



Brief Post

WHO-ICHI

New Delhi: The Ministry of Ayush, Government of India, organised a high-level review meeting and consultative discussions on the development of the International Classification of Health Interventions (ICHI) and National Health Intervention Codes (NHIC) for Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani systems of medicine during a two-day online programme held on May 25 and 26, 2026, marking another important step towards integrating India's traditional medicine systems with globally accepted health informatics standards and strengthening the role of traditional medicine within international healthcare frameworks. The initiative follows the landmark Memorandum of Understanding and Donor Agreement signed between the Ministry of Ayush and the World Health Organization and seeks to create a globally standardized and scientifically robust coding vocabulary for Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani clinical interventions under the WHO-ICHI framework, enabling cross-border data exchange, strengthening clinical research, improving healthcare documentation and supporting interoperability in digital health ecosystems, including future insurance integration for traditional medicine systems.

PM Narendra Modi meets representatives of Tribal Security Forum

New Delhi, May 29: Prime Minister Narendra Modi met representatives of the Janjati Suraksha Manch in New Delhi and held extensive discussions on issues linked to tribal welfare, empowerment, identity, culture and development, as the Centre continues to place renewed emphasis on strengthening outreach to tribal communities across the country. In a social media post after the meeting, Mr Modi said he had the opportunity to interact with the representatives of the Janjati Suraksha Manch and described their dedication to the tribal community as truly commendable. The Prime Minister stated that meaningful discussions were held on various topics related to the development of tribal communities and their empowerment, reflecting the government's continued focus on ensuring that tribal populations become active participants in the country's development journey while preserving their traditions, culture and identity. The interaction in the national capital comes at a time when tribal welfare, cultural preservation and community empowerment remain among the key areas of focus for the Union Government, with several initiatives being undertaken upon multiple issues concerning tribal



dressing the 'Janjati Sanskritik Samagam' in Delhi, where he spoke about the role played by tribal communities in protecting India's cultural and spiritual heritage. During his address, the Home Minister said Birsa Munda had spread the message of protecting faith, forests and identity among tribal communities and noted that his Ulgulan movement had shaken the foundations of British rule. Amit Shah described Birsa Munda as a symbol of resistance, courage and tribal pride, adding that his struggle continued to inspire generations across the country. The Home Minister said forests, hills and water bodies are central to the faith, livelihood

Contd to PG 11.

highlighted by senior leaders in recent days. During the meeting, Prime Minister Narendra Modi listened to the views and concerns raised by the representatives and reiterated the importance of inclusive development, social participation and empowerment of tribal communities, which form an important part of India's social and cultural landscape. The Prime Minister's remarks on the dedication of the Janjati Suraksha Manch representatives underlined the role played by organisations working at the grassroots level among tribal populations, particularly in areas linked to education, awareness, welfare and the preservation of indigenous traditions and customs. Sources familiar with the discussions said the interaction touched

welfare and efforts aimed at improving opportunities and ensuring sustainable development for tribal communities while respecting their traditional lifestyles and cultural values. The meeting also reflected the Centre's broader outreach towards tribal groups and organisations that have consistently worked to protect tribal identity, customs, heritage and livelihoods in different regions of the country. The discussions gained significance amid continued government efforts to highlight the contribution of tribal communities in India's history, freedom struggle and nation-building process. In recent years, the government has repeatedly emphasised the importance of bringing tribal history and tribal heroes into mainstream national discourse, while also focusing on economic and social development initiatives in tribal-dominated areas. Earlier this week, Union Home Minister Amit Shah highlighted the contribution of legendary tribal freedom fighter Birsa Munda while ad-

ests, hills and water bodies are central to the faith, livelihood

Assam Governor leads an Indian delegation carrying Holy Relics of Lord Buddha's close Disciples to Mongolia

Guwahati, May 29: Assam Governor Shri Lakshman Prasad Acharya is leading an Indian delegation accompanying the Holy Relics of Lord Buddha's two principal disciples namely Arhant Sariputra and Arhant Maudgalyayana to Mongolia for a sacred exposition, which is organised under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

The revered relics, preserved at the Sanchi Vihar Chaitya of Madhya Pradesh are being taken to Mongolia and will be kept there till June 9, 2026, in a landmark spiritual and cultural sojourn aimed at further deepening the centuries old civilisational ties between India and Mongolia.

The Holy Contd to PG 11.

New Bongaigaon Workshop Advances Modern Coach Rehabilitation under NFR

Maligaon, May 29: North-east Frontier Railway has achieved significant milestones at the Carriage & Wagon Workshop, New Bongaigaon, reflecting its continued focus on modernization, safety enhancement and operational excellence.



ful initiation of Mid-Life completion and is expected to be turned out shortly, marking a significant milestone for the workshop.

In another notable achievement, NBQS has successfully installed and commissioned the LHB Bogie Load Testing facility. With this facility, all critical bogie parameters under load conditions are now being checked and verified before dispatch, ensuring higher reliability, quality assurance and enhanced safety standards for overhauled LHB bogies.

east Frontier Railway has achieved significant milestones at the Carriage & Wagon Workshop, New Bongaigaon, reflecting its continued focus on modernization, safety enhancement and operational excellence.

Rehabilitation (MLR) work for Linke-Hofmann-Busch (LHB) coaches at the New Bongaigaon Workshop. This development marks an important step towards enhancing passenger comfort, operational safety and the reliability of modern coaching stock. The first MLR coach is presently in the final stage of

Additionally, the workshop has also operationalized the shot Contd to PG 11.

Udalguri District Launches Massive Tribal Outreach Drive Under "Jan Bhagidari" Campaign

Tapan Sen Gupta, Correspondent, Orang, May 29: In a major step towards strengthening grassroots governance and ensuring welfare delivery to tribal communities, the Udalguri district administration successfully conducted the nationwide "Jan Bhagidari Sabse Door, Sabse Pehle" campaign under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India.

The initiative aimed at improving public outreach, health awareness, service saturation and livelihood support among tribal populations across the district. As part of the campaign, Jan Sunwai programmes were organised at Adi Sewa Kendras to encourage direct interaction between the administration and the public.

The district-level programme began on May 18, followed by health camps and awareness drives on May 19 and 20 in different areas of the district. Later, Jan

Sunwais were conducted in 81 Adi Sewa Kendras covering all eight blocks of Udalguri district.

Officials from several departments, including Agriculture, Health, Education, Fishery, Revenue, Forest, Veterinary, PHE, Power and Food & Civil Supplies, actively participated in the campaign. The coordinated effort ensured doorstep delivery of government services, dissemination of welfare scheme information and quick Contd to PG 11.

District Task Force Meeting held in Sivasagar to Prepare for National Polio Immunisation Day

Sabir Ahmed, Sivasagar, May 29: A crucial meeting of the District Task Force (DTF) was held today at the conference hall of Sivasagar Civil Hospital to finalize preparatory measures for the successful implementation of the upcoming National Immunisation Days (NID) programme in Sivasagar district. The important public health campaign will be conducted from June 28 to June 30.



With the Contd to PG 11.



A herd of wild Asiatic elephants are seen at a wetland at Thakurkuchi village, outskirts of Guwahati city on Friday, May 29, 2026. Photo by - Rupjyoti Sarmah

HARSHIT DECOR & INTERIOR

OUR GRAND SHOWROOM

YOUR DREAM HOME STARTS HERE. ALL YOUR NEEDS, ONE ROOF.

**BATHWARE FITTING • SANITARY WARE
DOOR FITTING • LOUVERS • PLYWOOD
KITCHEN ITEMS • SUNMICA • WALL PANELS
GI PIPES • LAMINATE • PVC & UPVC
PAINTS • DECORATIVE PANELS
CUSTOM HANDLES • HARDWARE**

PREMIUM BATHWARE & SANITARY

DESIGNER HANDLES & HARDWARE

CONTACT US:
Phone: 94351-48182, 78960-44934
Address: LOKHRA CHARIALI, NEAR SAWAGI PETROL PUMP, NH-37, GUWAHATI - 40
Gmail: harshitdecorinterior@gmail.com

Assam revolutionizes healthcare with AYUSH Integration and Investments

Guwahati: Assam has emerged as a key player in India's healthcare transformation, thanks to the National AYUSH Mission (NAM) and the Central Sector Schemes, including AYURGYAN and AYURSWATHYA Yojana. These initiatives have not only promoted the integration of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy) with mainstream healthcare but also led to significant investments in infrastructure, education, and research, providing Assam with over ₹865 crores in the past five years. The funds have allowed the state to upgrade existing AYUSH dispensaries, set up new healthcare facilities, and strengthen its healthcare delivery system to cater to the growing needs of its population. With a population spread across both urban and rural areas, Assam has benefited immensely from the expansion of AYUSH services, which have played a crucial role in enhancing healthcare access, especially in remote and underserved areas. The establishment of AYUSH Health and Wellness Centres, Yoga Wellness Centres, and Ayush Grams has brought preventive and holistic health services to local communities, offering treatments such as yoga, naturopathy, and Ayurveda alongside modern allopathic care. The integration of these services into Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs) has ensured that patients receive a diverse range of treatment options, making healthcare both more accessible and culturally relevant. This approach also addresses the increasing demand for preventive healthcare, focusing on lifestyle management and early intervention, which is essential as the country faces a rise in chronic diseases like diabetes, hypertension, and obesity. A major milestone in the implementation of NAM has been the establishment of integrated AYUSH hospitals in rural areas of Assam. These hospitals, with capacities ranging from 10 to 50 beds, provide comprehensive care based on traditional medicine, offering a sustainable solution to healthcare challenges in regions where allopathic medicine may be limited. By ensuring a steady supply of essential medicines, the government has guaranteed that these hospitals remain operational, enabling continuous care for underserved populations. The state's focus on AYUSH education has also been transformative, with the establishment of numerous institutions that provide specialized training in Ayurveda, Yoga, Homeopathy, and other AYUSH fields. The government's investment in education has been pivotal in addressing the shortage of qualified AYUSH professionals, equipping a new generation of practitioners to meet the growing demand for alternative and traditional therapies. As part of the educational framework, Assam has seen a growth in institutions offering courses in pharmacy, para-medicine, and postgraduate studies, which not only meet the rising demand for AYUSH professionals but also contribute to the overall improvement of healthcare services in the state. The success of these educational initiatives has been instrumental in ensuring that Assam can sustain the growing popularity of AYUSH and meet the increasing demand for practitioners. The research component of the NAM initiative has also had a significant impact, particularly in states like Assam, where research into indigenous herbs and local flora is actively encouraged. The state's rich biodiversity has become a valuable asset in the development of new therapeutic options based on traditional medicine. Under the AYURGYAN and AYURSWATHYA Yojana, several research institutions in Assam have received funding to explore the medicinal properties of local plants, further enhancing the scientific credibility of AYUSH treatments and making them more appealing to mainstream healthcare providers. This research is crucial in validating traditional treatments and ensuring that they are based on scientific evidence, which is key to their acceptance in modern medical practice. The government has also focused on improving digital infrastructure in healthcare, which has been a game-changer for AYUSH practitioners in Assam. With the integration of digital health tools, healthcare facilities have been able to streamline patient management, monitor health trends, and even offer virtual consultations, especially in remote areas where access to healthcare professionals is limited. This has greatly improved the quality of service delivery, making healthcare more efficient and accessible to those who need it most. Additionally, the use of digital tools allows for better management of patient data, enabling healthcare providers to track progress, manage chronic conditions, and offer personalized treatment plans. The government's focus on research and innovation is further reflected in the promotion of Ayushman Arogya Mandirs—community wellness centers that provide preventive healthcare services based on AYUSH principles. These centers have become hubs of knowledge and practice, offering services such as yoga therapy, naturopathy, and Ayurvedic treatments, along with education on lifestyle changes to improve overall well-being. By encouraging people to adopt healthier lifestyles and participate in wellness programs, these centers are helping reduce the incidence of lifestyle-related diseases, such as obesity, stress-related disorders, and chronic illnesses. The success of the National AYUSH Mission in Assam is a testament to the government's commitment to integrating traditional medicine with modern healthcare practices. Minister of State for AYUSH, Shri Prataprao Jadhav, highlighted the importance of collaborative efforts between the central and state governments in implementing NAM, ensuring that resources are allocated based on the unique healthcare needs of each state. In Assam, this decentralized approach has allowed for a tailored allocation of resources that addresses the state's specific healthcare challenges. As the initiative continues to roll out across In-

dia, Assam remains at the forefront of this transformation, benefiting from increasing infrastructure, financial support, and an expanding network of healthcare services. The integration of AYUSH systems with modern medicine offers a promising path for the future of healthcare in Assam and across India, providing a model for how traditional medicine can complement allopathic practices to improve overall public health. The government's continued investment in AYUSH, along with the success of schemes like AYURGYAN and AYURSWATHYA Yojana, has laid the foundation for a more holistic, inclusive, and sustainable healthcare system. With these initiatives, Assam is not only enhancing its healthcare infrastructure but also ensuring that its rich cultural heritage is preserved and integrated into the modern healthcare system. By addressing the healthcare needs of underserved populations, promoting preventive care, and investing in education and research, Assam has become a key player in India's broader healthcare transformation. The success of the National AYUSH Mission in Assam offers valuable lessons for other states and regions, showing how traditional medicine can play a vital role in improving healthcare access, particularly in rural and underserved areas. The integration of AYUSH into mainstream healthcare not only offers more treatment options but also fosters a healthcare system that is more inclusive, diverse, and better equipped to meet the evolving needs of India's population. As the National AYUSH Mission continues to expand, Assam's growing healthcare infrastructure serves as a model for other regions to follow, offering hope for a future where both traditional and modern medicine work hand in hand to provide accessible, affordable, and high-quality healthcare to all. As the government continues to focus on innovation, research, and infrastructure, the future of healthcare in Assam looks promising, with the state positioned to become a leader in the integration of AYUSH and modern medical practices. The transformation of Assam's healthcare system under the National AYUSH Mission reflects the potential for traditional medicine to complement modern healthcare approaches, ensuring a healthier and more sustainable future for all citizens. The expansion of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy) services across India, driven by the National AYUSH Mission (NAM) and Central Sector Schemes like AYURGYAN and AYURSWATHYA Yojana, is reshaping the country's healthcare landscape, with Assam emerging as a key beneficiary of these initiatives. Over the past five years, Assam has received more than ₹865 crores in funding, which has been used to upgrade AYUSH dispensaries, establish new healthcare facilities, and integrate traditional medicine into mainstream healthcare. The state has also benefited from an extensive network of AYUSH dispensaries and sub-health centers co-located with Primary Health Centers (PHCs) and Community Health Centers (CHCs), facilitating the seamless integration of traditional medicine with allopathic treatments. The government's commitment to preventive healthcare is evident through the establishment of Yoga Wellness Centres, Ayush Grams, and AYUSH Health and Wellness Centres, which focus on yoga, naturopathy, and lifestyle management. These initiatives, along with the development of over 3,883 Yoga Wellness Centres and 1,055 Ayush Grams nationwide, contribute to improving the community's health and well-being. The AYURGYAN and AYURSWATHYA Yojana, launched in 2021, have provided critical financial support for research, innovation, and the strengthening of AYUSH practices across India. Unlike traditional funding models, these schemes provide merit-based assistance directly to institutions, allowing for more flexible and targeted resource allocation. Institutions across Assam, West Bengal, Kerala, and other states have received funding to enhance their healthcare capabilities, allowing for the introduction of new AYUSH-based treatment options. Over the past five years, ₹27,652 crores have been distributed under NAM, with substantial resources allocated to states like Assam, Uttar Pradesh, and Kerala, which face specific healthcare challenges or have large populations. This financial support has been instrumental in expanding the reach of AYUSH services in Assam, ensuring the availability of essential medicines in AYUSH hospitals and dispensaries. The establishment of integrated AYUSH hospitals in rural areas, with capacities ranging from 10 to 50 beds, has been particularly impactful, providing healthcare access to underserved populations. The government's focus on recurring support for essential medicines ensures that these hospitals remain well-stocked, enabling continuous care. Additionally, the government's emphasis on AYUSH education is helping to address the shortage of qualified AYUSH professionals in states like Assam. Through NAM, over 76 undergraduate and 36 postgraduate AYUSH institutions have received support for infrastructure upgrades and curriculum expansion, equipping students with specialized training in Ayurveda, Yoga, and Homeopathy. Assam benefits from this educational framework, with several institutions in the state receiving support to enhance their infrastructure and offerings. This investment in AYUSH education is crucial to meeting the increasing demand for traditional medicine practitioners as the sector continues to expand. Research centers dedicated to AYUSH practices are also playing a pivotal role in promoting evidence-based traditional medicine. The government has prioritized research to validate AYUSH treatments, making them more accepted among mainstream medical professionals. Additionally, the integration of digital health tools is transforming healthcare delivery in Assam, where the government is enhancing digital infrastructure in healthcare facili-

ties. These tools enable better management of patient data, monitor public health trends, and facilitate virtual consultations, improving access to healthcare in remote areas. Digital initiatives are particularly significant in Assam, where rural areas often face barriers to accessing healthcare services. The promotion of Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, community wellness centers offering preventive healthcare services based on AYUSH principles, is another example of how the government is fostering greater public participation in health and wellness activities. These centers offer yoga therapy, naturopathy, and Ayurvedic treatments while educating communities on preventive health measures. Minister of State for AYUSH, Shri Prataprao Jadhav, emphasized the importance of collaboration between the central and state governments in implementing NAM. The decentralized approach of the scheme ensures that resources are allocated where they are most needed, addressing each state's unique healthcare challenges. Assam has benefited from this tailored approach, which ensures that the state's healthcare needs are met. As a result, the state's healthcare infrastructure has seen significant improvements, with increasing financial support driving advancements in healthcare delivery. The integration of AYUSH services with mainstream healthcare, alongside a focus on preventive health and wellness, is positioning Assam at the forefront of India's healthcare transformation. The National AYUSH Mission provides a comprehensive solution to the country's growing healthcare challenges, particularly in rural and underserved regions. Assam's experience showcases how traditional medicine, when integrated into modern healthcare systems, can address a wide range of health issues, reduce dependency on allopathic treatments, and offer more inclusive, culturally relevant healthcare options. As the country's population grows and ages, the demand for accessible, affordable, and sustainable healthcare solutions continues to rise. NAM addresses these needs by promoting preventive care and well-being through natural healing systems practiced in India for centuries. Assam's investment in yoga and naturopathy reflects a growing recognition of the importance of mental and physical health, with these practices now integral to mainstream healthcare strategies. The government's emphasis on AYUSH education has created a steady supply of trained professionals in the field, ensuring that Assam can meet the growing demand for qualified practitioners. The upgrading of educational institutions and the establishment of new ones, focused on research and development in AYUSH practices, will play a crucial role in strengthening the evidence base for traditional medicine and promoting its integration into modern healthcare systems. The inclusion of digital health initiatives is another crucial component of the NAM's success. These initiatives are helping streamline patient management, monitor health trends, and improve service delivery, particularly in remote areas where access to healthcare can be limited. The government's push for research and innovation in AYUSH, through schemes like AYURGYAN and AYURSWATHYA Yojana, has accelerated the exploration of new frontiers in traditional medicine. In Assam, research into the therapeutic benefits of local herbs and natural resources is gaining momentum, further integrating the state's rich biodiversity into the broader AYUSH framework. These research efforts could position Assam as a leader in the development of traditional medical practices and the global promotion of its unique natural resources. The establishment of Yoga Wellness Centres and Ayush Health & Wellness Centres has also transformed healthcare delivery by promoting a preventive approach to health. These centers, which offer yoga, meditation, and holistic health practices, are helping reduce the burden of chronic diseases like diabetes, hypertension, and obesity in Assam and other regions. These centers have encouraged greater public participation in health and wellness activities, fostering a culture of health-consciousness that supports long-term well-being. The government's initiatives, such as NAM, reflect a shift in India's approach to healthcare, recognizing the value of holistic, preventive care alongside modern medical treatments. By prioritizing research, education, and infrastructure development, NAM is creating a more inclusive and sustainable healthcare system that meets the diverse needs of India's population. Assam, as a key player in this mission, is poised to benefit from continued investment in AYUSH services, with its healthcare system becoming increasingly integrated and accessible. As the mission progresses, the integration of AYUSH systems with mainstream healthcare will play a pivotal role in shaping the future of India's healthcare system, offering diverse and effective healthcare options that cater to the unique needs of the population. The success of the National AYUSH Mission in Assam is a model for other regions of India and the world, demonstrating the potential of traditional medicine to complement modern medical practices and create a more balanced, sustainable healthcare system. The government's ongoing investment in AYUSH infrastructure, education, and research is laying the foundation for a healthier future, with the promise of continued improvements in healthcare access and outcomes across India. The lessons learned in Assam offer valuable insights for the broader global healthcare movement, where traditional and modern medicine can coexist, creating a holistic approach to well-being. As NAM continues to expand, it is clear that the integration of AYUSH into the mainstream healthcare system will play a key role in shaping a healthier, more sustainable future for India and the world at large.

Northeast India's Cultural Heritage Takes Center Stage Nationally

Guwahati: Union Minister of Communications and Development of the Northeastern Region, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, chaired the curtain-raiser event for the first-ever Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav, scheduled to take place at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The Mahotsav, to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is designed to showcase the vibrant culture, arts, crafts, and economic potential of Northeast India. Minister Scindia emphasized that the Mahotsav would offer an unparalleled platform for promoting the region's dynamic textile sector, tourism opportunities, traditional craftsmanship, and Geographical Indication (GI) tagged products, thus aligning with Prime Minister Modi's vision of making the Northeast an engine of India's growth. He highlighted the symbolism of the eight avatars of Lakshmi—Prosperity, Opulence, Purity, Wealth, Knowledge, Duty, Agriculture, and Animal Husbandry—as reflecting the essence of Northeast India. This event, organized by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) through its Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE), the North Eastern Handicrafts & Handlooms Development Corporation Limited (NEHDC), is expected to be a milestone in fostering greater visibility and economic integration for the region. Dr. Sukanta Majumdar, Minister of State for Education and DoNER, Shri Chanchal Kumar, Secretary of MDoNER, and other senior officials were present at the event. The Mahotsav's mascot, 'Purvi,' a young girl representing all eight states of Northeast India, was introduced, symbolizing the spirit of the region beyond the event's duration. The festival is structured as a three-day cultural extravaganza that aims to promote the region's traditional arts, crafts, and products while offering a platform for business opportunities and partnerships in sectors like handlooms, handicrafts, agriculture, horticulture, tourism, and gems and jewellery. The event will feature exhibitions with over 250 artisans and entrepreneurs from Northeast India, who will present a range of products including GI tagged items, organic agricultural produce, and indigenous fruits. State-specific pavilions will showcase the unique culture and products of each Northeast state, with a special focus on Eri and Muga silk, two iconic textiles of the region. The Mahotsav will also include technical sessions on women's leadership, information technology, energy, healthcare, arts, and sports, with a key session titled "Towards Prosperity: Catalysing North East's Progress Towards a Viksit Bharat" to underscore the strategic role of the Northeast in India's development. An Investors Roundtable will provide a platform for stakeholders to explore business opportunities and strengthen partnerships, while Buyer-Seller Meets will focus on sectors such as handlooms, handicrafts, agriculture, and tourism. A Design Conclave and Fashion Show will

further highlight the region's rich handloom and handicraft traditions, offering a stage for local artisans to collaborate with national designers. Ashtalakshmi Grameen Haat will recreate the traditional rural markets of Northeast India, featuring over 300 artisans, organic producers, and farmers selling indigenous products. Cultural performances will be a major highlight of the Mahotsav, offering visitors a journey through the region's diverse artistic heritage. On December 6, the festival will commence with the 'Ashtalakshmi Symphony,' followed by a performance by the Shillong Chamber Choir. The second day, December 7, will feature performances by PANGPARI from Mizoram and SOFIYUM from Sikkim, along with a Fashion Show by Prasad Bidapa showcasing collections by Northeast Indian designers. On December 8, the festival will be enriched with performances by BASAV from Manipur, FEATHERHEADS HAOKUI band, and the Tai Khamti Dance, alongside a guitar performance by Immanla Jamir. Through these performances, the Mahotsav will celebrate the vibrant cultural traditions of the Northeast while also fostering a deeper connection between the region's cultural expressions and the broader Indian audience. This landmark event aims to make the Northeast a key player in India's economic growth by promoting its industries, strengthening regional ties, and enhancing cultural understanding. The Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav is poised to become a significant calendar event, continuing to celebrate the diverse cultural wealth of Northeast India and acting as a catalyst for economic progress in the region. The Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav is a reflection of the Indian government's dedication to advancing the Northeast's cultural, social, and economic profile on the national and global stage. By creating an all-encompassing platform that not only celebrates the region's rich history but also focuses on fostering opportunities for modern growth, this festival aims to bridge the gap between tradition and innovation. For the people of Northeast India, the event offers a chance to bring their rich heritage to the forefront, presenting a multitude of locally produced, authentic goods to wider markets. The inclusion of the eight avatars of Lakshmi symbolizes the multifaceted potential of the Northeast, recognizing its contributions to India's agricultural, cultural, economic, and industrial landscape. With its combination of traditional craftsmanship and contemporary business opportunities, the Mahotsav also serves as a critical

space for collaboration. The Investor Roundtable and Buyer-Seller Meets are designed to spark long-term partnerships and investment in various sectors that are key to the region's prosperity. These initiatives aim to encourage innovation, sustainable business practices, and the creation of jobs within the region, enhancing the economic resilience of Northeast India. The technical sessions planned during the Mahotsav, such as discussions on women's leadership, IT, energy, healthcare, and sports, are a part of the broader vision to empower the region's youth and women and to involve them in the region's growth story. These sessions will offer new perspectives on how Northeast India can leverage technology and innovation to propel itself into the future, creating a more vibrant and diversified economy. A noteworthy aspect of the event is the focus on Geographical Indications (GI)

tagged products, which are closely tied to the identity of the Northeast. GI products, such as the exquisite Muga silk and the famous Assam tea, have the potential to drive global recognition and tourism to the region, allowing it to carve out a unique niche in the international market. With over 34 GI tagged products on display, the Mahotsav is set to shine a spotlight on these items, celebrating the uniqueness of the region while encouraging fair trade and sustainable growth. The cultural performances scheduled for the Mahotsav are expected to captivate audiences with the diversity and energy of the Northeast's traditional arts. From classical dances to folk music, and from indigenous instruments to modern performances, the event promises a sensory immersion into the soul of the region. Each performance will be a vivid testament to the perseverance and vibrancy of the people of Northeast India, high-

lighting their resilience and creativity despite the challenges posed by geography and history. Jyotiraditya Scindia's assertion that the Northeast is central to India's future underscores the region's growing importance as a strategic partner in national development. As part of the overarching national development agenda, the Northeast is poised to become a critical contributor to India's economy, culture, and future innovation.

NAME CHANGE

I. ANITA SINGH, D/o. Baidya Nath Singh, R/o. Flat No. 6A, S.J. Road, Imperial Park, Chabipul, Rehabari, P.O.: Rehabari, Guwahati-781008 Dist. Kamrup (M), Assam declare that the name of my minor son have been changed from ASHIR SINGH RAJPUT to AASHIR SINGH RAJPUT for all intents and purposes vide affidavit dated 17.03.2026 sworn before Judicial Magistrate, Kamrup (M), Assam.

Oriflame wraps up NE influencer yatra covering 13 cities and 5,000 km

Guwahati: Swedish beauty and wellbeing company Oriflame has successfully wrapped the North-East Yatra, one of the most ambitious influencer-led brand campaigns ever undertaken in the region. Executed in partnership with Whosthat360, the initiative covered over 5,000

of on-ground activation, hosting live beauty masterclasses, skincare workshops and creator auditions that drew students, beauty enthusiasts and local influencers in large numbers. What distinguished the yatra was the organic momentum it generated city by city. Rather than relying on a single large media moment, the campaign was designed to be discovered and to be retold by the communities it passed through. At each location, participants became storytellers, sharing their experiences through reels, posts and word of mouth in their own languages and registers. This creator-first approach produced a wave of authentic, community-generated content that amplified the campaign far beyond its on-ground footprint, giving Oriflame a rare kind of earned visibility that no single media placement could replicate. The Yatra was anchored by the stories of Oriflame's brand partners, women from cities and smaller towns across the Northeast who have built livelihoods through the company's social selling model. Many of these women attended sessions along the route, sharing their journeys with participants and demonstrating, in personal terms, what flexible, self-directed earning can look like. For young women in college campuses

in Nagaon or Itanagar, hearing a peer's account of building an income without the pressures of traditional employment carried a weight that conventional advertising simply cannot. These stories travelled with the truck and outlasted the event in every city it visited. The campaign culminated in Kolkata with the Oriflame Presents WhosNext2026 Influencer Awards – East and Northeast Edition, a celebration of the region's most impactful digital creators, entrepreneurs, fashion voices and entertainers. The evening recognised talent across more than 31 categories, with awards going to creators who have shaped conversations in their own languages while building national reach.

The evening also saw the presence of notable personalities including RJ Praveen, Trina Saha and Srabanti Chatterjee, celebrating creators and voices shaping digital culture across the East and Northeast region. "The Northeast Yatra has been one of the most meaningful journeys we have undertaken in India. Traveling across 13 cities, meeting thousands of young women and creators, and seeing the hunger for opportunity firsthand reaffirmed something we have always believed: that entrepreneurship does not have to be complicated or risky to be real. What has moved me most through this journey is that the ambition was always there. It simply needed a platform and a push. That is what Oriflame has always stood for, and this yatra has brought it to life in the most tangible way possible," said Edyta Kurek, Senior Vice President and Head, Oriflame India and Indonesia. "We set out to build something that was genuinely rooted in the Northeast, and what we got back exceeded every expectation. The organic storytelling that emerged across every city was extraordinary. People were not just watching; they were participating and sharing, in their own voices and on their own terms. That kind of brand visibility cannot be manufactured. It has to be earned, and this campaign earned it," said Abhishek Chakraborty, Head of Brand Communication, Digital, and PR, Oriflame India. The Northeast is emerging as a key market for companies building both consumer demand and creator networks, powered by a young, digitally connected population and strong regional identity. With the North-East Yatra, Oriflame has demonstrated a model for brand-building in these markets that is immersive, community-led and built on genuine human stories. The company has signalled its intent to deepen its presence across the region through further engagement in key Northeast markets through 2026. Building on the momentum of the Northeast Yatra, Oriflame plans to continue strengthening its presence across emerging markets through similar community-led initiatives focused on entrepreneurship, creator engagement and business opportunities for young people across India.



kilometres across 13 cities through April and May, engaging more than 300 influencers and touching the lives of thousands of young women, creators and entrepreneurs across Northeast India and West Bengal. The yatra, which began on April 7 at Lady Keane College in Shillong and culminated in a grand finale in Kolkata on May 10, travelled through Agartala, Aizawl, Dimapur, Kohima, Guwahati, Nagaon, Dibrugarh, Itanagar, Siliguri and Durgapur before its Kolkata close. The campaign featured 13 on-ground activations across multiple cities, before culminating in a large-scale finale in Kolkata. At every stop, the Oriflame Beauty and Wellness Partner Truck served as a centrepiece

TVS Motor tops global durable consumer goods ranking for shareholder value creation

Guwahati: TVS Motor Company, part of TVS VENU, has been ranked #1 globally in the 'Durable Consumer Goods' category in the annual 'Best Stocks in the World', ranking published exclusively by Germany's leading business weekly WirtschaftsWoche, based on the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) Value Creators analysis. WirtschaftsWoche, founded in 1926 and celebrating its centenary this year, is Germany's largest weekly business publication, widely read by senior executives, institutional investors and corporate decision-makers across Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Its annual 'Best Stocks in the World' analysis is one of the most widely cited rankings of listed companies in the German-speaking region. The independent study evaluated more than 2,000 listed companies across 35 industries worldwide. Over the five-year period from 2021 to 2025, TVS Motor Company delivered an average annual Total Shareholder Return of approximately 51 per cent — the highest in its global category, ahead of established peers from Japan, China, the United States, and India. According to the analysis, TVS Motor's performance was driven primarily by strong revenue growth (22 percentage points) and a

premium market valuation (18 percentage points), complemented by improving profitability and continuous strengthening of the balance sheet. Notably, this profile aligns closely with the criteria the study identifies for resilient companies — profitable, growth-oriented, and financially disciplined, with reserves to withstand volatile market conditions. Professor Sir Ralf Speth, Chief Mentor, TVS Motor Company, comments: "This recognition by WirtschaftsWoche and BCG is the result of the consistent implementation of Chairman Sudarshan Venu's clear strategic vision. His passion for the company, deep understanding of markets and customers, openness to new technology, and attentiveness to the workforce create a values-based environment in which creativity and performance can flourish. Equally exemplary is the strong commitment to social responsibility. With this mindset - the 'TVS Way' - and under outstanding corporate leadership, the TVS team wins numerous international awards year after year, including accolades for environmental stewardship and exceptional product quality. TVS is synonymous with quality and a strong commitment to the environment, rooted in the skill

of its people and built on manufacturing excellence. In symbiosis with this commitment, the company continues to advance energy-efficient solutions and strengthen its leadership in electric mobility. Under TVS Motor Company's ownership, Norton's global resurgence is now clear. This storied and deeply revered brand is once again delivering a compelling combination of technology, design integrity and dynamism. I am confident TVS Motor Company is strongly positioned for the future - delivering sustainable growth, strengthening global competitiveness and creating long-term shareholder value - recognition goes to the whole TVS team for their hard work and commitment." In its most recent financial year (2025-26), TVS Motor Company has built further on this momentum, recording its highest-ever annual sales of 5.89 million units, a 24 per cent increase year-on-year, with international business growing 33 per cent across more than 90 markets. Revenue grew 30 per cent year-on-year to Rs. 47,270 crore, with operating PBT up 40 per cent to Rs. 4,975 crore and operating EBITDA margin improving 60 basis points to 12.9 per cent.

Samsung launches micro RGB, OLED, Neo QLED, The Frame, Mini LED and UHD TVs

Gurugram: Samsung India announced the launch of its full 2026 Vision AI TV lineup, spanning Micro RGB, OLED, Neo QLED, The Frame, Mini LED and UHD TVs. With today's launch, Samsung is expanding AI-powered features across all its models, bringing smarter picture, sound and personalised viewing experiences to more consumers in India. Samsung is the Global No. 1 TV brand for 20 consecutive years. The expansion of Vision AI Companion (VAC) features across Samsung's 4K-and-above TV line up, reflects the brand's broader strategy to make AI a central part of the TV experience. The expansion brings AI-powered viewing to more categories, screen sizes and consumer needs. "With our 2026 lineup, Samsung is setting a new benchmark for AI TVs in India, tailored to meet the unique needs of Indian consumers. Our Vision AI TVs go beyond entertainment to deliver practical benefits in everyday life, helping users find what they want faster, enjoy content more easily, and make the most of their TV time. These TVs seamlessly integrate local content platforms, enhance multilingual support, and offer energy-efficient solutions for India's diverse living environments," said Viplesh Dang, Vice-President, Visual Display Business, Samsung India. Samsung has unveiled its 2026 AI TV lineup in India, introducing Vision AI Companion (VAC), an intelligent platform that integrates AI services such as Bixby, Perplexity and Microsoft Copilot to deliver a more personalised and interactive viewing experience. Designed as an entertainment compan-

ion, VAC helps users discover what to watch, listen to and even eat, extending the role of television beyond traditional viewing. The lineup introduces AI-powered features including AI Upscaling Pro for enhancing low-resolution content in real time, Color Booster Pro for richer and more lifelike colours, AI Soccer Mode for optimised sports viewing with smoother motion and immersive stadium sound, and AI Sound Controller Pro that analyses dialogue, music and effects for customised audio experiences. Samsung also introduced its new Micro RGB range in India across the R95H and R85H series in sizes ranging from 55 to 115 inches, featuring individually controlled red, green and blue micro LEDs for highly precise colour and brightness control, along with Glare Free technology and AI-powered picture optimisation. The premium Micro RGB lineup includes Micro RGB AI Engine Pro, Precision Color 100 with 100% BT.2020 colour coverage, HDR Pro and Color Booster Pro for enhanced contrast and vivid visuals, while the flagship R95H has received Safety for Eyes and Circadian Rhythm Display certifications from Germany's VDE institute. Samsung's 2026 OLED lineup includes the S95H, S90H and S85H series with deep blacks, immersive performance and expanded Glare-Free technology on both S95H and S90H models. The flagship S95H adds Pantone Validated ArtfulColor, Art Store support and FloatLayer Design for a refined premium appearance, while Ultimate Gaming Pack features Motion Xcelerator 165Hz, AMD FreeSync Premium Pro, NVIDIA G-SYNC

compatibility and gaming optimisation tools. AI Soccer Mode Pro is also available across select OLED models for enhanced sports viewing. Samsung's The Frame lineup continues to target art enthusiasts with access to over 3000 curated artworks through Art Mode and VAC-powered personalisation, combining QLED picture quality, Pantone Validated ArtfulColor and Glare Free technology with its signature modern frame design. The Neo QLED lineup, featuring the QN80H and QN70H models, combines AI-enhanced picture quality with connected experiences powered by the NQ4 AI Processor, Quantum Mini LED technology, 100% Color Volume and TÜV Rheinland-certified Real QLED technology for accurate and stable colours. Samsung also expanded its Mini LED portfolio with the M80H and M70H models, offering Motion Xcelerator 144Hz, NQ4 AI Gen2 Processor, AI Sound Controller and AI-powered gaming and content optimisation features at more accessible price points. As part of the launch offers, customers purchasing select models will receive complimentary soundbars worth INR 102990 and a free Music Studio worth INR 23990, along with cashback offers up to 20 percent and flexible EMI options. The 2026 AI TV lineup is available starting today across Samsung retail stores, Samsung.com and leading online and offline retail channels, with prices starting at INR 124990 for Micro RGB TVs, INR 114990 for OLED TVs, INR 56990 for The Frame series, INR 52990 for Neo QLED TVs, INR 42990 for Mini LED TVs and INR 36990 for UHD TVs.

Guwahati's first high-rise dining destination "ARKA" opens in Ulubari

Guwahati: The city's culinary landscape welcomes a spectacular new addition with the launch of ARKA, an elegant high-rise restaurant located on the 10th floor of Achyut Express Tower, near Royal Arcade, Ulubari, Guwahati. Owned by Mrs. Shova Jalan, ARKA promises to redefine the dining experience in the city with its breathtaking sunset views, luxurious ambiance,

lights of ARKA is its unwavering commitment to food quality and authenticity. The restaurant follows a strict "no compromise with food" philosophy, ensuring premium ingredients and superior taste in every dish served. Guests can also enjoy an extensive variety of handcrafted mocktails, prepared using exclusive in-house syrups and ingredients, adding a



and world-class cuisine. The restaurant was inaugurated by renowned Assamese film actress Yankee Parashar in the presence of distinguished guests and well-wishers. Spread across an expansive 8,000 square feet area with a seating capacity of 230 guests, ARKA offers a perfect blend of sophistication, comfort, and fine hospitality. The restaurant specializes in global cuisine, bringing together an exciting range of flavors and delicacies from around the world under one roof. Maintaining the highest standards of hygiene and quality, ARKA features separate vegetarian and non-vegetarian kitchens to ensure purity, safety, and excellence in food preparation. One of the key high-

signature touch to the beverage experience. Adding to its charm, ARKA stands out as one of the first high-rise restaurants in Guwahati offering mesmerizing sunset views of the city skyline. The stunning décor, elegant lighting, and stylish interiors create a warm yet luxurious atmosphere, making it an ideal destination for family gatherings, corporate dinners, celebrations, and casual outings alike. Occasional live music performances will further enhance the dining experience, creating memorable evenings for guests. Apart from fine dining, ARKA also offers customized arrangements for small get-togethers, kitty parties, corporate meetings, birthday celebrations, anniversary parties, roka ceremonies, and other special occasions on a prior booking basis. With its premium hospitality, elegant setting, and panoramic ambiance, the restaurant aims to become one of Guwahati's most sought-after lifestyle and celebration destinations. With its unique concept, exceptional cuisine, and unmatched high-rise dining experience, ARKA is all set to create a new benchmark in the hospitality sector of Guwahati.

TCI announces strong growth in Q4 FY2026 financial results

Gurugram: Transport Corporation of India Ltd. (TCI), India's leading integrated multimodal logistics and supply chain solutions provider, announced its financial results for the fourth quarter and year ended March 31, 2026. Mr. Vineet Agarwal, Managing Director, Transport Corporation of India Ltd. commented, "Q4 FY2026 reflected TCI's steady execution and disciplined operations in a dynamic business environment. Our diversified portfolio, integrated multimodal capabilities and customer-led approach continued to strengthen our market position. TCI saw healthy traction across warehousing, multimodal movement and sector-specific logistics solutions, with our 3PL, cold chain and warehousing offerings serving customers across FMCG, consumer durables, renewables, e-commerce and quick commerce. Momentum across rail, road and coastal shipping, supported by continued investments in warehouses, hubs, trucks and rail car carriers, is strengthening our long-term capabilities, alongside our exploration of EV trucks to advance greener logistics. Looking ahead, we remain focused on leveraging our investments in technology, multimodal infrastructure, green logistics and strategic partnerships to create enduring value for our customers, communities and shareholders. Transport Corporation of India reported strong financial performance for Q4 and FY2026 on both consolidated and standalone basis. On a consolidated basis, the company posted revenue of Rs. 1,336 crore in Q4 FY2026, registering an 11.6 per cent growth compared to Rs. 1,197 crore in the corresponding quarter last year. EBITDA increased 7.4 per cent to Rs. 174 crore from Rs. 162 crore, while Profit after Tax (PAT) rose 8.7 per cent to Rs. 125 crore against Rs. 115 crore in Q4 FY2025. For the full financial year FY2026, consolidated revenue stood at Rs. 4,965 crore, up 9.4 per cent from Rs. 4,538 crore in FY2025, while EBITDA grew 8.9 per cent to Rs. 650 crore from Rs. 597 crore and PAT increased 10.6 per cent to Rs. 460 crore compared to Rs. 416 crore in the previous fiscal. On a standalone basis, Q4 FY2026 revenue rose 11.7 per cent to Rs. 1,140 crore from Rs. 1,021 crore, EBITDA climbed 9.8 per cent to Rs. 146 crore from Rs. 133 crore, and PAT surged 12.1 per cent to Rs. 102 crore from Rs. 91 crore in the same quarter last year. For the full year FY2026, standalone revenue reached Rs. 4,353 crore, recording a 7.2 per cent increase over Rs. 4,059 crore in FY2025, while EBITDA grew 8.7 per cent to Rs. 609 crore from Rs. 560 crore and PAT rose 12.1 per cent to Rs. 444 crore compared to Rs. 396 crore in the previous financial year.

Star Health launches 'Value Plus' affordable health insurance

Guwahati: Star Health and Allied Insurance Company Limited (NSE: STARHEALTH; BSE: 543412), India's leading standalone health insurer, today announced the launch of an affordable offering, designed to bring increased health protection to young Indians in Tier 2-3-4 cities. Titled, 'Value Plus', it offers high sum-insured covers from Rs. 7.5 lakhs to Rs. 25 lakhs at nearly 20% lower premiums, through a curated hospital network. In a market where rising healthcare costs outpace coverage for millions in smaller cities, Star Health is bringing affordability through Value Plus. The company aims to serve individuals and families by offering cover for adults aged 18 years and above, and dependent children from 91 days to 25 years with a balance of higher protection and premium efficiency. The product is designed to provide access through a curated network of quality hospitals across several non-metro cities, for planned and emergency care. This will be supported by a defined room rent framework aligned to hospitalisation needs. This structure delivers premium efficiency without compromising on essential health protection, helping reduce premium by nearly 20% while continuing

to offer key benefits across hospitalisation, recovery, claim-free continuity and wellness support. In Guwahati, Star Health has its presence across 39 total network hospitals, out of which 29 are curated Value Network hospitals for Value Plus. In Assam, Star Health has a strong distribution network of around 18 branches with over 13,000 agents. Additionally, the company has covered 1.97 lakh lives in the state and settled 11,330 claims worth Rs. 58.7 crore in FY26. Commenting on the launch, Anand Roy, MD & CEO, Star Health Insurance, said: "Over the last 20 years, Star Health Insurance has worked to make health insurance more trusted, accessible and affordable for millions of Indians. With Value Plus in Guwahati, we are building on that legacy by bringing quality health insurance within reach of more individuals and families across Tier 2, 3 and 4 India. Guwahati is an important market for us, and by combining higher sum insured options, curated hospital access and wellness-led benefits at nearly 20% lower premiums, Value Plus brings affordability-by-design to a wider set of customers. This launch is a continuation of our mission to democratise health protection and a practical step towards advancing the national vision of Insurance for All."

No.B/HFD/33/5/Auction/595

Dated Kokrajhar, the 29/05/2026

SHORT SALE NOTICE

Interested individuals and parties are hereby invited to participate in an open Auction Sale of 04 (Four) nos. Timber Lots. (Lot No.NR/DO/01,02,03 & 04 of 2026-27 Comprising 19.769m³ of departmentally operated of Sal logs. The auction will be conducted on 02/06/2026 at the office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Haltugaon Division, Kokrajhar as per Auction Notice No.29, Dated 29.05.2026

Sd/-

Divisional Forest Officer,
Haltugaon Division, Kokrajhar

IPR(BTC)/C/2026-27/383

Editorial

IDY 2026

In a remarkable demonstration of India's cultural strength and global leadership in holistic wellness, the city of Hyderabad witnessed an unprecedented gathering of yoga enthusiasts as more than 6,000 participants performed Bhujangasana in perfect unison during the grand Yoga Mahotsav held at the serene Kanha Shanti Vanam, marking the 50-day countdown to the International Day of Yoga 2026, in an event that not only celebrated India's ancient tradition but also set a historic benchmark by entering the Asia Book of Records for the largest gathering performing the asana simultaneously, reflecting the growing enthusiasm for yoga as a collective movement for health and unity, as the programme, organised by the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga under the Ministry of Ayush, drew participation from thousands of citizens along with dignitaries and international representatives, creating a vibrant and inspiring atmosphere that underscored the transformative power of yoga in promoting physical well-being, mental clarity, and social harmony, while addressing the gathering, Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy emphasised that yoga is not merely an ancient heritage of India but a priceless gift to humanity, stating that leaders, professionals, and people across the globe are increasingly embracing yoga and deriving immense benefits from its practice, highlighting its universal relevance in today's fast-paced and stress-driven world, and he further underlined the role of yoga in nation-building by asserting that for India to achieve the vision of a developed nation by 2047, it is essential to build a healthy, disciplined, and peaceful society, adding that yoga offers a practical, accessible, and cost-effective solution to modern challenges such as stress, unhealthy lifestyles, and environmental concerns, while also expressing his aspiration that Hyderabad, already recognised as a global hub for innovation and technology, should emerge as a leading centre for yoga and holistic wellness, thereby strengthening India's position as a global wellness leader, as the event also saw the presence of Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Ayush and Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Prataprao Jadhav, who highlighted the remarkable transformation of yoga into a global movement under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, noting that yoga has evolved into a powerful tool for promoting holistic well-being, encompassing physical health, mental balance, and emotional resilience, while reinforcing India's identity as a global hub for wellness and healthcare, and he elaborated on the significance of the newly launched Yoga 365 initiative, which encourages citizens to integrate yoga into their daily routines, stating that through this campaign, implemented in collaboration with partners such as Habuild and MDNIY, the government aims to foster a culture of regular practice among people across all age groups, supported by a 100-day free yoga training programme running until June 21, with the objective of engaging over one lakh participants and offering Yog Mitra certification, thereby creating a large network of trained individuals who can further spread awareness and practice of yoga at the grassroots level, while he also announced that the next Yoga Mahotsav, marking the 25-day countdown to the International Day of Yoga 2026, will be held at Khajuraho in Madhya Pradesh, symbolising the integration of India's rich cultural heritage, architectural brilliance, and wellness traditions, further strengthening the narrative of yoga as a bridge between tradition and modernity, as the event also featured contributions from senior officials including Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Ayush Ms. Monalisa Dash, who acknowledged the role of the Heartfulness Institute and described Kanha Shanti Vanam as a place that embodies the peace and balance that yoga seeks to cultivate, adding that the gathering was intended to inspire a nationwide movement towards health, harmony, and unity, while the presence of distinguished dignitaries such as Kamlesh D. Patel, President of Heartfulness, Member of Parliament Smt. D. K. Aruna, and Padma Shri Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary of the Ministry of Ayush, along with representatives from various yoga institutions and state administration, added further prominence to the occasion, which also showcased a range of engaging activities including a mass demonstration of the Common Yoga Protocol led by Prof. (Dr.) Kashinath Samagandi, Director of MDNIY, followed by a Heartfulness Meditation session guided by Daaji, highlighting the integration of traditional practices with modern approaches to mindfulness and well-being, while cultural elements such as Natyayoga performances and a yoga fusion presentation by a Korean team added an international and artistic dimension to the event, reflecting the universal appeal and adaptability of yoga across cultures, as the participation of dignitaries and representatives from more than 20 countries, including Kazakhstan, Lesotho, Bulgaria, Cuba, Namibia, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia, further underscored the growing global footprint of yoga and India's leadership in promoting it as a tool for sustainable living and global harmony, and the Yoga Mahotsav at Kanha Shanti Vanam thus emerged as a powerful symbol of collective commitment towards health and wellness, reinforcing the Government of India's vision of promoting yoga as a cornerstone of public health and a means of achieving holistic development, while also serving as a significant milestone in the nationwide build-up to the International Day of Yoga 2026, which will be observed on June 21 with widespread participation across the country and around the world, as the event successfully brought together diverse stakeholders, inspired individuals to embrace healthier lifestyles, and strengthened India's role as a global ambassador of yoga, ensuring that this ancient practice continues to thrive and contribute to the well-being of humanity in the years to come.

India and the New Age of Protectionism

The global trading order is undergoing its most significant transformation since the end of the Cold War. For decades, globalisation was driven by the promise of open markets, integrated supply chains, and free movement of capital and technology. Today, however, the world is moving in the opposite direction. Strategic competition, geopolitical tensions, and economic nationalism are reshaping international trade and industrial policy. The United States-China rivalry, supply-chain disruptions after the pandemic, and growing concerns over technological dependence have triggered a new wave of protectionism across major economies.

This emerging economic order presents India with both an opportunity and a challenge. On the one hand, multinational corporations seeking to reduce dependence on China are exploring alternative manufacturing destinations under the "China Plus One" strategy. India, with its large domestic market, demographic advantage, and geopolitical positioning, appears well placed to benefit. On the other hand, structural weaknesses within the Indian economy could prevent the country from fully capitalising on this moment unless deeper reforms accompany industrial ambitions.

The new protectionism differs from older forms of trade restriction. Traditional protectionism focused mainly on tariffs and import substitution. Contemporary protectionism is far more strategic and technologically driven. Advanced economies are increasingly deploying industrial subsidies, export controls, technology restrictions, and supply-chain realignments in sectors considered critical to national security. Semiconductors, artificial intelligence, electric vehicles, renewable energy equipment, and rare earth minerals have become central to economic geopolitics.

The United States' CHIPS and Science Act and the Inflation Reduction Act demonstrate how industrial policy has returned to the centre of economic governance. Europe is responding with its own strategic autonomy agenda, while China continues to strengthen state-led industrial capacity in advanced manufacturing and technology sectors. In this environment, economic policy is no longer separated from geopolitical strategy.

India has responded with initiatives such as the Production Linked

Incentive (PLI) schemes, semiconductor incentives, infrastructure expansion, and efforts to position itself as a global manufacturing hub. Policymakers hope that global supply-chain diversification will accelerate industrial growth, create employment, and reduce excessive dependence on imports. Sectors such as electronics manufacturing, mobile assembly, pharmaceuticals, defence production, and renewable energy components are expected to benefit from these policies.

There are already signs of progress. India's electronics exports have increased substantially in recent years, and global firms are expanding assembly operations in the country. The growth of smartphone manufacturing has been projected as evidence that India can emerge as a major player in global value chains. Geopolitical tensions between China and Western economies have further strengthened India's strategic attractiveness as a relatively stable democratic alternative in Asia.

Yet optimism must be tempered by realism. Manufacturing competitiveness cannot be built through subsidies and geopolitical opportunity alone. India continues to face deep structural constraints that limit its ability to become a large-scale manufacturing powerhouse.

One major challenge is logistics and infrastructure efficiency. Although significant progress has been made in highways, ports, and digital infrastructure, logistics costs in India remain considerably higher than in many competing economies. Delays in transportation, fragmented supply chains, and regulatory bottlenecks reduce export competitiveness. Manufacturing success in East Asia was built not merely on cheap labour, but on efficient industrial ecosystems that enabled rapid movement of goods and integration into global supply chains.

Energy costs also remain a concern. Reliable and affordable electricity is critical for manufacturing competitiveness, particularly in sectors such as semiconductors, metals, and electronics. Despite improvements in renewable energy capacity, industrial electricity tariffs in India are often higher than those in several competing economies. Without reducing energy costs and improving reliability, large-scale manufacturing expansion will re-

main difficult.

Labour productivity presents another challenge. India possesses a large workforce, but quantity does not automatically translate into industrial capability. Skill gaps continue to affect manufacturing quality and productivity. While India produces millions of graduates every year, industries frequently report shortages of adequately trained technical workers. Vocational education, industrial training, and skill development systems remain fragmented and uneven in quality.

The employment question is equally important. Manufacturing-led growth has historically played a central role in absorbing surplus labour in developing economies. However, modern manufacturing is becoming increasingly automated and capital-intensive. If industrial growth occurs without substantial employment generation, the social benefits of economic expansion may remain limited. India already faces concerns regarding jobless growth, declining labour force participation, and the expansion of insecure informal employment. Industrial policy must therefore focus not only on attracting investment but also on generating broad-based employment opportunities.

Another concern is the nature of India's integration into global value chains. Much of India's current electronics manufacturing remains concentrated in assembly operations with relatively limited domestic value addition. High-end components, advanced semiconductor technologies, and core intellectual property continue to be imported. Without stronger domestic technological capabilities, India risks remaining dependent on external suppliers even while expanding manufacturing output.

The semiconductor sector illustrates both the promise and the difficulty of India's ambitions. Building a globally competitive semiconductor ecosystem requires enormous capital investment, stable policy support, sophisticated infrastructure, advanced technical expertise, and long-term strategic planning. Competing with established semiconductor powers such as Taiwan, South Korea, and China will not be easy. India may achieve progress in packaging, testing, and specialised semiconductor segments, but developing full-spectrum capabilities will require sustained institutional commitment over decades.

The broader geopolitical envi-

ronment also carries risks. The fragmentation of the global trading system may reduce overall trade growth and increase economic uncertainty. If major economies increasingly adopt protectionist measures, global demand could weaken, affecting export-dependent growth strategies. India must therefore balance strategic alignment with economic pragmatism, avoiding excessive dependence on any single geopolitical bloc.

The current moment nevertheless offers India a rare strategic opening. The reorganisation of global supply chains is creating possibilities that may not reappear soon. But history suggests that demographic advantages and geopolitical opportunity alone are insufficient for sustained industrial transformation. Countries that successfully industrialised combined strategic state intervention with investments in education, infrastructure, technological capability, institutional efficiency, and export competitiveness.

The new protectionism is reshaping the world economy. For India, it could become either a pathway to industrial resurgence or another missed opportunity constrained by structural weaknesses. The outcome will depend not merely on global geopolitical shifts, but on whether India can undertake the difficult domestic reforms necessary to translate strategic opportunity into durable economic strength.



Siddharth Roy

Civil Engineer, Short Story Writer, Columnist, Consultant (invitee) to Rashtriya Raksha University (under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India) and a Contemporary Affairs Commentator. Guwahati, Assam

A Fragile Reset Between Asian Giants



By Shashanka Das

Email: shashankadasnov1@gmail.com

India and China's latest round of border consultations in Beijing marks a cautious but notable shift in one of Asia's most consequential rivalries. The 35th meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) on border affairs has produced language that diplomats reserve for moments of calibrated optimism: "constructive," "forward-looking," and aimed at strengthening peace and tranquility along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Yet beneath the diplomatic restraint lies a larger strategic question — are Asia's two largest powers genuinely moving toward reconciliation, or merely managing tensions to serve immediate national interests?

The answer, at least for now, lies somewhere in between.

The recent talks focused on border management, delimitation issues, and trans-border rivers, indicating that both sides are expanding discussions beyond immediate military disengagement toward broader mechanisms of coexistence. India also pushed for early discussions on water-sharing and river cooperation, a subject that carries increasing geopolitical significance amid climate stress and Himalayan ecological vulnerabilities. Chinese officials, meanwhile, emphasized "cross-border communication and cooperation," signaling Beijing's desire to stabilize a relationship that deteriorated sharply after the Galwan Valley clash of 2020.

The importance of these developments cannot be overstated. Since the violent confrontations in eastern Ladakh in 2020, India-China relations have remained trapped in a paradox. Economic engagement continued to expand, but political trust collapsed. India tightened scrutiny on Chinese investments, banned numerous Chinese applications, and accelerated strategic cooperation with the United States and Quad partners. China, for its part, deepened infrastructure construction along disputed

border areas while maintaining military pressure across the Himalayas. Against this backdrop, even incremental diplomatic engagement acquires strategic weight.

However, the current thaw should not be mistaken for a resolution of the underlying dispute. The India-China border problem is not merely territorial; it reflects competing geopolitical visions, asymmetrical power calculations, and unresolved historical grievances. The LAC itself remains undefined in several sectors, creating recurring friction over patrol routes, infrastructure projects, and military deployments. Despite multiple agreements since the 1990s — including confidence-building mechanisms and border defense cooperation accords — confrontations have repeatedly resurfaced because the foundational disagreement over the boundary remains unresolved.

This is precisely why the WMCC framework matters. Established in 2012, the mechanism was designed not to settle the boundary question, but to prevent crises from escalating into open conflict. Over time, it has evolved into an institutional safety valve that allows both governments to maintain communication even during periods of severe tension. The continuation of such dialogue after Galwan demonstrates that both New Delhi and Beijing recognize the enormous costs of prolonged instability.

For India, the renewed engagement serves several purposes. First, it helps reduce the risk of accidental escalation along a heavily militarized frontier. Second, it allows New Delhi to maintain strategic flexibility at a time of global uncertainty. India's foreign policy increasingly seeks to balance partnerships with the West while avoiding complete alignment against China. Sustained hostility on the border would constrain India's economic ambitions and divert resources toward military preparedness.

Third, India understands that a stable border environment is essential for domestic development. Infrastructure expansion in the northeast and Ladakh, cross-border river management, and regional connectivity all require a minimum degree of predictability in bilateral relations. While strategic competition with China will persist, permanent confrontation is neither economically sustainable nor diplomatically desirable.

China, too, has compelling reasons for seeking stability. Beijing faces slowing economic growth, rising tensions with the United States, and increasing strategic pressure in the Indo-Pacific. In such circumstances, reducing friction with India helps prevent the emergence of a more consolidated anti-China coalition in Asia. China also recognizes India's growing global influence — from its leadership role in the Global South to its expanding eco-

nomical and technological profile. Managing ties with New Delhi is therefore becoming a strategic necessity rather than a diplomatic option. Yet skepticism remains warranted.

History suggests that India-China relations often oscillate between tactical accommodation and strategic mistrust. Diplomatic engagement has frequently coexisted with military assertiveness. Agreements signed in one decade have not prevented confrontations in the next. The 1993 Border Peace and Tranquility Agreement, the 1996 military confidence-building measures, and the 2013 Border Defence Cooperation Agreement all aimed to institutionalize restraint. Nevertheless, crises at Doklam in 2017 and Galwan in 2020 exposed the fragility of those arrangements.

Moreover, the broader geopolitical environment continues to complicate trust-building. India remains wary of China's close ties with Pakistan and Beijing's expanding footprint in South Asia and the Indian Ocean. China, in turn, views India's strategic partnerships with Washington, Tokyo, and Canberra with suspicion. These structural tensions cannot be resolved through technical border talks alone.

Therefore, the significance of the latest WMCC meeting lies less in immediate outcomes and more in the political message it sends. Both countries appear to recognize that controlled competition is preferable to unmanaged hostility. The emphasis on "forward-looking" discussions suggests an attempt to rebuild a functional relationship without pretending that core disputes have disappeared.

This pragmatic realism may define the next phase of India-China relations. Neither side is likely to abandon strategic rivalry, but both increasingly understand the dangers of allowing border tensions to dominate the entire relationship. The challenge will be converting diplomatic engagement into durable mechanisms of trust.

For India, caution must accompany optimism. Dialogue is necessary, but preparedness remains indispensable. The lessons of recent years demonstrate that peace along the Himalayas depends not only on agreements, but also on credible deterrence and sustained vigilance.

At the same time, diplomacy should not be dismissed as weakness. In international politics, especially between nuclear-armed neighbors, communication itself is a strategic asset. The alternative to engagement is not strength, but instability.

The current thaw may not herald a historic reconciliation. But if it succeeds in lowering tensions, institutionalizing communication, and preventing another Galwan-like crisis, it would still represent an important achievement for Asian stability in an increasingly fractured world.

National Nrityakala Award to classical dancers

Guwahati, May 29: Nrityasurya Pankaj Baruah Sattriya Academy, a performing arts training centre, is organizing an event titled 'Nritya Nirmali' on July 26 at Guwahati Press Club to encourage and inspire dancers involved in classical dance. The national Nrityakala Awards will be presented to several classical dancers at the function. Interested classical dancers can contact 8761995595.

Eid-ul-Zuha Celebrated Peacefully in Dibrugarh with Prayers for World Peace

M Hashim Ali, Correspondent, May 29: Along with other parts of the country, people belonging to the Islamic faith in Dibrugarh yesterday celebrated the holy festival of "Eid-ul-Zuha." Although the weather remained somewhat cloudy since morning, it later cleared up, and people enthusiastically came out in large numbers to participate in the congregational Eid

prayers and the welfare of all people. Eid prayers were also held peacefully on 28-5-2026 in all 30 mosques across Dibrugarh. Among those who led the prayers at their respective mosques were: Maulana Syed Mobarak Hussain, Pesh Imam of Naliapool Zame Masjid, Hafiz Inamul Ali, Pesh Imam of Convoy Road New Mosque, Maulvi Abu



prayers at the Eidgahs. Around 7,000 to 8,000 people offered Eid prayers at the "Central Eidgah" located in Graham Bazar. The congregational Eid prayer at the "Dibrugarh Central Eidgah Ground" was led by Maulana Alhaj Shabir Ahmed, the Pesh Imam of Dibrujan Mosque in Dibrugarh. At the end of the prayers, the Imam spoke about harmony, unity, and brotherhood among all people irrespective of caste, religion, language, or community. He also prayed for world peace and offered special prayers to the Almighty for the well-being of the nation, the state, and the people of Dibrugarh. At the "Alhaj Jalaluddin Ahmed Eidgah" situated in Amolapatty, around 3,000 people participated in the prayers. The prayers there were led by Maulana Alhaj Manjur Ahmed, the head of Assam Jamilul Uloom Madrasa. He prayed for world

Talib, Pesh Imam of Rozgoli Mosque in South Amolapatty, Maulana Atikur Rahman Qasimi of Tinikunia Mosque, and Maulana Tanbir Saqbi, Pesh Imam of Paltan Bazar Mosque. Alhaj Amanullah Ansari, President of the Central Eidgah Committee at Graham Bazar and Secretary Alhaj Saukat Ali expressed gratitude to the district administration, Police administration, Electricity dept, Municipal corporation and all people irrespective of caste, religion, language, or community for their support and cooperation.

Additional Superintendent of Police of Dibrugarh Sadar, Nayan Moni Baruah, also thanked everyone for celebrating Eid peacefully in Dibrugarh.

On the occasion of Eid, various organizations and institutions extended their greetings with the hope of further strengthening the bonds of brotherhood.

Dhekiajuli Police Arrest Fugitive Accused of Raping Sixth-Grade Girl

Tapen Sen Gupta, Correspondent, Dhekiajuli, May 29: The Dhekiajuli police arrested a man on May 25 in Patna who is accused of raping a sixth-grade girl on February 21 in the heart of Dhekiajuli town and had been absconding since then.



respondent, Dhekiajuli, police arrested a man on

The accused has been identified as 27-year-old Babon Yadav, a married man and father of two child. According to police, the juvenile was allegedly raped on February 21, 2026. The accused reportedly fled the locality soon after the incident. Dhekiajuli Police Station OC Deepak Das said a three-member team, led by Sub-Inspector Prabin Upadhyay, carried out a multi-day operation that

tracked the fugitive to Patna.

Acting on intelligence and sustained surveillance, the team arrested Yadav at Patna Railway Station on May 25.

Yadav was produced before the court and remanded to judicial custody on Thursday. Dipak Das, OC Dhekiajuli PS said the arrest follows careful coordination and fieldwork by the Dhekiajuli police and that investigations are ongoing to gather further evidence and support the victim. The people of Dhekiajuli town praised the initiative taken by the Dhekiajuli Police.

Teaching Session for 2026 Begins at Sri Sri Ramananda Dev Goswami Sanskrit Veda Pathshala

Safiqur Rahman, Nagaon, May 29: The academic session for 2026 at Sri Sri Ramananda Dev Goswami Sanskrit Veda Pathshala, located within the Sri Sri Dakshinpat Grihashrami Satra, commenced on Monday with a series of traditional and spiritual programmes.

The day-long event began with a cleanliness drive, followed by tree plantation, hoisting of the school flag, lighting of ceremonial lamps before Goddess Saraswati and Bharat Mata, and the offering of floral tributes. The institution's founder and Satradhikar of Sri Sri Dakshinpat Grihashrami Satra, Janardan Dev Goswami, inaugurated the programme.

Students recited Vedic hymns and took an oath to pursue education based on Vedic knowledge and Sanatan values while dedicating themselves to the service of society and the nation. A patriotic song in honour of Bharat Mata was also presented by the students.

Addressing the gathering, Principal Janardan Dev Goswami said that the Pathshala, established in 2003, is the only Veda school in Upper Assam and currently provides free education, accommodation and meals to students from Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Nepal. Besides Vedic studies, students are trained in Sattriya culture, music, dance, Bhaona and yoga.

Expressing concern over inadequate infrastructure, Goswami appealed to the Assam Government for support in developing hostel facilities, classrooms and other essential amenities. He stated that despite repeated appeals, the institution continues to face difficulties in accommodating around 40-45 students and teachers.

The programme concluded with prayers for world peace and universal welfare offered by the assembled devotees and local residents.

Educational Meeting on "Mission-100 Percent" and "Aarohan" Held at Bhawanipur Anchalik College

NKMajhi, Correspondent, Gobardhana, May 29: An educational meeting on the performance of students under the "Mission-100 Percent" and "Aarohan" programmes in the High School

tional Deputy Commissioner of Bajali district, Tahir Alam, delivered an address on the field of education and human resource development.

Delivering his speech as a distinguished guest on the specified topic, the Principal-in-Charge of Bhawanipur Anchalik College, Manas Kumar



Leaving Certificate (HSLC) and Higher Secondary Final Examinations was held today at the auditorium of Bhawanipur Anchalik College. The programme was organized jointly by the Bajali District Academic Council, Lead College-Bajali, and the Barpeta Regional Office of the Assam State School Education Board.

The meeting was presided over by the Inspector of Schools of Barpeta district, Bitupan Hazarika. Speaking as the chief guest, Addi-

Chakraborty, said:

"It is desirable and necessary for students of an educational institution to achieve a 100 percent pass rate in examinations. A complete success rate and good academic performance reflect the development of both students and human resources. However, if examination centres deviate from ethical practices and students achieve high success rates through irregularities and unfair means, it goes against the true development of education and students. Examination results should improve through students' deep study, the educational responsibility of teachers and guardians, and fair examination management, thereby establishing a developed society enriched with human resources."

The meeting was conducted by Raju Kumar Das, Associate Professor of the Department of Education at Bhawanipur Anchalik College and Convener of Lead College-Bajali. Distinguished guests who addressed the gathering included Barpeta District Planning Officer of the Education Department Niranjan Oja, Secretary of Bajali District Academic Council Parikshit Talukdar, Secretary of Barpeta District Academic Council Charu Chakraborty, and Principal of BHB College Dr. Nayanjyoti Das. Other guests present included Bajali Block Elementary Education Officer Kishore Rajbongshi, Executive President of Bajali District Academic Council Shailen Dutta, and former Principal of Pathsala Senior Secondary School Sanatan Kakati.

While conducting the meeting, Inspector of Schools Bitupan Hazarika elaborated on various initiatives undertaken for the educational development of the district and offered several suggestions to heads of institutions and teachers to remain vigilant and committed.

Meanwhile, since Principal-in-Charge Manas Kumar Chakraborty is scheduled to retire from his post at Bhawanipur Anchalik College and from the position of Principal of Lead College-Bajali on May 31, and former Principal of Pathsala Senior Secondary School Sanatan Kakati has recently retired, both were accorded a warm farewell by Lead College-Bajali with traditional Assamese honors including xorai, japi, phulam gamosa, citation letters, and books.

During the same event, several educational institutions, including Anundoram Borooh Academy of Pathsala and Shikshapith, also felicitated and bid farewell to Manas Kumar Chakraborty and Sanatan Kakati.

Additionally, Jyotirmoy Das, a meritorious student from Sankardev Shishu Niketan, Patasakuchi, who secured the highest marks in Assam in the recently declared HSLC examination, was felicitated by the Bajali District Academic Council with a phulam gamosa and a citation. His father, Satish Das, was also honored.

Furthermore, special felicitations were extended by Inspector of Schools Bitupan Hazarika to the authorities and heads of 26 high schools in Bajali district that achieved a 100 percent pass rate in the HSLC examination, as well as to 8 higher secondary schools that recorded a 100 percent pass rate in the Higher Secondary Final Examination.

How Saudi-UAE rivalry in Yemen could impact already fragile West Asia

The strategic rivalry between Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has escalated into a full-scale conflict in the Yemeni theatre. The year 2026 opens with an unsavoury chapter of conflict between two consequential players in the Gulf countries in a different geography where they exercise influence. The simmering tension between the two has metamorphosed into a military confrontation. The southern port of Mukalla has become the epicentre of confrontation. The Saudi forces carried out a targeted airstrike on the port of Mukalla on December 30, 2025. The ships were targeted and were alleged to have carried weapons and been dispatched for the Southern Transitional Council (STC). The UAE was accused of having sent the ships loaded with ammunition to be delivered to STC. STC's separatism focuses on the autonomy and independence of southern Yemen. The UAE, on the other hand, has denied these accusations and asserted that the shipment consisted of humanitarian aid and standard supplies for its forces stationed in southern Yemen. A volley of accusations and counteraccusations ensues, making the matter even more tense. Other developments that took place following this conflict are Yemen's Saudi-backed Presidential Leadership Council (PLC)'s cancellation of the defence pact with the UAE and the PLC's accusation against the UAE of encouraging internal strife. Saudi Arabia issues an ultimatum to withdraw UAE forces from Yemen.

Reasons for Rivalry

The Saudi-UAE rivalry is not founded. It has strong grounds to antagonise each other. Both countries are wealthy and hold significant influence in the region. Apart from Iran, Turkey, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE are important players in the region, and they attempt to exert their economic influence to assert their hegemony. In the context of Yemen, geography is both an asset and a liability. Yemen's chronic instability largely emanates from its geography. Strategically, it is positioned on the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, which connects the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. Yemen is located on the southwestern tip of the Arabian Peninsula and shares borders with Saudi Arabia to the north and Oman to the east. The western part of Yemen touches the Red Sea and the Arabian Sea in the south. It shares the most critical geography that links the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden. The Red Sea trade is very vital, as it handles 12 per cent of global trade, connecting Asia with Europe via the Suez Canal. Critical global commerce takes place here. Houthi's geopolitics tense and exerting their influence. It is a critical supply chain network and an extremely sensitive zone where East Africa and West Asia come into close proximity, separated by the Red Sea. Moreover, the Horn of Africa is a highly unstable

region. The region is largely conflict-ridden. Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti, and Somalia, located on the African side of the Red Sea, and Yemen, on the other, remain entangled in an irresolvable conflict. The game of great powers takes place there, and it is challenging for smaller players to assert their autonomy. Instability is a permanent reality. Given these geographical, geopolitical, and geostrategic factors, Saudi interests in Yemen are primarily focused on security, geoeconomics, and geopolitics. A unified Yemen helps Saudi Arabia to protect its southern border and disable the Houthis' influence. Saudi Arabia has Jeddah Port along the Red Sea to facilitate its export-import activities, but the UAE does not share a geographic border with the Red Sea. The trade route through the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea is crucial for the UAE in terms of its export and import activities. The UAE supports STC forces in exercising their autonomy in southern Yemen. This gives Abu Dhabi strategic control over the maritime route and ports in the region. The Southern Yemeni ports are the Port of Aden, Mukalla, Balhaf, Bir Ali, Shokra and Socotra. They play a crucial role in managing trade and logistics within the supply chain network of the Arabian Peninsula. The UAE extends its interests to STC to gain geopolitical and geostrategic advantage and secure its influence in the region. Export and import are core interests of the UAE. Its economy depends on this. It cannot remain inactive given the critical developments in the region. The UAE and Saudi Arabia are the middle powers in the Middle East. They compete for greater diplomatic, geostrategic, and geopolitical influence in the region. They also guard their interests by all means.

Hadhramaut

Hadhramaut is a significant region in southern Yemen, renowned for its rich history, ancient kingdoms, diverse heritage, frankincense trade, mud-brick architecture, Bedouin culture, ancient trade routes, mountainous terrain, and traditions. STC is accused of having advanced into the Hadhramaut and Mahra provinces. This has spiralled into a new wave of conflict. Riyadh views this region as critical for its national security. Moreover, this region is resource-rich, and around 80 per cent of Yemen's oil reserves are located here. Control over this territory gives STC economic and political control. The region's energy assets are the bone of contention between STC and PLC. In addition, the geostrategic importance of the region makes the place more vital for STC's depth in the region. Whoever occupies the place gives it the bargaining power. STC's control over Hadhramaut will make the southern project complete and weaken the PLC. It helps STC to project power. STC's leverage in the region will be amplified. It will impact the Yemeni government, the Houthis, and Saudi Arabia. The demand

for self-rule will be solidified once this region comes under STC control. Therefore, Saudi Arabia feels rattled. The region is critical and invites irresolvable tension and conflict. This region also bifurcates the Saudi and UAE interests.

Houthi Factor

The Houthis in Yemen are a critical factor. The Iran-backed Shia militant group exercise their influence in northern and western Yemen. The capital, Sanaa, Sa'dah, provinces bordering Saudi Arabia and the Red Sea coastline largely come under its control. It is difficult to determine the extent of terrain it controls. It is no less than a third of the country that is under its control, governing around 70-80 per cent of the population. In a fractured country ravaged by multi-sided conflict, the Saudi-UAE conflict gives fuel to Houthi forces to consolidate power and express their aggression against targeted groups. The growing opposition between Riyadh and Abu Dhabi is likely to strengthen the Houthis' influence in the region.

Southern Transitional Council

The Southern Transitional Council (STC) is a powerful force in Southern Yemen. It holds nearly 52 per cent of Yemen's territory. It demands an independent South Yemeni state. It believes in a two-state solution and protection of Southern Yemen from Houthi militancy and extremism. It fully supports its military wing, Southern Armed Forces. It is a secessionist military and political organisation. Its focus remains on Southern Yemen. The UAE reportedly supports STC in expanding its geopolitical, geostrategic, and geoeconomic interests in the region. STC pushed "Operation Promising Future" in December 2025 to exercise control over all eight southern governorates. The intentions of annexing Hadhramaut and Al-Mahrah were on the priority list, recognising their critical importance for STC's rise to power and autonomy. This rattled Saudi Arabia and PLC, who swung into action. The current crisis in Yemen is rooted in the above reason. STC controls major resources and infrastructures in Southern Yemen, most importantly the PetroMasila oil company. Aidarus al-Zubaidi is an STC leader. He occupies a seat in the Presidential Leadership Council (PLC) of the central government. The recent action suggests the sidelining of the central government, taking the conflict to a different level. The military response from Saudi Arabia has complicated the situation. STC accuses Saudi Arabia of an air blockade. Landing permissions were denied to the Saudi delegates at Aden International Airport. The Aden Airport is reportedly closed. Meanwhile, the agreement that has come seems fragile. Saudi-backed National Shield Forces have reportedly been allowed to observe the area seized, but the push for withdrawal from those seized provinces bordering Saudi Arabia has not been agreed upon.

PM Modi urges citizens to take precautions amid rising temperatures

New Delhi: Amid rising temperatures being experienced in different parts of the country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged citizens to take as many precautions as possible to protect themselves and others from the severe heat



those who continue this practice, Mr Modi reinforced the importance of preserving values of empathy, generosity, and social care. The Prime Minister said that sensitivity becomes a great source of support in difficult weather, underlining that human compassion can play an important role in reducing suffering during challenging environmental conditions. Citizens in many areas have been increasingly concerned about the impact of the heat on children, senior citizens, outdoor workers, and people with limited access to cooling facilities or clean drinking water. In this context, the Prime Minister's message served as both a practical advisory and a broader appeal for collective responsibility and awareness. The appeal to stay connected with loved ones and inquire about their health and hydration levels also reflected concern for vulnerable populations who may face greater health risks during prolonged heat exposure. Many people living alone, especially elderly individuals, often require regular monitoring and assistance during severe weather conditions, and Mr Modi's message highlighted the importance of checking on them frequently. The Prime Minister's words also encouraged citizens to cultivate habits of care and attentiveness towards their communities, neighbours, and surroundings. As temperatures continue to rise in different parts of the country, doctors and health experts have repeatedly advised people to avoid dehydration by drinking sufficient water, wearing light clothing, and reducing outdoor activity during peak heat hours. Mr Modi's social media post echoed many of these safety measures while placing strong emphasis on compassion and collective support. His message carried a humanitarian tone that sought to unite people in facing the challenges posed by intense summer conditions. The Prime Minister's appeal regarding animals and birds also drew widespread attention, as many environmental groups and animal welfare volunteers have been urging citizens to keep water available in open spaces during the summer season. Birds in particular often struggle to find water sources during periods of intense heat, and simple acts such as placing small bowls of water outside homes can help protect them from dehydration. The Prime Minister's remarks reinforced this awareness and encouraged greater participation from the public. The growing temperatures in several regions have also led many organisations, local communities, and volunteers to distribute drinking water and oral rehydration support in

conditions that are increasingly affecting daily life across India. In a social media post, Mr Modi advised all people to keep themselves hydrated and carry water whenever they step out of their homes, underlining the importance of simple yet essential precautions during periods of intense summer heat. Stressing the growing difficulties caused by soaring temperatures in everyday life, the Prime Minister said that sensitivity and compassion become a great source of support during such challenging weather conditions, and he appealed to people across the country to look after one another with care and concern. He suggested that citizens offer a glass of water to anyone who may be thirsty, pointing out that even small gestures of kindness can provide immense relief to people struggling under the harsh sun. Mr Modi also asked everyone to remain in touch with family members, relatives, friends, neighbours, and loved ones to inquire regularly about their well-being, particularly elderly persons, children, and those who may be vulnerable to the effects of extreme heat. He reminded people to drink plenty of water throughout the day, avoid going outside during the harsh afternoon sun whenever possible, and rest as much as they can to prevent heat-related health problems. The Prime Minister's appeal came at a time when many regions have been witnessing rising temperatures, creating difficulties for citizens in their daily routines and increasing concerns regarding dehydration, exhaustion, and other heat-related illnesses. Highlighting the need to care not only for people but also for animals and birds affected by the scorching conditions, Mr Modi further directed citizens to place small vessels filled with water outside their homes, balconies, rooftops, shops, or offices. He said that during such difficult weather, animals and birds also suffer greatly from the lack of water and shade, and therefore society should extend compassion towards every living being. The Prime Minister appreciated the efforts of those individuals and families who keep water in pitchers outside their homes and shops so that anyone passing by can drink from them, describing such acts as examples of humanity and social responsibility. His message emphasised that collective awareness and sensitivity can help communities face the hardships caused by extreme summer conditions more effectively. Across various parts of the country, the heat has continued to influence daily activities, with many people changing work schedules, limiting movement during peak afternoon hours, and taking precautionary measures to stay safe from the rising temperatures. In this backdrop, the Prime Minister's appeal focused not only on personal safety but also on social responsibility, encouraging people to ensure that neighbours, workers, delivery personnel, roadside labourers, security guards, street vendors, and others exposed to the sun are not ignored during the difficult period. Mr Modi's message resonated strongly with citizens who have increasingly been discussing the impact of heat on health, productivity, and everyday life, especially in densely populated urban areas and regions where temperatures have been climbing steadily. His emphasis on carrying water while stepping out of homes was seen as a practical and necessary reminder at a time when dehydration risks rise sharply during prolonged exposure to high temperatures. The Prime Minister's call for people to avoid stepping out during the harsh afternoon sun also highlighted the importance of reducing unnecessary exposure during peak heat hours, when the risk of heatstroke and fatigue becomes significantly higher. By encouraging people to rest as much as possible and stay hydrated, he sought to spread awareness about preventive care and the importance of maintaining physical well-being during the summer season. At the same time, his remarks about keeping water for animals and birds reflected a broader humanitarian message, reminding citizens that compassion should extend beyond human society. In many places, residents have already begun placing earthen bowls, containers, and water vessels on rooftops, roadside areas, balconies, parks, and outside shops to help birds and stray animals survive the intense heat. The Prime Minister's acknowledgement of these efforts further encouraged such community-driven acts of kindness and responsibility. His appeal also drew attention to traditional practices in Indian society where people often place water pots outside homes and public spaces during summer months so that travellers, workers, and passersby can drink water freely. By praising

crowded areas, markets, transportation hubs, and roadside locations. Mr Modi's appreciation for people keeping water pitchers outside homes and shops aligned with these ongoing public efforts to provide relief during the heatwave conditions. His remarks also reflected the importance of community solidarity during times when weather conditions become difficult for large sections of society. By urging everyone to look after one another with complete sensitivity and compassion, the Prime Minister conveyed that social care and human connection become especially important during periods of hardship. His message encouraged people to think beyond themselves and ensure that those around them are safe, hydrated, and supported. The emphasis on small gestures such as offering a glass of water or checking on someone's health demonstrated how ordinary acts of kindness can make a meaningful difference during challenging times. Across India, summer temperatures often create significant stress on daily life, affecting travel, work, health, and outdoor activities, and public awareness campaigns regularly stress the need for preventive action. The Prime Minister's appeal added a strong emotional and humanitarian dimension to these safety messages by urging citizens to act with empathy and responsibility. His focus on hydration, rest, avoiding afternoon heat, and supporting others reflected a comprehensive approach to dealing with rising temperatures and their impact on society. The message also highlighted how community participation can complement official advisories and public health measures during difficult weather conditions. By encouraging people to keep water available not only for themselves but also for strangers, animals, and birds, Mr Modi sought to promote a culture of care and collective resilience. The Prime Minister's words were widely viewed as a reminder that during times of environmental stress, compassion and social sensitivity can strengthen communities and help people face challenges together. As temperatures continue to remain high in various regions, citizens have increasingly been urged to adopt precautionary measures in order to stay safe and healthy. The Prime Minister's social media message reinforced the need for awareness, preparedness, and humanity during the summer season, urging people to protect themselves while also extending support to others who may be struggling under the harsh weather conditions. His appeal for kindness, hydration, and social responsibility reflected a broader message of unity and compassion, encouraging every citizen to contribute in small but meaningful ways towards helping society cope with the effects of the intense heat.

Centre forms committee to address India's Demographic Change Challenges

New Delhi: The Centre has constituted a high-level committee to address the challenges of demographic change caused by infiltration and other reasons, with the government describing the issue as one of the most significant concerns linked to national security, sovereignty, social balance and the preservation of tribal society in the country. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, in a social media post, informed that the committee will be chaired by former Supreme Court Judge Justice Prakash Prabhakar Naolekar and will undertake a comprehensive assessment of demographic changes occurring across India due to illegal immigration and other unnatural causes. The committee has been formed following the announcement made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his Independence Day speech from the Red Fort last year, where he had spoken about the need to establish a High-Level Committee on Demographic Change in view of concerns being raised in several parts of the country regarding abnormal population shifts and their long-term implications. According to the announcement made by the Home Minister, the committee includes Census Commissioner, former IAS officer Durga Shankar Mishra, former IPS officer Balaji Srivastava and economist Dr. Shamika Ravi as members, while the Joint Secretary (Foreigners-I) in the Ministry of Home Affairs will serve as the Member Secretary of the committee. The formation of the committee comes at a time when demographic change and illegal infiltration have increasingly become major issues of discussion in political, administrative and security circles, particularly in regions where concerns have been expressed over changing population patterns and their impact on local communities, social structure, cultural identity and law and order. Mr Shah stated that infiltration and other reasons are causing unnatural demographic change which poses a very significant challenge to the present and future of any nation, stressing that demographic change is not merely a statistical or administrative matter but one deeply connected to sovereignty, national security and social stability. The Home Minister said the committee will conduct a detailed and comprehensive assessment of demographic changes occurring across India and will also analyze patterns of abnormal population shifts at the levels of religious and social communities. He added that the committee has been tasked with presenting a planned and time-bound solution to deal with the issue, indicating that the government intends to study the matter in depth before taking further policy decisions. The committee's constitution reflects the Centre's growing emphasis on examining the long-term implications of demographic imbalance and infiltration on governance, security and social harmony. Officials and policymakers have often argued that illegal immigration and sudden demographic shifts can place pressure on local resources, affect employment opportunities, alter social dynamics and create concerns regarding identity and representation in sensitive regions. By appointing a retired Supreme Court judge to chair the panel, the government has signalled the importance it attaches to ensuring

with debates surrounding national security and internal stability, particularly in regions with porous borders and migration pressures. Governments have repeatedly argued that infiltration can create long-term challenges in maintaining accurate population records, delivering welfare benefits and ensuring balanced development. Mr Shah's remarks that demographic change poses a significant challenge to the present and future of any nation underlined the Centre's concern that unmanaged or abnormal population shifts could have serious consequences over time. The committee's formation is also being seen as part of the broader national conversation surrounding citizenship, migration management and internal security. Over the years, concerns regarding demographic changes have influenced debates on policies related to border fencing, citizenship documentation, identification systems and population data management. The government's move to establish a formal committee indicates an effort to gather evidence, analyze trends and formulate recommendations through a structured process rather than relying only on political debate. The committee is expected to engage with data, administrative records, security inputs and social indicators while preparing its assessment. Since the Prime Minister himself had announced the formation of such a committee during his Independence Day address from the Red Fort last year, the issue has remained part of the government's larger agenda regarding national development, internal security and governance. Independence Day speeches from the Red Fort are often used by Prime Ministers to outline major national priorities and policy directions, and the inclusion of demographic change in last year's address indicated the significance the government attaches to the issue. The formation of the committee now marks the implementation of that announcement and signals the beginning of a more detailed institutional process. Political observers note that the issue of demographic change has often generated strong reactions in different parts of the country, especially where local populations fear the erosion of linguistic, cultural or tribal identities. The Home Minister's reference to the preservation of tribal society reflected these concerns and suggested that the committee may pay special attention to regions where indigenous communities face demographic pressure. At the same time, the government has framed the issue as one connected to national interest, sovereignty and long-term social stability rather than merely regional politics. By combining legal expertise, administrative experience, policing knowledge and economic analysis within a single committee, the Centre appears to be seeking a broad and multidimensional assessment of the issue. The committee's findings and recommendations could influence future policy measures related to immigration control, demographic management, census systems, border administration and welfare planning. Since the committee has been asked to provide a planned and time-bound solution, expectations are likely to remain high regarding the scope and impact of its recommendations.

Ebola SOP

New Delhi: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for airlines following the World Health Organisation's declaration of the Ebola disease outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. The move is aimed at strengthening surveillance and preventive measures at airports and on board aircraft to reduce the risk of the disease spreading through international travel. According to the DGCA, airlines operating connectivity with Uganda and Congo are required to ensure mandatory filing and collection of self-declaration forms before passengers disembark. The requirement has been introduced to facilitate the monitoring of travellers arriving from affected regions and to enable health authorities to respond quickly in case any suspected cases are identified. In addition to the mandatory self-declaration process, the DGCA has made it compulsory for airlines to broadcast specific health announcements during flights to help identify possible Ebola cases early and prevent the spread of the disease. Through these announcements, passengers will be informed about the symptoms associated with Ebola and the steps they must take if they feel unwell during the journey or after arriving in India. The aviation regulator has emphasised that early identification and timely reporting of symptoms are essential for preventing transmission and ensuring an effective public health response. Under the SOP, passengers have been asked to immediately report symptoms such as fever, weakness, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhoea, or bleeding to airline crew members as well as immigration or medical authorities upon arrival. These symptoms are among the key indicators that could suggest a possible Ebola infection, and prompt reporting is considered critical in enabling health officials to assess the situation and take necessary precautions. The DGCA has further stated that if such symptoms develop within 21 days of arrival in India, travellers should seek medical assistance from designated hospitals and inform the airport health office. The advisory recognises that symptoms may not always appear immediately and therefore requires continued vigilance during the incubation period. Health authorities have been instructed to remain alert and coordinate with relevant agencies to ensure that any suspected cases are man-

aged in accordance with established health protocols. The SOP also lays down detailed procedures for handling suspected Ebola cases onboard an aircraft. In such situations, the passenger should be relocated to the rear of the aircraft, and if possible, three rows in front and adjacent seats should be kept vacant. This measure is intended to minimise contact between the suspected case and other passengers while the flight continues to its destination. Cabin crew are expected to follow the prescribed procedures carefully and maintain communication with ground authorities so that medical teams can be prepared before the aircraft lands. The DGCA has also instructed airlines to maintain adequate stock of triple-layer masks, disposable gloves, PPE kits, hand sanitisers, and bio-hazard disposal bags. These supplies are considered essential for protecting crew members and other passengers in the event of a suspected case during a flight. The regulator has stressed that airlines must ensure the availability of these materials at all times on routes connected to affected regions and that crew members should be familiar with their proper use. The SOP forms part of a broader effort to strengthen preparedness against infectious diseases that may pose a threat to public health. By introducing mandatory health declarations, in-flight health announcements, symptom reporting mechanisms, and onboard isolation procedures, authorities aim to create multiple layers of protection against the importation and spread of Ebola. The measures are designed not only to safeguard passengers and airline personnel but also to support public health agencies in tracking and managing potential cases effectively. Aviation authorities believe that the combination of awareness, early detection, and coordinated response can significantly reduce the risk associated with international travel during disease outbreaks. The DGCA's latest directive highlights the importance of close cooperation between airlines, airport operators, health officials, immigration authorities, and passengers in maintaining public safety. Airlines have been advised to ensure strict compliance with all provisions of the SOP and to provide appropriate training to crew members regarding the identification and management of suspected Ebola cases. The health announcements, self-declaration forms, and onboard protocols are expected to enhance preparedness and improve the overall response mechanism at airports and during flights.

Resolve to get stronger: 5 strength training goals to build lasting fitness

Getting stronger is one of the best resolutions you can make for your health. Regular strength training can help you live longer, lift your mood,

practical ways to train for strength and longevity," Cohen said. Begin by practising the movement with just your body weight – moving with



enhance cognitive function and improve your bone density. Picking up a new skill can also boost feelings of self-efficacy, or your belief that you can accomplish a goal, which can help you stay motivated. Building strength, stability and control in the weight room can help you move more easily in your daily life, whether you're navigating uneven sidewalks or getting down on the floor to play with your kids. "We're lifting weights so we can live well outside the gym," said Marlie Cohen, a personal trainer in Toronto.

Here are five strength-training ideas from fitness experts that apply to beginners and experienced lifters alike.

1. BUILD REAL-WORLD STRENGTH

Nearly all of your everyday movements, even ones as simple as getting into and out of a chair, use multiple joints and muscles. And just like any feat of strength, training can help you perform those movements properly and without pain. "We have to think about daily life as an athletic event," said Disa Hatfield, a professor of kinesiology at the University of Rhode Island. "You want to remain a competitor as long as possible." Most of your everyday tasks involve one of these six movements: hinge, squat, lunge, push, pull, rotate. All of these motions can be trained in the gym using your body weight or minimal equipment. Start by doing a full-body workout that incorporates those movements twice a week. Make sure to take 48 hours of rest between full-body workouts to properly recover.

2. MASTER THE DEADLIFT

Being able to stabilise your core while lifting a heavy object from the floor is also important for everyday movements like picking up your child or lifting bags of groceries. For those reasons, this classic exercise is "one of the most

poor form or adding weight too quickly can increase your risk of injury, said Miho Tanaka, the director of the Women's Sports Medicine Program at Mass General Brigham in Boston. Once you feel comfortable, try a kettlebell deadlift or Romanian deadlift, both of which can help you learn to engage your lower-body muscles instead of your back when lifting an object. From there, you can add moves like single-arm suitcase deadlifts, which also challenge your stability, and dumbbell deadlifts. You can incorporate deadlifts into a lower-body workout or full-body workout. Begin with a light weight and aim for three sets of six to eight repetitions with about 90 seconds to two minutes of rest in between sets.

3. FOLLOW A PLAN, AND TRACK YOUR PROGRESS

A good workout programme should provide a road map for you to reach your goals, and tracking your progress can help you recognise how far you've come. This may seem basic, but Justin Ross, a clinical psychologist and coach who works with athletes of all levels, said he often sees clients who tried to wing it at the gym and then pushed themselves too hard. By the time he meets with them, Dr Ross said, they may be burned out and avoiding tracking their workouts because it feels intimidating. "There may be a self-imposed judgement that what they're currently capable of doing isn't enough," he said. "Yet, we know that tracking is one of the fastest ways to build confidence." A well-designed training plan can also help you look at your goal as a series of smaller, more attainable steps. If you're not sure where to start, a personal trainer or coach can help you build a plan tailored to you. When it comes to logging your workouts, Dr Ross suggests keeping it simple. "Track only what's useful, not everything," he

said. "Treat the log as information, not judgment." Record how much you lifted, your repetitions and sets and any relevant notes about how you felt. You should refer to those notes when deciding whether to add weight or volume to your next workout. "The goal isn't perfection," Dr Ross said. "It's building awareness and trust that small, consistent actions add up over time."

4. TRAIN CLOSER TO FAILURE

To increase your strength, you have to push your muscles beyond your present capacity. That usually means approaching failure, or the point where you feel as if your form would break down or your muscles would be too exhausted to complete the exercise if you tried to do just one or two more repetitions. When you first start strength training, you may notice some quick gains in your strength. But if you keep moving the same weights for the same number of repetitions week after week, you're likely to hit a plateau because your muscles will adapt to that level of fitness, Dr Tanaka said. You'll typically see those initial strength increases during your first eight to 10 weeks of training, Dr Hatfield said. But it's normal to plateau after that, and you'll have to work harder to keep progressing. "When you're going through the motions and you're not feeling that challenge anymore, it's time to move up," Cohen said. To figure out when it's time to add weight to your lifts, you can use what's called the "reps in reserve" scale. As you reach the end of a set, estimate how many more repetitions you think you can do without your form breaking down from exhaustion. When you first start lifting, you can stop around five or six repetitions short of failure and still make progress. As you get stronger, if you feel like you have more than two additional repetitions left in the tank, try picking up a heavier weight.

5. MAKE TIME FOR RECOVERY

Rest is a key component of any exercise program, but it's particularly important if you're new to strength training. Unfamiliar exercises are especially tiring for your muscles, and your body needs time to repair itself so it can adapt and get stronger. Dr Tanaka said most of the common injuries she sees around the start of the year are the result of people going too hard, too fast. When your muscles reach their limit, the joints and tendons often pick up more of the load, which can increase injury risk. "Your body can only really make gains at a certain rate," she said. "We can't double our strength in a week or two." Before your workout, aim for five minutes of dynamic mobility exercises so you're warmed up. This is particularly important as you age, since your muscles become stiffer, Dr Tanaka said. Choose movements that complement the exercises you'll be doing: Try arm circles before shoulder exercises, for example, and 90/90 hip rotations before squats, lunges and deadlifts. If you're new to lifting weights, it's generally a good idea to move slowly through each exercise to make sure you're engaging the right muscles and moving with proper form, though you should know that this can also make you feel more sore after a workout.

From Chanel to Hermes: 12 showstopping watches that turn dials into works of art

The dial is where a watch reveals its character. It's the first thing you see, the last thing you forget and the surface where technical mastery meets artistic ambition.

her beauty essentials like eyeshadows and lipsticks move slowly like a celestial orbit. These silver- and pink-toned motifs are printed on a black-varnished rotating disc



that completes a full revolution every five minutes, giving the watch an ever-changing, animated charm. A 20-piece limited edition, the 38mm creation is crafted in highly resistant black ceramic with matte, black-coated steel accents and a bezel featuring a chic baguette-cut motif. Adding subtle shine is a brilliant-cut diamond set into the crown. The wearer can admire the COSC-certified Caliber 12.1, a self-winding Manufacture movement

OTHERWORLDLY MINIMALISM: H MOSER & CIE STREAMLINER PERPETUAL MOON CONCEPT METEORITE

H Moser & Cie's Streamliner Perpetual Moon Concept Meteorite is part sculpture, part celestial artifact. Its dial is hewn from the Gibeon meteorite, which spent millions of years cooling in space before crashing to Earth. Cut and treated, each dial reveals the natural and one-of-a-kind Widmanstatten pattern, then is imbued with a warm golden tone and Moser's hallmark fume effect for extraordinary depth. At 6 o'clock, a generously sized moon-phase aperture dominates the minimalist, logo-free dial, with a red-gold moon and hands enhanced by luminous Globolight inserts.

HANDCRAFTED SEASCAPE: SLIM D'HERMES HIPPOCAMPE

Hermes continues its poetic exploration of métiers d'art with the Slim d'Hermes Hippocampe, featuring a dial that transforms the maison's refined dress watch into a miniature seascape. Created in collaboration with London-based illustrator Stuart Patience, the watch depicts a stylised seahorse brought to life through an intricate combination of engraving and leather marquetry, two techniques rarely seen together on a watch dial. The process begins with an engraver tracing the seahorse's curves into the dial, carving depth and texture before artisans apply hand-cut pieces of coloured leather, each trimmed to just 0.5mm. These fragments are then meticulously assembled to form a vibrant mosaic that captures the creature's fluid silhouette and shimmering scales. Framed by a 39.5mm whitegold case, the watch is powered by the ultra-thin Hermes H1950 automatic movement, visible through a sapphire caseback adorned with hand-bevelled bridges and H-shaped decorations. Two colourways of teal and terracotta, each limited to 24 numbered pieces, are paired with Swift calfskin straps crafted in Hermes' leather workshops.

MAKEUP REVOLUTION: CHANEL MADEMOISELLE J12 CALIBER 12.1 38MM Part of the maison's whimsical Blush Watch Capsule Collection, the Mademoiselle J12 Blush Caliber 12.1 38mm watch transforms the graphic universe of Chanel Beauty into a playful, kinetic dial. Here, Gabrielle Chanel, who's rendered in black and white, sits at her makeup table, while

with a robust 70-hour power reserve, through an exhibition caseback.

Inside the 40mm steel Streamliner case with an integrated bracelet beats the new automatic calibre HMC 270, which offers a three-day power reserve and moon-phase so precise that it deviates by just one day every 1,027 years.

KINETIC MARVEL: HAUTLENCE SPHERE SERIES 3 Hautlence returns to its most hypnotic complication with the Sphere Series 3, a compact yet striking evolution of its signature spherical time display. Housed in a 37mm by 45mm titanium case, this new model sharpens the architectural lines of its predecessor. On the left of the skeletonised dial is the rotating hour sphere that's the star of the show. The polished, purple-coated titanium orb turns on three axes and is driven by four conical gears set at 21 degrees, creating the illusion of a floating, shape-shifting sculpture. Balancing the composition, a retrograde minute hand sweeps over a suspended minute track before snapping back to zero in a controlled glide, revealing the mechanical stage beneath. Visible through fully openworked components is the manual-winding calibre A82, which has been redesigned for the smaller case and delivers a power reserve of 72 hours.

How healthy is ginger? A closer look at how it eases nausea, relieves pain and boosts overall health

Ginger adds a zesty kick to weeknight curries and holiday cookies. It's also a botanical remedy with a range of health benefits. It's not a "cure-all," said Megan Crichton, a researcher and dietitian at the Queensland University of Technology in Australia who has studied ginger. But it can be helpful for addressing certain symptoms, especially nausea and pain, she said. Here's a closer look.

IT CAN EASE NAUSEA

Ginger has been used for millennia to target a multitude of issues: colds, headaches, stomach problems, joint pain, muscle soreness and fatigue. It's particularly popular in Ayurveda and traditional Chinese medicine as a warming spice to stimulate digestion, improve circulation and contribute to overall vitality. Some of these remedies have been studied in labs, to a varying degree. One of the most evidence-backed uses of ginger is to treat nausea, said Dr Kalgi Modi, an interventional cardiologist at Louisiana State University Health who provides guidance on using ginger for therapeutic purposes. Ginger contains over 400 chemical compounds, but the anti-nausea effect primarily stems from two – gingerol and shogaol – which give the plant its pungency. This duo appears to block certain chemical messengers in the gut and brain that trigger nausea and vomiting, and improve digestion by speeding up the rate at which food leaves the stomach. Studies have mainly focused on nausea and vomiting related to pregnancy and chemotherapy. Research suggests that ginger can significantly cut down on the intensity of the nausea in both cases, and may reduce the frequency of vomiting in the latter.

Most studies use ginger supplements – capsules, tablets, powders or extracts – because the dosing and concentrations of their active compounds are more consistent compared with fresh ginger. But experts said it's possible that all forms can be beneficial. Dr Zhaoping Li, the chief of the division of clinical nutrition at UCLA Health, recommends sipping ginger tea, trying supplements or sucking on ginger candies if you can't keep down liquids.

IT MAY RELIEVE PAIN

Research suggests that ginger can help reduce the inflammation that drives pain, Dr Crichton said. Early data shows the potential for ginger to be particularly effective for those dealing with knee pain from osteoarthritis and menstrual pain. If you have a headache or period cramps, you could try drinking fresh ginger juice mixed with water and a bit of honey, or steep ginger slices in your tea, Dr Modi suggested. But she stressed that ginger should be used in a supporting role, not as a replacement for medical treatment. IT BOOSTS GENERAL HEALTH, TOO

On top of alleviating aches and an upset stomach, ginger can benefit you in other ways. Dr Modi considers ginger a "medical root" because of its anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties, which help keep cells healthy and support the immune system. Evidence also suggests ginger may improve blood sugar control and keep blood pressure in check, Dr Crichton said. Because it's consumed in relatively small quantities, ginger isn't a standout source of any vitamins or minerals. But it does contain moderate amounts of magnesium, potassium and Vitamins C and B6.

Controlling blood sugar cuts heart disease risk in half, study says

People with prediabetes who get their blood sugar under control may cut their risk of death from heart disease or heart failure by half, according to new research. Prediabetes, which is estimated to affect 38 per cent of US adults, is a condition in which blood sugar levels are elevated but don't meet the threshold for diabetes. The research, published Dec 12 in the journal *Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology*, suggested that people with prediabetes whose glucose levels returned to normal – those who reached "remission" – had half the risk of cardiovascular death or hospitalisation from heart failure two decades after reaching remission than those who did not. "That is an incredible finding and really gives people hope that what they do today will have an effect two decades from now," said Dr Latha Palaniappan, the associate dean for research at Stanford Medicine, who was not involved in the study. There has long been evidence that Type 2 diabetes increases the risk of heart attacks and heart failure. Some data have shown prediabetes is also associated with cardiovascular disease, but it's been unclear if that is because it often progresses to diabetes, said Elizabeth Selvin, a professor of epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. The findings may add urgency for patients and doctors to take prediabetes seriously to prevent future complications: Current guidelines for managing prediabetes emphasise weight loss and lifestyle habits to delay or prevent progression to Type 2 diabetes, but they don't specifically advocate lowering blood glucose levels to a lower-than-prediabetic range. The new research was a follow-up analysis of data from two landmark trials, including the US Diabetes Prevention Pro-

gram trial, which ran from 1996 to 2001. That trial compared the effects of three interventions on the development of Type 2 diabetes in people who had prediabetes: an intensive lifestyle programme including diet and exercise; the use of the blood glucose lowering drug metformin; and a placebo. The trial showed that the intensive lifestyle programme reduced the development of Type 2 diabetes by 58 per cent in three years compared to placebo, while metformin reduced it by 31 per cent. The new research looked at participants in that trial 20 years later. About 11 per cent of them had dropped to normal glucose levels after one year, regardless of which intervention they got. Twenty years later, this subset had a 50 per cent lower risk of death from cardiovascular disease or hospitalisation for heart failure than those who had not achieved normal glucose levels, after adjusting for certain characteristics, including whether people developed full-blown diabetes. To test that finding, the research team conducted a follow-up analysis of a similar diabetes prevention trial in China. In that trial, about 13 per cent of people with elevated glucose achieved normal levels after six years; 30 years later, those people had a 51 per cent lower risk of death from heart disease or hospitalisation than those who had not achieved normal levels. "It's interesting that this short-term intervention period has these very long-term effects," Dr Selvin said. Normalising glucose levels – with or without weight loss – can help reduce fat tissue in the abdomen, reduce inflammation and increase insulin sensitivity, said Dr Andreas Birkenfeld, the chair of the department of diabetology, endocrinology and nephrology at University Hospital Tübingen in Germany, and the senior

author of the new paper. The researchers don't know who among the participants made and sustained lifestyle changes after the original intervention period. They tried to control for differences between those who achieved remission and those who didn't, but some unmeasured difference could be driving different outcomes, said Dr Jonathan Newman, the clinical research director for the Center for the Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease at NYU Langone Health. Overall very few people were able to achieve normal glucose levels in either the U.S. or China trial – a major practical consideration, said Judy Regensteiner, the director of the Ludeman Family Center for Women's Health Research at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. (Dr Regensteiner was an investigator on the Diabetes Prevention Program trial but was not involved in the current study.) "It's a good proof of concept," she said. But, she added, "If these really well done studies have low success rates in getting people to those numbers, what do we do differently?" Experts noted that new GLP-1 drugs that help control blood sugar and reduce weight weren't part of the picture when participants originally enrolled in the diabetes prevention trials in the 1980s and 1990s. "Lifestyle interventions are first-line therapy," Dr Selvin said. "The real open question is, how do we combine these two things?" Lowering blood glucose levels is only one component of reducing cardiovascular disease risk. People still need to maintain a healthy weight, follow a good diet and exercise. "Prediabetes is the canary in the coal mine" and often a sign of broader metabolic dysfunction, Dr Newman said. Targeting blood glucose levels alone "is not a slam dunk" in eliminating cardiovascular disease risk, he added, but it can be a useful marker.

UK voters cast ballots in elections expected to deal blow to Starmer

London: Millions of British voters cast their ballots on Thursday (May 7) in local elections that are expected to deal a huge blow to Prime Minister Keir Starmer's Labour Party and renew questions over his ability to govern. Elections for almost 5,000 council seats in England and to the parliaments in Scotland and Wales could signal the beginning of the end of Britain's traditional two-party system if voters opt for populist and nationalist parties rather than the once-dominant Labour and Conservatives. Polls suggest the populist Reform UK of Brexit campaigner Nigel Farage will expand its control of councils in England, and could form the main opposition in Scotland and Wales to the pro-independence Scottish National Party and Plaid Cymru. Challenging from the left, the Greens look set to threaten Labour's strongholds in London and other major centres. The prospect of losing swathes of council seats in England, the end of its dominance of the Welsh Senedd assembly and a possible third-place finish for Scotland's Holyrood parliament means Starmer looks set to come under pressure again to quit or at least set out a timetable for his departure. Investors have pushed Britain's borrowing costs higher in recent weeks, in part over fears that he could be replaced by a more left-wing leader, willing to spend more. **STARMER VOWS TO FIGHT ON** Starmer, 63, elected on a landslide less than two years ago, has vowed to fight on, pledging to tackle a cost-of-living crisis in Britain stoked by the conflicts in Ukraine and Iran. "We can rise to this moment together - become a stronger, more resilient and more united nation with opportunities for all, or we can sink into the politics of grievance and division," Starmer wrote on Substack at the weekend. "The answer to this moment, to the world we face to-

day, is not passive government, nor is it the populists who look out at the world and offer only easy answers that would make us weaker, or bankrupt. This is a time for patriots." Appearing to signal another possible reset after the elections, Starmer promised an "active, interventionist government". Starmer will hope he gets a chance to try again to relaunch his premiership, after spending weeks fending off calls for him to stand down over his appointment of Labour veteran Peter Mandelson as British ambassador to the United States. That appointment has blown up into a full-scale row over who knew what and when about Mandelson's ties to the late convicted US sex offender Jeffrey Epstein and his business connections with Russia and China. Starmer sacked Mandelson last September after a trove of emails revealed the depth of his ties with Epstein. British police arrested Mandelson in February on suspicion of misconduct in public office, but he has not been charged. He does not face allegations of sexual misconduct.

LABOUR FIGURE WARNS LAWMAKERS AGAINST STARMER CHALLENGE Labour lawmakers and activists say they have often been met with anger from voters while campaigning. Losses in the elections will only deepen the frustration with Starmer and his Downing Street operation among many in his party, and some Labour lawmakers say there might be a move against him afterwards, possibly in the form of a letter calling on him to set out a timetable for his departure. But the path to replace him is not easy. Two frontrunners to succeed him if he goes - Greater Manchester mayor Andy Burnham and former Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner - are not yet in positions to mount leadership bids, and other potential rivals seem unwilling to move against him for now.

Gulf shipping disruptions highlight need for alternative export routes, flexibility: ADNOC top exec

The Iran conflict's disruption of Gulf shipping is underscoring a fundamental change in the energy industry: Companies must build in options to withstand geopolitical shocks, according to a top Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) executive. "Optionality is becoming a must in our business. It's no longer an option," said Musabbeh Al Kaabi, upstream CEO at the state-run energy giant, on Wednesday (May 6). "The last couple of months demonstrated that having optionality, investing in resilience, is the right approach for an integrated energy player."

HORMUZ STANDSTILL HITS ENERGY FLOWS

Since attacks on Iran by the United States and Israel first broke out on Feb 28, Tehran has effectively blocked passage through the Strait of Hormuz to most non-Iranian vessels. After more than two months, Iran and the US remain at odds over a variety of difficult issues amid a ceasefire, such as Tehran's nuclear ambitions and its control of the vital strait. The strategic waterway is a critical artery for global trade, carrying about a fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas. The conflict has forced Gulf producers, including ADNOC, to scramble for alternative routes. The United Arab Emirates said on Monday that Iran used drones to attack an empty ADNOC crude oil tanker, the Barakah, as it attempted to transit Hormuz. No injuries were reported. The UAE's foreign ministry urged Iran to "halt these unprovoked attacks" and ensure the "complete and unconditional reopening" of the strait. Al Kaabi confirmed the Barakah's crew had returned home safely and stressed the state-owned oil company's focus on supply continuity. "ADNOC is taking all the measures to ensure that our system is resilient and that we fulfill our commitment to our customers," he told CNA.

ADCOP PIPELINE A CRUCIAL WORKAROUND

A key pillar of that resilience is the Abu Dhabi Crude Oil Pipeline (ADCOP), also known as the Habshan-Fujairah pipeline. The roughly 400km pipeline transports oil from Abu Dhabi's fields to the eastern port of Fujairah and can

Murban crude, much of which is sold to Asian buyers. Al Kaabi pointed to ADNOC's deep ties to Asian markets, noting partnerships across both upstream and downstream operations. "The current circumstances are very



carry about 1.5 million barrels per day. Al Kaabi said the pipeline is operating close to full capacity, adding: "This has provided us great resilience and flexibility in a very challenging time." Located about 70 nautical miles from the Strait of Hormuz, Fujairah is a major global hub for ship refuelling and energy exports. Last year, it shipped more than 1.7 million barrels per day of crude and refined products, accounting for about 1.7 per cent of global demand. The pipeline and port allow exports to bypass Hormuz entirely. However, recent drone attacks have disrupted loading operations at Fujairah, raising the risk of further supply constraints.

ASIA DEMAND REMAINS A PRIORITY

With Hormuz largely shut, any sustained disruption at Fujairah could force the UAE to further curb output. The port is a key outlet for

challenging to the region (and) the global economy. We'll (use) our best endeavours to ensure we maintain an acceptable level of operation and meeting the demand, especially in Asia," he said. He added that the energy industry must embed resilience into both infrastructure and strategy, noting that ADNOC has invested heavily to ensure operations continue safely across its offshore and onshore assets. Still, Al Kaabi warned that no workaround can fully replace the Strait of Hormuz. Aside from energy, a third of the world's fertilisers and helium, and a quarter of the world's petrochemicals, pass through the narrow waterway. "The Strait of Hormuz is so critical, not only for the UAE, but for the global economy," he said. "It's very critical ... that Hormuz goes back to unrestricted movement to serve the global economy."

US and Iran inch towards short-term deal to end fighting

Islamabad: The United States and Iran are edging toward a limited, temporary agreement to halt their war, sources and officials said on Thursday (May 7), with a draft framework that would stop the fighting but leave the most contentious issues unresolved. The emerging plan centres on a short-term memorandum rather than a comprehensive peace deal, underscoring deep divisions between the two sides and signalling that any agreement at this stage would be an interim step. Hopes that even a partial deal could lead to the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz have already moved markets, with global stocks approaching record highs on Thursday and oil prices nursing steep losses on bets that supply disruptions could ease. Tehran and Washington have scaled back ambitions for a sweeping settlement as differences persist, particularly over Iran's nuclear programme - including the fate of its highly enriched uranium stockpiles and how long Tehran would halt nuclear work. Instead, they are working toward a temporary arrangement aimed at preventing a return to conflict and stabilising shipping through the

strait, the sources and officials said. "Our priority is that they announce a permanent end to war and the rest of the issues could be thrashed out once they get back to direct talks," a senior Pakistani official involved in mediation between the two sides told Reuters. The proposed framework would unfold in three stages: formally ending the war, resolving the crisis in the Strait of Hormuz and launching a 30-day window for negotiations on a broader agreement, according to the sources and officials. A Pakistani source and another source briefed on the mediation said a one-page memorandum to formally end the conflict was close, though gaps remain between the sides.

DEAL HOPES DRIVE OIL DOWN, SHARES

MILITARY, REGIONAL TENSIONS

Trump on Tuesday paused a two-day-old naval mission aimed at reopening the blockaded strait, citing progress in talks. NBC News, citing two unnamed US officials, said Trump decided on the pause after Saudi Arabia suspended the US military's ability to use a Saudi base for the operation. Saudi officials were surprised and angered by Trump's announcement that the US would help escort ships through the Strait, leading them to tell Washington they would deny the US permission to fly military aircraft out of a Saudi base or through Saudi airspace, NBC reported. The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the report. The US military has kept up its own blockade on Iranian ships in the region. US Central Command said forces fired at an unladen Iranian-flagged oil tanker on Wednesday, disabling the vessel as it attempted to sail toward an Iranian port.

KEY DEMANDS LEFT OUT

The source briefed on the mediation said the US negotiations were being led by Trump's envoy Steve Witkoff and son-in-law Jared Kushner. If both sides agreed on the preliminary deal, that would start the clock on 30 days of detailed negotiations to reach a full agreement. The sources said the memorandum did not mention several key demands Washington has made in the past, which Iran has rejected, such as the restrictions on Iran's missile programme and an end to its support for proxy militias in the Middle East, including Hezbollah. The sources also made no mention of Iran's existing stockpile of more than 400kg of near-weapons-grade uranium - one of Washington's central concerns.



shipping through the strait, the sources and officials said. "Our priority is that they announce a permanent end to war and the rest of the issues could be thrashed out once they get back to direct talks," a senior Pakistani official involved in mediation between the two sides told Reuters. The proposed framework would unfold in three stages: formally ending the war, resolving the crisis in the Strait of Hormuz and launching a 30-day window for negotiations on a broader agreement, according to the sources and officials. A Pakistani source and another source briefed on the mediation said a one-page memorandum to formally end the conflict was close, though gaps remain between the sides.

TRUMP OPTIMISTIC, IRAN SCEPTICAL

US President Donald Trump, who has repeatedly played up the prospect of a breakthrough since the war began on Feb 28 with US-Israeli strikes on Iran, struck an optimistic tone. "They want to make a deal ... it's very possible," he told reporters at the White House on Wednesday, adding later that "it'll be over quickly". The proposal would formally end the conflict in which full-scale warfare was paused by a ceasefire announced on Apr 7. But it leaves unresolved key US demands that Iran suspend its nuclear programme and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, the sources said. Israel, which has also been fighting Iran-backed Hezbollah in Lebanon, said on Thursday it had killed a Hezbollah commander in an airstrike on Beirut a day earlier, the first Israeli attack on the Lebanese capital since a ceasefire there was agreed last month. Hezbollah triggered its latest conflict with Israel by opening fire in support of Iran on Mar 2. A halt to Israeli strikes in Lebanon is another key Iranian demand in Tehran's nego-

RISE

Reports of a possible agreement caused global oil prices to shed roughly 11 per cent on Wednesday, with benchmark Brent crude trading at around US\$98 a barrel on Thursday. Global share prices also rose and bond yields fell on optimism about an end to a war that has disrupted energy supplies.

"The contents of the US-Iran peace proposals are thin, but there is an expectation in the market that further military action will not take place," said Takamasa Ikeda, a senior portfolio manager at GCI Asset Management.

Rubio to meet Pope Leo as Trump keeps up attacks on pontiff

Vatican city: US Secretary of State Marco Rubio will meet Pope Leo at the Vatican on Thursday (May 7), in a potentially fraught encounter as President Donald Trump has continued a series of disparaging attacks on the Catholic leader over the Iran war.

Rubio, who also serves as Trump's national security adviser, was due to arrive at the Vatican's Apostolic Palace around 11.15am local time for the visit, the first between the pope and a Trump Cabinet official in nearly a year. The closed-door meeting is expected to last about a half-hour, after which Rubio will also meet the Vatican's top diplomat, Italian Cardinal Pietro Parolin. Pope Leo, the first US pope, drew Trump's ire after becoming a firm critic of the US-Israeli war on Iran and the Trump administration's headline anti-immigration policies. The president has kept up an unprecedented series of public attacks

on the pope in recent weeks, drawing a backlash from Christian leaders across the political spectrum. On Monday, Trump



falsely suggested the pope believed it was okay for Iran to obtain nuclear weapons and said Pope Leo was "endanger-

ing a lot of Catholics" by opposing the war. Pope Leo told journalists after the latest attack that he was spreading the Christian message of peace. The pope also firmly rejected the idea that he supported nuclear weapons, which the Catholic Church teaches are immoral. "The mission of the Church is to preach the Gospel, to preach peace," said the pope. "The Church has spoken out for years against all nuclear arms, on that there is 'no doubt'."

US AMBASSADOR EXPECTS 'FRANK' CONVERSATION Pope Leo, who on Friday marks his first year leading the 1.4-billion-member Church, has grown more outspoken on the world stage in recent weeks. During a four-nation African tour last month, he forcefully decried the direction of global leadership and said the world was "being ravaged by a handful of tyrants", in comments he later said were not aimed directly at Trump. Rubio is Catholic, as is Vice President JD Vance. The two met Pope Leo a year ago after attending the pope's inaugural mass. Rubio said at a White House briefing on Tuesday that he expected to discuss Cuba and concerns over religious freedom around the world with Pope Leo. He was flying to Rome without any press accompanying him on his plane, which is unusual for a US secretary of state.

Guwahati students excel in SOF International Olympiads 2025-26

Guwahati: In a remarkable display of academic excellence, students from Guwahati have brought laurels to the city with their outstanding performance in the Science Olympiad Foundation (SOF) examinations for the academic year 2025-26. This year's SOF Olympiad witnessed participation from millions of students across 70 countries, including more than 42 thousand students from Guwahati. Among the top performers, Nishanth Chettri (Class 1) from St. Rose School in the International General Knowledge Olympiad (IGKO), Arnab Bhagowati (Class 4) from Modern English School in the National Science Olympiad (NSO), and Rohit Mahto (Class 4) from Happy Montessori High School in the International Hindi Olympiad (IHO) secured International Rank 1 and will be awarded Gold Medals, while Ahana Bhuyan (Class 1) from Maharishi Vidya Mandir-IV secured International Rank 3 in the National Science Olympiad (NSO) and will receive a Bronze Medal. The students will also be honoured with Certificates of Outstanding Performance and Certificates of Distinction. Commenting

on the achievement, the Founder & Director of Science Olympiad Foundation (SOF) Mahabir Singhsaid, "The SOF Olympiads for the 2025-26 academic year continue to inspire young minds to strive for excellence and develop critical thinking abilities. The outstanding performance of Guwahati students across multiple Olympiads reflects their dedication, perseverance, and the strong academic foundation provided by their schools. We congratulate the students, parents, and educators for their continued commitment to excellence." These achievements highlight the robust academic ecosystem of Guwahati, where schools are consistently encouraging students to go beyond classroom learning and participate in global competitions. The success of these students not only brings pride to their institutions but also sets a benchmark for others to aspire towards higher academic goals and achieve international recognition. Science Olympiad Foundation (SOF) is an Education Organization popularizing academic competition and assisting development of competitive spirit among school Students.

Chümoukedima: The District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), Chümoukedima, under the Department of Social Welfare, Government of Nagaland, organised a workshop on child protection at Government Higher Secondary School, Medziphema. The workshop focused on the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, and was attended by teachers from the LSC Chümoukedima Complex. Officials said the complex comprises 1 hub school and 4 spoke schools — GHSS Medziphema, GMS Medziphema Town, GMS Medziphema-Kuki, GMS Medziphema Village and GPS Agri Colony. The programme aimed to create awareness on child protection services and legal mechanisms available for the protection and welfare of children. Delivering the keynote address, District Child Protection Officer Nikito Zhimomi said teachers are often the first responders in identifying children in distress and that timely intervention and guidance can help address issues affecting children. He also encouraged participants to utilise the services of the District Child Protection Unit. Speaking on Child Helpline 1098, Project Coordinator of Child Helpline Chümoukedima, Mhaseto Rhakho, explained its functioning, objectives and

support services available for children in need of care and protection. He said the Juvenile Justice Act mandates reporting of cases involving children separated from their

stressed that corporal punishment is prohibited under the JJ Act and urged teachers to adopt positive and child-friendly approaches to discipline while ensuring the safety, dig-



guardians and noted that failure to report such cases constitutes an offence. "Child Helpline is a hope for millions of children," he said. Legal-cum-Probation Officer Wekhrope Marhu delivered a detailed session on the JJ Act, 2015, highlighting the role of various stakeholders, rehabilitation measures and the importance of ensuring care and protection for children in need. He also

noted that failure to report such cases constitutes an offence. "Child Helpline is a hope for millions of children," he said. Legal-cum-Probation Officer Wekhrope Marhu delivered a detailed session on the JJ Act, 2015, highlighting the role of various stakeholders, rehabilitation measures and the importance of ensuring care and protection for children in need. He also

Rising stroke cases among youth linked to illicit drug abuse: Dr Anil Gulati

For decades, the public image of a stroke patient has been that of an elderly individual. However, a startling shift is occurring. New evidence suggests that illicit drug use is rapidly lowering the age of stroke victims, creating an urgent health crisis that traditional medicine is struggling to contain. But as the risks escalate, so does innovation, with a new therapy called sovateltide offering a potential breakthrough in how we treat stroke patients. A major new global analysis published in the International Journal of Stroke has provided compelling evidence that illicit drug use significantly increases the risk of stroke—particularly among younger populations—raising urgent concerns for public health systems worldwide. The study by Ritson, M., Markus, H. S., & Harshfield, E. L. (2026). Does illicit drug use increase stroke risk? A systematic review, meta-analysis, and Mendelian randomization analysis analyzed data from over 100 million individuals across 32 studies, found that substances such as cannabis, cocaine, and amphetamines are strongly associated with an elevated risk of stroke. Cocaine nearly doubled the likelihood of a stroke, while amphetamines were linked to more than a twofold increase. Cannabis, often perceived as relatively safe, was

also associated with a meaningful rise in stroke incidence. The study used advanced genetic methods (Mendelian randomization) to show that these associations are not merely coincidental but likely causal in several cases—particularly for cocaine and cannabis. Alarming, the impact appears even more pronounced in individuals under 55 years of age, proving that drug-related strokes are actively driving a shift toward younger stroke populations. Stroke remains one of the leading causes of death and long-term disability globally. Importantly, much of this burden is driven by modifiable risk factors. These new findings reinforce that substance misuse is not only a social and psychological issue, but also a critical vascular risk factor. These biological pathways explain why young users, who often lack traditional risk factors like chronic hypertension, still suffer disproportionate cardiovascular harm. While prevention strategies targeting substance abuse are essential, a major challenge remains: current acute therapies—such as clot-busting drugs (thrombolytics) and mechanical thrombectomy—are highly time-sensitive. They benefit only a small subset of patients who manage to reach medical care within a narrow time window. Many patients either arrive too late or are ineligible for these procedures,

leaving a significant unmet need for therapies that can improve recovery outcomes beyond the acute phase. In this context, sovateltide is emerging as a novel and potentially transformative therapy for stroke patients. This innovative drug targets endothelin-B receptors to spark neuroprotection, stimulate new neuron growth, facilitate fresh blood vessel formation, and restore blood flow to the brain. Beyond mere clot clearance, it actively works to rebuild damaged tissue. Unlike conventional treatments that focus primarily on reopening blocked vessels, sovateltide aims to repair and regenerate brain tissue, offering hope for improved recovery even after the traditional treatment window has closed. Patients with substance-related strokes often face much steeper recovery challenges. They typically exhibit more severe vascular damage, complicated by overlapping mechanisms like vasospasms, acute hypertension, and inflammation, as well as a heightened risk of recurrence. These factors complicate care far beyond standard clot removal, underscoring the need for advanced treatment options. Sovateltide's unique mechanism of action fits perfectly here by boosting neuronal survival after toxic insults, aiding recovery in ravaged brain areas, and enhancing long-term functional outcomes. Tackling the rising tide of youth strokes requires a two-pronged strategy. First, we must lean heavily on prevention, utilizing public health interventions to curb substance misuse before irreversible damage is done. Second, we must embrace medical innovation by investing in next-generation therapies like sovateltide. (Prof. (Dr.) Anil Gulati is the founder, Chairman, and CEO of Pharmazz, Inc, USA).



New committee formed at Guwahati Dalit Sahitya Chakra Meeting

Guwahati: A meeting of the Guwahati Dalit Sahitya Chakra was held at Chandmari Niramoy Bhavan in Guwahati. As the previous committee had resigned, a new committee was formed during the meeting, which was presided over by lifetime member and engineer Prahlad Shankar Bhagawati Dev. Dr. Nanju Dev was elected as President, Dilip Baruah as Working President, and Dr. Roman Sharma as Vice President. Tribute was paid to Atul Chandra Baruah, with Kanan Bordoloi and engineer Prahlad Shatkor Bhagawati Dev speaking about his contributions. The literary reading session featured participation from Bharatdaz Bhattacharyya, Pramod Chandra Bhattacharyya, Ganesh Kachari, Anjali Chaliha, Bharati Kalita, Ritamoni Bordoloi, Buli Bhuyan, Dilip Baruah, Kabita Bordoloi, Devyani Rajbanshi, Jesmin

Rahman, Tirtha Nath Das, Kalyan Roy, Manmohan Medhi, Nibir Rajratshi, Madan Chandra Medhi, Dr. Suchitra Kakoti, Kakoli Barman, Krishna Sharma, Atul Sharma, Kiran Das, Dr. Tilutama Baruah, Anima Medhi,



Jogamaya Kalita, Manju Gautam, Kakoli Barman, Piyush Kalita, and others. The welcome address was delivered by Dilip Baruah, while the president Prahlad Shankar Bhagawati Dev delivered the concluding remarks. The vote of thanks was offered by Working President Dilip Baruah, and the meeting concluded with everyone singing the national anthem.

Airtel defends 'Priority Postpaid' service before DoT panel, denies net neutrality

Guwahati: Bharti Airtel has defended its new "Priority Postpaid" service before a Department of Telecommunications (DoT) panel, asserting that the offering, powered by 5G network slicing, neither violates net neutrality norms nor degrades service quality for prepaid users. According to the submission made by Airtel in response to a clarification sought by the Committee on Communications and Information Technology, the company said not allowing the use

of mainstream features of 5G to offer services will jeopardise the potential of 6G in the country. "Priority Postpaid is implemented in a content-neutral manner and is fully consistent with the existing TRAI and DoT framework. There is no blocking, throttling, content-specific prioritisation, zero-rating, or preferential treatment of any application," Airtel said. Airtel had launched "Priority Postpaid" plans on May 19, which promise consistent speed even in crowded mar-

kets for postpaid customers. "Airtel Priority feature does not degrade the quality of service for any customer, whether prepaid or postpaid," the company said. The company said that at present, overall 5G capacity utilisation is around 38 per cent in busy hours. Within this, postpaid traffic accounts for only about 4 per cent, which, after the introduction of a virtual "tunnel" (slice) for Priority Postpaid, may move to around 6 per cent, the company said.

'Teachers - the first responders in identifying children in distress'

Paving language progression: 56th Ura Academy seminar begins in Kohima

Kohima: A three-day long 56th Annual Seminar of Ura Academy commenced today in Kohima under the theme "U Dieu Cha Kedze" (Paving language progression). The seminar, which will continue till

delivered welcome address. Earlier, Kikrueneuo Liezietsu, Joint Secretary, Ura Academy led a seminar involving literature boards of Tenyimia communities while keynote address was deliv-



May 29, will be marked by literary discussions, cultural events and presentation of academic award. Exhorting the gathering, Pheluophelie Kesiezie, Treasurer, Ura Academy, stressed on the need to put greater effort and commitment for promotion of Tenyidie, which embodies the cultural identity and brotherhood of the Tenyimia people. He urged upon parents to teach the language at home to ensure its survival for future generations. A new book for Class 9 on Tenyidie was released by Asano Sekhose, Adviser Ura Academy Textbook Division. Special appearance was made by Ato Nienu while Ülikhri and Colored Keys presented folk songs. Arele Sakhamo shared the status of Tenyidie Learning Centre at GHS Razeba. Kereivilie Kire, Secretary General of Ura Academy chaired the programme while Daso Paphino, vice president, Ura Academy

ered by Ura Academy Tenyidie Education Division chairman Dr Zavisie Rume. On May 28, the Ura Academy Rüpñüno programme will be held from 10 AM. The concluding day on May 29 will feature Tenyidie Kephñüno Krotho (TKK) conclave, stating 9AM. During the programme, HSLC and HSSLC Tenyidie subject toppers, HSSLC Music topper and BA Tenyidie topper will be honoured. Various literary competitions will also be conducted. The seminar will conclude with a valedictory programme at 4 pm, to be addressed by Tenyimi Union Nagaland President Kekhwengulo Lea and Ura Academy Vice President Daso Paphino. Ura Academy is primarily a literary society. The Academy is committed to working for preservation and perpetuation of Tenyimia culture in the present Tenyimia society which is undergoing great flux in lifestyle and culture.

Argentina rewrites the global playbook on nicotine

Countries shift from WHO recommendations to FDA-Style regulatory frameworks. For India, still deliberating its own tobacco control framework, the signal is hard to ignore. In a striking policy reversal, Argentina formally lifted their bans on e-cigarettes and heated tobacco products in April-May 2026, joining a growing bloc of nations abandoning prohibition in favour of smart, evidence-based regulation. For India, still deliberating its own tobacco control framework, the signal is hard to ignore. Argentina's case is the starkest. After 15 years of an outright ban, Buenos Aires acknowledged the uncomfortable truth: prohibition hadn't reduced consumption, it had simply driven it underground. With no quality controls, no age verification, and no traceability, the black market thrived. The government replaced the ban with comprehensive regulatory architecture: mandatory product registration, strict ingredient disclosure, and a traceability mechanism explicitly designed to block sales to minors. The message from Buenos Aires was blunt- bans don't work; accountability does. Bangladesh followed suit, implementing parallel controls as it opened its market, signaling that even conservative regulatory environments are pivoting toward managed access over failed prohibition.

The FDA Model Goes Global: The intellectual backbone of this shift is the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's risk-tiered regulatory framework, increasingly seen as the global gold standard over the WHO's blanket prevention approach. The FDA doesn't treat all nicotine products as equivalent. Instead, it differentiates by harm level, subjecting each product to rigorous scientific scrutiny before market access is granted. Of roughly 26 million applications, only 34 smokeless tobacco products have received approval, hardly a free-for-all. Starting late 2025, the FDA accelerated this framework for next-generation nicotine products, with the Trump administration explicitly backing faster approvals for non-combustible alternatives. White House spokesperson Kush Desai framed it plainly - decisions will be guided by the highest standard of scientific evidence. Marketing controls- biometric authentication, identity verification, Bluetooth-enabled age locks are baked into approved product categories. The results on youth protection are striking. Between 2023

and 2024, FDA education campaigns prevented nearly 450,000 adolescents from initiating e-cigarette use. School-age users dropped from 5.38 million in 2019 to 1.63 million in 2024, a near 70% decline, the lowest in over a decade. Minimum purchase age was raised to 21 in 2019; ID checks for under-30s kicked in from 2024. The WHO-FDA Fault Line: The divergence between the WHO's maximum-prevention doctrine and the FDA's calibrated harm-reduction model is more than academic- it has real trade and fiscal consequences. Countries that mechanically apply WHO guidance risk pushing persistent demand into informal channels, enlarging black markets, draining tax revenues, and paradoxically increasing youth exposure through unregulated products. The WHO's recommendations remain non-binding. The question is whether rigid adherence serves public health goals or undermines them. What This Means for India: India sits at a crossroads familiar to Argentina not long ago. The 2019 ban on e-cigarettes addressed legitimate youth protection concerns, but enforcement gaps have allowed a shadow market to expand. As India constructs its next regulatory phase, the international evidence increasingly points in one direction: conditional, risk-stratified regulation outperforms prohibition on every measurable outcome- youth access, market transparency, smuggling control, and tax compliance. "Harm reduction is not a new concept in public health, we use it in infectious disease, in substance use, and in occupational medicine. The question for nicotine policy is whether a risk-stratified regulatory model, with robust age-verification, product registration, and ingredient disclosure, produces better measurable outcomes than prohibition alone. The data from the United States, particularly the near 70% decline in school-age e-cigarette use between 2019 and 2024 under the FDA's structured framework, warrants serious academic attention in India. We should be guided by outcomes, not by the regulatory philosophy we started with," says Dr Chandrakant S Pandav, Former Professor and Head of the Centre for Community Medicine at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi. "The global evidence is becoming increasingly difficult to set aside.

Club success hands South Africa boost for World Cup

Johannesburg : Success for South African club Mamelodi Sundowns in the African Champions League final has



come as a major boost to the country's World Cup squad, national team coach Hugo Broos said on Thursday. Sundowns secured the top club prize on the continent with a 2-1 aggregate win over Morocco's Royal Armed Forces, drawing away in Sunday's second leg in Rabat and returning home to tumultuous acclaim. Eight of the Sundowns players are in the South Africa squad for the World Cup, along with eight players from rivals Orlando Pirates who last Saturday were crowned domestic league champions, pipping Sundowns by a point. "We can say that we have players of the best teams of the season. Those guys have much experience at a high level," Broos told a press conference on Thursday, the day after he announced his 26-man selection for next month's tournament in Canada, Mexico and the U.S. "I can assure you that Sunday's game for Sundowns was the most difficult game in years. Not only

the quality of the opponent, but mentally too, so that helps a lot when you have those players in your team. "I'm

certainly happy that Sundowns won the Champions League, because I was afraid that if they should lose, I would get players who would be very disappointed. So now they all have that boost of confidence, and that helps a lot." South Africa take on co-hosts Mexico in the opening game on June 11 and also face the Czech Republic and South Korea in Group A. Broos expressed confidence South Africa would make it out of the opening group stage and into the knockout phase for the first time in four tournament appearances. "For me, the first goal in this group stage is to get, as soon as possible, three points. I'm convinced if we have three points, we go to the next stage, certainly taking into account that in this World Cup, there are eight third-placed finishers who advance from the group stage." "It was tougher in the past because it was only the top two in the group. But now you have a chance to finish third and still go through," the Belgian-born coach added. "But if you don't have three points, I think it will not be possible to advance. So for us, it will be very important to have those three points as soon as possible, and again, I'm confident that we can achieve that."

Sinner struggles with heat and is cast out of French Open second round by Cerundolo

Paris : Jannik Sinner's bid for a maiden French Open title and career Grand Slam went up in smoke as he experienced physical issues in his second-round match against Juan Manuel Cerundolo and fell to a 3-6 2-6 7-5 6-1 6-1 defeat on a scorching Thursday. Sinner arrived in Paris as the favourite for the title having lifted claycourt titles in Monte Carlo, Madrid and Rome, with his main rival and defending champion Carlos Alcaraz ruled out with injury and Novak Djokovic searching for his best form. But Cerundolo tore up the script in a dramatic clash where he held his nerve even as last year's runner-up Sinner crumbled while on the verge of a big win, sending shockwaves through Roland Garros. "It's tough for him. He was winning the match. I couldn't win more than three games (in any of the first two sets)," said Cerundolo. "I think I was a little bit lucky, I feel sorry for him... he was serving to win this match, but then I don't know what happened. I think he was cramping maybe, or maybe it was the pressure of the match, I don't know. "But of course I feel sorry for him and I hope he recovers. I'm super happy. I'm going to keep trying to play my best... I hope to be ready for the next match."

STREAKS BROKEN

Sinner's defeat ended his 30-match winning run going back to March and also snapped the nine-Grand-Slam streak of 'Sincaraz' championship victories, but the early signs on Thursday hardly pointed to anything other than a comfortable outing. As the temperature climbed over the 30 degrees Celsius mark for the first time in the afternoon, Sinner had already breezed through the first set

on the back of a solitary break, and the 24-year-old Italian looked to be in cruise mode. Cerundolo offered resistance towards the end

immediately broken for 5-5, and dropped the next two games to hand the set to his Argentine opponent, who sensed the chance to pull



off the second set, but the 56th-ranked Argentine was left with a mountain to climb after Sinner unleashed a huge forehand winner to double his lead in the match for the loss of only five games. The four-times Grand Slam champion cooled off with an ice towel in the break and turned up the intensity on his unseeded opponent in the third set to go 5-1 ahead, before he began to struggle and halted play when serving at 5-4. "In the third set I felt dizzy and I wanted to vomit but I couldn't," the Italian was heard saying to an official, before he stepped off the court for a medical timeout.

MAJOR UPSET

Sinner returned five minutes later and was

off a major upset in Paris. Hitting heavier to quicken the points and also serving and volleying frequently, Sinner looked desperate to avoid the exit but his troubles only increased as he began to clutch his right thigh in the fourth set, which he surrendered tamely. Quickly losing control, Sinner was broken early in the decider, as Cerundolo took full advantage to leave the Paris Grand Slam without its title favourite and Djokovic with a golden opportunity to win a standalone 25th major. Should Djokovic miss out, Alexander Zverev looms as another top contender to finally break his Grand Slam duck after losing three major title clashes, with several other dark horses also looking to capitalise.

Arteta targets Champions League title to crown Arsenal rebuild

London : Seven years after returning to a fractured Arsenal, Mikel Arteta will lead his side into Saturday's Champions League final against Paris St Germain, one win from completing a remarkable rebuild. Guiding Arsenal to their first Premier League title since 2004 this season has already repaid the club's long-term faith in him after three successive runner-up finishes. Now he has the chance to go one step further and cap what could be the greatest season in Arsenal's history by delivering Europe's biggest club prize for the first time. "We have raised different standards now, and now we have to go to the next level," Arteta said this week. For a coach shaped by Pep Guardiola during a three-year spell as Manchester City assistant, imitation might have been the obvious route. Many have tried - and failed - to reproduce his fellow Spaniard's blueprint. Arteta chose a different path. Arsenal's rise has been built not just on control, but on pragmatism - a blend of zonal dominance, high pressing and defensive discipline underpinned by a non-negotiable team ethic. A side once mocked for vulnerability has been reshaped into one adept at winning ugly when necessary. "You have to be ruthless and you have to be consistent... to create a winning mentality," Arteta said soon after arriving at Arsenal in 2019. "Without an identity, you cannot plan and you cannot convince a player to do what you want." When Arteta returned to the club he served as a midfielder, those

foundations were missing with the drift and discord that marked the final years of Arsene Wenger's reign deep-rooted. "I am very lucky that we have an ownership model that understood the picture was ugly," he told the podcast the Overlap. "The best part was changing the culture... to understand deeply how people feel about working in the organisation, and I wasn't happy... I wasn't impressed at all."

TEAM BONDING

The reset went beyond tactics. Arteta reshaped the environment at the training ground at London Colney, surrounding players with mes-

sages, mantras and symbols. Unity and accountability became daily expectations, while team bonding helped build a tightly connected group. He even introduced a pet black Labrador named "Win" to the training ground, with players sharing responsibility for walking her. That 'family' environment now defines Arsenal as much as their football. Attention to detail has translated directly onto the pitch. The appointment of set-piece coach Nicolas Jover in 2021 proved a turning point, turning marginal gains into a decisive weapon. Arsenal have broken the Premier League record for goals from corners this season, with more than a third of their goals coming from set-pieces, and a string of narrow wins underlining their evolution from nearly-men to champions. Former Everton manager David Moyes sees that shift clearly. "You have seen Mikel over a few years, he has got dark arts... because you are desperate for your team to win," Moyes said.



Arteta still points to the collective.

"It's just a joy of a group... the togetherness, the unity, the love, the respect," he said after Arsenal sealed their place in the final by beating Atletico Madrid. The road has not been smooth. Early setbacks and near-misses tested the project, but gradually Arsenal moved from contenders to champions, buoyed by what Arteta describes as the "energy, the positivity and the confidence"

around the club. Now, that belief faces its ultimate test against PSG - one of Europe's most formidable sides and a club tied to Arteta's own past. The Spaniard played for the French side early in his career. "We have an amazing opportunity to write new history in our football club," he said. From reset to resurgence, Arteta has reshaped Arsenal in his own image - disciplined, resilient and driven by belief. Now the final step is within reach.

Moana Pasifika to bow out of Super Rugby Pacific against Brumbies

Melbourne : Moana Pasifika will bid farewell to Super Rugby on Saturday against the ACT Brumbies, marking the end of a failed five-year project to boost pathways into the highest levels for players with Pacific islands heritage. Placed into liquidation this week, Moana's demise will see Super Rugby Pacific shrink to 10 teams in 2027 while leaving players and staff with uncertain futures. Tana Umaga's team head into the final round of the regular season at Canberra Stadium riding a 12-match losing streak. A vision that Moana would be based in the Pacific failed to materialise and they ended up as New Zealand's sixth team in the competition by default, struggling for fans and sponsorship in a city dominated by the Auckland Blues. Umaga, set to join Dave Rennie's All Blacks staff, says Moana's exit may strengthen the National Rugby League's hold over Pacific nations' talent. "The Pacific islanders make up about 40 per cent of players in the NRL, similar to rugby (union)," he said. "If they all go to league, it'll be a sad time, a sad place for where rugby should be." Rival clubs are circling the franchise's top talent, with All Blacks enforcer Ardie Savea the hottest property. The loose forward is on a playing sabbatical in Japan but was expected to return to Moana for the 2027 season. Moana are not alone in battling financial prob-

lems. Executives at multiple clubs have warned that Super Rugby, once boasting 18 teams and spanning South Africa to Japan, is on a slippery slope. Hopes that Australia's teams might give New Zealand better competition have come to nothing, with the top four Super Rugby slots set to be locked down by Kiwi teams unless the fifth-placed Brumbies beat Moana and the Canterbury Crusaders lose at home to leaders Wellington Hurricanes on Friday. The Crusaders could drop to sixth place, the last spot in the playoffs, by the end of the weekend if the Queensland Reds take a bonus-point win over Fijian Drua at home on Friday before a Brumbies win. The Hurricanes have an unassailable lead at the top of the table and may have more to lose by beating the Crusaders. With the top-placed team facing the sixth best in the first week of the playoffs, the Hurricanes might prefer to host a visiting Australian side rather than the defending champions. The Blues, meanwhile, will hope to upset the second-placed Chiefs in Hamilton to stave off the threat of the Crusaders taking third place and the privilege of a home playoff. Compared to the New Zealand derbies, the final match of the regular season will be a damp squib as the already-eliminated Australian teams Western Force and New South Wales Waratahs meet in Perth with only pride on the line.

Neymar out of Brazil friendlies and set to miss World Cup opener

May 28 : Neymar has been ruled out of Brazil's upcoming friendlies and is set to miss their World Cup opener after scans revealed a grade-two calf injury, the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) said on Thursday. CBF doctor Rodrigo Lasmar delivered the blow ahead of a players' press conference, confirming the 34-year-old forward faces two to three more weeks on the sidelines. "Neymar reported for duty yesterday here at Granja Comary, underwent all the medical tests, which concluded with an MRI scan revealing a grade-two calf injury, not just swelling. He is expected to be cleared in two to three weeks," Lasmar said. He did not say whether Neymar could be dropped from the squad. He had joined the team on Tuesday but missed Wednesday's first training session and was sent to a private clinic in Teresopolis for imaging tests after complaints of swelling in his right calf. According to Lasmar, the MRI showed not swelling, as previously reported, but a Grade 2 calf strain - a moderate injury involving a partial tear of the muscle fibers that requires rest and rehabilitation. The diagnosis differs from that presented by Santos prior to the squad announcement. The

club's doctor Rodrigo Zogaib had stated the problem was merely swelling and that Neymar would arrive fit to begin training on Tuesday. Instead, Brazil's all-time leading scorer will miss Sunday's friendly against Panama at the Maracana and the subsequent match against Egypt in Cleveland. He is also all but ruled out of Brazil's World Cup opener against African champions Morocco on June 13 in New Jersey. Brazil are in Group C also alongside Haiti and Scotland. Manager Carlo Ancelotti had already been without defenders Gabriel Magalhaes and Marquinhos and forward Gabriel Martinelli for Sunday's fixture due

to their involvement in last weekend's Champions League final between Arsenal and Paris Saint-Germain. Neymar's recall last week had generated widespread excitement after he had not featured in Ancelotti's plans during the Italian's year in charge. The forward, who has scored 79 goals in 128 international appearances, has endured years of injury trouble and an underwhelming return to Santos. In an interview with Reuters in early May, Ancelotti said that Neymar would receive no special treatment and that his place in the squad would be strictly based on fitness and form, not sentiment. For now, Brazil must plan without him.

Scotland extend Clarke's deal through 2030 World Cup

May 28 : Scotland manager Steve Clarke has signed a new contract to remain in charge through to the 2030 men's World Cup, the Scottish Football Association said on Thursday. Clarke, the country's most successful coach, will continue in the role beyond the upcoming World Cup in the United States, Mexico and Canada, and will also lead Scotland's campaign at Euro 2028, which will be co-hosted by Britain and Ireland. The extension provides continuity for a side preparing for their first

World Cup appearance in 28 years, with Clarke having overseen qualification for consecutive European Championships and next month's global tournament. "I am truly honoured to lead my squad into our first men's World Cup in 28 years and I'm proud to continue as head coach," Clarke said in a statement. "I know the Scotland supporters appreciate the achievements of this group in qualifying for back-to-back EUROs and equally sure the whole nation rejoiced in our qualification for World Cup

2026 after such a long time. "It's very important to look ahead and plan for the future and, while my squad will be doing everything in their power to compete and make the country proud in America this summer, it also gives us certainty ahead of the tournament knowing that we can look to build on those foundations for the long-term." Scotland's chief executive Ian Maxwell said Clarke's record and long-term vision made him the clear choice to continue.

Arsenal one win from history as PSG stand in their way

London : Arsenal's long road back to Europe's top table reaches its defining night on Saturday as they face Paris St Germain in the Champions League final, chasing a first crown that would seal the renaissance engineered by Mikel Arteta. The London club held off Manchester City to claim a first Premier League crown for 22 years last week, finally shedding the 'nearly men' tag that had weighed on Arteta's shoulders. With the suffocating pressure of trying to deliver the Premier League title now released, they will seek a glittering 'bonus' trophy that would see them surpass even the legend of Arsene Wenger's 2003-04 Invincibles. They face a formidable challenge in Budapest against Luis Enrique's outstanding PSG team - a rare blend of eye-catching flair, intelligence and hard graft. Just as in 2006 when they lost to Frank Rijkaard's Barcelona in their only previous appearance in the final, Arsenal will start as slight underdogs. But no one should be in any doubt

about Arsenal's ability to deliver on the biggest of stages. They may not be to everyone's liking with their reliance on defensive stability and set pieces, but the old chant of '1-0 to the Arsenal' that marked the days of former manager George Graham is now being sung with a new sense of pride. Eight victories came by that score in the Premier League as Arsenal kept 19 clean sheets while in the Champions League they have kept a competition-high nine shutouts and conceded only six goals in 14 unbeaten games. While reigning champions PSG have been delighting the purists, Arsenal have shown scant regard for critics of their more pragmatic approach and will not be about to tamper with what has become a watertight formula on Saturday. "The first goal is going to be key," former Arsenal midfielder Paul Merson said looking ahead to the final. "PSG will be worried about going 1-0 down to Arsenal, because they'll know they'll be up against it - they'll be scared of losing the first goal." Arsenal's 2-1 defeat by Barcelona in 2006 was followed three years later by a run to the semi-finals. After that it was as if they were making up the numbers amongst Europe's elite with seven successive last-16 exits before five seasons when they failed to even qualify for it. Even when Arteta returned to the club as manager in 2019 it took a while for Arsenal to re-establish themselves in Europe's most prestigious club competition. But since then the progress has been impressive. Two years ago they lost by the odd goal against Bayern Munich in the quarter-finals before reaching the semi-finals last season, falling to Luis Enrique's PSG again over two tight legs. Spaniard Arteta felt a deep sense of grievance after that bitter loss just over a year ago - claiming that defeat would make his team even more hungry to conquer Europe.

Assam Assembly Speaker Ranjit Kumar Das Pays Visit to Bordowa Than, Praises Srimanta Sankardev's Legacy

Safiqur Rahman, Staff Reporter, Nagaon, May 29: Ranjit Kumar Das on Thursday visited Bordowa Than and offered prayers at the sacred birthplace of Vaishnavite saint and reformer



Srimanta Sankardev.

Speaking to reporters after offering prayers at the Kirtanghar, Das described Sankardev as a "complete human being endowed with all 64 arts after Lord Krishna." He said the great saint was a radiant personality enriched with every virtue and termed him "the first incarnate spiritual figure of Indian civilization."

The Assembly Speaker, who recently assumed office for a second term and was elected MLA from the newly formed Bhawanipur-Sarbhog constituency, said the ideals and teachings of Sankardev have helped establish Assamese culture and identity on the global stage. He also prayed for strength to further promote the rich cultural heritage of Assam across the country.

Replying to a question from journalists, Das said the Assam Legislative Assembly Secretary Dulal Pegu was removed after his tenure exceeded two years, adding that justice and proper administrative procedures must be maintained.

On the issue of encroachment on Satra lands, Das urged the Assam government to take strict legal measures to protect the lands of several Sattras located near Bordowa, many of which are still under encroachment. He appealed for legislation to prevent further illegal occupation of Satra properties.

Later, the Speaker was felicitated by the Bordowa Than Management Committee with traditional Assamese items including a gamusa, cheleng chadar, devotional songs, a souvenir and a symbolic memento of Bordowa Than. Several committee members and BJP leaders were present on the occasion. Das also visited the newly constructed Bordowa Avirbhav Kshetra following the programme.

Minister Rameswar Teli visits bereaved families at Dholmara

Kanak Chandra Boro, Kokrajhar, May 29: Assam Cabinet Minister Rameswar Teli on Wednesday visited Dholmara village in Kokrajhar district and met the families of the two minor student girls whose bodies were recovered from a pond on May 21. The tragic incident has continued to spark reactions and suspicion among local residents and the victims' families.



The deceased students were identified as Anamika Bara and Sarita Oraon. Amid growing demands for a proper investigation into the mysterious deaths, Minister Rameswar Teli visited the bereaved families and expressed deep condolences.

During his visit, the minister also interacted with local residents and family members to understand their concerns regarding the incident. Family members and villagers stated that they are finding it difficult to accept that the deaths occurred due to drowning and alleged that there may be deeper mystery surrounding the case. They urged the authorities to ensure a fair and proper investigation to deliver justice.

Speaking to the media, Rameswar Teli expressed grief over the unfortunate incident and conveyed sympathy to the affected families. As a gesture of support, the minister handed over government sanction letters providing financial assistance of Rs 2 lakh each to both bereaved families.

Contd. From Page 1 - - - - -

Assam Governor leads...

Relics, originating from the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Sanchi Stupa, hold immense spiritual significance for Buddhists across the world. The initiative has been undertaken at the special instance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi as part of India's continued efforts to strengthen its enduring cultural and spiritual connections with Mongolia, often regarded as India's spiritual neighbour in the larger Buddhist world.

The Governor of Assam will depart on May 30, 2026, leading a delegation carrying the sacred relics with full ceremonial honours.

During the exposition in Mongolia, devotees, monks, scholars and spiritual followers from across the country are expected to pay homage to the Holy Relics. The exposition is being viewed as a historic spiritual occasion and a symbol of the deep-rooted friendship and shared Buddhist heritage between the two nations.

Governor Shri Acharya will return to India on June 3, 2026.

Udalguri District Launches...

grievance redressal.

A significant outcome of the campaign emerged when the District Child Protection Office received information regarding an orphan girl studying in Class X who required financial assistance for her education. Authorities promptly initiated steps to extend government support through the Child Welfare Committee.

The district administration in a press statement on Friday stated that the successful implementation of the campaign reflects its commitment towards inclusive development and welfare support for remote tribal communities.

New Bongaigaon Workshop...

blasting machine for LHB bogie frames and bolsters. This initiative has enabled mechanized shot blasting with improved surface finish quality, contributing to better maintenance standards and operational efficiency.

These initiatives highlight Northeast Frontier Railway's commitment towards adopting advanced technologies, improving maintenance practices and strengthening railway infrastructure across the zone, informed by CPRO of NFR Kapinjal Kishore Sharma.

Contd. From Page 1 - - - - -

District Task Force Meeting...

objective of ensuring healthcare services reach every section of society, the district administration and district health department have already directed all designated schools to remain fully open on the inaugural day of the programme and to function as primary vaccination centres. To cover all geographical areas of the district, a well-coordinated four-member team network will be deployed during the campaign.

Due to a shortage of medical personnel, the district administration has integrated inter-departmental resources by combining frontline healthcare workers such as Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs) with workers from the Social Welfare Department, ASHA workers, and Anganwadi workers. These groups will operate permanent booths at hospitals, local sub-centres, and Anganwadi centres.

In addition, special transit teams will establish checkpoints at crowded public places such as railway stations, bus terminals, and auto stands to administer polio vaccines to travelling children. Simultaneously, mobile "clean teams" will follow a fixed and time-bound schedule to provide polio drops in remote villages, brick kiln areas, and surrounding localities.

The successful implementation of the three-day campaign will depend entirely on inter-departmental coordination. The Social Welfare and Education Departments will lead public mobilisation through door-to-door awareness campaigns and school-level coordination. Furthermore, the Transport and Power Departments have been entrusted with arranging vehicles for smooth movement of vaccination teams and ensuring uninterrupted electricity supply for maintaining cold-chain storage and vaccination centres.

To maintain data accuracy and ensure that no child is left out, field-level workers will implement a strict physical verification protocol. Similar to the election process, every child receiving the vaccine will have an ink mark applied on their finger for easy identification.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Ronanmoy Bhardwaj, Joint Director of Health Services Dr. Makhn Kalita, Additional Chief Medical and Health Officer (Family Welfare) Dr. Arundhati Bora Hazarika, District Immunisation Officer Dr. Ruma Shyam, District Project Officer Dhruvajyoti Saikia, Motor Vehicle Inspector Gyandeep Das, District Public Health Nursing Officer Kalpana Bharali, Child Welfare Project Officers Bibha Medhi and Santana Barua, District Extension and Mass Media Officer Pradip Dutta, along with officials and staff from the health department and other related departments.

PM Narendra Modi meets...

and cultural identity of tribal communities and described the tribal way of life as one of the world's most sustainable models. He stated that tribal communities have preserved nature for generations and maintained a balanced relationship with forests and natural resources, which continues to offer lessons in sustainable living and environmental conservation. "For our tribal brothers and sisters, forests, hills and water bodies are centres of faith, livelihood and cultural identity," Amit Shah said, while also noting that tribal communities have long upheld the principle of "unity in diversity and diversity in unity." His remarks were viewed as part of the government's continuing effort to recognise and celebrate tribal traditions, knowledge systems and cultural practices that have been preserved over centuries. The Janjati Sanskritik Samagam programme also focused on showcasing tribal heritage, art, music, traditions and social values, highlighting the richness and diversity of India's tribal communities. The emphasis on tribal empowerment and cultural preservation has become a recurring theme in government outreach programmes and national events, with leaders repeatedly stressing the need to ensure development while safeguarding traditional identity and customs. Observers noted that Prime Minister Modi's meeting with representatives of the Janjati Suraksha Manch aligns with this broader vision of strengthening tribal participation in governance, development and cultural preservation. The Prime Minister has on several occasions spoken about the importance of ensuring that development reaches the most remote tribal areas and that tribal youth receive greater access to education, healthcare, digital connectivity and employment opportunities. Government initiatives aimed at improving infrastructure, road connectivity, housing, drinking water access and welfare delivery in tribal belts have also been highlighted as part of efforts to improve living standards while ensuring that tribal communities continue to retain their unique cultural character. Officials said the Centre's tribal welfare initiatives are intended not only to address socio-economic challenges but also to preserve the cultural richness and traditional knowledge systems associated with tribal societies across India. The interaction between Prime Minister Modi and the Janjati Suraksha Manch representatives also reflected growing attention towards issues concerning tribal identity and community participation in national development. The discussions reportedly included the importance of empowering tribal youth and women, strengthening educational access, supporting livelihoods and ensuring that tribal traditions and languages are protected for future generations. The Prime Minister's remarks praising the dedication of the representatives were seen as recognition of the contribution made by social and cultural organisations working among tribal communities in different regions of the country. Political observers said the Centre's continued engagement with tribal groups demonstrates the importance being attached to tribal welfare in the government's policy framework. Tribal communities occupy a significant place in India's demographic and cultural structure, and many government programmes in recent years have sought to address historical gaps in infrastructure, education, healthcare and economic opportunities in tribal-dominated districts. Alongside welfare and development initiatives, emphasis has also been placed on recognising tribal freedom fighters and leaders whose contributions had often remained underrepresented in mainstream historical narratives. Birsa Munda, whose legacy was highlighted by Amit Shah during the Janjati Sanskritik Samagam, has emerged as one of the central figures in this effort to celebrate tribal icons and their role in India's freedom struggle. The government has repeatedly highlighted his role in mobilising tribal communities against British rule and protecting tribal rights, identity and faith. Programmes linked to tribal heritage and empowerment have increasingly focused on creating awareness among younger generations about the contribution of tribal leaders, reformers and freedom fighters. Analysts said the meeting between the Prime Minister and the Janjati Suraksha Manch representatives also carried symbolic significance because it took place amid continued discussions around cultural identity, social inclusion and grassroots participation in governance. The Janjati Suraksha Manch has been associated with issues concerning tribal welfare, identity and cultural preservation, and its interaction with the Prime Minister reflected the Centre's engagement with organisations active in tribal regions. The emphasis on preserving forests, water bodies and traditional tribal lifestyles also comes at a time when discussions around environmental sustainability and conservation continue to gain global attention. Tribal communities in India have often been recognised for their close relationship with nature and their traditional knowledge systems related to forests, agriculture, medicinal plants and ecological balance. Government leaders have repeatedly referred to tribal lifestyles as examples of sustainable coexistence with nature. During his recent remarks, Amit Shah also referred to the tribal way of life as one of the world's most sustainable models, linking tribal traditions with environmental conservation and balanced living practices. The renewed attention on tribal welfare and cultural identity has also coincided with efforts to increase visibility for tribal art, language, music and festivals through national-level programmes and events. Officials said such initiatives are intended to strengthen pride and awareness regarding tribal heritage while also creating opportunities for tribal artisans and cultural practitioners. Prime Minister Modi has often spoken about ensuring that tribal communities become equal partners in India's growth story and that development programmes reach every village and region. The Centre has also highlighted various welfare schemes aimed at improving education, healthcare access, housing, sanitation and livelihood opportunities in tribal belts. Government representatives maintain that empowering tribal communities is essential for inclusive national development and social progress. The interaction in New Delhi therefore carried both developmental and cultural significance, with discussions centring on how tribal communities can continue to preserve their traditions while also benefiting from modern infrastructure and economic opportunities. Political commentators observed that the repeated references by senior leaders to forests, identity, faith and culture underline the broader narrative being promoted around tribal heritage and empowerment. The government's outreach towards tribal organisations and community representatives has also been accompanied by programmes celebrating tribal festivals, heroes and historical contributions across different states. The meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Janjati Suraksha Manch representatives further reinforced the message that tribal communities remain central to the government's vision of inclusive growth and cultural preservation. As discussions on tribal welfare continue to gain prominence at the national level, the Centre has reiterated its commitment to protecting tribal identity, strengthening opportunities for tribal youth and ensuring that development initiatives are implemented while respecting local traditions, customs and social structures. The interaction also reflected the larger political and social significance of tribal communities in India's development discourse, with the government continuing to stress the importance of participation, empowerment and cultural pride. By acknowledging the dedication of the Janjati Suraksha Manch representatives and engaging in meaningful discussions related to tribal development and empowerment, Prime Minister Modi once again highlighted the importance being attached to tribal welfare within the broader framework of national progress and inclusive governance.

District Development Committee Meeting Held in Morigaon

Ensuring 100% Enrollment of Girl Children in Schools is a Top Priority of the District Administration: District Commissioner



Morigaon, May 29: The monthly meeting of the District Development Committee was held today at the conference hall of the District Commissioner's office in Morigaon under the chairpersonship of Dis-

Anamika Tewari. The meeting reviewed the progress and functioning of various departments across the district.

During the review of the School Education Department, the District Commissioner stressed

the importance of ensuring 100 percent enrollment of girl children in schools and directed officials to take necessary measures so that no girl child drops out of school. She also emphasised promoting equality among students through inclusive classroom practices and regular rotation of seating arrangements.

Reviewing the Health Department, she instructed officials to ensure timely immunization of all children through proper planning and encouraged girls aged 14-15 years to take the HPV vaccine for the prevention of cervical cancer. She also directed the health authorities to take

necessary measures to prevent any illegal activities in Morigaon Civil Hospital.

The District Commissioner further reviewed the status of paddy procurement, PM Fasal Bima Yojana, farmer registration, Kisan Credit Cards, Soil Health Cards, and the progress of the under-construction Morigaon Circuit House. She called upon all departments to work in close coordination as a team for effective implementation of developmental activities.

The meeting also reviewed the functioning of the Irrigation, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Vet-

erinary, Industries & Commerce, Handloom & Textiles, Women & Child Development, and Food, Public Distribution & Consumer Affairs Departments, among others.

District Development Commissioner Orpah Baglari also reviewed several departments and instructed officials to expedite the pace of ongoing works. Additional District Commissioners Anusuya Sharma, Dr. Mayurponkhi Bora, Nitisha Bora, and heads of various departments were present at the meeting.

A district-level consultation meeting on gender-sensitive issues and their redressal measures

Dhemaji, May 29: A district-level consultation meeting on gender-sensitive issues and their redressal measures was held today at the Training Centre of Gramya Abhikaran Kendra, Dhemaji. The meeting was organized by Pro Rural Organization with support from Bread for the World.

Dhemaji DSP Mukut Patowary, while addressing the meeting, shared important legal information regarding violence against women. He emphasized that creating awareness among children is most crucial in cases of child marriage and human trafficking.

Childline Project Coordinator Gayatri Tanti explained the procedures related to cases of child marriage and trafficking. She detailed where to approach and how to report such cases.

Tribenee Talukdar, Member of Dhemaji Child Welfare Committee, stated that there are provisions for children who have no parents or anyone to take care of them.

Several other distinguished persons also participated in the meeting. Executive members of Grammy Unnayan Mancha (GUM), Panchayat representatives, and child protection workers were present. As per the agenda, GUM President Bhodreswar Gogoi began the programme in the morning by welcoming the government officials and participants. The Community Coordinator explained the objective, stating that it is essential to create awareness on gender-related issues such as violence against women, child marriage, trafficking, and gender inequality, and to ensure equal rights and opportunities for women and girls in society. All present echoed the same sentiment.

VCDC Chairman arrested for involvement in illegal felling of trees



Kokrajhar, May 29: Abul Sheikh, Chairman of Jalabila VCDC under Parbatjhora subdivision in Kokrajhar district, has been arrested for his alleged involvement in the illegal felling of valuable sal trees in the Mahamaya forest area.

According to police officials, forest authorities took Sheikh into custody following allegations linking him to the unauthorized cutting and extraction of precious sal trees from the forest area.

Sources further claimed that Abul Sheikh is known to be a close associate of several influential figures in the present Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) government.

A case, No. 33/26, under Sections 303(2), 324(5), and 317(4) of the BNS read with Sections 24, 25, and 40 of the AFR, has been registered against him at Bagribari Police Station.

The arrest has generated considerable public interest, with many calling for a thorough

and impartial investigation into the matter.

Dibrugarh Senior Journalist's Daughter Khristina Duwarah Wins Gold Medal in All India MSW Final Examination



M Hashim Ali, Dibrugarh, May 29: Khristina Duwarah, a daughter of Chiring Chapori in Dibrugarh, has passed the Master of Social Work (MSW) final examination of Amity University, Noida, this year with distinction. She secured the first position in the first division and was declared the departmental topper of the university, winning a gold medal.

Khristina Duwarah achieved this distinction by securing a CGPA of 8.39. Earlier, she had also earned her graduation degree with honours and distinction from Kamala Nehru College under the University of Delhi. Khristina Duwarah is the only daughter of senior journalist Ron Duwarah of The Assam Tribune and late Archita Bora Duwarah. The people of the region have expressed great joy over her achievement.

Alumni Welcome Programme Held at College of Fisheries

SafiqurRahman, Staff Reporter, Nagaon, May 29: The Alumni Association of College of Fisheries, Raha (AACOF-R) under the Assam Veterinary and Fishery University (AVFU), in association with the college authorities, organised a special programme titled "From Alma Mater to

eral Secretary of the Alumni Association, Dr. Rajdeep Dutta, followed by the felicitation of dignitaries. A total of 25 graduating students were honoured with traditional Phulam Gamuchas as a mark of appreciation and best wishes.

the gathering, Dean of the College Dr. Pradip Chandra Bhuyan stressed the importance of maintaining strong ties between alumni and the institution and encouraged students to remain connected with their alma mater.

An interactive session be-



Alumni Matter: A Farewell and Welcome Celebration" on Monday.

The programme was organised to bid farewell to the graduating batch of 2026 and formally welcome them into the alumni fraternity. Faculty members, alumni, graduating students and current students participated in the event, celebrating academic achievements and the enduring bond with the institution.

The programme began with a welcome address by the Gen-

Faculty members, including Dr. S. K. Bhagabati, shared valuable guidance on career development, professional growth and future opportunities while extending their best wishes to the students. Members of the graduating batch also shared their memorable experiences and reflections on their journey at the College.

Treasurer of the Alumni Association, Sangipran Baishya, highlighted the various activities and initiatives undertaken by the Association. Addressing

tween alumni and students provided an opportunity for the graduating batch to learn from the experiences of their seniors and strengthen professional networks. Cultural performances by students Prarthana Gogoi and Jugashree Das added colour to the celebration.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Raktim Sarmah, Executive Member of the Alumni Association. The event was compered by Tushar Pratim Gogoi, M.F.Sc. scholar of the College.

Sanjiv Shyam promoted as secretary in Assam PWD Roads



Staff Reporter, Guwahati, May 29: The Assam Government has promoted Public Works roads Chief Engineer Sanjeeb Shyam to the rank of Government Secretary PWRD following an administrative reshuffle in the department.

According to an official notification issued on May 27 by Personnel (A) Department Secretary Bikram Dev Sharma, the promotion was made in public interest based on the recommendations of the Selection Board.

Following the promotion, Shyam was appointed Secretary to the Government of Assam in the Public Works (Roads) Department. He is expected to oversee key initiatives related to the development of the state's road infrastructure.

Vidya Bharati Purvottar Kshetra Panchpadi Adhigam Padhati Training Workshop Inaugurated

Guwahati, May 29: Arunachal Shiksha Vikas Samiti inaugurated the Vidya Bharati Purvottar Kshetra Panchpadi Adhigam Padhati Prashikshan Karyashala today at the ASVS Training Centre, Pachin Colony, Naharlagun, Arunachal Pradesh.

The inaugural session was graced by distinguished dignitaries including Shri Gobinda Chandra Mahanta Ji, All India Organising Secretary of Vidya Bharati Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Sansthan; Shri Dusi Ramakrishna Rao Ji, Vice President of VBABSS; and Dr. Pawan Tiwari Ji, Organizing Secretary of Vidya Bharati Purvottar Kshetra.

In a press briefing in Guwahati Prantiyo Prachar Sanyojak of Shishu Shiksha Samiti, Assam Mukuteswar Goswami informed that the workshop has brought together Master Trainers from all the North Eastern states under Vidya Bharati Purvottar Kshetra. The training programme aims to strengthen the Panchpadi Adhigam Padhati and enhance the quality of teaching-learning practices in Vidya Bharati institutions across the region.

Addressing the participants, the dignitaries emphasized the importance of value-based education, innovative teaching methodologies, and the vital role of teachers in nation-building. They encouraged the trainers to actively contribute towards strengthening educational excellence rooted in Indian culture and values.

The Karyashala will continue with various academic sessions, practical demonstrations, group activities, and interactive discussions for the participating trainers. The programme is scheduled to conclude on 30th May 2026.

The workshop is expected to play a significant role in enhancing the effectiveness of classroom teaching and promoting holistic education in Vidya Bharati schools across the North Eastern region.

Prestige Recognition Award Conferred on Assam's Renowned Doctor Dr. Kabita Sharma at the 38th Foundation Day of Electro Homeo Medical Association

Khairuddin Ahmed, Staff Reporter Sivasagar, May 29: The 38th National Foundation Day of the All India Electro Homeo Medical Association was held on May 24 at Hotel Grand Legacy in Dehradun. Hundreds of doctors from different states of India participated in the event. On this occasion, noted Assamese homeopathic physician Dr. Kabita Sharma was honoured with the prestigious "Prestige Recognition Award."

The national-level award was formally presented to Dr. Kabita Sharma by Uttarakhand AYUSH Minister Madan Kaushik. Addressing the gathering, the minister stated that Dr. Sharma was selected for the award in recognition of her successful treatment and recovery of more than 50,000 patients suffering from complicated diseases from across Assam, the Northeast, and several other states of the country within a short period through effective medical care.

Doctors from Rajasthan, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and several other states attended the conference and elaborated on their respective treatment methods and disease diagnosis systems. It is noteworthy that Dr. Kabita Sharma, known for her expertise in treating patients suffering from complex diseases within a short duration, has already received several national honours since 2016, including the highest honour in homeopathy — the Hahnemann Award, Award of Honour, and Award of Excellence. Prior to the foundation day celebration, Dr. Sharma participated in a free medical and medicine distribution camp held at Alipur Bahadradab in Haridwar, where she provided treatment services to more than a hundred patients. The medical camp was inaugurated by Alipur constituency MLA Adesh Chauhan.

After the foundation day programme, Dr. Kabita Sharma also took part in the holy Ganga Aarti in Haridwar under the supervision of EMI India National President K.P. Chauhan. Haridwar President Nitin Gautam, Dr. Sharma's husband Devajit Kakoti, and several office bearers of the association were present at the event.