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Brief Post

3 arrested
City Correspondent, Guwahati, July 19: An East Guwahati Police District team from Basistha Police Station cracked two cases of burglary, reported on 11th and 13th of July after it busted three members gang and arrested Manoj Baruah (24) of Simaluguri, Mridul Basumatary alias Thangbai (21) of Seujl Nagar and Nikhil Deka (24) of Belsor.

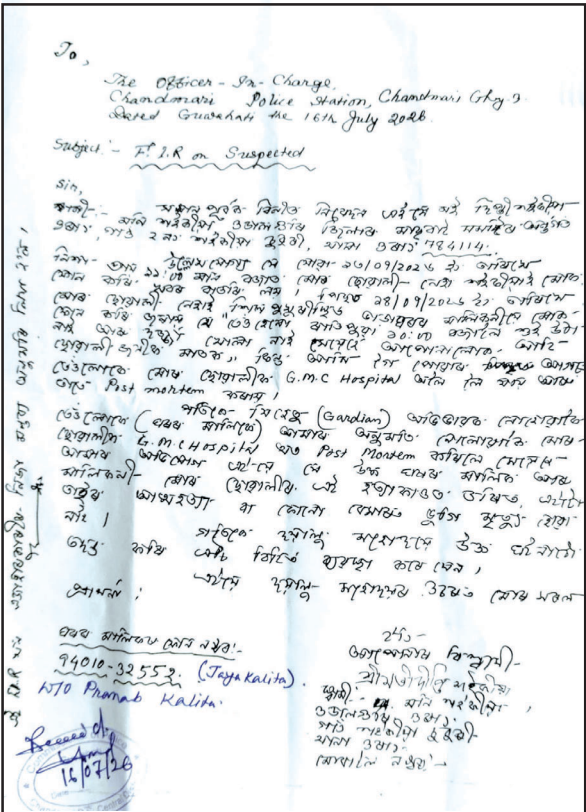
Further probe led to recovery of one LED TV, one Deil Laptop, Rs 75,000/- in case, one e-Rickshaw bearing Registration No. AS 01 GR 2027 used to commit the crime and tools like one hammer, one screwdriver, two pilers and one wire cutter.

Legal action initiated, informed by Police Commissionerate Guwahati.

UDAN scheme
New Delhi: The Union Government has unveiled an ambitious new phase of the Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) scheme, setting the stage for a major expansion of India's regional aviation network over the coming decade with a strong focus on improving air connectivity, strengthening airport infrastructure, supporting indigenous aviation capabilities and making air travel more accessible for millions of people across the country.

Neha Saikia's family alleges pre-planned murder, seeks thorough probe

Orang, July 19: The family mem-



bers of Neha Saikia of Orang, whose body was recovered under mysterious circumstances from her rented accommodation at Silpukhuri in Guwahati, have

alleged that she was subjected to torture and murdered in a pre-planned manner.

According to the family, Neha's body was reportedly found hanging from a nail fixed on a wall at a height of around five to six feet, while her knees and legs were allegedly in a bent position and touching the floor. Citing the circumstances in which the body was found, her parents have expressed serious doubts over the nature of her death and alleged that it could be a case of planned murder.

The bereaved parents have demanded a thorough and impartial investigation into the incident and urged the State Government and police administration to identify and arrest those responsible, if any, and ensure stringent punishment in accordance

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VP Radhakrishnan launches RSS Centenary Book hails service unity spirit

New Delhi, July 19: Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan released the book RSS @100: A Century of Service, Unity & Sacrifice at Uprashtrapati Bhavan, describing the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) as an organisation that has played a significant role in promoting the ideals of service, unity, discipline and national consciousness over the past hundred years. The book, authored by Shyam Jaju and Anupam Trivedi, traces the organisation's century-long journey, highlighting its evolution, activities, organisational philosophy and contribution to nation-building since its establishment in 1925. The release function was attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Delhi Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) President Ram Bahadur Rai, RSS Kshetra Sangchalak Pawan Jindal, the authors and several distinguished guests from public life, academia and social organisations. Addressing the gathering, the Vice President said it was a privilege to participate in an event commemorating the RSS centenary and noted that his association with the organisation spans sev-

eral decades. He observed that



the publication attempts to document not only the historical milestones of the RSS but also the values and principles that have guided its volunteers across generations. Referring to a Tamil poem dedicated to the organisation, he said the composition compares the RSS with the sacred river Ganga, symbolising an institution that continuously flows in service of society without seeking recognition or reward. According to him, the analogy reflects the spirit of selfless service that has

remained central to the

unity and sacrifice have been the three foundational ideals that continue to inspire lakhs of volunteers associated with the organisation. Explaining these values, he said service represents selfless commitment towards society, unity strengthens bonds among people despite differences of language, region and culture, while sacrifice reflects the willingness to dedicate one's efforts for larger national interests. The Vice President emphasised that institutions capable of enduring over a century do so because they cultivate values rather than merely expanding their organisational structures. He observed that the RSS has consistently focused on character-building through its daily

organisation's functioning since its inception. Radhakrishnan stated that the book presents the RSS as a movement committed to preserving India's civilisational ethos while adapting to the changing needs of society. He said the publication explores how the organisation has worked to revive, reinforce and preserve the country's cultural heritage, traditions, languages and values while encouraging citizens to contribute positively to national development. He noted that service,

shakhas, where volunteers gather for physical activities, discussions and community interaction. According to him, these regular gatherings seek to instil discipline, leadership qualities, teamwork and a sense of responsibility among participants. Quoting from the newly released book, he described the shakha as "a workshop of the soul where the raw energy of youth is chiselled into national character," adding that such initiatives have contributed to creating individuals committed to public service and community welfare. He further said that leadership is not created overnight but develops gradually through discipline, experience and sustained engagement with society. Highlighting the broader role of cultural continuity, Radhakrishnan observed that the RSS has consistently encouraged pride in India's civilisational heritage, spiritual traditions, indigenous knowledge

Contd to Pg 11.

NFR to Begin Multi Section Digital Axle Counter Commissioning at New Jalpaiguri Yard

Maligaon, Jul 19: Northeast Frontier Railway has achieved another significant milestone in its journey towards modernising railway infrastructure with the commissioning of the Multi Sec-



tion Digital Axle Counter (MSDAC) at New Jalpaiguri Yard under Katihar Division. The commissioning work is scheduled to be undertaken from 26th to 28th July, 2026. This advanced signalling system will significantly enhance train detection capabilities, strengthen operational safety, improve reliability and facilitate smoother train movements through one of the busiest railway yards in the region. To facilitate the commissioning work, a few train services will be temporarily regulated as detailed below:

Contd to Pg 11.

Min Atul Bora distributes Grants to 380

Jugantor Bordoloi Golaghat, communities, the central



July 19: In a major stride toward eradicating rural poverty and fostering economic self-reliance among marginalized

government's flagship scheme, Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY), was successfully rolled out to

hundreds of beneficiaries in the Golaghat district of Assam.

A high-profile financial grant distribution ceremony was organized by the Assam State Rural Livelihood Mission (ASRLM), Golaghat chapter, aiming to equip Scheduled Caste (SC) families with the necessary capital to build sustainable livelihoods.

Inauguration by Minister Atul Bora

The formal distribution process was officially inaugurated by the Chief Guest of the event, Shri Atul Bora, the Honorable Minister for Panchayat & Rural Development, Excise, and other portfolios for the Government of Assam.

Addressing a large gathering of rural entrepreneurs and self-help group members, Minister Bora

Contd to Pg 11.

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BJP's Development Agenda Wins Hearts in Assam: CM

Guwahati: NDA has pledged continued development for Assam constituencies, highlighting its commitment to transforming the region through comprehensive infrastructure upgrades, improved healthcare, and education. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma emphasized the NDA's unwavering dedication to creating jobs, fostering economic growth, and ensuring security, urging voters to support the alliance's progress-focused agenda. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma intensified his campaign efforts for BJP candidates in Samaguri and Bihali Legislative Assembly Constituencies (LACs), ahead of the upcoming bye-elections, appealing to the people's support to secure a strong showing for the party. Addressing a rally in Samaguri, Sarma strongly criticized the Congress party, accusing its leadership of exploiting the region for personal political gains and asserting that the BJP, under his leadership, is dedicated to serving the people of the constituency with integrity and a focus on development. Sarma, who has held the Chief Minister's office since May 2021, highlighted the contrast between his party's approach to governance and the alleged history of Congress leadership in the region, emphasizing that under the BJP's rule, Assam has witnessed a new era of development and good governance. He reassured the gathering that the BJP's agenda is centered on tangible progress, rather than self-interest, and urged the people of Samaguri and Bihali to vote for BJP candidates, promising a brighter future for the constituencies. Reflecting on his own political journey, Sarma reminded the audience of his transition from being a long-time member of the Indian National Congress to joining the BJP and subsequently leading the party to victory in Assam. A seasoned and influential figure in Assamese politics, Sarma has effectively connected with the public by championing development and good governance, while also serving as the convenor of the North-East Democratic Alliance (NEDA). The rally underscored several core themes of the BJP's campaign, which Sarma elaborated on for the crowd. He stressed that Congress leaders have historically exploited the people of Samaguri for their own political benefit, pledging that the BJP would serve the constituency's needs with sincerity and dedication. Sarma went on to highlight the BJP's recent achievements in Assam, including the launch of Mission Basundhara in 2021, which aims to address land-related issues for residents. This initiative, according to Sarma, has resonated with many people, especially those from marginalized sections, and stands as an example of the BJP's commitment to resolving long-neglected community concerns. The Chief Minister urged the people of both Samaguri and Bihali LACs to support BJP candidates in the upcoming elections, expressing confidence that the party's focus on development and good governance would bring about positive change for these constituencies. In addition to his election-centered messaging, Sarma's rally also reflected his broader governance priorities and accomplishments. Since assuming office, Sarma has introduced a series of significant initiatives aimed at land reforms, anti-encroachment drives, and educational reforms, such as the conversion of state-funded madrasas into regular schools. These initiatives are part of his administration's larger vision to transform Assam by addressing both the educational and social needs of the people. Sarma also highlighted his firm stance on security issues, particularly counter-terrorism efforts and extrajudicial measures, which have garnered both praise and controversy. His headline approach to maintaining law and order has drawn mixed reactions, with some praising him for restoring peace in volatile regions, while others have criticized his methods as heavy-handed. Nonetheless, Sarma's influence within the state remains strong, and his campaign in Samaguri and Bihali represents a critical moment for the BJP, as the party seeks to solidify its

control across Assam. The upcoming bye-elections are seen as a significant test of the BJP's support in the region, and Sarma's outreach to voters emphasizes his vision for an Assam governed by the BJP's principles of progress, security, and welfare. His speech concluded with a call to action, urging voters to turn out in large numbers and choose the BJP candidates, positioning the party as the only viable option for those who want a government focused on the welfare and prosperity of Assam. The Chief Minister's dynamic campaign is expected to play a key role in consolidating BJP's influence in the region, as the party strives to fulfill its promises of development and growth for the people of Assam. As the bye-elections draw nearer, the people of Samaguri and Bihali will decide whether Sarma's vision for the state and his promises of progress will resonate with their aspirations. Sarma's leadership has been marked by both achievements and controversies, and it is clear that his influence will remain pivotal in shaping the political landscape of Assam in the years to come. The outcome of the upcoming bye-elections will not only be crucial for BJP's hold in Samaguri and Bihali but will also serve as a barometer for the party's future prospects in Assam, where Sarma's role as Chief Minister and his leadership within the BJP will continue to play a defining part in the region's development. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has ramped up his campaign for the upcoming bye-elections in Samaguri and Bihali Legislative Assembly Constituencies (LACs), urging the people to vote for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidates to ensure continued development and governance centered around the welfare of the region. At a rally held in Samaguri, Sarma took the opportunity to sharply criticize the Congress party, accusing it and its leadership of exploiting the people of the region for their personal and political gain. He painted a stark contrast between the BJP's approach to governance and that of Congress, asserting that under the leadership of the BJP, Assam has entered a new phase of development, growth, and governance that places the needs of the people at the forefront. Sarma's message was clear: the BJP's commitment to progress is unwavering, and they are dedicated to serving the people with honesty and integrity, focusing on tangible results, rather than the political games played by previous administrations. During his address, Sarma reminded the crowd of his long political journey, from being a prominent member of the Indian National Congress to eventually joining the BJP. His transition to the BJP marked a significant turning point in Assam's political landscape, as it led to the formation of a stable government in the state, characterized by focused leadership and a commitment to solving long-standing issues. Sarma, who has established himself as a key figure in Assamese politics, emphasized that his political evolution was driven by his desire to bring about real change, which he believes can only be achieved through a party like the BJP that truly understands the needs of the people. His position as the convenor of the North-East Democratic Alliance (NEDA) further underscores his importance in regional politics and his deep connection with the aspirations of the people of Assam and the larger Northeast. Sarma's rally in Samaguri also focused heavily on BJP's achievements and the numerous welfare programs that the party has implemented during his tenure as Chief Minister. One of the key initiatives highlighted by Sarma was Mission Basundhara, a scheme launched in 2021 with the objective of addressing land-related issues for residents across the state. This program has proven particularly impactful in Samaguri and other constituencies, as it seeks to streamline land documentation and resolve disputes that have long hindered the region's progress. Sarma emphasized that this initiative is just one of many that demonstrate BJP's com-

mitment to addressing the problems that have been neglected by previous governments. The Mission Basundhara program, according to Sarma, has resonated deeply with the people, as it has provided them with a sense of empowerment and ownership over their land, which has been a long-standing issue in rural areas. Sarma's speech also underscored the broader goals of the BJP in terms of infrastructure development, education, healthcare, and security. He pointed to his government's efforts to strengthen Assam's infrastructure through road construction and bridge repairs, which are aimed at improving connectivity and providing better access to essential services. These projects are expected to boost economic activity and facilitate trade and commerce within Assam and beyond, ultimately leading to a more prosperous state. Sarma also mentioned the educational reforms under his leadership, including the conversion of state-funded madrasas into regular schools, a move that aims to modernize education in the state and provide better opportunities for the youth. The healthcare sector also received significant attention during Sarma's address, as he discussed the expansion of medical services, particularly in rural areas. He cited the development of new medical facilities and the recruitment of more healthcare professionals as part of the government's plan to improve access to quality healthcare for all residents. Sarma also emphasized his commitment to security and law and order in Assam, where he has taken strong measures against insurgent groups and organized crime. His tough stance on terrorism and security-related issues has garnered both support and criticism, with some praising him for restoring stability to the region, while others argue that his methods can be too aggressive. The Chief Minister's remarks during the rally in Samaguri resonated deeply with the crowd, particularly his call for voters in both Samaguri and Bihali to back the BJP candidates in the bye-elections. Sarma expressed his confidence that the party's developmental agenda and governance model would result in substantial improvements for these constituencies, urging the electorate to make their voices heard by voting for BJP. He concluded his speech by calling on the people to recognize the importance of these bye-elections, which will play a crucial role in determining the future direction of Assam and solidifying the BJP's presence in the state. Sarma's campaign in Samaguri and Bihali marks a critical moment in the BJP's political journey in Assam, as the party seeks to expand its influence and deepen its roots across the region. The bye-elections in these constituencies are being closely watched as a litmus test for the BJP's support base in Assam, and Sarma's leadership will undoubtedly play a pivotal role in shaping the outcomes. His government's initiatives have sparked both praise and controversy, and as the elections approach, the Chief Minister's outreach to voters will continue to be a key factor in BJP's strategy to secure victories in these constituencies. As Sarma looks to the future, he remains focused on his vision of an Assam that thrives under the principles of development, governance, and welfare. His leadership has been characterized by a mix of bold initiatives and firm policies, and while not everyone agrees with his approach, it is clear that Sarma's influence remains strong. The outcome of the Samaguri and Bihali bye-elections will have a lasting impact on the state's political landscape, as it will determine whether the electorate believes in the BJP's promise of growth and prosperity, or whether the opposition's claims of exploitation and neglect will resonate more strongly with the voters. The coming weeks will be crucial for Sarma and the BJP as they continue to fight for the people's mandate and work toward building a better Assam.

Assam's Skill Development Program Gets Major Boost

Guwahati: In a remarkable achievement for Assam's youth, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma proudly announced that 47 candidates from Assam's ITI Tinsukia have been selected by Maruti Suzuki Motors in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, for apprenticeship and Fixed Term Contract (FTC) roles out of a pool of 59 candidates who underwent rigorous screening, marking a significant milestone for skill development in the region. Sarma, extending congratulations to the young achievers and their mentors, emphasized that this success reflected not only the students' dedication but also the high standard of training offered by ITI Tinsukia, underscoring the quality of Assam's vocational training institutions. The Chief Minister highlighted how this achievement aligns with the state's broader vision of empowering its youth through vocational education, pointing out that the government has been keen to develop a skilled workforce capable of competing in domestic and international job markets. Under the leadership of Sarma, the Assam government has made significant strides in enhancing vocational training, with a multi-layered approach that includes strengthening Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), establishing Centers of Excellence, and developing the Assam Skill University, all aimed at preparing young people for the modern job market. As part of this strategic initiative, the government is making substantial investments in upgrading training facilities, providing industry-standard equipment, and aligning curriculum with the needs of emerging sectors, thereby ensuring that Assam's youth are equipped with the technical expertise required in high-demand industries like automotive engineering, healthcare, and information technology. The success of the ITI Tinsukia candidates is an important testament to this forward-thinking strategy and showcases how investments in education and training are beginning to bear fruit in the form of tangible job opportunities, such as the collaboration with Maruti Suzuki. Maruti Suzuki's selection of Assam's ITI candidates for its roles highlights the growing recognition of the state's ITIs, which have been modernized with cutting-edge tools and machinery to provide hands-on experience, ensuring that graduates are job-ready and prepared to meet industry demands. Sarma emphasized that these developments are part of Assam's long-term strategy to create sustainable employment opportunities for its youth, reduce outmigration, and contribute to local and regional economic growth. With the establishment of institutions like the Assam Skill University, which will provide advanced technical education in fields critical to Assam's future growth, the state is positioning itself as a hub for skill development and youth empowerment. The university is expected to become a leading center for vocational education in the region, offering courses designed to meet the needs of

industries and enhance the employability of Assam's workforce. This is further complemented by the creation of Centers of Excellence, which are aimed at promoting specialized skills that will not only benefit the local economy but also help build a strong and self-sufficient workforce capable of driving innovation and economic progress. The selection of 47 students from ITI Tinsukia by Maruti Suzuki, one of India's largest and most successful automotive manufacturers, demonstrates the success of these initiatives, as it provides young professionals with the opportunity to work with a globally recognized company, setting a benchmark for the potential of skill-based training in Assam. These candidates, many of whom come from rural backgrounds, have now been offered a platform to display the power of vocational education, and their success serves as an inspiration for other young people in the state. The ITI Tinsukia students' achievement in securing positions with Maruti Suzuki also underscores the alignment between Assam's skill development initiatives and the needs of the corporate world, which is increasingly looking for candidates with specialized skills that can directly contribute to their business growth. The state government's focus on strengthening the link between education and industry has created a pipeline of skilled workers who are ready to meet the demands of leading companies in sectors ranging from automotive engineering to information technology, thereby increasing employment prospects and bolstering the local economy. The selected candidates from ITI Tinsukia expressed their excitement and gratitude for the opportunity to work with Maruti Suzuki, noting that it would provide them with invaluable experience and help them build a career in the automotive industry. For many of these young professionals, the opportunity to work with such a prestigious company marks a major milestone in their careers, and they are eager to bring back their newfound skills to their communities, further enriching the local development ecosystem. This achievement is a clear reflection of the Assam government's commitment to curbing unemployment, reducing outmigration, and ensuring that young people from all corners of the state have access to quality education and job opportunities. By focusing on skill development and ensuring that training programs are aligned with the needs of the industry, Assam is creating a future where its youth are equipped with the skills necessary to secure stable, well-paying jobs that will help them lead fulfilling lives and contribute to the state's economic progress. Chief Minister Sarma, in his address, reiterated his government's ongoing efforts to foster a skilled and resilient youth workforce, stating that the success of the ITI Tinsukia students was a direct result of the government's multi-layer strategy to enhance vocational training across Assam. He expressed confidence that this initiative would continue to pave the way for more such success stories in the future, creating a steady stream of skilled professionals who can drive the state's economic growth. As part of his vision, Sarma assured that the government would continue to invest in improving the state's educational infrastructure, modernizing training facilities, and creating job opportunities for young people. With a focus on reducing unemployment, curbing outmigration, and developing a self-reliant workforce, the Assam government's approach to skill development is positioning the state as a leader in shaping India's skilled labor force. This milestone, which saw 47 candidates from ITI Tinsukia secure positions with Maruti Suzuki, is just one example of the transformative power of vocational education and training, and it signals a bright future for Assam's youth. By aligning educational institutions with industry needs, providing cutting-edge training, and creating strategic partnerships with leading companies, the state is helping its young people thrive and succeed in a rapidly changing global economy. The government's efforts to empower youth through education and skill development are laying the foundation for a prosperous future for Assam, where its young pro-

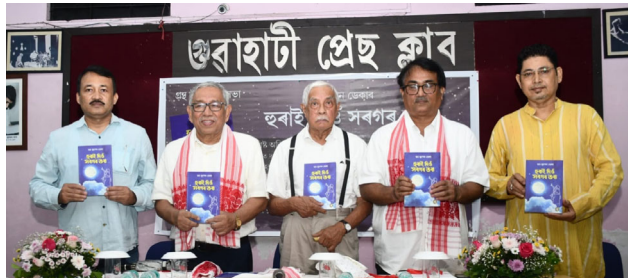
essionals can play an instrumental role in driving economic growth and development across the region. The success of the ITI Tinsukia students is just the beginning, and as more young people from Assam take part in these skill development programs, the state is set to become a bea-

con of progress, innovation, and self-reliance. Through strategic investments in education and training, the Assam government is steadily creating an environment where youth are equipped with the tools, resources, and opportunities needed to build successful careers and contribute to the

state's growth, making the vision of a skilled and resilient workforce a reality. This accomplishment highlights the effectiveness of Assam's skill-development vision, which emphasizes both technical proficiency and practical job-readiness.

Assamese story book "hurai diu saragar tora" by dr. Bhupen deka " released

Guwahati : A meeting held in the premises of Guwahati Press Club on July 18, 2026 for the release of



Assamese story Book " Hurai Diu Saragar Tora" by Dr. Bhupen Deka, a retired Professor and Head of the Department of Plastic Surgery, Gauhati Medical College. The book was released by noted educationist and writer Dr. Maheswar Kalita and Mr. Debabrata Das, Sahitya Acad-

emy Award winner are present in the meeting as Guests-of-Honour in presence of august gathering. Both of them highly spoke about the book. It was doctor Deka's sixth book. His earlier books were- "Amar Sahitya Sanskriti Charai Chirikatir Katha", " The Relevance of Assam and the North-East in the Mahabharata"(Bi-lingual), 'Jonak Nisar Gaan', "Plastic Surgery Katha", and "Light and Shade". The event was conducted by Jayanta Sarma. At close, Ujjal Bora of Progrya Mediahype, the publisher of the book offered the vote of thanks.

AFFIDAVIT

Vide an Affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Gossaigaon on 17/07/2026, I, AKATAR BANU BIBI, W/O Jaher Ali, R/O Vill.- G o s s a i g a o n (Harbhanga), P.O.- Tulshibil, P.S.- Gossaigaon, Dist.- Kokrajhar, BTC, Assam, do hereby declare that my correct name is "AKATAR BANU BIBI". In my AGVB Bank A/C No. 7 1 3 2 0 1 0 0 1 6 1 5, Binnakata-Bhowraguri Branch, my name has been wrongly recorded as "AKTAR BANU". Both "AKATAR BANU BIBI" and "AKTAR BANU" refer to one and the same person.

Name Correction

I Mohammad Bakir Hussain S/O Abdul Hamid Vill Singia Gaon, PO, Singari Madrassa PS Juria, Dist Nagaon Assam pin 782124. Do hereby by declare that I have change my name from MOHAMMAD BAKIR HUSSAIN to MD BAKIR HUSSAIN and hence forth I shall be known as MD BAKIR HUSSAIN in all purpose. Vide Affidavit no in As 17014704782 77776775278Y Sworn before the Executive Magistrate at Nagaon on 8/7/2026 MD BAKIR HUSSAIN and MOHAMMAD BAKIR HUSSAIN both are same and one identical person

Md Bakir Hussain
Vill Singiangaon
PO Singari Madrassa
PS Juria, dist, Nagaon
(Assam)

Name Correction

In the land records of Dahali Makariya Kissam, Morigaon District, under Patta Nos. 154 and 42, relating to Dag Nos. 146, 148, 167, 168, 170, 193, and 194, my late father's name has been incorrectly recorded as Nareshwar Bahadur, son of Sher Bahadur.

The correct name should be Nareshwar Bordoloi, son of Gunte Bordoloi.

Sonmoni Bordoloi
Daughter of Late
Nareshwar Bordoloi
Village: Dahali
Makariya
Post Office: Shilchang
District: Morigaon,
Assam

AFFIDAVIT

I, RINA BIBI, C/o - Jamal Uddin Khan, a resident of Vill- Shimutapu No-2, PO - Shimutapu, PS - Gossaigaon, Dist- Kokrajhar, Assam do hereby solemnly affirmed and declared by an affidavit before the Notary public, Govt of Assam at Gossaigaon on 14/07/2026 that My actual and correct name is RINA BIBI as per my Aadhaar card, PAN Card and other documents, But my name has been wrongly recorded in my SBI Bank Account vide A/ C No. 38139733870 under Srirampur Branch as RINA BEGUM in place of RINA BIBI. That, RINA BIBI and RINA BEGUM are the same person having one identical person i.e. myself.

AFFIDAVIT

Vide an affidavit sworn before the Notary, Gossaigaon on 17/07/2026, I, Basiron Bibi, D/o Babur Ali Sheikh, R/o Vill. Serfanguri No. 2, P.O. Gossaigaon, Dist. Kokrajhar, Assam, declare that my name and my father's name have been wrongly recorded in my SBI Passbook (A/ C No. 32781966817) at gossaigaon branch as Mrs. Basiran Khatun, D/o Mr. Babar Ali SK instead of my correct name Basiron Bibi, D/o Babur Ali Sheikh. Both names refer to the same and one identical person, and both father's names refer to the same and one.

Name Correction

I Mohammad Bakir Hussain S/O Abdul Hamid Vill Singia Gaon, PO, Singari Madrassa PS Juria, Dist Nagaon Assam pin 782124. Do hereby by declare that I have change my name from MOHAMMAD BAKIR HUSSAIN to MD BAKIR HUSSAIN and hence forth I shall be known as MD BAKIR HUSSAIN in all purpose. Vide Affidavit no in As 17014704782 77776775278Y Sworn before the Executive Magistrate at Nagaon on 8/7/2026 MD BAKIR HUSSAIN and MOHAMMAD BAKIR HUSSAIN both are same and one identical person

Md Bakir Hussain
Vill Singiangaon
PO Singari Madrassa
PS Juria, Dist, Nagaon
(Assam)

HCMCT Manipal Hospital launches special cancer OPD addressing rising cancer burden

Guwahati: With cancer cases on the rise across India, HCMCT Manipal Hospital, Dwarka, has launched a Special Oncology OPD in Guwahati

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the cancer cases in India is expected to get double by 2050, with gastrointestinal can-



to bring expert cancer consultations closer to patients, improving timely access to specialized care while reducing the need to travel for advanced treatment. The OPD will be held every second Sunday, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at UHS, Vista Super Specialty Clinic, Lachit Nagar, Guwahati, with consultations by Dr. Bikram Kumar Deka, Consultant – Surgical Oncology, HCMCT Manipal Hospital, Dwarka.

cers, breast cancer, lung cancer, oral cancer, and cervical cancer among the most commonly diagnosed cancers in the country. As the cancer burden continues to grow, timely screening, early diagnosis, and access to specialist care remain critical to improving treatment outcomes and survival rates. Speaking on the launch, Dr. Bikram Kumar Deka, Consultant-Surgical Oncology, HCMCT Manipal Hospital,

Dwarka, New Delhi said, “We are seeing a steady rise in the number of patients with suspected or diagnosed cancers, highlighting the growing need for regular screening and timely access to specialist care. Through this dedicated Oncology OPD in Guwahati, we aim to bring expert cancer consultations closer to patients, enabling early diagnosis and timely treatment. While many cancers can be effectively managed when detected early, patients with more advanced or complex cancers today can benefit from minimally invasive and robotic-assisted surgeries, which offer greater precision, faster recovery, and improved clinical outcomes.” HCMCT Manipal Hospital, Delhi, remains committed to expanding access to advanced oncology expertise and specialised healthcare services closer to patients across the country. Through this specialised Oncology OPD in Guwahati, the hospital aims to ensure patients receive seamless, high-quality oncology care throughout their treatment journey. As a pioneer in healthcare, Manipal Hospitals is among the top healthcare providers in India serving over 8 million patients annually, with a focus on providing affordable, high-quality healthcare services. Manipal’s integrated network today has a pan-India footprint of 49 hospitals across 24 cities with over 12,600 licensed beds, and a talented pool of 11,000+ doctors and an employee strength of over 34000. Manipal Hospitals provides comprehensive curative and preventive care for a multitude of patients from around the globe. Manipal Hospitals is AAHRPP accredited and most of the hospitals in its network are NABH, NABL, ER, Blood Bank accredited and recognized for Nursing Excellence.

Tata AIA registers 21 MDRT-qualified advisors in Assam, retains top India ranking

Guwahati: Tata AIA Life Insurance Co. Ltd. (Tata AIA), one of India's leading life insurance companies, is proud to announce that it has registered 21 Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT) qualified Advisors in Assam, underscoring its commitment to excellence in financial advisory services. According to the 2026 Global MDRT Ranking, the Company registered 4 Advisors from Kamrup Metropolitan, along with 4 Advisors from Kokrajhar and 2 Advisors from Cachar, for the coveted MDRT title. The milestone underscores the scale, quality and consistency of Tata AIA's advisor network. Notably, 695 of the qualifiers nearly half are women. That is a structural signal about who is building a career at the front line of Indian financial advice, and it reflects Tata AIA's commitment to a genuinely inclusive advisor ecosystem. The ranking highlights Tata AIA's focus on full-time, professional advisors who guide consumers in protecting their dreams and on building an advisor community defined by consumer understanding, professional conduct and expertise. Key MDRT Highlights: 1,397 MDRT-qualified advisors across Tata AIA's network 695 women MDRT members, representing nearly 50% of the qualifiers No. 13 globally based on count of MDRT members No. 1 in India for advisors with five to nine years of MDRT qualification, with 207 advisors in this category MDRT: A Global Benchmark for Financial Advice: Million Dollar Round Table, or MDRT, is widely recognised as a global benchmark of excellence in the life insurance and financial services profession. MDRT-qualified advisors are known for their professional knowledge, ethical conduct, productivity and commitment to high standards of customer service. Whether consumers are securing the future of their loved ones, planning for a child's education, preparing for retirement or building long-term wealth,

Tata AIA's MDRT-qualified advisors help them evaluate their needs and make confident financial decisions. Tata AIA remains committed to creating full-time career opportunities for individuals who aspire to achieve professional success while making a positive difference in people's lives. Powered by Tata AIA Aura platform, its advisors are nurtured into high-potential talent through structured learning, mentorship, continuous capability development and digital enablement. This equips advisors with the knowledge and tools required to deliver quality financial guidance while building sustainable, full-time careers in financial services. With women making up nearly half of its MDRT qualifiers, Tata AIA is helping redefine who succeeds at the top of the profession evidence that a full-time career in financial advice is now genuinely open to everyone and that women are increasingly building respected, rewarding careers as financial advisors. Rakesh Sharma, Chief Distribution Officer – Proprietary Business, Tata AIA Life Insurance, said, “We are humbled to be ranked No. 1 in terms of MDRT qualifiers in India for four consecutive years. This accolade reflects the quality, consistency and commitment of our advisors. The recognition for retained MDRT members and advisors with five to nine years of qualification is especially encouraging, as it demonstrates sustained excellence. We will continue to develop a future-ready advisor community that is dedicated full time to this noble profession and delivers trusted, needs-based financial guidance across India.” MDRT-qualified advisors play an important role in strengthening consumer relationships by recommending suitable solutions and providing continued support throughout the policy lifecycle. In FY26, Tata AIA ranked No. #1 in four of five persistency cohorts for FY26, a direct measure of how many customers keep their policies in force. Persistency is an impor-

tant indicator of policy continuation, consumer retention and long-term trust. Together, Tata AIA's MDRT leadership and persistency performance demonstrate its commitment to combining professional financial guidance with enduring value for consumers. Founded in 1927, MDRT (Million Dollar Round Table), The Premier Association of Financial Professionals®, is a global, independent association of the world's leading life insurance and financial services professionals from more than 80 nations and territories and nearly 700 companies. MDRT members demonstrate exceptional professional knowledge, strict ethical conduct and outstanding client service. MDRT membership is recognized internationally as the standard of excellence in the life insurance and financial services business As on 31st March 2026, the company has a total Assets Under Management (AUM) of Rs. 145,589 Crore Individual Death Claim Settlement Ratio for FY 2025 -2026 is 99.45% as per the latest annual audited figures 98,01,699 families protected till 18th May 2026. Tata AIA Life Insurance Company Limited (Tata AIA) is a joint venture Company formed by Tata Sons Pvt. Ltd. and AIA Group Ltd. (AIA). Tata AIA Life 'combines NABH's pre-eminent leadership position in India and AIA's presence as the largest, independent listed pan-Asian life insurance group in the world, spanning 18 markets in the Asia Pacific region. Tata AIA reported a total Premium Income of INR 38,164 crore for FY26, up 21% from FY25. The Company continues to rank among the Top 3 Private Insurers in Individual Weighted New Business Premium (IWNBP) with an IWNBP income of INR 10,018 crore. The Company also achieved industry-leading Persistency performance (based on both premiums and number of policies), ranking #1 in four out of five cohorts.

Kotak Mahindra Bank announces results

Mumbai: The Board of Directors of Kotak Mahindra Bank (“the Bank”) approved the unaudited standalone and consolidated results for the quarter ended June 30, 2026, at the Board meeting held in Mumbai, today. The Bank's PAT for Q1FY27 increased to Rs. 4,123 crore, up 26% YoY from Rs. 3,282 crore in Q1FY26 (up 2% QoQ from Rs. 4,027 crore in Q4FY26). Net Interest Income (NII) for Q1FY27 increased to Rs. 7,928 crore, up 9% YoY from Rs. 7,259 crore in Q1FY26 (up 1% QoQ from Rs. 7,876 crore in Q4FY26). Net Interest Margin (NIM) was 4.53% for Q1FY27 (4.65% for Q1FY26 and 4.67% for Q4FY26). Cost of funds was 4.46% for Q1FY27 (5.01% for Q1FY26 and 4.45% for Q4FY26). Fees and services for Q1FY27 increased to Rs. 2,500 crore, up 11% YoY from Rs. 2,249 crore in Q1FY26 (Rs. 2,767 crore in Q4FY26). Operating expenses for Q1FY27 stood at Rs. 5,135 crore, up 8% YoY from Rs. 4,775 crore in Q1FY26 (flat QoQ from Rs. 5,137 crore in Q4FY26). Cost to assets improved to 2.66% for Q1FY27 (2.83% for Q1FY26 and 2.73% for Q4FY26). Operating profit for Q1FY27 increased to Rs. 6,131 crore, up 10% YoY from Rs. 5,564 crore in Q1FY26 (up 5% QoQ from Rs. 5,855 crore in Q4FY26). Provisions for Q1FY27 decreased to Rs. 668 crore, down 45% YoY from Rs. 1,208 crore in Q1FY26 (Rs. 516 crore in Q4FY26). Credit cost (annualised) for Q1FY27 stood at 0.46% (0.93% for Q1FY26 and 0.39% for Q4FY26). Net Ad-

vances increased 15% YoY to Rs. 512,249 crore as at June 30, 2026 from Rs. 444,823 crore as at June 30, 2025. Customer Assets which comprise Advances (incl. IBPC & BRDS) and Credit Substitutes grew to Rs. 570,901 crore as at June 30, 2026, up 16% YoY from Rs. 492,972 crore as at June 30, 2025. Total period-end Deposits grew to Rs. 572,820 crore for Q1FY27, up 12% YoY from Rs. 512,838 crore for Q1FY26. Average Total Deposits grew to Rs. 558,891 crore for Q1FY27, up 14% YoY from Rs. 491,998 crore for Q1FY26. Average Current Deposits grew to Rs. 78,107 crore for Q1FY27, up 15% YoY from Rs. 67,808 crore for Q1FY26. Average Fixed rate Savings Deposits grew to Rs. 125,061 crore for Q1FY27, up 16% YoY from Rs. 107,450 crore for Q1FY26. Average Term

HDFC bank Q1 results announced; net profit rises 5.0% YOY

Guwahati: HDFC Bank Limited announced Q1 results for the quarter ended June 30, 2026, on Saturday, July 18, 2026. The Bank earned Rs. 251.1 billion. Profit after tax (PAT) for the quarter was at Rs. 190.6 billion, a growth of 5.0% over the quarter ended June 30, 2025. Total balance sheet size as of June 30, 2026 was Rs. 43,975 billion as against Rs. 39,541 billion as of June 30, 2025. The Bank's average deposits were Rs. 30,115 billion for the June 2026 quarter, a growth of 13.3% over Rs. 26,576 billion for the June 2025 quarter, and 5.6% over Rs.

Deposits grew to Rs. 341,992 crore for Q1FY27, up 14% YoY from Rs. 300,003 crore for Q1FY26. CASA ratio as at June 30, 2026 stood at 40.3% (40.9% as at June 30, 2025). Credit to Deposit ratio as at June 30, 2026 stood at 89.4% (86.7% as at June 30, 2025). Customers as on June 30, 2026 were 5.0 crore. Slippages for Q1FY27 decreased to Rs. 1,321 crore, down 27% YoY from Rs. 1,812 crore in Q1FY26. As at June 30, 2026, GNPA was 1.18% & NNPA was 0.27% (GNPA was 1.48% & NNPA was 0.34% as at June 30, 2025). As at June 30, 2026, Provision Coverage Ratio stood at 78% (77% as at June 30, 2025). Standalone Return on Assets (ROA) for Q1FY27 (annualised) was 2.14%. Return on Equity (ROE) for Q1FY27 (annualised) was 11.98%.

28,511 billion for the March 2026 quarter. The Bank's net revenue was Rs. 463.6 billion for the quarter ended June 30, 2026, as against Rs. 531.7 billion (which included transaction gains of Rs. 91.3 billion from a partial divestment through an offer for sale in the IPO of its subsidiary HDB Financial Services Ltd.) for the quarter ended June 30, 2025. Net interest income (interest earned less interest expended) for the quarter ended June 30, 2026 grew by 6.7% to Rs. 335.3 billion from Rs. 314.4 billion for the quarter ended June 30, 2025.

Tata Motors and UCO Bank partner to strengthen commercial vehicle financing ecosystem

Mumbai: Tata Motors, India's largest commercial vehicle manufacturer, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with UCO Bank, one of India's leading public sector banks with a strong nationwide presence and extensive branch network, to provide customers across the country with access to organised financing solutions for commercial vehicles. The partnership brings together UCO Bank's deep financial outreach and Tata Motors' unparalleled commercial vehicle portfolio, with the shared goal of making vehicle ownership more accessible and financially rewarding for customers and businesses nationwide. Under this collaboration, customers will have access to attractive interest rates designed to minimise the cost of ownership, along with quick loan approvals and fast-tracked processing that ensure rapid vehicle delivery. The partnership also brings simplified, customer-friendly documentation for a seamless buying experience, high loan-to-value funding options that lower upfront capital requirements for businesses, and flexible, structured repayment tenures tailored to the cash flow needs of fleet operators. Both organisations will work in close alignment across branches, dealerships, and market outreach to ensure that this competitive financing reaches customers wherever they are, particularly in underserved urban and rural markets. Speaking on this occasion, Mr. Shashikant Kumar, General Manager & Zonal Head – Mumbai, UCO Bank, said, “The signing of this Memorandum of Understanding with Tata Motors Limited marks another significant milestone in UCO Bank's commitment to de-

livering innovative and customer centric financing solutions. Through this strategic partnership, we aim to provide seamless, competitive and timely financing for TATA motors commercial vehicles, enabling entrepreneurs, fleet operators and businesses to expand with confidence.” Commenting on the initiative, Mr. Rajesh Kaul, Vice President & Business Head – Trucks, Tata Motors Ltd., said, “We are pleased to partner with UCO Bank to further strengthen the financing ecosystem for our commercial vehicle customers. Access to organised and competitive financing is a key enabler for our customers' growth, and UCO Bank's strong nationwide presence makes them an ideal partner in this endeavour. This MoU reinforces our commitment to delivering end-to-end solutions, from world-class vehicles to organised financing that empower our customers to grow their businesses with greater confidence and convenience.” Tata Motors offers the widest commercial vehicle portfolio spanning from sub-1-tonne to 55-tonne cargo vehicles and 10-seater to 51-seater mass mobility solutions. These robustly engineered vehicles are complemented by a range of value-added services for comprehensive vehicle lifecycle management through its Sampoorana Seva 2.0 initiative. Fleet Edge, Tata Motors' connected vehicle platform for optimal fleet management enabling operators to maximise uptime and reduce total cost of ownership, and 24x7 support from a nationwide network of over 4,500 sales and service touchpoints, Tata Motors continues to set new benchmarks in end-to-end transportation solutions.

Alife strengthens personal care play with revamped bathing soap portfolio

Guwahati: Alife, the personal care brand from AWL Agri Business Ltd. (formerly Adani Wilmar Limited), has relaunched its bathing soap portfolio with four new variants featuring upgraded formulations, thoughtfully selected ingredients and contemporary packaging under its new brand promise, 'KhubsuratiKuchh Khaas'. The new range was officially launched on 15 July 2026 at the company's Mundra manufacturing facility in the presence of 50 of Alife's top distributors from across the country, marking an important milestone in the brand's growth journey and strengthening its partnership with the trade. The relaunched range is designed to elevate the everyday bathing experience by combining trusted care with skincare-inspired ingredients, signature fragrances and a modern visual identity that reflects the evolving needs of today's consumers. As part of the relaunch, Alife introduces four refreshed variants—Active Nimboo, Haldi Chandan, Rozy Glow and Fresh Lily—each thoughtfully crafted with carefully selected ingredients and enhanced formulations to deliver an enriching bathing experience. Inspired by popular skincare ingredients and paired with signature fragrances, every variant offers a unique combination of cleansing, care and sensorial appeal. The new packaging further enhances shelf visibility while clearly communicating the distinctive benefits of each variant. The relaunch is anchored in

Alife's new brand proposition, 'KhubsuratiKuchh Khaas', which reflects the brand's evolution from offering everyday personal care to creating more meaningful bathing experiences through upgraded formulations, special ingredients and a contemporary visual identity. The refreshed identity reinforces Alife's commitment to making everyday beauty routines more enjoyable and rewarding for consumers. Speaking about the relaunch, Mr. Mukesh Mishra, Joint President, Sales & Marketing, AWL Agri Business Ltd., said: "At AWL, we believe everyday personal care should be both effective and enjoyable. The relaunch of Alife's bathing soap range reflects our commitment to continuously evolve with consumer preferences by introducing new variants with enhanced formulations, thoughtfully selected ingredients and contemporary packaging. With our new brand proposition, 'KhubsuratiKuchh Khaas', we aim to offer consumers a richer bathing experience that combines trusted care with skincare-inspired benefits, making every bath feel a little more special." The relaunched Alife bathing soap range will be available across retail outlets and leading distribution channels nationwide, offering consumers a refreshed portfolio that blends upgraded formulations, skincare-inspired ingredients, signature fragrances and contemporary packaging to meet today's evolving personal care needs.

Ather to Unveil Its First Mass-Market EL Platform Scooter at Community Day 2026

Bengaluru: Ather Energy Limited, one of India's leading electric two-wheeler manufacturers, today announced that the fourth edition of its flagship community event, Ather Community Day, will be held on 29 August 2026 in Bengaluru. The theme for this year's event is "A New Dawn of Magic", where Ather will unveil the first scooter from its new EL platform, marking its entry into the mass-market scooter segment. Alongside the new scooter, Ather will introduce a range of innovations across technology, charging, and the ecosystem that will make the ownership experience more seamless and connected. The EL platform is Ather's next-generation vehicle architecture and the company's first all-new vehicle platform since the 450. Engineered from the ground up for greater versatility, scalability, and manufacturing efficiency, it will underpin Ather's future product portfolio across segments. The first scooter built on this platform marks a significant milestone for Ather, enabling the company to address the mass-market through the Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 1.25 lakh price segment while expanding its total addressable market and opening the next chapter of growth. The Ather Community Day 2026 will bring together thousands of Ather owners, automotive and technology enthusiasts, and partners for a first look at the products, technologies, and experiences that

Ather has been building. Over the last three years, Ather Community Day has evolved into one of India's most anticipated automotive and technology events. More than a product showcase, it has become Ather's platform for sharing its vision for the future, introducing new technologies, and bringing its community closer to the company's products and ideas. The 2025 edition, held on 30 August 2025, welcomed more than 4,000 attendees and saw the unveiling of the EL platform, the introduction of the Redux concept vehicle, Ather's next-generation fast-charging technology, and AtherStack 7.0, setting the foundation for the company's next phase of innovation. More details on Ather Community Day 2026 will be announced in the coming weeks. About Ather Energy Limited Ather Energy Limited (ATHERENERG | 544397 | INE0LEZ01016) is a pioneer in the Indian electric two-wheeler (“E2W”) market (CRISIL Report). Founded in 2013 by Tarun Mehta and Swapnil Jain, Ather designs and manufactures high-performance electric scooters. Ather launched its first electric scooter in 2018. Its current E2W portfolio consists of two distinct product lines: the Ather 450 series, focused on performance-oriented customers, and the Ather Rizta, a convenience-first family scooter line launched in 2024. Together, these product lines offer a total of 9 variants.

Editorial

PMAY-G

A major beneficiaries’ convention under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awas Yojana (PMAY-G) along with the state-level award distribution ceremony of the Maha Awas Abhiyan is set to be held in Satara district of Maharashtra, marking another significant step in the Government’s continued push toward rural housing development, infrastructure expansion and welfare-oriented governance aimed at improving the lives of economically weaker sections across rural India. The large-scale programme is expected to witness the presence of several prominent leaders including Union Minister for Rural Development and Agriculture Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Sunetra Pawar, with the event being viewed as an important milestone in strengthening rural welfare delivery and accelerating the vision of providing pucca houses and modern infrastructure to every deserving family in villages. During the programme, five lakh newly constructed houses under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awas Yojana will be formally handed over to beneficiaries across Maharashtra, symbolising the Government’s commitment to ensuring dignity, security and improved living standards for rural households. Keys of the newly built homes will also be symbolically handed over to six selected beneficiaries during the ceremony, reflecting the transformational impact of the scheme on families that previously lived in kutcha or inadequate housing conditions. The event is also expected to highlight the achievements of the Maha Awas Abhiyan, which has emerged as an important state-level initiative complementing the Centre’s rural housing mission by encouraging faster implementation, improved transparency and greater coordination among local administrative bodies. Officials associated with the programme said the convention would showcase the collective efforts of the Union and Maharashtra governments in strengthening rural development and ensuring that welfare benefits reach eligible citizens in a time-bound and transparent manner. The Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awas Yojana has become one of the flagship rural welfare schemes of the Government, focusing on providing permanent housing equipped with basic amenities to economically disadvantaged families residing in villages and remote regions. Since its launch, the scheme has transformed the rural housing landscape by replacing temporary and unsafe dwellings with durable houses that provide beneficiaries with a sense of ownership, dignity and social empowerment. Government data indicate that nearly three crore houses have already been constructed across the country under the scheme, reflecting the scale and pace of implementation achieved over the years. The housing initiative has also generated employment opportunities in rural areas through construction activities, demand for local building materials and engagement of workers and self-help groups in associated development work. The scheme has further contributed to improving sanitation, access to electricity, drinking water connectivity and overall quality of life in villages, thereby supporting the broader vision of inclusive rural development. The Satara programme is expected to serve not only as a ceremonial distribution event but also as a platform to recognise the contribution of officials, local institutions and stakeholders who have played a role in successfully implementing rural housing and infrastructure projects across Maharashtra. Awards under the Maha Awas Abhiyan are likely to honour districts, local administrative units and officers who have demonstrated outstanding performance in achieving housing targets, maintaining transparency and ensuring timely completion of projects. The event assumes additional significance as Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan is scheduled to announce approval of central assistance worth Rs 8,368 crore and 50 lakh for Maharashtra under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awas Yojana for the financial year 2026-27, a move expected to further accelerate housing construction in rural areas of the state. The substantial financial assistance is likely to help Maharashtra expand the coverage of the scheme, clear pending targets and strengthen implementation capacity at the grassroots level. Rural development experts believe that sustained financial support from the Centre will play a critical role in ensuring that economically weaker households continue to benefit from secure housing and improved infrastructure facilities. The announcement is also expected to reinforce cooperative federalism by highlighting coordination between the Union and state governments in implementing welfare-oriented programmes aimed at social upliftment and economic empowerment of rural communities. Alongside housing initiatives, the programme will also witness approval for 35 road projects worth Rs 122 crore and 98 lakh under Phase Four of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, another flagship rural development programme focused on improving road connectivity in villages and remote habitations. These projects are expected to benefit 35 rural habitations in Maharashtra by improving access to transportation, healthcare services, educational institutions, agricultural markets and employment opportunities. Enhanced road connectivity has long been viewed as a key driver of rural economic growth because it strengthens mobility, facilitates trade and improves delivery of public services. Officials stated that the new projects under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana would help bridge infrastructure gaps in underserved areas while promoting balanced regional development. Better roads are also expected to support farmers by enabling smoother transportation of agricultural produce to markets and reducing logistical challenges faced by rural communities.

India and the Nordics: A new axis in international norm-setting

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s outreach to the Nordic countries is often framed through the familiar language of trade, technology and clean energy cooperation. Yet the larger significance of India’s engagement with Northern Europe lies elsewhere. Beneath the economic agreements and diplomatic symbolism is a deeper story about how international law and global governance are being reshaped in an increasingly fragmented world. The Nordic region, comprising Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, occupies an outsized role in contemporary international politics. These countries are among the strongest advocates of the rules-based international order, climate governance, maritime regulation, digital rights, and multilateral institutions. India’s growing engagement with them is therefore not merely diplomatic expansion; it is also an attempt to secure a place within the emerging legal and normative architecture of the twenty-first century. One of the most significant dimensions of this engagement concerns the Arctic. Climate change has transformed the Arctic from a remote environmental concern into a strategic geopolitical frontier. Melting ice caps are opening new shipping routes, increasing access to natural resources and intensifying competition among major powers. While India is not an Arctic state, it has steadily expanded its presence in Arctic governance through scientific missions, research stations and participation in the Arctic Council as an observer. The Nordic countries are central stakeholders in Arctic governance. India’s outreach to them reflects an understanding that future debates over maritime access, environmental protection and resource governance will increasingly shape global politics. International law, particularly the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), will become crucial in managing competing interests in the region. By strengthening ties with Nordic countries, India is attempting to position itself as a legitimate stakeholder in these conversations before the Arctic becomes fully

securitised by great-power rivalry. This matters because the Arctic is no longer just an environmental issue. It is becoming a test case for whether international law can regulate emerging geopolitical competition in fragile ecological zones. India’s participation signals that non-Arctic states, too, seek a voice in shaping the norms governing these global commons. Another important dimension of Modi’s Nordic diplomacy concerns climate governance. Nordic countries have long been pioneers in sustainability regulation, renewable energy transitions and environmental standards. As the global economy moves toward carbon-conscious trade frameworks, these regulations will increasingly influence international commerce and industrial policy. For India, this presents both an opportunity and a challenge. The European Union’s Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), for instance, reflects a growing trend in which climate policy and trade policy are becoming deeply interconnected. Environmental standards are no longer merely domestic regulatory choices; they are evolving into instruments that shape market access and international competitiveness. India’s engagement with Nordic states therefore goes beyond clean energy partnerships. It reflects an effort to understand and influence the legal frameworks that will govern future trade. Whether in green shipping, sustainable infrastructure or carbon accounting, the next phase of globalisation is likely to be regulated through climate-linked legal obligations. Countries that fail to adapt risk exclusion from emerging economic networks. The Nordic outreach also intersects with another major global debate: digital governance. India has increasingly projected itself as a leader in digital public infrastructure through initiatives such as UPI and Aadhaar-linked governance systems. At the same time, Nordic and European states are shaping global conversations around data privacy, artificial intelligence regulation and digital sovereignty. This creates both convergence and tension. Europe’s regulatory approach, reflected in frame-

works such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), prioritises privacy protections and institutional oversight. India, meanwhile, seeks a more developmental and state-driven digital model that balances innovation, public service delivery and strategic autonomy. The legal questions emerging from these differing approaches are profound. Who controls cross-border data flows? How should artificial intelligence be regulated? Can digital sovereignty coexist with open digital trade? These are no longer technical policy matters; they are becoming foundational questions of international law and governance. India’s Nordic engagement thus reflects an attempt to shape these debates rather than merely react to them. As digital governance becomes central to economic power and national security, partnerships with technologically advanced democracies gain strategic significance. The geopolitical context of the visit is equally important. The Russia-Ukraine war has fundamentally altered Europe’s security architecture. Traditionally neutral Nordic countries such as Finland and Sweden have moved closer to NATO, reflecting a broader collapse of the post-Cold War assumption that economic interdependence alone could guarantee stability. India’s position in this evolving landscape remains distinctive. New Delhi has sought to preserve strategic autonomy by maintaining relations with both Russia and Western powers. This balancing approach has sometimes generated criticism in Europe, particularly among states that view the Ukraine conflict through the lens of territorial sovereignty and international legality. Yet India’s Nordic outreach suggests that strategic autonomy does not necessarily imply strategic isolation. Instead, India appears to be building flexible partnerships based on issue-specific cooperation rather than alliance politics. This reflects a broader trend in contemporary international relations: the rise of “minilateralism,” where states cooperate through smaller, purpose-driven coalitions instead of rigid geopolitical blocs.

Climate Change and the Future of Our Planet

Every year, from 1 July to 7 July, Van Mahotsav is celebrated throughout India, and today marks the last day of this year’s observance. This festival is primarily dedicated to tree plantation and environmental conservation. This entire week reminds us of the deep relationship between human life and the environment. At a time when climate change has become a serious global problem, the message of Van Mahotsav has become even more significant than before. Rising temperatures, floods, droughts, and environmental degradation—these are all clear indications that the natural world is facing an intense crisis. Therefore, by promoting tree plantation and environmental awareness, Van Mahotsav encourages us to take responsibility for our green planet. Simultaneously, this special occasion has also generated significant awareness regarding the causes and devastating impacts of climate change, a subject that urgently requires serious discussion across the world today.

Climate change is one of the most serious global challenges facing the world today. It refers to long-term changes in temperature, rainfall, and weather patterns. Although the Earth’s climate has changed naturally over thousands of years, it has now assumed an extremely serious form. Scientists today unanimously agree that the current rapid climate change is primarily the result of human activities. The burning of fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and natural gas has released enormous amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, creating a serious global problem. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the global average temperature has already increased by about 1.1°C above pre-industrial levels. If this trend continues, temperatures may rise by 1.5°C or even more within the next two decades, resulting in extremely dangerous consequences worldwide.

One of the clearest signs of climate change is the melting of glaciers and polar ice caps. Recent studies show that Greenland is losing around 280 billion tons of ice every year, while Antarctica is losing about 150 billion tons annually. As a result, global sea levels are rising at an average rate of 3.3 millimeters per year. Although this increase may appear small, it poses a serious threat to millions of people living in coastal regions. Consequently, small island nations such as the Maldives face an increasing risk of submergence in the future. Moreover, rising ocean temperatures have resulted in stronger and more frequent storms, causing extensive damage to human lives, property, and ecosystems. Today, abnormal weather patterns across the world have reached alarming levels. Europe has experienced record-breaking heatwaves, with temperatures exceeding 40°C in several countries. In 2022, heatwaves in Europe caused the deaths of more than 60,000 people. Similarly, the Australian bushfires of 2019–2020 burned more than 18 million hectares of land, destroying numerous homes and causing the death or displacement of nearly 3 billion animals. In the United States, California continues to face massive wildfires due to rising temperatures and dry conditions. On the other hand, countries such as Pakistan, Bangladesh, and India have experienced devastating floods. In 2022, floods in Pakistan affected more than 33 million people and caused economic losses exceeding 30 billion US dollars. Climate change has also brought severe drought conditions to the African continent. In the Horn of Africa, millions of people are facing food shortages due to a significant decline in rainfall. According to United Nations reports, if strong measures are not taken immediately, climate change could push up to 132 million people into extreme poverty by 2030. These global concerns and examples clearly demonstrate that climate change is no longer a distant problem that can be ignored. It has already severely affected human lives and natural systems in many countries across the world.

India is among the countries most vulnerable to climate change. This is because it has one of the world’s

largest populations and is heavily dependent on agriculture. Over the past century, India’s average temperature has increased by approximately 0.7°C. Heatwaves are gradually becoming more frequent and intense. In 2022, temperatures in several parts of North India exceeded 45°C. These extreme conditions have had profound impacts on human health, especially among elderly people and outdoor workers. According to government data, heatwaves have caused thousands of deaths in India over the last decade. Rainfall patterns in the country have also become increasingly unpredictable. The monsoon, which provides about 70% of India’s annual rainfall, has exhibited irregular behavior. Some regions experience excessive rainfall and floods, while others suffer from drought. The Kerala floods of 2018 are a major example, in which more than 400 people died and over one million people were displaced. Urban flooding caused by heavy rainfall and poor drainage systems has become an increasing problem in cities such as Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru, and even our own Guwahati. Furthermore, cyclones in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea have intensified due to rising sea surface temperatures. Cyclone Amphan in 2020 caused damages worth approximately 13 billion US dollars in India and Bangladesh. Similarly, Cyclone Fani in 2019 affected millions of people in Odisha. Scientists have observed that cyclone intensity has increased by around 10–20% in recent decades. Another serious issue is the melting of Himalayan glaciers. The Himalayas are often referred to as the "Water Tower of Asia" because they provide water to major rivers such as the Ganga, Brahmaputra, and Indus. Research indicates that Himalayan glaciers are melting at an alarming rate. If current warming trends continue, up to one-third of these glaciers could disappear by 2100, significantly affecting water availability for millions of people in India.

On the other hand, Assam is one of the Indian states most vulnerable to climate change. The state experiences severe floods and erosion every year, mainly due to the Brahmaputra and its tributaries. According to data from the Assam State Disaster Management Authority, floods affect around 30 to 40 lakh people annually. In severe years, this figure can exceed 50 lakh. These floods destroy crops, homes, roads, and institutions, causing massive economic losses. Riverbank erosion is another serious issue. Since 1950, it is estimated that more than 4 lakh hectares of land along the Brahmaputra have been eroded in Assam. Thousands of families have lost their homes and have been forced to relocate. In particular, Majuli, the world’s largest river island, has been shrinking rapidly due to erosion. Its area has reduced from approximately 1,250 square kilometers in 1901 to less than 500 square kilometers today. This is a clear example of how climate change and river dynamics are affecting human settlements. Climate change has also threatened Assam’s wildlife. Kaziranga National Park, famous for the one-horned rhinoceros, experiences floods every year. During severe floods, many animals die or are displaced, leading to increasing human-animal conflict. Climate change has also significantly affected Assam’s agriculture, including rice, tea, and several other crops. Variations in rainfall and temperature have reduced agricultural productivity. Tea production, a major component of Assam’s economy, has been particularly affected. According to experts, rising temperatures and irregular rainfall have reduced tea yield and quality by around 10–15% in some areas. This has directly affected the livelihoods of thousands of workers.

The primary causes of climate change are closely linked to human activities. The burning of fossil fuels is the largest contributor, accounting for nearly 75% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Deforestation is another major factor. Forests absorb carbon dioxide, but when trees are cut down, this carbon is released into the atmosphere. According to available data, the world loses approximately 10 million hectares of forest every year. In-

dustrial activities, transportation systems, and modern agricultural practices have all significantly contributed to climate change. Today, metropolitan and urban areas, including Guwahati, are facing numerous new challenges. Excessive rainfall combined with inadequate drainage systems has led to frequent urban flooding. The Bharalu River, which flows through Guwahati, has become heavily polluted and is no longer capable of efficiently carrying excess water. As a result, even a short spell of rainfall often causes severe flooding in the city, disrupting the daily lives and economic activities of its residents.

The effects of climate change are not merely environmental; they also have profound economic and social consequences. Rising temperatures and abnormal weather patterns have reduced agricultural production, leading to food shortages and rising prices across the world. Poor communities, which depend directly on natural resources, have been the most severely affected. Climate change has also led to migration, as people move from affected regions in search of better living conditions. Health problems such as heatstroke, respiratory illnesses, and the spread of infectious diseases have also increased due to climate change. Overall, climate change has emerged as one of the most serious problems confronting the contemporary world. It is an issue that requires urgent global attention. We can hope for a solution only if strong and collective measures are taken worldwide. In this regard, countries have united under the Paris Agreement of 2015 to control global warming. The objective is to keep global temperature rise well below 2°C and preferably within 1.5°C. Many countries are now investing heavily in renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power. It is noteworthy that renewable energy accounted for nearly 30% of global electricity generation in 2023.

India has also undertaken several important initiatives in this regard. The country aims to achieve 500 gigawatts of non-fossil fuel energy capacity by 2030. The rapid growth of solar energy has made India one of the world’s leading producers. Programmes such as the National Action Plan on Climate Change focus on sustainable development, energy efficiency, and conservation. Assam has also adopted various measures to address climate-related challenges. Afforestation programmes have been promoted to increase forest cover. Flood management projects, including embankment construction and early warning systems, have been strengthened. Wetland conservation is also extremely important because wetlands function as natural water storage systems and help reduce flood risks. Sustainable agricultural practices, such as the use of climate-resilient crops, can help farmers adapt to changing conditions. Furthermore, to address the impacts of climate change, there is an urgent need to scientifically and sustainably redesign both small and large river embankments in the region.

At the individual level, every person also has an important role to play in combating climate change. Simple measures such as saving electricity, using public transportation, reducing plastic consumption, and planting trees whenever possible can bring about positive change. Awareness and education are also extremely important so that people understand the seriousness of this issue and take responsible actions. Climate change is a global problem, but its impacts are felt locally. No region of the world is safe from its effects. It is not merely an environmental issue; rather, it represents a serious challenge to development, economic stability, and human survival. Therefore, immediate and collective action against climate change is essential to protect the planet for future generations. If we act wisely today, we can significantly reduce the damage and build a more sustainable and secure future.

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Dealing with China: Why trade and Kailash Yatra should be India’s opening move before LAC settlement

Rumours have been circulating that Delhi and Beijing would like to settle their Line of Actual Control (LAC); it is easier said than done. First, there exist several ‘agreements’ between India and



China mentioning the LAC without ever defining it or showing it on a map; what will happen to these agreements is an issue which will need to be decided upon. To settle the LAC also means to iron out different perceptions (on a map or on the ground) and see how to reconcile the differences. For example, in Ladakh, it is said that there are twelve spots where the perception of the two Asian giant nations differs. The task is not an easy one, especially since the Chinese ‘perceptions’ have never been shown on a map for the Eastern Sector, which includes Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. As for the Northern sector, maps were exchanged for 20 minutes in 2002 and then withdrawn by the two parties (China objected to the inclusion of Gilgit Baltistan on Indian maps). A first easier step could be to simply reopen the border (LAC or whatever one calls it) as it was in the 1950s, particularly for trade and pilgrimage to the Kailash-Manasarovar, as it was for centuries. Reopening Shipki-la China has recently agreed in principle to reopen the Shipki-la route; the Himachal Government sees it as a boost for trade and tourism. According to The Times of India: “Talks between India and China on reviving traditional border trade have yielded progress, with Beijing agreeing in principle to reopen the Shipki-la pass in Himachal Pradesh’s Kinnaur district. ... The trade route, once an offshoot of the ancient Silk Route, had been suspended in 2020 following the Covid-19 outbreak.” PTI said that External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar informed Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu that New Delhi had started discussions with Beijing for restoring border trade through all three designated points, namely Shipki-la in Himachal Pradesh, Lipulekh in Uttarakhand, and Nathu-la in Sikkim: “The government of China has agreed in principle to the proposal during the recent visit of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi to India,” the statement said, adding that Simla “is hopeful that these initiatives will not only revive border trade but also open fresh opportunities for tourism, cultural exchange, and economic development in the state.” But reopening passes is not enough.

When graffiti becomes history: Indian imprints in the land of Pharaohs and beyond

“Bunty loves Pinky. Pierced heart.” “Vikram + Poonam = heart.” Or just plain “ILU (I love you).” Anyone who has visited a heritage site in India would have seen these messages scribbled on the walls. These random graffiti are the most ubiquitous modern imprint on our history and the most wine-inducing as well. But these modern-day vandals are not a species indigenous to India alone. Nor are they a peculiarly 21st-century phenomenon. In fact, the astonishing discovery of 2000-year-old graffiti left behind by ancient Indian travellers and merchants on the tombs of Egyptian pharaohs has hit headlines earlier this week, causing excitement not just among historians and archaeologists but the general public as well. Scribbled onto a number of pharaonic tombs in the Valley of Kings, these 30 inscriptions – of which a majority are in Tamil Brahmi – document not just ancient India’s deep mercantile and maritime relations with Egypt but also the very human need to imprint one’s presence on history. The inscriptions themselves are straightforward enough – one reads “Cikai Korran vara kantan”, or “Cikai Korran was here”. A fellow traveller dittoes the sentiment: “Kopran vara kantan” or Kopran was here. These intrepid Indian seafaring merchants – the same tribe who carried fine Indian goods like the Berenike Buddha or the Pompeii Yakshi/Lakshmi to Egypt and Rome – perhaps felt compelled to leave behind some sign of their presence on a monument which would have been ancient even 2000 years ago. And thank god for that. Because in doing so, they have helped expand the history of ancient India’s connections with the world around it. In fact, Korran and Kopran are not the only ancient Indians who left behind some fingerprints on pharaonic Egypt. Three inscriptions from the Red Sea port of Quseir-al-Qadim, or Leucos Limen, offer tell-tale signs of intrepid seafaring Indians not only trading with Egypt and Rome but also living in



transit trade hubs like Alexandria, Berenike or Leucos Limen. The three inscriptions – two in Tamil Brahmi and one in Prakrit – mention some of these merchants by name. Halaka, Vinhudata or Vishnudatta and Nakada or Nagadatta are selling oil, wine or honey and meat. Another pottery inscription mentions yet another Tamil trader called Cattan or Kannan who left his signature on his goods in Tamil Brahmi. Just as interesting is the inscription in Greek found at the Temple of Seti I at Kanayis, located somewhere between Berenike on the Red Sea and Apollinopolis on the Nile. The inscription is an offering to the Greek god Pan (which many historians have surmised was an offering to Lord Krishna but made in a Greek temple) from an Indian called Subhanu. Some of these scribbles are symbols like the Buddhist wheel and Hindu trishula symbols that popped up in a Ptolemy-era tomb in Dendera, confounding historians about who left those imprints and why. That’s not to say that Indian merchants have only found mention in these assorted graffiti – several contemporary sources like the Oxyrhynchus papyrus, which contains a fragment of a Greek farce, Ptolemy’s Geography and Periplus of the Erythraean Sea, and the Sanskrit inscription at the Isis temple at Berenike by a trader called Vasula all attest to their presence. While ancient Indian graffiti in Egypt may be in the news right now, historical graffiti are not rare either in India or elsewhere in the world. On my first ever trip to the Ajanta complex, the local guide pointed out a name scribbled on a pillar in Cave 10: John Smith. This British official had accidentally discovered the caves in 1819 while chasing a particularly elusive tiger and had felt impelled to leave his signature behind as well, giving the sacred art of ancient India a taste of some good old-fashioned colonial impertinence. Just as deliberate were the Viking/Norse runic scribbles inside the

pects do not look very bright.” To aggravate the situation, constant attempts were made through Chinese middlemen “to raise the prices of Tibetan products and to lower those of Indian goods by denying direct barter dealings between our traders and the Dokpas, who are poisoned to believe that our traders had been exploiting them for centuries.” The entire exercise seemed to be to squeeze out the Indian traders from Tibet, slowly but surely; Bakshi believed that as soon as the Chinese would be able to achieve food self-sufficiency, they would open their own woollen mills. The Fate of the Kailash Pilgrimage According to the ITA report, “due to disturbed conditions in Western Tibet,” after the uprising of March 1959, the Chinese advised the Indian pilgrims to desist from visiting the Kailash and Manasarovar region. As a result, only 25 pilgrims visited Kailash and Manasarovar in 1960; the main party of 13 pilgrims, led by Swami Vidyanda of Nainital, entered Western Tibet via Unta Dhura pass and returned to Garbyang via Lipulekh pass on August 22.” Though the pilgrims did not encounter any difficulty “as they did not have to depend on the local authorities for any facilities like transport,” the problem in the resthouses “remains as acute as before”. On his return journey, the ITA stayed in the only resthouse available, near the Rakshastal lake in the Kailash area; he found it “unfit for human habitation and looked worse than a stable”. Bakshi said that he understood from the pilgrims that “there was a restriction on taking radios and newspapers and that the Chinese did not favour the idea of Kailash Parikrama for security reasons.” When the ITA mentioned these difficulties to the Foreign Bureau at Gartok, “our pilgrims had not been able to visit Holy Kailash and Manasarovar for the last two years in view of the Chinese advice regarding disturbed conditions in Western Tibet,” Bakshi was assured that when the situation in Ngari would become normal, the pilgrims could resume their visit to the holy places. It never happened. What can be done? Shipki-la in Himachal Pradesh and Lipulekh in Uttarakhand were partially reopened in the 1990s, and Nathu-la in 2006, but closed again due to Covid-19 in 2020. A Confidence Building Measure (CBM) and win-win option for Beijing and Delhi could be to reopen trade and pilgrimage as in the past. Further, spiritual corridors through Demchok, Shipki-la, Niti-la or Mana-la should be opened for the Kailash pilgrimage. Let lakhs of Indian yatis visit the holy places in Tibet; China will not mind the good revenue accrued from it. After all, the Kartarpur corridor between India and Pakistan was opened as a mutual gesture of goodwill, despite the tough reality and difficulties between both countries. Both governments agreed to the development of a corridor to enable the smooth passage of pilgrims seeking to visit Guru Nanak’s final resting place. These are certainly fields to explore for the northern border, as trade and pilgrimage always played an important role in India’s relationship with Tibet; it could indeed provide a bridge between both sides of the Himalaya and in the future become a major CBM between China and India; a solution for the LAC could come next.

Claude Arpi

Hagia Sophia in Istanbul. One particularly clear-cut one simply states, “Halfdan was here”. Inscribed in the 9th century, this elite member of the Byzantine Varangian guards was, in effect, vandalising a 300-year-old building when he left his name on its walls. Sometimes, the scribbles are marks of protest too, like the charcoal graffiti left in the cell blocks of Richmond Castle in the UK. These were by men who were refusing to fight in WWI and had been imprisoned as a result. Just as interesting are the many doodles and texts left behind by unfortunate prisoners on the walls of the Tower of London. There is, for example, an entire prayer scribbled in Latin by Philip Howard, Earl of Arundel. Dated 1587, it says, “The more our pain in this world, the more our glory in the hereafter.” Of course, not all graffiti is quite so pure-minded in tone and tenor. Some of the most titillating scribbles can be found on the walls of Pompeii, which included everything from nudge-nudge wink-wink references to the rich and famous, political sloganeering and even salacious gossip about rivals and competitors, all preserved by the lava-spewing fury of Mount Vesuvius. But perhaps the most blush-worthy are those left behind by drunk customers after a visit to the city’s famed red-light quarters. The most famous graffiti in India, though, includes the imprint of three emperors, separated by a millennium each. This is the Prayag Prashasti Pillar in Prayagraj, which bears the names of three emperors. Originally an Ashokan pillar, it carries some of Ashoka’s edicts in Prakrit, written in Brahmi script. Later, it was used to carve the most detailed record of Gupta emperor Samudragupta’s reign by his minister and scribe Harisena. The Prashasti includes details of the emperor’s conquests across both North and South India. Finally, Mughal emperor Jahangir uprooted the pillar and planted it in Allahabad Fort, adding an inscription in Persian. The three sets of inscriptions, spanning 2,000 years, have turned the pillar into a time capsule connecting different parts of India’s past. Sometimes, graffiti can be history too — though not the love-sick variety we now see defacing the walls of heritage sites.

Nandini Sen Gupta

ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund launches ICICI Prudential Multi-Asset Active FOF

Mumbai: ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund announced the launch of the ICICI Prudential Multi-Asset Active FOF, an open ended fund of funds scheme investing predominantly in units of active equity oriented schemes, debt oriented schemes and Gold ETFs/ Silver ETFs. The scheme shall adjust exposure across these asset classes based on prevailing market conditions, valuation signals and macroeconomic trends. Commenting on the launch, Mr. Sankaran Naren, Executive Director and Chief Investment Officer, ICICI Prudential AMC, said: “Different asset classes perform differently across economic and market cycles, making disciplined asset allocation an important component of long-term investing. ICICI Prudential Multi-Asset Active FOF brings together active equity, debt and Gold ETF/Silver ETF within a single portfolio, while using our proprietary valuation and macroeconomic models to actively adjust allocations as market conditions evolve. The objective is to help investors participate in opportunities across asset classes through a structured and research-driven investment process, thereby creating a more consistent invest-

ing experience.” Investment Philosophy: Asset classes perform differently depending on economic cycles, inflation, interest rates and market sentiment. Rather than attempting to predict which asset class will outperform next, the scheme seeks to allocate across equity, debt and Gold ETF/Silver ETF based on their relative attractiveness. The scheme combines three distinct portfolio objectives

- Equity for potential long-term wealth creation
- Debt for relatively stable accrual income
- Gold and Silver for diversification and potential inflation protection

Investment Strategy Framework The portfolio allocation framework comprises:

- 30-80% in units of active equity-oriented schemes.
- 10-60% in units of active debt-oriented schemes.
- 10-30% in Gold ETFs* and/or Silver ETFs.

The portfolio of the scheme is subject to changes within the

provisions of the Scheme Information document of the Scheme. The asset allocation and investment strategy will be as per the Scheme Information Document. *The AMC shall evaluate the market situation while taking exposure towards Gold/Silver ETF. Considering the current market conditions, the exposure towards Gold ETF will be restricted at 5% of the AUM and the same shall be reviewed from time to time. Allocation across these asset classes is actively managed based on market conditions and the relative attractiveness of each asset class. Product Details

- Minimum Application Amount: Rs. 1,000.
- Options: ICICI Prudential Multi-Asset Active FOF -Direct Plan & Regular Plan.
- Benchmark: 55% Nifty 200 TRI + 35% NIFTY Composite Debt Index + 7% Domestic Price of Gold + 3% Domestic Price of Silver.
- Fund Manager: Mr. Dharmesh Kakkad, Mr. Manish Banthia, Mr. Akhil Kakkar, Ms. Sharmila D’silva and Mr. Gaurav Chikane.

PM Modi flags off India’s First Hydrogen Train

New Delhi: India marked a major milestone in its journey towards cleaner transportation and modern railway technology as Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the country's first hydrogen-powered passenger train from Jind railway station in Haryana, placing the nation among a small group of countries that have successfully introduced hydrogen-powered rail services. The launch represents a significant advance in India's efforts to reduce carbon emissions while strengthening indigenous technological capabilities in railway engineering. The new train, operating on the Jind-Sonipat section, reflects the government's broader strategy of combining infrastructure development, environmental sustainability and technological innovation to reshape the future of public transport. The inauguration ceremony also featured the dedication and foundation laying of National Highway projects valued at more than Rs 12,470 crore, underlining the Centre's continuing emphasis on expanding world-class transport infrastructure across the country. Among the projects dedicated to the nation was the 157-kilometre Greenfield section of the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway, a key component of the larger 667-kilometre expressway that is expected to dramatically reduce travel times between major northern cities and improve connectivity for passengers, businesses and pilgrims alike. The expressway is projected to reduce travel time between Delhi and Katra from nearly fourteen hours to about six hours while bringing down the Delhi-Amritsar journey from around eight hours to approximately four hours, providing a major boost to regional economic activity, tourism and logistics. Addressing the gathering, Prime Minister Modi described the hydrogen-powered train as a defining achievement for India's railway system and said the country had entered a new phase of technological transformation. He noted that Indian Railways had witnessed sweeping changes over the past twelve years, with modernisation becoming the central theme of railway development through new stations, advanced trains, improved passenger facilities, electrification and greater emphasis on safety. He said Haryana had experienced rapid progress during the same period and added that the inauguration of India's first hydrogen-powered train had given Jind a permanent place in the country's technological history. The Prime Minister stated that the town had emerged as an important symbol of development and innovation and expressed confidence that hydrogen technology would become an integral part of India's future railway network. He said the railways of the twenty-first century would increasingly rely on cleaner energy sources, and hydrogen-powered mobility would help create an environmentally sustainable transport ecosystem while reducing dependence on fossil fuels. Highlighting the significance of the new service, he pointed out that only a handful of countries currently possess operational hydrogen-powered trains and said India's entry into this exclusive group demonstrated the country's growing engineering capability and commitment to innovation. He further observed that the hydrogen-powered train introduced by Indian Railways ranks among the world's most powerful and longest trains of its kind, equipped with an engine generating nearly 3,200 horsepower. Unlike many hydrogen-powered trains operating internationally with only two or three coaches on short regional routes, the Indian version has been designed as a full-scale ten-coach passenger train capable of accommo-

dating nearly 2,600 passengers, showcasing India's ability to adapt advanced technology for large-capacity public transport requirements. Railway officials explained that the train has been entirely designed, engineered and integrated in India using indigenous technology, reflecting the success of the government's push for self-reliance in advanced manufacturing and transport innovation. The train operates at a service speed of about 75 kilometres per hour on the Jind-Sonipat route while possessing a design speed of 110 kilometres per hour, enabling both efficient and safe operations on the nearly 90-kilometre corridor. Powered by hydrogen fuel cells, the train generates electricity through a chemical reaction between hydrogen and oxygen, producing only water vapour as a by-product, thereby eliminating direct carbon emissions during operation. This clean energy process significantly reduces environmental pollution compared with conventional diesel-powered trains and aligns with India's long-term commitments towards sustainable development and climate action. Railway engineers highlighted that the train incorporates multiple safety mechanisms capable of continuously monitoring hydrogen systems and detecting any leakage, heat, smoke or fire, ensuring safe operation under varying conditions. Dedicated hydrogen production, storage and refuelling infrastructure has also been established at Jind to support reliable and efficient train operations while maintaining stringent safety standards. Union Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw described the inauguration as a historic breakthrough in India's technological progress and said the achievement was the outcome of determined efforts to develop indigenous hydrogen technology suitable for railway operations. He emphasised that the train requires neither diesel nor petrol and represents a completely environment-friendly alternative for passenger transport. According to the minister, the hydrogen train forms part of the wider railway modernisation programme undertaken over the past several years, which includes rapid electrification, station redevelopment, introduction of modern rolling stock, expansion of high-speed corridors and adoption of advanced signalling systems. He also highlighted the substantial increase in railway investment in Haryana, noting that the state's railway allocation had risen from around Rs 315 crore in earlier years to nearly Rs 3,500 crore currently, while railway development projects worth approximately Rs 18,000 crore are presently under implementation across the state. Officials believe these investments will strengthen regional connectivity, improve freight movement and generate new employment opportunities through infrastructure construction and allied industries. Experts say hydrogen-powered trains could play a transformative role in sections where complete electrification remains challenging or where clean alternatives to diesel locomotives are required. Hydrogen fuel cell technology offers the advantage of zero tailpipe emissions while maintaining operational flexibility similar to diesel-powered trains, making it an attractive option for environmentally sensitive routes and heritage railway sections. Indian Railways is already examining the possibility of deploying hydrogen-powered trains on heritage routes, including the famous Kalka-Shimla railway, where such technology could reduce pollution while preserving the scenic character of the UNESCO-recognised mountain railway. The operational experience gained

from the Jind-Sonipat project is expected to guide future expansion of hydrogen technology across selected railway corridors. The launch also reflects India's broader National Green Hydrogen Mission, which seeks to establish the country as a global hub for hydrogen production, innovation and utilisation across multiple sectors including transport, industry and energy. Hydrogen is increasingly viewed worldwide as an important clean fuel capable of supporting decarbonisation efforts in industries that are difficult to electrify directly. By integrating hydrogen technology into its railway system, India aims to encourage domestic research, manufacturing and investment while creating new opportunities for technology development and skilled employment. Industry observers believe the successful deployment of indigenous hydrogen-powered trains could eventually position Indian companies to participate in global markets for clean mobility technologies. Environmental experts welcomed the initiative, noting that rail transport already remains one of the most energy-efficient modes of mass transportation and that replacing diesel-powered operations with hydrogen fuel cell technology could further reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality. The initiative also complements Indian Railways' ongoing efforts towards achieving net-zero carbon emissions through large-scale electrification, renewable energy adoption, energy-efficient operations and sustainable infrastructure development. Analysts observed that combining cleaner trains with expanding expressway networks reflects a comprehensive approach to transport planning aimed at supporting economic growth while balancing environmental responsibilities. The simultaneous inauguration of major highway projects reinforces the government's emphasis on creating integrated multimodal connectivity linking highways, railways, ports and airports to facilitate faster movement of people and goods across the country. Improved transport networks are expected to reduce logistics costs, encourage industrial investment and strengthen regional development by connecting production centres with domestic and international markets. The Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway is anticipated to become a strategic corridor supporting tourism, trade and pilgrimage while significantly improving travel comfort and safety for millions of commuters each year. For Haryana, the day's announcements represent another phase of expanding transport infrastructure that could stimulate industrial growth, attract investments and enhance employment opportunities. For Indian Railways, the hydrogen-powered train signals the beginning of a new chapter in technological advancement, combining indigenous engineering with global environmental priorities. As the train begins regular operations on the Jind-Sonipat route, it serves not only as a practical transport service but also as a demonstration of India's ambition to build a cleaner, smarter and more self-reliant transport system. With continued investment in research, manufacturing and supporting infrastructure, hydrogen-powered mobility may gradually become an important component of the country's future transport landscape, strengthening India's position among nations pursuing innovative solutions for sustainable development while reinforcing the vision of modern infrastructure driving long-term national progress.

IVF Rule Scan

New Delhi: Seeking to strengthen oversight of India's fast-growing assisted reproductive technology sector, the National Commission for Women (NCW) has constituted a high-level Expert Committee to undertake a comprehensive review of the legal and regulatory framework governing in vitro fertilisation (IVF) clinics, Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) centres and gamete banks across the country. The initiative comes amid increasing concerns over irregularities, inconsistent standards and reports of unethical practices in the fertility treatment ecosystem. The Commission said the review is intended to ensure that reproductive healthcare services remain firmly rooted in the principles of dignity, informed choice, transparency and accountability while protecting the rights, safety and well-being of women seeking fertility treatment. By bringing together specialists from multiple disciplines, the committee is expected to recommend measures that will strengthen institutional accountability, improve compliance with existing laws and create a more transparent and patient-centric regulatory system for assisted reproductive services in India. The Expert Committee will be chaired by former Delhi High Court Judge Justice Asha Menon and will include experts from the judiciary, medicine, forensic science, law enforcement, gynaecology, public policy and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The Commission believes that the diverse composition of the panel will enable a comprehensive examination of legal, ethical, medical and administrative aspects of the ART sector. Members will analyse existing regulations, identify implementation challenges and recommend reforms that balance technological advancement with patient protection. The committee is expected to engage with stakeholders from both the public and private healthcare sectors while reviewing the functioning of IVF clinics, fertility centres and gamete banks operating under the current legal framework. India has witnessed a remarkable expansion in fertility treatment services over the past decade, driven by advances in reproductive medicine, delayed parenthood, changing lifestyles and growing awareness about assisted reproductive technologies. Thousands of couples and individuals now rely on IVF and other ART procedures to overcome infertility and achieve parenthood. The sector has also attracted significant investment, leading to the establishment of numerous specialised fertility clinics in metropolitan cities as well as smaller urban centres. While this growth has improved access to reproductive healthcare, it has simultaneously raised concerns regarding quality control, ethical standards and the need for consistent regulatory oversight across the country. The National Commission for Women observed that although the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Act, 2021, and the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021, created an important legal framework for regulating fertility services, regulatory compliance alone has not been sufficient to eliminate unethical practices. According to the Commission, reports of procedural inconsistencies, inadequate documentation, questionable consent practices and financial

exploitation indicate that stronger oversight mechanisms may be required. The Commission believes that effective implementation of the law should be supported by uniform operational standards, improved monitoring and enhanced institutional accountability to safeguard women seeking fertility treatment. One of the major concerns identified by the Commission relates to the rapid emergence of medical tourism in India's fertility sector. India has become an attractive destination for reproductive healthcare because of its advanced medical expertise, comparatively affordable treatment costs and expanding network of specialised fertility centres. However, the increasing number of international patients has also created concerns regarding possible attempts to bypass domestic legal safeguards governing assisted reproduction. The Commission noted that careful scrutiny is necessary to ensure that reproductive services provided to domestic and foreign patients remain fully compliant with Indian law and ethical standards, particularly those intended to prevent prohibited practices such as sex selection. The Commission further highlighted that the absence of uniform treatment protocols across different states has resulted in varying standards of care. Differences in clinical procedures, documentation requirements, counselling practices and patient management have contributed to inconsistencies that may affect treatment quality and patient confidence. Experts believe that standardised protocols can improve transparency, reduce unnecessary medical interventions and ensure that women receive consistent care regardless of where treatment is undertaken. Uniform standards may also facilitate better monitoring by regulatory authorities and improve overall compliance with statutory requirements. Women undergoing fertility treatment often face emotional, physical and financial challenges throughout the process. Assisted reproductive procedures involve complex medical interventions, repeated consultations and significant financial commitments. In such circumstances, clear communication, informed consent and ethical clinical practices become essential. The Commission has emphasised that every woman seeking assisted reproductive services must receive complete information regarding treatment options, expected outcomes, possible risks and financial implications before making medical decisions. Ensuring informed consent remains one of the central objectives of the committee's review process. Another important area of examination will be the implementation of safeguards relating to patient privacy and confidentiality. Fertility treatment involves highly sensitive personal, medical and genetic information that requires strict protection. The committee will review existing mechanisms governing data privacy, storage of medical records and access to biological information to determine whether additional safeguards are required. Protecting patient confidentiality is considered essential not only for legal compliance but also for maintaining trust between healthcare providers and patients. The Expert Committee will also examine provisions relating to biological traceability within assisted reproductive procedures.

Govt to convene All-Party Meeting ahead of Monsoon Session

New Delhi: Ahead of the commencement of the Monsoon Session of Parliament, the Union Government has intensified its efforts to build consensus across the political spectrum by convening an all-party meeting with floor leaders on Sunday, underscoring its commitment to ensuring the smooth and productive functioning of both Houses during one of the most significant legislative periods of the year. The meeting is expected to provide an important platform for dialogue between the government and opposition parties, allowing leaders to raise concerns, suggest priorities, and discuss procedural issues before Parliament assembles. Such consultations have become an established parliamentary practice, reflecting the importance of cooperation and mutual understanding in the functioning of India's democratic institutions. The government is expected to appeal to all political parties to contribute constructively to debates, maintain parliamentary decorum, and facilitate meaningful discussions on issues of national importance. The Monsoon Session is scheduled to begin on July 20 and continue until August 13, providing lawmakers with several weeks to deliberate on a wide range of legislative proposals, policy initiatives, financial matters, and issues concerning governance and public welfare. Parliamentary Affairs officials have indicated that the session will include discussions on several important Bills that have been prepared for introduction, consideration, and passage, alongside debates on pressing national developments. The all-party meeting is therefore seen as a crucial opportunity to identify areas of agreement, anticipate contentious issues, and evolve strategies that can help Parliament function efficiently despite political differences. India's Parliament remains the highest legislative institution in the country, where elected representatives debate laws, review government policies, and hold the executive accountable through structured discussions and parliamentary procedures. Every parliamentary session carries significant importance, but the Monsoon Session traditionally assumes added relevance because it often witnesses the introduction of major reform measures, detailed debates on governance, and extensive discussions on matters affecting the economy, agriculture, infrastructure, education, healthcare, national security, social welfare, and international relations. In recent years, the government has repeatedly emphasised that uninterrupted parliamentary proceedings are essential for timely legislative action, implementation of reforms, and effective governance. Ministers have consistently urged all political parties to ensure that debates take place within the framework of parliamentary rules while avoiding disruptions

that reduce the productive time available for legislative business. The upcoming all-party meeting is expected to reinforce this message by encouraging political consensus wherever possible while respecting the democratic right of opposition parties to raise questions and seek accountability from the government. Parliamentary experts note that all-party meetings serve as confidence-building exercises rather than formal decision-making platforms. They enable the government to brief opposition leaders about the proposed agenda and provide an opportunity for political parties to highlight issues they wish to raise during the session. These interactions often help reduce misunderstandings and improve coordination between the Treasury benches and the opposition, even when disagreements remain on policy matters. Such consultations also reflect the spirit of parliamentary democracy, where dialogue precedes debate and consensus is pursued before legislative business begins. The Monsoon Session is expected to witness discussions on several significant legislative proposals across different sectors. While the final list of Bills will be placed before Parliament through the official business agenda, lawmakers are anticipated to deliberate on reforms intended to strengthen governance, improve administrative efficiency, promote economic development, modernise public services, and enhance citizen welfare. Bills that have been pending from previous sessions may also be taken up for consideration depending on the availability of parliamentary time and the progress of discussions between political parties. The government is expected to prioritise legislation that supports long-term economic growth, infrastructure expansion, digital governance, investment promotion, financial stability, social justice, and institutional reforms. Apart from legislative business, Members of Parliament are likely to use the session to raise constituency-specific concerns, seek clarifications from ministers, and discuss matters affecting different regions of the country. Question Hour, Zero Hour, Calling Attention motions, and various parliamentary devices will provide opportunities for legislators to seek accountability and present issues of public importance before the House. Committees attached to Parliament are also expected to continue examining legislative proposals and policy matters, providing detailed scrutiny that complements debates on the floor of the House. Parliamentary committees have increasingly become important forums for detailed examination of Bills, expert consultations, and bipartisan engagement, often contributing significantly to improving legislative quality. The government has repeatedly stressed that

constructive participation by all Members enhances the credibility and effectiveness of Parliament while ensuring that diverse viewpoints are reflected in the legislative process. Political observers believe that the upcoming session could witness extensive debates on economic performance, employment generation, inflation management, agricultural development, social welfare programmes, infrastructure projects, technological innovation, digital transformation, education reforms, healthcare initiatives, environmental sustainability, internal security, foreign policy, and India's expanding role in global affairs. Members from different political parties are expected to present contrasting perspectives on these issues while seeking policy clarifications from the government. Such discussions form an essential feature of parliamentary democracy by allowing multiple viewpoints to be expressed before legislative decisions are taken. The government has consistently maintained that Parliament should remain a forum for informed debate, reasoned arguments, and constructive criticism rather than prolonged disruptions. It has frequently appealed to all parties to utilise the available time effectively so that important Bills, budgetary matters, committee reports, and public interest discussions receive adequate attention. Parliamentary productivity has remained an important benchmark for evaluating the effectiveness of legislative sessions, with successive governments expressing concern whenever repeated adjournments reduce the time available for business. Efficient utilisation of parliamentary hours enables lawmakers to complete legislative work while ensuring sufficient opportunity for debate and scrutiny. Officials involved in parliamentary affairs have highlighted that advance consultations through all-party meetings help identify concerns that may otherwise lead to procedural disagreements after the session begins. These meetings also allow ministers to understand opposition priorities and prepare appropriate responses to issues likely to be raised in Parliament. Parliamentary traditions in India have long recognised the importance of dialogue across party lines, particularly before major legislative sessions, as a means of strengthening democratic functioning. Even when political competition remains intense, procedural cooperation has often enabled Parliament to complete significant legislative business in the national interest. The Monsoon Session is also expected to provide an opportunity for newly introduced policy measures to be explained before Parliament, enabling ministers to present the objectives, expected outcomes, and implementation strategies associated with proposed legislation.

KhoslaRaghu Capture Love In Its Purest Form With "Bewajah," The Opening Track From AARZU

National : Winning hearts with their sincere storytelling and soulful sound, Mumbai-based indie-pop duo



KhoslaRaghu return with the first chapter of their much-awaited five-track album AARZU with the release of “Bewajah”. Gentle, heartfelt and deeply relatable, Bewajah captures the butterflies, sleepless nights and the beautiful chaos that come with the feeling of falling for someone you can’t stop thinking about. It marks the beginning of their album that journeys through many shades of love, from longing and heartbreak to healing and hope. At its heart, ‘Bewajah’ is about the kind of love that quietly takes over your world. Every glance feels overwhelming, every meeting leaves you wanting more and the only way to protect your heart is to jokingly ask the person to stay away because it makes you fall deeper. Blending contemporary pop with subtle rock influences, the track beautifully captures the excitement, nervousness and emotional restlessness that often define the beginning of love. While ‘Bewajah’ introduces listeners to the first page of the story, AARZU un-

folds over five songs - Mile Jo Sukoon, Hausle, Naina Saawan and Teri Aadatein, each exploring a different emotion that accompanies love. The album is a heartfelt collection of stories that many will find a piece of themselves in. With poignant lyricism and a contemporary sound rooted in emotion, AARZU is an intimate musical journey through new beginnings, desire, hope, heartbreak and healing. Speaking about Bewajah and the album, KhoslaRaghu shared, “Bewajah is about loving someone so deeply that they quietly take over all your thoughts. It’s beautiful, but it also carries the ache of knowing that not every love story reaches the ending you hope for. That feeling of longing is what AARZU is built on. Having Sohail from Delhi bring sitar to the track added a whole new layer of emotion and if this song reminds someone of a love they’ll always carry with them, then we’ve said everything we wanted to.” Made up of Rishabh Raghuvanshi and Sanchit Khosla, KhoslaRaghu began their journey with one simple belief - friends first, music later. What started as two friends making music in a basement has organically grown into one of India’s most exciting independent success stories. Building a fiercely loyal audience with hits like ‘Barse More Naina’, ‘Doorriyan’, ‘NaQabil’ and others, they continue to resonate with listeners, establishing KhoslaRaghu as one of the most compelling voices in India’s indie-pop landscape. With Bewajah setting the emotional tone, AARZU promises to be a heartfelt collection of moments, memories and emotions that stay with you long after the music ends. Honest, vulnerable and relatable, it reaffirms KhoslaRaghu’s ability to turn everyday feelings into songs that feel timeless.

Grand Conclusion of Upasana Kala Kendra's Summer Workshop in Dibrugarh: Inaugurated by Former Vice-Chancellor Dr. K.K. Deka

M Hashim Ali, Correspondent, Dibrugarh, July 19: The seven-day Summer Workshop organized by Upasana Kala Kendra, Dibrugarh, in collaboration with Sandhani Mahila Chora, Dibrugarh, and Srishti Prabhat,

The chief guest, distinguished guests, and other eminent personalities were felicitated with traditional Assamese honours, including phulam gamosa, cheleng, and xorai. The Vice-Chancellor of Majuli Cultural University, Dr. Nirod Barua,

tation, "Jhumur". The cultural segment began with a captivating inaugural dance performed by the workshop participants. In his presidential address, Chief Guest Dr. Nirod Barua highly appreciated Upasana Kala Kendra for its long-

Committee for bringing out such a meaningful publication. The trainees presented a short play titled "Aranyar Chokulu". They also performed Sattriya dance, Jhumur dance, and traditional drum performances of the Tea Tribe community,



earning widespread appreciation from the audience. Resource persons including Krishna Pankaja Dutta, Chumi Phukan, Ajay Dutta, Sonaraya Ghatowar, and several others conducted training sessions during the workshop. The invited dignitaries also shared their views and praised Upasana Kala Kendra for its outstanding contribution to the promotion of art and culture, the propagation of human values, and the holistic development of children and adolescents. Among them were Nomal Gogoi, former President of the Dibrugarh District Sahitya Sabha, Badan

8 chic designer crossbody bags for any occasion

In moments that call for both style and function, the crossbody is the ultimate go-to — it offers hands-free ease while keeping your essentials close. Be it a larger, boxy bag with jeans and a tee for a cool off-duty look, or pairing it with a sleek, preppy mini and heels for a night out, crossbody bags are the kind of accessories that are ready for any occasion. From bold statement pieces to timeless classics, here are eight to consider adding to your collection.

CELINE SMALL LOUISE BUCKET IN RAFFIA & CALFSKIN

For a laid-back yet chic look, reach for Celine’s Small Louise Bucket Bag. Its design effortlessly combines rustic raffia with sleek calfskin, providing an ideal accessory for both casual and refined settings.

Toss your sunglasses, phone, wallet, and sunscreen into this crossbody for a casual brunch or picnic in the park. The gold finishing also lends the bag a touch of elegance, allowing you to take it on a day in the city as well. The adjustable strap ensures comfort while carrying, making it a versatile choice for various outfits and occasions. Whether you're out on a leisurely day in nature or exploring urban landscapes, this bag keeps your essentials stylishly organised and easily accessible.

DIOR MEDIUM BOBBY BAG IN LATTE BOX CALFSKIN

The Dior Bobby Bag’s hobo design is understated enough for every day, but the gold accents and signature military-inspired buckle add a touch of sophistication that elevates any outfit.

Guwahati, concluded with a colourful and grand closing ceremony. Following the welcome of the chief guest, distinguished guests, and other invitees, the programme was ceremonially inaugurated with the traditional lighting of the lamp and the chanting of Mangalacharan by the distinguished guest, former Vice-Chancellor of Dibrugarh University, Dr. Kandarpa Kumar Deka. At the outset, Tarun Kumar Gogoi, President of Upasana Kala Kendra, delivered the welcome address. He explained the significance of the workshop and expressed heartfelt gratitude to all the guests, trainers, parents, and well-wishers whose cooperation contributed to its successful organization.

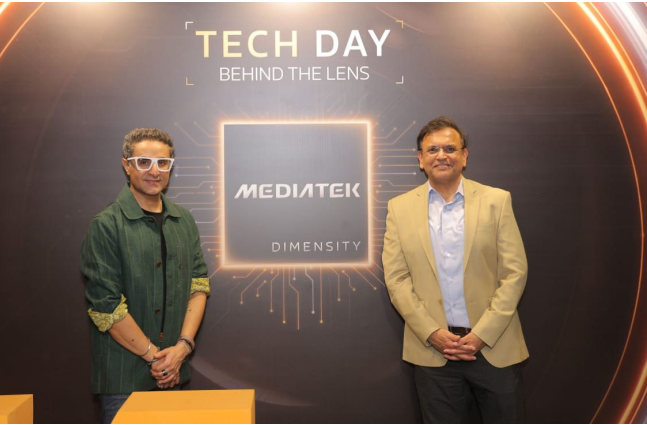
attended as the Chief Guest, while Dr. Kandarpa Kumar Deka, former Vice-Chancellor of Dibrugarh University, was present as the Distinguished Guest. Eminent poet and literary scholar Dr. Karabi Deka Hazarika, social worker Atmaram Agarwala, and several other distinguished personalities also attended the event. Dr. Pankaj Kumar Shrutikar, President of the Workshop Committee, explained the objectives of the programme and highlighted the importance of such workshops in nurturing the creative talents of children and adolescents through the promotion of art and culture. Dr. Karabi Deka Hazarika inaugurated the stage by delivering a brief address on the workshop's first theatrical presentation.

standing contribution to the promotion of art and culture and for its role in shaping the personalities of the younger generation. Thereafter, all the trainers who had imparted instruction in various disciplines during the workshop were felicitated. The trainees then presented a patriotic group song. On the occasion, Jharna Saikia, the Founder President of Upasana Kala Kendra, spoke about the commemorative publication titled "Ek Barnil Jatra" which chronicles the institution's remarkable journey from 2004 to 2026. The souvenir was formally released by Dr. Kandarpa Kumar Deka, who congratulated everyone associated with its publication. He also praised the Summer Workshop

Gogoi, the current President, and Parameswar Nalbariya. Niharika Shrutikar, President of Sandhani Mahila Chora, also addressed the gathering. Certificates were distributed to all the participants of the workshop. Finally, Deepak Kumar Dutta, President of Upasana Kala Kendra, delivered the vote of thanks. The successful conclusion of the seven-day Summer Workshop was then formally declared with the singing of the National Anthem. The enthusiastic participation of parents, well-wishers, and lovers of art and culture made the event more meaningful and memorable. The programme was compered by Lakhira Gogoi, Secretary of Sandhani Mahila Chora.

MediaTek to Drive Innovation in Smartphone Imaging Ecosystem with Next-Gen Camera Technologies

New Delhi : — MediaTek, the world’s leading fabless semiconductor company powering nearly 2 billion connected devices a year, reiterated its focus on shaping the future of the Smartphone Imaging and Edge-to-Cloud Ecosystem at its flagship MediaTek Tech Day in New Delhi today. The event “Beyond the Lens,” spotlighted the incredible technologies enabled by MediaTek’s SoCs that make flagship smartphone imaging experiences possible, while reinforcing the One MediaTek vision across automotive, data centers, AI PCs, and other connected technologies beyond smartphones. Key industry voices, including media representatives, tech analysts, professional photographers, KOLs and OEM stakeholders from, Vivo, Motorola and Xiaomi shared their viewpoints at insightful discussions on the next frontier of imaging technology. These conversations also underscored the overarching One MediaTek vision, a unified strategy showcasing the vast scale of the company’s evolving technological ecosystem and seamlessly connecting intelligent solutions from Edge to Cloud. Speaking at the event, Anuj Sidharth, Director, Marketing and Corporate Communications, India and SEA, MediaTek, highlighted breakthrough imaging innovations such as 18EV HDR Fusion for extended dynamic range and 4K120 Super EIS for smooth, cinematic capture. He also outlined the brand update, highlighting MediaTek’s continued momentum and leadership in high-performance computing across India’s fast-evolving multi-device ecosystem. “Beyond the Lens” featured dedicated experience zones that showcased MediaTek’s imaging technologies through devices such as the vivo X300 Pro powered by the MediaTek Dimensity 9500, the OPPO Find X9s powered by the MediaTek Dimensity 9500s, and the Motorola Edge 70 Pro and the Xiaomi 17T powered by the MediaTek Dimensity 8500.



On the sidelines of the event, Anuj Sidharth, Director, Marketing and Corporate Communications, India and SEA, MediaTek, said, “Smartphone photography continues to shape consumer expectations and with the MediaTek Dimensity 9500 flagship SoC and the MediaTek Dimensity 8500 Premium SoC, we are meeting that demand head-on. Equipped with next-generation AI-ISP, the chipsets elevate computational photography without compromising on power efficiency. At MediaTek, we believe that truly brilliant technology is about more than just creating products, it’s about delivering incredible experiences that positively impact people’s lives. With our ecosystem partners, we continue to deliver innovations that empower users to capture every moment with greater clarity, creativity, and intelligence.” The event also witnessed an interactive panel discussion, titled ‘Who Really Takes the Photo?’, moderated by Rajiv Makhni. The panel brought together Rahul Jhangiani, professional photographer, Anuj Sidharth, Director, Marketing and Corporate Communications, MediaTek India & SEA, Paigham Danish CTO, Head of Product & GTM, Vivo India, Gautam Batra, Associate Director - Product Marketing, Xiaomi India and Shivam Ranjan, Marketing Director-APAC, Motorola Mobility. Each panelist brought a unique perspective to what

truly makes a great photo — the chip, the camera hardware, or the person behind the lens. Together, the panelists highlighted how human perspective, advanced camera sensors, and the processing power of the ISP work together to deliver the perfect shot. Additionally, the MediaTek Tech Day also witnessed insightful conversations around the MediaTek roadmap and its latest technologies:

- Latest Flagship & Premium chipsets: Showcased the MediaTek Dimensity 9500s, Dimensity 9500 and Dimensity 8500 SoCs that delivers leadership in AI, imaging, gaming, connectivity and power efficiency.
- One MediaTek – MediaTek’s expansion beyond smartphones into automotive, data centers, AI PCs and more, streamlined its portfolio as it scales across categories: Dimensity for smartphones, Dimensity AX for automotive, and Dimensity CX for compute platforms.
- Automotive Momentum – 20+ partnerships with leading automakers worldwide and 190+ ongoing projects under the Dimensity AX platform.
- Compute Momentum – Demonstrated MediaTek’s growing focus on AI compute platforms and next-generation computing technologies.
- Discussions on the MediaTek’s broader technology roadmap spanning smartphones, connectivity, Imaging capabilities, AI computing, and intelligent edge devices.

MediaTek remains the No. 1 smartphone chipset brand in India, with a 49% market share in Q2, 2026, a position it has now held for 24 consecutive quarters. The MediaTek Technology Day is an interactive platform to showcase the latest innovations that are reshaping everyday life. ‘Beyond the Lens’ is in tune with MediaTek’s philosophy of making great technology available to help consumers connect seamlessly with the things that shape our daily lives, by enhancing, enriching, and making us smarter and more creative.

Kargil Vijay Diwas 2026

Guwahati : To mark the nationwide commemoration of Kargil Vijay Diwas 2026, Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh flagged off the ‘Shaurya Vijay Yatra’ from the National War Memorial, New Delhi, with riders undertaking the 13-day expedition on Jawa and Yezdi motorcycles. With the motto ‘One Ride, One Nation, One Salute’, the 1,900-km expedition will see 28 riders, including serving and retired defence personnel, and the next of kin of fearless martyrs, travel to the Kargil War Memorial in Dras, Ladakh. The expedition will honour the courage, resolve, and supreme sacrifice of the Indian bravehearts who ensured victory in the 1999 Kargil War. The ride will pass through the Chandimandir, Rezag La, and the Leh War Memorials before culminating at the Kargil War Memorial on 26 July 2026. The expedition will carry sacred soil from the National War Memorial to Kargil to symbolise the confluence of generations of war heroes India has witnessed. The riders will also felicitate Veer Naris for their resilience. The flag-off ceremony was graced by Shri Rajnath Singh, Defence Minister of India; General N. S. Raja Subramani, Chief of Defence Staff; and General Dhiraj Seth, Chief of the Army Staff, along with senior military officials, veterans, and invited guests. With the National Cadet Corps in attendance, the occasion conveyed to India’s youth the importance of honouring India’s gallant soldiers in their memories and by upholding the values of duty, honour, and selfless service. Addressing the gathering, Shri Rajnath Singh paid tribute to the Indian soldiers whose courage and endurance upheld the honour of the Tricolour in the Kargil War. He described the victory as a symbol of India’s enduring resolve to protect its land and identity, and remembered the contributions of Param Vir Chakra awardees Captain Vikram Batra, Lieutenant Manoj Kumar Pandey, Subedar Major (Honorary Captain) Yogendra Singh Yadav (Retd), and Subedar Major (Honorary Captain) Sanjay Kumar (Retd). Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles initiated this tribute ride in 2021 to bring the motorcycling community closer to the inspiring stories of India’s valiant soldiers and their service to the nation. Over the years, it has evolved into a tradition that honours the spirit of fearlessness, sacrifice, and national pride. This year, the expedition will be accomplished on Jawa 350, 42, 42 FJ, and Yezdi Adventure and Scrambler. Anupam Thareja, Co-founder, Classic Legends, said, “Shaurya Vijay Yatra is our way of helping today’s generation remember the sacrifices of the heroes of Kargil and their families. This expedition is to ride in solidarity with the Indian Armed Forces to introduce new generations to the values of valour, discipline, resolve, and selflessness that makes one a true hero. Alongside the Indian Army, we are honoured to undertake this tribute and pay homage to our bravehearts.” Every kilometre of the Shaurya Vijay Yatra 2026 serves as a reminder that the freedom to ride, travel, and dream is safeguarded by generations of soldiers who chose the nation above themselves.

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Trump fires Election Assistance Commission members ahead of midterms

Washington: United States President Donald Trump terminated the last three members of the Election Assistance Commission, the independent, federal commission that assists election administration officials nationwide, according to one person familiar with the decision and two other people briefed on the terminations. The remaining three commissioners of the four-member bipartisan commission were forced out of the commission on Thursday in different ways. The one Republican appointee resigned and the other two Democratic appointees were fired via an email from the White House Presidential Personnel Office, according to two people familiar with the terminations. The fourth commissioner departed the commission in April. The terminations follow the recent Supreme Court decision that granted the president more power to fire members of independent agencies, and a push by Trump for more federal intervention in voting processes, traditionally the purview of the states, as midterm elections approach in November. "On behalf of President Donald J. Trump, I am writing to inform you that your position as Commissioner of the Election Assistance Commission is terminated, effective immediately. Thank you for your service," the email, seen by Reuters, said. The White House confirmed the terminations in a statement to Reuters. "The President, and head of the Executive Branch, reserves the right to remove individuals that may not be totally aligned with the important task of securing America's elections and ensuring every legal vote is counted," a White House official said, citing the Supreme Court decision as precedent. The official added that the Trump administration has been "work-

ing across all agencies and local partners to safeguard elections from fraud and abuse, and investing in a strong infrastructure to sustain that mission especially in the midterm elections". The Election Assistance Commission serves as a "national clearinghouse of information on election administration," accredits its testing laboratories and certifies voting systems, and maintains the national mail voter registration form developed by the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, according to the commission's website. The terminations follow Trump and top administration officials' advocacy to change vote-by-mail requirements ahead of the midterm elections, and investigations into the 2020 presidential election outcome, which Trump lost to Democrat Joe Biden. In his second term, Trump has repeatedly claimed without evidence the 2020 election was rigged.

COMMISSION'S FUTURE UNCLEAR The election commission was established by Congress in 2002 through the Help America Vote Act. The four commissioners are appointed by the president, are required to be evenly split with two Democrats and two Republicans, and ultimately need to be confirmed by the US Senate. The three remaining commissioners who were forced out, Thomas Hicks, Benjamin Hovland, and Christy McCormick, were all unanimously confirmed by the Senate. The 2002 law states the president can appoint replacements to the commission, but it is unclear how Trump will move ahead with the commission. Senator Mark Warner, a Virginia Democrat, said in a Thursday social media post the terminations should "concern every American, regardless of party".

Geneva: The United Nations warned on Friday (Jul 10) that at least one million women and girls had lost access to vital support due to dramatic cuts to foreign aid spending since January 2025. The UN Women agency decried a collapse of women's organisations at a time when needs are soaring. US President Donald Trump slashed foreign aid after taking office last year, while other key donor countries have also tightened their belts. As a result, "at least one million women and girls affected by conflict and crisis have lost access to critical services and support", Sofia Calltorp, UN Women's head of humanitarian action, told reporters in Geneva. "We know that this number ... is just the tip of the iceberg," she said, describing the findings in a new report as "deeply disturbing". Speaking from Stockholm, she highlighted that the women's organisations at risk of being shut down "work on the frontlines of the world's most complex and dangerous crises", in places like Afghanistan, Gaza, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan and Yemen. "Every dollar withdrawn from women's organisations is a dollar withdrawn from survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, displaced mothers, girls forced from school, and communities struggling to survive," she said.

120 MILLION NEED ASSISTANCE With armed conflicts at their highest levels since World War II, around 120 million women and girls require humanitarian assistance and protection, UN Women said. Its report, based on responses from 855 women-led and women's rights organisations across 52 crisis-affected countries, found that 84 per cent of the groups had seen demand for their services increase since January 2025. "Nearly nine in 10 say they can no longer meet current levels of need," the agency said, while "two in five organisations surveyed expect to shut down, temporarily or permanently, within the next year". To keep the

organisations afloat, it said leaders and employees were paying with their own labour and well-being. Sixty-five per cent of women-led organisations reported staff working without

crippling the humanitarian response. "The dismantling of women's organisations is not happening in a vacuum but against a global backlash on the rights of women and girls,"



pay to keep services running, while nearly half reported rising staff burnout. Calltorp warned that "cases of conflict-related sexual violence doubled in 2025", just as the systems designed to protect survivors were collapsing. UN Women found that 86 per cent of the women's organisations questioned reported an increase in gender-based violence in the communities they serve.

RIGHTS BACKLASH The consequences can be devastating. "A woman seeking refuge from violence might show up at the door of a shelter that has shut down; a pregnant woman may have to walk for hours to reach a health clinic; or a mother may be denied food for her children," UN Women pointed out. And the agency emphasised that the impacts extend beyond

it said. It pointed out that one in five organisations had already suspended work advancing women's leadership and gender equality, while over half reported witnessing declining participation of women in community leadership and local decision-making. Combined with the cuts to women's organisations, the erosion of women's rights is taking a dire societal toll, Calltorp said. Around 90 per cent of the women's organisations questioned for Friday's report noted increased poverty among the women they serve. Eight in 10 meanwhile saw growing numbers of girls dropping out of school, while around 70 per cent saw increases in forced marriages. "Funding shortfalls deepen inequality and division, both of which comes with an incredibly costly price tag," she said.

Netanyahu races to keep promises to allies ahead of election

Jerusalem: With the Israeli parliament set to dissolve in the coming days, just four months before national elections, the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is racing to pass a series of bills, drawing fierce criticism from the opposition. Seven pieces of legislation are currently on the agenda of the Knesset, Israel's 120-seat parliament, each a priority for one or more parties in Netanyahu's ruling coalition. By striking these political bargains, Netanyahu hopes to shore up his alliances and head into the late October election from a position of strength, despite opinion polls suggest-

ing he might struggle to return to office. The veteran prime minister, who has held office for nearly two decades across multiple terms, is facing public anger over a series of failures - particularly those that led to Hamas's unprecedented Oct 7, 2023 attack, which triggered the war in Gaza. "While they're busy with their coalition's survival, we're fighting for the country and for the interests of Israel's citizens," opposition leader Yair Lapid wrote on X. The bill that has generated the most controversy concerns exemptions from military service for students engaged in religious studies - a longstanding demand of the ultra-Orthodox parties, which have repeatedly threatened in the past to bring down the government if their constituents were not granted such exemptions. The bill, approved in a preliminary reading in June, states that "the State of Israel shall recognise individuals who commit themselves to long-term Torah study as performing meaningful service for the benefit of the State and the Jewish people". For months, the proposed Basic Law: Torah Study has brought thousands of Israelis onto the streets and inflamed debate

on political television programmes. "The government is exploiting the final days of the Knesset's session to pass laws against the army," Gadi Eisenkot, a former military chief who has emerged as Netanyahu's main rival in the upcoming election, wrote on X. He argued that only his newly formed party, Yashar (Straight) party, would be capable of forming the next government.

LEGISLATIVE "MARATHON" According to Eisenkot, the legislative "marathon" is aimed solely at passing laws that would no longer be possible once he comes to power.



In exchange for supporting the military exemption bill, lawmakers from the two ultra-Orthodox parties are expected to back legislation proposed by Netanyahu's Likud party, including a reform of the broadcasting sector aimed at overhauling the entire regulatory framework governing television, radio and streaming platforms. Presented by its supporters as a measure designed to open the market to competition, the reform has been condemned by critics as an attempt to exert political control over the media, undermine the independence of news organisations and provide economic benefits to outlets considered close to the

government. Another bill under consideration aims to reform the status of the state attorney general, who currently also serves as the government's legal adviser. Netanyahu's Likud party seeks to weaken the position, currently held by his vocal critic Gali Baharav-Miara, by stipulating that the legal adviser's opinions would no longer be binding on the government. Here too, the opposition accuses the government of trying to eliminate an independent check on its power and to politicise criminal prosecutions. Finally, at the urging of the religious parties, the government is seeking

to repeal a reform introduced by the previous administration that ended the religious authority's monopoly over issuing kosher certification by opening the sector to competition. Once again, critics say the bill appears tailored to the demands of the ultra-Orthodox parties, particularly Shas, which has pushed for it in order to protect the religious institution's interests at the expense of consumers. The original kosher reform was expected to reduce costs for restaurant owners. Additional bills are still being debated in parliamentary committees, but heated disagreements - including within the governing coalition itself - make it difficult for all of the measures to pass before the end of the legislative term. The Knesset is due to dissolve automatically on Jul 15, marking the end of its summer session, with parliamentary elections scheduled for no later than Oct 27. However, in order to complete ongoing legislative proceedings, lawmakers can extend the session by up to 12 days, giving Netanyahu and his allies additional time to secure passage of the bills.

Spain wildfire roars through village leaving 11 dead and 19 missing

Madrid: Eleven people were killed including four suspected to be British, and 19 were missing after a wildfire tore through a rugged area of southern Spain, authorities said. Authorities said many of the victims may be foreign tourists visiting Bedar, a small whitewashed village in Los Gallardos district, but that they were still confirming their identities. They described victims trying to flee the fast-moving blaze through difficult, forested terrain, in one of Spain's deadliest wildfires in recent years. Located about 15km from Spain's Mediterranean coast, Bedar is popular with foreign residents and tourists seeking a quieter alternative to the nearby beach resorts. The head of the regional government of Andalusia, Juan Manuel Moreno Bonilla, said four of the people who died were travelling in a right-hand drive car. "They appear to have been British nationals and were burned to death inside the car," he told Spanish radio, adding at least 19 people were still unaccounted for. Bedar mayor Angel Francisco Collado said he urged some residents to flee their homes, "even those who did not want to leave". However, seven people died while trying to escape on foot and two others were taken to hospital, he added. Scientists agree that climate change caused by humans burning fossil fuels is making extreme weather events such as heatwaves more likely and more intense.

WINDS FAN FLAMES About 500 firefighters and troops battled the inferno northeast of Almeria in the southern Andalusia region, which witnesses said may have been started by a power line that fell and set scrubland on fire. It erupted as temperatures across heat-battered Spain and France were predicted to hit 40°C on Friday, with forest fires blazing in both countries. "At the

moment, we have confirmed that 11 people have lost their lives in the Los Gallardos fire; there are no words for such grief," Antonio Sanz, the Andalusia region's minister for emergencies, said in a video posted on X. "Everything indicates that the deceased are, mostly or entirely, foreign nationals," Sanz added, with authorities still confirming their identities. He described the fire as a "very complex, very fast-moving" outbreak in a region with many ravines where it is difficult to use heavy machines and homes in forested areas. Strong winds helped spread the blaze overnight but had calmed in the morning, although forecasters predict they will pick up and change direction later in the day, Sanz said. The Andalusia regional government said emergency services were submerged by more than 150 calls from people reporting the fire and that flames could be seen on a main highway passing near the village. Sanz also said eight people had been injured, four seriously, and that about 3,150ha of forest and farmland had been scorched. Around 800 people were evacuated, including nearly 200 who were being accommodated in shelters, he added. **"DEEPLY SADDENED"**

Witnesses told authorities the blaze may have started after a power line fell, igniting dry vegetation before spreading rapidly through surrounding woodland, the regional government said. Authorities have not confirmed the cause of the fire. Roads were closed, and residents evacuated as the inferno spread, with about 150 people housed in a cultural centre. Spain's Military Emergency Unit (UME) was sent to join the firefighters. Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez wrote on X that he was "deeply saddened and devastated by the terrible consequences of the wildfire".

H5 bird flu detected in Australian seabird for first time

Sydney: Scientists have detected the highly contagious H5 bird flu in an Australian seabird for the first time, the government said on Friday (Jul 10). Australia was, for years, the only continental land-mass free of the H5 strain, which has caused severe disease and high death rates in poultry and wild birds worldwide. A total of 12 cases of H5 bird flu have been confirmed in Australia since June, but all of them were in migratory seabirds, not local wildlife. Laboratory testing confirmed the disease had infected a greater crested tern in the town of Robe, South Australia. "While this, of course, is a concerning development, it is not unexpected," Agriculture Minister Julie Collins said. "I do want to reiterate, though, that at this time there is still no evidence of any mass mortality due to the H5 bird flu," she told a news conference in Hobart, capital of the island state of Tasmania. There was no sign the virus had spread to other animal populations, poultry or agriculture systems, "and there remains a low risk to human health", the minister said. Scientists were seeking to establish the potential pathways for the virus's spread to the Australian bird, Collins added.

"ENHANCED SURVEILLANCE" "What we do know is that this is a coastal seabird that has an overlapping coastal range with migratory sea birds that have previously tested positive for H5." The South Australian state government had implemented "enhanced surveillance" in the area where the bird was found, she said. There has been concern that the deadly disease could add to the extinction risks faced by Australian fauna, many of which are unique to the vast continent. Almost half of Australia's wild bird species, and 83 per cent of its mammals, are found nowhere else. The wild birds most affected by the H5 strain include waterfowl, shorebirds, seabirds and birds of prey. Marine mammals have also been affected, with some detections in other animals such as cats, goats, alpacas and pigs. Officials have previously said they are investigating if the disease arrived in Australia via birds migrating from the sub-Antarctic. Scientists said in June the H5 bird flu strain had killed more than 13,000 elephant seal pups after infecting a breeding colony on the remote Heard and McDonald Islands, one of Australia's external territories in the sub-Antarctic.

Philippines rejects Chinese academics' sovereignty claims

Manila: The Philippines rejected on Friday (Jul 10) a statement from a group of Chinese academics that the country's northernmost islands rightfully belonged to Beijing. The Batanes Islands are located less than 200km from self-ruled Taiwan - which China considers part of its territory - and have hosted joint Philippine-US military drills as recently as April. At the end of June, a university in southern China's Guangdong said it had held a symposium of over 10 "scholars and experts", which had determined the Batanes were geographically an extension of Taiwan. The statement from Jinan University, picked up by some news outlets this week, also disputed Manila's historical claim to the islands, which is home to fewer than 20,000 people. Asked whether this reflected China's official position, Beijing's Ministry of Foreign Affairs responded that it did not "comment on the views of the academic community". But Philippine National Security Adviser Eduardo Oban said on Friday while the Batanes claim had "no merit", the country viewed the issue with concern and could not "ignore how false narratives can be repeated to manufacture ambiguity where none exists". Rear Admi-

ral Roy Vincent Trinidad, the military's spokesman for the South China Sea, labelled the symposium's conclusions a form of "salami slicing," a term used to refer to China's alleged attempts to enlarge its territory through small, calculated steps. Manila's sovereignty over the Batanes was "settled and not up for debate", the country's Department of Foreign Affairs added. The Jinan University statement appeared to have been taken down on Friday. When AFP accessed it on Thursday, it said the Jun 30 symposium in the city of Guangzhou was called in response to plans by Manila and Tokyo to begin talks over sea boundaries in waters east of Taiwan, a move that angered Beijing. President Ferdinand Marcos warned in August last year any war over Taiwan would "drag the Philippines, kicking and screaming into the conflict". The Philippines and China have in recent years regularly dealt with flare-ups in tensions over the disputed South China Sea. Beijing claims the strategic waterway nearly in its entirety, despite an international ruling that said its assertions are baseless. The anniversary of that decision at the Permanent Court of Arbitration will be on Jul 12.

PW celebrates student performance in NEET 2026

Guwahati: Education company PhysicsWallah (PW) has announced its NEET 2026 results, with multiple students securing spots in the top NEET All India Rank (AIR). Ravikant Diwakar (AIR 55), Shivansh Anand (AIR 152), Divyansh Jaiswal (AIR 173), and Sakshi Kumari (AIR 192) were some of the high-performing students, to name a few. These achievements are a testament to the flexibility of the learning ecosystem that PW tries to provide, with students securing high scores through either online courses or offline, tech-enabled PW Vidyapeeth centres, depending on their individual preferences and learning styles. Additionally, an event was held in Guwahati, celebrating the strong performance of students. Aayyng Pegu (AIR 2180) and Emran Hussain Choudhury (AIR 3999), amongst others, were some of the high-performing students of PhysicsWallah in the city. “I am so happy to see my hard work pay off,” said Ravikant Diwakar. “PW’s batches completely cleared up all my confusion. The teachers explained the concepts so well that I actually understood the logic behind the formulas instead of just memorising them. Whenever I got stuck on a tough problem, the video explanations showed me the right steps instantly, which saved me a lot of time.” “Getting this score feels amazing, and I’m glad all my effort worked out,” said Shivansh Anand. “The biggest help for me was the daily practice papers. Taking those regular tests taught me exactly how to pace myself and manage my time without panicking. The teachers also helped clear my doubts and showed me where I was making mistakes, which helped me fix them before the real exam.” Alakh Pandey, Founder and CEO of PhysicsWallah (PW), said, “Congratulations to every NEET 2026



aspirant who poured their hard work, discipline, and heart into this journey. Your dedication is truly commendable. To those celebrating their results today, your success is well-earned. And to those who fell short of their goals, remember that this exam is just a single milestone, not the measure of your worth or your future. Your potential is vast, and this is merely one chapter in a long, successful journey ahead.” PhysicsWallah’s (PW) approach to NEET coaching is built on offering accessible, affordable, and high-quality learning. The platform integrates tech-led solutions such as daily practice questions, mock tests with video solutions, 24x7 doubt resolution, and AI-personalised revision journeys, ensuring that students stay on track, regardless of their location or background. This year, approximately 20 lakh students appeared for NEET (UG) 2026, with 11.21 lakh candidates qualifying for admission to various undergraduate medical programmes. PhysicsWallah Limited (PW), an education platform, was founded in 2020 by Alakh Pandey and Prateek Maheshwari. Headquartered in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, PW aims to facilitate education through online, offline, and hybrid platforms. Initially launched as a YouTube channel in 2014, PW now offers education to students through its native app, tech-enabled offline and hybrid centres, and YouTube channels. PW’s offerings span various educational segments, including test preparation, a skilling vertical, coaching for higher education, and facilitating education abroad, with programs available in multiple vernacular languages. PhysicsWallah Limited was listed on the National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE) and the BSE.

India launches new skilling initiatives on World Youth Skills Day

Guwahati: “The future belongs to those who continue to learn, adapt and innovate. India’s youth must be prepared not only for today’s jobs, but also for tomorrow’s opportunities,” said Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Hon’ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Minister of State for Education, Government of India, at the World Youth Skills Day 2026 celebrations organised by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) at Kaushal Bhawan, New Delhi. Emphasising that skilling must be viewed as a lifelong journey, the Minister said, “Through IndiaSkills, Centres of Excellence, apprenticeships and stronger industry partnerships, we are creating pathways that connect young people with opportunities in India and across the world. We must also encourage more women to enter non-traditional sectors and enable every young Indian to challenge the status quo, embrace change and contribute to Viksit Bharat.” During the event, the Minister unveiled the IndiaSkills Competition 2026–27 Guidelines, outlining the roadmap for India’s flagship skill competition across 63 industry-relevant skill categories. Registrations are now open on the Skill India Digital Hub for aspiring competitors from across the country. The WorldSkills India Champions Club was also launched to bring together IndiaSkills and WorldSkills champions as mentors and ambassadors. The initiative will enable past champions to inspire aspiring competitors, promote excellence in vocational skills and support the next generation of skilled talent. India’s medal winners from the Global Skills Challenge Australia 2026 and the Taipei Capital Cup 2026 were felicitated for securing a combined tally of three Gold Medals, three Silver Medals, one Bronze Medal and three Merit Awards, reinforcing India’s growing competitiveness on the global skills stage. The Ministry also unveiled the Guidelines for the Creation of Centres of Excellence under Skill India. These guidelines aim to support the development of world-class, industry-aligned training facilities equipped with modern infrastructure, advanced technologies and strong industry partnerships. A major highlight was the introduction of the Training Programme for Multi-Skilled Caregivers under PMKVY, in line with the Union Budget 2026–27 announcement to skill 1.5 lakh caregiving professionals. Of these, 1.3 lakh candidates will be trained through the MSDE ecosystem, creating a professionally trained workforce for healthcare, geriatric and home-based care while opening new employment opportunities, particularly for women and youth. The event also marked the extension of the Pilot Project for Apprenticeship Engagement under NAPS in the North Eastern Region, aimed at expanding access to workplace-based learning and strengthening industry participation across the region. Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Debashree Mukherjee, Secretary, MSDE, said, “Over the past 11 years, Skill India has evolved into a con-

nected national ecosystem built through partnerships with States, industry and training institutions, empowering more than six crore youth. As we enter the next phase, our focus must move from scale to quality, relevance and outcomes. The theme ‘Skills for a Shared Future’ also reminds us that women and girls must remain central to India’s growth story.” MSDE also announced the constitution of a Committee on Gender Mainstreaming to advance women-led development across the skilling ecosystem. Bringing together Ministry divisions, partner institutions and concerned Ministries, the Committee will work in mission mode to address barriers across the skilling-to-employment pathway, including outreach, mobility, training, apprenticeships, placements, retention and career progression. The Ministry will also invite entries for a Best Practices Compendium on Skilling and Employment for Women, documenting evidence-based models that have improved women’s access to skills, employment, entrepreneurship and inclusive workplaces. Entries will open on July 20, 2026, for participation by government departments, States and Union Territories, industry, training institutions, CSR organisations and civil society. Another major initiative announced was the proposed Skills Outcomes Fund, an outcomes-based financing platform of approximately Rs. 530 crore that will combine Government funding, CSR contributions and philanthropic capital to support more than two lakh young people with industry-aligned skilling, employment and livelihood opportunities. An MoU was first exchanged between MSDE and NSDC for establishing the Fund within NSDC under the aegis

ALLEN celebrates outstanding NEET (UG) 2026 Results; Shubh becomes Assam Topper with AIR 133

Guwahati: ALLEN Guwahati has once again reaffirmed its position as one of the leading coaching institutes in the North-east by delivering an exceptional performance in NEET (UG) 2026. Leading the success story is Shubh Prasad, who secured All India Rank (AIR) 133 with an outstanding 690 out of 720 marks, emerging as the Assam Topper. Along with this remarkable achievement, the institute produced several top-ranking students, including Leeyon Talukdar (AIR 243), Borneel B. Borah (AIR 554), Subhanga Baruah (AIR 708), Anubhav Pegoo (AIR 1077), and Kaustav Medhi (AIR 1357), among many others. The institute’s overall performance has been equally impressive, with 4 students securing ranks within the Top 1000 AIR, 18 students in the Top 10,000 AIR, and 25 students in the Top 25,000 AIR. These results reflect the dedication of the students, the unwavering

support of their parents, and the consistent academic excellence, disciplined learning environment, and expert mentorship offered by ALLEN Guwahati. Expressing his happiness over the results, Mr. Brajesh Kumar Yadav, Zonal Head, ALLEN Guwahati, said, “With the blessings of Maa Kamakhya, ALLEN Guwahati has been consistently producing the Northeast’s top performers since its inception. This year’s outstanding NEET (UG) 2026 results are yet another testament to the hard work of our students, the commitment of our faculty members, and the trust that parents have placed in us. Our focus has always been on nurturing every student through systematic classroom learning, regular assessments, doubt-solving sessions, and personalized mentoring. We congratulate all our successful students and wish them the very best as they embark on their journey towards becoming dedicated medical professionals.”

IESA welcomes launch of SEMICON 2.0

Bengaluru : The India Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA) welcomes today’s Union Cabinet decisions, which together commit an outlay of Rs. 2,19,353 crore across infrastructure and electronics manufacturing, including two significant announcements for India’s semiconductor and electronics industry - Semicon 2.0, approved at an outlay of Rs. 1,27,500 crore, and the new Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS), approved at an outlay of Rs. 62,500 crore over five years. Building on the strong foundation and momentum laid under Phase 1 of India Semiconductor Mission, the programme marks government’s commitment on long-term policy support and India’s transition from establishing semiconductor manufacturing to building a comprehensive and globally competitive ecosystem spanning fabs, advanced packaging, design, R&D, talent, machines (equipment), materials and supply chains. Phase 1 has established India’s credibility by attracting over US\$20 billion in announced semiconductor investments and enabling multiple Fab and ATMP/OSAT projects. With several OSAT projects already under implementation and entering production, Phase 2 rightly places greater emphasis on semiconductor fabs, while continuing strong support for advanced packaging, thereby creating a balanced and future-ready semiconductor ecosystem. Ashok Chandak, President, IESA and SEMI India, said: “SEMICON 2.0 marks decisive step in India’s journey from policy intent to execution at scale. Phase 1 established India’s credibility; Phase 2 builds long-term capability. By strengthening fabs, advanced packaging, design, R&D, talent and the semiconductor supply chain, the Government is creating the foundation for a globally competitive ecosystem that will attract sustained investments, create high-value employment and significantly enhance domestic value addition. SEMICON India 2.0 comes at an opportune moment as the global semiconductor industry enters an unprecedented investment cycle. With worldwide semiconductor manufacturing equipment spending expected to grow to nearly US\$230 billion by 2028, the policy positions India to capture the next wave of global investments in semiconductor manufacturing, advanced packaging, equipment and materials, Chandak added.” “Equally significant is the approval of the Mobile Phone

Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS) that is designed to take mobile manufacturing to its next phase, with an ambition to nearly double cumulative production to about Rs. 39 lakh crore and cumulative exports to about Rs. 15 lakh crore, while creating 60,000 additional direct jobs. Given that India has already manufactured approximately 125 crore mobile phones emerging as world’s second-largest mobile manufacturing ecosystem place, and now meets 99.2 percent of domestic demand through 'Made in India' devices, this scheme provides the continuity and ambition needed to sustain that momentum, while its incentives for domestic sourcing and for design and R&D by Indian brands will help deepen value addition and build genuine Indian intellectual property.”, Chandak added. “These decisions also validate the broader emphasise on Design and R&D. The enhanced focus on indigenous product development, industry-led R&D and innovation will help transform India from a design powerhouse into a complete design-to-manufacturing destination. Together with complementary initiatives, Semicon India 2.0 will strengthen technological self-reliance and establish India as one of the world’s most trusted semiconductor and electronics manufacturing destinations, commented Mr. Navin Bishnoi, Chairperson, IESA. The programme is expected to catalyse another US\$40–50 billion in investments, create 2–3 lakh high-skilled jobs, significantly enhance domestic value addition and strengthen India’s position as a trusted global semiconductor partner. Together with complementary initiatives such as the Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS), Production Linked Incentive (PLI), Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC 2.0) and state programmes, SEMICON 2.0 has the potential to accelerate India’s journey towards nearly 40% domestic value addition in electronics manufacturing, bringing the nation significantly closer to the vision of a truly Atmanirbhar Bharat. The India Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA) has welcomed the launch of SEMICON India 2.0, describing it as a landmark initiative that will strengthen India’s position as a trusted global semiconductor hub. Congratulating the Government of India, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM), IESA

said the programme lays the foundation for a comprehensive semiconductor ecosystem spanning research, design, manufacturing, packaging, equipment, materials and talent development. The initiative places a strong emphasis on expanding semiconductor fabrication facilities to reduce strategic import dependence, attract global investments and complete the country’s semiconductor value chain. Continued support for Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) and advanced packaging is expected to create high-value manufacturing jobs while positioning India as a preferred destination for chiplets and heterogeneous integration technologies critical for the AI era. SEMICON India 2.0 also prioritises talent development through specialised education, industry-academia collaboration and skill-building programmes aimed at creating more than two lakh skilled professionals to meet the projected global demand for nearly one million semiconductor professionals by 2030. Enhanced support under the Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme is expected to accelerate indigenous chip design, intellectual property creation and semiconductor product innovation, enabling Indian startups to undertake advanced chip development programmes. The initiative further highlights the importance of industry-driven, market-oriented research and development to commercialise indigenous technologies and strengthen India’s design-to-manufacturing capabilities. In addition, a dedicated focus on semiconductor equipment, specialty chemicals, gases, materials, consumables and precision engineering will deepen domestic value addition, create opportunities for MSMEs and reinforce India’s role in global semiconductor supply chains. Welcoming the initiative, IESA Vice Chairperson Pradeep Vajram said the association looks forward to working closely with MeitY, the India Semiconductor Mission, state governments, industry, academia and global partners to ensure the successful implementation of SEMICON India 2.0. He said IESA will continue supporting workforce development, startup growth, industry-led R&D, policy advocacy and international collaborations to build a resilient, innovation-driven and globally competitive semiconductor ecosystem aligned with India’s vision of technological leadership and Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Centre expands PM-NAPS intervention to support 30,000 apprentices in NE

Guwahati: Reinforcing its commitment to expanding quality apprenticeship opportunities and strengthening youth employability in the North-Eastern Region (NER), the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) launched the Extension of the Special Intervention for Promotion of Apprenticeship in the North-Eastern Region (NER) under the Prime Minister’s National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (PM-NAPS) for FY 2026–27, to be implemented by the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati. Building on the success of the pilot initiative launched in May 2025, the extended intervention aims to deepen apprenticeship penetration across all eight North-Eastern States, enhance participation of industry and government establishments, and create sustainable livelihood pathways for the region’s youth under the Skill India Mission. The Ministry has expanded the scope of the intervention for FY 2026–27 with a higher target of 30,000 apprentices, an increase of around 15 per cent over the pilot phase. Of these, 15,000 apprentices will be supported for opportunities outside the North-East, including Government Departments and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), while another 15,000 apprentices will be engaged within the region, including within their domicile States. The Government has earmarked a financial outlay of Rs. 57.58 crore for the initiative during FY 2026–27. The allocation will be met through the North-Eastern Region component of PM-NAPS. Jayant Chaudhary, Hon’ble Minister of State (I/C) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Minister of State for Education, Government of India, said, “The North-Eastern Region is one of India’s greatest strengths, with a young, talented and aspirational population ready to contribute to the nation’s growth story. The remarkable success of the pilot initiative demonstrates that with the right opportunities and support, our youth can unlock their full potential. By extending this intervention under PM-NAPS, we are expanding

access to quality apprenticeship opportunities, strengthening local ecosystems, encouraging industry participation, and enabling young people from the region to gain valuable workplace experience both within the North-East and across the country.” The extended intervention also broadens the coverage of the additional financial incentive of Rs. 1,500 per month, over and above the support available under PM-NAPS. While the pilot primarily supported apprentices moving outside their domicile State, the revised initiative will now include apprentices engaged within their home States in the North-East. In addition to financial assistance, the initiative will continue to focus on strengthening the apprenticeship ecosystem through workshops, awareness campaigns, employer engagement programmes and collaboration with educational institutions and industry stakeholders across the region. The pilot initiative has delivered encouraging results within its first year. Against a target of 26,000 apprentices, the programme facilitated the engagement of 23,470 apprentices, achieving over 90 per cent of its target. Apprenticeship engagement in the region grew by 51 per cent, increasing from 15,562 in FY 2024–25 to 23,470 in FY 2025–26. The initiative also successfully promoted mobility, with 13,673 apprentices securing opportunities outside their domicile State while 9,797 apprentices were engaged within the North-East. The pilot intervention witnessed encouraging growth in apprenticeship participation across the North-Eastern Region, with Meghalaya recording the highest increase of 95 percent. Women emerged as key beneficiaries, with a notable rise in female apprenticeship engagement. Employer participation also expanded significantly, with apprenticeship engagement through Government establishments doubling and private sector participation witnessing substantial growth. By expanding access to industry-relevant training and employment opportunities, the initiative reaffirms the Government’s commitment to empowering the youth of the North-Eastern Region and accelerating inclusive growth through the Skill India Mission.

Nagaon Pays Glowing Tribute to Veteran Journalist and Sports Organiser Rajen Borkakati :Current Session of Assam Assembly Adapted Condolence Resolution

Staff Reporter, Nagaon, July 19: Nagaon on Sunday Bora, Secretary of Shilpi Kanan Assam, was attended Press Club Jiten Borkotoky, eminent playwright Saponti Bordoloi, former Public Relations Officer and writer-journalist Gurmail Singh, and Central Committee member of Shilpi Kanan Assam Ratul Neog.

Recalling Borkakati's illustrious life and enduring contributions, the speakers described him as a fearless journalist, an uncompromising man of principles, a committed nationalist, an inspiring sports organiser and a devoted social worker. They highlighted his unwavering integrity, dedication to public welfare and lifelong service to journalism and sports, stating that his ideals and work would continue to inspire future generations.

A touching moment of the programme came when journalist Safiqur Rahman recited a self-composed English poem in memory of Rajen Borkakati, paying an emotional tribute to the legendary journalist.

The gathering turned deeply emotional when Borkakati's daughter, Rodali Borkakati Majumdar, reminisced about her father's life and values, sharing cherished memories that moved the audience.

Among those present were Nagaon Press Club Ad-

visor Kanak Hazarika, Treasurer Faizur Rahman, journalist Miju Bora, Vice-President of Shilpi Kanan Assam Bandipa Hazarika Saikia, Joint Secretary Namita Hazarika Saikia, former Minister Umesh Das, poet-lyricist Rupak Majumdar, and Borkakati's daughter-in-law Jyotsna Borkakati, along with a large number of admirers, journalists, cultural personalities and well-wishers.

Adding a spiritual ambience to the occasion, women artistes of Shilpi Kanan Assam presented devotional Borgeet. The programme concluded with all those present observing a one-minute silence and offering prayers for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

Rajen Borkakati, a resident of New Amolapatty in Nagaon town, passed away on the morning of June 21 at the age of 94. Widely regarded as one of the pillars of Nagaon's journalistic, sporting and social landscape, his demise was mourned across Assam.

In recognition of his immense contribution to society, the Assam Legislative Assembly, at the commencement of its current session, adopted a condolence resolution in his honour. The official copy of the resolution was subsequently sent to Borkakati's family by Speaker Ranjit Kumar Dass, reflecting the State's respect and gratitude for his lifelong service.

Following the memorial programme, the Central Committee of Shilpi Kanan Assam formally inaugurated the preparations for its forthcoming Fourth Central Ras Mahotsav at the conference hall.



Memorial Meeting in honour of Late Rajen Borkakati, veteran journalist, sports organiser and social worker, Organised by Nagaon Press Club and Shilpi Kanan Assam on July 19 at Dr. Abu Hanifa Auditorium, Nagaon.

If you bill it, they will come: FIFA wins battle for fans' wallets in pricey World Cup

New york : Sunday's final caps a World Cup where fans were willing to shell out more than ever for a seat at the quadrennial showpiece, as ticket buyers confounded even the greatest cynics in the face of sky-high prices. In the match at New York New Jersey Stadium - widely billed as the single most expensive sporting event ever played in the United States - Lionel Messi's Argentina face Spain and their teenage superstar Lamine Yamal. It is a fitting end to a tournament that has tested the limits of what fans will spend, with FIFA's gamble paying off after concerns over visa restrictions and domestic unrest in the United States. "What FIFA did a very good job of was determining what demand would be because people (were) paying these absurd prices for just about all the 104 matches," said Scott Friedman, a ticketing expert who previously worked for the Cleveland Cavaliers. "A year ago, we didn't think people would be traveling with Trump's ICE stuff and all this other conspiracy stuff. But it's the most popular tournament in the world by far globally and FIFA, to their credit, they set the prices high and people ended up paying them." A Reuters analysis of FIFA attendance data found that more than half the 72 group matches were attended to capacity, with most others only a few hundred fans short of a full house. Around 99.7 per cent of available seats were filled during the preliminary stage matches, FIFA said. The data erased early concerns that FIFA's infamously steep prices would put off fans, after swathes of empty seats were seen around the Guadalajara Stadium for the June 11 match between South Korea and the Czech Republic. FIFA reported an attendance of 44,985 at the nearly 46,000-seat stadium but empty seats seen by a Reuters witness around the arena seemed to justify critics' biggest fears.

HIGHER PRICES, HIGHER DEMAND

As the tournament expanded to its largest-ever field, however, with 48 teams involved, so too did interest among fans. Prices were set initially at \$575 a ticket for group games - more than double the most expensive group ticket available during the 2022 tournament - but FIFA's dynamic pricing system meant that many ticketholders paid far more. Hundreds of tickets were still available for the final on Wednesday, priced at little more than \$7,000 on FIFA's platform, a surprise fact that prompted speculation over whether FIFA had finally gone too far with its prices. But the batch of seats available was likely the result of a process known as "slow ticketing", Friedman explained, a common practice in mega-events in which organisers restrict inventory to motivate buyers. "They can act like they already sold their seats and kind of just dribble them in accordingly to obviously increase market demand," said Friedman, who runs the "Ticket Talk Network", dedicated to exploring how seats for sports mega-events are bought and sold. "Like 'Oh, there's only so-and-so amount of tickets left available in the section, I better buy now'." By Friday, nearly all tickets appeared to be sold, with a few listed on FIFA's sales platform at around \$32,000 apiece.

'NO ONE REALLY KNOWS HOW THIS WORKS'

An opaque "dynamic pricing" process has also proven a boon for FIFA, as the sport continues its uneasy evolution from a working-class game to a pastime of the wealthy. FIFA introduced dynamic pricing for the first time at this tournament, allowing ticket prices to fluctuate based on real-time demand and other factors. "One reason for the frustration over the last few months is that no one really knows how this works," said Adam Elmachtoub, an associate professor of industrial engineering and operations research at Columbia Univer-

sity. "People are willing to accept dynamic pricing - we deal with it for airfare, we deal with it even (for) buying clothes - but I think when it's such a high-profile event, transparency will help a lot." FIFA introduced a small number of lower-cost tickets in response to backlash over prices, as politicians including New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani lobbied for local residents to have access to affordable seats. A high-quality tournament also spurred demand, with the four top-ranked nations in the semi-finals for the first time since rankings were introduced, and Sunday's final will feature the 39-year-old Messi in probably his final World Cup match. "The notion of what is fair pricing here is complex because entertainment is not like a necessity," said Elmachtoub.

FAN APPETITE HOLDS UP

Lax rules around the resale market in the U.S. have only served to accelerate the pocket-emptying around the tournament, with second-hand ticket sellers largely empowered to set their own prices. The rules in the United States stand in contrast to co-hosts Mexico, where resellers are prohibited from listing their tickets above what they spent - and much of the rest of the world. A flood of final-week listings brought prices down on resale platform SeatGeek, with the average ticket for the final listed for more than \$11,000 as of Friday. Still, that figure easily made the final the most expensive event that the platform had sold, 8 per cent above the 2024 Super Bowl, SeatGeek said. "What we're seeing with this year's World Cup is that demand fluctuates with every round and every matchup reveal," said Chris Leyden, senior director for marketing at SeatGeek. "The appetite for this tournament has held up remarkably well from the group stage through the knockouts."

WORLD CUP FOR 'A HAPPY FEW'

Human rights experts warned, however, that the tournament remained out of reach for far too many fans. At what FIFA President Gianni Infantino had promised would be the most inclusive World Cup, supporters from multiple countries were unable to obtain visas, according to the Sport & Rights Alliance. "It's been a World Cup for a happy few," Ronan Evain, executive director of Football Supporters Europe, told reporters. "Those in Europe, Norwegians, Scottish, who have enough purchasing power to travel to the U.S., don't need a visa to enter the country and can afford the extortionate ticket prices."

with anyone. He's different, totally different," the 42-year-old Mascherano said. "Always when we see him, always it's a surprise because he's doing a lot of things that we will never, never see in another player. So, I think in the future, it will be difficult to find a player like him. I think it's impossible." Xavi, who shared years of midfield sorcery with Messi at Barcelona, said he watched Argentina's 2-1 win over England with Mascherano and could barely process what he was seeing. "We were together watching the game, and he told me, '39 years (old), and what's he doing?' It's amazing," Xavi said. "In my opinion, he's the best in history. And he's still making a difference on the pitch. And his ambition, his attitude, he's a warrior. He's absolutely the best." Mascherano went further, saying Messi still appeared to hold the remote control to football's grandest stage. "I think he is still showing that he is the owner of the game," he said. "He has the ball, and he makes the decisions sometimes that he is going to win the game and he can do that."

CHARACTER AND PASSION

For 46-year-old Xavi, pride in Sunday's final stretches beyond Messi. He said watching forward Lamine and defender Cubarsi mature into World Cup finalists had been especially satisfying after seeing their convic-

tion up close as teenagers. "I feel, of course, very proud because I saw them when they were 15, Lamine; 16, Pau Cubarsi," Xavi said. "They had the character and the passion. I remember them telling me: 'Don't worry, coach, I'm ready. No worries,' because I was a bit afraid that at 15, 16, maybe they were not, that they would feel the pressure. Absolutely not." Xavi said Barca's footballing idea runs through both final-ists, even if Mascherano was quick to point out Argentina do not have many current Barcelona players. "We have to be proud with this philosophy, with this idea," Xavi said. "It's one idea, and still the idea is going on. We are in the final with this system, even Argentina." Mascherano added: "We don't have too many players from Barca but the way to play is much like that. "For me, they're the best two teams in the tournament. Teams that play in a similar way. They like to play with the ball, and they don't feel comfortable if they don't have the ball. "Maybe the team that has possession of the ball will take the tempo of the game. For me, it's the best final that we could have." As for predicting a winner, neither was certain. "You never know," Mascherano said. "So difficult to have a prediction," Xavi added. "I think only God knows what is going to happen," Mascherano said. "Because it's just one game."

International Seminar Saushrutam 2026 successfully concludes

New Delhi, July 19: The three-day international seminar Saushrutam 2026 concluded on a high note in the national capital, reaffirming India’s growing leadership in integrating the ancient science of Ayurveda with modern medical research and evidence-based healthcare practices. Organised by the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), the event brought together a distinguished gathering of academicians, surgeons, researchers, clinicians, policymakers and healthcare experts from India and several countries, creating a vibrant platform for exchanging scientific knowledge, clinical experiences and innovative ideas aimed at strengthening global healthcare systems through collaboration. Delegates from Thailand, Israel, Austria, the United Kingdom, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Nepal and Greece joined Indian experts to deliberate on a wide range of subjects related to surgery, traditional medicine, medical education, public health, research methodologies, innovation and the future of integrative healthcare. The seminar highlighted the timeless relevance of the principles of Acharya Sushruta, widely regarded as one of the pioneers of surgery, while demonstrating how his teachings continue to inspire contemporary scientific research and clinical applications. Throughout the three-day event, experts presented research findings, shared successful case studies and discussed emerging trends that could help bridge the gap between traditional systems of medicine and modern scientific approaches. The Ministry of Ayush said the seminar provided a valuable opportunity for participants from different parts of the world to exchange expertise, discuss challenges and identify collaborative pathways for improving healthcare delivery through evidence-based Ayurveda. Faculty members and researchers from premier institutions, including the All India Institute of Ayurveda, Banaras Hindu University, the National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur, and the Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda, Jamnagar, actively participated in technical sessions, panel discussions and academic interactions that focused on advancing research standards, improving clinical practices and encouraging multidisciplinary cooperation. One of the major highlights of the seminar was the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding between AIIA and the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi for another five years. The renewed agreement is expected to deepen collaboration in research, innovation, technology development and interdisciplinary studies by bringing together expertise from engineering, biomedical sciences and Ayurveda. The partnership aims to promote scientific validation of traditional medical practices, encourage innovation in healthcare technologies, develop advanced research tools and strengthen the evidence base required for wider acceptance of Ayurveda in national and international healthcare systems. Experts observed that collaborations between institutions specialising in modern science and traditional medicine are becoming increasingly important for developing effective, affordable and sustainable healthcare solutions capable of addressing contemporary medical challenges. During the seminar, discussions covered various dimensions of surgical sciences, regenerative medicine, integrative therapies, patient safety, quality standards, disease prevention, healthcare education and translational research. Participants also emphasised the need to preserve India’s rich medical heritage while adopting modern scientific methods for documentation, validation and global dissemination. Several speakers highlighted that Ayurveda possesses enormous potential to contribute to preventive healthcare, lifestyle management, chronic disease care and holistic wellness when supported by robust clinical evidence and high-quality re-

search. International delegates appreciated India’s efforts to promote traditional medicine through structured academic programmes, institutional collaborations and scientific investigations. They noted that growing global interest in complementary and integrative medicine presents new opportunities for collaborative research, academic exchange and healthcare innovation involving institutions across different countries. The seminar also underscored the importance of strengthening international partnerships for capacity building, knowledge sharing and skill development among healthcare professionals. Experts stressed that future healthcare systems should focus not only on disease treatment but also on prevention, rehabilitation and overall well-being by combining the strengths of different medical disciplines in a scientifically sound manner. Researchers discussed the need for common research protocols, improved documentation, advanced laboratory facilities, digital technologies and multidisciplinary teams to enhance the credibility and global recognition of Ayurveda-based interventions. Participants agreed that evidence generation through clinical trials, laboratory investigations and technological innovations would play a crucial role in expanding the acceptance of traditional medicine within mainstream healthcare frameworks. The event also highlighted the role of education in preparing future healthcare professionals capable of working across disciplines while respecting both traditional wisdom and modern scientific principles. Academic sessions encouraged young researchers and students to pursue innovative projects exploring new applications of Ayurvedic knowledge through advanced scientific methodologies. Delegates observed that integrating technology, artificial intelligence, biomedical engineering and digital health tools with traditional medicine could significantly improve diagnosis, treatment planning, patient monitoring and research outcomes. The Ministry of Ayush said Saushrutam 2026 represents another significant milestone in India’s continuing efforts to build a holistic, evidence-based healthcare ecosystem that combines the strengths of traditional knowledge with modern scientific advancements. According to the ministry, such initiatives reinforce India’s commitment to promoting research-driven healthcare, encouraging international academic cooperation and creating a stronger scientific foundation for Ayurveda at the global level. Participants expressed confidence that the outcomes of the seminar would inspire new research collaborations, strengthen institutional partnerships and contribute to the development of innovative healthcare solutions capable of addressing emerging global health challenges. They also acknowledged the growing role of India as a leading centre for education, research and policy development in traditional medicine, supported by expanding collaborations with international universities, research organisations and healthcare institutions. Experts concluded that continued investment in research, innovation, interdisciplinary partnerships and scientific validation would be essential for unlocking the full potential of Ayurveda in improving public health and achieving sustainable healthcare development. As the three-day seminar came to a close, delegates reaffirmed their shared commitment to advancing collaborative research, promoting academic excellence and strengthening global engagement in integrative medicine. The successful conclusion of Saushrutam 2026 reflected the increasing recognition that traditional systems of medicine, when supported by rigorous scientific inquiry and international cooperation, can make meaningful contributions to modern healthcare by offering patient-centred, holistic and sustainable approaches that complement contemporary medical practice while preserving centuries-old knowledge for future generations.

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NFR to Begin Multi Section Digital...

Cancellation of train:

Train No. 55749/55750 (New Jalpaiguri – Haldibari – New Jalpaiguri) Passenger commencing journey on 28th July, 2026 will remain cancelled.

Partial cancellation of trains:

Train No. 22301 (Howrah – New Jalpaiguri) Vande Bharat Express commencing journey on 28th July, 2026 will be short-terminated at Kishanganj. Consequently, the service between Kishanganj and New Jalpaiguri will remain cancelled.

Train No. 22302 (New Jalpaiguri – Howrah) Vande Bharat Express commencing journey on 28th July, 2026 will originate from Kishanganj. Consequently, the service between New Jalpaiguri and Kishanganj will remain cancelled.

Rescheduling of trains:

Train No. 14037 (Silchar - New Delhi) Express commencing journey on 27th July, 2026 will depart from Silchar at 21:10 hrs instead of 19:10 hrs.

Train No. 12510 (Guwahati – SMVT Bengaluru) Express commencing journey on 28th July, 2026 will depart from Guwahati at 07:45 hrs instead of 06:15 hrs.

Train No. 13142 (New Alipurduar – Sealdah) Express commencing journey on 28th July, 2026 will depart from New Alipurduar at 12:50 hrs instead of 11:50 hrs.

Diversion of trains:

Train Nos. 20504 and 12424 (New Delhi – Dibrugarh) Rajdhani Express, Train Nos. 20505 and 12423 (Dibrugarh – New Delhi) Rajdhani Express and Train No. 20501 (Agartala – Anand Vihar Terminal) Tejas Rajdhani Express commencing journey on 27th July, 2026 will be diverted via Aluabari Road –Thakurganj-Siliguri –Gulma. During the diversion, these trains will bypass New Jalpaiguri and make a temporary stoppage at Siliguri Junction.

Regulation of train:

Train No. 15631 (Barmer – Guwahati) Express commencing journey on 26th July, 2026 may be regulated by approximately 60 minutes on its scheduled time.

The details of stoppages and timings of these trains are available at IRCTC website and are also being notified in various newspapers and social media platforms of N. F. Railway. Passengers are requested to verify the details before undertaking their journey, informed by CPRO of NFR Kapinjal Kishore Sharma.

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Min Atul Bora distributes...

highlighted the state government’s commitment to ensuring that the benefits of central welfare schemes reach the grassroots level. He emphasized that financial independence, particularly for women in rural sectors, is the cornerstone of sustainable regional development.

Scope and Impact of the Financial Assistance

The initiative focuses heavily on empowering women-led micro-enterprises. A total of 334 SC Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and 48 individual SC women beneficiaries across Golaghat district were selected to receive these financial grants.

The structural framework of the scheme is designed to de-risk new business ventures for rural women:

Funding Subsidies: Selected beneficiaries receive a financial grant of up to Rs 50,000 or 50% of the total estimated project cost (whichever amount is lower).

Utilization: The funds are earmarked for scaling up existing livelihood activities, purchasing raw materials, and starting new micro-enterprises in sectors like handloom, animal husbandry, agriculture, and local retail.

Economic Goal: By providing this capital injection, the scheme aims to permanently increase the monthly household income of the participating families, effectively lifting them out of subsistence living.

Synergy in Governance: Joint Implementation

The successful execution of the PM-AJAY scheme in the district highlights a collaborative effort between multiple government bodies. The program is being jointly implemented by:

The Directorate of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes, operating under the Assam Government’s Department of Social Justice and Empowerment.

The Assam State Rural Livelihood Mission (ASRLM), which provides the ground-level infrastructure, training, and mobilization required to manage the Self-Help Groups effectively.

”This convergence ensures that beneficiaries do not just receive a one-time financial payout, but are also integrated into a larger ecosystem of institutional support, banking literacy, and market linkages,” noted an official close to the project.

Prominent Dignitaries Present at the Event

The ceremony saw a strong turnout of political leaders, community stakeholders, and administrative heads, reflecting the high priority given to the welfare drive.

Among the notable dignitaries present on the dais were:

Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa, Hon’ble Member of Parliament (MP) for the Kaziranga Lok Sabha Constituency, who spoke on the broader vision of central schemes in Upper Assam.

Shri Mridul Dutta, Hon’ble Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) for Dergaon.

Smt. Purnima Das, Chairperson of the Golaghat Zilla Parishad.

Smt. Gitamani Bora, Vice-Chairperson of the Golaghat Zilla Parishad.

The administrative machinery was represented by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Golaghat Zilla Parishad, the District Development Commissioner (DDC), and the Assistant Commissioner-cum-Sub-divisional Welfare Officer. These officials will be tasked with monitoring the long-term progress of the beneficiaries to ensure the proper utilization of the distributed funds.

The event concluded with the distribution of the formal grant certificates directly to the excited SHG representatives, marking a definitive new chapter in the district’s rural economy.

Neha Saikia’s family alleges...

with law.

The family has already lodged an FIR at Chandmari Police Station in Guwahati on July 16 in connection with the incident.

Neha’s body, which was recovered under mysterious circumstances from her rented accommodation at Silpukhuri, was brought to her residence on July 14 after a post-mortem examination at Gauhati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH).

According to her family members, Neha had gone to Guwahati around four years ago in search of employment and had been staying in the Silpukhuri rented accommodation for nearly four months. She was reportedly employed at a jewellery showroom in Guwahati.

The family has also demanded that the owner of the rented accommodation be brought under the ambit of the police investigation so that all circumstances surrounding Neha’s death can be thoroughly examined.

Her mother said Neha used to speak to her over the phone almost every night for about an hour, generally between 9 pm and 10 pm. She claimed that even on the night before the incident came to light, Neha had spoken to her in a normal manner and had reportedly shown no indication of distress during their conversation.

Expressing anguish over the death, the family appealed to the local MLA, minister Charan Boro, the police and other authorities concerned to ensure a fair investigation and justice for Neha.

The exact circumstances leading to Neha’s death are expected to become clearer following the police investigation and findings of the post-mortem and other forensic examinations.

VP Radhakrishnan launches...

systems and linguistic diversity. He said preserving cultural identity does not imply resisting progress but rather ensuring that development remains rooted in enduring values and historical consciousness. According to him, the organisation has attempted to strengthen national consciousness by encouraging people to recognise India’s rich heritage while participating actively in modern nation-building. The Vice President remarked that the centenary offers an opportunity to acknowledge the dedication of countless volunteers who have contributed quietly across villages, towns and cities through educational initiatives, social service programmes, disaster relief work, environmental campaigns and community development efforts. He said many such contributions often remain outside public attention but collectively form an important part of the organisation’s history. Referring to one of the chapters in the book titled *A Swayamsevak as PM: The Modi Era*, Radhakrishnan said it traces Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s journey from being a swayamsevak to serving as the country’s Prime Minister. He observed that the Prime Minister has consistently emphasised the ideals of public service, good governance and the principle of “Nation First” in his approach to administration. According to the Vice President, these themes resonate with the RSS philosophy of placing service above self while encouraging citizens to contribute towards national development. He noted that leadership grounded in dedication and discipline has the capacity to inspire confidence among people and strengthen democratic institutions. Recalling his early years in public life, the Vice President referred to a conversation with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, noting that both had begun their political journeys as grassroots workers associated with the movement inspired by Jayaprakash Narayan’s Total Revolution. He said those formative experiences shaped their understanding of public service, democratic participation and organisational discipline. Drawing another analogy with the river Ganga, he observed that just as a small stream originating in the Himalayas eventually transforms into one of the world’s great rivers, the RSS too has grown steadily from modest beginnings into one of the world’s largest voluntary organisations through sustained dedication and organisational commitment. The Vice President said institutions become influential not merely because of their size but because of their ability to inspire confidence and voluntary participation among people over long periods. He added that the growth of the RSS reflects the commitment of generations of volunteers who have devoted their time and energy towards community welfare and national causes. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who was present at the ceremony, joined other dignitaries in congratulating the authors for documenting the organisation’s century-long journey. The event also underscored the significance attached to the RSS centenary, with speakers reflecting on its historical evolution, organisational philosophy and role in social initiatives over the decades. The publication brings together historical accounts, archival references, organisational milestones and narratives relating to the RSS’s development from a small volunteer-based movement into a nationwide organisation with activities across diverse sectors. The authors seek to present an account of the organisation’s origins, ideological framework, social outreach programmes, leadership evolution and contribution to various fields of public life. Throughout the programme, speakers emphasised themes of service, discipline, cultural identity and national integration, describing them as enduring principles that have guided the organisation over the past hundred years. They observed that the centenary is not only an occasion to reflect on the organisation’s history but also an opportunity to examine its continuing relevance in addressing contemporary social challenges through voluntary participation and community engagement. The event concluded with the formal release of the book and interactions among dignitaries, scholars and invited guests, marking another milestone in the year-long commemorative programmes being organised to celebrate the RSS’s completion of one hundred years. The publication is expected to contribute to discussions on the organisation’s historical journey, ideological evolution and role in India’s socio-cultural landscape by presenting documented accounts of its activities, leadership and institutional development over the past century.

SCC Honours Journalists, Social Workers and Distinguished Personalities at Nagaon

Safiqur Rahman, Staff Reporter, Nagaon, July 19: The Student Cadet Corps (SCC), one of Assam's leading state-level educational, voluntary youth and sports organisations, organised an award presentation and felicitation ceremony at the Nagaon District Library Auditorium on Satur-

Sahitya Sabha Vice-President Padum Rajkhowa appreciated the efforts of the organisation and remarked that society can progress only when people work with sincerity, honesty and a strong sense of social responsibility. Eminent advocate Abul Hashim Khandakar also addressed the gather-

Commissioner Gopal Sharma received the award for excellence in the field of administration, Sirajuddin Ahmed was honoured for his contribution to social service, and Dr. Anwar Hussain was recognised for his outstanding service in the field of healthcare. Several other individuals were also honoured for their contributions to education, culture and other sectors.



The organisation also presented a series of awards to journalists for their contributions to the media. Kanak Hazarika received the Janajagaran Sangbad Award; Snigdha Sikha Bora (DY365) was honoured with the Jagrat Prahari Award; Angela Sangma (ND24) received

day. During the programme, distinguished personalities from different parts of the state, including social workers, administrative officers, doctors, journalists and eminent citizens, were honoured for their outstanding contributions in their respective fields. The meeting was presided over by Dr. Sabir Ahmed, President of the organisation. Addressing the gathering as the chief guest, Nagaon District Commissioner Devashish Sharma praised the activities of the SCC and said that educational and voluntary youth organisations play a vital role in fostering a reform-oriented outlook in society. He urged the younger generation to remain disciplined, responsible and committed to serving society with dedication.

Several distinguished personalities were felicitated during the programme, including former MLA Mobarak Ali Pathan, Nowgong Sports Association General Secretary Tapan Das, Nagaon Zila Sahitya Sabha Secretary Rajib Kumar Hazarika, Assistant Secretary Mriganka Bora, SCC Adviser Kamrul Islam, Vice-President Mostafa Kamal, General Secretary Sanjay Sharma, and social worker Abhijit Bora, among others.

The meeting was compered by SCC Vice-President Dhiren Nath Saikia, while District President M. H. Kabir explained the objectives of the programme.

Awards were presented in various categories to recognise excellence in public service. Additional District

the Udiyaman Sangbad Pratibha Award; Amarendra Deka (Pratidin Time) was conferred the Sangbad Sarathi Award; Priyanka Das (Assam Talks) received the Udiyaman Sangbad Seva Award; Masfika Ahmed (NK TV) was honoured with the Sangbad Seva Award; Mozammil Haque (News18 NE) received the Sangbad Prerana Award; Manjul Deka (People's North East) was presented the Young Inspiration in Journalism Award; and Anwar Hussain of Voice of Darrang also received the Sangbad Prerana Award.

The organisers informed that Chhayamoni Bhuyan, senior journalist of News Live, who has been selected for the prestigious Sangbad Ratna Award, could not attend the ceremony and will receive the honour at a later date.

Cachar gears up for Census 2027 as training of field staff begins on Monday

Phased programme at Cachar College to prepare Supervisors and Enumerators for one of the country's largest data collection exercises

Silchar, July 19: The groundwork for the Census of India 2027 is set to begin in Cachar with the launch of a district-level training programme for Supervisors and Enumerators at Cachar College, Silchar, from Monday. The exercise is an important step in preparing the field workforce that will be responsible for carrying out census-related activities across the district.

Spread over four phases the programme will train Supervisors and Enumerators in the procedures and practical aspects of field enumeration. Officials said the sessions have been designed to familiarise participants with census schedules, methods of data collection, verification procedures, reporting formats and the responsibilities expected of field personnel during the survey.

Training will be conducted from 9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. each day. The first phase will be held on July 20, 21 and 22, followed by the second phase on July 24, 25 and 27. The third phase is scheduled for July 29, 30 and 31, while the fourth and final phase will take place on August 3, 4 and 5.

Meanwhile, the officials associated with the programme said careful preparation of field staff is essential for ensuring that information collected during the census is accurate, complete and uniform. Along with classroom sessions, participants will also be guided through the practical aspects of fieldwork so that they are well equipped to handle responsibilities at the grassroots level.

It is noteworthy to mention here that the Census remains the country's most extensive statistical exercise, providing vital demographic and socio-economic data that forms the basis for planning, resource allocation and the formulation of public welfare programmes. With preparations now underway, the district administration has begun the process of building a trained workforce capable of carrying out the exercise efficiently when the nationwide enumeration is taken up.

This is stated in a press release issued by Regional office of Information & Public Relations Barak valley Zone Silchar Assam.

QCI NSIC Pact

New Delhi: India has taken another significant step towards strengthening the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector with the signing of a strategic partnership between the Quality Council of India (QCI) and the National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC). The agreement is aimed at creating a collaborative ecosystem that will help enterprises improve product quality, adopt globally accepted standards, enhance competitiveness and expand their presence in domestic as well as international markets. The partnership reflects the country's growing emphasis on building a robust quality-

driven manufacturing ecosystem that aligns with the vision of making Indian products more competitive worldwide. By combining the expertise of QCI in quality assurance, accreditation and certification with NSIC's extensive network supporting MSMEs, the initiative is expected to provide comprehensive assistance to thousands of enterprises seeking sustainable growth. The collaboration is designed to address several longstanding challenges faced by small businesses, including limited access to certification, testing infrastructure, market linkages and capacity-building opportunities.

33rd Assam State Aquatic Championship Concludes Successfully

Guwahati, July 19: The 33rd Assam State Aquatic Championship, organised by the Assam Swimming Association, concluded successfully today at the Dr. Zakir Hussain Aquatic Complex, Sarusajai, after three days of exciting competition from July 17 to 19.

The championship was inaugurated on July 17 by Assam Sports Minister Shri Biswajit Daimary. Hundreds of athletes from districts across Assam participated in Swimming, Diving and Water Polo, displaying outstanding talent and sportsmanship.

In the overall team championship, Jorhat District emerged champions with 47 Gold, 36 Silver and 31 Bronze medals. Kamrup District finished runners-up with 27 Gold, 36 Silver and 33 Bronze medals, while Sivasagar District secured third place with 13 Gold, 14 Silver and 4 Bronze medals.

In the Men's Water Polo Final, Sivasagar defeated Jorhat 11-0 to win the title. In the Women's Final, Sivasagar edged past Jorhat 3-2 to become champions.

Prizes were presented by Bijoy Gupta, MLA, Lakhya Konwar, Secretary, Assam Olympic Asso-

ciation, Assam Swimming Association officials Pranab Borthakur, Pranjal Bhattacharya, Chandan Jyoti Phukan, Yadu Gogoi, Mukuteswar Goswami and Rajiv Sharma, eminent social worker Dr. Partha Kumar Medhi, Navajyoti Gogoi, General Secretary, Kamrup District Swimming Association, along with other distinguished sports administrators and former athletes.

Bhaskar Ranjan Das, General Secretary of the Assam Swimming Association, congratulated all medal winners and participants for their performances and thanked the district associations, coaches, technical officials, volunteers and parents for their support.

According to Mukuteswar Goswami, Publicity Secretary of the Assam Swimming Association, the championship once again proved to be an excellent platform for nurturing Assam's emerging swimmers, divers and water polo players.

The Assam Swimming Association expressed its sincere gratitude to all stakeholders, partner organisations, volunteers and well-wishers for their valuable support in making the championship a grand success.



LAC Level Summer Vacation Workshop 2026 inaugurated across Barpeta district

Proloy Choudhury, Barpeta, July 19: The 15-day LAC Level Summer Vacation Workshop, 2026 commenced across Barpeta district on Tuesday with the in-

Affairs in collaboration with the District Administration, Barpeta, the workshops are being conducted at various venues across the district and

To commemorate the birth centenary celebration of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhupen Hazarika, a special workshop on Bhupendra Sangeet has also been organised in Mandia.



auguration of nine workshops aimed at preserving and promoting the rich cultural heritage of Assam.

Organised under the initiative of the Department of Cultural

will continue for 15 days and the students from class 6 to class 12 can participate in these workshops.

This year, a total of nine workshops are being organised, covering a wide range of cultural and creative disciplines, including Folk Dance, Folk Song, Bhupendra Sangeet, Drama, Art & Craft, Mask Making & Terracotta, Yoga & Martial Arts, and other traditional art forms.

The inaugural ceremonies were attended by several distinguished personalities, including Shri Anil Das, Chairman of the Barpeta Development Authority; Shri Bibekranjan Rai Choudhary, eminent educationist and drama artist; Shri Nirmal Adhikari, Satradhikar of Sundaridias Satra; and Shri Bidyut Bikash Das, Cultural Development Officer, Barpeta, along with other respected local dignitaries.

A notable addition to this year's programme is the newly introduced workshop on Mask Making and Terracotta in Satra Nagari Barpeta. The initiative has been launched to encourage students to learn and participate in these traditional art forms, which hold deep cultural significance in Assam.

Similarly, recognising Yoga as an important part of India's ancient cultural heritage, a workshop on Yoga and Martial Arts is being conducted in Chenga.

In an effort to promote traditional folk music, a Folk Song workshop has been organised in Barpeta Road, focusing on forms such as Goalpariya Lok Geet, Kamrupi Lok Geet, and Naokhelor Geet. Workshops on Art & Craft are also being conducted in Dharmapur and Mandia to encourage creativity among young participants.

The Drama workshop is being organised in Pakabetbari, while the Folk Dance workshop in Barpeta includes training in Bihu, Bagurumba and Kushan, representing some of Assam's most vibrant traditional dance forms.

The workshops aim to inspire young minds, nurture artistic talent, and strengthen the connection between the younger generation and Assam's rich cultural traditions. Through collective participation and community support, the initiative seeks to ensure that the district's cultural legacy continues to flourish for generations to come.

The Department of Cultural Affairs and the District Administration, Barpeta reiterated their commitment to promoting art, culture and youth engagement through such meaningful initiatives.

Renowned Gandhian Leader and Author Debabala Hazarika Remembered in Dibrugarh::Book "Debabala Hazarika Kolomore" Released

M Hashim Ali, Correspondent, Dibrugarh, July 19: A memorial programme in honour of renowned Gandhian leader, social worker, and author Debabala Hazarika, wife of former Assam Minister Late Devendra Nath Hazarika, was held at the Srimanta Sankardev Auditorium of Dibrugarh Hanumanbax Surajmal Kanoi College (Autonomous). On the occasion, a book titled "Debabala Hazarika Kolomore" (Through the Pen of Debabala Hazarika), containing her previously unpublished writings, was formally released by Pankaj Borthakur, Registrar of Sri Sri Aniruddhadeva Sports University. The programme was attended by several distinguished personalities, including Dr. Sashikanta Saikia, Principal of Dibrugarh Hanumanbax Surajmal Kanoi College (Autonomous); Kiran Bora, former Principal of Tengakhata College; Bhushanjyoti Handique, Principal of Sri Sri Aniruddhadeva Junior College; Kalpana Khound, former Principal of Dibrugarh Hanumanbax Surajmal Kanoi Commerce College; and Karuna Hazarika, the eldest son of Debabala Hazarika. The solemn event was compered by noted journalist and author Yadav Gogoi.



Debabala Hazarika's granddaughter, Bhaktimala Choudhury, delivered the welcome address, greeting the guests and briefly explaining the background behind the publication of the book. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Sashikanta Saikia paid tribute to the late author and stressed that everyone should work towards preserving and promoting their own language and culture. He remarked that the importance and dignity of a language can only be sustained through literature. Speaking as the keynote speaker, Bhushanjyoti Handique highlighted Debabala Hazarika's remarkable contributions. He noted that she worked tirelessly for the economic empowerment of women, particularly those in rural areas. He further said that even before India's Independence, she had passed the entrance examination from a village and devoted herself to spreading education, making her a truly learned and distinguished woman. Through her radio programmes, she also made valuable contributions to women's empowerment and the preservation of folk culture, he added.

Releasing the book "Debabala Hazarika Kolomore," chief guest Pankaj Borthakur, Registrar of Sri Sri Aniruddhadeva Sports University, described Debabala Hazarika as a woman of exceptional personality. He respectfully recalled her efforts in promoting education first in Sivasagar before her marriage and later in the Lahowal area of Dibrugarh after marriage. He observed that it is because of inspiring women like Debabala Hazarika that education has spread effectively among the younger generation. He further remarked that the newly released book vividly reflects her sincere efforts to portray the realities and experiences of different sections of society through her literary works. It may be mentioned that "Debabala Hazarika Kolomore" brings together Debabala Hazarika's previously unpublished writings, arranged into four sections. The 105-page book has been published by her grandchildren.