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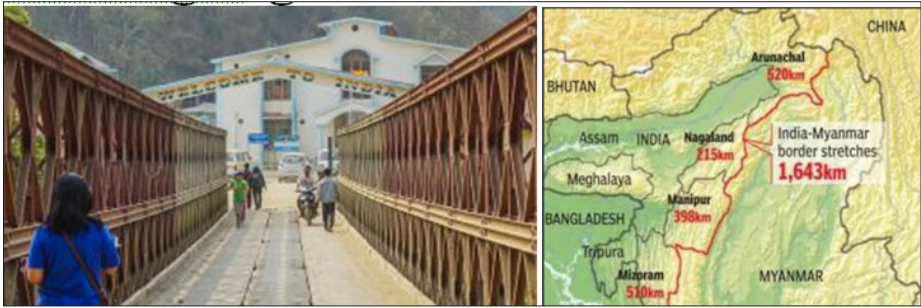
FRM scrapped for challenges galore

NEW DELHI, Feb 15: A year ago, India decided to scrap the Free Movement Regime (FMR) along the border with Myanmar, a unique feature of India-Myanmar border, was meant to allow people from other side of the border to enter up to 16-km into Indian territory without a visa.

The FMR ensured that the familial bonds of the border communities were recognized and respected and traditional trade routes of mostly the informal economy in the borderlands, were also maintained even though there had been concerns over exploitation of FMR by insurgent groups.

Over the years, the FMR also played its part in India's larger geostrategic plan for greater engagement with the Southeast Asian region. Myanmar provided the immediate border and a gateway to the ASEAN countries for India. Hence, the border played a critical role in India's Act East Policy (AEP) which is meant to balance the influence of its Asian competitor China, in the region.

The kinship between the people on either sides of the border – from Chin State in Myanmar and the Mizos and Kukis in Mizoram and



Manipur in India – is an important component in India's eastward focus. The crossborder relationships of locals in the border area make it difficult to dismiss them from the larger policy dynamics, whether bilateral or geopolitical. This makes it important to understand the role that the FMR played in the everyday lives of the border community and its importance to foreign policy measures like the AEP.

In February 2024, Ministry of Home Affairs had announced scrapping the FMR scheme ahead of India's national election, three years after thousands of people from Chin State in Myanmar fled to Indian states of Mizoram and Manipur in the aftermath of a military coup.

The close ethnic, linguistic and familial bond between the people from Chin State and the Mizos and

Kukis in Mizoram and Manipur, respectively, allowed those who fled the military junta in Myanmar an option to seek shelter in India. Safe passage was also possible because the FMR allowed them to enter up to 16-km into Indian Territory.

However, India is not a signatory to the U.N. Convention on Refugees, so the national Govt directed the state Govts to prevent the flow of people and record the biometrics of those who were already in India.

While Mizoram Govt refused the GoI's order to capture the biometrics of the refugees and was welcoming of the refugees by providing food, shelter, healthcare and education, Manipur Govt took a restrictive stance and started deporting the refugees despite the GoI's reassurance that deportation would not happen until normalcy was restored in Myanmar.

Manipur Govt also held meetings to push for construction of additional 70-km fencing along the Indo-Myanmar border, apart from establishing special teams, including civil and police nodal officers, to monitor and control influx of illegal migrants in its five districts bordering Myanmar.

Total refugees who have arrived in India from Myanmar since the coup is estimated at 78,731 with Mizoram reportedly recording highest number of 34,350. News reports also suggest that many people, especially men, have fled to India even after scrapping of FMR to avoid being recruited forcibly into ethnic armed groups, like Arakan Army.

India and Myanmar share 1,643-km-long border with Indian state of Manipur (398-km), Mizoram (510-km), Nagaland (215-km) and Arunachal

Contd. P.3

1st snowfall of 2025 disrupts life in Tawang

* Army recues 3 tourists stranded near PT Tso Lake



From Our Correspondent TAWANG, Feb 15: Tawang, located at 10,000-feet near the India-China border and Sela Pass at 13,700-feet have been experiencing unusually heavy and prolonged snowfall since February 11 evening. This extreme weather has disrupted essential services, including electricity, water supply and communication networks, making daily life difficult for residents as well as tourists.

The district administration (DA), in collaboration with the army and other organisations, has been actively monitoring the situation and coordinating emergency response efforts. Authorities have advised residents to take necessary precautions, avoid unnecessary travel, and stay updated with official advisories for their safe. After receiving first heavy snowfall, the DA has made use

of snow chains has been made mandatory for all commuters to avoid accidents.

Three tourists from Tripura, stranded for over eight hours near PT Tso Lake in the district due to heavy snowfall, were rescued by the Indian Army on last Tuesday night.

The trio had left for PT Tso Lake in the morning but got stuck in the heavy snowfall, which covered the high-altitude region by afternoon. When they tried to return, their motorbikes skidded on the ice and left them stranded in the extreme cold.

The road between Baisakhi and Tawang was fully covered in snow and commuters were advised to exercise extreme caution while driving. To ensure safety, snow chains were mandatory for all vehicles traveling to Tawang and divers were asked to take necessary precautions.

The first snowfall in Tawang typically marks the beginning of the winter season, attracting numerous tourists.

Although it was expected much earlier, in the last week of December 2024 and the early weeks of January 2025, the snowfall had disappointed locals and tourists who were eagerly hoping for a glimpse of snow-capped mountains and sparkling white landscapes. Finally, the long wait is over as snowfall embraced Tawang covering the district in a beautiful sheet of white.

The district administration (DA), however, issued safety guidelines for tourists to check the latest weather forecasts and road conditions, especially for high-altitude areas like Bumla Pass, Shongtser Lake, PT Tso and Sela Pass before planning a trip.

The tourists have been asked to equip their ve-

hicles with non-skid tire chains to handle snow-covered roads as precaution is crucial for safe travel in slippery conditions; those prone to or diagnosed with high-altitude sickness should avoid visiting elevated areas where conditions could exacerbate health issues; avoid frozen lakes which might seem like a scenic spot but could be treacherous and warned not to walk on the ice due to the risk of it breaking and in case of emergencies, follow the instructions of local authorities, tour guides or rescue teams.

These guidelines are part of a broader effort to balance the allure of Tawang's winter beauty with the safety of both tourists and locals. The DA often updates these guidelines based on current weather conditions to stay informed through official channels or local news.

Guv calls for organic tea cultivation

ITANAGAR, Feb 15: Governor Lt. General (Retd) K T Parnaik while interacting with small tea growers of the state at Raj Bhavan here on Saturday discussed strategies to promote tea industry and he stressed the need for organic tea cultivation for its sustainability and strong market demand.

While encouraging them to adopt natural farming practices to improve quality as consumers prefer eco-friendly and chemical-free products, he reaffirmed the GoAP's commitment to strengthen tea industry to make the state as a key player in organic tea market. He advised them to leverage both traditional and digital marketing strategies to develop a distinctive brand with an attractive logo, eco-friendly packaging and an appealing tagline.

Stressing the importance of branding, he encouraged them to share their experience, cultivation methods, and sustainability efforts through

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Pre-Nyokum Festival celebrated in Tirap



KHONSA, Feb 15: The Nyishi employees of Tirap district celebrated pre-Nyokum Festival, themed "Honoring Our Heritage & Fostering Unity Among Tribes" with great enthusiasm and traditional fervor here on Friday.

After greeting the organizers, Tirap DC Techu Aran recalled that during his tenure in East Kameng district HQs Seppa how local Nyishis, who were helpful nature, had reflected their commitment to preserve and promote their rich cultural heritage through such celebrations.

Stressing importance of continuity of cultural, he urged younger generation to learn and practice their

traditions as Nyishis are known for their attitude towards good people while standing firmly against negativity.

Tirap ZPC Chathong Lowang termed Nyokum as one of the most significant festivals of the state celebrated by the Nyishi community. She lauded Nyokum Organizing Committee (NOC) for bringing the vibrant culture to Khonsa in such a grand manner before greeting the community.

While narrating the mythology, NOC chairman-cum-ADC Tana Bapu said that Nyokum festival is deeply rooted in traditions of the community as the term Nyokum, means: Nyok (land or earth) and Kum

(collectiveness or togetherness), symbolizing invocation of spirit of forces in nature to ensure harmony, prosperity and well-being for all. A special structure made of bamboo called *yugang*, where animals are sacrificed by the village priest as rituals, he added.

NOC secretary-cum-PHE&WS EE Bharat Sonam lauded all for joining the festival to make the event vibrant and successful.

The celebration included vibrant cultural performances by artists from across the district by showcasing rich cultural heritage of the Nyishis to the thunderous applause of huge gathering. (DIPRO)

Oriah Festival greetings

ITANAGAR, Feb 15: Governor Lt. General (Retd) K.T. Parnaik has greeted Arunachal Pradesh people, Wancho brethren in particular, on joyous Oriah Festival and hoped that the festival would continue to rejuvenate the vibrant legacy of their ancestors. "I join my Wancho brethren in offering prayers to the almighty for peace, prosperity and the well-being of all", the governor said in his message. (PRO)

Mass cleanliness drive conducted

BAGRA, Feb 15: A mass cleanliness drive, themed 'Let's make villages beautiful (*Dolu em kaken be molaju*)', was conducted in Bagra circle of West Siang district on Saturday involving 1,600 residents of 16 villages, including PRI leaders, GBs, SHGs, CBOs and youth.

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Fire destroys 47 shops, houses in Tenga market

ITANAGAR, Feb 15: A massive fire broke out at Tenga Market in Arunachal Pradesh's West Kameng district early Saturday, reducing at least 47 shops and houses to ashes, officials said.

Additional deputy commissioner (ADC) Murnya Kakki said the fire broke out at around 3am and spread rapidly, engulfing homes and commercial establish-

ments along the highway.

A team of 11 firefighters from the Bomdila Fire Station, assisted by personnel from the Border Roads Organisation, the Army, and local police, managed to douse the flames by 7am, he said.

There were no casualties, though some individuals sustained minor injuries and were provided immediate medical assistance,

Kakki added.

The district administration has set up a temporary relief camp at the Upper Primary School in Tenga and distributed an immediate relief amount of ₹ 5,000 to each affected family.

Efforts are underway to support the victims, and an investigation has been initiated to determine the cause of the fire, the ADC said, adding

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* 'Orange's bowl of Arunachal'

GoAP should help Anjaw farmers



From Our Correspondent TEZU, Feb 15: With Anjaw oranges becoming major source of citrus after decline of Lohit oranges as Anjaw's unique qualities of Khasi mandarin variety, smaller in size with a harder skin but rich in vitamin C, makes it stand out because of incredible taste and nutritional benefits.

Anjaw oranges demands are high not only for locals but also for tourists too.

Manchal, Goliang and pockets of Hayuliang in Anjaw district are orange production hubs and the farmers have turned key player of the citrus industry. The orange is available in markets till March offer-

ing more time to farmers to sell their produce.

It is time to focus on improving storage and transportation infrastructure could help prevent spoilage to ensure Anjaw oranges to maintain quality.

Anjaw, often referred as emerging 'Orange Bowl of Arunachal,' has become a major hub of citrus production, with the products reaching markets of Lohit, Namsai, Dirak Check Gate and Tinsukia in Assam for rising demands.

Manchal, Hayuliang, Goliang, part of Hawai circles and Kibitho under Walong circle are contributing to success of Anjaw citrus industry, reflecting

growing demand as farmers of several foothill areas along China border are in the supply chain.

The road communication improvement has made Anjaw citrus more marketable and being sold for only Rs 100 for 30 oranges, compared to higher rate of Dambuk oranges.

However, farmers used to face many challenges, including wastage as orange is perishable, long distance (120 to 150-km) travel to sell produce and lack of better transportation infrastructure. With better road, buyers from Assam are visiting to buy even gardens. One farmer received Rs 5 lakh in a season after selling his garden", district horticulture officer Bani Koyu said. Anjaw oranges are harvested later than those in other foothill districts giving an advantage in terms of availability, extending their market window. The Khasi Mandarin variety's sweetness, juiciness, organic nature make them a standout product and that unique quality can be leveraged in marketing to attract more consumers.

The switch over from polythene

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Female footballers to be on global arena soon: WFFI

By Pradeep Kumar ITANAGAR, Feb 15: There is neither any dearth of female footballers in India nor their potential, but due to lack of proper training, infrastructure and global exposure, they have remained confined to their respective areas like a frog living in a small well, said Women Football Federation of India (WFFI) president Mukesh Sharma.

Thus, all possible efforts are being made by the WFFI to identify them, train them by professional coaches, set up training institutes in states in collaboration with state Govts and their sports academics to put female footballers in global platform, Sharma



told this daily in an exclusive interview on Saturday.

When pointed out that male footballers should not be played down as it was Chow Indrajit Namchoom was first to put the NE on football map of India in 1960 while playing in Santosh Trophy, one of the most prestigious tournaments in the country, to be known

as 'pathfinder of sports' in Arunachal. He had played for Guwahati Town Club (1960 to 1968 the best football clubs of that era, to qualify for Indian team for International Championships in Saigon and Malaysia in 1964. India's performance in Saigon was underwhelming. He was also a great

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'Women football team rank 69 to change soon'

FIFA Men's Football Team Ranking on 19.12.24 had placed Argentina at top with 1867.25 points, France 2nd with 1859.78 points and Spain 3rd with 1853.27 points, while Women's Football Team Ranking-2025 puts USA (1) with 2087.55 points, Spain (2) with 2028.65, Germany (3) with 2012.29 points and India at 69 with 1374.66 points, Sharma said, adding that is why bold steps have been initiated to ensure women footballers of the country rise in the ladder.

"That is why I had thread bearing discussion with former Prime Minister late Lal Bahadur Shastri's grandson Anil Shastri, business tycoon Navin Hegde before inspecting National Sports Club of India in New Delhi. Moreover, during another discussion Uttar Pradesh Rajya Sabha member Brij Lal, a 1977-batch IPS officer, explained bold steps taken by in UP and Jharkhand while his wife Saroj Prasad, Uttar Pradesh WFFI unit president, pitched in to inform steps taken by her as assigned by head office to promote female footballers," Sharam informed.

Moreover, we are talking with international television channel **Star Channel**, owned by Disney Entertainment business segment of Walt Disney Company, originally launched in Latin America on 22.02.21. It expanded worldwide as a replacement for international

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Elizabeth Gogoi visited Pakistan even after marriage, SIT to investigate matter: Assam CM

GUWAHATI, Feb 15: Stepping up his attack on the allegations about “links” of Elizabeth Gogoi, wife of Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi, with ISI, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday said that there is “definite information” that she visited Pakistan even after her marriage and a decision to form a Special Investigation Team would be taken at the meeting of state cabinet tomorrow.

He said a regular case should be filed to investigate the alleged person’s passport and visa and that the entire ecosystem, including sympathisers, will be investigated.

He said more and more information is coming out. “We have definite information that Elizabeth Gogoi (wife of Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi) has visited Pakistan even after her marriage. Whether she went with the MP or alone, these things will be confirmed. Many details are coming out,” he said.

“Tomorrow, the Assam Cabinet is going to meet and probably in that meeting, we will take a decision to form an SIT because unless a regular case is registered, the passport and visa of the alleged person involved will not be investigated. We will also investigate the entire ecosystem, including sympathizers. We are going to conduct a detailed investigation,” he added.

He said there is also need to probe if during that period “there was attempt by ISI to infiltrate into the office of Chief Minister of Assam”. “That also has to be examined now,” he said.

The has been a war of words between Himanta Biswa Sarma and Gaurav Gogoi over the latter’s wife having alleged links with the Pakistan agency.

Sarma had on Friday said that he wanted clarification from Congress’ Deputy Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha

“How can ISI and Raw live together in the same



house?...We are not accusing anyone, but we want some facts to come out. I have some questions. Firstly, is it true or false that the MP’s wife worked in Pakistan? Secondly, if she has taken Indian citizenship or not. Thirdly, if the MP had visited Pakistan during this time and while meeting the Pakistan ambassador, if he had taken permission from the External affairs ministry or not....How can ISI and R&AW stay in the same house? ISI is Pakistan, and R&AW is India; it is not possible for them to live together,” Sarma told reporters on Friday.

Gaurav Gogoi has found himself at the centre of a controversy after a section of BJP workers and leaders, led by Sarma, having raised questions over his wife’s “foreign citizenship” and accused her of having ties with the ISI.

They also questioned a meeting Gogoi had led with the then-Pakistani High Commissioner to India ten years ago in 2015.

Dismissing the allegations as “laughable”, Gaurav Gogoi on Thursday said, “If my wife is an ISI agent of Pakistan, then I am an R&AW agent of India. I don’t mind if a family against whom there are various cases and several allegations makes accusations against me. The Assam chief minister is making these allegations only to divert attention from the al-

legations against him.”

Gaurav Gogoi has also said that he will take appropriate legal action over the Bharatiya Janata Party’s “malicious and baseless” allegations against him and his wife over accusations concerning links with Pakistani government and George Soros’s Open Society, potentially compromising national interests.

Gogoi had on Thursday taken potshots at Sarma, saying that the latter has been “restless” and is having “doubts” about his chair.

“Assam CM’s have been restless for past 3-4 months. There have been cases of corruption in his PWD department. These news of corruption has reached Delhi. He’s having doubts that his CM’s chair might be slipping out of the hand. In this restlessness of saving his chair he’s doing that. If he had done work than he wouldn’t have to take help of this disillusion and lies. That’s personal issues. We will do our work. We will raise the voice of people,” Gogoi told ANI.

Sarma had said earlier also that the state cabinet will deliberate on the implications of recent revelations concerning an MP from Assam on national security.

Taking to X, Gogoi had said that the BJP has gone to “extreme measures” to defame him and his family. “Their allegations are malicious and baseless. I will be taking the appropriate legal

action.” Congress MP wrote.

Sarma has launched an offensive against Congress MP raising questions over his wife’s foreign citizenship.

“Sooner or later, it will be known how foreign powers, led by George Soros’ ecosystem, influenced a major decision of Assam Congress in 2014. The truth will emerge in due course,” Assam CM Sarma told reporters.

“The couple needs to answer serious questions raised regarding close their links with the ISI and taking young impressionable minds to the Pakistan High Commission for brainwashing and radicalization,” he said.

Sarma also raised questions on the “timing” of certain “events” linked to the Congress MP’s political actions and associations.

“In 2015, the Pakistani High Commissioner to India, Abdul Basit, invited a first-term Member of Parliament (MP) and his startup, Policy for Youth, to discuss India-Pakistan relations at the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi,” Sarma claimed in a post on X without naming the deputy Leader of Opposition leader in the Lok Sabha.

Sarma pointed out that the MP was not a member of the Parliamentary Committee on External Affairs at the time, and raised concerns about the purpose of the meeting. (Agency)

NFR carries out large-scale eviction drive to remove unauthorized encroachments

NEW DELHI, Feb 15: The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has been actively conducting eviction drives to remove unauthorized encroachments on railway land across its jurisdiction, a press statement said.

“As part of its commitment towards ensuring the safety, security and smooth operations of railway works along its premises, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) of NFR carries out checks and eviction drives from time to time at key railway locations,” the statement read.

Kapinjal Kishore Sharma, CPRO of Northeast Frontier Railway said that, recently, the Engineering Department, with the support of RPF/NFR, undertook a large-scale eviction operation on February 11, at Jalpaiguri Railway Station area, resulting in the dismantling of 60-70 unauthorized Non-Concrete ‘Kachha’ structures.

“This major step reinforces Northeast Frontier Railway’s continuous efforts to safeguard railway property from illegal occupation. On January 23, a similar operation was conducted at New Jalpaiguri Railway Colony, leading to the removal of an unauthorized structure. These initiatives are crucial in maintaining clear railway premises, ensuring unimpeded railway operations and preventing unauthorized settlements that pose safety risks. RPF of NFR undertakes regular monitoring and preventive measures to curb encroachments before they become entrenched,” Sharma said.

He further said that awareness campaigns, surveillance patrols and strict enforcement actions are part of the strategic moves adopted by NFR and its protection unit to deter further unauthorized encroachments. (Agency)

GoAP should ...

From P.I... bags to bamboo baskets for packaging is a forward-thinking move. Not only does it address the issue of spoilage, but also aligns with global trends in sustainability. Bamboo baskets, being eco-friendly, could even become a key selling point, highlighting the environmentally conscious approach of Anjaw farmers. This could make Anjaw oranges especially appealing to environmentally aware consumers, both in local and out-of-state markets like Assam.

This innovative packaging method has the potential to set Anjaw oranges apart from others in the market and could even become a symbol of the region’s commitment to both quality and sustainability. If the bamboo baskets are well-designed and durable, they could become a hallmark of Anjaw’s brand identity.

Meanwhile, state sponsored Atma Nirbhar Bagwani Yojana (ANBY) and GoI’s Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) boost Anjaw horticulture sector as Rs 1 crore under ANBY was sanctioned last year which has been hiked to Rs 2 crore this year, Koyu added.

Female footballers to be on global ...

From P.I... exponent of the ‘false nine’ role and would often drop deeper to initiate attacking moves. Female footballers being neglected would be given 50% preference, he said.

There is hardly anyone who has not played football (*gend* in Hindi) as a child across the world, India in particular. That is why football is the most popular sport played by men and women as a source of great passion and community pride. Thus, the game is also watched by uncounted number of people around the world over television screens to score highest Television Rating Point or Target Rating Point (TRP).

There are conflicting explanations of the origin of the word “football”. It is widely assumed that the word “football” (or the phrase “foot ball”) refers to the action of the foot kicking a ball. There is an alternative explanation, which is that football originally referred to a variety of games in medieval Europe that were played on foot. There is no conclusive evidence for either explanation.

There are numerous references to traditional, ancient or prehistoric ball games, played by indigenous peoples in many different parts of the world. The Ancient Greeks and Romans are known to have played many ball games, some of which involved the use of the feet. The Roman game *harpastum* is believed to have been adapted from a Greek team game known as *Episkyros*, which is mentioned by Greek playwright Antiphanes (388–311 BC) and later referred to by Christian theologian Clement of Alexandria (c. 150 – c. 215 AD).

These games appear to have resembled ruby football. The Roman politician Cicero (106–43 BC) describes the case of a man who was killed whilst having a shave when a ball was kicked into a barber’s shop. Roman ball games already knew the air-filled ball, the *foliis*. *Episkyros* is described as an early form of football by International Federation of Association or Football Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA).

Football is also known as **Soccer** (most common name in many countries, including the United States and Canada), **Futebol**: (Brazil), **Fodbold** (Denmark), **Fußball**: (Germany), **Soka**: (Pacific Islands, including Fiji, Samoa & Tok Pisin), **Sakkā** (Japan), **Sacar** (Ireland), **Soccar** (Manx Gaelic) and **Hoka** (Māori)

In 2023, when global population was 802.5 crore FIFA estimated total professional and amateur football players 195 countries ranging from 250 million to 3.5 billion, including total 123,694 professional players.

Contemporary football codes can be traced back to codification of these games in English public schools during 19th century, an outgrowth of medieval football. In all codes, common skills of players to two teams include passing, tackling, evasion of tackles, catching and kicking. In most codes, there are rules restricting the movement of players offside and players scoring a goal must put the ball either under a crossbar between two goal posts.

The expansion and cultural power of the British Ermpire allowed these codes to spread to areas of British influence outside the directly controlled empire. By the end of the 19th century, distinct regional codes were already developing: Gaelic football, for example, deliberately incorporated rules of local traditional football games to maintain their heritage.

In 1888, the Football League was founded in England, becoming the first of many professional football associations. During 20th century, various kinds of football grew to become some of the most popular team sports in the world.

‘Women football team rank 69...

From P.I... Fox channels inherited from Fox Networks Group division of 21st Century Fix that Disney had acquired on 20.03.19. Once, the deal is finalized, female football tournaments across India would draw attention of global viewers for the ranking of players to rise slowly but steadily, he said.

The WFFI team would undertake state-wide tour to assess existing infrastructures and training facilities and decided what help it could extend to promote female soccer players, he said, adding “We are committed to achieve the goal as finance is not a problem.”

FRM scrapped for challenges...

From P.I... Pradesh (520-km) sharing the border with Myanmar’s Chin, Sagaing and Kachin states. The FMR dates back to 1950, when India amended passport rules in sync with a law in Myanmar, then better known as Burma, to exempt hill tribes who were citizens of India or Burma and who resided in any area within 40 kilometers of the India-Burma frontier from carrying passports or visas while entering India. This helped the Chin ethnic community in Myanmar and Mizoram and Manipur in India to maintain familial ties despite being in two different countries.

The border of NE India and Myanmar has communities with long-standing ethnic, cultural and commercial linkages. These communities primarily engage in subsistence farming, animal husbandry and forest resource utilization. Their economic activities are predominantly informal, with traditional trade in goods such as agricultural produce, livestock, handicrafts, and textiles. This is one of the reasons why the FMR has been critical to the border community both in terms of family bonds and informal trade.

Moreover, due to the better infrastructure in India and the crippling poverty in Myanmar’s Chin State, border residents have also relied on the Indian states for essential services, like healthcare and education. Chin in particular has the highest poverty rate in Myanmar, with six out of ten people living below the poverty line.

According to a 2015 survey, nearly 80% had poor or borderline food insecurity. The situation has been exacerbated by the people getting caught in the crossfire between the military and the armed ethnic outfits.

However, the FMR was also exploited by insurgent groups operating in India, who used it to easily slip across to the other side. The border areas of Myanmar were allegedly being used by separatist groups against India.

Concerns regarding insurgency in the NE resulted in changes of FRM over the years. In 2004, India had reduced limit of movement to 16-km and allowed crossing from only designated points: Pangsau Pass (Arunachal Pradesh), Moreh (Manipur) and Zokhawthar (Mizoram).

The FMR was originally a move to continue allowing tribal people to maintain familial ties and traditional trade linkages but over the next few decades, it also turned out to be an important component in India’s connection to Southeast Asia (SEA) and ASEAN to offset the influence of China in the region.

The coexistence of borderland communities and extent to which borders can function as barriers to movement and interaction or act as an interface by creating meeting points, are important and have a potential impact on various domains of policy, including foreign policy. Borderlands can be seen as both social and political negotiation spaces. Therefore, borderland communities cannot be excluded from India’s attempts at creating an effective AEP.

Moves like scrapping the FMR or creating a fenced border between the two nations has potential to impact not just the border population but also larger geopolitical dynamics between India, Myanmar & China and in turn have a bearing on the success of the AEP.

Myanmar is an immediate neighbor of India but what makes the border even more significant is the country’s geographical location between India and China. The India-Myanmar border is vital for defense and internal security needs and expansion of India’s influence in the Bay of Bengal area and SEA to be able to counter China’s influence in the region. (Agency)

Guv calls for organic tea ...

From P.I... social media for others to benefit. He also suggested to create a professional website with an integrated e-commerce platform to facilitate direct consumer sales.

He assured them GoAP’s full support, including marketing, subject to tea growers maintaining quality.

The tea growers were led by Small Tea Growers’ Association president Tadak Gab and a grower Marpu Baja earlier apprised the governor various issues of state’s tea industry. (PRO)

Fire destroys 47 shops, houses in Tenga...

From P.I... that a medical camp will also be set up to assist those affected.

Meanwhile, Thrizino-Buragaon MLA Tenzin Nyima Glow visited the affected site and relief camps, assuring the victims of financial and logistical assistance.

It may be mentioned that similar incidents had occurred at the Tenga Market in December 2022 and February last year during which a total of sixteen houses, ten shops and six godowns were gutted. (Agency)

Mass cleanliness drive...

From P.I... CO Jumi Ete along with HGB Minjom Bagra monitored the drive and urged all not to throw garbage on public space particularly on the highway and roadside and anybody is found throwing garbage in public space would face legal action. (DIPRO)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER							
The Executive Engineer, Jairampur Division, PWD, AP, Jairampur on behalf of the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, invite sealed tenders on Item Rate Tender from APPWD registered contractors in Arunachal Pradesh District Based Entrepreneurs & Professionals (Incentives, Development & Promotional) Act, 2015 which the work is to be executed for the work stated below: -							
Sl. No.	Name of work and Location	Estimated Cost put to Tender	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender Paper	Last Date of receipt of application for purchase of tender	Last Date & Time of submission of tender	Date & time of opening of tender
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	(NIT No. JD/NIT/04 of 2024-25)Improvement of Miao ADC HQ Township Road	Rs.1796.85 Lakhs	Rs. 17.97 Lakh	Rs. 12000/-	26/02/2025	28/02/2025 upto 1100 hrs	28/02/2025 at 1130 hrs
The tender papers can be purchased from the office of the Executive Engineer, Jairampur Division, PWD, AP, Jairampur upto 1600 Hrs on working days from 16/02/2025 on payment in cash (non refundable) as mentioned Col. 5 of respective work.							
DIPR/ARN/002861/2024				Sd/- Executive Engineer Jairampur Division, PWD, AP			

ISL 2024-25: Mohun Bagan SG inches closer to defending Shield after 3-0 win against Kerala Blasters



KOCHI, Feb 15: Kerala Blasters failed to break its jinx at home after a 0-3 loss against Mohun Bagan Super Giant at the Jawaharlal Nehru International Stadium in Kochi on Saturday. A brace from Jamie Maclaren (28th & 40th) and a goal from Alberto Rodriguez (60th) was enough for the MBSG to take full points against the host.

Kerala Blasters paid the price for not being able to convert the chances when it dominated possession

early in the first half. The home side had seven shots on target before the 30-minute mark. However, the Mariner's defence under captain Subhashish Bose kept its line. Subhashish blocked successive shots from Korou Singh in the eighth minute, and goalkeeper Vishal Kaith made a splendid save to deny Amawia in the 25th minute.

The Super Giants flipped the tide and went ahead in the 28th minute through Jamie Maclaren. Liston Colaco, on the left flank,

warded off both Adrian Luna and Sandeep Singh and threaded in a nice cross to Maclaren. The striker's first touch was heavy, but he buried the ball into the top corner of the net with a left-footer.

It just took four touches for the second Mariners goal. Goalkeeper Kaith's goal kick landed deep inside the Blasters half, where Maclaren won the aerial duel and knocked the ball to Jason Cummings, who dinked the ball over the Blasters defence to

Maclaren. The latter kept his cool and lobbed it over goalkeeper Sachin Suresh to increase the lead in the 40th minute.

The pattern of play in the second half was similar, with the Mariners' highline defence keeping the Blasters attack in check. The visitor increased the lead against the run of play in the 67th minute when the Blasters' defence failed to clear the ball following a free kick. Alberto Rodriguez latched on to a rebound and scored with a left footer. (Agency)

10-man Real Madrid draws at Osasuna after Bellingham red card



BARCELONA, Spain, Feb 15: Jude Bellingham was sent off and 10-man Real Madrid failed to hold its lead against Osasuna in a 1-1 draw in La Liga on Saturday.

Kylian Mbappé put Madrid ahead in the 15th minute with his 11th goal

in as many league games. But Madrid was outnumbered after Bellingham's red card apparently for protesting five minutes before halftime.

The referee then awarded Osasuna a penalty after a video review and booked Eduardo

Camavinga for stomping the foot of Ante Budimir in the box. Budimir slotted the 58th-minute equalizer past Thibaut Courtois to unleash celebrations at El Sadar Stadium.

The draw in Pamplona puts Madrid's league lead in jeopardy. Atletico

Madrid is two points behind Madrid before hosting Celta Vigo on Saturday. Barcelona can pull level with its top rival if it beats Rayo Vallecano on Monday.

Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti was also shown a yellow card early after he complained excessively for what he thought was a handball by an Osasuna player in the host's area.

The decisions by referee José Luis Munuera will likely aggravate Madrid's sense of grievance regarding the refereeing in La Liga. Following its loss at Espanyol, the powerhouse sent a scathing letter to Spain's soccer federation to decry what it considered "adulterated" refereeing that favored other teams.

Osasuna, which beat Barcelona 4-2 in September when the Catalan club was leading the league, moved into seventh place. (Agency)

Joakim Alexandersson names 23-member India squad for U20 Youth Cup in Türkiye

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Spain defeat India 3-1 in men's Pro League hockey

BHUBANESWAR, Feb 15: Spain took sweet revenge for their defeat against India in the bronze-medal match at the Paris Olympics, overcoming Harmanpreet Singh's side 3-1 in a FIH men's Pro League game here on Saturday.

India put up a lackluster show in their first Pro League match this season, even as Spain showed loads of determination with Borja Lacalle (28th), Ignacio Cobos (38th) and Bruno Avila (56th) slotting home the goals after the hosts had taken the lead in the 25th minute through Sukhjeet Singh.

The first quarter was all about gauging one another's strengths. Barring a run by Abhishek, who managed to create a chance for Lalit Upadhyay, the Spanish goalkeeper was hardly tested.

India goalkeeper Krishan Bahadur too was rarely tested with the ball just hitting the far post and getting deflected, that too from outside the striking circle.

India brought in keeper Suraj Karkera in the second quarter, and he was called into action almost immediately. He did well to thwart Spain from scoring the



opening goal following a good move from the right.

Sukhjeet opened the scoring for the hosts in the 25th minute following a speedy run and circle penetration from the right by Jarmanpreet Singh. The defender relayed the ball to Sukhjeet, who failed to trap it cleanly in his first attempt, but recovered well to send a powerful reverse-hit flying past the Spanish goalkeeper.

Three minutes later, Spain slotted home the equaliser. The rival team forwards prised open the Indian defence with a couple of passes inside the circle before Borja Lacalle, at the far post, tapped the ball in.

With India lacking cohesion upfront and a defensive strategy, Ignacio doubled the lead in the third quarter.

Spain were awarded a penalty corner but a poor trap from Borja saw him let the ball through. He, however, rushed back to take the ball in control and relayed it to Cobos inside the circle, who made no mistake in putting it in.

Spain looked clearly the better side as India conceded multiple penalty corners in the third and fourth quarters.

The 2-1 lead gave Spain momentum going into the last quarter, while India's woes with penalty-corner conversion continued.

The European side piled more misery on the hosts when Harmanpreet tried to get an aerial pass from Spain under control and ended up conceding a penalty corner.

Bruno Avila then slotted home his maiden international goal with a powerful drag flick.

India would be disappointed with the result but will look to bounce back on Sunday when they take on Spain in the double header. (Agency)

Navneet earns India hard-fought 3-2 win against England in FIH Women's Pro League



BHUBANESWAR, Feb 15: A confident India began their campaign in the Women's Pro League with a 3-2 win against higher-ranked England at the Kalinga Hockey Stadium here on Saturday.

Two of India's goals came from penalty corners with Vaishnavi Phalke scoring the opener in the sixth minute and Deepika smashing the winner in the 25th, while Navneet Kaur smashed the winning goal with just one minute left in the game.

For England, Darcy Bourne took advantage of a huge defensive lapse to slot home the first equaliser in the 12th minute and then Fiona Crackles (58th) lev-

elled things again before Navneet slotted home the winner a minute later.

Vaishnavi opened the account from India, ranked ninth in the FIH, after a firmly-struck shot from Manisha Chauhan off the first penalty corner hit a defender's stick and came back into play.

Vaishnavi was perfectly placed to decisively hit the ball into the net.

India looked confident and showed the intent to ruffle the seventh-ranked England with pace and short passes.

They came close to doubling the lead in the ninth minute but veteran forward Lalremsiami failed to connect her stick with a long,

diagonal cross.

However, quite against the run of play, England struck when a sloppy clearance by defender Ishika Chaudhary saw Darcy just push the ball straight into the goal from close to bring the equaliser.

A minute later, goalkeeper Savita Punia bravely saved a firmly-hit reverse flick from crashing into the net with just two minutes in the first quarter, leaving India coach Harendra Singh in a sport of bother.

A pep-talk from the former India player at the break, saw India settle into a rhythm and enter the turf with more purpose as Deepika converted the hosts' second penalty cor-

ner with a rasping shot to give her team the lead again.

The third quarter was a sedate affair with the play mostly confined to the midfield, but England showed tremendous improvement in the last 15 minutes, earning three quick penalty corners to rattle the Indian defence.

But wayward shooting saw the 2022 Commonwealth Games champions ending up on the losing side.

Fiona made it 2-2 with just two minutes remaining on the clock as the game headed towards a draw but Navneet came up with a goal on the counter-attack to lead India to victory. (Agency)

Sports Minister Mandaviya, wellness influencers to join 'Fit India Sundays on Cycle' events

NEW DELHI, Feb 15: Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya will be joining a diverse group of riders in Mumbai at the Fit India Sundays on Cycle event on Sunday, February 16.

Taking forward the theme of 'Fight Obesity', the cycling drive in Mumbai will see the ride taking place from Gateway of India to Girgaon Chowpatty, 7 am onwards, as per a press release from the Sports Authority of India (SAI) Media.

Featuring alongside

the Sports Minister in the cycling event will be Dr Micky Mehta, Life Coach and Fit India Ambassador, Shaina Nana Chudasama, Indian Fashion Designer and Social Worker, Dr Bhairavi Naik Joshi, Director and CEO at BYCS India Foundation, Krishna Prakash, IPS Additional Director General of Police - Maharashtra and Sanjay Bhatia, IAS Upa-Lokayukta, Maharashtra State will also be joining in with lifestyle wellness coaches from Maharashtra Yoga Asso-

ciations and Heartfulness Institute.

The cycling drive will also be held across multiple locations across the country simultaneously. Shivani Pawar, Bronze medalist at the 2024 Senior Asian Wrestling Championship and 2025 National Games Gold medalist, will be joining the cycling event in New Delhi, 8 am onwards.

Representatives from Decathlon, Cult.Fit, Sports Authority of India National Centre of Sports Sciences and Research (NCSSR) and

wellness coaches from Yogasana Bharat will also be a part of the group of cyclists in the national capital. The start and end point of the cycling ride this Sunday at the national capital is the Major Dhyanchand Stadium.

The cycling drive is conducted pan-India on Sundays. Events are simultaneously held nationwide at SAI Regional Centres, National Centres of Excellence (NCOEs) and the Khelo India centres (KICs). (Agency)