

GUWAHATI



AJYCP BEGINS
SIGNATURE
CAMPAIGN
DEMANDING
JUSTICE FOR
ZUBEEN

page 5

NORTHEAST



UK TO BE
COUNTRY PARTNER
FOR HORNBILL
FESTIVAL 2025

page 7

BUSINESS



FINANCE
COMMISSION
SUBMITS REPORT
TO PRESIDENT
MURMU

page 11

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BTC to provide land to landless

R DUTTA CHOUDHURY

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 re-arrangement 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.

» SEE PAGE 2

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

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.

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.

» SEE PAGE 2

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.

» SEE PAGE 2

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Turn to back page. HYUNDAI

Pact signed for Vrindavani Vastra's display in State



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.

» SEE PAGE 2

GUWAHATI, Nov 17: The Assam government on Monday signed a loaning arrangement with the British Museum, London, for the display of the 'Vrindavani Vastra', a 16th-century silk textile depicting the life of Lord Krishna, in the State in 2027, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

The Vrindavani Vastra was created under the guidance of Srimanta Sankardeva, at the request of Koch king Nara Narayan, and it also has a part of a poem written by him.

The exhibit, acquired in 1904 from Tibet by the British Museum, is nine-and-a-half metres long and is made of several pieces of silk drapes. It originally featured 15 pieces that were later assembled.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was

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CD/InMemo/RL002798/1

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Ghana Kanta Borah College, Tamulichiga

In pursuance of DHE Assam letter No.- DHE/CE/Misc/05/2025/28 dated 13-10-2025 of Director of Higher Education, Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, applications in the format prescribed by DHE, Assam are invited through proper channel from eligible candidates along with complete Bio-data and all supporting self attested testimonials from HSLC onwards for filling up of the post of **Principal, Ghana Kanta Borah College, Tamulichiga.**

Eligibility/Qualification:-

1. A Master Degree with at least 55% marks or an equivalent grade in a point scale where grading system is followed from a recognized University.
2. A Ph.D. Degree.
3. A Professor/Associate professor with a total service experience of at least 15 years of teaching / research in Universities / Colleges and other institutions of higher Education.
4. A minimum score as stipulated in the Academic Performance indicator (API) based on Performance Based Appraisal (PBAS) as set in the UGC regulation in Appendix – III for direct requirement of Principals in colleges.
5. A minimum of 10 Research Publication in Peer Reviewed or UGC Sponsored Journals.
6. A minimum of 110 Research Score as per Appendix-II at Table 2 of UGC regulation, 2018
7. A relaxation of 5% marks may be provided at Masters Levels for SC/ST/Differently abled candidates. The eligibility of 55% (or an equivalent grade in a point scale) and relaxation of 5% to the categories mentioned above are permissible only without any grace marks.
8. A relaxation of 5% marks may be provided to the Ph.D. holders who have obtained their Master Degree prior to 19.09.1991.
9. The upper age limit of the candidate is 55 years as on 01.01.2025.
10. The term of the Principal shall be of 5 years.

Applications are to be submitted to the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of the advertisement along with a non-refundable Demand Draft of Rs.5,000/- (Rupees five thousand) only drawn in favor of **Principal & Secretary, G.K.B College, Tamulichiga payable at Assam Gramin Vikash Bank, Tamulichiga Branch, A/C No - 7211010003246 (IFSC Code : PUNB0RRBAGB).** Incomplete application will be rejected. No TA/DA will be provided to the candidates called for interview.

N.B. Candidates who had applied in response to our earlier advertisements need not apply.
Sd/-
(Dr. Bharat Bora)
President, Governing Body
Ghana Kanta Borah College,
Tamulichiga, Jorhat,
Assam: 785682

CD/SV/.../1

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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 to 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

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SV/P/PP008572/8

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SV/L.../1

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SV/PZC025817/2

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SV/PZC025818/1

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SV/PZC025812/1

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SV/RL002883/1

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ACHIEVEMENT



Miss Kankana Goswami has been awarded the degree of "Doctor of Philosophy" (Ph.D) by Banaras Hindu University for her thesis entitled "A Critical and Comparative Study of Prakāśa, Samśkāra, Tatvaparakāśika and Vedārthaparijāta Commentaries on Iśāvāsyaopanishad". She carried out her research works under the supervision of Dr. Srikishor 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 Tihiu, Nalbari dist. and granddaughter of Late Sureswar Goswami.

CD/Achieve/P/PP008800/1



Gitanjali Pradhan, younger daughter of Mr. Bipul Ch Pradhan and Late Dipali Baruah Pradhan, has been awarded the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) for her thesis entitled "Comparing the Predictability of Survival Analysis Models for Cancer Patients" by the Department of Statistics, Assam University, Silchar - 788011. She carried out her research under the supervision of Dr. Jonali Gogoi, Assistant Professor, Department of Statistics, Assam University, Silchar. She is a resident of Abhayapuri, Bongaigaon, Assam.
Achieve/P/PP008814/1



Bireswar Banik has been awarded the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph. D. in Computer Science) by Gauhati University in September 2025 for his thesis entitled "Phishing Attack Detection Using Machine Learning Techniques". He carried his research work under the guidance of Dr. Abhijit Sarma, Associate Professor (Retd.), Department of Computer Science, Gauhati University. He is the son of Balaram Banik and Padma Rani Banik of Guwahati-12, Assam.
Achieve/PL005564/1



Lina Saikia, Assistant Professor of College of Education, Morigaon has been awarded the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) by Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankaradeva Viswavidyalaya, Nagaon, Assam, India for her research study "Implementation of Inclusive Education for Children with Special Needs with Special Reference to the Government High Schools of Nagaon and Morigaon Districts of Assam." She carried out her research work under the supervision of Dr. Jyoti Rani Borah, Professor, Department of Education, MSSV, Nagaon, Assam, India.
Achieve/.../1

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CS/P/PP003758/4

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NAME CHANGE

This is to all concern that I Sajid Ahmed Age of 28 by Religion Islam, son of Md. Saleh Ahmed (PAN No. BWJPA-8281P) residing at House No. 14A Golden Path, Byelane-2, Hatigaon, Guwahati- 781038, (Previous address House No. 23, Nizara Path, Khanka Road, Hatigaon, Guwahati-781038). That I made an Affidavit (Certificate No. AS98453000766361X Dated 14.11.2025) before the Notary Public at Kamrup (Metro) Guwahati, which is issued on 15.11.2025. I do hereby declare that Sajid Ahmed and Md. Sajid Ahmed is the one and same person having the single identity i.e. myself.
Name Change/.../1

I, Sarat Sarma, C/o Lakshikanta Sarma, Resident of Vill/P.O. Kenduguri, Pathorighat, Dist: Darrang, Assam (784148) have changed my name from Sarat Chandra Sarma to Sarat Sarma by an Affidavit before the Notary Public, Darrang on 08.10.2025, Henceforth, I shall be known as Sarat Sarma for all purposes.
Name Change/P/PP008805/1

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Hafizur Rahman, S/o Abdul Mannan, R/o Vill- Barjhar, P.O. Bherbheri Bill, P.S. Dhula, Dist: Darrang (Assam) that my father's actual and correct name is Abdul Mannan, father's name has been recorded in my all Educational documents as Md. Munnaf Ali, Munnaf Ali in place of Abdul Mannan, that Abdul Mannan, Md. Munnaf Ali and Munnaf Ali is the same and one person who is my father. An Affidavit before the Magistrate, Darrang, Mangaldoi dt. 15.11.25.
PN/P/PP003776/1

I, Khumbongmayum Ashalata Devi, declare vide affidavit No. 1N-AS97169671755414X before the Notary Public, Tezpur dt. 10-11-2025 that Khumbongmayum Ibohah Singh, Shri Kh. Ibohah Singh, Kh. Ibohah Singh and Ibohah Singh is one and the same person having the single identity i.e. my deceased father, and both Khumbongmayum Bishoya Devi and Takhellambam Bishoya Devi is one and the same person having the single identity i.e. my mother.
PN/RL002882/1

I, Smti Deepa Konwar, spouse of Army No. JC-328548A Sub Ex Anup Konwar, resident of Naphuk, P.O. Naphuk, P.S. Sonari, Dist- Sibsagar, Assam, have changed my name from Deepa Konwar to Dipali Konwar and date of birth 05.03.1972 to 31.12.1970 vide affidavit dated 13.11.2025 before the Notary Public at Charaideo Court.
PN/RL002884/1

I, Rekha Kumari Sharma, W/o Paban Kant Thakur, R/o Bimalapur, Nagahat, Charaipur, Dist: Charaideo declare before the Notary Public at Charaideo, Sonari on 11.11.2025 that in my HSLC certificate bearing roll C17-043 No. 2137 my name appears as Rekha Kumari in place of Rekha Kumari Sharma. That Rekha Kumari Sharma & Rekha Kumari represents the same & one person. i.e. myself.
PN/PL005563/1

Sworn before the Notary Public at Jorhat on 15.11.2025, I have declared that in my MEG record vide No. JC312373Y SUB (SKT) my wife S Sharmila's DOB has been recorded as 07.05.1987 instead of her actual DOB as 12.05.1987. K Sivanathan, S/o M. Kalimuthu, R/o Ilayangudi North, Sivaganga, Tamil Nadu- 630702.
PN/PL005565/1

I, Protima Boro, W/o- Dulal Boro, R/o- Kathalguri (Dangdupur), P.O & P.S- Udalguri, Dist- Udalguri, BTR, Assam- 784509 declare before Notary at Udalguri on 19.03.2025 that I have changed my name Protima Narzary to Protima Boro after my marriage with Dulal Boro. Also both Protima Boro and Protima Narzary is same and one person i.e. myself.
PN/P/PP008816/1

I, Khukan Choudhury, DOB- 25.09.1966, S/o- Lt. Lalmonan Choudhury, R/o- Khairabari, P.O & P.S- Barpeta Road, Dist- Barpeta, Assam, do hereby declare that my correct name is Khukan Choudhury but it is wrongly recorded in some documents as Khokan Choudhury and Ramesh Choudhury, instead of correct name Khukan Choudhury. Khukan Choudhury, Khokan Choudhury and Ramesh Choudhury are the names of one and same person by an Affidavit before the Executive Magistrate Barpeta dt. 04.11.25.
PN/P/AP000005/1

I, Rahena Begum Mazumder W/ o No. 5000774X, rank- Rfn/GD Name - Kaydul Alam Laskar, Unit- 12 Assam Rifles. C/o 99/ APO, declare before Notary Public, Hailakandi on 15.11.2025 that my correct date of birth is 13.08.1991. Also that my DOB is inadvertently recorded as 07.08.1991 in some essential documents instead of 13.08.1991 (my correct DOB).
PN/P/PP008815/1

PACKERS & MOVERS

Das Packers and Movers, Kahilipara Guwahati-19, Call: 9707499225, 9678831755.
P&M/P/PP008803/1

Ousted Bangla PM ...

(Contd from page 1)

"It would be an extremely unfriendly act and a contempt for justice if any other country were to grant asylum to these individuals convicted of crimes against humanity," the ministry said.

In her reaction, Hasina said that the judgement has been made by a "rigged tribunal established and presided over by an unelected government with no democratic mandate".

"They are biased and politically motivated. In their distasteful call for the death penalty, they reveal the brazen and murderous intent of extremist figures within the interim government to remove Bangladesh's last elected Prime Minister, and to nullify the Awami League as a political force," she said in a statement.

Hasina said that she was not afraid to face her "accusers" in a proper tribunal where the evidence can be weighed and tested fairly. "That is why I have repeatedly challenged the interim government to bring these charges before the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague."

The verdict comes months before parliamentary elections in Bangladesh. Hasina's

Awami League party has been barred from contesting the elections scheduled to be held in February.

Reading out the judgment before a heavily guarded courtroom in Dhaka, the ICT said that the prosecution proved beyond a reasonable doubt that Hasina was behind the deadly crackdown on student-led protests in July-August last year.

Hasina was handed the death penalty for ordering the use of deadly force against unarmed protesters, making inflammatory statements and authorising operations that led to the killing of several students in Dhaka and surrounding areas.

In recent media interviews, Hasina described the ICT as a "kangaroo court" run by her opponents.

A UN rights office report had earlier estimated that up to 1,400 people were killed during the month-long agitation,

known as the July Uprising.

There were some incidents of violence after the court delivered the verdict.

Security agencies used batons and fired tear gas to disperse protesters who tried to demolish the house of Hasina's father and Bangladesh's founder Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in Dhaka.

The ICT, originally set up to try hardened collaborators of Pakistani forces during the 1971 Liberation War, was amended by the current administration to bring leaders of the past regime, including Hasina, under its jurisdiction.

By inciting violence through provocative statements and taking no punitive measures against the perpetrators who attacked protesting students, Hasina committed crimes against humanity, the ICT said. She also ordered the use of helicopters and lethal weapons on protesters, it said. – PTI

India committed ...

(Contd from page 1)

"India has noted the verdict announced by the International Crimes Tribunal of Bangladesh concerning former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina," the MEA said.

"As a close neighbour, India remains committed to the best interests of the people of Bangladesh, including in peace, democracy, inclusion and stability in that country," it said. "We will always engage constructively with all stakeholders to that end," the MEA added. However, it did not comment on Dhaka's call to extradite Hasina. – PTI

EC announces ...

(Contd from page 1)

The ECI has directed all out efforts to ensure 100 per cent removal of probable duplicate and multiple entries identified by the system and field reports, after BLO verification from electoral roll during the current round of pre-revision activities.

Last month, the ECI had excluded Assam from the pan-India special intensive revision (SIR) while the process was announced for 12 states. Assam goes to Assembly polls next year. Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar had then said that the citizenship issue in Assam was currently under the supervision of the Supreme Court and the revision of electoral rolls would be announced separately.

Pact signed ...

(Contd from page 1)

Sarma, who had reached London over the weekend for the signing of the pact, said in a post on X earlier in the day that London's British Museum is a timeless repository of the phenomenal evolution of human civilisation.

The Chief Minister, before flying to the British capital on Friday, had said the JSW group of companies has been playing a leading role in facilitating this "homecoming" of the tapestry that displays tales from Lord Krishna's life in the hand-woven silk piece.

The group took the initiative of putting the Assam government in contact with the British Museum and is also taking the responsibility of building a museum of international standards in Guwahati to display the Vrindavani Vastra, he had said.

The piece of textile was routed out of Assam through Tibet, with major fragments of it ending up on display in London and Paris museums, with some parts also in Boston and Los Angeles museums, Sarma said.

He had said that it would be the first time that the Vrindavani Vastra would be brought to Assam in at least over a century, with many generations of Assamese people missing on the opportunity to view it first-hand. – PTI

BTC to provide ...

(Contd from page 1)

In the health sector, Basumatary said that the shortage of doctors is a major problem in the area. He said that the BTR area is malaria-prone and the number of patients is quite high compared to the availability of doctors. He said that the number of TB patients is also high in the area. The BTC will request the State Government to post specialist doctors in the area to deal with the problem, he added. He also asserted that the BTC would implement all the flagship programmes of the Central and State Governments.

On the political scene, Basumatary said that the role of the BPF in the NDA is yet to be finalised. One MLA of the BPF has recently been inducted into the Himanta Biswa Sarmadev Government, but the UPPL, the arch-rival of the BPF, is also in the Ministry. Basumatary said that they agreed to have one Minister in the State Ministry to have better coordination between the State Government and BPF. "We have told the BJP that if they want to have an executive member in the BTC, we are ready to accept that. But the BJP is yet to join the BTC by nominating one member for inclusion as EM. The ball is now in the court of the BJP," he added.

42 Indian pilgrims ...

(Contd from page 1)

"The families of the deceased will have an option after mortal remains have been identified for repatriation to India or a local burial at Jannatul Baqi (cemetery in Madinah) as per local customs," one of the people said.

The accident took place nearly 40 km from Madina at around 11 pm local time (1:30 am, IST), the people said.

The bus had stopped on the side of a road, and during this stoppage, an oil tanker collided with the bus, resulting in an explosion, they said. Saudi Authorities are currently investigating the circumstances that led to the accident. – PTI

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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 Sudarshanalay, 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 Sudarshanalay 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 Pulak Goswami as vice presidents, Rathindra Narayan Bhattacharya as general secretary and Kalyan Kumar Das as treasurer, among others.



Dancers from Duliagian Club Music Academy, Duliagian 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 Raghunath 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, Chhat-

tisgarh, 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 Raghunath Choudhary, the launch of a booklet 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 Sammilan). A collection titled *Kabuliwala* (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 unsanitary 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 re-

spectively.

The launch event was attended by several dignitaries, including Prof Sarad Gokhale, acting professor and former head of Environmental Engineering at IIT Guwahati, Prof Pallabi Sharma, professor and former head of Environmental Science at Gauhati University and Dr Bhupen Kr Das, principal of DIET, Darrang. They described the book as a timely and essential guide for policymakers, urban planners, environmental scientists and citizens working to restore ecological balance.

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 Mahajan, 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

GUWAHATI, Nov 17: AIUDF president Badruddin Ajmal on Monday accused Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma of indulging in 'hate speech' 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

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 Muslims, particularly the Miya community.

"He (Sarma) should worry about his own political future. He need not think about the Miya community. Only four-five months are left for

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.

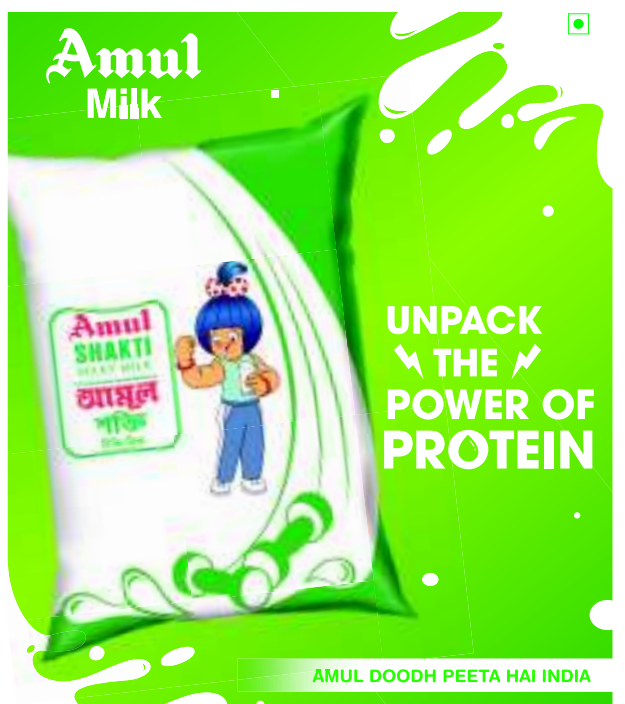
He said that grant of land *patna* will be another major issue for the AIUDF in the elections.

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-Gunj 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



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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: **assamlokayukta@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-558337/1217

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
Kahilipara, 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
Kahilipara, 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 falloff 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 Majeed.

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

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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

SHORT QUOTATION NOTICE

Sealed quotations affixed with non-refundable court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight and twenty-five paise) only are invited from the intending printing presses registered with Printing and Stationery Department, Govt. of Assam, which will be received up to 2:00 P.M. of 21st November, 2025 for printing of computerized Photo Electoral Rolls in Assamese, Forms and any other related activities (as shown at Annexure-A) in connection with Special Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls w.r.t. 01.01.2026 as the qualifying date under the following terms and conditions. If 21st November, 2025 remain holiday then the next working day will be considered. The quotations will be opened on the same day at 2.30 PM in presence of the quotationers or their authorized representatives.

Terms and conditions

1. The Printing Press should be registered with Printing & Stationery Department, Govt. of Assam (supported by copy of Registration)
2. The printing press should have an income tax assessment for the last three financial years i.e. 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 (up to date).
3. The printing press should have adequate financial resources to execute the work.
4. The copies of electoral rolls are to be printed for each polling station from the CD containing computerized photo electoral rolls in PDF supplied by this office and these are to be stitched polling station-wise. The press will have to return the CD in good condition.
5. Rates should be quoted for printing on both sides of a sheet inclusive of binding and stitching charges of electoral rolls polling station-wise in A4 size paper of 75 Gsm and printing of 1000 copies of Forms in ¼ DFC and ½ DFC size papers on single and both sides of a sheet separately.
6. The quotationer will have to deposit an amount of Rs. 10000/- (Rupees ten thousand) only as security deposit in the form of DD in favour of District Election Officer, Morigaon.
7. Printing of photo electoral Rolls/Forms must be as per specification, otherwise it will be rejected.
8. Printing of electoral rolls should be completed within the stipulated period fixed by this office.
9. No excuse for failure to print the electoral rolls within the stipulated time on account of power failure or any other reasons will be entertained.
10. The quotationer must have offset machine.
11. The quotationers must attach the attested copies of firm registration Certificate, PAN Number, GST Number, Trade License from MB/TC, Bank Account No. in the name of Printing Press, up-to-date income tax clearance certificate and GST IN etc. should be furnished with the quotation.
12. The rate of printing of per page in both side of A4 size paper of 75 GSM Maplitho Paper should not be above Rs. 2.80 (excluding GST but inclusion of cost of printing paper) and in case of single side of A4 size paper of 75 GSM should not be above Rs. 1.90 (excluding GST but inclusion of cost of printing paper).
13. This office gives no assurance to the L-1 bidder to award the work at his quoted rate. If the DEO finds that the L-1 rate is on the higher side, the DEO may negotiate the price with L-1 bidder at rate deemed appropriate.
14. Payment will be made as and when fund is received from Govt / authority concerned.
15. Sample of printing items may be seen at Election Branch during office hours.

**Sd/- District Commissioner &
District Election Officer,
Morigaon**

| ANNEXURE-A | | | |
|---|--|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Sl. No. | Name of items | Unit | Quoted rate excluding GST |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1 | Printing of Form in ¼ DFC (single side) | Per 1000 copies | |
| 2 | Printing of Form in ¼ DFC (Both side) | Per 1000 copies | |
| 3 | Printing of Form in ½ DFC (single side) | Per 1000 copies | |
| 4 | Printing of Form in ½ DFC (Both side) | Per 1000 copies | |
| 5 | Printing of Poster in ½ DFC (single side) | Per 1000 copies | |
| 6 | Printing of Photo Electoral Rolls single side with paper | per copy | |
| 7 | Printing of Photo Electoral Rolls both side with paper | Per copy | |
| 8 | Hard binding of 15-20 Electoral Rolls in one book | Per book | |
| 9 | Flex Printing | Per Sq. feet | |
| Sd/- District Commissioner & District Election Officer, Morigaon | | | |
| DIPR/C/AT/2523/18-Nov-25 | | | |

WEATHER GUWAHATI

Fog or mist in the morning and mainly clear sky later. Maximum and minimum temperatures are most likely to be 29°C and 17°C respectively.

TEMPERATURE:

Max 28.6°C

Min 16.1°C

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 Kalamoni 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.

AJYCP further criticized Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma for "contradictory public statements" regarding the government's links with Shyamkanu 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 artist'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 artist'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 Rahul 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 Singhal.

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 suit-

ed 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 Singhal 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.

Art contest

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Nov 17: The Aelita Art and Craft School organized the Late Anilyoti 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 Anilyoti Das was also inaugurated during the event. Mayuridip 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 Budhin 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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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.

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

Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), Anjani Kumar Munda, vice chairman of the Guwahati Branch of EIRC, Jay Prakash Gupta, branch secretary, and Piyush Birmiwai, 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.

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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 *sattr* under the patronage of the powerful Koch king Naranarayan and his brother Prince Sukladhwaj. It was there that the Mahapurush, at the request of his patrons, particularly that of Sukladhwaj's wife Bhuvanewari, 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 Sattr.

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 a complete overhaul of the existing city drainage with a thrust on environmental aspects.

Preserving Zubeen's legacy

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 soon, 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

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 artist'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:

- The Zubeen Garg Archive*: a verified digital repository of his complete works, writings, and images, open to scholars and fans alike.
- The Geetavali and Lyric Omnibus*: a published collection of every song, annotated and translated, so his words may be studied like literature.
- The Zubeen Garg Museum*: a creative space, both physical and virtual, preserving his instruments, costumes, and recordings.
- Academic inclusion*: integrate his art and philosophy into school and university curricula, encouraging serious research.
- The Zubeen Garg Trust*: a fund to support musicians and cultural workers, continuing his generosity.
- Annual Zubeen Garg Music Festival* (November 18): a Statewide celebration of his birthday through concerts and youth events.
- 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 candle-light 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'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 artist'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 imag-

ined 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 seeing 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-

ity of education. Yours etc., **Devraj Borah**, Charaideo TE.

Delhi blast

Sir, – I would like to express my deep concern over the tragic car explosion near the Red Fort in Delhi on November 10. The incident raises serious questions about public safety and security preparedness. The involvement of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and the invocation of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act indicate that this was not a mere accident but a planned

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**.

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 Mahagathabandhan'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 deliv-

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.

ered 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**, Nagarbari, Kamrup.

Air Quality Index (AQI)

November 17, 2025

(Average of past 24 hours)

| City/Town | Index Value | Air Quality |
|-----------|-------------|--------------|
| Guwahati | 69 | Satisfactory |
| Nalbari | 52 | Satisfactory |
| Nagaon | 32 | Good |
| Sivasagar | 59 | Satisfactory |
| Silchar | 63 | Satisfactory |

Pollution Control Board, Assam

WEATHER

NorthEast

Forecast for NE States: Dry weather likely to prevail over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura. No large change in Minimum Temperature very likely over the region. Shallow to Moderate fog very likely to occur at isolated pockets over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur and Tripura.

Warning: Nil

| Dibrugarh | Tezpur |
|------------|--------------|
| Max : 29.9 | Max : 28.5 |
| Min : 14.3 | Min : 17.4 |
| Silchar | Dhubri |
| Max : 31.4 | Max : 27.0 |
| Min : 16.5 | Min : 18.0 |
| Jorhat | N. Lakhimpur |
| Max : 28.1 | Max : 31.0 |
| Min : 14.0 | Min : 14.1 |
| Shillong | Cherrapunjee |
| Max : 23.3 | Max : 24.5 |
| Min : 10.0 | Min : 12.8 |
| Imphal | Kohima |
| Max : 27.0 | Max : 16.5 |
| Min : 9.3 | Min : 8.5 |
| Aizawl | Agartala |
| Max : 26.4 | Max : 31.6 |
| Min : 15.4 | Min : 17.4 |
| Pasighat | Itanagar |
| Max : 30.0 | Max : 24.6 |
| Min : 15.6 | Min : 17.2 |

Duty Meteorological Officer,
Regional Meteorological
Centre, Guwahati

AIU Anveshan 2025 concludes

GUWAHATI, Nov 17: Apex Professional University (APU), Pasighat hosted the AIU Anveshan 2025 – East Zone Student Research Convention recently, under the aegis of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), New Delhi, a press release said.

The convention brought together around 178 student researchers and faculty members from 20 public and private universities across 12 states.

The programme was inaugurated by Ninong Ering, MLA Pasighat West, as chief guest. In his address, Ering spoke on the importance of research-driven development and youth-led innovation for sustainable progress.

Addressing the programme, Dr Amarendra Pani, Joint Director and Director of the Research Division, AIU, emphasised the role of Anveshan as a national platform to nurture research aptitude and innovative thinking among university students.

Prof NA Khan, Vice Chancellor of APU, welcomed the guests. Tsering Naksang, Chairperson, Arunachal Pradesh Private Educational Institutions Regulatory Commission, Itanagar; Pankaj Lamba, SP, East Siang, Pasighat also attended the programme, among others.

Meanwhile, APU extends heartfelt appreciation to AIU for entrusting it with the honour of hosting the convention and to all the participating universities for their valuable contributions in making Anveshan 2025 (East Zone) a grand success.

APU is a statutory university established by the Government of Arunachal Pradesh and recognised by the UGC as a state private university. The university has approval from various statutory regulatory bodies (BCI, CoA, NCTE, PCI, and APNC) for programmes in respective disciplines.

Internally Displaced Persons to stage protest against Manipur Sangai Fest

CORRESPONDENT

IMPHAL, Nov 17: The Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) currently taking shelter at different relief camps in the valley districts of Manipur today announced that they will stage a sit-in in protest against the upcoming 10-day Manipur Sangai Festival starting from November 21.

“We’ll be organising a mass sit-in in protest against the Sangai Festival at the relief camps on November 20,” says L Brojen, a representative of IDPs and secretary of Meetei Council Moreh.

Sharing a similar sentiment during a press briefing on a relief camp premises here this afternoon, Naba Ningthoujam, another IDP and co-convenor of Churachandpur Meetei United Com-

Representatives of Internally Displaced Persons speaking to media on Monday.

mittee, said that it will be better if the festival is organised after the resettlement of the IDPs and free movement on the highways.

Naba said that they’re assured that IDPs would be resettled in a phase-wise manner before December. “But no visible step has been taken up in this direction so far,” he regretted.

Such an event can be organised once the resettlement process of the IDPs is completed, Naba said and appealed to the general public in the State to support the IDPs in boycotting the Sangai Festival.

The Manipur Sangai festival, which is an annual event organised by the State government to promote tourism

from 2010 onwards from November 21 to 30, named after the endangered Sangai deer found exclusively in the State.

Meanwhile, hectic preparations for the Sangai festival are underway after a two-year gap in Imphal more particularly at Hafta Kangiebung in Imphal East district following the outbreak of ethnic violence in 2023.

Deployment of additional State and Central forces were seen at strategic locations in and around Hafta Kangiebung, the main venue of the festival.

Earlier, many civil society organisations, including student bodies have already announced to boycott the Sangai Festival stating that it is untimely to organise such an event when the State continues to face unrest and sufferings.

Tripura govt targets 1.35 lakh women to become ‘Lakhpati Didis’

CORRESPONDENT

AGARTALA, Nov 17: The Tripura Rural Livelihood Mission (TRLM) has revised its target for the ongoing financial year, aiming to enable 1.35 lakh women to become ‘Lakhpati Didis’, an official said on Monday.

The decision was finalized during a State-level steering committee meeting held at the Civil Secretariat on November 15, chaired by Rural Development Department Secretary Abhishek Singh.

According to TRLM Chief Executive Officer Tarit Kanti Chakma, the earlier target of making 1.08 lakh women ‘Lakhpati Didis’ has already been achieved.

“With the milestone crossed, the target has now been increased to 1.35 lakh. Necessary measures will be initiated, and the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) will be apprised,” he said.

Chakma also highlighted that Chief Minister Manik Saha had disbursed Rs 100 crore to 1,00,000 ‘Lakhpati Didis’ on October 25 to boost their income-generating activities. South Tripura district currently leads in the initiative with 21,898 ‘Lakhpati Didis’.

A ‘Lakhpati Didi’ refers to a self-help group member whose annual household income exceeds Rs 1 lakh – part of a Central government mission aimed at enhancing the livelihoods of economically weaker rural households across the country.

Scottish artiste Ruairidh Maclean (RuMac) will perform on December 2

UK to be country partner for Hornbill Festival 2025

CORRESPONDENT

DIMAPUR, Nov 17: The Nagaland government and the British Council on Monday signed an agreement to formalise the United Kingdom’s role as one of the country partners at the upcoming Hornbill Festival 2025.

The agreement was signed by Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio and Alison Barrett MBE, Country Director India, British Council, in New Delhi in presence of Lindy Cameron CB OBE, British High Commissioner to India and senior representatives from both sides.

A release said the agreement strengthens the ongoing collaboration between the two partners to promote cultural exchange, support crea-

Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio signing agreement with British Council representative in New Delhi.

tive talent, and enhance global visibility for Nagaland’s cultural heritage.

Under this partnership, the British Council is working in close coordination with the British Deputy High Commission in Kolkata to curate meaningful programming for the festival. Like in the previous editions, the Council is

ment to cultural exchange, collaboration, and people-to-people ties,” Rio said.

He added that the UK’s participation will enrich the festival and open new avenues for cooperation in culture, tourism, education, and enterprise.

“The UK is proud to support the incredible Hornbill Festival once again as a Country Partner. The deep personal and cultural connections between the UK and India, our living bridge, are what make this partnership so special. Welsh, Naga, and Khasi artistes performed together at the festival’s silver jubilee last year. It is fantastic to be able to follow that up with Scottish music this year,” Lindy Cameron, CB OBE, British High Commissioner to India, said.

Cholera confirmed in south Mizoram as death toll rises to 9

CORRESPONDENT

AIZAWL, Nov 17: The water-borne disease that has claimed six lives in Lawngtlai district and three more in neighbouring Siaha has been confirmed as cholera, Lawngtlai deputy commissioner Donny Lalruatsanga announced on Monday.

Laboratory tests conducted at the Zoram Medical College & Hospital (ZMC&H), Falkawn, established the presence of *vibrio cholerae* in samples collected from affected villagers.

Medical experts classify cholera as a severe form of acute gastroenteritis caused by the *vibrio cholerae* bacterium, which triggers sudden watery diarrhoea, vomiting and rapid dehydration. Dr Swagnik Roy, Professor and

Head of Microbiology at ZMC&H, confirmed the diagnosis after stool samples and other specimens sent early last week tested positive.

The outbreak has hit Kachhuah village in Lawngtlai district the hardest, where six people have died. In neighbouring Siaha district, three more fatalities have been reported, taking the total toll in southern Mizoram to nine so far.

In response to the escalating situation, the district administrations of Lawngtlai and Siaha have ordered the closure of all Myanmar border entry points, imposing a two-month ban on cross-border movement. Authorities said the restrictions were put in place after the infection was suspected to have originated from Paletwa district in southern Chin State, which borders the affected areas of Mizoram.

Officials said surveillance and preventive measures have been intensified in the border belt as health teams continue monitoring for new cases.

150th birth anniv of Sardar Patel

Itanagar youth march for unity, swadeshi, ‘Aatmanirbhar Bharat’

CORRESPONDENT

ITANAGAR, Nov 17: Marking the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India, Sardar Patel @150 Padyatra was organised in Itanagar today celebrating his contribution to national integration and India’s modern administrative foundations.

Organised by MY Bharat, Itanagar in collaboration with the Government of Arunachal Pradesh, the Padyatra began at Dera Nating Government College (DNGC) and culminated at the IG Park Tennis Court here, drawing enthusiastic participation from MY Bharat volunteers, NSS volunteers, NCC cadets, faculty members, youth leaders and students.

Earlier, the programme began with floral tributes to Sardar Patel, followed by a welcome address by DNGC Principal Dr MQ Khan, and patriotic cultural performances by NSS volunteers. As part of the nationwide initiative “Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam”, dignitaries also planted saplings, symbolising environmental responsibility and sustainable development.

Addressing the gathering as chief guest, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) Nabam Rebia said Sardar Patel was not only the architect of a united India but also a fearless *satyagrahi* whose leadership during the freedom struggle demonstrated a deep commitment to truth and national service.

“Today, the essence of Sardar Patel’s vision must reflect in our commitment to make India truly self-reliant.

Japanese Training Prog institute inaugurated in Meghalaya

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SHILLONG, Nov 17: Buoyed by its growing collaboration with the government in Japan, Meghalaya today took this tie forward by inaugurating a Japanese Training Programme institute here.

This institute would upgrade the skills of students that could help them get job opportunities in Japan. Besides, they will be taught Japanese language, the culture and etiquette, which would help them assimilate better in Japan.

“We don’t want to have multiple tie-ups with multiple nations because if you try to tie up with everybody you will not have a relationship with anybody,” Chief Minister Conrad Sangma said while inaugurating the institute at Barik Point.

He said Japan and the North-

eastern states have similarities in terms of food and culture and moreover Japan has been collaborating with India for many years.

Meghalaya government has recently tied up with Asean Group Co Ltd which helps foreigners from ASEAN countries get jobs in Japan. They support professionals in engineering, construction, caregiving and hospitality to get job placements in Japan.

Meghalaya has already sent 37 nurses to Japan and are there now working for quite some time.

“Our nurses working in Japan today are at N4 grade (Japanese language proficiency) and we wish our nurses to be N3 grade nurses for higher salaries,” Sangma said.

The CM further said these 37 nurses are on an average sending one lakh back to the

Nagaland varsity trains farmers on innovative agricultural practices

CORRESPONDENT

DIMAPUR, Nov 17: The Nagaland University (NU) organised a 10-day farmers’ training programme on extraction and value addition of non-conventional banana fiber for empowering Naga farmers.

The training, organised by the agricultural engineering department, in collaboration with Science & Technology Intervention in North Eastern Region (STINER), SAS, Nagaland University, Medziphema campus and funded by ICAR-National Institute of Fiber Engineering and Technology (NINFET), Kolkata, from November 13, was aimed at empowering local farmers with innovative agricultural practices, a varsity

release said on Monday.

During the inaugural programme, Project-PI, Prof Khan Chand, provided a brief overview of the project and the benefits of eco-friendly banana fiber.

Drawing on his extensive experience in food processing, he elaborated the journey of banana fiber from extraction to marketable product.

A total of 25 local farmers participated in the inaugural session.

The importance of adopting sustainable, innovative technologies in agriculture to uplift rural farmers was stressed at the programme.

Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati

Research & Development Section

Guwahati-781039, Assam

Walk in interview for various positions under some sponsored projects in the Dept of EEE, IIT Guwahati. For detailed advertisements may please visit https://www.iitg.ac.in/iitg_recruitment

HOS (R&D)

Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati

Guwahati-781039, Assam

Research and Development Section

Online Interview for the following Project positions under the sponsored project titled "Gyan Dhara - Integrating immersive VR for experiential learning" Project No: xDESIGNSTCC00821xx KS016 from the Department of Design, IIT Guwahati on 25th November, 2025. For detailed advertisements may please visit https://www.iitg.ac.in/iitg_recruitment

Advt. No: IITG/I&SI/Project Staff Rectt-2025/70 HoS (R&D)

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No. CGM(D&S)/APDCL/UAR/Dibrugarh University/2025/43 Date: 17-11-2025

RE-TENDER NOTICE

(NIT No: CGM(D&S)/APDCL/UAR/DIBRUGARH UNIVERSITY/RE-TENDER/2025/40 Dated 15-11-2025)

The Chief General Manager (D&S), UAR, Assam Power Distribution Co. Ltd., Bijulee Bhawan, Guwahati-1, invites e-tenders with reference to the cancellation of the earlier Tender Notice bearing NIT No. CGM(D&S)/APDCL/ UAR/ DIBRUGARH UNIVERSITY/2025/19 dated 24-06-2025, for the work "Construction of 11 KV spur line with AAAC Covered Conductor & Installation of 11/0.433 KV 500 KVA Pad Mounted Sub-Station at Dibrugarh University, under Dibrugarh ESD-I of Dibrugarh Electrical Circle, APDCL" from experienced and financially sound individual Electrical Contractor/Firm, registered under the CMS portal of APDCL and with valid Electrical Contractor License up to 33 KV issued by the CEA, GoA on turnkey mode of contract for the following works.
Details may be seen in the websites www.assamtenders.gov.in or www.apdcl.org.
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ASMSC, NSCN (I-M) hold talks on crucial issues of indigenous people

CORRESPONDENT

NAZIRA, Nov 17: The Assam Sanmilita Mahasangha Security Council (ASMSC) and the National Socialist Council of Nagalim (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 Matur Rahman said that the Mahasangha held a two-hour discussion with a seven-member team of the Government of the People's Republic of Nagalim (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

in Assam, Nagaland, and other Northeastern states. The meeting also came to the conclusion that the cut-off year for identification of foreigners in the Northeast should be 1951.

Both the ASMSC and NSCN (I-M) agreed that the Northeastern states should forget past mistakes and come together as a strong unit.

At the meeting, VS Atem called for strengthening of the relations between the Nagas and the Assamese people.

The seven-member GPRN-NSCN (I-M) team included the outfit's political department management committee convener Angnaikham Makunga, convener George Golmei, assistant convener Meyong Phom, and high-powered committee convener Hutovi Chishi.

ASMSC secretary general Dr Hemanta Gogoi and Assam Sanmilita Mahasangha member Mintu Chitrakar also took part in the talks at Dimapur.

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 Sabha, 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 Sarhi 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 actively 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.

Sarma leaves behind his wife, two sons, and a large circle of admirers and well-wishers.



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 Borthakur Art and Sculpture Award 2025 during the third exhibition of the Sivasagar Pratibhayan 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 Borthakur, 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 Pratibhayan Chitrakala Niketan, hoisted the ceremonial flag, while noted artist Saleha Ahmed and sculptor Durlav 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 Bora, Durlav Bora, Manoj Bhagawati, PK Das, and Pratap Dey. Prof. Kartik Dutta presided over the meeting.

'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 Angoorlata 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. The participants of the rally were given by 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

facing harassment, abuse, or atrocities. Deka said that the Commission has opened a 24x7 toll free helpline number (181) that can be approached for any assistance and also to know about various schemes and projects of the Central and State governments for the development and welfare of young girls and women in the State.

She later held a meeting with senior officials of the district administration and the police at the DC office's conference hall and discussed various schemes and initiatives implemented for the empowerment of women in Jorhat district.

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 Devabrata Sharma, in his speech, dwelt at length on the various aspects of the present scenario of journalism.

Speaking about various challenges faced by the print media, he stated that there is an emerging trend of political intelligence on press freedom and the media.

Thereafter, writer and columnist Dwipen Kakoty, 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

Jorhat Press Club's general secretary, Ashok Kumar Baruah. The vote of thanks was offered by Biraj Baruah, a joint secretary of the Club.

Meanwhile, another programme to mark the occasion was organised at the Jorhat Circuit House by the Jorhat district administration in association with the office of the district information and public relations officer (DIPRO), Jorhat.

At the function presided over by Jogesh Ojha, a senior journalist, Dr Suryya Chetia, head of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Assam Women's University, Jorhat, delivered a talk on the topic 'Reporting in the brave new world: The impact of artificial intelligence on press freedom and the media'.

Tezpur Correspondent adds: The Sonitpur district administration, in association with the office of the district information and public relations officer, celebrated National Press Day 2025 at the conference hall of the DC's office, wherein Dr Abhijit Bora, professor and head of

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 Dalim Phukan.

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

Haflong Correspondent adds: The Dima Hasao district on Sunday felicitated the journalists of Dima Hasao district on the occasion of National Press Day.

The event was held at the Sonaram Thaosan 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, SDIPRO 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.

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 *adyashradha*, we pray for the eternal rest of his soul.

– Manoj Kumar Sarma



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 Jhanji 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 Baligaon 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 Gautom 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.

When MK3 produced its early forecast in September, the electoral landscape was still fluid. Candidates across major political parties

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 re-

markable.

“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 piggergy sector since its first outbreak. The situation has worsened sharply in 2025, with 297 epicentres reported statewide. Alarminglly, 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.

The districts facing the heaviest impact included Dhemaji, Kamrup, Lakhimpur, Sivasagar, Darrang, Jorhat, and Dibrugarh

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 Udyan, 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 Nahor 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 Sabyasachi 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 ‘Aranyar Edin’ here at the Jayanta Hazarika 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.

In his speech, Prasad highlighted the unique character of the film which focused on the threats to the wildlife and environment back in 1971 well before the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 came into play. At the beginning of the function, the background voice of the film on environment conservation was aired. Tributes were paid to the departed souls of all the persons associated with the film.

Several office bearers and members of Mangaldai United Club, the producers of the film including Mukul Goswami, Durgeswar Das, Biren Medhi and others became nostalgic while recalling the days of their association with the production of the film. Dibya Jyoti Saharia, retired secretary of the State PWD department, actor Pabitra Rabha, president of Gypsy Guild Hiren Kumar Das, secretary Jayanta Dekha also spoke on the occasion.

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 Bhan here, inviting residents to voice their views on the proposed construction of an elevated road from Trunk Road near Capital Point to Rangirkhari 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

heavy public participation. Residents, shop owners, transporters, and local representatives will be able to present their opinions on the alignment, land issues, and the project’s wider influence on Silchar’s urban mobility.

Officials emphasised that local perspectives will have a direct bearing on the final blueprint of the elevated corridor, widely expected to decongest the city’s core and redefine daily movement across Silchar.

Cabinet Minister Kaushik Rai, who holds the portfolios of Food, Public Distribution and Consumer Affairs, Barak Valley Development, and Mines and Minerals, will preside over the meeting. Local MPs and MLAs will also be present, the release said.

The administration has extended an open invitation to all residents to attend, stressing that the future of one of Silchar’s biggest urban development projects rests on informed public participation. Citizens have been urged to come forward, not just with objections but also with constructive suggestions that can help the project progress smoothly.

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, Taralangs, Diphu today to recognize those who advocated the region’s autonomy and identity. The dedication and sacrifices 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 Bhattacharyya, 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.



Anaesthesia 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 Chaliha, 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 Manabijyoti 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 Dhruvajyoti Bhuyan extended full cooperation in the procedure.

CINEMA PROGRAMME

ANURADHA CINEPLEX

Multiplex Ambience

From 14.11.25 to 20.11.25

At 10.00 am, 12.45 pm, 3.30 pm, 6.15 pm & 9.00 pm

ROI RI BINALE (ASS) 2D

Cast : Zubeen Garg, Joy Kashyap, Achurija Borpatra etc.

Booking Nos. 8822777555 (9954544738, 7086525826)

Online Booking: www.anuradhacineplex.in/ www.bookmyshow.com

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.assamtenders.gov.in from 18.11.2025. A pre-bid meeting for the aforementioned work 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.assamtenders.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).

Sd/- Chief Executive Officer,
FREMAA

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

NO.SDM.798/2025-26/23/9964

CORRIGENDUM

With reference to the NIQ published on 16.11.2025, it is hereby notified that the File No. mentioned as SDM.779/2025-26/23/9947 was inadvertently published. The correct File No. may be read as SDM.798/2025-26/23/9947. All other terms and conditions of the NIQ shall remain unchanged.

Sd/- Director,
Sericulture, Assam, Guwahati-22

DIPR/C/AT/2524/18-Nov-25

No. EE/MDSTRD/SOPD-G/2025-26/958/2048

PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Executive Engineer PWRD, Mangaldai, Dalgao & Sipajhar Territorial Road Division, Mangaldai on behalf of Governor of Assam invites bid from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Assam PWD (Roads) for SOPD-G Works for the year 2025-26 of 10 (Ten) No package under Darrang District of Assam amounting to Rs. 250.20 Lakhs (Approx).

Details may be seen at <http://assamtenders.gov.in> as well as in the office of the undersigned during office hours.

N.B.: The NIT value includes 12% GST and 1% Labour Cess.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWRD
Mangaldai, Dalgao & Sipajhar TRD

DIPR/C/AT/2527/18-Nov-25

N.I.T. No. B/M-6/MMCA/Sale Notice/Digboi/2025/3406

SHORT E-AUCTION NOTICE

Under the provisions of Rule, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36 & 37 of the Assam Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2013 bids are invited online by the undersigned from registered Companies /Firms /Societies / individuals etc. for the award of Contract for the following Minor Mineral Concession Areas (Mahal) for Sale under Digboi Division.

1. DIG/L (2 No.Tarakuchi) of Margherita East Range

Details of e-Auction will be available on www.assamforestonline.in portal from 18.11.2025 Training shall be provided on 01.12.2025 at office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Divisional Forest Officer
Digboi Division, Digboi

DIPR/C/AT/2528/18-Nov-25

No. BDTRD/BKT/SOPD-G/25-26/2513

PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer, PWRD, Bokakhat & Dergaon Territorial Road Division, Bokakhat, Assam on behalf of the Honorable Governor of Assam invites bid for 1 (one) no. of package for Re-Construction of Road from NC Ali to Batiporia via Kurighoria, Moujadar Ali, Jalmoni Batiporia connecting road at Dergaon LAC of Assam from approved and eligible contractors registered with APWRD amounting to Rs. 157.91 Lacs (Approx).

The work will be allotted to the eligible contractor only after receipt of Administrative Approval. Detailed particular may be seen in the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days and also on assamtenders.gov.in from 19.11.2025 to 10.12.2025.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.R.D,
Bokakhat & Dergaon Territorial Road Division,

DIPR/C/AT/2525/18-Nov-25

Bokakhat

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 Pam-pore in south Kashmir, was brought to the court of Principal District and Sessions Judge Anju Bajaj Chandna 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



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 Mahagathbandhan 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.

"The mandate of the Bihar polls did not resonate with the situation on the ground. Despite the anger of the people towards the government, they have got such a mandate. People and politicians are not able to digest this," RJD spokesperson Shakti Singh said.

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

of them said the party is mulling moving to court.

Senior leader and the party's former chief of the State unit, Jagdanand Singh, alleged: "Each EVM had 25,000 votes even before the polling began... and we still managed to win 25 seats".

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 EVM. "We will seek elections through ballot papers," he said. – PTI

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

TMC MP's allegations of presence of arms & ammo inside premises

Bengal Governor leads search operation at Raj Bhavan

KOLKATA, Nov 17: West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose today led a team of security personnel involved in a search operation at the Raj Bhavan in the wake of allegations by a TMC MP that arms and ammunition were stacked within its premises, an official said.

Trinamooli Congress MP Kalyan Banerjee had on Saturday accused Bose of "sheltering BJP criminals" inside the Raj Bhavan and "arming them with bombs and guns".

"Governor Bose is leading the team of personnel, comprising Kolkata Police officers and Central forces, the bomb squad and dog squad to find out whether there are arms and ammunition stacked inside," the official told PTI.

Bose, who was on a short trip to North Bengal, cut short his tour to spearhead the operation, which started from the ground floor of the Raj Bhavan around 2.15 pm, he said.

"There was also deployment of personnel at the Raj Bhavan Police Outpost. Officials of the Disaster Management & Civil Defence departments are also participating in the search," he said.

To facilitate the combing operation, the Raj Bhavan premises have been evacuated. Members of the civil society and journalists were allowed to accompany Bose during the exercise, which is being "live-streamed", the official said.

The TMC MP had made the allegations on Saturday, hours after Bose said that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls was essential to "clean up the election process". – PTI

Nearly all Bengal voters issued enumeration forms: CEO

KOLKATA, Nov 17: The office of the Chief Electoral Officer of West Bengal, Manoj Kumar Agarwal, today said enumeration forms have been distributed to nearly all voters whose names appear on the electoral rolls as of October 28.

Voters have been asked to complete the forms carefully and follow the prescribed procedures to ensure accurate updating of electoral records, a press statement issued by the office of the CEO stated.

Each form carries a unique QR code and must be signed by the voter with a full signature or thumb impression, it said. – 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 Mahnar 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, Motil Lal 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

Azam Khan, son Abdullah convicted in dual PAN card case

RAMPUR (UP), Nov 17: Less than two months after he was released from Sitapur jail, SP leader Mohammed Azam Khan went back behind bars today when a court convicted and sentenced him to seven years' imprisonment in a 2019 case related to obtaining two PAN cards using different dates of birth.

The special MP-MLA court here also sentenced Azam Khan's son Abdullah Azam to seven years' imprisonment in the same case.

After the sentencing, Khan was taken from the Rampur court to the district jail under heavy security. While being taken to prison, he said, "What is there to say now? It is the court's decision."

Asked about the court awarding a seven-year sentence each to him and his son, the 77-year-old leader replied, "It is fine. If they have considered me guilty, they have given the punishment."

Delivering the verdict, Special Magistrate (MP/MLA Court) Shobhit Bansal

held both father and son guilty after examining documentary evidence and witness testimonies, prosecution officer Rakesh Kumar Maurya, who represented the prosecution along with advocate Swadesh Sharma, told reporters.

The veteran SP leader was released from the Sitapur jail on September 23 after 23 months. Before this, he was in jail for 27 months.

According to the prosecution, Khan's seven-year jail term has been decreased by the number of days already spent in judicial custody in this case.

Maurya also said the prosecution would review the judgement and may consider filing an appeal if it feels the punishment is inadequate.

Asked whether Azam Khan and Abdullah would be taken into custody following the conviction, Maurya responded, "Yes, absolutely".

The case was lodged in 2019 at Rampur's Civil Lines police station by BJP leader Akash Saxena. – 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

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| No:ALDA/RGM/MAITRI-03/2025-26/763 | |
| NOTICE | |
| Applications are invited for training of Multipurpose AI Technician in Rural India (MAITRIs) 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Dept./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 DIPRI/DF/AT/1353/18-Nov-25 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 has "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 1800-seat mark in the next two years," he said.

For comparison, the BJP IT 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

House, as results for all the constituencies were declared by the Election Commission.

The BJP emerged as the largest party, winning 89 seats. Its ally, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar-led JD(U), won 85 seats, while Union Minister Chirag Paswan-led Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) bagged 19 seats.

Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular), headed by former Chief Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi, won five seats, while Upendra Kushwaha-led Rashtriya Lok Morcha bagged four seats. – PTI

India's exports plunge 11.8 pc in Oct; trade deficit widens to \$41.68 bn



NEW DELHI, Nov 17: India's exports contracted 11.8 per cent to USD 34.38 billion in October on account of the impact of high tariffs by the US, while the trade deficit widened to a record high of USD 41.68 billion mainly due to a jump in gold imports.

According to government data released on Monday, the

country's imports jumped 16.63 per cent to USD 76.06 billion due to high inbound shipments of the yellow metal, silver, cotton raw/waste, fertiliser, and sulphur.

In September also, the trade gap widened to USD 31.15 billion, the highest in over a year.

While gold imports rose about 200 per cent to USD

14.72 billion, silver rose 528.71 per cent to USD 2.71 billion during October.

Crude oil imports dipped to USD 14.8 billion in October from USD 18.9 billion in the same month last year.

During April-October this fiscal year, exports increased marginally by 0.63 per cent to USD 254.25 billion, imports rose 6.37 per cent to USD 451.08 billion.

Merchandise trade deficit during April-October 2025 was USD 196.82 billion as compared to USD 171.40 billion in the same month during April-October 2024.

Briefing the media on the data, Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said despite global uncertainties, "we are holding our ground".

He also said that fall in exports in the last month can also be attributed to base effect (USD 38.98 billion in October 2024).

Key segments such as en-

gineering goods, petroleum products, gems and jewellery, apparels and textiles, organic and inorganic chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and plastic goods witnessed noticeable contraction, weighing down the overall export performance.

Handicrafts, carpet, leather, iron ore, tea, rice, tobacco, spices and oil meals, too, recorded negative growth in exports in October. Petroleum product shipments dipped 10.5 per cent to about USD 4 billion, while engineering goods shipments fell 16.71 per cent to USD 9.37 billion.

The US has imposed 50 per cent tariffs on Indian goods, which is impacting the country's exports.

Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) President SC Ralhan said the export contraction mirrors the broader global economic slowdown, marked by geopolitical uncertainties, sub-

dued demand in multiple major markets, and persistent volatility in commodity prices.

Expressing concern over the widening trade gap, he urged for decisive and timely policy intervention. He reiterated the need for enhanced export support measures, faster release of benefits under various schemes, improved and affordable credit access, and reduction of compliance burdens so that exporters can remain competitive in a challenging global environment.

As per the provisional figures, the estimated value of services export for October is USD 38.52 billion as compared to USD 34.41 billion in the same month last year.

During the first nine months of this fiscal year, exports stood at USD 237.55 billion as compared to USD 216.45 billion in April-October 2024. – PTI

India signs deal to import 2.2 mn tonnes of LPG from US

NEW DELHI, Nov 17: Indian state-run oil companies have signed a one-year deal to import cooking gas LPG from the United States in 2026, marking a push by New Delhi to expand energy pur-

said on Monday.

The quantity contracted is close to 10 per cent of India's annual LPG imports and marks the first such structured US LPG contract for the Indian market.

Move is seen as an attempt to narrow India's trade surplus with the US – a sticking point for President Donald Trump

chases from Washington.

The move is seen as an attempt to narrow India's trade surplus with the US – a sticking point for President Donald Trump, who has slapped a 50 per cent tariff on Indian goods entering America.

"Indian PSU oil companies have successfully concluded a one-year structured contract to import around 2.2 million tonnes of LPG from the US Gulf Coast for the contract year 2026," an official statement

While India is either self-sufficient or has surplus production in most fuels like petrol, diesel and jet fuel, it imports about 65 per cent of its LPG consumption of 31 million tonnes. In 2024, about 90 per cent of the 20.4 million tonnes of LPG imports came from UAE, Qatar, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

It sporadically imported cargos from the US but this is the first time it has entered into a structured contract.

State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat

Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) will import about 48 very-large gas carriers of LPG in 2026. The supplies will be made by super majors Chevron, Phillips and TotalEnergies Trading SA.

India has offered to raise energy imports from the US as part of the bilateral trade deal that has been under discussions for the past couple of months. New Delhi buys about 8 per cent of its crude oil – the raw material for making petrol and diesel – from the US.

Scope for raising crude imports from the US is limited given that shipments take 45 days sea voyage to reach Indian shores – a period during which ships can make six sorties from the Middle East.

Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri took to X to announce the LPG deal. "A historic first! One of the largest and the world's fastest growing LPG markets opens up to the United States," he said. – PTI

FTA talks with New Zealand, EU in last leg: Comm Secy

NEW DELHI, Nov 17: India's free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations with the European Union (EU) and New Zealand are in the final stages and are expected to be concluded soon, Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said on Monday.

An Indian team is in the UK to discuss the Double Contribution Convention (DCC) agreement, he added.

"We hope to complete it soon so that both (DCC and FTA) can be launched together," he told reporters here.

India and the UK have signed the trade pact, but it has not been implemented as it requires approval from the UK parliament.

On negotiations with the EU, Agrawal said talks are in the last phase. "But the last phase is always hard," he pointed out. He added that negotiations for a trade pact with New Zealand are also in the last phase. "We hope that we will achieve closure (of the talks) in the shortest possible time," Agrawal said, adding that the last phase can be time-consuming.

Further, the Secretary said negotiations with two South American countries – Peru and Chile – are also moving. With Peru, "progress is there and we hope to see progress in this", he said, adding that negotiations with Chile are also moving at a good pace and the fourth round of talks is scheduled in December here.

On the FTA review with ASEAN, he said it is a difficult review, but "we are progressing". In December, another round of talks is likely "where we may see some more positive progress", he said.

The review of the agreement is a long-standing demand of the Indian industry, and India is looking forward to an upgraded pact, which will address the current asymmetries in bilateral trade and make trade more balanced and sustainable. – PTI

Import curbs on platinum jewellery

NEW DELHI, Nov 17: The government on Monday imposed import curbs on certain types of platinum jewellery till April next year.

In September, the government imposed restrictions on imports of certain silver jewellery till March 31 next year.

The import policy of platinum jewellery "is revised from Free to Restricted, with immediate effect till April 30, 2026", the directorate general of foreign trade (DGFT) said in the latest notification.

Importers now need a licence from the DGFT to import these goods. – PTI

'First phase of India-US trade deal nearing closure; to address tariff issues'

NEW DELHI, Nov 17: The first phase of the proposed India-US bilateral trade agreement (BTA) is 'nearing closure' and would address the hefty 50 per cent tariffs imposed by the Trump administration on Indian goods, in addition to resolving America's market access issues, a government official said on Monday.

The US has imposed a 25 per cent reciprocal tariffs and another 25 per cent on Indian goods entering American markets for buying Russian crude oil.

"We are engaged with the US on the BTA. It has two parts. One part of negotiations will take time. The other part is a package which can address reciprocal tariffs. We are working on both aspects. The package that can address reciprocal

tariffs is more or less near closure and we should get it soon," the official said.

The official added that the deal is expected to address the issue of 25 per cent penalty on India, otherwise the agreement would have no meaning. The official added that the BTA has multiple packages or tranche and this will be the first tranche to address the tariffs.

The deal will be announced on a mutually agreed date.

On the issue of India's state-run oil companies signing a one-year deal to import cooking gas LPG from the US in 2026, the official said, "It was something in the works for long. This is in the overall context of keeping the trade with the US. It is not part of any negotiations package per se but definitely as part of our

endeavour to balance trade with the US."

India and the US are negotiating a bilateral trade agreement. So far, six rounds of talks have been completed. Both sides have announced plans to finalise the first tranche of the deal by fall of 2025.

A team of Indian officials, headed by Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal, was in Washington last month to hold trade talks with their US counterparts. The three-day talks ended on October 17.

Negotiations for the pact are important, as relations between the two countries have been under severe strain since US President Donald Trump administration imposed a steep 50 per cent tariff on Indian goods. It includes a 25 per cent additional import duty for buying Russian crude oil. – PTI

Sanctions on Russian oil unlikely to hit Indian OMCs hard: Fitch

NEW DELHI, Nov 17: US sanctions on Rosneft and Lukoil, along with the EU's ban on refined products derived from Russian crude, are unlikely to materially dent the margins or credit profiles of India's state-run oil marketing companies, Fitch Ratings said.

The ratings agency, however, warned that the eventual impact will hinge on how long the sanctions last and how strictly they are enforced.

Russian crude made up about a third of India's oil imports between January and

August 2025, and its discounted rates have been a key boost to OMC profitability.

Fitch expects the companies to adhere to sanctions, though some refiners may continue sourcing sanctioned Russian barrels.

Traditionally reliant on West Asian oil, India significantly increased its imports from Russia following the February 2022 Ukraine invasion. Western sanctions and reduced European demand made Russian oil available at steep discounts. As a result, India's Russian crude im-

ports surged from under 1 per cent to nearly 40 per cent of its total crude oil imports in a short span.

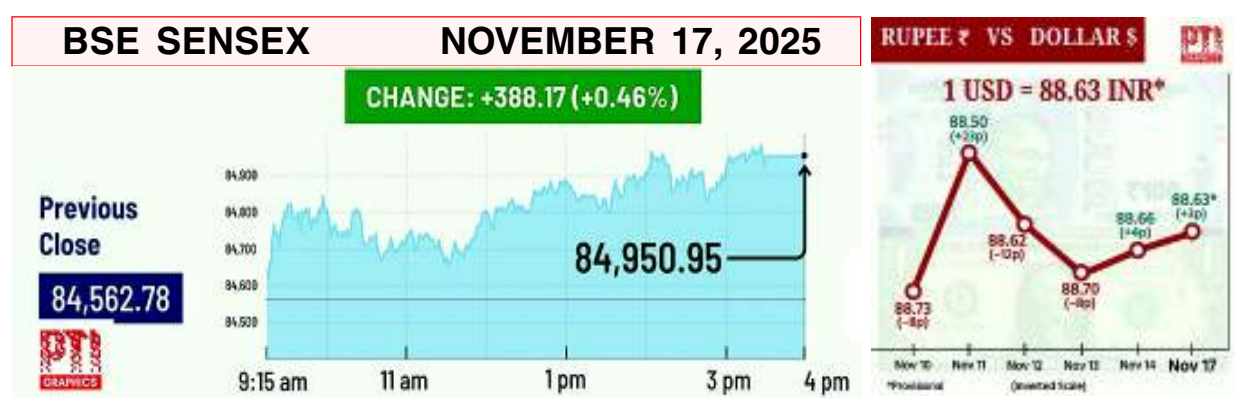
The US, however, last month imposed sanctions on Russian oil producers Rosneft and Lukoil, who accounted for 75 per cent of oil sold to India. Indian refiners have stopped buying oil from them but others can still continue to sell.

"Fitch Ratings believes US sanctions on two of Russia's largest crude oil producers, Rosneft and Lukoil, and the EU's ban on refined imports

derived from Russian crude, are unlikely to have a significant effect on the refining margins or credit profiles of our rated Indian oil marketing companies (OMCs)," the rating agency said in a note.

Fitch said sanctions-related disruptions should suppress global demand for products linked to affected crude, widening refined product spreads and helping offset the loss of discounted Russian barrels.

Refiners still processing Russian crude could benefit from deeper discounts. – PTI



GST 2.0, customs reforms to accelerate next wave of Indo-Japan collaboration in auto sector: Report

Number of Japanese companies in India's auto, auto components space rose from 173 in 2022 to 186 in 2025

NEW DELHI, Nov 17: Significant regulatory transformations such as GST 2.0 and progressive customs reforms are likely to accelerate investment flows, promote EV adoption, and drive the next wave of Indo-Japan collaboration in clean mobility and advanced manufacturing, according to a report.

With USD 43.3 billion in cumulative investments, Japan is India's fifth-largest foreign investor. A deeper utilisation of the Indo-Japan FTA will be key to driving competitiveness, enabling technol-

ogy transfer, and advancing India's journey toward a sustainable, innovation-led automotive future, Grant Thornton Bharat and the Indo-Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IJCCI) said in a joint whitepaper.

"The convergence of GST 2.0 and targeted customs incentives marks a defining moment for India's automotive sector. Reduced tax rates, simplified compliance, and supply-chain-focused exemptions will not only elevate India's cost competitiveness but also strength-

en its positioning as a manufacturing and export hub for Japanese automakers," Grant Thornton Bharat Partner, India Investment Advisory, Sohrab Bararia said.

As per the whitepaper – Navigating change: GST 2.0, customs, and FTA impacts on the India-Japan auto sector, Japanese companies in the automotive sector have built strong manufacturing bases in states like Haryana, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra.

These hubs cater to both domestic demand and exports to Africa and Southeast Asia. Recent joint ventures increasingly focus on electric vehicles, sustainable mobility, and advanced manufacturing technologies.

The number of Japanese companies in India's auto and auto components space rose from 173 in 2022 to 186 in 2025, reflecting growing interest in India's scale and cost advantages, it added. Japanese firms have established a strong presence in key automotive clusters such as Haryana, Gujarat, and Tamil Nadu, using India as a base to export to emerging markets, including Africa.

Following the GST rate changes, the auto industry recorded a sharp surge in customer interest and vehicle deliveries, with booking volumes rising by nearly 50 per cent in the small car segment, Grant Thornton Bharat said.

Complementing GST reforms,

the Union Budget 2025 announced measures to boost the EV sector by balancing supply and demand incentives. Customs duty exemptions on lithium-ion battery scrap and critical minerals such as lead and copper aim to secure raw materials and generate employment, it added.

This regulatory reset is expected to accelerate investment flows, promote EV adoption, and drive the next wave of Indo-Japan collaboration in clean mobility and advanced manufacturing, Grant Thornton Bharat Partner, Auto & EV Industry Leader, Saket Mehra said.

"As we navigate the intersection of regulatory transformation and global collaboration, we are poised to

unlock even greater opportunities within the Indian automotive sector," Indo-Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Secretary General, Suguna Ramamoorthy said.

There is significant partnership between India and Japan in the automotive sector, particularly in the realms of hybrid and electric vehicles, and high-precision components. The free trade agreement (FTA) serves as a crucial catalyst for collaboration, joint research and development, she noted.

Car exports from India to Japan reached USD 616.45 million in the first 9 months of FY2025, with auto component exports amounting to USD 171.72 million in 2024, Ramamoorthy said. – PTI



President Droupadi Murmu receives the 16th Finance Commission's report for 2026-31 from Commission's Chairperson Arvind Panagariya, in New Delhi on Monday. – PTI

NEW DELHI, Nov 17: Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission Arvind Panagariya on Monday submitted to President Droupadi Murmu the panel's report, which will provide the formula for devolution of taxes between the Centre and States. The commission, which was mandated to submit its report by

October 31, was given an extension till November 30.

"Members of the 16th Finance Commission, led by its Chairman, Dr Arvind Panagariya, called on President Droupadi Murmu and submitted the Commission's report for 2026-31," Rashtrapati Bhavan posted on X. Besides suggesting tax

devolution between the Centre and States, and revenue augmentation measures, the commission has also reviewed the present arrangements for financing disaster management initiatives with reference to the funds constituted under the Disaster Management Act, 2005. – PTI

Sebi aims to double number of equity investors in 3-5 yrs

MUMBAI, Nov 17: Capital markets regulator Sebi is aiming to double the number of equity market investors in the next three-five years, its chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey said on Monday.

Pandey cited findings of a survey conducted by Sebi recently, which points to eagerness to invest with over a fifth of the respondents saying they plan to invest in the securities market through some route.

"We are looking at double the number of investors. So, that is more than the populations of several countries put together. If we add another 100 million investors," Pandey said, replying to a specific question on what will make him happy over the next 3-5 years.

As of October, the overall number of unique investors in India stood at 12.2 crore and the number has grown very fast since 2020 with the emergence of the Covid pandemic.

Speaking at the CII Financing Summit, Pan-

dey said the onus is on the capital markets ecosystem consisting of the regulator and issuers to ensure that good quality paper comes to the market which attracts investor attention.

Meanwhile, replying to another query on the possible impact on India if the US markets were to correct, Pandey said the domestic investors play a very strong role in the Indian markets, hinting of a limited impact.

Making it clear that the India story is "not a bubble", Pandey said the investor interest is driven by aspects such as high economic growth, reforms and investments by the government, and the ease of doing business measures.

"The domestic investors will be the shields against the shocks that can come."

He said Sebi's agenda is not to add new rules, but the approach is about shaping a smarter rule book that is simpler to understand, proportionate to the risks it seeks to address and supportive of innovation. – PTI

Israeli who made Negev desert bloom, passes away

Eliyahu Bezael 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 Bezael 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.

Bezael, 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," Bezael then told PTI.



Bezael, 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.

The Israeli Parliament (Knesset) awarded him the Kaplan prize in 1994.

Bezael's farm in the south of Israel remains a major attraction among Indian agriculturists and politicians, with former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda, Agriculture minister Sharad Pawar and agriculturist M S Swaminathan among the prominent visitors.

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, Bezael 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 Malabari 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 youth 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

Internal Security Act (ISA) getting younger in recent years is also "deeply concerning", said Faishal, who is also Senior Minister of State for Home Affairs.

There have been more than a dozen self-radicalised Singaporeans under the age of 21 since 2015. They highlight the "escalation" of on-line radicalisation, and this



his AI-generated declaration before his attack, in the hope of inspiring other Muslims to engage in armed violence.

"These are not distant stories. These are our own young people, often bright and caring, who became radicalised after exposure to extremist content online," the newspaper quoted Faishal as saying.

A trend of radicalised detainees under Singapore's

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

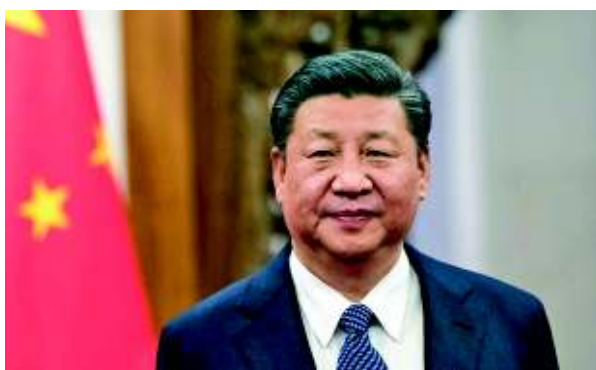
China warns US-S Korea alliance over any move to contain Beijing

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 northern 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 Danko-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 schoolchildren since 2014, when the militant Boko Haram group abducted 276 students from Chibok in Borno state.

Kidnappings have become common in parts of northern Nigeria, where dozens of armed groups take advantage of a limited security presence to carry out attacks on villages and

along major roads.

Most victims are released only after the payment of ransoms that sometimes run into the thousands of dollars.

In March 2024, more than 130 schoolchildren were rescued after spending more than two weeks in captivity in the Nigerian state of Kaduna.

The mass abduction of 276 schoolgirls from Chibok marked 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 Indian Air Force (IAF) is participating in the 8th edition of the bilateral air exercise *Garuda 25* with the French Air and Space Force (FASF) at Mont-de-Marsan in France from November 16-27. The Indian Air Force stated that the exercise will further enhance interopera-



bility, foster exchange of best practices, and strengthen 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.

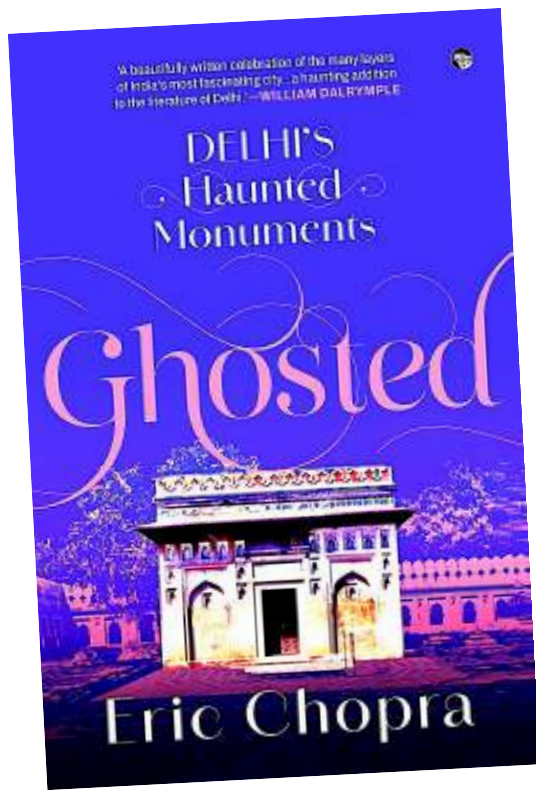
"This exercise aims to refine tactics and procedures in a realistic operational environment, enabling mutual learning and fostering interoperability between the IAF and the FASF. *Exercise*

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 Dilliwalla, 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)

'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. My 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



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 reimagining 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, NCU Auditorium, OP Jindal Auditorium, and Aarum Conventions in Gurugram.

The lineup includes *Einstein*, a solo play performed and directed by Naseeruddin Shah; *Dreams*, 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.

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 to “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 top! 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 every 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

LOCKHORNS



Doze



THE PHANTOM

®

By Lee Falk



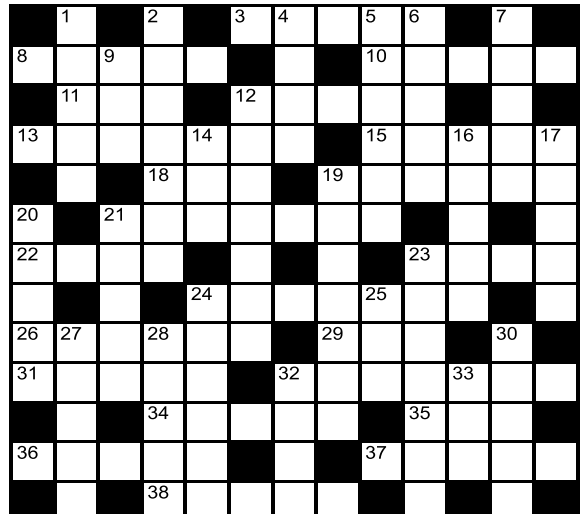
BLONDIE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



Tribune CROSSWORD - 8372



| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Across | 31 Of not much importance (5) | 12 Egyptian tomb structure (7) |
| 3 Large body (5) | 32 Barristers (7) | 14 Doze (3) |
| 8 Catalogues (5) | 34 Long-tailed parrot (5) | 16 Malefactor (5) |
| 10 Passé (5) | 35 Broadband provider (3) | 17 Condition (5) |
| 11 Illuminated (3) | 36 Horizontal (5) | 19 A rudimentary toe in some dogs and other mammals (7) |
| 12 Beg earnestly (5) | 37 Up to the time of (5) | 20 Geometrical solid (5) |
| 13 Opposite word (7) | 38 Through the nose (5) | 21 Zen meditation (5) |
| 15 Presents (5) | Down | 23 Depending, banking on, trusting (7) |
| 18 Deface (3) | 1 A. A. ____: creator of Winnie the Pooh ? (5) | 24 South Indian state (6) |
| 19 Most urgent or desperate (6) | 2 Upholstered footstool (7) | 25 In what way (3) |
| 21 Cuban dance (7) | 3 Tranquil (4) | 27 Wind toys (5) |
| 22 Spielberg's Saving Private ____ (4) | 5 Slowly (music) (6) | 28 Ladies (5) |
| 23 Plant part (4) | 6 The lowest point (5) | 30 A perennial herb - "rip on" anagram ? (5) |
| 24 Food preparation area (7) | 7 Sums owing (5) | 32 Tibetan monk (4) |
| 26 Took an oblique turn (6) | 9 Take a chair (3) | 33 Superlative suffix (3) |
| 29 Laughing out loud, acronym ? (3) | | |

SOLUTION TO TRIBUNE CROSSWORD - 8372

Across: 3 Ocean, 8 LISTS, 10 Dried, 11 Lt, 12 Plead, 13 Antonym, 15 Gifts, 18 Mar, 19 Drest, 22 Zapato, 23 Flyan, 23 Foot, 24 Antonym, 26 Kitchen, 28 Skewed, 29 Lot, 30, 31 Motor, 32 Lawyers, 34 Macaw, 35 ISP, 36 Level, 37 Unlit, 38 Nasal.

Down: 1 Mile, 2 Olfactory, 4 Calm, 5 Adagio, 6 Nadir, 7 Darts, 9 Plism, 12 Zazen, 13 Rejoice, 14 Kerala, 25 How, 27 Kites, 28 Women, 30 Orph, 32 Lama, 33 Est.

GRAFFITI

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SOME NEWLY-WED COOKING CHALLENGES THE EDIBILITY GAP

JUMBLED WORDS

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

ANYER
FOSLR
ENSSLU
TLDONU

It is the ____ man who is always ____, and the ____ man who is always ____ - H. L. Mencken (4, __, __, __, 4) (two words twice)

SOLUTION

Answer: It is the dull man who is always dull. The sure man who is always sure. Words: Yeann, Ross, unless, untold.

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-class records.

Cheteshwar Pujara

transitional phase. While it's understandable to face setbacks abroad during a transition period, the current Indian side possesses ample talent and strong first-



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

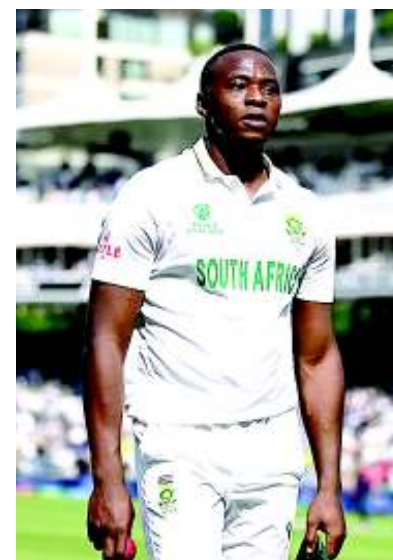
KOLKATA, Nov 17: South African pacer Kagiso Rabada, who missed the first Test against India here due to a rib injury, is in awe of his team's ability to rebound from setbacks and "find a way to win" no matter who is left out.

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 Rahul 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, Maheesh 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 Bangladesh 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, Lalremtluanga Panai, Mohammed Sanan and Bikash Yumnam all in line for potential debuts.

Brisson Fernandes and Macarton Louis Nickson, with one cap each, further emphasise the new direction. "I am happy because eve-

ryone 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

sweep over West Indies at home, Gill flew to Australia to captain the ODI side, also featuring in the T20Is before returning to lead India in the opening Test just four days

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 gruelling 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, Nigeria 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

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 Ademola

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 Sebastien Desbres swapped his goalkeepers in the 119th minute of the

game with the shootout in mind, sending on Timothy Payulu to replace Lionel Mpsai.

Payulu saved two of Nigeria's six spot-kicks, the second from Moses Simon and the sixth by Semi Ajayi, before Congo's Chancel Mbemba sealed the win.

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



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

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- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

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Hon'ble Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India

18th November 2025 | 11:30 Am

Venue: Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, Punjab

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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 steadied 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.

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 Ghadigaonkar's resistance came to an end soon after when Mohammed Shami dismissed him for a determined

53 off 165 balls. Assam folded for 200, with Swarupam 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. Anustup 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 (Swarupam Purkayastha 62, Sumi Ghadigaonkar 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, Anustup Majumdar 43, Shahbaz Ahmed 61 batting).

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
ASSAM HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT & MANAGEMENT SOCIETY
4TH FLOOR, NAYANTARA SUPERMARKET, SIXMILE, GUWAHATI-781022
ECF No. 716642/77

REQUEST FOR BIDS
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
REPAIR AND RENOVATION WORKS OF NURSING INSTITUTE.

Project Director, Assam Health Infrastructure Development and Management Society (AHIDMS) invites "Request for Bid" from reputed Organization having wide experience in Civil Works for:

"Repair and renovation works in GNM Training Centre at Kanaklata Civil Hospital, GNM School of Nursing at Civil Hospital Majuli & GNM School of Nursing, Dhemaji under ASSIST project."

The details may be seen in the Request for Bid document uploaded in the Assam E-procurement portal (<https://assamtenders.gov.in>) & <https://ahidms.assam.gov.in>.

The applicant must be registered with the E- Tendering system (ETS) of the Govt. of Assam. (Website: <https://assamtenders.gov.in>). The Project Director, Assam Health Infrastructure Development & Management Society reserves the right to accept or reject all bids without showing any reasons whatsoever.

Sd/- Project Director
Assam Health Infrastructure Development & Management Society

DIPR/CF/AT/2636/18-Nov-25

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, Barsapa 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

noted author and social worker Kailash Nath Sarma.

Hreet Majumdar 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 Kavyashree 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.

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.

More than 1,100 athletes from across the country took part in age group and open categories ranging from under 12 to above 70.

Anangsha Alomyan claimed the 30 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, Nayeem Hussain and Prapti Baruah produced a confident performance to beat Aanshi Sanman

vi and Ashriyaa 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, Nayeem Hussain and Utpalakshee Saikia topped their group with wins over Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu before losing to Maharashtra in the final.

In the 30 plus women's team event, Assam won bronze. The trio of Anangsha Alomyan, 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, upsetting last year's champion Kavita Khanna 11-7 in the quarterfinals. Tiken Chandra Basumatary secured bronze in the 60 plus men's singles and the pair of Manaswinee Hazarika and Anangsha Alomyan added a bronze in the 30 plus women's doubles.

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 Chachal 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 Ghildyal (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; Channamalikaarjuna 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:** Albina Kakenova (KAZ) beat Dia Agarwal (IND) 6-1, 6-1; Aleena Farid (IND) beat Arunima Roy (IND) 6-1, 6-2; Dinara De Silva (SRD) beat Sanmitha Harini Lokesh (IND) 6-1, 6-0; Dhriti Sandra Bantupalli (IND) beat Arnavi Debnath (IND) 7-5, 6-1; Vrandika Bhagvat Rajput (IND) beat Yashitha Ereti (IND) 6-1, 6-0; Angel Patel (IND) beat Kreetika Reddy Vangala (IND) 6-3, 6-3; Karthika Padmakumar (IND) beat 4th seed Adiya Omarbek (KAZ) 6-4, 6-3.

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 Kanjeibung, 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 Kanjeibung, 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 Ningthoukhongjam Bedajeet Singh, chairman of the media committee N Tombi Raj and president of the National Equestrian Association Col L Manongba (Retd) were also present at the press conference.

SU DO KU

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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

any issues. The young Indian generation is re-writing the theoretical aspects of the game and Arjun is no exception. As it turned out of a routine Ruy Lopez theory, Arjun equalised with a thematic pawn sacrifice earlier in the middle game.

When Wei Yi returned the favour the position was already dead-equal and the players shook hands to split the point in a mere 31 moves.

Javokhir Sindarov of Uzbekistan played out a draw with Jose Eduardo Martinez Alcantara of Mexico in a well contested game. The Uzbek was never under real threat and could be seen as a potential semifinalist out of this contest. - PTI

ID Cup Football ASEB FC in semifinals

CORRESPONDENT

NAGAON, Nov 17: The Independence Day Cup Football Tournament, organised by the Nagaon Sports Association, delivered another gripping contest as Assam State Electricity Board Football Club edged past Udalguri Harisinga Town Club in a quarterfinal match under floodlights at the Kapahera playground here on Sunday.

The match ended 3-3 in regular time before ASEB FC sealed a 7-5 win in the tiebreaker. The result confirmed their place in the semifinals.

The last quarterfinal of the tournament is scheduled for Tuesday at Kapahera, where Oil India FC will face Trinayan Goshti.

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (ROADS), PUBLIC WORKS ROADS DEPARTMENT
ASSAM, GUWAHATI-03

No. CE/DEV/TB/122/2025-26/12

PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Chief Engineer, (Roads), PWRD, Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3, invites Bids on behalf of Governor of Assam for **04 (four)** nos. of packages for "Construction of Roads and Bridge projects under SOPD-G for the year 2025-26 in Manas LAC in Baksa District of Assam amounting to **Rs.1500.00 Lakhs** (approx.) including 12%GST & 1%Lc etc. from approved & eligible Contractors registered with PWRD, Assam.

Details may be seen from **21.11.2025** at website www.assamtenders.gov.in. Amendment /Addendum to the SBD, if any, and further notifications shall appear in this website and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours. The contractor/bidder must be registered with the Electronic Tendering System (ETS) of PWRD, Assam website www.assamtenders.gov.in.

The schemes are not yet sanctioned by the competent authority. In the event of non-sanction of the schemes, the bids may be cancelled and no claim what so ever on this account shall be entertained from the bidders.

(The Bid price may vary at the time of detail tendering for which no claim will be admissible)

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Roads), PWRD, Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3.

DIPR/C/AT/2530/18-Nov-25

NOTICE

Regarding Document Verification for Grade-III Posts

In continuation of this office's earlier Notice dated 15.11.2025, regarding Document Verification held on 17th November 2025 for the candidates selected by the State Level Recruitment Commission for Grade-III posts under the Directorate of Higher Education, Assam.

It is hereby notified that the last date for Document Verification have been extended up to 19th November 2025.

The candidates must attend the office of the Director of Higher Education Kahilipara-19 along with the original documents and self-attested photocopies of the following:-

- All relevant original documents.
- Copy of online Applications.
- Admit Cards of ADRE exam.
- Educational Certificate as per requirement for the post.
- DOB Certificate/ HSLC Admit Card.
- Aadhaar Card/PAN/EPIC.
- Two passport size photograph.
- Caste Certificate, if applicable.
- Certificate of Ex-serviceman, if applicable.
- Disability certificate/ UDID card in case of PwD Candidates.
- Employment exchange registration certificate.

No further extension will be granted.

Only the candidates will be allowed inside the venue.

Sd/- Jt. Director of Higher Education, Assam
Kahilipara, Guwahati-19.

DIPR/D/AT/2531/18-Nov-25

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER : PWD: H&E,
ASSAM, CHANDMARI, GUWAHATI-3.

No. CE/TB-IV(H&E)/125/2025/3

PRESS NOTICE

The Chief Engineer, P.W.D. Building (Health & Education), Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3 on behalf of the Governor of Assam, invites fresh Bids in EPC-1 Mode basis from eligible firms / contractors of repute having experience in similar nature of work, for the following works.

Details of the bid may be seen at e-procurement website i.e. www.assamtenders.gov.in. The bidders must be enrolled with e-tendering web-portal www.assamtenders.gov.in. All terms and conditions will be as per the Bidding Documents. The Press Notice will be a part of the Bidding Documents.

| Sl. No | Name of work | Bid Value (Rs in Lakh) | Completion Period | Bid Security | Cost of Bid |
|--------|---|------------------------|----------------------------|---|-------------|
| 1 | Construction of Joyhing Model Secondary School for Tea Garden Area in Lakhimpur District at Joyhing | Rs.315.522 71 | 540 days (Eighteen months) | 2% of Bid value for General, 1% of Bid Value for Reserve category | Rs. 6310.00 |

The Bid price may vary at the time of detail tendering for which no claim will be admissible.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, P.W.D.,(Health & Education)
Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3

DIPR/C/AT/2526/18-Nov-25

No. E-1494892

PRESS RELEASE
CORRIGENDUM

In pursuance of the earlier letter issued vide No. E-1491984, dtd.- 14.11.2025 regarding Document Verification of candidates selected by the State Level Recruitment Commission for Class-III and IV Posts to be posted under Directorate of Printing & Stationery, Assam has been re-scheduled as mentioned below :

| Sl. No. | Name of the Posts | Date | Time | Venue |
|---------|-------------------|------------|---------------------|--|
| 1 | Grade-III | 18.11.2025 | 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM | Directorate of Printing & Stationery, Assam, Guwahati-21 |
| 2 | Grade-IV | | 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM | |

The selected candidates must attend the Document Verification along with all relevant original documents and a set of self attested photocopy of the following documents.

- Copy of online application
- Admit Card of the Written Examination.
- Age Proof Certificate
- Educational qualification certificates/mark sheets submitted at the time of applying for the posts alongwith all relevant documents.
- Caste Certificate (if applicable)
- Ex-Servicemen Certificate (if applicable)
- EWS Certificate (if applicable)
- Computer Proficiency Certificate (if applicable)
- Employment Exchange Certificate
- Aadhaar/PAN/EPIC
- One passport size photo
- Certificates of past experience and expertise if any
- Account details

The list of candidates will be available in the official website of Information, Public Relations, Printing & Stationery Department (www.iprd.assam.gov.in)

N.B. i) The candidates must ensure the correctness of their names in their documents.
ii) The candidate who cannot attend the documents verification on 18.11.2025 due to genuine reasons will be allowed to attend with the documentary proof only on 19.11.2025.
iii) Only candidate will be allowed inside the Venue during verification.

Sd/- Director
Printing & Stationery, Assam, Guwahati-21

DIPR/D/AT/2529/18-Nov-25

Printed and published by Ratan Kumar Raj Hajong on behalf of Assam Tribune Pvt. Ltd. at the Tribune Press, Tribune Buildings, P.O.- Assam Tribune, M.R.D. Road, Chandmari, Guwahati-781003. Tel. 0361-2660102 (EPABX), 0361-2661360, 0361-2668807 (News Desk), FAX 0361-2666396. E-mail: advt@assamtribune.com; news@assamtribune.com; tribunenews@gmail.com.
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DIPR/DF/AT/1352/18-Nov-25