



ARUNACHAL OBSERVER

The Daily of the Masses

VOLUME VIII | NO. 233 | 8 PAGES | ₹ 3.00

ITANAGAR | SUNDAY | 05 JANUARY | 2025

RNI No: ARPENG/2017/72659 | Postal Reg No. AP/062/2017-2019

Mithun meat saves life of a vegetarian!

*** Rest of India needs to take a cue from Arunachal**

By Pradeep Kumar
ITANAGAR, Jan 03: All are aware of story of Tai Bida, resident of Tashi village under Toru circle of Sagalee sub-division of Papum Pare district, who once during hunting spree had found a wild mithun, captured, brought it home, domesticated and the animal gave birth to thousands of off springs, which helped him earn fame and lead a happy and prosperous life.

Bida for religious ritual once decided to sacrifice the mother mithun that he had found and tied it on a post in his house, but next he found all miithuns had disappeared. By following their footprints, he found that all mithuns had jumped into the lake Gekar Sinyi, now known as Ganga Lake in Poma village to bring him ill luck.

All are aware of this legendary story, but many might not be aware that mithun meat had saved the life of a pure vegetarian after he was diagnosed by doctors of a Mumabi hospital of Vitamin B12 or cobalamin deficiency. This vitamin a nutrient that helps the body maintains healthy blood, nerve cells and produce DNA. It also helps prevent megaloblastic anemia, a blood condition.

The famous man Rajesh Singh Rajput is secretary of Kanva Education Society of Kanv Rishi Yoga Ashram in Uttarakhand's Kotdwar



and Canada branch since last 30 years and Bhayla Yoga Mahavidhyalya near Deoband in UP for last 12 years (Both world famous yoga ashrams have network all over world since 1972), International Skill Foundation chairman and now Women Football Federation of India central coordination committee chairman, including incharge of abroad.

"After having extreme weakness and tiredness, lack of energy, muscle weakness, psychological problems, headaches, indigestion, loss of appetite, weight loss, I got admitted to a hospital. I was reduced to only 36-kg a decade ago when doctor advised me take red meat as medicine leaving me in shock," he told me over telephone.

"On learning this, my sweet Arunachalee daughter Marina Doye told me blatantly: You will eat what I give you as medicine till you are cured. She managed to bring mithun meat from her state by air, cooked and fed me for a moth. While my family was totally against it, I listened to her for whom I

am alive today for her prompt indigenous act only," he said without mincing any words.

"We heterogeneous



people are brought to one platform by languages, religions and castes in this most diverse nation to glue like a garland to sing in chorus what we feel right. But most regrettably, language-religion-caste fanatics divide many of the innocent people many a times to serve their vested interest. Religious and caste riots and racial discrimination are byproducts of destructive acts of such fanatics, who spread religious intolerance and caste hatred", Marina Doye, *coordinator of saints in Haridwar ashram, who then shuttled between her divine canvas and galmour world as a model and Bollywood actress, had written in this daily's 13.04.17 edition with a clarion call "It is time for we Indians to stand united!"* quoting that the Constitu-

tion begins with "WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA....". If Triranga is our safeguard, let Jai Hind unite us to be sons and daughters of Bharat!

The people of NE India well aware of the mithun (Bos frontalis), a large semi-domestic cattle found in NE India; Bangladesh; Myanmar; Kachin state, Yunnan province & Trung in China and Salween River basin in Thailand, whose first description was given in 1804 by Aylmer Bourke Lambert probably from Chittagong.

In 2003, International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature fixed the first available specific name based on a wild population that the name for this wild species is valid by virtue of its being antedated by a name based on a domestic form. Most authors have adopted the binomial *Bos frontalis* for the domestic species as valid for the taxon. It was domesticated from wild gaur and is a hybrid descendant from crossing of wild gaur and domestic cattle, either *Bos indicus* or *Bos taurus*.

Mithuns are essentially inhabitants of hill-forests, but made semi-domesticated by several ethnic groups of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura.

Mithuns from birth until the time of butchering or marketing remain in the herd, and roam mostly freely throughout the forests. Minthuns are traditional measure of a family's wealth among the Idu Mishmi, Nyishi, Adi, Bangni-Booker Lhobas, Pasi, Padam, Minyong and Galo tribes while it is the state animal of Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland.

This animal plays a vital role in social life in Arunachal Pradesh, where even in this IT age marriages are not fixed until the bridegroom's family gives bargained mithuns to the bride's household. Interestingly, India has been recording large number of deaths, exploitation and divorce cases related to payment of dowry by bride's household to bride's household. Thus, rest of India should take a lesson from as Arunachal.

The novel Bride Price (Kanyar Mulya) by Lummer Dai depicts the harrowing experience of a young schoolgirl whose promising future is abruptly interrupted when it is suddenly revealed that she was sold in infancy by her parents to another family for a high bride price.

India to monitor Chinese mega dam project in national interest: Jaiswal



NEW DELHI, Jan 04: After China announced its plan to build a mega dam on Brahmaputra River, known as Yarlung Tsangpo in Tibet, India on Friday said it will continue to monitor and take necessary measures to

protect its interests.

This river is a major source of water for India, flowing from Tibet into India's northeastern states and eventually to Bangladesh. China's controversial plan to build the

world's largest dam to annually generate 300 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity, more than triple of world's present largest Three Gorges Dam in central China with designed capacity of 88.2 billion kWh, could significantly alter the water flow to these downstream countries. The \$137 billion project is being constructed in the ecologically sensitive Himalayan region, an area located along a tectonic plate boundary. The proposed dam would be built at a gorge in the Himalayas, where the Brahmaputra makes a sharp U-turn at Namcha Barwa before entering India's Arunachal Pradesh and flowing into Bangladesh. Experts are concerned that it could drastically

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Op Dawn reduced drug trafficking in '24

97 drug peddlers arrested & over 7.9 kg drugs seized: SP

NAHARLAGUN, Jan 04: Naharlagun Police achieved significant milestones in combating drug-related offenses and reduced crimes in 2024, which recorded a remarkable surge in crimes under the NDPS Act 2024 with registration of total 41 cases, arrest of 97 drug and seizure of 7,912.73 gm contraband substances seized, a substantial improvement in comparison to 2023, which had seen 18 cases, 41 arrests, and seizure of 707.89 gm of contraband substances according to SP Mihin Gambo.

The ongoing Operation Dawn contributed to a 43% reduction in theft and burglary cases in 2024, with 152 cases registered compared to 263 in 2023. A major contributing factor to this decline was focus on drug-related crimes, as many thefts and burglaries were previously committed by individuals



battling with drug addiction.

Under Operation Dawn, the police conducted extensive awareness campaigns in colleges, schools and rehabilitation centers, which had motivated large number of addicts to undergo de-addiction treatment at rehabilitation centres to bring renewed hope to them and their families.

This Operation has not only curtailed supply of illicit drugs, but also saved countless youth from falling into

the trap and led to a significant decline in other crimes, particularly theft and burglary, to boost overall safety and security of Naharlagun and its adjoining areas, the SP said.

He lauded tireless efforts of below officers and their dedicated teams for ensuring the success of Operation Dawn, namely SDPO Rishi Longdo, PS OCs Insp Krishnendu Dev (Naharlagun), Insp Torun Mai (Papu Hills), Insp T.M. Nekam (Nirjuli) & Insp Kipa Hamak (Banderdewa), whose collective efforts had played a pivotal role in improving law and order situation.

Pointing out that unwavering support and cooperation of the residents catapulted the success, SP Gambo sought their continued active involvement in Operation Dawn 2.0 for a safer and brighter and crime free 2025.

Joint police teams rescue trafficked Assamese minor girl

By A O News Service
ITANAGAR, Jan 04: A minor girl, allegedly sold for Rs two lakh in a suspected human trafficking case, was rescued in a joint operation by Assam's Tinsukia district police and Itanagar Women Police Station (WPS) here.

The operation was conducted in connection with a Tinsukia police station case registered under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), according to Capital SP Rohit Rajbir Singh.

The rescue team, comprising officers of Tinsukia and WPS, found the girl, say Rita, at the residence of

a woman named Chello Aaw in Lobby here.

After the rescue, the SP said the minor was taken for a medical examination, where her health was confirmed to be stable. The case began on December 26 last, when she and her cousin Riya were reportedly intercepted by their aunt Sunita Bumis, while returning home from school.

The aunt allegedly took the girls to Banderdewa, purchased new clothes for them and later separated them. Riya was reportedly handed over to an unidentified person, while Rita was taken to Itanagar and alleged-

edly sold for Rs 2 lakh, the SP said.

Efforts to trace the minor and apprehend all individuals involved in the trafficking network are on, he said, adding investigations have been intensified to uncover the entire episode.

Lauding the swift action by the teams, he issued a warning to Capital Complex residents against employing minors as domestic help, which is punishable under the law. Singh also stressed the importance of police verification for hiring domestic workers to avoid potential fraud and exploitation.

700-kg rhino calf trapped in swamp rescued



NEW DELHI, Jan 04: In a display of commitment to wildlife conservation, forest officials embarked on a difficult mission to save a rhinoceros calf that got trapped in a swamp in Assam. Weighing some 700-kg, the calf, after being

rescued from the swamp, was carefully placed on a wooden plank and carried to safety on the rescuers' shoulders.

A video shared, shared by an IFS officer @ Parveen Kaswan/X showed a glimpse of the

heroic effort with caption, "This is a video of August last when a rhino calf weighing 600-700-kg was rescued by lifting on shoulders by our teams. Sometimes this is what conservation looks like."

The video shows the rhino calf seen stuck in the swamp and trying to get out and a team of forest officials later rescued it with perseverance and teamwork as they navigate difficult terrain, throwing light on the physical and emotional challenges of protecting wildlife that

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Surviving in -70°C temperature in Afghanistan's coldest Khash village



By Ebrahim Danish
KABUL, Jan 04: A shepherd's family is cooking food in Khash village in Khash Rod district of Nimroz Province in western Afghanistan, located on Baba mountains at an altitude of 5,400-metre above the sea level along the Khash Rud

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National meet of ministers

Wangsu: Reform agri sector, make CSS fund criteria Arunachal-specific



tunities of this Himalayan state and outlined reforms

needed to promote sustainable agricultural develop-

Wangsu- a trend setter

By Pradeep Kumar
ITANAGAR: Kanubari MLA Wangsu, Assam Sahitya Sabha's Harihar Choudhury Award-1990 winner, AIR announcer and multi-lingual sports commentator par excellence and journalist turned politician, is a trend setter for the state.

He is the only state lawmaker to translate former President Dr A P J Abdul Kamal conceived Provision of Urban Amenities to Rural Areas (PURA) to provide all facilities to hilly people by relocating them to lower reaches by offering them means of gainful livelihood to his innocent people.

In fact, he has achieved success by convincing his people living in higher reaches but in isolated locations without any facility. The mission to provide gainful means of livelihood continues as Kanubari assembly constituency has over 20,000 population, who faces problems of peculiar nature which could be solved through innovative methods alone.

The lawmaker has given a new definition to development in remote hilly areas through his innovative methods by turning PURA into a reality to give solace to his people, which I have highlighted many times in this daily many times.

Guwahati: Tai Ahom Yuva Parishad protests for ST status

GUWAHATI, Jan 04: The Tai Ahom Yuva Parishad Assam (TAIPA), an organization representing the Tai Ahom community, staged a protest near the Assam Secretariat in Guwahati on Friday. The community is demanding Scheduled Tribe (ST) status, a long-standing issue they believe has been neglected by political leaders.

A large number of protesters gathered in the vicinity, holding banners and raising slogans in support of their demands. To ensure the safety and security, police personnel were deployed in the area, maintaining law and order throughout the demonstration.

Speaking at the protest, Diganta Tamuli, President of the Tai Ahom Yuva Parishad, expressed frustration with

the political establishment.

“Since 2014, three Lok Sabha elections and two assembly elections have been held. They (BJP) came to power, but they didn’t fulfil their promise of providing ST status to our community,” Tamuli said.

He continued to voice strong discontent with the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

“If they will not give ST status, then this year will not be suitable for BJP,” Tamuli added.

He further said that the community would intensify their efforts by holding “rail blockades, national highway blockades, and economic blockades” until their demand are fulfilled.

Tamuli continued, “I assure Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma that after ne-

glecting the promises made, he will not retain the position of CM in 2025.”

Meanwhile, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday inaugurated the Museum of Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council (RHAC) at Udaypur in Dudhnoi in Assam’s Goalpara district to celebrate and showcase the rich culture and customs of the Rabha community.

The project worth Rs 1.80 crore aims to preserve the arts, artefacts, costumes and traditions of the Rabha people. Additionally, an e-library was dedicated to the public, providing access to a wide range of books from around the world at the click of a mouse, the Chief Minister’s Office (CMO) said in a post on X.

These initiatives are ex-

pected to enrich the cultural heritage and expedite the socio-economic and cultural development of the Rabha community, the post added.

He also paid tribute to King Veer Parshuram, who ‘saved the motherland from invaders.’

In a post X, he said, “There are many brave sons in the history of Assam who saved the motherland from invaders. King Veer Parshuram of the Rabha community faced the Mughal Empire with his limited army and immense bravery.”

“Due to leftist ideology, the history of this brave son of Assam was suppressed, but today our government has tried to give him due respect by building a memorial,” he added. (Agency)

Northeast Railway prepares 80 special coaches for Prayagraj Maha Kumbh

GORAKHPUR, Jan 04: In preparation for the upcoming Prayagraj Mahakumbh, the North Eastern Railway (NER) has equipped 80 train coaches with unique Mahakumbh-themed designs to enhance the travel experience of pilgrims.

These coaches, prepared at the Gorakhpur Mechanical Workshop, will form four rakes and operate as “Mahakumbh Special Trains,” creating a vibrant visual spectacle for passengers traveling to the spiritual event.

NER Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO), Pankaj Kumar Singh, shared that the railway has completed extensive arrangements for the Mahakumbh. Two key stations in the mela area, Jhusi and Rambagh, have been upgraded with enhanced passenger security measures, expanded waiting

halls, and other essential facilities to accommodate the expected influx of devotees.

Highlighting the unique initiative, Singh said, “We have designed some coaches with vinyl paintings that depict glimpses of the Mahakumbh. This initiative aims to give travelers a sense of the event’s grandeur while also spreading awareness about the important bathing dates and cultural significance of the Mahakumbh.”

In addition to the Mahakumbh special coaches, Indian Railways has announced plans to operate over 3,000 special trains during the event to manage the anticipated rush of pilgrims. Notifications for these special services are being issued, ensuring passengers have timely updates on travel options.

Meanwhile, an atmosphere of spiritual fervour and devotion has filled the air in Prayagraj as the much-awaited Maha Kumbh Mela draws near.

In preparation for the event, various Akharas on Saturday took out a grand Shobha Yatra before entering the Maha Kumbh camp. The procession was a vibrant display of devotion, with sadhus smeared in holy ash, adorned with garlands, and riding horses.

One of the prominent Akharas in the procession was the Niranjani Akhara led by the Acharya of Niranjani Akhara who was seated atop an open-top vehicle. Several other sadhus, carrying the flags of the Akhara, walked alongside. Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti was also part of the procession.

Huge crowds lined the route, eagerly seeking a

glimpse of the revered sadhus, while flowers were showered in a display of reverence and celebration. Niranjani Akhara is known for its focus on yoga, meditation, and the search for spiritual wisdom.

Speaking to ANI, former Union Minister Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti urged people to visit the Maha Kumbh Mela.

“Today, the Panchayati Akhara Shri Niranjani is entering this Maha Kumbh area, and as you can see, there is not a single street where devotees are not gathered. This is the uniqueness of Bharat. Sanatan Dharma is that which unites everyone. This Maha Kumbh will be even grander and more divine than the one in 2019. I appeal to the people of the country to come and witness this moment.” (Agency)

Rijiju offers 'chadar' at Ajmer dargah on PM's behalf reads out Modi's message

AJMER, Jan 04: Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Saturday offered a ceremonial 'chadar' sent by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Ajmer dargah on the 'Urs' of Sufi saint Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti and read out the prime minister's message which called on people from across religions to work together in harmony.

Khadim (caretaker) Afshan Chisti offered prayers on behalf of the prime minister at the shrine.

Rijiju said in different periods in India, various saints and fakirs went among the people and illuminated their lives and left their indelible mark with the message of humanity.

“One of them, Khwaja Garib Nawaz, played an important role in increasing love and harmony in the society. His ideals dedicated to peace and brotherhood will continue to inspire generations. It will continue to inspire to do everything possible for the creation of a strong country and society,” he said while reading out Modi’s message.

The minister also launched a web portal of the dargah, the ‘Garib Nawaz’ app for pilgrims and an operations manual for the conduct of ‘Urs’.

On the web portal and app, devotees will get detailed information about the life of Khwaja Saheb as well as his teachings.

Talking to reporters later, Rijiju said the message of brotherhood and peace goes from the dargah of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti to the entire country and the world.



Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti is also known as Garib Nawaz.

“Today I have come to the dargah with Prime Minister Modi’s ‘chadar’. I have had the good fortune of coming here to Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti Dargah. I prayed for peace,” Rijiju said after offering the ‘chadar’.

“The message from Ajmer Dargah goes to the whole world. Along with presenting the prime minister’s ‘chadar’, I read out his message,” he said.

The prime minister has been annually sending a ‘chadar’ to the dargah.

In his message, the prime minister mentions that every sect and every religion should come together and work together for the country, society and world peace, the minister said.

Lakhs of people come here and they should get a chance to offer prayers peacefully, especially the elderly, women and children, he said.

“There should be a system for that. A manual has been launched for that and I will try to provide all pos-

sible help from my ministry to improve the system,” Rijiju said.

“Come here and feel how much impact the dargah has on our lives,” he added.

“While offering the chadar sent by the prime minister, I have prayed that all the people in our country live in peace and friendship and contribute to the progress of the country,” he said.

Minister of State and MP from Rajasthan Bhagirath Chaudhary, Dargah Deewan Zainul Abedin Ali Khan’s son Nasruddin Chishti, representatives from the dargah committee and khadims were present on the occasion.

Elaborate security arrangements were made for the visit of the minister, who took a flight to Jaipur and then proceeded to Ajmer by road. He was received by the BJP’s state minority morcha leaders at the airport.

“On this auspicious occasion of Urs, we want that a good atmosphere should be created in the country. No one should do anything that can affect the harmony

of our country,” Rijiju told reporters at the airport.

Be it a Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Christian, Parsi, Buddhist or Jain, everyone is welcome at the dargah, he said.

Asked about a petition in a local court claiming that the dargah has been built over a Shiva temple, Rijiju said, “I have just come to offer ‘chadar’. I have not come here to show or tell anyone, I am going with the message (of PM) for the country that all the people in our country should stay well.”

In November, a court in Ajmer admitted a petition claiming the dargah was built over a Shiva temple and issued notices to the Ajmer dargah committee, the Ministry of Minority Affairs and the Archaeological Survey of India.

Hindu Sena president Vishnu Gupta, who filed the petition, had called on the prime minister not to send a ‘chadar’ this time.

‘Urs’ is held at the Ajmer Dargah to commemorate the death anniversary of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti. (Agency)

India to...

From P.I... disrupt the river’s water flow, sparking a potential water crisis for millions downstream.

Already fraught with territorial disputes, the prospect of China exerting control over one of Asia’s largest rivers has added fuel to an already fragile relationship with India. In its first reaction to the proposed dam, New Delhi urged Beijing to ensure that the interests of downstream states of the Brahmaputra are not harmed by activities in upstream areas.

“We will continue to monitor and take necessary measures to protect our interests,” External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

There have been apprehensions that the dam will have adverse impact on Arunachal Pradesh and Assam.

“As a lower riparian state with established user rights to the waters of the river, we have consistently expressed, through expert-level as well as diplomatic channels, our views and concerns to the Chinese side over mega projects on rivers in their territory,” Jaiswal said.

“These have been reiterated, along with the need for transparency and consultation with downstream countries, following the latest report,” he said.

“The Chinese side has been urged to ensure that the interests of downstream states of the Brahmaputra are not harmed by activities in upstream areas,” he added. (Agency)

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700-kg rhino...

From P.I... drew the attention of the viewers as the video went viral..

Several viewers commented, one writing “This reminds the cutest book o NBT that told a similar story of rescuing a rhino mumma!” Another user wrote, “*Mata prakriti ki sewa kar rhe h ap sab.* Chitragupt Maharaj *avashya sangyan lenge. Ap sabka Kalyan ho.*” Third user wrote, “calf weighing 600-700kgs? Nature , you beauty kudos to the team for putting this mammoth of effort in rescuing the calf ..”

Fourth comment reads, “What an effort it takes to rescue such huge wildlife species.. glad u share such real stories...forests n forest conservation is a serious profession actually and passion n care never fades here if u enjoy doing this .. excellent efforts.” another comment says, “Hoeray for the team.” The video recorded 473K followers. (Agency)

AONS adds: The Indian rhinoceros or greater one-horned rhinoceros, (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) with a single horn of 20 to 60 cm long and grown males are larger than females in the wild, weighing from 2,500–3,200 kg. Indian rhinos once inhabited many areas ranging from Pakistan to Myanmar and parts of China.

Poachers kill them for their horns, which are bought and sold in black market for high prices for which the species is considered endangered. Thus, their population has reduced and are found in only several protected areas of India’s Assam, West Bengal, a few pairs in UP, in Nepal, pair in Pakistan’s Lal Suhanara National Park reintroduced from Nepal. They are confined to the tall grasslands and forests in the foothills of the Himalayas. Two-thirds of the world’s Indian rhinoceroses are now confined to Kaziranga National Park in Golaghat district in Assam.

Assam Police seize Codeine-based cough syrup worth Rs 2 cr in Cachar

CACHAR, Jan 04: Assam Police seized 11,100 bottles of Codeine-based cough syrup worth Rs two crore from a vehicle near Damcherra in the Cachar district of the state on Friday.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said in a post on X that Cachar Police conducted the anti-narcotics operation based on credible intelligence.

“Based on credible intelligence, an anti-narcotics operation was conducted by @CacharPolice near Damcherra where a vehicle transporting illegal substances was intercepted. Upon thorough search, 11,100 bottles of Codeine-based cough syrup valued at Rs2cr were recovered. Commendable efforts by @assampolice,” Sarma wrote on X.

Sarma on Wednesday said in an interaction with the media at State Guest House, Koinaldhara in Guwahati that, in 2024, police seized 183 kg of heroin and other drugs worth Rs 682.44 crore.

“In 2021, police seized drugs worth Rs 420.17 crore, drugs worth Rs 784.55 crore in 2022, drugs worth Rs 742.09 crore in 2023 and drugs worth Rs 682.44 crore seized last year,” CM Sarma said.

Last year police seized 22,776

kg of ganja, 114 kg of opium, 33.07 lakh psychotropic substance tablets, 14 kg of morphine, and 2.30 lakh cough syrup bottles.

Assam police arrested 5059 persons and registered 3,287 cases across the state in the year 2024.

On the other hand, continuing its drive against Child Marriage in the state, police arrested 5,978 persons and registered 6,361 cases across the state during the period from 2021 to 2024.

The Assam Chief Minister said that, during the period, police filed charge sheets in 5,577 cases.”In 2023, police arrested 4927 persons and 641 persons in 2024 during its drive against Child Marriage in the state,” CM Sarma said.

The Assam Chief Minister also said that the state has witnessed a reduction in crime in the year 2024.”In 2021, a total of 1,33,239 cases of crime were registered and in 2024 the case numbers have come down to 49,966. In 2021, the crime rate (per lakh population) in the state was 379 and it has now come down to 139.2. Similarly, crime against women, crime against SC/ST has also reduced,” the Assam Chief Minister said. (Agency)

Wangsu: Reform agri sector ...

From P.I... (per drop more crop) scheme, he proposed reducing contribution from 45% to 15% to make the micro-irrigation programme more accessible, especially for small and marginal farmers.

He also drew attention to strategic importance of the state located along Sino-India border and advocated separate financial allocation under Vibrant Village Programme (VVP) to ensure holistic agricultural development in all remote and sensitive areas.

Highlighting growing human-animal conflicts in the state posing serious challenges to agriculture and livelihoods, he advocated an integrated policy that combines land-use planning, agricultural strategies and wildlife conservation to promote harmonious coexistence between humans and wildlife.

Recognizing the potential of tuber crops, like sweet potatoes, yams and tapioca, he highlighted their importance in diets and economies of indigenous communities. He called for targeted efforts to promote their production, value addition and marketing to enhance food security and economic resilience of the tribal communities.

In horticulture sector, Wangsu expressed concerns over administrative delays caused by merging of key schemes under Krishonnati Yojana. He proposed granting functional autonomy to horticulture division to expedite implementation of schemes and ensure the sector’s growth. He also recommended a separate cluster development programme (CDP) for NE and Himalayan states, considering their unique geographical and demographic constraints.

He concluded by stressing the need for enhanced financial allocations for horticulture sector, which holds immense ecological and economic potential for his state. “The horticulture growth is not just an economic necessity but an ecological imperative for our state,” he remarked.

The conference ahead of the budget session, attended by central and state Govts’ secretaries and senior officer, aimed at seeking feedbacks on perspectives of the ministers on advancing agricultural policies and practices. (PRO)

Surviving in -70°C temperature in...

From P.I... River, 121-km southeast of Farah city, capital of Farah Province, the coldest village where temperature goes below -70°C.

Sheep and goats are important source of food and income for most households in the zone. Better-off households typically slaughter according to need whereas the poor slaughter before the onset of the winter, preserving fodder stock until the next harvest as herd size thins. Despite the hardship shepherds struggle to survive as seen in the picture. Milk is consumed when production peaks from March until August and krut, dried yogurt, is consumed throughout the year. Market access throughout the zone is good.

“Today I have traveled into the most remote and coldest village of Afghanistan where a Shepherd family cooking organic village style food in a frozen desert,” he wrote five days ago.

Life goes on to justify “Survival of the fittest”, an idiom that describes the process of nature’s selection in Darwinian evolutionary theory.

GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER WATER RESOURCE DIVISION – DAPORIJO		
No. DWRD/DEPOSIT/NIT-02/2024-25		Dated 29 th Dec 2024
CORRIGENDUM		
With referenced to the earlier NIT vide No. DWRD/Deposit/NIT-02/2024-25 published on 29/12/2024 under Water Resources Division Daporijo, it he hereby notify that the last date and time for submission of Tender and date of Bid opening is extended from 05/01/2025 to 07/01/2025 in view of local holiday.		
DIPR/ARN/002163/2024		Sd/- Executive Engineer WRD Daporijo

PUBLIC UTILITY				
Route	Departure	Schedule	Distance (KM)	Fare
NIGHT SERVICES				
Itanagar-Shillong	4.00 pm	Daily	516	550/-
Ita/Nlg-Daporijo	12 noon	Daily	399	560/-
Itanagar-Khonsa	1.00 pm	Monday & Thursday	677	740/-
Itanagar-Namsai	1.00 pm	Daily	655	690/-
Itanagar-Bomdila	4.30 pm	Daily	350	420/-
Itanagar-Aalo	2.30 pm	Daily	325	420/-
Itanagar-Dimapur	3.00 pm	Daily	460	460/-
Itanagar-Liromoba/Kamba	1.00 pm	Daily	350	460/-
DAY SERVICE				
Itanagar-Guwahati	6.00 am	Daily	395	420/-
Itanagar-Pasighat	6.00 am	Daily	270	300/-
Itanagar-Pasighat	11.00 am	Daily	270	300/-
Itanagar-Aalo	6.00 am	Daily	325	420/-
Itanagar-Lilabari	3.30 pm	Daily(Except Sunday)	80	220/-
Itanagr-Bomdila	6.00 am	Alternate day (Except Thursday)	350	420/-
Itanagar-Jote	6 am &	Daily (Except Sunday)	30	60/-
	12 noon			
Naharlagun-Leporiang	7.00 am	Alternate day (Except Saturday)	145	240/-
Nlg-Pakke-Kessang	6.00 am	Alternate day (Except Sunday)	165	270/-
Naharlagun-Sonajuli	11.00 am	Daily(Except Sunday)	43	100/-
Naharlagun-Balijan	1.00 pm	Daily(Except Sunday)	87	110/-
Naharlagun-Hawa camp	12 noon	Daily(Except Saturday)	78	120/-
Naharlagun-Kakoi	1.00 pm	Daily(Except Sunday)	85	140/-
Naharlagun-Gohamukh	1.00 pm	Daily(Except Friday)	134	160/-
Itanagar-Roing (Sumo)	6 AM	Daily	-	1000/-
Itanagar-Koloriang(Sumo)	6 AM	Daily	372	550/-

ENQUIRY/CONTACT NOS.-
1. Itanagar Counter (9774034571 / 8729868842)
2. Naharlagun Counter (03602351490)

"AAP has become Khas Aadmi Party": Former Delhi govt minister and BJP candidate Kailash Gahlot

NEW DELHI, Jan 04: Claiming that people of Delhi have been “cheated a lot”, BJP candidate from Bijwasan Assembly constituency Kailash Gahlot on Saturday said that Aam Aadmi Party has forgotten the common man and has become ‘Khas Aadmi Party’.

He also thanked the BJP top leadership for giving him the opportunity to contest the Delhi assembly elections.

“I thank the central leadership, PM Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Delhi BJP President for giving me the opportunity to contest elections from here... The people of Delhi have been cheated a lot. The Aam Aadmi Party which used to say that we will work for the common man, has forgotten the common man and has become ‘Khas Aadmi Party’..

He further said that “no government can work” in Delhi without taking the Center and the Lieutenant Governor along. (Agency)

“We have to take everyone along in Delhi, only the BJP can do development in Delhi,” he added.

Saurabh Chaudhary, Varun Tomar enter air pistol final at shooting nationals

NEW DELHI, Jan 04: Former world No 1 Saurabh Chaudhary and multiple international medallist Varun Tomar were among the marksmen to enter the final of the men's 10m air pistol competition in the National Shooting Championship, here on Saturday.

Representing Railways, Saurabh will be vying for the title with Army man Varun at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting range on Sunday.

At the end of the qualifications, no shooter could overhaul Saurabh's national record of 591, which he shot a few days earlier.

Varun shot 585 to finish third among the 1,339 shooters who finished their qualification rounds. The Army marksman was among three shooters including teammate Pradhyumn Singh and Haryana's Parmod to make it to both the senior and junior finals.

The men's final will see three Army shooters — Parmod, Mayank Choudhary and Aakash Bhardwaj — line up alongside Saurabh.

Gagandeep will be the only shooter from Punjab to make the finals with his 582 giving him the qualifications spot. (Agency)

Esports in Asian Youth Games will bolster its growth, says ESFI

NEW DELHI, Jan 04: The inclusion of esports as a medal event in the third edition of the Asian Youth Games will bolster its growth, said the Esports Federation of India (ESFI) here on Saturday.

The Olympic Council of Asia has decided to include esports as a medal event for the first time ever in the upcoming edition of the games, to be held in Bahrain from October 22-31 later this year.

Esports players will thus compete alongside competitors in 20 other sports across 45 member countries within the age group of 14-17 years.

"The Asian Youth Games is another prestigious platform which has now recognised Esports as a

competitive discipline," said Lokesh Suji, ESFI director and vice president of the Asian Esports Federation in a statement.

"With Esports already being part of Asian Games as a medal sport, this move will pave the way for greater opportunities and support for grassroots and talent identification of esports athlete and help to build a holistic esports ecosystem for competitive gaming," he added.

Indian players have recorded success in esports, finishing fifth in the 2022 Asian Games, a silver medal finish in Tekken 8 at BRICS Esports and a bronze medal in eFootball at the Asian Esports Games last year. (Agency)

Spanish league again denies Barcelona's request to register Olmo

MADRID, Jan 04: The Spanish league and Spain's soccer federation on Saturday again denied Barcelona's request to register Dani Olmo and Pau Víctor for the rest of the season.

The players were only registered through the end of 2024 and Barcelona failed to meet the league's financial fair-play rules by the end-of-the-year deadline.

The league and the federation said in a joint statement that even though Barcelona eventually was able to meet the salary-cap rules, the players can't be registered again after already having been dropped because of the missed deadline.

Coach Hansi Flick said Friday he was "not happy" with the situation but had

expressed confidence in the club to have the players registered. He spoke ahead of the team's Copa del Rey match against fourth-division club Barbastro on Saturday.

Barcelona could still try to go to the courts to register the players, though its previous attempts were all rejected.

Barcelona argued that the deadline for registering new players should be at the end of January, when the transfer windows closes, and not the end of December as the league currently requires.

Barcelona was able to finally increase its salary cap after reportedly receiving a payment on Friday of 100 million euros (\$103 million) for VIP seats at the renovated Camp Nou stadium.

YMCR & Capital Police clean up Yagamso River



ITANAGAR, Jan 04: A massive cleanup drive, organized by Youth Mission for Clean River (YMCR) in collaboration with Capital Police under their 'Police Aijin' initiative, was conducted at Yagamso River in C-2 sector here on Saturday leading to removal of a staggering 12.96 tonnes of garbage.

The event, witnessed en-

thusiastic participation of local community, including Colony Welfare Committee (CWC) members, Ward 10 IMC corporator, ward members and a large contingent of women cops.

Supported by Itanagar Smart City Development Corporation Limited and AMMS, it saw participation of over 200 volunteers, including police personnel,

BHUBANESWAR, Jan 04: Brison Fernandes bagged his second successive brace as visitors FC Goa notched a 4-2 victory over Odisha FC in their Indian Super League match here on Saturday.

The Gaurs are third in the table with 25 points now, having extended their unbeaten streak in away matches to seven games, with Manolo Marquez winning his maiden ISL game on the road against a side coached by Sergio Lobera.

Odisha FC are now winless in their 11 face-offs in the league with the Gaurs.

Brison (8th, 53rd), who scored twice in a match for the second straight time, kicked off the game strongly for the visitors, as he combined with Iker Guarrotxena inside the box to pounce upon the Odisha FC backline that had given them ample space to attempt a shot right through the centre.

Iker got the ball inside the box but lost possession to Mourtada Fall. The Odisha FC defender took a heavy touch, resulting in the ball landing in Brison's path.



The FC Goa player controlled the ball with his chest, before getting it down and drilling it into the bottom right corner to open the scoring in the eighth minute.

The Juggernauts struck back with Jerry Lalrinzuala drawing a foul inside the penalty box. This was Jerry's 150 appearance in the ISL, making him only the 10th player to do so in the league.

His effort yielded immediate returns for the Juggernauts.

Ahmed Jahouh stepped up on the spot, pulling off a panenka style penalty, which hit the high centre of the goal, completely catching goalkeeper Hrithik Tiwari off-guard and equalising the scores in the 29th minute.

FC Goa regained their lead in the added time of the first half. It came as a result of a piercing move by the Gaurs, with Iker again playing an indirect role in the goal. He cut into the inside channel of the left flank,

pulling the entire attention of the Odisha FC defensive unit.

His shot was thus obstructed, but the home side didn't clear it properly, with the ball landing in Udanta Singh's feet on the right flank. He nestled it into the bottom right corner with absolute ease, following an impeccable touch to control the ball.

The Gaurs added to their tally with a solo effort in the 53rd minute. It was a move that didn't require signifi-

cant build-up. Brison simply received the ball from defender Sandesh Jhingan as the team looked to break forward.

Brison turned around and showed quick footwork before shooting the ball into the top right corner from the outside of the box, bagging his brace.

FC Goa capitalised on this momentum, with their front-line momentarily assuming a free-flowing role to exploit further openings in the Odisha FC defence.

Iker switched to the right, and as had been the case earlier in the match, drew multiple Odisha FC players towards him inside the box. He tried sending in a cross for the unmarked Brison on the opposite end, but the delivery was sent inside the net by Amey Ranawade in the 56th minute, resulting in an own goal in the name of the defender.

Odisha FC grabbed their second goal of the game through a header by Jerry Mawihmingthanga, who converted a cross by Thoiba Singh from the left side of the six-yard box. (Agency)

National Tako Powerlifting Champ-2025 Barman becomes champ, wins laurels for NE India



By A O News Service
ITANAGAR, Jan 04: One Upam Barman (Biku), 23, has emerged as junior champion in 67.5-kg weight category in National Tako Powerlifting Championship-2025, conducted at Noida recently by Indian branch of World Powerlifting Congress (WPC) to win laurels for NE India.

He lifted total 460-kg (squat-165, bench-105 and deadlift-190) to become the topper as certified by WPC Indian branch president Daljit Singh.

Barman, son of GoAP's retired UDC Dibakar Barman and LDC Saraswati Barman, was given a warm

welcome by family members and friends at Harmoti on his arrival from New Delhi on Saturday, family sources told this daily.

While talking to this daily over telephone, Baman said, "I committed uncounted mistakes in 2023, became depressed and repented for all failures. But during my first state meet in 2024, I met Rahul Gogoi, who became my coach, developed self-confidence in me to prove myself that changed my life," he said.

"But I went to Mumbai as a personal trainer, continued taking online coaching from the coach, but realized not tapping my full potential. I quit the job, left behind

everything, and returned home to be trained by him personally. I soon learnt the purpose of powerlifting as he changed my mindset, taught me to master over every small step and refine my techniques to achieve the feat".

"But my journey would have been incomplete without the unwavering support of my family, particularly brother as a silent strength, who stood behind always to encourage me to chase my dreams," he said, adding "This is just the beginning of my journey. I have to lift not just weights, but myself to where I always meant to be to make all proud."

Devajit Saikia set to take over as BCCI secretary, Prabhtej Bhatia likely to become treasurer

MUMBAI, Jan 04: Devajit Saikia on Saturday filed his nomination for the post of the BCCI secretary whereas Prabhtej Bhatia applied for the post of the treasurer, with both officials being the only applicants for the two roles.

Chhattisgarh State Cricket Sangh's Bhatia has applied for the treasurer's position after the post was left vacant by the exit of Ashish Shelar, who recently took oath as a cabinet minister in the Maharashtra government.

On the other hand, Saikia

has been working as the interim secretary of the Indian cricket board since Jay Shah took over as the ICC chairman on December 1.

Saikia was nominated as the interim secretary by the BCCI president Roger Bonny after Shah had left the role.

As per the election schedule on the board's website, the window to file the nomination application was open till 4:00pm on Saturday afternoon and according to sources, only Saikia and Bhatia have put forth their nominations. (Agency)

Ryan Rickelton smashes South Africa's first World Test Championship double ton

CAPE TOWN, Jan 04: Left-handed batter Ryan Rickelton made history on Saturday, hitting South Africa's first-ever double-century in the ICC World Test Championship (WTC).

The 28-year-old achieved this accomplishment during the second Test against Pakistan at Cape Town's Newlands Stadium.

During his innings, Rickelton made 259 in 343 balls. His knock was laced with 29 fours and three sixes. His runs came at a strike rate of 75.51, which is the highest strike rate by a South African batter in a knock of 250-plus runs, outdoing Graeme Smith's knock of 277 in 373 balls against England

in 2003, which came at a strike rate of 74.26.

South Africa's previous highest score in the ICC World Test Championship was a knock of 199 by Faf du Plessis against Sri Lanka in 2020 at Centurion.

Also, this is the first double century by a South African batter in Tests while playing as an opener for the first time ever and only the fourth instance of such an innings, with previous being: Devon Conway (200 against England at Lord's in 2021 for New Zealand), Graeme Smith (200 against Bangladesh in 2002), Sri Lanka's Brendon Kuruppu (201* against New Zealand at Colombo in 1987). (Agency)

WFFI to hold international football tourneys with France player: Sharma



NEW DELHI, Jan 04: France footballer Marlin, associated with many international NGOs with her interpreter Ethylene met Women Football Federation of India (WFFI) president Mukesh Sharma in his office here on Saturday and had threadbare discussion on holding international women football tournaments with few countries.

Showing keen interest in such initiative, she said that she has contacts with team

managers of 9 to 10 countries, who could be invited to India for tournaments. Appreciating her voluntary move, Sharma said that it could be a global football tournament exchange programme to which she consented.

Earlier during the day, Sharma along with central coordination committee chairman Rajesh Singh Rajput had a fruitful discussion with a group of sports enthusiasts led by industri-

AAI NE SCB would host AIIZCT from January 6

GUWAHATI, Jan 04: The NE region Airport Authority of India (AAI) its New Delhi-based central Sports Control Board (SCB) would conduct five-day All India Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament (AIIZCT)- 2024-25 here from January 6 to boost sports culture among its officials.

The tournament involving six AAI regional teams arriving here on Sunday would play in 16 matches. AAI NE regional executive director Raja Kishore, as chief guest, would inaugurate the tournament at Judges Field here at 7:30 AM on January 6. (PRO)

Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers crush Delhi SG Pipers 4-1 in HIL

ROURKELA, Jan 04: Jugraj Singh scored a brace as Shachi Rarh Bengal Tigers defeated Delhi SG Pipers 4-1 and took the top spot in the points table of the Hockey India League here on Saturday.

Delhi thus suffered their first outright defeat in the competition as they had earlier won one game in the penalty shootout and lost the second.

Jugraj (17th, 38th) converted two penalty corners while Sukhjeet Singh (1st) and Abhishek (47th) struck from field play for Bengal Tigers for their third straight win in the competition.

Garth Furlong scored the only goal for Delhi from a penalty corner in the 53rd minute.

Sukhjeet put Bengal Tigers ahead inside the first 30 seconds to push Delhi on the backfoot. Having gained the upper hand, Bengal Tigers remained dominant to not allow Delhi any scope of a comeback in the first quarter.

Even though Delhi SG Pipers had more circle penetrations, they failed to get a shot on target.

Two minutes into the second quarter, Jugraj doubled Bengal's lead with a powerful dragflick from a penalty corner.

Delhi too had their chances when in the 22nd minute Bengal goalkeeper Jamie Carr made four saves on the trot to keep his side's lead intact.

In the 27th minute, Tomas Domene came close to scoring for Delhi but his deflection from a narrow angle went just outside the goalpost as Bengal went into the break leading 2-0.

Jugraj scored his second goal of the day eight minutes after the change of ends, once again converting a penalty corner to the right of Delhi goalkeeper Pawan.

Two minutes into the final quarter, an unmarked Abhishek scored an easy tap-in goal to make the scoreline 4-0 in Bengal Tigers favour. (Agency)