum-Registrar of the Office of the Lokayukta, Assam, on 21.11.2025 (during office hours) with justification highlighting their inability to be present on the aforesaid date. Contact details of Secretary-cum-Registrar of the Office of the Lokayukta, Assam Email ID: assamlokyukta@gmail.com, Mobile No.: 6026461214.

No TA/DA or any financial assistance will be provided by the Office of the Lokayukta, Assam.

Sd/- Secretary-cum-Registrar,
Office of the Lokayukta, Assam,
Guwahati-5.

DIPR/D/AT/2519/18-Nov-25

No. E-558337/217

NOTICE

Document verification for the post of Grade-III & Grade-IV

In pursuance to the Minutes of the meeting dated 06.11.2025 and as per the Distribution of Departments to the candidates selected by the State Level Recruitment Commission for the post of Grade-III and Grade-IV vide Govt. letter No.E-390223/260, dated 10.11.2025, the physical verification of documents in respect of the selected candidates (PWBD candidates will be called separately after the medical examination report is received) is hereby scheduled to be held as mentioned below:

Date : 19, 20, 21 & 22 November, 2025

Time : Morning Slot: 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Evening Slot: 1:30 PM to 5:00 PM

Venue : Conference Hall/Video Conference Hall.
O/o the Director of Secondary Education, Assam
Kahilpara, Guwahati-19.

Date & slot wise list of candidates selected for the post of Grade-III and Grade-IV under the Directorate of Secondary Education, Assam is available in the official website of Directorate of Secondary Education, Assam i.e. www.madhyamik.assam.gov.in.

Candidates are requested to attend as per the date, time slot and venue allotted to them.

The selected candidates must attend the physical verification of documents with self attested Xerox copies of all documents along with the original as mentioned below:

1. All relevant original documents.
2. Copy of Online Application.
3. Admit card of ADRE Exam.
4. Educational certificates as per the requirement for the post.
5. Proof of date of birth (HSLC admit card/pass certificate)
6. Caste certificate if applicable
7. Certificate of Ex-serviceman if applicable.
8. Employment exchange registration certificate.
9. Aadhaar Card/PAN/EPIC.
10. 2 (two) copies of Passport Size photographs.

Only the selected candidates will be allowed to enter the office building.

Sd/- Director of Secondary Education, Assam
Kahilpara, Guwahati-19.

DIPR/D/AT/2532/18-Nov-25

No. e. DME/UG/2025/663652/32

ADMISSION NOTICE

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

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

All provisionally selected candidates are hereby directed to report to the office of the Principals of the respective Colleges with following terms and conditions on 19th or 20th November, 2025 for admission and necessary document verification, failing which his/her allotment shall be cancelled.

1. All the admission shall be provisional and it will be subject to fulfilment of all the requisite eligibility criteria as per the MBBS/BDS Admission Rule, 2017 (amended upto 2025).
2. Candidates shall have to report to the allotted college and deposit the original Admit Cards, Marks Sheets, Pass Certificates of HSLC and HSSLC or Equivalent examination, caste certificate and documents as specified in the MBBS/BDS Admission Rule, 2017 (amendment upto 2025), to the Principal of the respective Colleges at the time of admission on receipt of acknowledgement from the college authority.
3. Candidates must bring all necessary original documents and Annexures along with Admission and Counselling fees (amounting approx. Rs. 25,000/-) at the time of admission.
4. Admission of the candidates are subject to the satisfactory medical fitness of the candidate at the time of admission.
5. If any candidate furnishes false information/ declaration at the time of online selection or admission, his/her admission is liable to be cancelled at any point of time. Criminal proceedings shall be taken against such candidates for submission of false, fabricated documents/information under appropriate law.
6. All the candidates shall have to enter into an agreement as per the admission rule in prescribed format which is available in this Directorate's website www.dme.assam.gov.in. Candidates will have to submit the agreement within 15 days from the date of their admission to the office of the Principal of the respective college.
7. College uniform is compulsory for all the student in all the Medical & Dental Colleges. College authorities shall prescribe necessary dress code.

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

DIPR/D/AT/2520/18-Nov-25

Sd/- Director of Medical Education, Assam

INTERNATIONAL
Foreign enrolment
at US colleges
steady, for now

A Trump admin crackdown would trigger a nosedive, yet there are signs of turbulence as fewer new, first-time students arrived

WASHINGTON, Nov 17:

Foreign students enrolled at US colleges in strong numbers this fall despite fears that a Trump administration crackdown would trigger a nosedive, yet there are signs of turbulence as fewer new, first-time students arrived from other countries, according to a new report.

Overall, US campuses saw a 1 per cent decrease in international enrolment this fall compared with last year, according to a survey from the Institute of International Education.

But that figure is propped up by large numbers of students who stayed in the US for temporary work after graduating. The number of new students entering the United States for the first time fell by 17 per cent, the sharpest decrease since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Some universities are seeing backslides that have punched big holes in tuition revenue, but overall the fall-off is less severe than some industry groups had forecast. Researchers credit colleges for helping students navigate

visa issues through the summer.

"I think colleges and universities did absolutely everything in their power to advocate to get these students to the United States," said Mirka Martel, head of research, evaluation and learning for the institute.

At DePauw University, a Catholic university in Chicago, the number of international graduate students fell by almost 62 per cent this fall, a driving factor in recent spending cuts. The university president blamed student visa troubles and declining interest to study in the US, calling it a "massive" disruption.

Overall, nearly 60 per cent of colleges reported a decrease in new foreign students this fall, the survey found, while 30 per cent saw increases and others held even. More than 800 schools responded to the survey, which offers an early look at trends before full data is released next year.

Trump administration has pressed for reductions in foreign enrolment. – AP

Chile's hard-right holds edge as presidential poll goes to tense runoff

SANTIAGO (Chile), Nov 17: A hard-right former lawmaker and admirer of US President Donald Trump held the upper hand as Chile headed to a polarising presidential runoff against a member of Chile's Communist Party representing the incumbent government.

Jose Antonio Kast, an ultra-conservative lawyer opposed to abortion and same-sex marriage, appears to be in pole position after nearly 70 per cent of votes went to right-wing candidates in Sunday's first round, as many Chileans worry about organised crime, illegal immigration and unemployment in one of Latin America's safest and most prosperous nations.

Kast is a surprise front-runner who speaks fondly of aspects of the country's period of dictatorship and broke with the traditional conservative party to found his own Republican Party.

He came in second with nearly 24 per cent of the vote after campaigning on plans to crack down on crime, build a giant border wall and deport tens of thousands of undocumented migrants.

Jeannette Jara, a former

Labour minister in President Gabriel Boric's left-wing government, eked out a narrower-than-expected lead with 27 per cent of the vote.

Neither contender received more than 50 per cent of the overall vote count, sending the poll to a second round of voting on December 14.

The mood was ebullient at Kast's campaign headquarters early on Monday, where young Chileans wrapped in national flags drank beer and rolled cigarettes as workers took down the stage where Kast had proclaimed a radical transformation in the country's security.

"We needed a safe candidate, someone with a firm hand to bring economic growth, attract investment, create jobs, strengthen the police and give them support," said Ignacio Rojas, 20. "Chile isn't safe anymore, and he'll change that."

The results seemed set to extend a growing regional shift across Latin America, as popular discontent with the economy simmers and right-wing challengers take over from leftist politicians who shot to power in the wake of the pandemic. – AP

PPP lawmaker becomes new Premier of PoK



Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore

ISLAMABAD, Nov 17: A Pakistan Peoples Party lawmaker was on Monday elected as the "Prime Minister" of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir after the regional assembly adopted a no-confidence motion against incumbent Chaudhry Anwarul Haq of Tehreek-i-Insaf.

Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore is the fourth Premier in the sitting Assembly since its installation in 2021. He received the support of 36 lawmakers, including 27 from PPP and 9 from Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz.

The Assembly has 52 members, and a simple ma-

jority of 27 lawmakers is needed to elect a new leader.

The no-trust motion was tabled on Monday by PPP lawmaker Qasim Majed.

On Sunday, two PTI lawmakers joined PPP, raising its strength to 29. In October, PPP's ranks swelled to 27 after 10 PTI lawmakers joined it.

In August 2021, PTI picked Abdul Qayyum Niazi as the Premier. After nine months, Niazi was replaced by the party's regional president Sardar Tanveer Ilyas. In April 2023, Tanveer was disqualified by a court and was replaced by Haq. – PTI

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, KAMRUP WEST
DIVISION, BAMUNIGAON: 781141

No. B/KWD/CAMPA/Sal Coppice/APO 2025-26/2680

The Divisional Forest Officer, Kamrup West Division, Bamunigaon, Guwahati invites e-tender through e-procurement system i.e. through the website www.assamtenders.gov.in for following work from APWD (Registered) eligible contractors having experience of similar nature of work. The e-tender is Two-Bid System, to be submitted with affixing Court Fee Stamp worth Rs. 8.25 (Rupees Eight and paisa Twenty-Five) only. The Tender Fee and EMD should be paid through online portal i.e. www.assamtenders.gov.in.

Details of the bid may be seen at www.assamtenders.gov.in.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Place of Work	Estimated cost of the work (in Rs.)	Bid Security (in Rs.)	Time of Completion	Cost of Tender paper (in Rs.)
1	Erection of fencing (4' ht with 10 gauge 3' dia link) with 3 strands barbed wire (one strand below the chain link and two strand above the chain link) to be filled on pre-cast RCC pillars of specific specification and size (2.1 m x 0.125m x 0.125m) including fitting & fixing for 2306 RM.	Barduar RF Under Loharghat Range.	38,30,266.00	2% for Gen, 1% for OBC/ST/ SC of the Estimated cost	45 days from the date of issue of Work Order	1000/-

Sd/- Divisional Forest Officer,
Kamrup West Division,
Bamunigaon

DIPR/C/AT/2522/18-Nov-25

No. e. DME/PG/2025/687431/7

EDUCATIONAL NOTICE

1st Round Online Counselling for Admission into 50% Post Graduate Seats in Government Medical Colleges of Assam and B.B.C.I. Guwahati under Assam State Quota. session 2025

As per new schedule published by the MCC, Govt. of India and in modification to this Directorate earlier Education Notice vide No. e. DME/PG/2025/687431/4, dated 31.10.2025, this is for information of all concerned that the 1st round counselling for admission into 50% Post Graduate seats in the Government Medical Colleges of Assam and B.B.C.I., Guwahati under Assam State Quota for session 2025 will be held as per schedule given below and the link shall be available at the official website of this Directorate, www.dme.assam.gov.in from 19.11.2025.

Candidates who have already registered for 1st round PG counselling vide this Directorate Education Notice as referred above need not register again and shall be able to take part in the Online choice filling of 1st Round of Counselling. The provisionally selected candidates shall have to get admitted in the respective allotted institutions as directed between 02.12.2025 to 03.12.2025.

Schedule	Date
1 Online Registration for 1st Round of Counselling	19.11.2025 to 20.11.2025 midnight
2 Online Filling of Choices	21.11.2025 to 23.11.2025 (5 PM)
3 Online Locking of Choice	23.11.2025 (4 PM to 11.55 PM)
4 Processing of Seat Allotment	24.11.2025 to 26.11.2025
5 Result	27.11.2025
6 Reporting/Joining	02.12.2025 to 03.12.2025

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

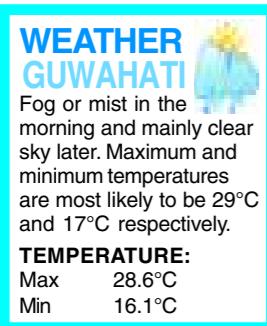
Sd/- Director of Medical Education,
Assam

DIPR/D/AT/2521/18-Nov-25

No.: MEL. Tender. 33/2024/11

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Tree plantation drive organized

GUWAHATI, Nov 17: To mark the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Gauhati University NSS Cell organized a tree plantation drive along the banks of the Kalmoni river at Thakuria Para Village, Azara.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr Ranjan Kr Kakati, director, Students' Welfare and NSS programme co-ordinator of Gauhati University, through the planting of a 'Nahor' sapling.

In his address, he underscored the crucial role of afforestation in mitigating global warming and highlighted the need for strengthened environmental awareness.

NSS volunteers from the Gauhati University campus planted over 100 saplings during the initiative. — Staff Reporter

AJYCP begins signature campaign demanding justice for Zubeen

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Nov 17: The Assam Jatiyatabadi Yuva Chatra Parishad (AJYCP) on Monday rolled out a Statewide mass signature campaign demanding justice for late music icon Zubeen Garg, whose mysterious death nearly two months ago continues to stir public outrage across Assam.

According to AJYCP central leaders Palash Changmai and Bijon Bayan, the government has shown "serious negligence" in ensuring a fair and transparent probe. They

alleged that despite the formation of a Special Investigation Team (SIT), people of the State remain unconvinced about the progress of the investigation.

The organization claimed that both the SIT and the CID have engaged in "irrelevant activities" in the name of inquiry, summoning some individuals unnecessarily while failing to question key organizers of the North East Festival and the fashion show held in Singapore — events that Zubeen attended shortly before his death.

The leaders warned that if an iconic figure like Zubeen Garg is denied justice, the public's trust in the government and administration will crumble. They reiterated that Zubeen, who was once

AJYCP further criticized Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma for "contradictory public statements" regarding the government's links with Shyamkanta Mahanta. The group said the Chief Minister's earlier claim that the government had no association with Mahanta has now been proven untrue.

The leaders warned that if an iconic figure like Zubeen Garg is denied justice, the public's trust in the government and administration will crumble. They reiterated that Zubeen, who was once

an active member of AJYCP deserves a fair and thorough investigation.

On Sunday, regional units of the organization conducted mass signature drives across Assam. AJYCP has also announced Statewide observances of the artiste's birth anniversary on Monday, followed by motorcycle rallies at district headquarters to amplify the demand for justice.

The organization asserted that the people of Assam will not forgive any "negligence" in the pursuit of truth behind the artiste's death.

Cong launches 'National Talent Hunt' prog

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Nov 17: Principal opposition Congress party on Monday formally launched its 'National Talent Hunt' programme in Assam.

The AICC has initiated the National Talent Hunt programme across the country to "strengthen the freedom of speech".

Dr Ragini Nayak, national spokesperson of the Congress party and the Assam in-charge of the Talent Hunt programme, was present on the occasion.

She said that following Rajendra Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, the Congress party has given special emphasis to the

issue of freedom of expression.

"It is with this vision that the National Talent Hunt has been launched across India to uphold and encourage the democratic right of every citizen to speak and to be heard," Dr Nayak said.

She added that the Assam chapter of this Talent Hunt has been dedicated heart-throb Zubeen Garg.

The Constitution of India gives us the right to think, the right to speak, and the right to question. The Congress party is taking steps to ensure that people in every corner of the country truly understand the

importance of these constitutional rights. Accordingly, our doors have been opened to everyone, and the National Talent Hunt has been started to identify talented individuals who can highlight people's issues," Dr Nayak said.

Applications for the Talent Hunt will remain open till December 2.

The applications will be screened between December 3 and December 7, followed by regional-level interviews on December 10-11, and the final State-level selection process will be held between December 15 and December 17.

Cath Lab opened at Marwari Hospitals

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Nov 17: A Cath Lab was inaugurated at Marwari Hospitals today by Health Minister Ashok Kumar Singh.

Star Cement chairman Sajjan Ji Bhajanka, president of Marwari Hospitals Sarat Kumar Jain and general secretary Kishore Kumar Saboo and other guests were present on

the occasion. The programme began with a welcome address delivered by Sarat Kumar Jain.

Thanking the Star Cement chairman for the support in setting up the lab, Jain said the facility will help render cardiac services to communities in and around the State. "In the past, serious patients were being referred by our consultants to other hospitals after providing first aid. Now, we shall be able to give the services at affordable cost which is the mission of the hospital," he said.

He said that the Cath Lab is manufactured by Siemens with latest technology. It has got a larger detector, best suited for cardiovascular along with neurological and radiological intervention treatment. "It is the best in its class with lowest hazardous X-Ray use for patient and staff with better image quality," he added.

Work is in progress for MRI facility, revamping of the Mother & Child Block, and establishing a Nursing College, he further informed.

Ashok Singh said that Cath Lab will go a long way in providing affordable quality services to all sections of society, particularly the deprived sections. He assured all help to this hospital run by a Charitable Trust.

CA students' festival organized

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Nov 17: The Guwahati Branch of the Eastern India Chartered Accountants Students' Association (EICASA) organized its annual CA students' festival, 'Fusion Fiesta 2025', here on Sunday.

Ragini Goyal, chairperson of the Guwahati Branch of Eastern India Regional Council (EIRC) of the Institute of

Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), Anjani Kumar Mundra, vice chairman of the Guwahati Branch of EIRC, Jay Prakash Gupta, branch secretary, and Piyush Birmiwal, branch treasurer, supported the event organized.

Various programmes, including The Vocal Icon (singing), Battle of the Beats (dance), Trivia Quest (quiz), The Grand Scavenger (treasure hunt), The Living Canvas (face painting), Rang Fusion (rangoli making), The Persona Crown (Mr and Ms EICASA), No Flame Feast (fireless cooking), and High Stake (bidding wars), were held on the occasion. The winners were presented awards.

More than 100 students participated in the Fusion Fiesta 2025.

Art contest

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Nov 17: The Aelita Art and Craft School organized the Late Analjyoti Das Memorial State-Level Art Competition at Nandi Mikir Primary School in Guwahati on Sunday.

Over 150 students participated in the competition.

A solo exhibition of 20 artworks by Analjyoti Das was also inaugurated during the event. Mayurdip Talukdar, Hansharaj Mahanta and Anisha Baishya, students of Aelita Art and Craft School presented the song *Mayabini* as a musical tribute to heartthrob Zubeen Garg.

The competition was divided into four categories, with students competing in their respective groups. The competition was judged by prominent artists Ashwini Sarma, Atanu Baruah, Ganesh Chetri, and Bhairab Medhi. The winners were awarded cash prizes and certificates by dignitaries, including Dr Budhini Saikia, retired deputy superintendent of Gauhati Medical College and Hospital.

The event was chaired by Dhananjay Talukdar, president of the school management committee.



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Message for today

Kindness is the language which
the deaf can hear and the blind can see.

Mark Twain

The Assam Tribune

Invaluable relic

Towards the latter part of his life, Mahapurush Sankardev, the great saint of Assam, found his refuge at Patbausi in Lower Assam, where he set up a *sattru* under the patronage of the powerful Koch king Naranarayan and his brother Prince Sukladhawaj. It was there that the Mahapurush, at the request of his patrons, particularly that of Sukladhawaj's wife Bhuvaneswari, created one of the most wondrous pieces of tapestry called the Vrindabani Vastra. According to legend, his benefactors expressed their desire to see illustrated images of the childhood of Lord Krishna in his human form at Vrindaban. Rather than paint the various scenes, such as the birth of Lord Krishna in the prison cell where his earthly father Vasudev and mother Devaki were imprisoned by Kansa; Vasudev carrying the baby Krishna in a basket across the swollen Jamuna river and so on, Sankardev chose an unusual mode of expression – to have the illustrations done by expert weavers upon a tapestry of silk. He commissioned the women of Taatikuchi village near Barpeta, who were famous for their skill on the loom, to translate his concept into reality. The outcome was an invaluable relic, a mammoth piece of tapestry 120 *haats* long and 60 *haats* wide, dubbed as the Vrindabani Vastra, which was gifted to Naranarayan, who kept it at the Madhupur Sattru.

Like so many other precious Indian artefacts, the Vrindabani Vastra also fell prey to the rapacious instincts of the imperialists, who smuggled it away from India after cutting it into pieces. One piece was acquired in 1904 by the British Museum in London – nine-and-a-half metres long, made up of several pieces of silk drapes and originally featuring 15 separate pieces that were later assembled. It is ironical, of course, that the British Museum, cognizant of how reverential this relic is for the Assamese people, has now agreed to "loan" this piece of tapestry for display in Assam for 18 months in 2027. The museum, however, has set certain conditions before it lends this 16th-century masterpiece – while on display it must be kept in a state-of-the-art museum under the strictest environmental and security standards. The officials of the British Museum having visited Assam and not finding a suitable museum, the Assam government has decided to construct a new one. The JSW group of companies must be commended for volunteering to set up a museum as part of its CSR initiative and give it to Assam as a gift, as also the Assam government for taking up the initiative and allotting land for the purpose. It hardly needs to be emphasised that the return of this invaluable relic, even though temporarily, will serve to fulfil a deeply cherished wish of Assamese society.

City drainage

Some basics concerning the city's civic upkeep continue to be ignored even as our authorities indulge in the grandiose rhetoric of transforming Guwahati into a 'smart city.' The absence of an effective drainage system has been a blot on the city's urbanscape, with matters worsened by the failure of the GMC to ensure periodic maintenance of the drains. Clogged drains are a stark reality across many lanes and bylanes – something that aggravates the problem of flash floods and waterlogging. A case in point happens to be the pathetic scenario in the Ambika Nagar area by RG Baruah Road, where even the minimal level of maintenance has been conspicuous by its absence for months together. The prolonged negligence has resulted in the drains getting blocked and several bylanes turning into shallow, bush-filled patches. Regrettably, the situation refuses to change even after the local residents had taken up the matter with the thick-skinned GMC authorities time and again. Severe inconvenience caused to the citizens aside, the situation also raises questions concerning transparency and accountability in the functioning of the GMC, which is run with taxpayers' money. Such shocking negligence and dereliction of duty are symptomatic of the deep-rooted malaise afflicting the civic body.

Another conspicuous trend concerns the authorities' inertia during the lean, rainless season from October to April, which gives ample time to expedite drain construction and renovation works, but for reasons best known to the authorities, this suitable period is rarely utilised. This not only slows down project execution but also affects quality control and causes cost escalation. The government needs to take a serious note of this practice and ensure that projects are undertaken during the lean season. Over the years, the recurring phenomenon of flash floods and waterlogging in the city typifies the lack of sincerity and utter short-sightedness of our authorities entrusted with the maintenance of civic amenities. Crucial aspects such as scientific assessment of the phenomenon in its entirety and regular maintenance of the existing drainage system are invariably ignored, worsening the situation. Compared to the voluminous rainwater the city receives, its main stormwater channel, the Bharalu river, does not have enough water discharge capacity. Again, all the major wetlands of the city, i.e., Deepor, the two Sola *beels*, and Silsako, have shrunk considerably in the face of growing anthropogenic pressures, resulting in a drastic reduction in their water retention capacity. What we need is a complete overhaul of the existing city drainage with a thrust on environmental aspects.

BISTIRNA BARUA

When Zubeen Garg sang, Assam listened – not merely with its ears, but with its heart. And when he fell silent, the State itself seemed to hold its breath. Zubeen's passing in September 2025 was not just the end of a singer's journey; it was the pause of a heartbeat that had pulsed through Assam for over three decades – the heartbeat of youth, rebellion, love, and belonging. His departure left not emptiness, but an echo – an unfinished song that now belongs to all of us to complete.

A river in his voice

Born on November 18, 1972, in Tura, Zubeen came into a time when Assam was restless yet searching for its new voice. The State had endured agitation, disillusionment, and the slow ache of transition. In the early 1990s, when India was liberalising, Assamese popular culture was fighting for air. Cassettes replaced records, urban rhythms overshadowed folk melodies, and youth looked outward for sound and meaning. Into this fragile moment walked a young man named after Zubin Mehta – with a harmonium, unkempt hair, and infinite hunger. His album, *Anamika* (1992), didn't just launch a career – it launched a movement. His voice carried recognition. He wasn't singing to the people; he was singing from within them. His songs sounded like the Assamese heart speaking to itself. And so, he belonged to everyone.

The era he defined

For the generation growing up in the 1990s, Zubeen was both compass and companion. His songs played in college corridors, tea stalls, weddings, radio nights, and protest marches. He could be everything – a lover, a wanderer, a rebel, a poet, a dreamer. His music blended Assamese folk, Bihu beats, Hindustani melody, and rock guitars, flavoured with jazz, blues, and reggae. The

To keep the icon's legacy alive, we must engage in cultural efforts that protect his music, uphold his ideals, and share his timeless message of humanity.

result was something at once rooted and global – local without being provincial, modern without being alien. By the time Bollywood discovered him through *Ya Ali (Gangster, 2006)*, Assam had already crowned him as its own. He was the natural heir to Dr Bhupen Hazarika – not in imitation, but in inheritance. Like Hazarika, he believed music was a language of unity and that an artiste's highest calling was to be human.

He contained multitudes

To call Zubeen merely a singer would be to miss his vastness. He was a singer, composer, lyricist, actor, director, multi-instrumentalist, poet, and philanthropist – all flowing into one restless current. He wrote of love and loss, rebellion and redemption. He acted not for glamour but to tell stories. He directed *Mission China* (2017), a cinematic expression of Assam's ambition and artistic confidence. He played drums, tabla, guitar, *dotara*, and keyboards with the same sincerity with which he once sang in a Jorhat field. His creativity was fearless – sometimes triumphant, sometimes chaotic, always honest. His art was his autobiography – alive, imperfect, improvisational. Beneath every soaring chorus were quiet decisions only a musical mind could make: an unexpected chord, a pause before a storm, a small silence full of meaning. He could place a *tokari* beside a distortion pedal and make them sound like they'd always belonged together.

The poet and the philosopher

Beneath the flamboyant performer was a philosopher who believed that humanity is the only religion. It wasn't a slogan; it was a worldview. His songs spoke of rivers, roads, love, and loss – the eternal metaphors of Assamese life. He was political without being partisan, spiritual without being sanctimonious. His voice became a vessel of the Assamese conscience – rooted and restless, tender and turbulent. He could rage one evening

and heal the next. His defiance was as musical as his compassion.

The human behind the legend

Like all great artistes, Zubeen lived with contradictions. He was unpredictable, mercurial, sometimes misunderstood – but always authentic. He cared more for truth than for perfection. He gave freely, often impulsively – supporting young artistes, funding hospitals, helping strangers. His life, like his music, was lived without rehearsal. In Zubeen, we saw what happens when talent, sincerity, and courage meet.

From emotion to action

A voice like Zubeen's cannot merely be remembered; it must be preserved – not as nostalgia, but as heritage. Zubeen's legacy now belongs to all – his family, admirers, the government, and the people of Assam. To honour him is not to mourn him, but to build structures that keep him alive, such as:

(i) *The Zubeen Garg Archive*: a verified digital repository of his complete works, writings, and images, open to scholars and fans alike.

(ii) *The Geetavali and Lyric Omnibus*: a published collection of every song, annotated and translated, so his words may be studied like literature.

(iii) *The Zubeen Garg Museum*: a creative space, both physical and virtual, preserving his instruments, costumes, and recordings.

(iv) *Academic inclusion*: integrate his art and philosophy into school and university curricula, encouraging serious research.

(v) *The Zubeen Garg Trust*: a fund to support musicians and cultural workers, continuing his generosity.

(vi) *Annual Zubeen Garg Music Festival* (November 18): a Statewide celebration of his birthday through concerts and youth events.

(vii) *Humanity Day* (September 19): 'Manuhor Din', honouring his message that

compassion transcends creed.

(viii) *Copyright and royalty protection*: ensure his intellectual property is safeguarded and ethically managed.

(ix) *Translation and global outreach*: bring his Assamese works to the world through translation and collaboration.

(x) *Definitive documentary and biopic*: truthful chronicles of his life and creative philosophy.

(xi) *Zubeen Garg Chair in Music and Culture*: an academic position devoted to research on songwriting and regional modernity.

(xii) *A statue beside the Brahmaputra*: not to monumentalise grief, but to remind us that art, like the river, must forever flow.

To preserve Zubeen is to preserve ourselves. He represents not just a man, but a mood – the rhythm of being Assamese in a restless world. His songs are our emotional archive – how we love, dream, protest, and endure. If Dr Bhupen Hazarika gave us a voice for the century's conscience, Zubeen gave us one for its confusions – restless, searching, profoundly human. Both sang of unity; both believed that melody could heal what politics could not. Legacies are fragile things. Without structure, they fade into nostalgia; without stewardship, they dissolve into sentiment. Zubeen's memory must not end with candlelight vigils or hashtags. It must be built into something enduring. Assam owes him that.

Let every child in Assam grow up knowing that once there lived a man who taught us that being human was the highest form of music. And when the hills grow quiet and the Brahmaputra rests beneath moonlight, the wind will still hum what Zubeen left behind – not an ending, but an echo. An echo that reminds us: Art never dies. It only waits for us to remember.

(The writer is a Joint Director, Assam Administrative Staff College)

Remembering the existential courage

PALASH RANJAN DAS

Zubeen Garg showed how art, compassion, solitude and defiance can together shape meaning even when the world appears desolate.

Zubeen Garg's existence reverberated through Assam like a discordant yet compelling symphony – a mingling of voices and silences that resisted translation into the monochrome language of social commentary or political allegiance. To reduce him to the category of icon or celebrity is an act of diminishment. His trajectory was always that of a question, not an answer – interrogating, with existential tenacity, the limits of meaning and belonging in a fractured epoch. He lived, perhaps, in the perpetual shadow of nothingness, drawing from the Nietzschean abyss not despair but a generative force, crafting melodies as philosophical responses to the void. Zubeen's canvas was not merely cultural or linguistic, but ontological – situated at the crossroads of affirmation and absence.

His relationship with nihilism was neither naïve rejection nor resigned acquiescence. Rather, it was a dialectical engagement with the texture of existence itself, a willingness to confront the erasure of transcendent value and yet, paradoxically, to build upon that emptiness a scaffolding of solidarity, resistance, and beauty. If Nietzsche declared the death of God as the rupture of inherited meanings, Zubeen experienced the collapse of certitude not as a cataclysm, but as an invitation, to become, again and again, the author of his own ethos, to challenge the dogmas of soul and destiny with the audacity of self-invention. Yet, this audacity was tempered by a tragic, almost elegiac awareness: that every assertion, every act of defiance, is shadowed by impermanence, by the relentless return of the question mark. The artiste's journey thus became a pilgrimage into ambiguity, a celebration of paradox as

the most authentic form of truth.

Within the public imagination, he inhabited a multiplicity of roles: a non-political socialist, an admirer of Che Guevara's revolutionary iconography, a devoted acolyte of Shiva's metaphysical dance, and an uncompromising advocate for the voiceless and dispossessed. But this portfolio of contradictions was, for Zubeen, the very signature of authenticity. The tension between Che's materialist praxis and Shiva's transcendental indifference was not a hindrance but an incitement; for him, radical change and cosmic dissolution were necessary partners in the drama of existence. That he could embrace both the imperatives of social justice and the lure of metaphysical freedom was less a contradiction than a philosophical statement – a refusal, in Nietzschean spirit, to be confined by the binary of either/or, preferring instead the fertile middle ground where ideas could clash and cohabit.

His opposition to the Citizenship Amendment Act epitomised this resistance to reduction. Rather than anchor his dissent in the tired dialectics of communal conflict, Zubeen's refusal arose from a deeper historical mistrust, a memory inscribed in Assam's linguistic and cultural marginalisation, and an anxiety that, for him, transcended the boundaries of religion or nationalism. To oppose was not merely to reject, but to reclaim, to make the act of protest itself an existential affirmation, a gesture of fidelity to the plurality and particularity of land, memory, and speech. Throughout his activism, Zubeen made no apologies for refusing the comfort of ideological camps; his thought cut diagonally across the axes of left and right, secular and sacred, forging a singularity that

eluded all efforts at appropriation.

In the enigmatic heart of his life beats the motif of solitude, a motif that refuses to be sentimentalised or pathologised by the voyeurism of public discourse. "I sleep alone in my studio," he once remarked, not as an emblem of deprivation but as a declaration of agency, a conscious retreat into the crucible of creativity and contemplation. For Zubeen, solitude was neither exile nor self-punishment, but a deliberate clearing away of noise, a strategic disengagement from the tiring choreography of expectation and belonging. In this radical solitude, creativity bloomed; in the silence of the studio, he perhaps found not emptiness but possibility, a generative form of nothingness from which art and thought could emerge unencumbered. From a Nietzschean vantage, such existential aloneness becomes the site of self-overcoming, the terrain where the individual stands before the void and still proceeds to sing.

It is within this existential frame that his love for Garima Garg, for kin and friends, must be understood, not as a failure or a lack, but as the tension between intimacy and autonomy, between shared celebration and solitary reflection. The questioners and baiters who exploit this solitude as evidence of a deficit betray only their inability to apprehend the subtlety of a life lived in dialogue with itself.

Zubeen's devotion to Assam and its people, his campaigns for the powerless, and his affinity for trees and rivers, carried the gravity of one who knew that the world offers no guarantees, no ready-made meaning. To care for the poor, to sing for the land and its silent sufferings, was to wrest significance from the void, the very labour Nietzsche imagined

for the artist-philosopher: a perpetual act of creation against the hum of impermanence. In his hands, music became not escape but engagement, an affirmation flung in the face of nothingness, a refusal to let the world dissolve into routine or resignation.

Now, in the complex aftermath of his death – abrupt, shrouded in speculation and grief, the temptation is to smooth out his legacy, to fit him into the armour of hero or martyr, to lodge his memory within the safe precincts of identity and belonging. But to do so is to violate the philosophical and existential risks he always embraced. His music, his activism, his solitude, even his contradictions, all argued for a messier, more honest confrontation with what is real: neither certainty nor cynicism, but the dazzling, painful work of finding and affirming.

Zubeen Garg's life stands as a testament to the generative power of absence. He lived not in pursuit of simple answers, but with the courage to interrogate, to render the void productive, to let art become the medium through which meaning is constructed and dismantled anew. His story does not fit into a headline or slogan because it invites us to face our own contradictions, to seek value where none is preordained, and to cultivate solidarity as an act of creation. In this, he continues to live, not through monuments or myths, but in the awareness he sparked, the courage he inspired, and the affirmation that even in a world shadowed by nothingness, the refusal to be silent remains our greatest legacy.

Even now, as Assam mourns and remembers, the resonance of his questioning lingers – a voice insisting that even in the vast unlit spaces of nothingness, there endures the fragile yet persistent possibility to sing.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Updating textbooks a must in today's fast-changing world

Sir – I would like to draw the attention of the education department to the outdated information found in many school textbooks. Students today study from books that were printed years ago, and many facts, statistics, and examples mentioned in them are no longer correct. Subjects like Science, Geography, and Technology change rapidly, but the textbooks fail to keep pace with these changes.

Due to this, students often learn information that is either incomplete or irrelevant to the present world. It becomes difficult for teachers to explain the updated concepts when the book still carries old data.

Therefore, I request the concerned boards and publishers to revise the textbooks regularly, include updated facts, and ensure that students receive accurate and current knowledge. This step will greatly improve the qual-

act intended to spread terror and instability. It is high time for the authorities to strengthen surveillance systems, increase intelligence coordination, and ensure that such threats are identified and prevented before they claim innocent lives. Yours etc., **Sania Rayisa**, Gauhati University.

NDA's landslide win

Sir – The Opposition's allegations of 'vote chori' followed by the 'Voter Adhikar Yatra,' which was at the centre of the Mahagathbandhan's poll campaign in Bihar, turned out to be a damp squib. People opted for 'Sushashan' (good governance) and development over a cultivated agenda and dynasty politics. Higher participation by women in the election also proved that the benefits delivered

to them through empowerment schemes had won the loyalty of female voters for the NDA.

The MY (Muslim-Yadav) equation, which had remained a reliable social base for the RJD, seems to have slipped away from their grasp this time. Instead, it morphed into 'Mahila-Yuva' under the leadership of PM Modi and Nitish Kumar.

At the same time, the transfer of Rs 10,000 each to women of SHGs demonstrated that luring voters through cash remains a survival strategy in India's politics. Yours etc., **Kabir Ahmed Saikia**, Rajabari, Jorhat.

(ii)

Sir, – The NDA's landslide victory in Bihar proves that the development processes undertaken by the Nitish Kumar regime have gained the people's favour. The 'Jungle Raj' during Lalu Prasad and Rabri Devi's time was a nightmare for the public. The freebies culture was also a factor behind this victory. Yours etc., **Anup Talukdar**, Nagarbera, Kamrup.

Articles (within 950-1000 words) and Letters to the Editor (within 150 words) for publication on the Editorial Page may be sent exclusively to the email ID: editor@assamtribune.com.

The views expressed in the articles, columns and letters published on this page are solely those of the authors, and do not represent the views of the newspaper.

ASMSC, NSCN (I-M) hold talks on crucial issues of indigenous people

CORRESPONDENT

NAZIRA, Nov 17: The Assam Sammilata Mahasanga Security Council (ASMSC) and the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak-Muivah) have called for strengthening anew the historic relations between the Assamese and Naga people and coming together of the indigenous peoples of Assam and Nagaland to fight in unison against their 'common enemy'.

The ASMSC and NSCN (I-M) made statements to this effect during talks held between them at Dimapur, Nagaland, on November 14.

In a statement issued here, ASMSC president Matiur Rahman said that the Mahasanga held a two-hour discussion with a seven-member team of the Government of the People's Republic of Nagaland (GPRN), NSCN (I-M), led by deputy prime minister VS Atem, on several key issues concerning Assam, Nagaland, and other parts of



the Northeast.

Rahman stated that the Dimapur meeting particularly discussed the plight of the indigenous peoples of Assam and Nagaland, and the relations between them.

"During the reign of the Tai Ahom kings, the Assamese people had very friendly relations with various Naga ethnic

groups. But with the signing of the Treaty of Yandaboo on February 24, 1826, the British colonial rule started in Assam and, as a result, the Assamese-Naga relations gradually got hampered," Rahman said.

He said the Tai Ahom kings of Assam never occupied and annexed any area of the Naga hills to Assam, adding that it

was only after the signing of the Treaty of Yandaboo that the British amalgamated vast areas of Naga hills and other parts of the Northeast with Assam.

Rahman explained before the NSCN (I-M) leadership that the Nagas can discuss the issue of their independence with the British on the basis of the Treaty of Yandaboo.

The ASMSC leader also said that the meeting at Dimapur discussed how illegal foreigners and outsiders have harmed Assam, Nagaland, and other states of the Northeast.

According to Rahman, the Dimapur meeting affirmed that February 24, 1826 should be the base year for identification of indigenous people

Sculptor Dr Biren Singha receives Adya Ranjan Barthakur Award

CORRESPONDENT

SIVASAGAR, Nov 17: Noted sculptor and creator of numerous sculptures across the State, Dr Biren Singha, on Saturday received the Adya Ranjan Barthakur Art and Sculpture Award 2025 during the third exhibition of the Sivasagar Pratibahan Chitrakala Niketan at the KPM Hall here.

Dr Singha, while addressing the gathering, said that a piece of art or a sculpture protects and preserves a particular message, a story of a particular time, and also carries a message for the future. He said that we are interlinked

with all objects and ideas around us with which our concepts and ideas are shaped. Artists gather a lot of experiences from life to give shape to their dreams, he added.

Singha also said that aptitude and taste cannot be taught, it grows spontaneously and hence there should be a systematic approach to guide the feelings and dreams of every child.

Referring to sculptor Adya Ranjan Barthakur, Singha said that we must try to realise what inspired Barthakur, the sculptor, to devote himself to this field. Without knowing the social structure and basic values, we cannot judge any-

thing, he said.

Earlier, Ellora Bhagawati, president of the Pratibahan Chitrakala Niketan, hoisted the ceremonial flag, while noted artist Saleha Ahmed and sculptor Durlov Bora inaugurated the exhibition of paintings by students of the institute.

The meeting was attended by the vice chancellor of the JB University Dr Jyoti Prasad Saikia, artist Mijida Begum, chairman of the Sivasagar Development Authority Dr Prakash Kotoky, Dr Protim Sharma, Durlov Bora, Manoj Bhagawati, PK Das, and Pratap Dey. Prof Kartik Dutta presided over the meeting.

The rally was organised with support from the women and child development department and the State Hub for Empowerment of Women (SANKALP: Hub) and had set off from Guwahati on November 12.

The participants of the rally were given a rousing welcome by officials of district administration and the women and child welfare department at the Jorhat DC's office complex.

Speaking to the media, Deka said that the rally was part of a series of initiatives undertaken by the Commission to empower women, encourage them to speak up, and be informed of their legal rights, thereby eliminating gender discrimination and providing justice.

She said that the Assam State Commission for Women will always be ready to extend support to any woman

'Vishwas Yatra' on motorbikes for women empowerment ends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

JORHAT, Nov 17: A 16-member motorbike rally themed as 'Vishwas Yatra' – comprising six men and ten women – and led by Angoorata Deka, chairperson of the Assam State Commission for Women, to promote safety, dignity, empowerment, courage, equality, and justice for women, concluded here on Saturday.

The rally was organised with support from the women and child development department and the State Hub for Empowerment of Women (SANKALP: Hub) and had set off from Guwahati on November 12.

Stress laid on ethical gatekeeping, algorithmic accountability

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SILCHAR, Nov 17: National Press Day 2025 celebrations in Cachar emerged as a compelling reflection on the future of journalism, with speakers unanimously underscoring the urgent need for ethical gatekeeping, algorithmic accountability, and consumer-driven news models.

Organised by the Cachar district administration in association with the office of the deputy director of information and public relations, and chaired by district commissioner Mridul Yadav, the event highlighted how the evolving media environment demands both structural reform and individual responsibility.

Delivering the keynote address on 'Safeguarding Press Credibility Amidst Rising Misinformation', Dr Charvak, associate professor and head of the Department of Mass Communication, Assam University, placed today's media crisis within a broader historical context. He recalled that Raja Ram Mohan Roy had halted publication of his newspaper rather than accept censorship, an act that placed integrity above convenience.

He explained that misinformation is often unintentional, whereas disinformation is manufactured deliberately and sold like a commodity. The problem in credible news reporting is intensified in the new media through algorithmic filtering, creating echo chambers where individuals encounter only content that confirms their biases.

Panthoibi Singha, field publicity officer, Central Bureau of Communication and the PIB, highlighted how unregulated social media exposure has made people increasingly reactive in forming opinions without verification. She

warned that fabricated news can trigger hatred and violence, emphasising that journalists must resist the temptation of sensationalism and remain committed to accuracy and credibility.

Veteran editor Taimur Raja Choudhury traced the evolution of Indian journalism from *The Bengal Gazette* to the present, noting that the language press has consistently upheld the values of credibility and public trust. He remarked that the current media climate, driven by speed, algorithmic amplification, and commercial pressures, poses a new kind of challenge to these long-held values.

Speaking on the operational impact of misinformation, Dr Arindam Gupta, Staff Correspondent of *The Assam Tribune*, described false news as "a greasy fog choking newsrooms". Recalling the recent viral fake news of cinema icon Dharmendra's death, he explained how unverified social media buzz, combined with algorithmic acceleration and traditional media haste, spiralled into a national misinformation episode. The incident, he said, illustrates the dire need for stronger checkpoints, slower judgment, and a renewed commitment to verification.

In his address, district commissioner Mridul Yadav emphasised that the defining challenge for journalists today lies in navigating the tension between speed and accuracy. He noted that the growing dependence on algorithms, often opaque and biased, creates distortions in public perception, shaping what people believe to be reality. Yadav called for stronger oversight over digital platforms, emphasising that social control over



Dr Arindam Gupta being honoured by Cachar DC Mridul Yadav on the occasion of National Press Day, in Silchar on Sunday.

algorithms is no longer a technical issue alone but a democratic necessity.

Jorhat Staff Correspondent adds: National Press Day was celebrated at the Jorhat Press Club on Sunday with a programme that was presided over by the Club's president, Ananta Narayan Borthakur.

Two eminent persons delivered talks on topics related to challenges faced by journalists. Noted writer, scholar and retired principal of the Jorhat College (Amalgamated) Dr Debrabarta Sharma, in his speech, dwelt at length on the various aspects of the present scenario to journalism.

Speaking about various challenges faced by the print media, he stated that there is an emerging trend of political leaders and industrialists close to the government opening media establishments across the country.

Thereafter, writer and columnist Dwipen Kakoti, in his speech, expressed anguish over the killing of journalists worldwide, including in India, in the past 11 years.

Earlier, the welcome address was delivered by

the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Tezpur University, attended as the keynote speaker and delivered a talk on this year's theme: 'Safeguarding Press Credibility Amidst Rising Misinformation'.

On the occasion, journalists present in the event were accorded a warm welcome and felicitated with *phulam gamosas* by the district administration. Additionally, 56 DIPR accredited journalists and two journalist pensioners of the district were presented with appreciation citations.

The programme was also attended by the co-district commissioner of Barchalla, Kamal Baruah.

Morigaon Correspondent adds: National Press Day was celebrated in Morigaon on Sunday at a grand function organised by the Morigaon district administration in collaboration with the Morigaon District Journalists' Association.

The function was held at the Pobitora Haat Hall in Morigaon town. The day-long celebration began with lighting of a ceremonial lamp by Kalpataru Choudhury, vice president of the Morigaon District Journalists' Association. This was followed by a tribute to journalists who lost their lives in the line of duty, led by Birinchi Kumar Sharma, former president of the Association and editor of the weekly *Bor Asom* newspaper.

A seminar was held on the topic 'Protecting the credibility of journalism amidst misinformation'. Anamika Tiwari, district commissioner of Morigaon, inaugurated the event. The seminar was addressed, among others, by Shayamani Bhuyan, executive editor of the satellite

channel News Live. Other dignitaries present at the event included Prakash Sonowal, senior superintendent of police, Morigaon, Pratap Hazarika, former president of the Morigaon District Journalists' Association, and senior journalist Dalmat Phukan.

The event also honoured four senior journalists – Jitumani Nath, Manabendra Devnath, Paramananda Deka, and Pranab Goswami – with shawls and citations.

Haflong Correspondent adds: The Dima Hasao district information and public relations department (DIPR) on Sunday felicitated the journalists of Dima Hasao district on the occasion of National Press Day.

The event was held at the Sonaram Thaosen Media Centre, Haflong, under the initiative of the information and public relations department (Hills).

Dinanath Loing, additional director of the DIPR, welcomed all journalists working in the district and appreciated their contributions.

The function was also attended by deputy director Purabi Ponglo, SDIPR Rijit Kachari Nunisa, senior journalist Anup Biswas, former general secretary of the Haflong Press Club Biplob Dev, Indranil Dutta, Shamsul Alam, Prasanta Bhattacharya, general secretary of Dima Hasao Journalists' Union Nirmal Singh, president of the Haflong Press Club LK Hegna, and other senior journalists.

Speakers at the event emphasised the importance of factual and responsible reporting in the current media environment that is filled with misinformation. They highlighted that maintaining press credibility is essential for strengthening democracy and policy-based journalism in India.

OBITUARY

Umakanta Boro

CORRESPONDENT

TEZPUR, Nov 17: Umakanta Boro, a noted litterateur, social worker, and retired headmaster who was a resident of the Thelamara area, passed away on Saturday night at his residence. He was 72.

He had started his educational journey from the Gormara ME School in Sonitpur district. After completing his higher education, he joined the Swahid Maniram ME School in 1985 and retired as its headmaster in 2016.

He was also associated with several socio-cultural, educational, and religious organisations in the greater Dhekiajuli, Thelamara, and Bargaon areas. He was the president of the Bargaon Primary Bodo Sahitya Sahakar, vice president of the Tezpur District Bodo Sahitya Sabha, and chairman of the editorial board of a special compilation of historical facts pertaining to the Bodos.

His demise is being widely mourned in the district.



Girindra Nath Sarma

ANN SERVICE

PATACHARKUCHI, Nov 17: Girindra Nath Sarma, a retired ranger of the forest department who was a resident of Sarik Chakla village, passed away at his residence on Friday. He was 61 and had been suffering from diabetes-related ailments.

A dedicated participant in the historic Assam Movement, he was also associated with various organisations and institutions in Patacharkuchi. His untimely passing has cast a pall of grief over the entire region. Numerous local organisations have extended their condolences at the loss.



TRIBUTE

Dr Jatin Chandra Sarmah

Dr Jatin Chandra Sarmah, retired professor in the Department of Pathology, Assam Medical College and Hospital (AMCH), Dibrugarh, breathed his last on November 9 at his home near the Downtown Hospital, Guwahati.

Dr Sarmah hailed from Silsako, North Guwahati, and had his early education in the erstwhile Cotton College, Guwahati. He was a very popular football player of his time. He obtained the MBBS degree from the Gauhati Medical College and later obtained his MD degree from the AMCH. He worked in the Blood Bank department and later joined as a professor in the Department of Pathology, AMCH, where he worked till his retirement in 2007.

Dr Sarmah was a very kind, gentle, and pure-hearted person who leaves behind his wife and a host of loving relatives.

Today, on the occasion of his *adyashraddha*, we pray for the eternal rest of his soul.



Bhabani Prasad Borthakur

Bhabani Prasad Borthakur left for his heavenly abode on November 8 at the Jorhat Medical College and Hospital after a brief illness. He was 91.

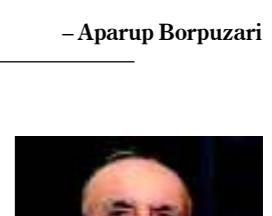
Born to late Khorgeswar Borthakur and late Shalya Prabha Devi at Jhansi in Sivasagar district, he lived a life defined by dignity, intelligence, and deep compassion. Known for his exceptional qualities, he was a man guided by strong principles, fearless in his convictions, and unfailingly kind in spirit.

He began his professional journey with the ONGC, Sivasagar, where his dedication and clarity of thought earned him the respect of colleagues across all levels. His leadership soon led to his election as general secretary of the INTUC-recognised workers' union. People of the region fondly remember him as a bold, just, and capable trade union leader whose profound understanding of law, justice, and fairness made him a trusted voice for many.

After more than a decade of service, he chose to step away from the ONGC and later joined the Nagaon Paper Mill as an administrative officer. There, too, his wisdom continued to inspire everyone around him.

Gifted with many talents, he was also an accomplished singer. During his college years at St Edmund's College, Shillong, he was honoured as the Best Singer in recognition of his melodious voice and artistic grace. His creative calling later guided him to the Doordarshan Kendra, Guwahati, where he worked in the production department and produced several short films on socially relevant themes, each reflecting his empathy, depth, and vision.

He is survived by his son, daughter, grandchildren, and a wide circle of relatives and well-wishers who will forever cherish his affection, wisdom, and guidance. His beloved wife had predeceased him.



- Aparup Borpuzari

Dilip Sarmah

My late grandfather Dilip Sarmah, a resident of Bongaon in Jorhat, was a man whose life was defined by kindness, hard work, and a joyful heart. He left us on November 8, leaving behind memories and values that continue to guide our family.

Born to late Bipin Chandra Sarmah and late Putuli Devi on February 2, 1948, my grandfather grew up with strong values that shaped his personality. He began his professional journey in 1977 at the Diphu Regional Agriculture Research Station, where he worked with dedication and sincerity. He was later transferred to the Titabor Rice Research Station in 1995, where he continued his work with the same passion.

What made my grandfather truly special was his personality. He was fun-loving and had a natural warmth that made everyone around him feel comfortable. His sense of humour, knack of storytelling, and his ability to bring joy into everyday moments created beautiful memories for our family.

Losing him has left a void that can never truly be filled. However, his legacy will live on through the lessons he taught us, the love he shared, and the gifts he provided. My grandfather will always be remembered with immense love, pride, and gratitude.

- Anurag

Tributes should not exceed 300 words

MK3's early Bihar forecast shows high directional accuracy

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Nov 17: MK3, a multilingual artificial intelligence system developed by Bengaluru-based Assamese innovator Gautam Das, has demonstrated striking predictive accuracy in its early forecast of the 2025 Bihar Assembly elections.

The model, powered by the patent-pending Dynamic Context Orchestration Algorithm (DCOA), generated its projection on September 12, 2025 – well before nominations were finalized and long before the election momentum took shape.

According to MK3's forecast, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) was expected to secure 138+ seats, while the Mahagathbandhan was projected to obtain 78+ seats. A comparative analysis conducted on November 14, using the trends reported by mainstream

media outlets and the Election Commission of India, shows that MK3 achieved an overall directional accuracy of 81.28%.

"This level of accuracy, delivered at such an early stage in the electoral cycle, underscores the growing capability of Indian-built AI models to interpret public data sets and produce reliable, data-driven insights. The MK3 and DCOA technology model was launched in May 2025, when the model was introduced as a Make-in-India innovation with specialized multilingual capabilities. Today's results further reinforce the system's potential in large-scale analytical tasks, especially those requiring contextual reasoning across diverse Indian data sets," Das, creator of MK3, said.

Assamese innovator's homegrown Indian AI aligns closely with 2025 results

had not yet filed nominations, and several political developments – including major announcements by senior leaders and indications from influential strategists – were still weeks away. The lack of formal campaigning and absence of reliable constituency-level polling meant that any early analysis carried inherent uncertainty.

Despite these limitations, MK3's projection was grounded entirely in publicly available historical, demographic, administrative, and behavioural indicators, processed through

its multilingual and context-aware architecture. As a result, the model was able to identify patterns and directional shifts much earlier than traditional forecasting tools.

When counting began on November 14, trends showed the NDA leading in the 190-200+ seat range, while the Mahagathbandhan remained significantly below its earlier anticipated position – closely echoing the directional trajectory identified by MK3 nearly two months earlier.

"The close alignment between MK3's September prediction and the actual November trends demonstrates that Indian-developed AI systems can offer meaningful analytical value even in complex and dynamic scenarios," Das said, adding that MK3's accuracy rate of was above 80% – that too predicted before nomination, before Prashant Kishore's announcement – was remarkable.

"I think no one else achieved that level of accuracy at that time. Even the exit polls, which conducted surveys and collected data during the election were unable to come even close to 80% accuracy. If the Make in India AI is able to do this with a volatile situation like Bihar election, imagine what it can do to any business with adequate data!" he said.

The MK3 Team had earlier entered into a strategic partnership with the Computer Science Department of Tezpur University to collaborate on research and development, product development, and augmentation in the fields of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), MK3, and DCOA technologies.

The collaboration will prioritize the development of transformative AI/ML-driven technologies.

ASF surge prompts ban on pork sales in Dibrugarh district

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DIBRUGARH, Nov 17: In a major development impacting the district here and several parts of Assam, the State government has imposed an immediate ban on the movement of live pigs and the sale of pork in seven severely affected districts following a rapid spike in African Swine Fever (ASF) cases.

According to the official order, ASF, known for its 100 per cent mortality rate in pigs, has continued to devastate Assam's piggy sector since its first outbreak.

The situation has worsened sharply in 2025, with 297 epicentres reported statewide. Alarmingly, 84 new epicentres were detected in October alone, signalling uncontrolled transmission. The districts facing the heaviest impact included Dhemaji, Kamrup, Lakhimpur, Sivasagar, Darrang, Jorhat, and Dibrugarh.

Invoking powers under multiple sections of the Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Act, 2009, the State government has issued two major directives – a statewide ban on inter-district movement of live pigs, effective immediately and applicable until further notice and a complete ban on intra-district movement of live pigs and the sale of pork specifically within the seven worst-affected districts, including Dibrugarh.

The inclusion of Dibrugarh district among the highest-risk zones has put immediate pressure on local pig farmers, pork traders, and the district's livestock-dependent economy.

District authorities here have urged pig farmers, traders, and consumers to adhere strictly to the ban, emphasizing that coordinated action is essential to contain the highly contagious disease and protect the region's livestock industry.

BTC to celebrate Zubeen Garg's 53rd birthday

KOKRAJHAR, Nov 17: The Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) authority is set to celebrate Assam's iconic singer Zubeen Garg's 53rd birthday on Tuesday with a grand event at Chandamari in Kokrajhar, the BTC headquarters.

Addressing a press conference, the organizing committee chairman, Jubiraj Basumatary, announced a series of special initiatives planned in honour of the celebrated artist. "The highlight of the celebration will be the foundation stone laying ceremony for Zubeen Garg Udyana, a park set to be developed on 30 bighas of land along the Gaurang river at Chandamari," he said.

At the same time, he said the park, to be developed under the initiative of the BTC authority, will serve as a tribute to Zubeen Garg's outstanding contribution to Assam's music and culture.

To mark the occasion, 53 Na-hor saplings will also be planted, symbolizing his 53rd birthday. Adding to the festivities, around 25,000 artists from across the region will come together to perform Garg's popular song *Mayabini* in both Assamese and Bodo languages, he added.

The organizers expressed hope that the celebration would not only honour the versatile singer but also promote cultural unity and harmony among the people of Assam and Bodoland. – Correspondent

World Peace Retreat Centre anniversary held

A CORRESPONDENT

DEMOW, Nov 17: The seventh anniversary of the World Peace Retreat Centre situated at Demow Barua Changmai Gaon was organized on Sunday. The Centre is operated by the Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Iswariya Vishwavidyalaya.

On Sunday, Topon Kumar Gogoi, former Jorhat MP and chairman of the Assam Industrial Development Corporation, inaugurated the 'Healing Garden', which was constructed under the MPLAD fund during his tenure. BK Sudesh, joint administrative head of Brahma Kumaris, Mount Abu, Rajasthan, and director of Brahma Kumaris, Germany and Europe, inaugurated the 'pyramid' in the Centre premises.

Gogoi, along with Dr Sabayashi Mahanta, principal of Gargaon College, and others, also took part in a plantation drive. A public meeting was also organized in the Centre. BK Anita and BK Ruchika were the stage coordinators.

Postal stamp, milepost installation mark 54 years of Aranya

First crowd-funded Assamese film



CORRESPONDENT

MANGALDAI, Nov 17: A 'milepost' was installed commemorating the completion of 54 years of the release *Aranya*, the Assamese film produced by a local club with public donations. Additionally, a postal stamp was released in memory of the late Samarendra Narayan Deb, the director of the film.

Befitting the occasion, local socio-cultural organization Gypsy Guild on Sunday organized a public function titled 'Aranya Edin' here at the Jayanta Hazaria memorial park on the bank of the Borpukhuri. Prominent writer Dr Bipul Jyoti Saikia ceremonially inaugurated the 'milepost' while noted playwright and director Nayan Prasad released the postal stamp.

Public meet on Nov 19 to discuss Silchar flyover issues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SILCHAR, Nov 17: Amidst recent instances of heated discussions over the fate of Silchar's much-needed flyover, especially after a section of the society raised objections to its current design and routing, the Cachar district administration has decided to take up the matter with the denizens here.

In a significant step, the Cachar district administration has announced a public consultation meeting on November 19 at 3 pm at Banga Bhawan here, inviting residents to voice their views on the proposed construction of an elevated road from Trunk Road near Capital Point to Rangirkhali Point.

With the flyover project becoming a topic of intense civic buzz, the administration took the initiative to provide a platform where every concern, commercial, civic, or logistical, will be heard, a release issued by the office of the DDIPR Barak Valley stated.

As per the release, the meeting has been called by the Land Acquisition branch of the district administration, and it's expected to draw

74th Karbi Anglong Day celebrated in Diphu

CORRESPONDENT

DIPHU, Nov 17: The Karbi Anglong Autonomous District commemorated the 74th Karbi Anglong Day, honouring its historical legacy while looking towards a sustainable future.

The day's events served to pay tribute to the founding leaders of the region, whose dedication and vision were instrumental in the establishment of the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Region.

The Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) organized a ceremony at the Karbi People's Hall, Taralangso, Diphu today to recognize those who advocated the region's autonomy and identity. The dedication and sacrifice

of these individuals were acknowledged, emphasizing their vital role in shaping the present and future of Karbi Anglong. A tree plantation programme was also organized.

The event was attended by various leaders, including Longsing Ronghang, Karbi Recho, Amorsing Tisso, MP and Dr Numal Momin, Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly, among others.

Speakers addressed the significance of maintaining unity while pursuing progress and environmental responsibility. The day's proceedings concluded with renewed commitments to advance the region's development, preserve its unique cultural identity, and reinforce its autonomy.

Cattle smugglers held

CORRESPONDENT

CHAPAR, Nov 17: Three cattle smugglers were arrested in a joint operation by the Chapar police station and Salkocha police outpost in Dhubri district today.

The cattle smugglers were on their way to Salkocha with a Bolero pick-up van (AS17 C 5253). The arrested persons have been identified as Majen Ali Sheikh, Ahidul Ali Sheikh and Nishan Ali of Ghuramari in Kokrajhar district. The cows were taken to the Chapar police station and the arrested smugglers were sent to jail. Police suspected that the cattle were being smuggled to Bangladesh via the Brahmaputra river.

Minimally invasive open-heart surgery performed at AMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DIBRUGARH, Nov 17: In a groundbreaking medical achievement, Assam Medical College and Hospital (AMCH) successfully performed a minimally accessed open-heart surgery for the first time on a 48-year-old woman with a large atrial septal defect (ASD) adult congenital heart disease. The defect was closed using an artificial patch graft, marking a major milestone in cardiac care for the region.

The delicate three-and-a-half-hour procedure was conducted on Saturday under the proactive guidance of Dr Dipak Kumar Bhattacharya, Professor and head of the Department of Cardiovascular Thoracic Surgery (CVTS), AMCH.

with the expert support of Dr JP Kalita, senior consultant, CVTS, Guwahati, and Dr Nabajyoti Hazarika, senior consultant, CVTS, AMCH.



Anesthesia was administered under the supervision of Prof Diganta Saikia and Dr B Gogoi, while senior nurses – Renu Gogoi Dutta and Malabika Devi Borgohain – assisted throughout the operation.

The procedure, including investigations and monitoring, was closely overseen by Prof Hem Chandra Kalita, along with Prof Mriganka Chalina, head of Cardiology, and assistant professor Dr Sekhar Jyoti Gogoi.

The heart-lung machine was managed by chief perfusionist Dr Selvam of Siliguri, West Bengal, supported by Manabjyoti Nath and Titu Dutta, ensuring precise 'cold blood cardioplegia' throughout the surgery.

The patient is reported to be stable and recovering well in the ICU of the Cardiology Department, Dr Nabajyoti Hazarika told *The Assam Tribune*. He also added that AMCH principal Dr Sanjeeb Kakati and superintendent Dr Dhrubajyoti Bhuyan extended full cooperation in the procedure.

GOVT. OF ASSAM FLOOD AND RIVER EROSION MANAGEMENT AGENCY OF ASSAM, (FREMAA)

Address: 4th Floor, Assam Water Centre Basistha Chariali, NH 27 Guwahati, Assam-781029, Phone/Fax-(0361)2309896, Email: ceo-fremaa@assam.gov.in, Website: www.fremaa.assam.gov.in

No. E-572865/1765

REQUEST FOR BID (RFB) National Competitive Bidding

(Two-Envelope Bidding Process with e-Procurement)

The Government of Assam has received financing through Government of India from the World Bank towards the cost of Assam Integrated River Basin Management Program (AIRBMP) Project. Under the project, the Chief Executive Officer, Flood & River Erosion Management Agency of Assam (FREMAA) invites Request for Bid (RFB) under National Competitive Bidding from reputed firms/company/registered contractors having experience in construction of buildings as follows:

Name of Work	Approximate Value
Construction of Annex Building of Assam Water Centre under Assam Integrated River Basin Management Program (AIRBMP) Project, adjacent to new ASDMA Headquarters	INR 89.5 Crores

Complete RFB documents shall be available on website <http://fremaa.assam.gov.in> and www.fremaa.assam.gov.in from 18.11.2025. A pre-bid meeting for the aforementioned works is scheduled to be held on 03.12.2025 at 3 PM (15:00 HRS) in the Conference Hall of FREMAA.

Intending bidders are required to register in the e-tender portal of the Assam Govt. www.fremaa.assam.gov.in and participate through e-tender portal only. The last date and time of submission of bid is on 19.12.2025 at 2PM (14:00HRS).

DIPR/CF/AT/2631/18-Nov-25

Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, FREMAA

Delhi court remands Red Fort blast accused in 10-day NIA custody

Amir arranged safe house, logistical support for Dr Umar Nabi: Probe agency

NEW DELHI, Nov 17: Amir Rashid Ali, a key accused in the Red Fort area car bomb blast case that left 15 people dead, was today remanded in 10 days' NIA custody as the agency seeks to unravel the conspiracy behind the inter-State "white-collar" terror module.

Amir, a resident of Pampore in south Kashmir, was brought to the court of Principal District and Sessions Judge Anju Bajaj Chandra at the Patiala House courts complex amid tight security.

Mediapersons were barred from entering the court premises, which virtually turned the proceedings 'in-camera'.

Later, sources in the courtroom said the judge allowed the National Investigation Agency's (NIA) plea seeking custodial interrogation of the accused for 10 days.

A heavy deployment of Delhi Police and the Rapid Action Force (RAF) was seen outside the court premises,

besides keeping personnel equipped with anti-riot gear on standby to maintain order.

Amir was likely the last person to have been in contact with Dr Umar Nabi, who was driving the explosive-laden car that detonated outside the Red Fort on November 10, killing 15 people.

The remand comes a day after the NIA announced Amir's arrest for allegedly conspiring with "suicide bomber" Nabi to execute the terror attack.

The NIA investigation showed that the vehicle used in the blast was registered in Amir's name, who had travelled to Delhi specifically to facilitate the purchase of the car. The vehicle was subsequently used as a "vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED)" to carry out the attack.

NIA told the court that Amir allegedly arranged a safe house and provided logistical support to Dr Umar Nabi. It said that Amir, the regis-

tered owner of the vehicle used in the incident, allegedly provided logistical support to Umar. The remand paper also claimed that Amir had arranged a safe house for Umar in the days leading up to the blast.

It said that the blast's precision and intensity had been deliberately designed to instil fear in the minds of the public, besides causing alarm and panic.

As reported by PTI earlier, Nabi, a 28-year-old doctor from Pulwama, emerged as the most radicalised and key operative in the network spanning Kashmir, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh.

Officials believe he was planning a powerful VBIED blast timed around the Babri Masjid demolition anniversary on December 6.

Meanwhile, the NIA has arrested a second close aide of "suicide bomber" Dr Umar Nabi in the Red Fort area car blast case with the man from Kashmir being accused of allegedly providing technical support for carry-

ing out terror attacks by modifying drones and attempting to make rockets.

The aide Jasir Bilal Wani, a resident of Qazigund in Anantnag, was described by the NIA today as an "active co-conspirator" of Nabi.

Wani allegedly provided technical support for carrying out terror attacks by modifying drones and attempting to make rockets ahead of the deadly car bomb blast, the NIA said in a statement.

Wani, who also goes by the alias of Danish, was arrested from Srinagar by an NIA team, it said.

"The accused, a resident of Qazigund in Anantnag district of J&K, was an active co-conspirator behind the attack and had worked closely with the terrorist, Umar un Nabi, to plan the terror carnage," it said.

"Several teams of the anti-terror agency are pursuing multiple leads, and are conducting searches across States to identify every person involved in the terror attack."

Jasir alias 'Danish', a bachelor in political sciences, was intensely brainwashed by Nabi for several months to become a suicide bomber, it was stated.

He had agreed to meet the 'doctor module' in October last year at a mosque in Kulgam in Kashmir from where he was taken to a rented accommodation at the Al Falah University in Faridabad in Haryana.

Wani, who was earlier detained by Jammu & Kashmir police, had told during his questioning that while others in the module wanted him to be an overground worker (OGW) for the banned Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Nabi brainwashed him for several months to become a suicide bomber.

Red Fort blast toll rises to 15: The death toll in the November 10 blast near the Red Fort rose to 15 after two more injured persons succumbed to their injuries at the LNJP Hospital here, an official said today. — PTI

Hectic lobbying among NDA partners for ministerial berths

New Bihar govt swearing-in on Nov 20

PATNA, Nov 17: Hectic lobbying has started among NDA partners to finalise the allocation of Cabinet berths ahead of the swearing-in ceremony of the new Bihar government, scheduled to take place here on November 20.

Sources said the new Cabinet is likely to include five to six fresh faces from the main constituents – the BJP and JD(U).

Umesh Singh Kushwaha, JD(U) chief of the State unit who won from Mahanar seat, is likely to be inducted in the new Cabinet of Nitish Kumar, who prepares to take oath as the CM for a record 10th time.

Kumar will submit his resignation to Governor Arif Mohammad Khan as head of the outgoing government on November 19.

While the JD(U) is set to retain most of its ministers, the BJP may introduce a few new faces, sources said.

Of the 25 ministers in the outgoing Cabinet who contested the polls, all but one won.

The lone unsuccessful minister, Sumit Kumar Singh, elected as an Independent in 2020 and later inducted into the Cabinet, failed to retain his seat after contesting on a JD(U) ticket.

Along with the JD(U) and the BJP, smaller partners – Union

Minister Chirag Paswan's LJP (RV), Jitan Ram Manjhi's HAM-S, and Upendra Kushwaha's RLM – will also be part of the new Cabinet.

"The LJP (RV) is likely to get three berths while HAM-S and RLM may get one berth each. A maximum of 16 ministers from the BJP and 14 from JD(U), along with Nitish Kumar, are likely to take oath on November 20," sources said.

"We are looking forward to greater representation in the new Cabinet compared to the last one in which we had only 12 ministers. Our tally has risen sharply since 2020, when we had fewer than 50 MLAs," JD(U) sources said.

Apart from the CM, JD (U) leaders who are expected to be part of the new Cabinet include: Bijendra Prasad Yadav, Vijay Kumar Choudhary, Shrawan Kumar, Sunil Kumar, Lesi Singh, Sheila Mandal, Madan Sahni, Ratnesh Sada, Mohammad Zama Khan, Jayant Raj, Umesh Singh Kushwaha and Ashok Chowdhary.

New entrants from the party may include Rahul Kumar Singh, Sudhanshu Shekhar, Kaladhar Prasad Mandal and Panna Lal Singh Patel, sources said.

As far as BJP is concerned,

sources in the party said most ministers in the outgoing Cabinet are likely to be retained, though the party is considering bringing in three to four new faces.

Those likely to be repeated are Samrat Choudhary, Prem Kumar, Mangal Pandey, Vijay Kumar Sinha, Nitish Mishra, Renu Devi, Jibesh Kumar, Neeraj Kumar Singh, Janak Ram, Hari Sahni, Kedar Prasad Gupta, Surendra Mehta, Santosh Kumar Singh, Sunil Kumar, Motilal Prasad, etc.

New faces in the BJP who may get Cabinet berths include Rana Randhir, Gayatri Devi and Vijay Kumar Khemka, sources said.

The historic Gandhi Maidan, the venue for the swearing-in ceremony, has been closed to the public until November 20.

The Patna district administration said entry of common people has been barred and a large security deployment has been put in place, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to attend the ceremony.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah and several senior NDA leaders, including Rajnath Singh and Dharmendra Pradhan, are also likely to be present. — PTI

Govt hikes print media advt rates by 26%

NEW DELHI, Nov 17: The government today said it has decided to increase print media advertisement rates by 26 per cent.

This will yield several significant benefits, both for the government and the media landscape, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting said in a statement.

"The media rates for print media per sq cm for 1 lakh copies of dailies in the black and white advertisement have been enhanced from Rs 47.40 to Rs 59.68, an increase of 26 per cent," it said.

The government has also agreed to the recommendations of the Rate Structure Committee (RSC) relating to premium rates to be offered for colour advertisements and preferential positioning.

The rates for release of the print media advertisements by the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC) were last revised by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on the basis of the recommendations of the eighth RSC on January 9, 2019, which were valid for a period of three years. — PTI



Bihar Governor Arif Mohammad Khan receives a letter recommending the dissolution of the current government from State Chief Minister Nitish Kumar during a meeting in Patna on Monday. — PTI

Newly elected RJD MLAs name Tejashwi as legislature party leader

PATNA, Nov 17: Newly elected RJD MLAs today named Tejashwi Yadav as the legislature party leader.

The RJD won 25 out of the 143 seats it contested in the Assembly elections.

RJD spokesperson Shakti Singh said, "Tejashwi Yadav was elected as RJD's legislature party leader by the newly elected MLAs."

Party President Lalu Prasad and senior leaders such as Rabri Devi, Misa Bharti and Jagdanand Singh were present at the meeting, he said.

Yadav, the Leader of the Opposition in the outgoing Assembly, was the chief ministerial candidate of the Mahagandhan in the polls.

Meanwhile, the Opposition RJD today claimed that this mandate did not reflect

people's desire and the party may move court as there were "irregularities in the EVMs".

Not just the RJD, the entire Opposition bloc led by it suffered a crushing defeat in the polls, as the BJP-led NDA emerged victorious, winning 202 seats in the 243-member Assembly, and returned to power.

This shows where the country is headed, he said.

Asking whether democracy is a trade, Jagdanand Singh said, "Democracy is an institutional arrangement of the Constitution. And they (NDA) are juggling with the Constitution."

Bhai Virendra, who won the election from Maner constituency, also alleged that there have been irregularities in the EVMs. "We will seek elections through ballot papers," he said. — PTI

All the RJD candidates who contested the polls attended the meeting, and one

Putin's aide holds talks with NSA Doval

NEW DELHI, Nov 17: Russian President Vladimir Putin's aide Nikolay Patrushev today held talks with National Security Adviser Ajit Doval covering various aspects of bilateral ties.

The talks largely focused on President Putin's visit to India early next month, it is learnt.

Patrushev also met India's National Maritime Security Coordinator Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta.

The Russian President is expected to visit India around December 5 to hold annual summit talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The summit is expected to produce significant outcomes to further solidify bilateral strategic ties.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is currently in Moscow to hold talks with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov. — PTI

No:ALDA/RGM/MAITRI-03/2025-26/763

NOTICE

Applications are invited for training of **Multipurpose AI Technician in Rural India (MAITRI)** in all the 35 districts of Assam for self employment only under Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM)-Govt. of India fulfilling following criteria-

Age	18 to 38 Years as on 01.01.2025 applicable for all categories.
Educational qualification	12th pass (10 +2)
Efficiency Certificate	In relation to A.H & Vety Related Activity, to be Issued by the Local Vety. Officer/Block Vety. Officer
Local area certificate	• Should be beyond 5 km radius of concern Artificial Insemination Center • To be obtained from Village Head/ Gram Panchayat President/ Circle Officer
Duration of Training	45 days Residential Institutional Training followed by 75 days Field Training.

Selection Criteria:

- The candidate must be a permanent resident of the respective district/area.
- Selection will be done purely on the basis of marks obtained in HSLC & HS examination, Efficiency Certificate and Local Area Certificate.
- Final selection will be done by State Level Selection Committee after preliminary screening at District Level Committee.
- Call for the training will be made serially as per the final Merit List proportionately or as decided by ALDA/Govt.

Interested candidates may apply in the prescribed application form to be downloaded from the official website of Assam Livestock Development Agency (ALDA) - <https://livestock.assam.gov.in>. Filled-up Application Form along with all the relevant documents should be submitted at the respective District Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Office on or before **27.11.2025**.

Note:

- After successful completion of the training, candidates will have to render services as Multipurpose Artificial Insemination Technician in Rural India (MAITRI) in the areas as designated by A.H. & Vety. Deptt./ALDA.
- There is no option for permanent engagement by ALDA or Govt. of Assam. It is purely for generation of self-employment only as per the Govt. of India guidelines under RGM.

Sd/- CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
ASSAM LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

BJP achieves 'highest-ever' strength in State Assemblies: Amit Malviya

NEW DELHI, Nov 17: The BJP today said it has achieved "highest-ever" strength in the State Legislative Assemblies and exuded confidence that it will cross the 1,800-seat mark in the next two years from the current 1,654 with the pace it is growing since 2014.

Sharing on X the year-wise data on the number of BJP MLAs, party leader Amit Malviya said the BJP "earned and endured its rise – seat by seat, State by State, struggle by struggle", unlike the Congress "surviving" on

its legacy. The number of BJP legislators in the State Assemblies reached 1,654 this year from 1,035 in 2014, according to "BJP MLA count" shared by Malviya on X.

"BJP is now at its highest-ever strength in State Assemblies and the momentum is only growing. At this pace, the BJP will comfortably cross the 1,800-seat mark in the next two years," he said.

For comparison, the BJP department head said the Congress touched its peak of around 2018 seats in 1985, riding on a "massive sympathy wave" af-

ter then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's assassination.

"It was easier then to consolidate power and sway the electorate," he said, adding, "The difference is clear: Congress inherited its peak. BJP has earned and endured its rise – seat by seat, State by State, struggle by struggle."

The future belongs to a party that works, not one that "survives on legacy", the BJP leader said.

The ruling NDA on Friday secured a thumping majority in the Bihar Assembly, winning 202 seats in the 243-member

Israeli who made Negev desert bloom, passes away

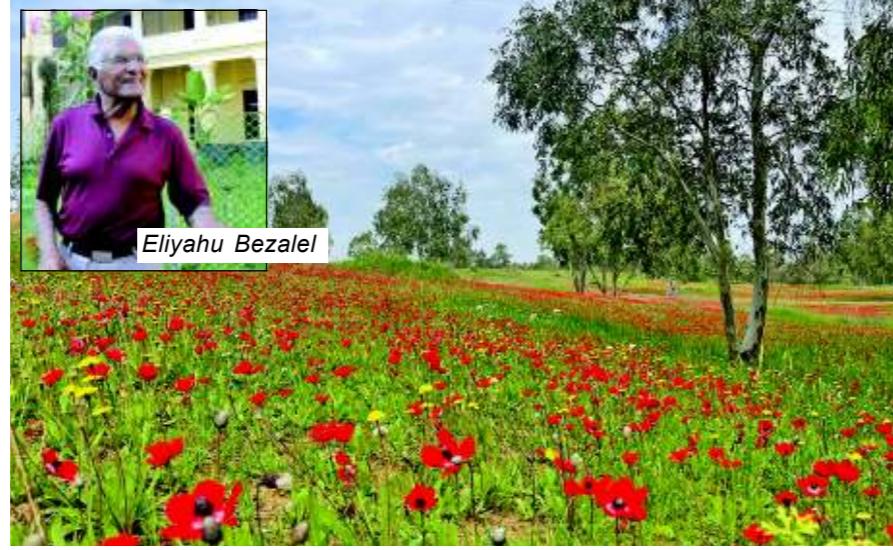
Eliyahu Bezalel was conferred the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman, the highest civilian honour bestowed by India on non-resident Indians, in 2006

JERUSALEM, Nov 17: Indian-origin entrepreneur Eliyahu Bezalel who started as a shepherd in Israel and went on to become an award-winning agriculturist and recipient of the prestigious Pravasi Bharatiya Samman, passed away on Sunday. He was 95.

Bezalel, who left his village of Chendamangalam in Kerala in 1955 for Israel at the age of 25, maintained strong sentimental links with his motherland, which he said "taught him the spirit of co-existence".

He was conferred the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman, the highest civilian honour bestowed by India on non-resident Indians, in 2006.

"I am proud to be an Indian. My children and grandchildren call themselves Cochinis and Indians with pride, saying they come from a culture which is tolerant of all faiths and where their forefathers did not feel any kind of anti-Semitism," Bezalel then told PTI.



Eliyahu Bezalel

Bezalel, who made the Negev desert in Israel bloom and won the best exporter award from former Israeli Prime Minister Levi Eshkol in 1964, had also taken pains to share his expertise in the area of horticulture with Indian farmers who have tried to replicate it in recent years. He also travelled to several places in India to give lectures and teach techniques in horticulture since 1971.

The enterprising Indian Jew decided to move to the Negev region a few years after immigration, at a time when few were willing to live there. He started agriculture on a very small scale when the first pipeline came to the area in 1958. In 1959, Bezalel started growing and exporting gladioli flower bulbs to Holland. "The soil in the Negev was

virgin and good for growing the bulbs. The Dutch took a special fancy for it and it turned out to be a big success," he had explained.

The Indian entrepreneur never looked back after that, and prizes soon started to flow in appreciation of his initiative in the desert.

The Israeli Agriculture ministry sent him to England to learn about horticulture in 1969. Upon his return, he set up the first modern greenhouse in Israel with two partners, which has come to be identified as an area of Israeli expertise worldwide.

He then started exporting roses to Holland, with Israel emerging as the second largest exporter to that country.

"His life was shaped by humility, perseverance and devotion to both family and work. Eliyahu never forgot his roots in India," the Indian Jewish Heritage Centre and Cochin Jewish Heritage Centre said in an obituary for the 'beloved son of the Malabar Jewish community'. - PTI

Increased AI use among radicalised youths: Singapore minister

SINGAPORE, Nov 17: Extremist groups use AI to amplify the reach and sophistication of radical content, making it difficult for young minds to distinguish truth from manipulation, a Singapore minister said on Monday.

Speaking at a seminar, acting minister-in-charge of Muslim Affairs Faishal Ibrahim said that Artificial Intelligence (AI) has also featured in several youth self-radicalisation cases in the multi-racial city-state.

Extremist groups now use AI to create persuasive propaganda and even impersonate trusted voices, Faishal was quoted as saying by *The Straits Times* newspaper.

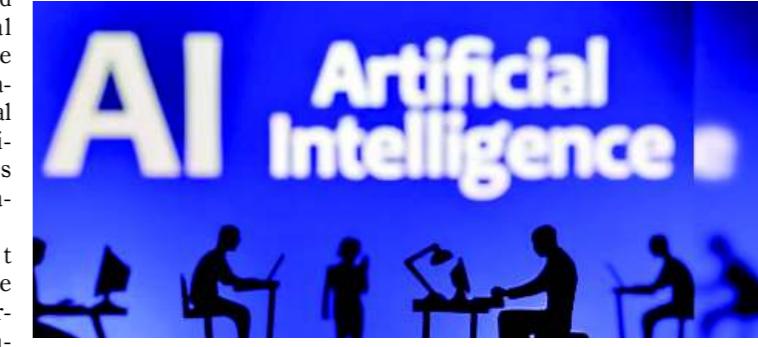
He said that the reach and sophistication of racial content can be enhanced with AI, making it more difficult for younger people to distinguish truth from manipulation.

For instance, a 17-year-old woman arrested in August 2024 had used an AI chatbot

to generate a pledge of allegiance to the terror group ISIS, as well as a declaration of armed jihad against non-Muslims, Faishal said.

The youth was arrested just weeks before he could carry out his plan to kill non-Muslims in Tampines, a major public housing estate on the east coast of the state.

He had planned to release



challenge must now be met with even greater awareness, technical skill and collaboration, he said.

"These cases remind us of the critical need for resilience, awareness, and early intervention," he said. "We intervene not to sabotage the youth's future, but to bring them back to the mainstream and save them from harming themselves and others." - PTI

China warns US-S Korea alliance over any move to contain Beijing

BEIJING, Nov 17: China on Monday warned that its view of the US-South Korea alliance would "change" if Washington and Seoul shifted their strategic focus toward trying to contain Beijing following their deal to jointly produce nuclear submarine.

The strong reaction by China came after a US naval official said nuclear-powered submarines to be built by South Korea with American support would be used to counter China.

Reacting to the remarks by US Admiral Daryl Caudle, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said, "We hope the ROK (South Korea) and the US will prudently handle the matter."

Chinese ambassador to South Korea Dai Bing warned that ongoing efforts by South Korea and the US to modernise their alliance should not be expanded into a framework aimed at con-



taining China, which would divert the alliance from its stated purpose of addressing North Korean threats.

"If there is a change in the strategic purpose of the South Korea-US alliance, China's perspective toward the alliance would also change," China's state-run *Global Times* quoted him as saying.

US Admiral Daryl Caudle told South Korean media that the "utilisation of that submarine to counter China, I think, is a natural expectation."

"With that type of capability, I think the US would expect that partnership, again, working as an alliance together, to meet our combined goals on what the US considers to be our pacing threat, which is China," Caudle was quoted as saying by South Korean news agency Yonhap.

"With great power comes great responsibility," he said, adding that South Korea would be expected to "deploy those submarines globally and move away from just being a regional navy to a global navy."

His comments followed an announcement by South Korea last week that it has finalised an agreement to build nuclear-powered submarines in partnership with the US.

The US has approved the "attack submarines" and agreed to cooperate in sourcing fuel, according to a fact sheet released by the White House on Thursday detailing discussions of summit talks between South Korean President Lee Jae-myung and US President Donald Trump on October 29, Yonhap reported.

The agreement marks a significant step in South Korea's relations with the US and comes amid a period of growing tensions on the Korean Peninsula with North Korea, which has claimed to be developing a nuclear submarine, reportedly with the help of Russia. - PTI



Attendees participate in a lighting ceremony of a Christmas tree to celebrate the upcoming Christmas season near the Seoul City Hall in Seoul, South Korea, on Monday. - AP/PTI

USFK head underscores 'strategic triangle' linking S Korea, Japan, Philippines

SEOUL, Nov 17: The chief of the US Forces Korea (USFK) said on Monday three American allies in the Indo-Pacific - South Korea, Japan and the Philippines - can be grouped as a "strategic triangle" for regional security cooperation, citing their geographic values in the "east-up" map.

General Xavier Brunson made the remarks, in reference to a map that puts the east at the top rather than standard north-up mapping, amid Washington's renewed calls for its allies to do more for "collective defence" and increasing emphasis on "strategic flexibility" amid an intensifying Sino-US rivalry, Yonhap News Agency reported.

Unlike conventional mapping, which places North Korea and Russia north of South Korea, the east-up mapping tends to visually highlight areas south of the Korean Peninsula, including countries

such as Taiwan and the Philippines.

"Perhaps the most significant insight from east-up mapping is the emergence of a strategic triangle connecting Korea, Japan and the Philippines," Brunson said in an article carried on the USFK website.

"When these three mutual defence treaty partners are viewed as vertices of a triangle rather than isolated bilateral relationships, their collective potential becomes clear," he said.

When asked about the advantage of such a framework compared with existing bilateral alliance structures, Brunson stressed it is "not about forming a new alliance" but finding practical ways to coordinate based on geographic ties.

"That geometry strengthens the collective ability to preserve stability across the region while reinforcing the enduring mission that begins here on the peninsula; the credible combined deter-

rence that keeps aggression, particularly from the North, in check," he said in a separate written response.

By country, he mentioned how the three countries are each equipped with unique capabilities - Korea's central depth, Japan's technological advantage and maritime reach, and the Philippines' access to key southern sea lanes.

Extending on such an analysis, the USFK commander reiterated how the strategic positioning of South Korea can help overcome the limitations that come from the geographic distance of the broader Indo-Pacific region.

"This shift in perspective illuminates Korea's role as a natural strategic pivot," he said, noting how the USFK headquarters in Camp Humphreys is located about 160 miles from Pyongyang, 610 miles from Beijing and 500 miles from Vladivostok. - IANS

Gunmen abduct 25 girls from high school in Nigeria

ABUJA, Nov 17: Gunmen attacked a high school in northwestern Nigeria before dawn on Monday and abducted 25 schoolgirls, police said.

One staffer at the school was killed and another was wounded in what was the latest incident of school abductions in Nigeria's north-central region.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the abductions from the boarding school in Kebbi state.

According to police, the incident took place at 4:00 am and the girls were abducted from their dorms. The boarding school is in Maga, in the state's Dankwa-Wasagu area, police spokesperson Nafiu Abubakar Kotarkoshi said.

The assailants were armed with "sophisticated weapons" and ex-

changed fire with guards before abducting the girls, Kotarkoshi said.

"A combined team is currently combing suspected escape routes and surrounding forests in a coordinated search and rescue operation aimed at recovering the abducted students and arresting the perpetrators," the spokesperson added.

This is the latest school abduction in Nigeria's northern region, where armed groups have targeted schools in the beginning of a new era of fear - with nearly 100 of the girls still in captivity in 2024.

Since the Chibok abductions, at least 1,500 students have been kidnapped, as armed groups increasingly find in abductions a lucrative way to fund other crimes and control villages in the nation's mineral-rich but poorly policed region. - AP

Poland railway line blast near Warsaw an 'act of sabotage'

WARSAW, Nov 17: A railway line linking Warsaw to southeastern Poland was damaged by a weekend explosion that the prime minister on Monday called an act of sabotage.

Prime Minister Donald Tusk, who visited the site, said that the line is "crucially important for delivering aid to Ukraine."

"Unfortunately, the worst fears have been confirmed," Tusk said in a statement. "An act of sabotage has occurred on the Warsaw-Lublin route (in the village of Mika). An explosion has destroyed the railway track."

A train driver on the line between the capital, Warsaw and Lublin, reported track irregularities around 7:40 am on Sunday. Further inspection determined there was damage to a section of track near the village of Mika, about 100 kilometres southeast of Warsaw, officials said.

It wasn't immediately clear whether the explosion and damage occurred late Saturday or early Sunday. Two passengers and several staff members were on the train, but no injuries were reported, officials said.

Defence Minister Wladyslaw Kosiniak-Kamysz said on Monday that the army plans to examine 120 kilometres (about 75 miles) of the Warsaw-Lublin-Hrubieszow line, which links the capital to Ukraine by rail and road. - AP

IAF and French fighter jets begin coordinated missions

PARIS, Nov 17: Indian Air Force Su-30MKI fighter aircraft and French Air and Space Force Rafale aircraft soared into the skies on Monday, as they began coordinated missions as part of the bilateral air Exercise *Garuda*.

In a statement shared on X, the Indian Air Force stated, *Exercise Garuda* takes off. Indian Air Force Su-30MKI and French Air and Space Force Rafale aircraft soared into the skies, commencing coordinated mis-



sions as part of the bilateral air exercise. The engagement reinforces strong interoperability and deep defence cooperation between the two Air Forces."

The IAF contingent is participating in the exercise with Su-30MKI fighter aircraft. In a statement, the Ministry of Defence stated, "The airlift support is being provided by the C-17 Globemaster III, for the induction and de-induction phases of the exercise, while the IL-78 air-to-air refuelling tankers are utilised for extending the range and endurance

of the participating fighters."

During the exercise, the IAF's Su-30MKI aircraft will operate along with the French multirole fighters in complex simulated air combat scenarios, focusing on air-to-air combat, air defence, and joint strike operations.

"This exercise aims to refine tactics and procedures in a realistic operational environment, enabling mutual learning and fostering interoperability between the IAF and the FASF. *Exercise Garuda 25* also provides an opportunity for professional interaction, exchange of operational knowledge, and sharing of best practices between the two Air Forces," the statement added.

"Participation in this exercise underscores the IAF's commitment to engage constructively with friendly foreign Air Forces through multi-lateral exercises, promoting mutual understanding and cooperation in the field of air operations," it mentioned. - IANS

Haunted heritage

Historian Eric Chopra explores Delhi's eerie monuments in new book *Ghosted*

From the ruins of medieval mosques to Mughal tombs and abandoned palaces, a new book, *Ghosted: Delhi's Haunted Monuments* by historian Eric Chopra, delves into the capital's haunted heritage.

Scheduled to hit the stands on November 25, the book, published by Speaking Tiger, traces the stories of saints, sultans, poets, lovers, and legends that continue to inhabit the city's memory.

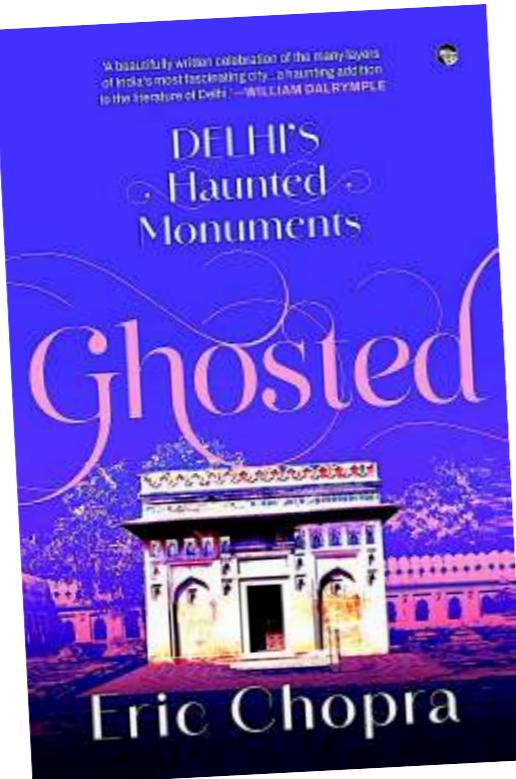
It journeys through the capital's most beguiling sites – Jamali-Kamali, Firoz Shah Kotla, Khooni Darwaza, the Mutiny Memorial, and Malcha Mahal – to unearth a Delhi that exists between worlds: "a palimpsest where Sufis bless kings, jinn listen to grievances, and begums occupy dilapidated hunting lodges".

What begins as a search for Delhi's haunted monuments becomes a meditation on why we are drawn to the dead and how ghost stories become vessels of collective memory.

Blending archival research with folklore, myth, and reflection, Chopra paints an intimate portrait of a city forever in dialogue with its former selves. Through invasions and rebirths, he reveals that Delhi's spirit resides not just in its monuments but in the unseen presences that linger among them.

Ghosted is a lyrical, haunting journey through the city's spectral landscape – an invitation to listen to what its echoes tell us about memory and identity.

"As a public historian, horror aficionado, and Dilwala, it was impossible for me not to



be drawn to the stories and legends that are wrapped around the city's monuments. Through our work at 'Itihasology' and the heritage trails I have conducted across Delhi, I have often been asked questions about the ghosts and jinn that inhabit old sites, and why history is so haunted!

"*Ghosted* emerges from these curiosities, wanderings through ruins, immersions in archives, countless conversations, and my own fascination with this shape-shifting city," said Chopra, who is also the founder of 'Itihasology' – an inclusive platform dedicated to Indian history and art.

In the book, Chopra uncovers a city where saints, sultans, poets, and lovers linger in memory, blending archival research with folklore and myth to portray Delhi as a palimpsest of history, legend, and spectral presence.

According to the publisher, *Ghosted* showcases the "layered, multi-hued history of our beloved Delhi".

"Eric is a natural storyteller who connects with the current generation. This, combined with his passion for history and copious research, makes him a compelling writer of narrative non-fiction... His writing will bring the joy of discovering the past to new and old readers, and we hope this is the first of many such books from him," said Sudeshna Shome Ghosh, executive publisher at Speaking Tiger.

The book, priced at Rs 499, is currently available online for pre-order.

(Source: PTI)

Know your DAY

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

Happy Birthday for Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2025: You're intuitive, energetic and humorous. You are a good friend, an entertaining colleague and a considerate companion. This is a slower paced year. Take time to rejuvenate your energy. Concentrate on your needs and what brings you happiness. Seek relationships that are supportive to you.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Keep your pockets open, because money, favours and practical assistance might come your way today. You can benefit from the wealth and resources of someone else. (This includes the government.) This is also a passionate day for romantic love. (Not too shabby.) Tonight: Check banking details.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ This is a great day to schmooze with partners and close friends. Others will enjoy being in your presence. This is because you easily radiate warm emotions when dealing with everyone today. Nevertheless, be prepared to compromise a bit and "go along to get along." Tonight: Listen.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ This is the classic day for a work-related romance or a flirtation. Meanwhile, it's an excellent time to improve your workstation, whether you work at home or in another location. Something might occur today that gives you a financial boost – a raise or better equipment. Yay! Tonight: Work.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ It's a fun-loving day! Make an effort to get out and socialize, because you feel cheerful and chatty. (You're interested in over-the-fence gossip.) This is a great day to party! Enjoy sports events, the entertainment world and fun activities with kids – any pleasant diversion that appeals to you. Tonight: Schmooze with others.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ This is an excellent day to entertain at home. It's also a great day to shop for something that will help you make where you live look more attractive. (Then you can show off what you've done to visiting family and friends.) Bottom line: This is a warm, friendly day! Tonight: Cocoon at home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Writers and those of you in sales, marketing, teaching or acting will excel today, because your communication skills are tops! This is mostly due to the fact that you're in an optimistic, positive frame of mind, and your words will reflect this. Enjoy the beauty of your daily surroundings. Tonight: Discussions.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Save your receipts (and the box) today if shopping, because you might go overboard. This is because your appreciation of beauty is strong, which could tempt you to spend more money than you originally intended to. Actually, it's easy to be overindulgent today. (And you do love beautiful things.) Tonight: Check your money.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ This is a fabulous day! The Moon is lined up with fair Venus in your sign, making you charming, attractive and irresistible to others. Not only will casual conversations be friendly and upbeat, your interactions with certain people might plant some seeds that will flourish in a romantic way. Tonight: You're in charge.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Solitude in beautiful surroundings will appeal to you today. However, with fiery Mars in your sign, pumping you with energy, you'll be attracted to outdoor sports and physical activities as well. This is the perfect day for a hike to enjoy nature. Today also favours secret love affairs. Tonight: Seek solitude.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ The Moon, Venus, the Sun and retrograde Mercury are gathered in your House of Friendships, promoting warm relations with friends, groups and organizations, especially with faces from the past you haven't seen in a while. Things are so chummy, a platonic friendship could turn romantic. Tonight: Friendships.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ "You look marvellous darling!" Today four planets are at the top of your chart calling attention to you. Some will know personal details about your private life. However, you make a charming impression on everyone, which is why you're enjoying this popular day. Tonight: You're admired!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Grab every opportunity to travel, because you want to expand your world in some way. Travel, film, books, discussions with different and unusual people, specific training and a chance to explore your own surroundings are excellent choices for you today. Explore! Tonight: Learn something new.

★★★

Thought for the day

Children must be taught how to think, not what to think.

— MARGARET MEAD

'Actors do theatre clearly for passion, not for money or fame'

Neither wealth nor fame and, on top of it, immense hard work and stress – actor-director Rajat Kapoor doffs his hat to all theatre actors, whether seasoned performers or newcomers, for their relentless dedication to the stage.

As he waits for the Delhi premiere of his play *Karamjale Brothers*, a Hindi adaptation of Russian literary giant Fyodor Dostoevsky's final novel *The Brothers Karamazov*, at OP Jindal Auditorium during the sixth edition of the Delhi Theatre Festival (DTF), Kapoor reflects on what drives actors to toil so passionately for theatre.

"It's very hard work, as opposed to acting in films. So, why are you doing it? It's not for money, not for fame. It's really for the love of the craft, or for the thrill of being on stage for those 90 minutes. There's a certain purity to that profession.

"It is hard work also in terms of rehearsals and discovery – because you're discovering something every day in rehearsal. Either it's the text, or, if you're working with me, you don't even know what the text is – so you're discovering it from scratch. I know it's very stressful for actors. And yet they do it, which is truly phenomenal. His hat's off to them," said Kapoor, who has successfully dabbled as writer, director and actor, both in movies and theatre.

Describing himself as a "theatre addict", the 64-year-old said that it has "some nasha" and he keeps falling for it.

"It gives me great joy. You want to keep doing it. And say yeah, 'God, I hate it.' But I want to do it again. Yeah, I love it," he said.

Kapoor often collaborates with a familiar circle of actors. Among his absolute favourites are Vinay Pathak – who portrays the patriarch in *Karamjale Brothers* – and Ranvir Shorey, who shared the stage with Pathak in Kapoor's *Macbeth*-inspired production *What's Done Is Done* at the previous edition of DTF.

As for why these two remain his

Vinay Pathak and Rajat Kapoor



“

It's very hard work, as

opposed to acting in films. So, why are you doing it? It's not for money, not for fame. It's really for the love of the craft, or for the thrill of being on stage for those 90 minutes. There's a certain purity to that profession.

— RAJAT KAPOOR

constants, whether in films or plays, Kapoor said, "They are phenomenal actors."

"Ranvir can be just anybody on film. I think he's terrific. And Vinay can be just anything on stage – he's magic. More than that, it's the kind of will they have, especially Vinay, when it comes to plays. He has been a constant for the last 25 years in everything I've done. He has incredible dedication – he keeps rehearsing and rehearsing, constantly honing his craft.

"And finally, the reason is that they're both willing to work with me, which makes me very happy

and very grateful. I take full advantage of that," he said, smiling.

Before deciding to adapt Dostoevsky's novel into a play which he read on a trip to Moscow with his troupe two years ago and instantly knew he wanted to stage, Kapoor had already built a reputation for reimaging classics.

His work spans several Shakespeare plays and original interpretations, often using clowning as a central theatrical device in productions like *C for Clown*, *Hamlet: The Clown Prince*, *Nothing Like Lear*, *What's Done Is Done*, and *I Don't Like It As You Like It*.

But for Kapoor, whether creating a new play or reworking an existing one, the final production rarely mirrors the original text.

"It's not really *Macbeth* or *Hamlet* that we end up with. It's really a whole new play," he said.

In fact, he prefers to think of his work not as adaptation, but as "rewriting" – exploring what the play means today rather than just relocating it from Scotland to Mumbai or updating the language.

So, while staging *Macbeth*, Kapoor examines ambition, greed, political power, and guilt – emotions that remain as elemental today as they were centuries ago.

"Human beings have not really evolved all that much in 400 years.

We have evolved technologically and industrially, but emotionally, we haven't. We are still the same animals that we were," he noted.

Kapoor, a three-time National Award-winning director and actor, has a busy year ahead, juggling multiple projects both on stage and on screen. He is set to present two new plays and will also be directing a film.

"I'm hoping to start my new film next year, which is the most exciting news for me. If all goes well, we'll be shooting in April or May, and it should be ready by the end of the year. As for acting, there's a lot happening – lots of things you'll know very soon," he said.

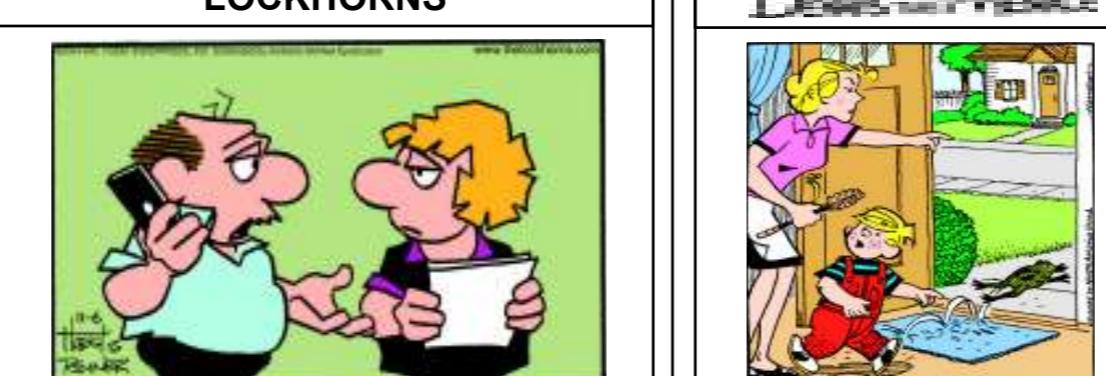
Organised by Alchemist Live, the three-day festival, will showcase seven plays at four venues across Delhi-NCR – Siri Fort Auditorium, NCUI Auditorium, OP Jindal Auditorium, and Aurum Conventions in Gurugram.

The lineup includes *Einstein*, a solo play performed and directed by Naseeruddin Shah; *Dreamz*, directed by stalwart Pankaj Kapur and starring Kapur alongside his wife, actor Supriya Pathak; *Autobiography*, directed by theatre veteran Lillete Dubey; and several other notable productions.

(Source: PTI)

Send us your cultural articles and news reports at panorama.trib@gmail.com.

LOCKHORNS



THE PHANTOM



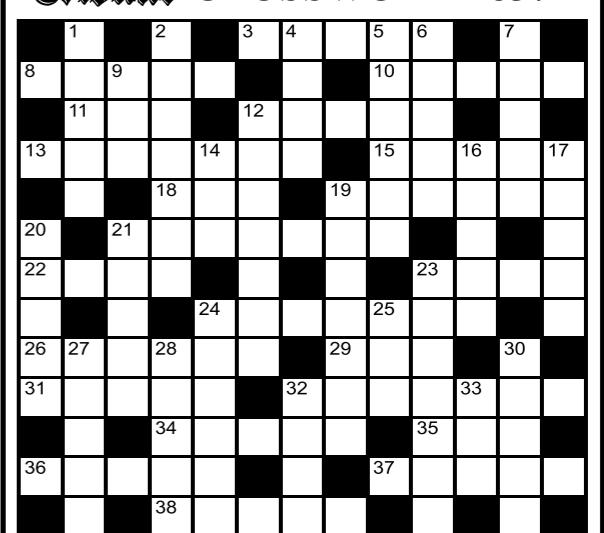
BLONDIE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



Tribune CROSSWORD - 8372



Across

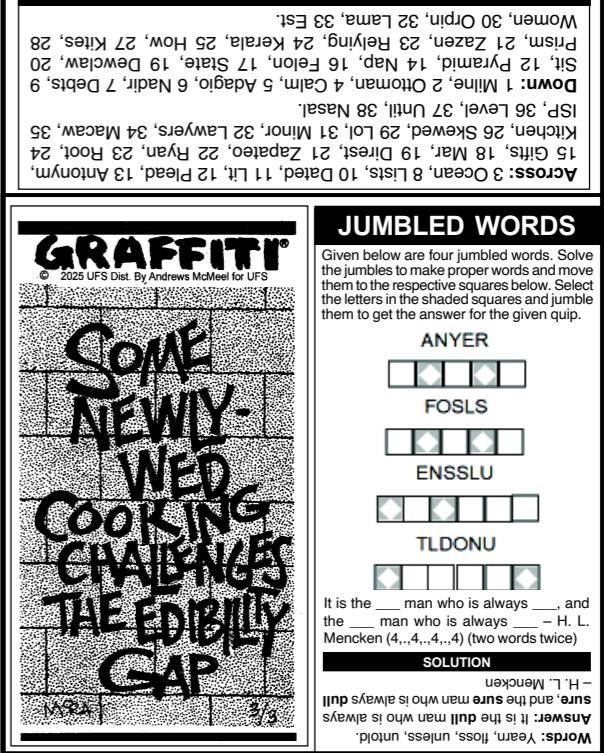
1 Large water body (5)
8 Catalogues (5)
10 Passé (5)
11 Illuminated (3)
12 Begnastically (5)
13 Opposite word (7)
15 Presents (5)
18 Deface (3)
19 Most urgent or desperate (6)
21 Cuban dance (7)
22 Spielberg's Saving Private (4)
23 Plant part (4)
24 Food preparation area (7)
26 Took an oblique turn (6)
29 Laughing out loud, acronym? (3)
7 Sums owing (5)
9 Take a chair (3)

Down

1 A. A. ___ : creator of Winnie the Pooh (5)
2 Upholstered footstool (7)
4 Tranquil (4)
5 Slowly (music) (6)
6 The lowest point (5)
9 Laughing out loud, acronym? (3)

31 Of not much importance (5)
32 Barristers (7)
34 Long-tailed parrot (5)
35 Broadband provider (3)
36 Horizontal (5)
37 Up to the time of (5)
38 Through the nose (5)
40 Zen meditation (5)
42 Depending, banking on, trusting (7)
44 South Indian state (6)
45 In what way (3)
46 Wind toys (5)
48 Ladies (5)
50 A perennial herb - "rip on" anagram? (5)
52 Tibetan monk (4)
53 Sums owing (5)
54 Take a chair (3)

SOLUTION TO TRIBUNE CROSSWORD - 8372



Given below are four jumbled words. Solve them and then match them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given clue.

ANSWER: L Mencken 4, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 8

Something is wrong if a strong squad is losing at home: Pujara

NEW DELHI, Nov 17: Former India Test batter Cheteshwar Pujara has strongly rejected the notion that India's crushing defeat to South Africa in the first Test at Eden Gardens can be blamed to a transition phase.

Pujara contended that while overseas losses during a rebuilding period can be understood, losing at home – especially with a squad that includes proven first-class performers – is unacceptable.

He pointed to players such as Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Washington Sundar and Shubman Gill as evidence of India's depth and potential in the longer format.

"I don't agree with the view that India's defeat at home can be attributed to a

“

I don't agree with the view that India's defeat at home can be attributed to a transitional phase. While it's understandable to face setbacks abroad during a transition period, the current Indian side possesses ample talent and strong first-



Cheteshwar Pujara

class records – players like Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Washington Sundar, and Shubman Gill have all proven themselves," Pujara told Jio Hotstar.

"If the team is losing in home conditions despite this, it suggests that something else is wrong. Had this match been played on a good pitch, India's chances of winning would've been much higher."

While India head coach Gautam Gambhir did not find any fault with the pitch where wickets fell in heap, Pujara said such tracks are not good for India.

"The nature of such wickets reduces our winning percentage and brings the opposition on a level footing. Even an India A team, given the depth of talent, could challenge South Africa at home. So it's not lack of ability. Therefore, blaming transition for this defeat in India isn't justifiable," he said. – PTI

No matter who sits out, South Africa find a way to win: Kagiso Rabada

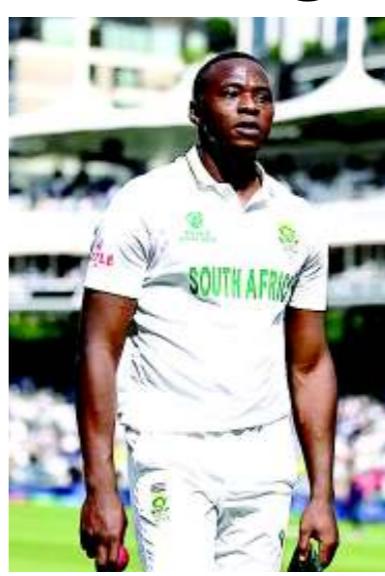
KOLKATA, Nov 17: South African pacer Kagiso Rabada, who missed the first Test against India here due to a rib injury, is in awe of his team's ability to rebound from setbacks and "find a way to win" no matter who is left out.

The reigning World Test Championship winners completed a 30-run win inside three days over India in the opening Test here defending a modest 123 on Sunday. The win, which was their first on Indian soil in 15 years, gave them an unassailable 1-0 lead in the two-match series.

"No matter who sits out, we can still find a way to win. (Skipper) Temba (Bavuma) has been crucial for us, but he hasn't played every game. I haven't played this game," Rabada said in a video shared by Cricket South Africa.

Bavuma returned to the playing XI after missing their preceding two Tests in Pakistan, where South Africa bounced back to draw the series 1-1.

"That doesn't matter. Whoever is gonna get out on the field, we believe



that they can do the job," Rabada said.

The visitors outplayed the hosts on a dry wicket here with variable bounce and turn. Rabada hailed South Africa's individual performances, including skip-

per Bavuma's match-winning 55 in the second innings that gave the travelling bowlers something to fight for.

"We had a good start in the first innings with Aiden (Markram) and (Ryan) Rickelton. They set the tone. Marco (Jansen) stood up, Boschi (Corbin Bosch) stood up at crucial times. Everyone chipped in and really, that's the hallmark of what this team is made of," Rabada said.

It remains to be seen if Rabada, who had to undergo multiple scans in the lead-up to the first Test, would be available for the second Test to be played in Guwahati from November 22-26.

Rabada said the victory in a low-scoring thriller at Kolkata would rank among the top three wins for South Africa this season.

"(The victory is) definitely right up there. With the types of wins that we've had this season, it's hard to say, because we've had some pretty epic wins, but this one is definitely (in the) top three," he said. – PTI

Sangakkara reappointed as Rajasthan Royals' head coach

NEW DELHI, Nov 17: Rajasthan Royals on Monday announced the appointment of Sri Lanka legend Kumar Sangakkara as their head coach for the 2026 Indian Premier League (IPL) season, following the exit of Raul Dravid from the role.

Dravid had left the franchise in August this year and Sangakkara, who has been the franchise's Director of Cricket since 2021, will be returning as the head coach having served in the same role from 2021-2024.

"Director of Cricket Kumar Sangakkara will also take charge as Head Coach for IPL 2026," Rajasthan Royals posted on X.

RR's lead owner Manoj Badale said in a statement, "We are delighted to have Kumar return as head coach. As we looked at what the



team needed at this stage, we felt that his familiarity within the squad, his leadership and his deep understanding of the Royals culture would bring the right balance of continuity and stability."

"Kumar has always had our complete trust as a leader. His clarity, calmness and cricketing intelligence will

play an important role in guiding the squad into this next phase," he added.

It was an abrupt end for former India captain Dravid's tenure after returning to the franchise for the 2025 season with a multi-year contract.

The T20 World Cup-winning former national coach exited after a "structural re-

view" of the team's poor performance earlier this year.

The franchise endured a terrible run, finishing ninth in the 10-team event with just four wins from 14 games.

Sangakkara's return as head coach comes days after the Royals completed the trade of their wicketkeeper-batter Sanju Samson, who will join Chennai Super Kings.

In return, Ravindra Jadeja and Sam Curran have been roped in by the Royals' camp.

RR have released a total of seven players, including three overseas, ahead of the mini auction to be held on December 16 in Abu Dhabi.

Among the players released by the Royals are Akash Madhwal, Ashok Sharma, Fazalhaq Farooqi, Kumar Kartikeya Singh, Kunal Rathore, Mahadeesh Theekshana and Wanindu Hasaranga. – PTI

India aim to rebuild in inconsequential Dhaka tie against Bangladesh

DHAKA, Nov 17: A new-look India will take the field here on Tuesday in what is an inconsequential AFC Asian Cup 2027 Qualifier, but the match offers head coach Khalid Jamil a crucial opportunity to rebuild and blood fresh talent.

India's campaign effectively ended on October 14 in Goa, when they squandered a 1-0 lead to lose 1-2 to Singapore. The defeat left them stranded on two points from four matches. Even if India win their remaining ties, they can only reach eight points something Singapore and Hong Kong have already secured and are certain to surpass.

Bangladesh are also on the boat with two points, as the two sides will be targeting a strong finish in the group and FIFA ranking points.

India's hopes of Saudi Arabia 2027 qualification are, therefore, over.

The squad for the Dhaka fixture includes Australia-born forward Ryan Williams, who recently obtained an Indian passport.

He has travelled with the team, though his availability will depend on receiving an NOC from Football Australia and the subsequent clearances from FIFA and AFC.

This will be the 30th meeting between the sides (India lead 14-4 in wins).

It will also be India's first match on Bangladeshi soil in 22 years, since the 2003 SAFF Gold Cup, where the hosts prevailed 2-1 at the same venue.

"We are happy to be here, and it is our pleasure to be in Bangladesh. Bangladesh are a good team, and it will be a

good match," Jamil said on the eve of the game.

Goalkeeper Sahil, one of seven uncapped players in the squad, added: "It's an important game for us tomorrow, and we've had a good time preparing with the team in the camp in Bengaluru."

India trained in Bengaluru from November 6 before travelling to Dhaka on Saturday, and have since held two sessions here.

Jamil has prioritised youth for this fixture with Sahil, Hritik Tiwari, Pramveer, Lalremluanga Fanai, Mohammed Sanan and Bikash Yumnam all in line for potential debuts.

"We know it's a pressure game," Jamil said.

Everyone is working very hard. The new players also know the importance of this game," Jamil said.

"Whoever is available, we will use them."

India-Bangladesh fixtures, regardless of context, have always carried emotional weight, and anticipation in Dhaka reflects that tradition. Tickets were "sold out within minutes", and a 22,000-plus crowd is expected.

"We know it's a pressure game," Jamil said.

Bangladesh have lost both their home qualifiers this year, to Singapore (1-2) and Hong Kong (3-4).

In a friendly last week at the same venue, they drew 2-2 with Nepal, with midfielder Hamza Choudhury scoring twice. – PTI

Match starts: 7.30 pm

Gill under pressure, split captaincy is a smart move: Abhinav Mukund

NEW DELHI, Nov 17: Former India opener Abhinav Mukund believes the pressure on Shubman Gill has reached a critical point as he called for split captaincy in the wake of India's opening Test defeat to South Africa.

With Gill absent in the second innings due to neck spasm, India were bowled out for 93 in their chase of 124. South Africa sealed a 30-run win inside three days for their first Test victory in India in 15 years.

"At home, everyone expects India to win – no questions asked," Mukund said on The Great Indian Cricket Show on Doordarshan.

Gill suffered the spasm during a slog sweep in the first innings and retired hurt on four



as his absence compounded India's batting woes.

Gill's workload has also become a topic of debate.

Immediately after leading India to a 2-0 Test series

after the Brisbane T20I.

He has been playing non-stop cricket across formats since the IPL, and then he was made the Test skipper and led India to a remarkable 2-2 draw in England in a five-match grueling series.

"I think Shubman has it in him to become an all-format captain, but I don't think India should have an all-format captain anymore," said Mukund, who has played seven Tests.

"Split captaincy is a smart move. Shubman Gill has been given the responsibility to take on the mantle in Tests and he will be under big pressure."

"This is a crucial series," he noted, "and the England series was a big confidence booster for India." – PTI

World Cup qualifying

Nigeria coach claims 'voodoo' by Congo staff during penalty shootout loss

RABAT (Morocco), Nov 17: A Congo team staff member used voodoo during the penalty shootout, Nigerian coach Eric Chelle claimed after the African soccer power was eliminated from qualifying for the 2026 World Cup.

Congo won the African playoff final late on Sunday in a penalty shootout – getting two saves from a substitute goalkeeper sent on late in extra time of a 1-1 draw – and advanced to the intercontinental playoffs in March.

Chelle was filmed during the shootout getting agitated with the Congo coaching staff and moving aggressively toward the rival technical area.

"The guy of Congo did some voodoo," former Mali international Chelle told reporters in the postgame media mixed zone. "Every



Supporters of Congo cheer their national team ahead of the World Cup qualifier against Nigeria in Rabat, Morocco.

time, every time, every time, so this is why I was a little nervous (of) him."

Asked to explain what happened, Chelle did a gesture of shaking a water bottle.

Nigeria has now failed to qualify for back-to-back World Cups despite star strikers Victor Osimhen and Adem

la Lookman being in their career prime years.

Osimhen was injured in the first half on Sunday and replaced at half time with the score 1-1, and Lookman also was removed in the second half.

Congo coach Sébastien Desabre swapped his goalkeepers in the 119th minute of the

World Cup history

Payulu's feat echoed the most famous substitute goalkeeper in a World Cup shootout, at the 2014 tournament in Brazil.

Netherlands coach Louis van Gaal famously took off Jasper Cillessen and sent on Tim Krul to make two key saves against Costa Rica and sent the Dutch to the semifinals.

Geneva-born Payulu is currently playing on loan from Swiss club Sion with Armenian champion Noah. He has been a regular in the UEFA Conference League this season. – AP

Nasha Mukt Bharat, Khushhaal Bharat

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South Africa now eye Guwahati for bigger prize

ABDUL GANI

GUWAHATI, Nov 17: Fresh from their first Test win in India in 15 years, South Africa have shifted their focus to Guwahati as they chase a bigger milestone.

The visitors beat India by 30 runs on Day 3 of the opening Test at the Eden Gardens on Sunday. With the second Test scheduled to start at the ACA Stadium in Guwahati on November 22, South Africa now look to claim the series and secure their first Test series win in India since 2000.

Head coach Shukri Conrad, pleased with the Kolkata result, said the team is aiming higher. He said the win at the Eden Gardens ranked among their best performances and added that the larger goal was

to take the series.

South Africa had lost seven and drawn one of their previous eight Tests in India since their innings victory in Nagpur in 2010. Their last Test series victory in the country came in the 1999 to 2000 season, when Hansie Cronje led them to a 2-0 triumph.

On Day 3 in Kolkata, South Africa started under pressure at seven down with a lead of only 63. Skipper Temba Bavuma steered the innings with an unbeaten 55, taking the target to 124. The bowlers then backed it up, with Simon Harmer leading the effort as India were bowled out in 35 overs.

Conrad said the win was special given the conditions and the strength of India's

attack. He said the performance proved the team could compete with the best. He highlighted South Africa's recent record of fighting back in tough situations and praised the unity and resilience of the side.

He said the belief within the group had grown and would help them in the matches ahead.

As Guwahati prepares to host its first Test, the focus has also turned to how the pitch will behave. The surface has generally supported batters, except on a few occasions during limited overs matches when it offered turn.

With both teams carrying high stakes into the second Test, fans in Guwahati can expect a gripping contest in the pure format of the game.

Kailash Nath Sarma memorial chess

South Point School win best school award



Winners pose with Olympic bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain in Guwahati.

GUWAHATI, Nov 17: The 7th edition of the Late Kailash Nath Sarma Memorial Inter School Chess Championship 2025 concluded in Guwahati on Sunday with South Point School, Barsapara winning the Best School Award, stated a press release.

A total of 183 players from across Assam took part in the Swiss league classical tournament organised by Assam Chess Club and Snehabandhan Chess Academy in memory of

author and social worker Kailash Nath Sarma.

Hreet Majumder was named Best Player in the boys category and Dorothy Patgiri won Best Player in the girls section. The youngest participant was Krishav Bez, born in 2021.

The prize distribution ceremony featured Olympic bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain as the chief guest. She was joined by Kavayashree Mahanta, adviser of Assam Chess Club; Ankur

Bharali, director of sports and youth welfare; Nandini Upadhyay of Pawns to King NGO; Anuradha Pathak, a software engineer from the United States; and Vijaya Sarma, project head of Snehabandhan, along with several other dignitaries.

Nandan Buragohain served as the tournament director while international arbiter Biswajit Bharadwaj was the chief arbiter. Senior national arbiter Swaraj Buragohain was the deputy chief arbiter.

Manipur Polo International set to return after two years

CORRESPONDENT

IMPHAL, Nov 17: After a two-year break, the Manipur Horse Riding and Polo Association is preparing to host the 15th Manipur Polo International from November 22 to November 29 at Mapal Kangjeibung, the oldest living polo ground in the world. The first edition of the tournament was held in 1991.

Chairman of the steering committee Prof Ch Priyoranjan told reporters that Columbia and the United States have confirmed their participation. Spain and Italy are expected to join once formalities are completed. The India Polo Association will send a team listed as India A,

while a team from Chhattisgarh and the Manipur side, representing India B, will complete the lineup.

Prof Chittaranjan said the tournament has helped popularise polo among young people in the state, with many taking up the sport in recent years. The event has grown steadily and often draws packed stands at Mapal Kangjeibung, particularly when local players are in action.

For the visiting teams, he said the tournament is more than a competition. It is seen as a journey to the birthplace of the game, known locally as Sagol Kangjei, which later evolved into modern polo and spread across the world through

the British.

Manipur now has more than 200 polo players by a conservative estimate. The tournament has also become a platform to highlight the urgent need to conserve the Manipur pony, the original mount of the sport.

The association appealed for public support to strengthen both the tournament and its wider efforts to protect the indigenous pony.

Chairman of the technical committee Ningthoukhangam Bedajeta Singh, chairman of the media committee N Tomi Raj and president of the Manipur Equestrian Association Col L Manongba (Retd) were also present at the press conference.

SU DO KU



Solution of last problem

Originating from Japan, 'su do ku' is a mind game and a puzzle that can be solved with proper reasoning and logic. Fill the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3 x 3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9 without repeating any.



FIDE World Cup

Arjun draws easy with black pieces

PANAJI (Goa), Nov 17: Seeking to qualify for the Candidates' event, India's top-rated Arjun Erigaisi walked off with an easy draw with his Chinese counterpart Wei Yi in the first game of the quarterfinals here on Monday.

On what turned out to be an easy day for Arjun, Alexander Donchenko finally realised about things being rosy everyday. The German had been

on a dream run which is likely to end now as Nodirbek Yakubboev won an exciting game one with white pieces. If Yakubboev is able to hold the German in the next game to a draw he will be through to the semifinal.

For Arjun the opening was important and it did not pose

Assam trail as Bengal build strong first-innings lead in Ranji clash

SPORTS REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Nov 17: Assam face an uphill task after Bengal moved into a dominant position on day 2 of the Elite Group C Ranji Trophy match at Kalyani in West Bengal, finishing at 267 for 4 and taking a 67-run first-innings lead on Monday.

Assam, who resumed at 194 for 8, were able to add only six runs in the morning. Mukhtar Hussain was run out by Sudip Gharami in the second over of the day and skipper Sumi Ghadiyaonkar's resistance came to an end soon after when Mohammed Shami dis-

missed him for a determined 53 off 165 balls. Assam folded for 200, with Swapnam Purkayastha's 62 the other notable contribution. Suraj Sindhu Jaiswal took 3 for 24 and Mohammed Kaif picked up 2 for 30 apart from Shami's 3 for 64.

Bengal replied strongly with a 122-run stand between Abhimanyu Easwaran who scored 66 and Shakir Habib Gandhi who made 58. Anup Majumdar added 43 before all-rounder Shahbaz Ahmed continued his rich run of form. Shahbaz struck an unbeaten 61 from 67 deliveries with six fours and two sixes. Sumanta Gupta

is batting on 25 as the pair look set to extend Bengal's lead further.

Assam will now hope for early breakthroughs on the third day to stay in contention and prevent Bengal from stretching the game beyond reach.

Brief scores: Assam 200 all out in 80.2 overs (Swapnam Purkayastha 62, Sumi Ghadiyaonkar 53; Mohammed Shami 3/64, Suraj Sindhu Jaiswal 3/24, Mohammed Kaif 2/30). Bengal 267 for 4 in 67 overs (Abhimanyu Easwaran 66, Habib Gandhi 58, Anup Majumdar 43, Shahbaz Ahmed 61 batting).

Assam shine at Pickleball Nationals in Bengaluru

GUWAHATI, Nov 17: Assam enjoyed a landmark outing at the Pickleball Nationals in Bengaluru, finishing with two gold medals won by women athletes in individual events, stated a press release.

The 25-member squad competed at the championship held from November 13 to November 16. The Nationals were organised by the Karnataka Pickleball Association under the aegis of the Indian Pickleball Association, recognised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and the Sports Authority of India.

In the 30 plus women's team event, Assam won bronze. The trio of Anangsha Alomyan and Manaswinee Hazarika and Upasana Nath stunned top seed Gujarat in the quarterfinals before falling to Maharashtra in the semis.

Assam's strong run continued in the individual open section. Upasana Nath won silver in the women's singles after beating Priti Kumari 11-4 in the semifinal to set up an all Assam title clash.

Nazneen Rahman took bronze in the 50 plus women's singles title after a strong campaign that included a semifinal win over top seed Priyanka Mehta of Maharashtra. She carried her form into the final to secure the national crown.

In the Under-16 girls doubles final, Nayem Hussain and Prapti Baruah produced a confident performance to beat Aanshi Sanman-

vi and Ashriya Singh of Madhya Pradesh 11-3 and win the gold.

Assam also picked up a silver in the Under-16 girls team event. Prapti Baruah, Nayem Hussain and Upalakshmi Saikia topped their group with wins over Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu before losing to Maharashtra in the final.

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SBI ITF Junior J60 Tennis Main draw begins

SPORTS REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Nov 17: The main draw of the SBI ITF Junior J60 Tennis Tournament for boys and girls Under-18 began on Monday at the All Assam Tennis Association complex in Chacharai here.

The opening day saw a series of straight-set wins across both categories. Doubles matches will begin on Tuesday.

Results: Boys singles U18 first round: Tanush Ghidyal (IND) beat Pranav Mahesh Saravankumar 6-1, 6-1; Rohith Hari Balaji Gobina Gobinath (IND) beat Shourya Bhattacharya (USA) 6-2, 6-3; Ahan Shetty (IND) beat Aahaan Mishra (IND) 6-4, 6-2; Om Patel (IND) beat Yashwin Dahiya (IND) 6-3, 6-4; Ojas Mehlawat (IND) beat 4th seed Dev Vipul Patel (IND) 6-4, 6-4; Channamallikarjuna Yale (IND) beat Nibras K Hussain (IND) 6-1, 6-4; Mannan Ashok Agarwal (IND) beat 5th seed Mansur Sainov (KAZ) 7-5, 7-5. Girls singles U18 first round: Albinia Kakenova (KAZ) beat Dia Agarwal (IND) 6-1, 6-1; Aleena Farid (IND) beat Arunima Roy (IND) 6-1, 6-2; Dinara De Silva (SRI) beat Samitha Harini Lokesh (IND) 6-1, 6-0; Dhriti Sandra Bantupalli (IND) beat Arnavi Debnath (IND) 7-5, 6-1; Vrindika Bhagvat Rajput (IND) beat Yashitha Ereti (IND) 6-1, 6-0; Angel Patel (IND) beat Kreethika Reddy Vangala (IND) 6-3, 6-3; Karthika Padmakumar (IND) beat 4th seed Adiya Omarbek (KAZ) 6-4, 6-3.

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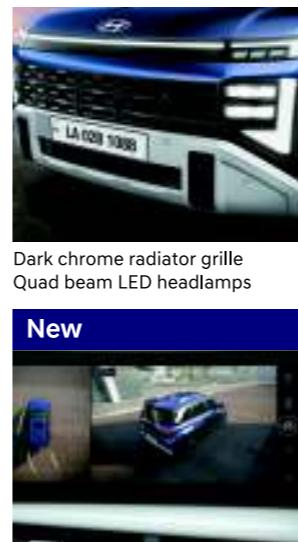


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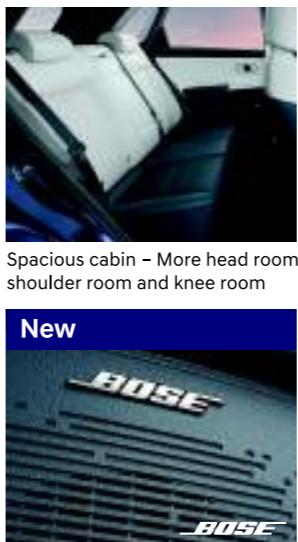
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INNOCEAN-057/25



Assam Linguistic Minorities Development Board (ALMDB)



Government of Assam



The Assam Linguistic Minorities Development Board (ALMDB) is grateful to Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma for providing adequate funds for development of the Board and for various projects undertaken for welfare of linguistic minorities of the state.

In the past four years of my Chairmanship of ALMDB, we have constructed about 100 community centres, cultural centres, theatres, sports pavilions, hostels for students, crematoriums, classrooms, etc., besides distributing e-rickshaws, sewing and fashion design machines, water filters, pressure cookers, etc., and provided financial assistance to meritorious students from economically weaker families for higher studies.

ALMDB has been celebrating Rabindra Jayanti and Netaji Jayanti (Parakram Divas), with great pomp and show in various places of the state since 2022. ALMDB has been undertaking various programmes with other non-governmental organisations from time to time. Along with Bangla Sahitya Sabha, Assam, it has translated several Assamese classics into Bengali.

Ensuring Welfare of Linguistic Minorities

With regards
Shiladitya Dev (Former MLA)
Chairperson, ALMDB

Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma
Chief Minister, Assam

Projects Undertaken by ALMDB

November 2021 to November 2025

2021-22 Amount received ₹ 3.65 crore

- Key projects Cultural Centres at Kamrup, Haibargaon, Morigaon (2) - ₹ 50 lakh each
- Classrooms at Sankardev Shishu Niketan, Hajo - ₹ 50 lakh
- Auditorium & Sports Pavilion at Lumding - ₹ 50 lakh

2022-23 Amount received ₹ 4.2 crore

- Key projects 15 Community Halls across Assam - ₹ 1.5 crore
- Eco Park at Hajo - ₹ 50 lakh
- School Building at Bengali High School, Paltan Bazar, Guwahati - ₹ 50 lakh
- Sewing/Fashion Designing Machines to 125 SHGs - ₹ 45 lakh

2023-24 Amount received ₹ 4.85 crore

- Key projects Girls Hostel at Silchar (Estimated at ₹ 2.5 crore) - ₹ 1.25 crore (released)
- Distribution of e-Rickshaws to 186 beneficiaries @ ₹ 1.5 lakh per unit - ₹ 2.8 crore

2024-25 Amount received ₹ 4.39 crore

- Key projects 19 Community Halls across Assam - ₹ 1.9 crore
- Cultural Centre and Yatri Niwas at Tangla - ₹ 50 lakh
- Patient Waiting Hall at District Civil Hospital, Hajo - ₹ 30 lakh
- Boys Hostel at Ramkrishna Seva Ashram Complex, Barpeta Road - ₹ 25 lakh
- School Building at Bengali Girls HS School, Tinsukia - ₹ 25 lakh

2025-26 Amount received ₹ 4.27 crore (till November)

- Key projects For distribution of e-Rickshaws & Mopeds - ₹ 2.2 crore
- For 15 Community Halls - ₹ 1.5 crore

Other Highlights



Translation of Assamese classics into Bengali



Financial aid to meritorious students



Distribution of ambulances to various organisations



Statewide celebration of Rabindra Jayanti & Parakram Divas

