

THE ASSAM JYOTI

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Assam CM meets Prime Minister; thanks PM for a new urea plant



New Delhi: Chief Minister of Assam Dr.Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Parliament House here. In course of the meeting, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma expressed his heartfelt gratitude on behalf of the people of Assam to Prime Minister Modi for approving an urea plant in Namrup, terming the decision of the Central Government as a 'game-changer in the State's developmental journey'. The upcoming Advantage Assam 2.0 Summit also came up for discussion with the Chief Minister acknowledging the valuable guidance he received from the Prime Minister and also on the mega Jhumur performance to be staged a day before the investment and infrastructure summit. Prime Minister Modi will attend the Advantage Assam 2.0 as a Chief Guest on February 25 see page 10

Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma Inaugurates New Integrated Terminal at Guwahati Airport



Guwahati: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has unveiled the new Integrated Terminal at Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International (LGBI) Airport in Guwahati. The facility could take as many as 13 million passengers a year; peak hours might accommodate 4,300 domestic and 200 international travelers. The terminal is built to expand the entrance capacity. Increased from eight gates to 14, it will have four new DigiYatra gates to help see page 10



CM celebrates birthday with children of Safai Karmis



Asks them to maintain balance between academic and cultural pursuits, Around 1200 children present performances depicting cultural heritage of Assam

Dispur : Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma as a part of celebration of his birthday spent some time with around 1200 wards of the Safai Karmis of Guwahati at a programme titled 'Alokere Jatra' at Srimanta Sankardeva Kalaskhetra. The children belonging to Valmiki Sangeet Vidyalaya presented cultural performances in the honour of the Chief Minister. The cultural shows depicting Assam's rich cultural heritage including borgeet impressed one and all present there. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma congratulating the children on their extraordinary displays said, "You have projected the cultural diversity along with its beauty through your presentation". He on the

occasion, thanked the functionaries of Valmiki Sangeet Vidyalaya for putting up cultural performances on the creation of Srimanta Sankardeva. Dr. Sarma paying his rich tributes said that Sankardeva worked to remove discrimination and propagated equality. The Chief Minister, therefore, said that the performances by the children of Valmiki Sangeet Vidyalaya displayed the tenets of equality. The eye-catching performances were also the reflections of Assam's rich heritage. Dr. Sarma thanking the children for their extraordinary presentations asked them to strive for excellence. He said that after two years they will be taken to New Delhi where they will get the opportunity to present their performances see page 10



Part-72 "The explanation of Naam"

Krishna says to Arjuna,

" Overcoming body etc.we are better than the Supreme Brahma, Thats why, here on earth,

My name is famous as the renowned Vishnu.

Part -73 **Affliction**

O Hari, enhancing own name, giving all strength

You did not expiate the rules of time in recollection.

O Hari, such is Your kindness!

Inspite of Your kindness, behold my misfortune!

O Master, I couldn't have attached to Your name.

The Mahabharata, the myths etc. express various opinions in the midst of the pieties .

The greater pleasure of flavour

shines like crores of suns

Until the Mahabhagavata becomes visible.

Part-74 Advice (The power of a preceptor)

The magnanimous preceptor, who saves from the worldly pain by advising the way of devotion to Hari,

To discharge such superior obligation to his prceptor there is no other way beyond offering libations.

But being unable to Discharge

The obligation to the preceptor, who introduces us to the devotion of Hari.

The proudy merely talks in a discussion himself with various effort.

That wicked can never discharge the obligations,

Becomes one fit for insultation like a rock.

The devotional preceptor is as merciful as Hari

Both are one just two inbodies. The intellect, being satisfied with the flavour of mercy,

Ever thinking for the good of others

Both beyond any pride and satisfied with own virtues.

Performing religious morals, through so much sorrows gets the human body and immerse in the worldly illusion.

Its the affliction that the abandoning service to God,

That evil-doer, sinner in high degree, deprives himself.

Part-75

"The super- purpose of the four properties."

One, who is a sincere devotee,

Never desires for any wealth but

The super-mervellous name of Hari.

There is no other flavour sweeter than

The super- auspicious fame of Krishna,

He keeps himself immersed in the sea of super-pleasur.

■ Rita Boruah

99545-94823

Workshop Held

Amulya Borah, Kaliabor: At the time of the aggression of Christianity, there is a commendable unique scene in Kaliabor. An NGO named "Sarathi" have been taken to promote the Sattriya culture by introducing it to the Tea Tribe, Bodo, Karbi, Bengali community, the people of Islam. Children from different communities are providing free training in Sattriya culture under the supervision of Deepshikha Bhuyan, who has received the Junior Fellowship of CCRT, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, in collaboration with a voluntary organization called "Sarathi". The welcome step has been taken free of cost through training in Sattriya dance. Hundreds of childrens from Bamuni area of Kaliabor participated in the training workshop.

Free Eye check-up camp organised by Radio Gyanmalinee in collaboration with AMC Deptt of Ophthalmology



M Hashim Ali, Dibrugarh: 'Radio Gyanmalinee', the community radio service of Dibrugarh University, is set to complete its sixth anniversary on February 7. Over the years, Radio Gyanmalinee has been actively organizing various community service programs. As part of its foundation day celebrations, a one-day free eye check-up camp was held on January 31, at the premises of Surjoday Sangha in Binoigutia village, located in the Borbaruah-Ghurnia region. This initiative was conducted in collaboration with Assam Medical College. Around seventy participants availed the services at the camp, receiving free eye check-ups, medicines, and spectacles. Additionally, arrangements were made for free eye surgeries for those diagnosed with cataract. The inaugural ceremony was hosted by Swapnali Bhuyan, the Program Executive of Radio Gyanmalinee, and attended by dignitaries including Dr. Surajit Borkotoky, Professor of Mathematics and Dean Students Affairs at Dibrugarh University, Dipjyoti Gogoi, the university's Sports Officer, Dr. Jitu Ranjan Chetia, Director of Radio Gyanmalinee, along with Radio Gyanmalinee officials Udeepana Saikia and Kongkana Gogoi. Speaking at the event, Professor Borkotoky emphasized the importance of such initiatives in benefiting the local community. The eye check-up camp was conducted under the leadership of Dr. Tapan Gogoi and Dr. Rajiv Kumar Das, senior ophthalmologists from Assam Medical College. The medical team included Dr. Kiran Bora, Dr. Binita Yadav, Dr. Yasmin Ahmed, and Abhijit Sonowal, who provided essential eye care services to the villagers. The local residents highly appreciated this initiative by Radio Gyanmalinee. Many villagers, who previously faced difficulties in seeking eye care due to various constraints, expressed their gratitude for receiving such services within their locality. Notably, in alignment with the upcoming seventh foundation day celebrations, Radio Gyanmalinee has also planned several skill development and training programs for women and students of the village. These initiatives have garnered significant support and active participation from the local community.

Kumbh Mela: Heritage, Faith and Spiritual Glory

■ Lalit Nath

Itakhola, Sonitpur

Kumbh Mela is one of the largest Hindu religious gatherings in the world, attracting millions of devotees and visitors who participate in sacred rituals and take holy baths at the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati rivers. The holy dip is believed to cleanse sins and lead to spiritual salvation.

The Maha Kumbh Mela of 2025, which began on January 13 in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, will conclude on February 26 with a special bath on Mahashivaratri. Renowned worldwide, Kumbh Mela symbolizes not only religious devotion but also cultural and social unity.

This year, the event is expected to host around 400 million devotees and visitors, including notable figures from India and countries like the USA, Israel and France. Ancient texts such as the Brahmanda Purana and Padma Purana provide detailed accounts of this festival, describing its spiritual significance and historical origins.

The roots of Kumbh Mela lie in the story of the Samudra Manthan, or the churning of the ocean, as narrated in the Bhagavata Purana, Vishnu Purana and Brahmanda Purana. According to legend, Sage Durvasa cursed Indra, the king of gods, leading to the loss of his power and glory. Lakshmi abandoned the three realms, causing widespread famine and suffering. The gods, on Vishnu's advice, united with the demons to churn the remedy for their predicament. Mount Mandara served as the churning rod, and Vasuki, the serpent, as the rope.

During the churning, many celestial objects emerged, including the deadly poison Halahala, which Lord Shiva consumed to protect the universe. Eventually, Dhanvantari appeared with the pot of nectar. A fierce battle broke out between the gods and demons for possession of the nectar. Lord Vishnu, in his guise as Mohini, cleverly ensured that the gods received it. In the process, drops of nectar fell at four places— Prayagraj, Haridwar, Ujjain, and Nashik—making them sacred

The timing of the Kumbh Mela is determined by astrological calculations. Specific planetary alignments, such as the position of Jupiter and the Sun in certain zodiac signs, guide the event. For instance, Kumbh Mela is held in Prayagraj when Jupiter is in Taurus and the Sun in Capricorn and in Haridwar when Jupiter is in Aquarius and the Sun in Aries. The event cycles through these four locations every three years, with the Maha Kumbh occurring once every 144 years in Prayagraj.

The religious importance of the Kumbh Mela is immense. Bathing in sacred rivers during this time is believed to purify the soul, wash away sins, and grant salvation. The Padma Purana describes this as:

"Bathing at the confluence of Ganga and Yamuna grants supreme merit and liberation." Apart from bathing, devotees engage in charity, penance and lis-



ther enriching their spiritual jour-

Historical references to the Kumbh Mela can be traced back centuries. The Chinese traveler Hiuen Tsang documented the event during the reign of King Harshavardhana (629–645 CE), describing it as a grand assembly of religious devotees. Mughal Emperor Akbar recognized its importance, promoting it as a means of spiritual merit. The British administration also supported the event, providing funds and organization to manage the massive crowds.

Kumbh Mela is more than a religious festival—it is a symbol of unity and a confluence of diverse cultures, languages and traditions. Pilgrims, sages and tourists from all walks of life gather here, showcasing the depth of India's cultural identity. The 2025 Maha Kumbh Mela has featured Assam's Sattriya culture prominently, with a Guru Asana established at a Namghar led by Janardan Dev Goswami of Uttar Kamalabari Satra. Vaishnavs perocean to obtain nectar (Amrit), a tening to discourses by saints, fur-formed uninterrupted Bhagavata

recitations for seven days, filling the atmosphere with the rhythms of Gayan-Bayan and Bortaal. A puppet drama, Ravan Vadh, directed by Binita Devi and supported by the Ministry of Culture, received widespread acclaim from Indian and international audiences.

In addition to its religious and cultural dimensions, Kumbh Mela has a significant socio-economic impact. It boosts tourism, benefiting local businesses, hotels and artisans. The vibrant gathering transcends barriers of caste, religion, and language, embodying the Indian philosophy of universal solidarity and harmony.

The Kumbh Mela serves as a living bridge between the teachings of ancient scriptures and the values of modern society. Preserving this grand tradition is a shared responsibility that ensures its transmission to future generations. By embracing the unity, peace and spiritual enrichment it represents, Kumbh Mela continues to guide humanity along the path of tradition and harmony.

Mobile: 9954139493

Watershed Yatra On Land And ter Conservation Held In Guwahat

called the Watershed Yatra was held today at the Bhumi Sangrakshan Bhawan in Guwahati. This event is focused on land and water conservation and is organized under the Assam WDC - PMKSY. It was earlier reported that Assam Minister UG Brahma will attend the event as the chief guest. Meanwhile, a two-day national seminar on 'Transformative Role

Guwahati : A special event led the Watershed Yatra was of Tribal Women from North East India' was recently held at Sapatgram College in Dhubri district. The event, sponsored by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), aimed to explore the contributions and challenges faced by tribal women in the region. The seminar was inaugurated by Dr. RP Singh, Principal of Sapatgram College, who stressed the importance of

empowering women and supporting future generations. Prof. Dipak Kumar Roy, Vice-Chancellor of Raigani University, delivered the keynote address, highlighting the significant progress tribal women have made in self-employment despite living in a traditionally patriarchal society. Dr. K.K. Roy, Head of the Bengali Department, welcomed the participants, emphasizing the

need for collective action for women's empowerment. Oekpa Ichamocha Chonu, Dean of the Faculty of Commerce and Management at Bodoland University, spoke on the importance of meaningful research, while Dr. Indira Boro, Head of the Bodo Department, underscored the crucial role of women in preserving their communities' culture and traditions.

Book Release Program Held at DHSK Commerce College on Saraswati Puja



Hashim Ali, Dibrugarh: DHSK Commerce College marked Saraswati Puja with an intellectually enriching event—the release of a multidisciplinary edited book titled Confluence, published by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of the college. The book, a collection of research papers and articles from various academic disciplines, was officially launched in a solemn ceremony attended by distinguished guests, faculty members and students. "The event commenced with an opening speech by Dr. Tulika Mattack, IQAC Coordinator of the college and the editor of the book. In her address, Dr. Mattack emphasized the significance of the book's title, Confluence. "This book represents a meeting point of diverse academic perspectives and ideas, much like the merging of different rivers into one

grand stream of knowledge. The contributors from various disciplines have brought together their research, making this volume a true intellectual confluence," she stated. The book was formally released by Sri Sailen Gogoi, Principal-in-Charge of the college, who expressed his appreciation for the initiative. He remarked that Confluence is a testament to our commitment to academic excellence and intellectual exploration. He further encouraged faculty members and students to engage actively in research and contribute to future publications. The occasion was graced by Lalit Sarma, a distinguished senior journalist, writer and proud alumnus of the college. Speaking on the occasion, he congratulated the editorial team and lauded the effort in bringing out a book of such academic merit. He expressed that

Confluence is a symbol of the college's dedication to knowledge and research. Dr. Nabajyoti Dutta, a member of the editorial body, also shared his thoughts, acknowledging the contributions of researchers and writers. "Each article in this book carries the essence of rigorous inquiry and academic curiosity. We hope that Confluence serves as an inspiration for budding scholars," he stated. Dr. Anita Baruwa, another member of the editorial team, took a moment to praise the efforts of Dr. Tulika Mattack in meticulously compiling and editing the book. The program concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Bidisha Mahanta, a member of the editorial body. She expressed gratitude to all the dignitaries, contributors, and attendees for making the book release event a success. "The book release program at DHSK Commerce College served as a meaningful tribute to Saraswati Puja, blending devotion with a celebration of knowledge and scholarship. With the launch of Confluence, the college has taken another step towards fostering academic growth and intellectual engagement among its students and faculty.

Darrang and Goalpara Police Engage in Fitness Activities

Darrang and Goalpara took part in fitat the Police Reserve, where many officers participated in exercises to improve strength and coordination. At the same time, in Goalpara, the local police organized a Mass PT and a road run, with officers joining in to show their fitness and commitment to staying in good shape for their work. Recently, a training program on "New Criminal Laws" was conducted for the UB/AB personnel of Darrang DEF, Kamrup DEF, and Nalbari DEF at the

Guwahati: Police officers in Police Reserve in Darrang, Mangaldai. The session focused on educating ofness activities to promote physical ficers about recent updates and health and teamwork on Wednesday. changes in criminal laws to enhance In Darrang, Mangaldai, a Mass PT their understanding and ensure better (Physical Training) session was held law enforcement in their respective regions. This initiative aims to improve the efficiency and legal awareness of police personnel. In a similar move, Sribhumi Police also held a workshop for their officers to familiarize them with newly introduced criminal laws like BNS, BNSS, and BSA 2023. The workshop included a written test to assess the officers' knowledge of these laws, further supporting their ability to enforce legal reforms effectively.

Felicitation Ceremony for NCC Cadets at Royal Global University, Guwahati on their return from Republic Day Camp (RDC) 2025



Guwahati: A grand felicitation ceremony was held on 04 February 2025 at Royal Global University, Guwahati, to honor the NCC Cadets on their return from the Republic Day Camp (RDC) 2025 in New Delhi. The event celebrated the dedication, discipline, and outstanding achievements of the cadets who represented Assam and the nation with great distinction. The ceremony was graced by ADG NCC NER, Maj. Gen. Gagan Deep, Sena Medal, as the Chief Guest. This year's participation in RDC-2025 marked a historic moment for the NCC North Eastern Region (NER), with the largest-ever contingent of 176 cadets representing the region at the prestigious Republic Day Camp in Delhi, with 89 cadets representing Assam. Their exemplary performances at the national level were recognized and applauded during the event. Congratulating the contingent, Prof. YSR Murthy, Honourable Vice Chancellor, encouraged the young hearts for their journey ahead. The NER contingent received accolades for their exceptional achievements, including the original song composition "Desh," which was adjudged the Best Song at RDC. Twelve cadets from NER represented the region during the Kartavya Path Parade, and eleven cadets were selected for the Special Guard of Honour. Senior Under Officer Gracy Marak's selection as the Parade Commander for the Prime Minister's Rally was a moment of immense pride for Assam and the entire NER. Furthermore, the Mixed Pipe and Drums Band of 45 cadets from Mizoram captured everyone's hearts with their performance, earning the title of 'Best Band of NCC 2024-25.' In addition, SUO Aryamitra Nath of 8 Assam Bn NCC, Nagaon, was awarded the Raksha Mantri Padak for his exemplary service and dedication. Lieutenant Moitree Hazarika, Associate NCC officer (ANO) of South Point School, Guwahati was conferred the distinguished Rajya Raksha Mantri Padak in recognition of her outstanding contributions and unwavering commitment to the NCC. Addressing the cadets, Maj Gen Gagan Deep, SM commended their dedication, resilience, and outstanding performances. He stated, "The Republic Day Camp is a testament to the perseverance, discipline, and leadership qualities of NCC cadets. Your achievements are not just personal milestones but a source of inspiration for future generations. The values and experiences you have gained through NCC will guide you in all walks of life." He further encouraged the cadets to uphold the ethos of service before self, emphasizing that the NCC is not merely an organization but a way of life that instils leadership, commitment, and patriotism. "As you step into the future, let the training and values you have imbibed continue to shape you into responsible citizens and leaders of tomorrow." The ceremony concluded with words of appreciation and encouragement from senior officers and faculty members, motivating the cadets to continue their journey with pride and determination. The event was a testament to the unwavering spirit of the NCC cadets, who remain true ambassadors of discipline, leadership, and service to the nation.



Pondicherry



Pondicherry is the capital and most populous city of the Union Territory of Puducherry in India. The city is in the Puducherry district on the southeast coast of India and is surrounded by the Bay of Bengal to the east and the state of Tamil Nadu, with which it shares most of its culture, heritage, and language.

Puducherry, formerly known as Pondicherry, gained its significance as "the French Riviera of the East" after the advent of French colonialisation in India. Puducherry is the Tamil interpretation of "new town" and mainly derives from "Poduke", the name of the marketplace or "port town" for Roman trade in the 1st century, as mentioned in the Periplus of the Erythraean Sea. The settlement was once an abode of learned scholars versed in the Vedas, hence it was also known as Vedapuri. The history of Puducherry can broadly be classified into two periods: precolonial and colonial. The precolonial period started with the reign of the Pallavas, who ruled the empire from 325 to 900, after which came the Chola dynasty, from 900 to 1279, and the Pandya dynasty, from 1279 to 1370. During the 14th century, the city was under the rule of Naikship of Gingee of the Vijayanagara Empire, from 1370 to 1614, when it was conquered by the Sultan of Bijapur, who ruled it from 1614 to 1638. It was during this period that Portuguese and Danish merchants used it as a trading center. The colonial period began with the Portuguese, the first Europeans to conduct trade in textiles, in 1521, and subsequently, the Dutch and the Danes in the 17th century. The prospering trade of Puducherry attracted the French, and the predominant feature of the town was laid by the French pioneer Francois Martin in the form of a French settlement, in 1674. In 1693, Puducherry was captured by the Dutch and sub-

sequently restored in 1699, with the Treaty of Ryswick. The French acquired Mahé in 1720, Yanam in 1731, and Karaikal in 1738. The British captured the city from the French but returned it following the Treaty of Paris, in 1763. This Anglo-French war continued until 1814, where France found itself in control of the settlements of Puducherry, Mahé, Yanam, Karaikal, and Chandernagor, even during the British period, until 1954. It was a reign of 138 years under the French, who on 31 October 1954 left Indian shores following a de facto transfer of power. Nearby places such Arikamedu, Ariyankuppam, Kakayanthoppe, Villianur, and Bahour, which were colonised by the French East India Company over a period of time and later became the union territory of Pondicherry, have recorded histories that predate the colonial period. Poduke or Poduca (marketplace) was a Roman trading destination from the third century BCE.[4] Poduca has been identified as possibly being Arikamedu (now part of Ariyankuppam), located about 2 miles (3.2 km) from the modern city of Pondicherry. The area was part of the Pallava Kingdom of Kanchipuram in the 4th century. The Cholas of Thanjavur held it from the 10th to the 13th centuries, until it was replaced by the Pandya Kingdom, in the 13th century. The Vijayanagar Empire took control of almost all of southern India in the 14th century and maintained control until 1638, when they were supplanted by the Sultan of Bijapur. In 1674, the French East India Company set up a trading centre at Pondicherry, and this outpost eventually became the chief French settlement in India. The French governor François Martin made remarkable improvements to the city and its commercial ties, facing at the same time strong opposition from the

Dutch and the English. He entered into extended negotiations with the sultans of Golconda through the intercession of several roving French merchants and doctors who were in favour with the sultan. Trading in jewellery and precious stones, which had become highly fashionable in European courts, was one among many activities. Five trading posts were established along the south Indian coast between 1668 and 1674. The city was separated by a canal into the French Quarter and the Indian Quarter. On 21 August 1693, during the Nine Years' War, Pondicherry was captured by the Dutch. The governor of Dutch Coromandel, Laurens Pit the Younger, sailed with a fleet of seventeen ships 1,600 men and Nagapattinam and bombarded Pondicherry for two weeks, after which Francois Martin surrendered it. At the Peace of Ryswick, it was agreed by all parties to return conquered territories, and in 1699, Pondicherry was handed back to the French. On 16 January 1761, the British captured Pondicherry from the French, but it was returned under the 1763 Treaty of Paris, at the conclusion of the Seven Years' War. The British took control of the area again in 1793, at the Siege of Pondicherry, amid the Wars of the French Revolution, and returned it to France in 1814. On 18 March 1954, a number of resolutions were passed by the municipalities in Pondicherry, demanding an immediate merger with India. Some days later, similar resolutions were passed by the municipalities in Karaikal. The resolutions had the full support of the French Indian Councillors, popularly known as ministers, and the president of the representative assembly. These municipalities represented roughly 90% of the population of the French possessions, and they called upon the government



of France to take urgent and necessary measures to give effect to the wishes of the people.[8] The government of India had made it clear that the cultural and other rights of the people would be fully respected. They were not asking for the immediate transfer of de jure sovereignty of France. Their suggestion was that a de facto transfer of the administration should take place immediately, while French sovereignty should continue until the constitutional issue had been settled. Both India and France would have to make necessary changes in their respective constitutions. All this would take time, while the demand of the people was for an immediate merger without a referendum. The government of India was convinced that the suggestion which they made would help to promote a settlement, which they greatly desired. On 18 October 1954, in a general election involving 178 people in municipal Pondicherry and the Commune of Panchayat, 170 people were in favour of the merger, and eight people voted against.



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All Assam Amateur Invitational Golf Champion-ship Kicks Off at Digboi



Digboi : The All Assam Amateur Invitational Golf Championship kicked off here at historic Digboi Golf Links on Saturday morning. The tourney is being organized under the aegis of Upper Assam Golf Association (UAGA), Digboi Golf Links with Ajoy Kaila the Executive Director(ED) cum Refinery Head AOD Digboi as the chief patron. The event features 130 participants from across the nation and one from abroad too. Golfers from Canada, Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Delhi, Kolkata, Guwahati, Shillong, Jorhat and UAGA members from dibrugarh and Tinsukia district have been displaying their skills in the event. The leaderboard after the day one is MP Chaliha 76, Varun Palmer 76, Aahana Kashyap 77, Sandip Deb 78 and Jakir Hussain 78. The 47th edition of the prestigious championship - one of the oldest amateur golf championship in the country was inaugurated by Ajoy Kaila Executive Director cum Refinery Head AOD Digboi in presence of other of-

ficials of the AOD Management, office bearers of the Digboi Golf Links, members and office bearers of the UAGA and participating golfers. The tourney is being played at the only 18 hole golf course with a par of 72 and yardage of 6309 for gents and 5242 for ladies is expected to witness a fine display of skills and strife in various categories among the golfers. The winner of this event is decided on the Best Gross Score over 2 days for both Ladies and Gentlemen golfers. In addition, there are numerous other prizes to be won over 3 handicap categories of 0-9, 10-16 and 17-24. UAGA follows the rule of 1 man 1 prize for this event (except the over-all winners). Though the Event and the Prizes are specifically meant for the amateur golfers only, the professional Golfers domiciled in the State of Assam can participate in the "Professional Category" for the purpose of AGCA (Association of Golf Clubs of Assam) Ranking Points only. However, the amateurs are also eligible to compete for AGCA Ranking Points at their category-level. Beside,the Best Gross Scored over two days for both Ladies and Gentlemen, there are numerous other prizes including over 3 handicap categories of 0-9, 10-16 and 17-24. One of the finest aspect of this calander event is the promotion of the talented caddy golfers pushing them through as special professional catagory.

Bud Cricket Club Lift Title, Beat City Cricket Club in Final

Guwahati: Bud Cricket Club (21). Sidharth Sarmah and Romario emerged as the champion of the 7th Assam Premier Club Cricket Championship (Guwahati leg), defeating City Cricket Club by four wickets in the final held at Nehru Stadium today. Chasing a target of 124, Bud Cricket losing six wickets. Swarupam Purkayastha played a crucial knock of 43 runs off 53 balls, hitting three boundaries and a six to guide his team to victory. He received good support from SK Jnyanam (27) and Erik Roy

Sharmah claimed two wickets each for City Cricket Club. Earlier, after being invited to bat first, City Cricket Club was bowled out for 123 in 38.1 overs. Nihal Baishya (34) was the top scorer, while Hiyan Kashyap contributed 30 Club reached the mark in 26.5 overs, runs. Rohit Singh delivered an impressive bowling performance, taking 3/21 in his 7.1 overs spell. Swarupam Purkayastha and Priyangshu Khole picked up two wickets each. With this victory, Bud Cricket Club qualified for the zonal round.

Ramanuj Talukdar, Nabiha Moriyam, and Dhyanaa Morang Claim Double Crowns at 8th Guwahati Open Junior Tennis Championship

Guwahati: Ramanuj Talukdar, Nabiha Moriyam, and Dhyanaa Morang secured double crowns in the 8th Guwahati Open Junior Tennis Championship, which concluded today at the RG Baruah Sports Complex. Ramanuj Talukdar won the Boys' Singles Under-18 title, defeating Chandrasekhar Mohanty 6-3, 6-2 in the final. He also partnered with Abhiraj Kumar Dutta to clinch the Boys' Doubles Under-18 title, beating Aarush Das and Enrich Pator 6-3, 6-4. In the Girls' Singles Under-18 category, Nabiha Moriyam claimed the title by defeating Kabyanjali Hazarika 6-1, 6-0 in the final. She then teamed up with Nayeem Hussain to win the Girls' Doubles Under-18 title, overcoming Kabyanjali Hazarika and Soni Prajapati 6-1, 6-1 in the title clash. Dhyanaa Morang triumphed in the Girls' Singles Under-12 final, edging past Mrigakshi Changmai 5-7, 7-5, 10-7. She also clinched the Girls' Singles Under-14 title, defeating Abhipsa Gogoi 6-4, 6-2. In the Boys' Singles Under-14 final, Enrich Pator emerged victorious against Chandrasekhar Mohanty with a score of 6-4, 0-6, 10-6. Ayaan Rehman won the Boys' Singles Under-12 title, defeating Anirban Deka 7-5, 4-6, 10-7. Meanwhile, in the Boys' and Girls' Combined Singles Under-10 category, Dhaniska Mahanta was crowned champion after a hard-fought 2-4, 5-4, 14-12 victory over Dhanush Mahanta.

Sanma Brahma wins Assam's first medal at 38th National Games with Silver in Wushu

Guwahati: Assam opened their account in the 38th National Games medal tally with a silver on Wednesday, won by Sanma Brahma in Wushu. There was more good news for Assam as three additional Wushu players—Priya Boro, Khudra Panging, and Elina Rabha secured medals by advancing to the semi-finals in their respective categories. Additionally, the Assam women's badminton team also confirmed a medal. However, the Assam women's beach handball team fell short, losing both their semi-final and the third-place decider. Wushu: Sanma, competing in the Taolu event, clinched silver with a score of 9.08, marking his third consecutive medal in the National Games. Football: Assam made a strong start in football, defeating strong contenders Goa 3-2 in a thrilling match in Haldwani on Wednesday. Despite trailing 0-2, Assam made a remarkable comeback with goals from Akrang Narzary, Bishnu Bordoloi, and Dipu Mirdha.



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Topography



The topography of Pondicherry is the same as that of coastal Tamil Nadu. Pondicherry's average elevation is at sea level and includes a number of sea inlets, referred to locally as "backwaters". Pondicherry experiences extreme coastal erosion as a result of a breakwater constructed in 1989, just to the south of the city. Where there was once a broad, sandy beach, now the city is protected against the sea by a 2-kmlong seawall that sits at a height of 8.5 m above sea level. Whilst there was an early seawall made by the French government in 1735, this was not "hard structure coastal defence" so much as an adjunct to the old shipping pier and a transition from the beach to the city. Today, the seawall consists of rows of granite boulders reinforced every year in an attempt to stop erosion. As a consequence of the seawall, there is severe seabed erosion and turbulence at the coastal margin, resulting in an extreme loss of biodiversity within the critical intertidal zone. Whenever gaps appear as the stones fall into the continually eroding seabed, the government adds more boulders. Pondicherry's seawall has also caused beach erosion to migrate further up the coast, to the fishing villages in Puducherry and Tamil Nadu to the north of the city.

Climate

The climate of Pondicherry is classified by the Köppen climate classification as a tropical savanna climate, similar to that of coastal Tamil Nadu. This is specifically the dry-winter type (Aw), bordering on the dry-summer type (As) due to March having the lowest average rainy days of 0.7 and an average rainfall of 18.5 mm (0.73 in). Summer lasts from March to early June, and maximum temperatures may reach 41 °C (106 °F) between April and June. The average maximum temperature is 36 °C (97 °F). Minimum temperatures are in the order of 28–32 °C (82–90 °F). This is followed by a period of high humidity and occasional thundershowers, from June until September. The northeast monsoon sets in during the middle of October, and Pondicherry gets the bulk of its annual rainfall during the period from October to December. Smaller amounts of rainfall also come from the southwest monsoon, between June and September. The annual average rainfall is 1,355 millimetres or 53 inches. The dry season is between January and June, with February having the least average rainfall of 16.9 mm (0.67 in).



Tourism

Pondicherry is a tourist destination. The city has many colonial buildings, churches, temples, and statues which, combined with the town planning and Frenchstyle avenues in the old districts, still preserve much of the colonial ambiance. While the sea is a draw for tourists, Pondicherry no longer has the sandy beaches that once graced its coastline. The breakwater to the harbour and other hard structures constructed on the shore caused extreme coastal erosion, and the sand from Pondicherry's Promenade Beach has disappeared entirely. As a result of the city's seawall and groyne construction, the beaches further up the coast to the north have also been lost. An enormous deposition of sand has accrued to the south of the harbour breakwater, but this is not a large beach and is not easily accessible from the city. The government has taken steps to construct a reef and re-dose the sand. The sea is accessible by a small patch of land at Promenade Beach (Goubert Avenue). Moreover, the beach is one of the cleanest in



India and has been selected for Blue Flag certification. The Sri Aurobindo Ashram, located on Rue de la Marine, is one of the most important ashrams in India, founded by the freedom fighter and spiritual philosopher Sri Aurobindo. Auroville (City of Dawn) is an "experimental" township located 8 km (5.0 mi) northwest of Pondicherry. There are a number of old and large churches in Pondicherry, most of which were built in the 18th and 19th centuries. A number of heritage buildings and monuments are present around Promenade Beach, such as the Children's Park and Dupleix Statue, Gandhi statue, Nehru statue, Le Café, French War Memorial, 19th Century Light House, Bharathi Park, Governors Palace, Romain Rolland Library.

Legislative Assembly, Pondicherry Museum, and the French Institute of Pondicherry at Saint Louis Street. Puducherry Botanical Gardens is located south of the New Bus Stand. Chunnambar Backwater resort is 8 km (5.0)mi)from Pondicherry, along Cuddalore Main Road. This tropical resort is flanked by a creek on one side. Arulmigu Manakula Vinayagar Devasthanam Manakula Vinayagar Street is a Hindu temple Ganesha. to Manakula Vinayagar Temple was in existence before the French came settled and Pondicherry in 1666. Sengazhuneer Amman at Veerampattinam village is one of the oldest temples in Pondicherry, situated about 7 km (4.3 mi) away from the city centre.



Demographics

According to the 2011 census of India, Pondicherry had a population of 244,377, with 124,947 females and 119,430 males. It had an average literacy rate of 80.6%, with male literacy at 84.6% and female literacy at 76.7%.

Ten per cent of the population was under six years of age. The majority of people in Pondicherry speak Tamil. There is a community of French people and a number of French institutions, such as a French consulate, the French Institute of Pondicherry, and L'Alliance française

Civic administration

The city of Puducherry comprises two municipalities, Puducherry and Uzhavarkarai. Both the municipalities and the commune panchayats in the Union Territory of Puducherry function under the administrative control of the local administration department. The Puducherry municipality, under the Puducherry district, com-

prises the former communes of Puducherry and Mudaliarpet, with its headquarters in Puducherry. It has a total of 42 wards spread over an area of 19.46 km2 (7.51 sq mi). Wards 1–10 are north of the city; wards 11–19 are in Boulevard Town, and the remaining wards are southwest of the city centre.

Aamir Khan to host grand 60th birthday party with A-listers including Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan, Deepika Padukone and more



Aamir Khan is set to celebrate his 60th birthday in grand style. Aamir has decided to mark this milestone with a star-studded bash at a five-star hotel in Bandra on March 13. As per a report by Mid-Day, the guest list includes close friends Salman Khan and Shah Rukh Khan, as well as top stars like Deepika Padukone, Ranveer Singh, and Kareena Kapoor Khan. This will be the first time that Aamir will host such a large-scale celebration, reflecting his gratitude for a momentous year. he decision to throw a grand party comes after a significant year in Aamir's personal and profes-

sional life. His daughter Ira tied the knot in January 2024, and his son Junaid is all set to make his theatrical debut, with his second film, Loveyapa, set to release soon. A source close to the actor revealed, "Aamir is feeling grateful and content. He wants to share his joy with everyone who has been a part of his journey." The celebration will bring together family, friends, and colleagues from the film industry.

Bollywood's Biggest Names on the **Guest List**

The guest list for Aamir Khan's 60th birthday party reads like a who's who of Bollywood. Apart from Salman Khan and Shah Rukh Khan, the event will see the presence of filmmakers like Rajkumar Hirani, Karan Johar, and Vidhu Vinod Chopra. Actors such as Hrithik Roshan, Rani Mukerji, Saif Ali Khan, and Shabana Azmi are also expected to attend. Aamir's Dangal costars Sanya Malhotra and Fatima Sana Shaikh, as well as his ex-wives Reena Dutta and Kiran Rao, will be part of the celebrations.

Nikkhil Advani's show on revolutionaries like Bhagat Singh and others to go on floors during this period



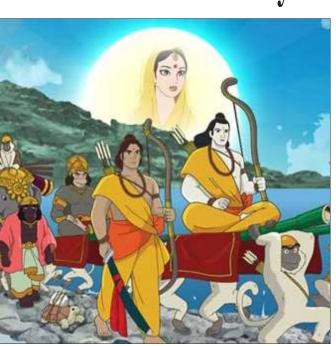
In November last year, Nikkhil Advani and his banner Emmay Entertainment came up with the much appreciation. It was revolutionaries adapted from the book of the same name by authors Dominique Lapierre and Larry Collins. In his up-

coming show The Revolutionaries, Advani will be throwing light on the other side of the freedom movement, which is the armed revolution. The show, which will be aired on Amazon Prime Video, will be adapted from Sanjeev Sanyal's book titled 'Revolutionaries'. The book is based on the show Freedom At Mid- armed revolution carried is a difficult story to tell. night, which received out against the British by Singh, Bhagat Chandrashekhar Azad, Subhash Chandra Bose,

Aurobindo Ghosh, among

others. Advani has been dabbling into different topics both on web and cinema. When asked about his criteria to choose subjects, he said, "Achieving success at the box office is not the most important criterion. Basically it is about being able to tell a story that nobody else is actually telling and Whether it is Freedom At like Midnight, Rocket Boys or Mrs Chatterjee Vs Norway, all those are difficult stories; most people will not touch it.

Ramayana: The Legend of Prince Rama to screen in Parliament on February 15



Geek Pictures is honoured to announce that Ramayana: The Legend of Prince Rama, a film that has captivated audiences with its poignant retelling of one of India's most revered epics, will be screened at the Indian Parliament. This special screening underscores the film's cultural and artistic significance and celebrates the strong cultural ties between India and Japan. The initiative, led by the Parliament of India, comes after the movie was highlighted by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in his Mann Ki Baat address. The screening, which shall be graced by Hon'ble Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla, aims to enrich the understanding and appreciation of this legendary epic among citizens across generations & to promote the values embodied in the Ramayana which resonate with the ethos of Indian tradition and spirituality. Shri Arjun Aggarwal, Co-founder of Geek Pictures, expressed his gratitude: "We are deeply honoured by this gesture from the Parliament of India. It is a privilege to see our work being recognized at such a prestigious level. This screening is not just a showcase of a film but a celebration of our rich heritage and the timeless story of the Ramayana, which continues to inspire and guide us." The screening is scheduled to take place at the Parliament of India on 15th of February, and it will be attended by members of both houses & special invitees from the cultural sectors, highlighting the collaborative nature of the film's production. Geek Pictures invites all cinema lovers and enthusiasts of cultural narratives to watch Ramayana: The Legend of Prince Rama currently showing in cinemas across the country. This recognition by the nation's leaders is a testament to the film's profound impact and its contribution to arts and culture. Don't miss the opportunity to experience this masterpiece on the big screen.



From page 1

CM celebrates birthday with children of Safai Karmis

in presence of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He also asked them to be regular with their studies and maintain a perfect balance between their academic and cultural pursuits. Dr. Sarma also asked them to dream big and very dedicatedly pursue it to become great in life. Stating the increasing number of medical and engineering colleges along with universities in the state, he called upon the students to study seriously as they will get ample opportunities to get their ambition fulfilled after studying in the institutions of higher education. The Chief Minister also announced educational trip to Kaziranga National Park for all the students of Valmiki Sangeet Vidyalaya. The students will be taken to the National park in batches so that they can enjoy the flora and fauna in the park and learn something new. He also asked students to write essays about their Kaziranga trip experiences as the best ones will be awarded. Minister Water Resources, I&PR etc Pijush Hazarika, Rastriya Swayamsevak Sangh's Assam Kshetra Pracharak Basistha Bujar Baruah and host of other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma Inaugurates New Integrated Terminal

people check-in without hassle. Architecturally, the terminal is designed to reflect Assam's rich cultural heritage, showing the state flower, Foxtail Orchid (Kopou Phool), symbolizing love, fertility, and celebration. Besides passenger amenities, the operational capability of the airport has been considerably enhanced. From 18 air traffic movements per hour, it has increased to 34 supported by a parallel taxiway, and the security check-in area has been increased from 300 to 450 square meters to improve security measures and efficiency through additional screening queues and upgraded furnishings. An architectural wall stretching 140 meters has been created, and a 300-square-meter new area of gardens is under development that adds to the beauty and utility of the terminal. The works were completed within two months with a view to the Advantage Assam 2.0 summit so that travelers can enjoy this world-class facility.

Assam CM meets Prime Minister; thanks PM for a new urea plant

and also the mega Jhumur dance performance at Sarusajai Stadium in Guwahati. Taking to micro-blogging platform X, the Chief Minister wrote, "It was an absolute privilege to meet Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi Ji today. On behalf of the people of Assam, I expressed our gratitude for the Govt's decision to approve the Urea Plant in Namrup, which will be a game-changer in the State's developmental journey. I received valuable guidance from Hon'ble Prime Minister on the upcoming #AdvantageAssam2 Summit and the Mega Jhumur performance and shared our joy in welcoming him to Assam in a few days from now."

Nagaon Police Seize Heroin in Multiple Raids, Several Arrested



Nagaon: In a series of coordinated anti-narcotics operations, the Nagaon Police have successfully seized a significant amount of suspected heroin across various locations under its jurisdiction. These operations have led to the arrest of multiple individuals involved in the illicit narcotics trade. The first operation took place at Dhing Police Station, where a team searched and found 15 plastic containers with suspected heroin, weighing 9.34 grams in

total. The police quickly arrested the suspect and have started legal action to hold them responsible for their involvement in the drug trade. In a parallel operation, the Khatowal Police Station team carried out a successful raid, leading to the recovery of 9 plastic containers filled with suspected heroin. The total weight of the seized drugs was 1.7 grams and the accused was arrested. In another anti-drug operation, the Kathiatoli Police Post team found 9 plastic containers with suspected heroin, weighing 16.20 grams in total. The person involved was arrested, and the police have quickly started legal action to make sure the person is charged for being part of the illegal drug trade. These operations are part of a broader effort by the police to ensure the safety and security of the public by disrupting the distribution and consumption of illegal drugs.

Inauguration of Gunotsav 2025 in Morigaon District, DC Visits Schools



Lipika Bora, Morigaon: "Gunotsav 2025 commenced in Morigaon district with great enthusiasm and active participation from students and educators alike. The respected Deputy Commissioner of Morigaon, Debashish Sharma, visited several schools across the district to assess the academic environment and engage directly with students and teachers. ""During his visits, the DC emphasized the importance of enhancing the quality of education and encouraged students to pursue their studies diligently to build a bright future. He interacted with teachers to understand the teaching methodologies, examination systems, and challenges faced in delivering quality education. ""Highlighting the significance of such initiatives, DC Sharma stated that programs like Gunotsav play a pivotal role in evaluating and improving the standard of education in government schools. His inspirational speech to the students motivated them to strive for academic excellence and personal growth. ""The initiative is expected to bring constructive changes in the educational landscape of the district, focusing on both infrastructural and academic improvements.

Violent Street Clash Erupts Over Illegal Coal Trade in Tinsukia

Tinsukia: A street fight broke out on Monday afternoon in the Lekhapani area of Assam's Tinsukia district, which is located just 150 meters away from the local police station. Two groups were involved, accused of operating illegal coal trade, as the fight began after a failed negotiation regarding mining activities in the area. According to eyewitnesses, the fight broke out in broad daylight, with both parties running along the road and attacking each other. Shockingly, no police personnel were available to intervene during the violent confrontation, which raised questions about the ability of law enforcement to maintain order in the locality.



Bondhu-Chaki' Award Ceremony 2025: Literary Award Presented to Poet Cheniram Gogoi



Hashim Ali, **Dibrugarh:** Eminent poet Cheniram Gogoi was conferred the 2025 "Bondhu-Chaki Literary Award" on February 2. The award was presented by the 'Bondhu-Chaki' Literary Organization in a solemn ceremony held at the auditorium of Dibrugarh Hanumanbux Suraimal Kanoi Commerce College. The award included a Fulam Gamusa, a Seleng, a certificate of honor, and a set of books. Renowned writer-poet 'Sahityacharya' Dr. Karabi Deka Hazarika presented the award to Poet Gogoi. Chaki Award 2025', which

In her speech while conferring the award, Dr. Hazarika remarked, "Poetry is the most complex art form; its innate essence must emerge naturally." Accepting the award, Cheniram Gogoi shared his thoughts: "Life's harsh experiences have taught me to write poetry." Senior poet-translator Hiten Sharma delivered a congratulatory speech on the occasion. As part of the event, the 'Bondhu-Chaki' Literary Organization also honored six selected poets from its poetry competition with the Bondhu-

aims to recognize poetic talent across all age groups."The event was presided over by eminent writer Dr. Bharati Dutta. It commenced with a lamplighting ceremony, followed by a poetry recitaby Bharati Chakravarty, coordinated by Dr. Pankhi Priya Sharma, Purabi Kakati, and Asma Jafri. In his welcome speech, 'Bondhu-Chaki' president Uday Kumar Sharma reflected: "Success should not be anyone's goal. Fame is like a tree's shade; what truly matters is the tree itself."The evening concluded with a 'Poetry Gathering', where six selected poets recited their works. The session, attended by many poetry enthusiasts and distinguished writers, was led poet Bharati Chakravarty. Notable poets including Neelakanta Saikia, Dr. Barnali Bora, Hitesh Gogoi, and Ranu Baruah Gogoi shared insights into the creation of their poetry.

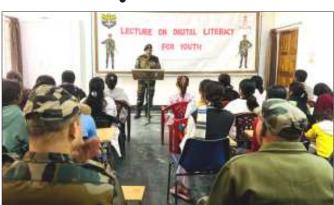
Jhumoir Binandini 2025 Zonal Event Kicks Off in Tezpur with Cultural Grandeur

Tezpur: The first Zonal-Level performance of Jhumoir Binandini 2025 took place yesterday at Church Field, Tezpur, with great enthusiasm and cultural fervor. The event was graced by the Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Irrigation, Government of Assam, Ashok Singhal, as the chief guest. The zonal competition saw enthusiastic participation from three districts—Sonitpur, Biswanath, and Nagaon. It provided a stage for talented performers to showcase the region's

rich culture and artistic skills. The event focused on the vibrant tradition of Jhumoir dance, attracting cultural enthusiasts and important guests. Meanwhile, earlier last month, under the Cultural Affairs Department of the Government of Assam and the aegis of the Demow Co-District administration, the Mega Jhumoir Binandini 2025 programme had been organized in Kaliapani Tea Estate Playground from January 20 for four days. In the training, more than 300

students of the Demow Constituency had participated. In the training, 102 students had been selected, said an expert committee member. Sushanta Borgohain, Demow Constituency MLA, had also visited a day of the training. Junali Bagti, an Expert Committee member for the programme, had been present in the training. The ATTSA leaders, along with other dignitaries, had also been present. The Mega Jhumoir Binandini 2025 programme concluded on January 23.

Assam Rifles conducts Lecture on Digital Literacy for Youth



Chandan Sarma, Jamugurihat: Assam Rifles organized an educative lecture on Digital Literacy for youths at Lokra, Assam. The event saw active participation of 45 students and youths from nearby villages. The session aimed to enhance awareness about the importance of digital literacy in today's fast-evolving technological landscape. Key topics covered included basics of internet, online safety measures, responsible use of social media and the role of digital tools in education and career development. Participants were also taught about cyber threats and how to ensuring personal data security. The interactive nature of the lecture encouraged open discussions, with participants actively engaging and clarifying their queries. The initiative was well received by the local community, showcasing Assam Rifles' commitment to youth empowerment and com-



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