

DAFFODIL COLLEGE OF HORTICULTURE
DAFFODIL COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & TECHNOLOGY
 Affiliated under Assam Science and Technology University, Guwahati

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B.SC (HONS) HORTICULTURE
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Himanta on inauguration spree at Tezpur Govt to hold cultural fest in state villages from Nov

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, June 30: Giving a new momentum to the development of Tezpur, chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday opened a series of infrastructure projects in Tezpur which include inauguration of a garden at Litchi Pukhuri, development of Chowk Bazar, integrated sports complex at Hazarapar including waterfront development and bird observatory tower, beautification of Bor-pukhuri, Tezpur.

Moreover, the chief minister also inaugurated the construction of a town hall at Paruwa. He also felicitated the Bihua and Bihuwas who participated in the mega Bihu event which created Guinness Book of Record. He presented the



Bihu artistes with certificates and a cheque of ₹ 25,000 for each of the participants.

Speaking at the programme held at Tezpur Church field, Sarma said

that Assam is always proud of the culture and heritage of Tezpur. The land which is the birthplace of the doyens like Jyoti Prasad Agarwala, Bishnu Prasad Rabha, Phani

Sarma, always feels the requirement for a state of the art auditorium. However, with laying the foundation of an auditorium with 1,000 seat capacity to be built on a land measuring 10 bigha land involving a financial outlay of ₹ 27 crore, the need for the same will be met greatly.

He said that with these schemes, the importance of Tezpur will be improved to a great extent.

The chief minister said that as a gesture of gratitude to all those who participated in the mega Bihu event, State government announced that all the participants will be given certificates and honorarium. Therefore, he felt happy to present the certificates and cash awards to (**CONTD. ON PAGE-9**)

Manipur CM clears air on resignation rumour

IMPHAL, June 30 (PTI): Manipur chief minister Biren N Singh on Friday clarified that he was not resigning from post, putting an end to a day-long rumour on the issue.

Before his clarification, thousands of demonstrators blocked the Manipur chief minister's convoy from proceeding towards Raj Bhavan.

The CM eventually told women demonstrators that he was not resigning from the chief minister's post.

Biren Singh later also tweeted, "At this crucial juncture I would like to clarify that I will not be resigning from the post of chief minister."

Women leaders who met him defused the situation by coming out of the chief minister's residence and assuring the crowd that Singh was not resigning. The mob slowly dispersed from his residence after this statement.

Unconfirmed reports said that the CM had typed out a resignation letter but was persuaded by his supporters to tear it up. Some of the women agitators alleged they had seen the torn letter and social media also posted copies of it. The chief minister's office did not respond to queries on the issue.

Earlier in the afternoon, hundreds of youth wearing black shirts and women sat down in front of the CM's residence demanding that Biren Singh should not resign.

Kshetrimayum Shanti, a women leader said, "At this



critical juncture, the Biren Singh government should stand firm and crack down on trouble-makers."

Sources said there were strong rumours in Imphal since morning that the chief minister was contemplating resigning from his post after renewed violence in the state on Thursday claimed three more lives, leaving 5 injured in violence Thursday.

The toll in exchange of fire between security forces and suspected rioters in Kangpokpi district a day before, rose to three on Friday, (**CONTD. ON PAGE-9**)

Longkam Teron death anniv observed

HT Correspondent

BOKAJAN, June 30: The 12th death anniversary of noted litterateur and founding president of Karbi Lammet Amei (KLA), Karbi literary body, Longkam Teron was observed jointly by KLA, Nihang Donsuri Longri Amei and Rongthelu, KLA at Rongthelu LP School on June 29.

The observation started with the lighting of lamps and offering of flowers on the portrait of late Longkam Teron led by Sarkari Goan Bura, Khoyasing Teron.

It was followed by a meeting, which was presided over by Tushewar Terang. The objective of the meeting was explained by secretary, KLA, Nihang Donsuri Longri Amei, Samprikimi Phangcho.

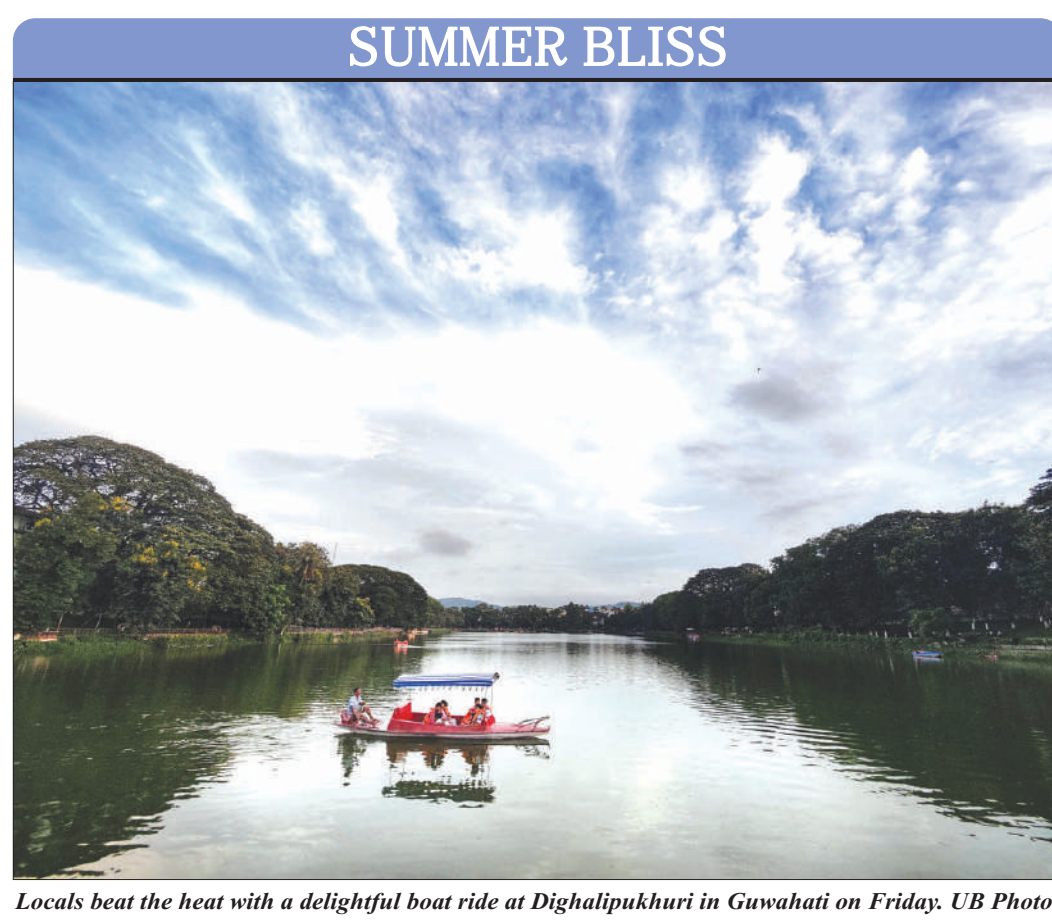
In the meeting Executive Member (EM), Karbi Anglong Au-

tonomous Council (KAAC), Surjyo Rongphar; former president, KLA, Sing Kro and advisor, Liladhar Teron spoke about the contribution of late Longkam Teron in the development and promotion of the Karbi literature and his association with the Asom Sahitya Sabha (ASS). Late Teron was also the former vice president of ASS.

According to EM Rongphar, the 32nd annual conference of KLA will be held in Rongthelu in 2024, and preparations for this have begun.

On the occasion, story writing and poem recitation was organised in the name of late Longkam Teron.

The programme was attended by Karbi Cultural Society, advisor Humsing Bey; VDC chairman, Mongal Sing Hanse and others.



Locals beat the heat with a delightful boat ride at Dighalipukhuri in Guwahati on Friday. UB Photos

KAAC allots land to APDCL to set up mega power plant



HT Bureau

DIPHU, June 30: The Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) has allotted 18,000 bighas of land to Assam Power Distribution Company Limited (APDCL) for setting up of a mega solar power plant.

The solar power plant will be the second after Bhadla Solar Park in Thar district, Rajasthan in the country.

The KAAC authority said that the land has been allotted to the APDCL to save the border land from encroachers. The KAAC will receive an annual 10 percent

revenue from it.

Speaking about the land allotment in a press conference held at KAAC Secretariat conference hall here on Friday, the Executive Member Land Revenue & Land Reforms etc., Amarsing Tisso said a total land area of 18,000 bighas has been allotted to the APDCL for setting up of a mega solar power land. Tisso said, "We have held a proper discussion with the villagers of the adjoining villages of the solar power plant site of any doubts and objections and after the villagers agreeing on it, the

Man lynched in Tripura on suspicion of being cattle lifter

AGARTALA, June 30 (PTI): A 41-year-old man was lynched by a group of villagers in West Tripura district on the suspicion of being a cattle lifter, police said on Friday. Two persons have been arrested in this connection, a police officer said. "A group of villagers detained Nandu Sarkar, a resident of East Chandrapur suspecting him to be a cattle lifter on Thursday morning. He was tied to an electric post and was beaten up by some villagers", officer-in-charge (OC) of East Agartala police station, Rana Chatterjee told PTI.

On being informed, police rushed to the spot and rescued Nandu in critical condition and shifted him to Ranibazar health centre where he succumbed to his injuries, the OC said. Sonali Sarkar, the wife of Nandu Sarkar said that (**CONTD. ON PAGE-9**)

Arunachal: Doctors perform rare surgery

ITANAGAR, June 30 (PTI): In a first for Arunachal Pradesh, a team of doctors and medical staff of Tomo Riba Institute of Health and Medical Sciences (TRIHS) here implanted a 3 Tesla MRI compatible dual chamber automatic implantable cardioverter defibrillator (AICD) for primary prevention of cardiac arrest in a 37-year-old woman.

The patient was suffering with cardiac sarcoidosis and severe left ventricular systolic dysfunction. The team includes cardiologist Dr RD Megeji, Dr Tony Ete, cath lab technician Nilutpal Goswami and OT nursing officer Joram Moni.

The team, which has so far performed over 70 permanent pacemaker installations, expressed gratitude to the patient and her family, the head of anesthesiology of the institute, in-charge of the operation theatre, besides TRIHS director and the state government for having faith in them.

Voice against delimitation draft gets louder

UNITED OPPOSITION FORUM JOINS PROTEST IN SIVASAGAR



HT Correspondent

SIVASAGAR, June 30: United Opposition Forum (UOF) consisting of twelve political parties on Friday joined the protest demonstrations carried out by different organisations including Rajior Dal in

Sivasagar Doulmukh Chariali against the Delimitation draft, published by the Election Commission recently.

Later addressing the media, the leader of the opposition Debabrata Saikia said that the opposition polit-

ical parties in Assam began protesting against delimitation under the present circumstances immediately after the EC announced notification in December last.

"But the BJP government under Himanta Biswa Sarma, almost autocratically, decided to carry out a surgical strike after a meeting with the central leaders on December 31 without any consultations with the entire opposition. The United Opposition Forum is of the opinion that the EC should go for delimitation in 2031 only as it is not very far," Saikia added.

When the CEC and other ECs came to Guwahati in connection with delimitation with the 2007 draft, the opposition parties including AGP, now a part of the ruling alliance, (**CONTD. ON PAGE-9**)

Rahul Gandhi meets Manipur Governor, appeals for peace



IMPHAL, June 30 (PTI): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi appealed to all sections of society for peace in Manipur "as violence is no solution", after meeting Governor Anusuiya Uike here on Friday.

He described the events in Manipur as a tragedy which was "painful" for the state and the country.

"Peace is the way forward and everybody should now talk about peace and start moving towards it. I

am here and will help in any way I can to bring peace to this state," Gandhi told reporters outside the Raj Bhavan. "I share the pain of the people of Manipur. It is a horrible tragedy. It is extremely sad and painful for all the people of Manipur and the people of India as well," he said.

He described his visit to various relief camps in Imphal, Churachandpur and Moirang and his meetings with people from all communities.

"One of the things I would say to the government is that the basic amenities at the camps need to be improved. Food needs to be improved. Medicines need to be supplied. Such complaints have come from the camps," Gandhi told the media persons. Congress officials said that the Governor assured that steps are being taken to restore peace in the ethnic strife-hit state.

Earlier during the day, he met members of Manipur civil society organisations here and listened to their problems. Among the different organisations that he met included the Coordination Committee on Manipur Integrity (CoCoMI), a civil society organization, representatives of (**CONTD. ON PAGE-9**)

Assam flood situation improves, affecting less than 20,000 people

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, June 30: The flood situation in Assam has improved, with the number of people affected dropping to less than 20,000, according to an official bulletin issued on Friday. On Thursday, approximately 38,000 people were affected, compared to 83,000 on Wednesday.

According to a report issued by the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) on Friday, the flood has affected 19,656 persons. Parts of the districts of Barpeta, Goalpara, Golaghat, Jorhat, Kamrup, and Lakhimpur, as well as the Bajali sub-division (independent), were swamped. The government is presently running six aid camps, offering refuge to eight people.

According to the ASDMA, floodwaters have currently inundated 158 communities and destroyed an estimated 1,113.73 hectares of crop land across the state.

The death toll from this year's floods has stayed at seven, with no new fatalities reported. In the previous 24 hours, 25 embankments have been damaged in the districts of Nalbari, Barpeta, Dhubri, Karimganj, and Sonitpur.

Bridges, roads, culverts, and irrigation canals were also damaged in Nalbari, Chirang, Sonitpur, Dhubri, and Goalpara. Erosion has been recorded in Chirang, Jorhat, and Sonitpur, according to the ASDMA report. (**With inputs from PTI**)

Both leaders discuss the situation around Ukraine and their cooperation within the SCO and the G20 Russian President Putin and PM Modi agree to further boost bilateral strategic ties

MOSCOW, June 30 (PTI):

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday held a "meaningful" conversation over the phone, and reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthen the bilateral strategic partnership while exchanging views on the conflict in Ukraine, the Kremlin said.

The telephone conversation between the two leaders came days ahead of the virtual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) which is being hosted by India on July 4. "The conversation had a meaningful and constructive character. The leaders reiterated mutual commitment to strengthening the privileged



strategic partnership between Russia and India and agreed to continue communication," the Kremlin press service said.

Russian President Putin informed Modi of Ukraine's categorical refusal to settle the conflict through diplomacy, it

said about the raging war in Eastern Europe since February last year.

"The two leaders discussed the situation around Ukraine. The Russian president assessed the current situation in the special military operation zone, pointing to Kyiv's categorical refusal to take political and diplomatic steps to resolve the conflict," the statement said.

India has not yet condemned the Russian invasion of Ukraine and it has been maintaining that the crisis must be resolved through diplomacy and dialogue. The two leaders also discussed their countries' cooperation within the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and the G20.

"Special attention was focused on cooperation within the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and the G20, where India holds the presidency, as well as within the BRICS format," the statement said.

The Kremlin statement also said Prime Minister Modi has expressed support for the actions taken by the Russian leadership in connection with the short-lived armed rebellion by Wagner mercenary group last week. "In connection with the June 24 developments, Narendra Modi expressed understanding and support for the resolute actions by the Russian authorities to defend law and order, and ensure stability in the country" (**CONTD. ON PAGE-9**)

D-Street party continues : Sensex, Nifty scale fresh all-time highs

Mahindra & Mahindra shines in Sensex pack, IT & Teck lead sectoral gains, while commodity market lags behind

MUMBAI, June 30 (PTI): Equity benchmark indices scaled fresh all-time closing highs on Friday, propelled by intense buying in index heavyweights Infosys, HDFC twins, Reliance Industries and TCS amid healthy macroeconomic indicators.

Besides, foreign fund inflows and a firm trend in the global markets further bolstered sentiment, traders said.

Rallying for the third straight day, the 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 803.14 points or 1.26 per cent to settle at its lifetime closing high of 64,718.56. During the day, it zoomed 853.16 points or 1.33 per cent to reach its record intra-day peak of 64,768.58.

The NSE Nifty climbed 216.95 points or 1.14 per cent to end at a record high of 19,189.05. During the day, it rallied 229.6 points or 1.21 per cent to hit its all-time intra-day peak of 19,201.70.

On a weekly basis, the BSE benchmark jumped 1,739.19 points or 2.76 per cent this week, and the Nifty climbed 523.55 points or 2.80 per cent.

"Investors remain positive about the long-term prospects of the domestic market due to healthy macroeconomic indicators while global cues are also improving as concerns over a recession in the US eases."

"The US economy showed much stronger-than-expected growth in the first quarter than previously thought, according to a big upward revision Thursday from the Commerce department," said Devarsh Vakil,



deputy head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities.

Mahindra & Mahindra was the best performer in the Sensex pack, rising over 4 per cent, followed by IndusInd Bank, Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, Maruti, Larsen & Toubro, Tech Mahindra, Wipro, Power Grid, HDFC Bank, HDFC, Bajaj Finance and Reliance Industries.

"Domestic equities continued their northbound journey after a day's break, supported by positive global data, healthy FII buying and strong progress in monsoon," Siddhartha Khemka, head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Serv-

ices Ltd, said. In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.67 per cent and smallcap index advanced 0.51 per cent.

Among the indices, IT jumped 2.34 per cent, teck rallied 2.13 per cent, auto (1.82 per cent), capital goods (1.73 per cent), industrials (1.31 per cent), financial services (0.94 per cent, consumer discretionary (0.85 per cent) and energy (0.76 per cent).

Commodities emerged as the only laggard. In Asian markets, Seoul and Shanghai ended in the green, while Tokyo and Hong Kong settled lower.

Equity markets in Europe were trading with gains.

The US markets ended largely with gains in the overnight trade on Thursday.

"The lack of global support had restrained the Indian indices from pursuing their record highs earlier, despite the presence of a resilient domestic macroeconomic background."

"With positive surprises assisting buoyancy in the global market and the advance of the southwest monsoon, the domestic market succeeded in marching to new highs with renewed strength. Global investor sentiments were uplifted by a favourable revision in Q1 GDP, a fall in jobless claims, and the positive outcome of the Fed's US bank stress test," said Vinod Nair, head of research at Geojit Financial Services.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.61 per cent to USD 74.79 a barrel.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) bought equities worth ₹ 12,350 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

Markets were closed on Thursday on account of Eid al-Adha also known as Bakrid.

"Next week the market will take cues from economic data to be released locally as well as globally. Investors would also watch out for FOMC minutes to get insights into the US Central Bank's future course of direction. The auto sector is expected to be in the limelight, as companies would release monthly sales data," Khemka said.

Forex reserves drop USD 2.9 bn to USD 593.19 billion

MUMBAI, June 30 (PTI): India's forex reserves dropped USD 2.901 billion to USD 593.198 billion in the week ended June 23, the Reserve Bank said on Friday.

The overall reserves increased by USD 2.35 billion to USD 596 in the previous reporting week.

It can be noted that in October 2021, the country's forex kitty had reached an all-time high of USD 645 billion. The reserves have been declining as the central bank deploys the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused majorly by global developments.

For the week ended June 23, the foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, decreased by USD 2.212 billion to

USD 525.44 billion, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI on Friday.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Gold reserves dropped USD 745 million to USD 44,304 billion, the RBI said. The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up by USD 85 million to USD 18,334 billion, the apex bank said.

The country's reserve position with the IMF was down by USD 29 million to USD 5.12 billion in the reporting week, the apex bank data showed.

Mcap of BSE-listed firms at all-time high of ₹ 295.72 lakh cr



NEW DELHI, June 30 (PTI): The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms reached an all-time high of ₹ 295.72 lakh crore in early trade on Friday, helped by optimism in equities, where the benchmark Sensex hit its new lifetime peak.

Rallying for the third day running, the 30-share Sensex surged 499.42 points or 0.78 per cent to reach its all-time high of 64,414.84 in early deals. Thanks to the rally in equities, the market capitalisation (mcap) of BSE-listed companies jumped to ₹ 2,95,72,338.05 crore. Earlier, on June 21, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms had hit an all-time high of

₹ 2,94,36,594.50 crore.

From the Sensex pack, Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, Mahindra & Mahindra, IndusInd Bank, HCL Technologies, Tech Mahindra, Maruti, Wipro, HDFC Bank and HDFC were the major gainers.

ITC, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank and Tata Steel were the laggards.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong traded in the green while Tokyo quoted lower.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.30 per cent to USD 74.56 a barrel. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) bought equities worth ₹ 12,350 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

Twitters move to challenge govt notice formed part of fiction that Dorsey had put out: MoS IT

NEW DELHI, June 30 (PTI): Twitter moving to a court against the government notice to block some accounts was "part of the fiction" that company's former CEO Jack Dorsey had put out, minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar said on Monday.

Dorsey, who had quit as Twitter CEO, has claimed that the Indian government "pressured" the company with threats of a shutdown and raids on employees if it did not comply with requests to take down posts and restrict accounts that were critical of the government over the protest by farmers against new agri laws in 2020 and 2021.

In response to views on the Karnataka High Court order rejecting Twitter's appeal, the minister said that the order clearly lays down non-compliance to government order is not an option and all platforms, big or small, need to comply with Indian laws.

"In this particular case as you remember they (Twitter) were



given a large number of directions under the law which they did not comply with and then when they were sent a legal notice they chose to go to the courts. This is part of the fiction that Mr Dorsey had also put out," Chandrasekhar told PTI on the sidelines of a Broadband India Forum event.

Karnataka High Court dismissed a petition filed by Twitter last year in which the social media firm challenged several

blocking and take-down orders issued by the ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

The court ruled that the company's plea was "devoid of merits".

The single-judge bench of Justice Krishna S Dixit which dictated the operative portion of the judgement also imposed a whopping cost of ₹ 50 lakh on Twitter and ordered it to be paid to the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority within 45 days.

"I am very glad that the court has today laid down very clearly that non-compliance is not an option regardless of where your jurisdiction is, or who you think your owner is. The platforms in India, all platforms big or small, Indian or foreign have to comply with the Indian law and the rules that are enacted under the law," Chandrasekhar said.

He said that the government's relationship with the platforms is not adversarial and Meity only insisted that the laws be followed and laws be complied with.

Gold rises ₹ 80; silver tumbles ₹ 550



NEW DELHI, June 30 (PTI): Gold prices rose ₹ 80 to Rs 59,030 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday amid gains in overseas precious metal prices, according to HDFC Securities. The yellow

metal had settled at ₹ 58,950 per 10 grams in the previous trade. Silver, however, tumbled ₹ 550 to ₹ 70,700 per kilogramme. "Gold slightly recovered from three-month lows on Friday, with spot gold prices in the Delhi markets trading at ₹ 59,030/10 grams, up by ₹ 80 per 10 grams," Saumil Gandhi, senior analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said. In the international markets, gold was trading higher at USD 1,906 per ounce while silver was down at USD 22.46 per ounce.

Rupee closes flat at 82.03 against US dollar as rate hike worries cap gain



MUMBAI, June 30 (PTI): The rupee closed flat at 82.03 (provisional) against the US dollar in a restricted trade on Friday amid a rally in the domestic equities and firm crude oil prices.

While FII inflows into equities supported the rupee, a firm US dollar in global markets and gains in crude oil prices capped its gains, analysts said.

The rupee opened weak at 82.05 at the interbank foreign exchange market due to firm crude oil prices

in the Asian trade. It moved in a tight range of 82.00 to 82.07 in the day trade. The local unit settled flat at 82.03 (provisional) against the US dollar. The rupee closed at the same level on Wednesday.

Forex markets were closed on Thursday on the occasion of the Bakrid holiday.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, firmed up by 0.09 per cent to 103.43 on growing expectations of further in-

terest rate hikes by the US Federal Reserve. Traders expect the US Federal Reserve to raise interest rates further after a pause in June following a strong set of US economic data. According to data released on Thursday, the US economy grew stronger than anticipated at 2 per cent in the first quarter of this year while fewer jobless claims that the job market remains solid despite much higher interest rates meant to slow the overall economy. Global oil benchmark Brent Crude was trading 0.61 per cent higher at USD 74.79 per barrel.

In the domestic equity market, benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty hit their all-time high on Friday. The 30-share BSE Sensex closed at a record high of 64,718.56, and the Nifty scaled the peak of 19,189.05 points amid fresh foreign fund inflows.

Foreign Portfolio Investors emerged as net buyers in the capital market on Wednesday as they bought shares worth ₹ 12,350 crore, according to exchange data.

Great opportunity for Bengal in minerals sector: Official



KOLKATA, June 30 (PTI): West Bengal holds immense opportunity in the minerals sector, and the state government is hoping to achieve the mineral revenue of Odisha in the future, a senior official said Friday.

At present, Bengal is no match for Odisha, which generates around ₹ 50,000 crore in terms of mineral revenue, he said.

"The sand mining policy has led to an increase in government revenue, from a mere ₹ 50 crore to over ₹ 1,000 crore," West Bengal Industry and Commerce secretary Anurag Srivastava said at an Assocham-organised conclave here.

He said Bengal has one-fifth of the country's mineral reserves and one-third of its mineral production. "So opportunities remain untapped."

Srivastava also said he expects commercial production to soon begin at Asia's largest coal block, the Deocha-Pachami, in Birbhum district.

The state government is in the process of implementing the rehabilitation and resettlement scheme for 4,000 families for the project.

Speaking on the occasion, Hindustan Copper CMD A K Shukla lauded Bengal's R&R scheme for Deocha-Pachami, stating that it was "comprehensive".

Srivastava also said Bengal could receive an investment of ₹ 50,000 crore for shale gas development and production.

Companies such as Great Eastern Energy Corporation and Essar Oil and Gas Exploration are understood to have expressed interest in investing in the sector.

Srivastava said the national gas grid will help the state in the area of green energy.

According to estimates, 38 lakh piped natural gas connections are likely in Bengal.

Shukla added that the Centre was giving emphasis on critical minerals, and copper has been identified as one.

The export value of minerals in 2021-22 was ₹ 2.6 lakh crore, while imports were ₹ 15.5 lakh crore, he said.

"Mining is complex. Finance, rehabilitation and resettlement programs, and even sometimes technology, can pose challenges. There is a need for proactive support from the state government," the top Hindustan Copper official said.

JCI plans e-auction platform for jute

KOLKATA, June 30 (PTI): Jute Corporation of India (JCI) on Friday said it was working on an e-auction platform in jute trading to modernise the supply chain of the environment-friendly fibre.

The Corporation said it was geared up for MSP (minimum support price) operation for the upcoming jute season beginning July 1, with its extensive network spread over eight states.

JCI Chairman and Managing Director Ajay Kr Jolly said they are working on the finer details and ironing out the complexities involved in the e-auction system.

The platform is expected to be owned and managed by JCI.

Jolly said the Corporation has 110 purchase centres operated by it and will engage about 500 extended purchase centres in association with cooperatives and NGOs in eight states.

This year, the MSP for reference grade of TD3 has been raised by ₹ 300 to ₹ 5,050 per quintal in the 2023-24 season.

In the 2022-23 jute season, the corporation has already procured 5.6 lakh quintals, which is the highest in the last five years, Jolly said. It includes 1.36 lakh quintals of commercial procurement while the rest is for MSP operations, an official said.

On the promotion of the industry, Jolly said the Jute-ICARE project is in its ninth phase in its ninth year, providing benefits to more than 3.5 lakh farmers.

Jute-ICARE plans to introduce a Geospatial Crop Surveillance & Monitoring system in association with National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) to cover jute fields on a pan-India basis, to accurately ascertain the cultivable land and estimate jute production and productivity.

CMR survey reveals Amazon as preferred choice for online shopping

Attractive prices & convenient returns driving Indian consumers to choose Amazon

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, June 30: A recent consumer study conducted by CyberMedia Research (CMR), a leading technology market research and advisory firm, has unveiled interesting insights into the online shopping habits of Indians, particularly those from Tier II cities and beyond. The study indicates that these consumers spend an average of 2 hours and 25 minutes per week shopping online, accounting for approximately 16 percent of their income. Attractive prices, convenient return and exchange processes, and irresistible offers were identified as the top three triggers for online shopping.

In terms of e-commerce platforms, the study found that Amazon was the preferred choice for Indian consumers, with a significant 73 percent favouring the platform. Flipkart followed closely with a preference rate of 70 percent while Meesho, JioMart, and



others secured lower preference rates. Notably, 63 percent of Amazon users reported high satisfaction, with Flipkart and Reliance Digital following at 52 percent and 46 percent, respectively. Amazon was particularly favoured by its users for its attractive prices, easy return and exchange processes, brand trust, and convenience of shopping across various pin codes

in India. Over the past six months, a staggering 73 percent of consumers from both Tier II and Tier I cities have chosen to shop on Amazon. Prabhu Ram, head of Industry Intelligence Group at CyberMedia Research (CMR), highlighted the significance of e-commerce in empowering emerging young consumers in Aspirational India (Tier II, Tier III cities, and beyond) to fulfill

their aspirations. Major players like Amazon and Flipkart, along with niche market players such as Meesho and others, as well as conglomerates like Tata and Reliance, are engaged in fierce competition in these markets. The research emphasises that Amazon, with its extensive presence across India and consumer trust, stands as the preferred choice for online shopping.

The study also revealed that two out of three consumers have spent up to ₹ 20,000 on online shopping in the past six months. Interestingly, the average spending on online purchases by Tier II buyers (₹ 20,100) is nearly on par with that of Tier I buyers (₹ 21,700).

This survey showcases the growing preference for online shopping among Indian consumers, with Amazon emerging as the favoured e-commerce platform, revolutionising the way people shop and meet their needs in the digital era.

NHRCCB urges investigation into price manipulation & highlights concerns over plastic lentils

Rising vegetable prices prompt calls for government intervention

HT Correspondent

BISWANATH CHARIALI, June 30: The soaring prices of vegetables in Assam have become a cause of concern, particularly for the economically disadvantaged population. With prices increasing two to three times in just one month, it has become challenging for people to afford their daily meals. In response to this issue, the state president of the National Human Rights and Crime Control Bureau (NHRCCB), Nishant Thard, has written a letter to the Assam Food and Civil Supplies minister, Ranjeet Kumar Dass, seeking immediate intervention.

In the letter, the NHRCCB state president highlighted the significant price hike of vegetables and urged the minister to investigate whether middlemen and dishonest stockists are involved in manipulating prices. The organisation expressed surprise at the simultaneous increase in prices of both locally produced and imported goods, as the latter should not be influenced by tax factors. They also raised concerns about the price differences across different areas of the state.



Meanwhile, the state patron of the organisation, Tilak Chand Handique, sent a letter to the Assam Health minister, Keshab Mahanta, regarding the introduction of plastic lentils in the market. Handique referred to a Guwahati High Court order issued on March 17, 2023, which called for the establishment of a special authority in the capital city to conduct random checks on the quality and purity of vegetables. Handique urged the Health minister to take effective action based on this directive. Additionally, Handique proposed implementing similar measures in district headquarters to address the prevalence of counterfeit goods and ensure the application of pesticides and chemical fertilisers is tested, ensuring the provision of pure and healthy food to the people of Assam. The organisation's patron hoped that these actions would also help regulate stockists and traders in the state.

Dibrugarh DC denies reports of Amritpal Singh's hunger strike in Dibrugarh Jail

HT Correspondent

DIBRUGARH, June 30: Dibrugarh deputy commissioner Biswajit Pegu has refuted claims made by Kirandeep Kaur, the wife of Waris Punjab De chief Amritpal Singh, that Amritpal is on a hunger strike in Dibrugarh Central Jail. Amritpal Singh, along with ten other members of Waris Punjab De, is currently held in Dibrugarh Jail under the National Security Act (NSA) since April 23.

On Friday, Dibrugarh DC Biswajit Pegu and SP Shwetank Mishra visited the jail to assess the situation. After their visit, the deputy commissioner dismissed reports of a hunger strike by the Waris Punjab De members inside the jail.

Addressing reporters, the deputy commissioner stated, "There is no hunger strike inside the jail. We met them and found that their main grievance was that they were not allowed access to phone calls. We have decided that they will be allowed to make one phone call per week. Today, in our presence, Amritpal Singh called his wife over the phone and spoke to her. There was only one food complaint, which has been resolved."

According to Kirandeep Kaur, during her visit to

Dibrugarh Jail on June 29 to meet her husband, she learned about the hunger strike staged by Amritpal and his associates to protest the alleged lack of facilities in the jail.

Kaur claimed that the detainees under the NSA were not granted permission to make phone calls and were being served poor-quality food. She also expressed concern that the person in charge of cooking used tobacco, which goes against the Sikh religious code, as tobacco was found in the food. Kaur further mentioned the language barrier, as there is no interpreter in the jail, causing difficulties for the Waris Punjab De members to communicate with the prison staff and others.

Amritpal Singh's advocate, Simranjit Singh, stated over the phone, "According to the Punjab Jail manual, a prisoner is allowed to make phone calls to family members twice a week. However, they are not provided with telephone facilities in Dibrugarh Jail, even though the cases against them are registered in Punjab. The fault does not lie with the Assam government, as they have not received the necessary communication from the Punjab government."

Millet Field Day organised in Kaki Beltola, Hojai



HT Correspondent

NAGAON, June 30: A field day event was organised at the millet fields in the Kaki-Beltola area, which is part of the model millets project undertaken by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). The event took place on Wednesday, with the participation of several key stakeholders, including DDM-NABARD Rajendar Perna, DAO-Hojai Ranjith Mishra Bhagawati, Anchalik Panchayat President Philinga Bordoloi, and Mukut Deka. Secretary to the implementing agency Gramya Unnayan Sangstha.

The participants of the event were provided with essential resources such as super bags, vermicompost units, and pulveriser machines. DDM-NABARD Rajendar Perna expressed satisfaction with the commitment shown by the farmers, particularly women farmers, and highlighted the importance of their efforts in the project. He also announced that the harvested crops from the pilot project would be procured and the seeds would be safely stored in the Seed Bank. Moreover, he urged farmers to become active members of the Naba Dimorupathar Agro Producer Company Limited, the Farmers

Producer Company (FPC) on millets and maize, to benefit from aggregation and economies of scale.

DAO-Nagaon Ranjith Mishra Bhagawati commended NABARD and the implementing agency for their efforts in introducing the millets pilot project in Hojai, as there were no previous programs on millets in the area under the department of Agriculture. He assured continuous support from the department for the development of farmers and the FPC. Bhagawati also informed the participants about various agricultural machinery available at subsidised rates through the department of Agriculture, emphasising the benefits of becoming members of the Naba Dimorupathar APCL.

Anchalik Panchayat president Philinga Bordoloi congratulated NABARD and the implementing agency for their flagship initiative aimed at benefiting farmers in the region. The event was considered a significant step towards the development and promotion of millets cultivation in Hojai.

The field day celebration brought together various stakeholders and showcased the progress made in the model millets project, highlighting the potential benefits and opportunities it offers to farmers in the area.

Summer Special Train introduced between Guwahati and Secunderabad

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, June 30: To cater to the additional passenger rush during the summer season, authorities have announced the operation of a special train between Guwahati and Secunderabad for a single trip in both directions.

The special train, numbered as 05614 (Guwahati - Secunderabad) Special, will depart from Guwahati at 06:00 hours on July 2, 2023, and is scheduled to arrive at Secunderabad at 06:00 hours on July 4, 2023. In the return direction, train no 05613 (Secunderabad - Guwahati) Special will depart from Secunderabad at 11:45 hours on July 9, 2023, and is expected to reach Guwahati at 10:20 hours on July 11, 2023.

During its journey, the special train will pass through stations including Rangia, New Jalpaiguri, Malda Town, Kharagpur Jn., Palasa, Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Guntur, and Nalgonda. The train consists of 17 coaches, including AC 3-tier, sleeper class, and general second class coaches, providing options for passengers.

Passengers who have been waitlisted on other trains traveling towards South India can utilise the services of this summer special train. The detailed schedule and stops of this train can be found on the IRCTC website and are also being notified through various newspapers and social media platforms of the NF Railway.

Late Bhojpuri leader Parshuram Dubey remembered on 5th death anniversary in Hojai

HT Correspondent

HOJAI, June 30: On the 5th death anniversary of Bhojpuri leader Late Parshuram Dubey, the district unit of Rachnatmak Nona Sanyukt Sangh (RNSS) and the All Assam Bhojpuri Parishad (AABP) paid tribute to him in Hojai district, Assam. The commemorative events took place at multiple locations in Hojai, including Millick Basti, Bhimarali, and Taralang.

In Millick Basti, a condolence meeting was organised in Ward 3 of the Milik Basti village panchayat under Dholpukhuri block. Attendees observed a minute of silence in memory of the departed soul. Dharmendra Chauhan, the national joint secretary of RNSS, highlighted the life and contributions of Parshuram Dubey. Dubey, who was born on June 30, 1972, in Dhubri city, served as the secretary of the All Assam Bhojpuri Yuva



Chatra Parishad during his student days and later became the president of the All Assam Bhojpuri Parishad for three consecutive terms. He was also the founder of the All Assam Bhojpuri Parishad and served as the chairman of the Dhubri Gauripura Development Board. Sadly, he passed away on June 30, 2018, while serving as the chairman of the Hindi Speaking Development Board of Assam.

Chauhan said that the true tribute to Dubey would be to follow the path he suggested and continue his work.

The district unit of AABP also paid tribute to Parshuram Dubey by offering flower garlands and lighting candles in front of his portrait. These tributes were organised at Bhimarali in Dholpukhuri Panchayat and at Taralang in Kaki under Thaisobali Panchayat.

Engineers in Jorhat trained on safer road construction for enhanced pedestrian safety

HT Correspondent

JORHAT, June 30: On Friday, the Centre for Environment Education, Northeast Regional Centre, in collaboration with WRI India, organised a one-day training session for engineers in Jorhat district on constructing safer roads. The training took place at Prism Hotel in Jorhat under the project 'Safer Roads for Safer Childhood'. The focus of the training was on safer street design and following the guidelines set by the Indian Roads Congress (IRC). The training included practical demonstrations at two junctions, where the engineers had the opportunity to witness safer street design principles in action. Experts from WRI India, who specialise in street designs, were invited to conduct the training and share their expertise. Engineers from various divisions, including Teok-Mariani, Dergaon, Tita-

bor, and the National Highway, participated in the training. As part of the experiential learning, the engineers were taken to two junctions, including the Githathi junction, where they experienced the challenges and vulnerabilities faced by pedestrians while crossing the road. They were also asked to walk blindfolded on the footpath to understand accessibility challenges faced by individuals with diverse abilities.

The engineers actively engaged in the training and later presented their proposed designs for the junctions, aiming to improve the safety and accessibility of these locations. The proposed designs were an outcome of the knowledge gained during the training session and demonstrated the engineers' enthusiasm and commitment to implementing safer street designs in their respective areas.

Road conditions in Thowra constituency cause hardship for locals

HT Correspondent

DEMOW, June 30: Residents of Thowra constituency, under Maharani Panchayat, are grappling with the poor condition of the road connecting Raichai to Rupabibam Chariaili. The dilapidated state of the road has posed significant challenges for locals, particularly those residing in approximately 10 villages. During the rainy season, the road becomes waterlogged, severely impacting students, patients, and the general public. Frustrated with the situation, the residents took to the streets on Friday, lighting earthen lamps and joss sticks as a symbol of protest against the authorities and the contractor responsible for the road's maintenance. They fervently appealed to the chief minister and local MLA to address the issue promptly and initiate repairs without delay.

Annual meeting held

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, June 30: The annual general meeting of Palasbari Sanskriti Vikas Bhawan (PSVB) took place at its Bhawan in Palasbari on Friday. Chaired by Sanskriti Vikas Bhawan president Anil Chandra Kalita, the meeting aimed to discuss the organisation's objectives. Vikas Bhawan general secretary Jatindra Nath Kalita provided an overview of the meeting's agenda, while also presenting the annual accounts for the year 2022-23. During the meeting, a special recognition ceremony was held to felicitate the outstanding achievements of students in this year's High School Leaving Certificate Examination from Palasbari center.

Dehing Patkai Challenge 2023: India's largest quiz festival set to thrill participants

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, June 30: Nava Asom Nirman Foundation and Digboi Quiz Forum are collaborating to organise the Dehing Patkai Challenge 2023 - The Digboi Quiz Festival' on July 15 and 16, 2023. This quiz festival holds the distinction of being not only India's largest but also the easternmost in South Asia. The festival will feature a total of seven quizzes, including one 'School Quiz' and the remaining quizzes open to all participants, with a total prize pool of ₹ 1,25,000.

The event will kick off at 9 am on July 15 with the 'School Quiz', hosted by renowned quizmaster Wonkyo Weingken. Teams of two members, including cross-teams and individual participants, can take part in this quiz. Cash prizes of ₹ 5000, ₹ 3000, and ₹ 2000 will be awarded to the first, second, and third-placed teams, respectively. Teams placed 4th to 8th will receive ₹ 1000 each, while the 9th and 10th placed teams will be awarded ₹ 500 each.

Following the 'School Quiz', the 'Open India

Quiz', conducted by Shakya Khound and Anirban Baruah, will take place. Two-member teams and individual participants can join this quiz. The first-place team will receive ₹ 7000, the second-placed team will receive ₹ 5000, and the third-placed team will receive ₹ 3000. Teams placed 4th to 8th will receive ₹ 1000 each, and the 9th and 10th placed teams will be awarded ₹ 500 each.

Other quizzes include the 'Open Written Science-Business-Technology Quiz', exclusively for lone wolves, conducted by Minmoy Kshatry and Saumya Sen. The first-placed participant will receive ₹ 2000, the second-placed participant will receive ₹ 1500, and the third-placed participant will receive ₹ 1000. Participants placed 4th to 10th will receive ₹ 500 each. The 'Open Sports Quiz', hosted by Partha Pratim Phukan and Tulip Das, will be open to two-member teams and lone wolves. Prizes for this quiz are the same as the 'Open India Quiz'.

On July 16, the festival will continue with the

'Open North East India Quiz', conducted by Sayantan and Chandopal Saikia. Prizes for this quiz are the same as the 'Open India Quiz'. This will be followed by the 'Open Written Entertainment Quiz', exclusively for lone wolves, conducted by Himangshu Sonowal and Abhijit Debnath. The prizes for this quiz are the same as the 'Open Written Science-Business-Technology Quiz'. The festival will conclude with the 'Open General Quiz', hosted by Dr Vinay Upadhyay and the 'Quizozzity' team, with prizes similar to the 'Open India Quiz'.

In addition, the 'Best Male and Female Quizards' in the school category will be awarded ₹ 1000 each, the 'Best Male and Female College Quizards' in the college category will receive ₹ 1500 each, and the 'Best Male and Female Open Quizards' will be given ₹ 2000 each.

Participants can register for the event on the website www.dehingpatkaichallenge.com. The last date for registration is July 14 at 11:59 pm. For further details, contact 9954809637.

Workshop on Traditional Village Court held in Koilamati

HT Correspondent

KOILAMATI, June 30: The Koilamati branch of Nilip Rong Asar Mei organized a workshop on the structure and functioning of Traditional Village Court (TVC) at Arlong Rupat High School on June 29. The seminar aimed to educate traditional village headmen about the provisions of the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, which allows for the establishment of Village Councils and Traditional Village Courts in scheduled tribes villages.

The Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC), under the Sixth Schedule provision, has appointed members to

the TVC in various villages inhabited by scheduled tribes. The workshop saw the participation of traditional village headmen from 47 villages in Karbi Anglong, where tribes such as Karbis, Naga Rengmas, Garos, Khasis, Dimasas, and Kukis are considered scheduled tribes.

During the workshop, advocate Sarthe Ronghi, Dhoniison Lekthe, Rupun Timung, and Salvation Timung enlightened the participants about the significance of TVCs in protecting the customary laws and practices of scheduled tribes. The workshop aimed to familiarize traditional village headmen with the legal framework and functioning of TVCs, empow-

ering them to better serve their communities.

The seminar served as a platform for knowledge sharing and collaboration among traditional village headmen, enabling them to effectively implement the provisions of the Sixth Schedule and ensure the preservation of their rich cultural heritage.

The workshop on TVCs in Koilamati contributed to the overall awareness and understanding of the importance of traditional village governance systems in scheduled tribes villages, paving the way for the promotion and protection of their unique customs and traditions.

AAU partners with TERI and ReNew Synergy

HT Correspondent

JORHAT, June 30: On Friday, the Assam Agricultural University (AAU) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with TERI (The Energy and Resources Institute) and ReNew Power Synergy Private Ltd, based in Gurgaon. The purpose of this collaboration is to work together on a project that enables farmers and individuals in Assam to sell carbon credits in both domestic and international markets, thereby generating additional income. Under the project, one crore (ten million) trees will be selected for development on individual properties throughout Assam. The carbon credits generated by each tree can then be traded in international markets, providing a source of revenue for the farmers.

Ceremony held to felicitate Bihu performers in Haflong

HT Correspondent

HAFLONG, June 30: Nandita Gorlosa, the state minister for Power, Sports & Youth Welfare, among other portfolios, presided over a ceremonial distribution of appreciation certificates to the Bihu performers of Dima Hasao district at the District Library Auditorium in Haflong on Friday.

The distribution of certificates was a gesture of appreciation for the Bihu performers who participated in the historic event held at Sarusajai Stadium in Guwahati on April 13. The aim of the event was to set a Guinness World Record for the largest Bihu performance in a single venue, and a total of 50 Bihu dancers from



Dima Hasao district, along with participants from other districts of Assam, contributed to the success of the event.

During the ceremony, Nandita Gorlosa congratulated all the participants from across the districts for their significant contribution to

the success of the Bihu event. She expressed her admiration for the event organisers' hard work and dedication. The minister also highlighted the importance of appreciating and being aware of different dance forms, encouraging the performers to explore beyond their traditional dance styles.

The program began with a warm welcome speech delivered by deputy commissioner Simanta Kumar Das, who expressed his satisfaction at being able to send participants from Dima Hasao and be part of the record-breaking event. As part of the program, a Bihu performance was also presented, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of Assam.

2nd annual memorial lecture commemorating Late Putu Devi Pandey held

HT Correspondent

MORIGAON, June 30: In remembrance of Late Putu Devi Pandey, the 2nd Annual Memorial Lecture was held at Pabitora Hut on Thursday. The program was organised by the Morigaon district committee of Lekhika Santha, Asom. Prasanta Rajguru, editor-in-chief of Prag News, attended the event as the keynote speaker for the 2nd Annual Memorial Lecture. In his speech, Rajguru extensively discussed the topic of 'Women and Society' (Nari Aru Samaj) in the well-attended gathering. The president of Morigaon Zila Sahitya Sabha, Mahendra Saikia, lit the ceremonial lamp at the portrait of Late Putu Devi Pandey, followed by a floral tribute by former president of MZLS, Renu Deka Bora. Morigaon deputy commissioner, Devashis Sarma, inaugurated the 2nd annual memorial lecture in the presence of superintendent of police Hemanta Kr Das, Bhimbora Deori awardee Mileswar Pator, chief advisor of MASS Bubumoni Goswami, and former secretary-general Babul Bora. The president of MDJA, Birinchi Sarma, and senior journalist Ajit Sarma were also present. Expressing gratitude to Morigaon Zila Lekhika Santha for selecting the important topic of 'Women and Society,' Prasanta Rajguru stated that such topics would undoubtedly benefit society. He emphasised the role of women in leading the way towards women empowerment, stating that without their active participation, achieving women empowerment would be impossible.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Power is always dangerous. Power attracts the worst and corrupts the best - Edward Abbey

Next Gen Brahmos missiles ready

BrahMos Aerospace, the Indo-Russian missile manufacturer, has recently announced the completion of the initial design for the highly anticipated BrahMos-NG missiles. The export director of the company revealed that the design phase has been finalised and production is expected to commence soon, marking a significant milestone in the development of this advanced missile system. The announcement regarding the latest iteration of the BrahMos missile was made during the International Maritime Defense Show held in St. Petersburg. The forthcoming BrahMos-NG (Next Generation) missile is set to be a scaled-down version of its predecessor. Despite the reduced weight and size, the BrahMos-NG will retain the same impressive range, velocity, and capabilities of the existing model. With a length of only 6 meters compared to the current 9 meters, the missile is expected to be ready for deployment as early as next year. The BrahMos missile has garnered great enthusiasm in India, as it is poised to significantly enhance the nation's defense capabilities. The missile, named after the Brahmaputra River in India and the Moskva River in Russia, was developed through a collaboration between India's Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and Russia's NPO Mashinostroyeniya. BrahMos Aerospace, the joint venture created by this collaboration, proudly advertises the BrahMos as the world's fastest supersonic cruise missile, capable of being launched from land, air, sea, or underwater platforms. It can reach speeds of up to 2.8 Mach, equivalent to three times the speed of sound, and has an impressive range of 290 kilometers.

The BrahMos missile comes in three variants: surface-to-surface, air, and submarine. The surface-to-surface model underwent rigorous testing at the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur, Odisha, before being inducted into the Indian Army in 2007. Over the years, the missile has undergone numerous updates and achievements. In 2009, it became the first cruise missile to achieve supersonic speeds during steep-dive mode. A longer-range version of the surface-to-surface missile was successfully tested in 2020, extending its reach to 350 kilometers. In 2013, the submarine-launched version of the BrahMos was successfully tested, marking a significant milestone in the missile's development. It can be launched from depths of up to 40-50 meters underwater, further expanding its operational capabilities. The naval variant of the missile was inducted into the Indian Navy in 2005, preceding the other versions. BrahMos Aerospace has also developed the BrahMos ALCM (Air-launched Cruise Missile), specifically designed for the Indian Air Force's frontline fighter, the Sukhoi-30MKI. The air-launched version of the missile underwent its inaugural flight-test in 2017, hitting its target in the Bay of Bengal with pinpoint accuracy. In December 2022, successful tests were conducted on an extended-range variant of the missile, boasting an approximate range of 450 kilometers.

Looking towards the future, BrahMos Aerospace is actively working on constructing an upgraded variant of the missile, the BrahMos-II. This version aims to achieve an extended range of around 600 kilometers and an astounding speed of Mach 8, making it the world's fastest hypersonic missile. The enhanced capabilities of the BrahMos-II will provide India's defence forces with a powerful tool to precisely target and strike deep into enemy territory. The advancement of the BrahMos missile system underscores the ongoing collaboration and technological prowess between India and Russia. As the BrahMos-NG missile enters production and further developments continue, it is poised to become a cornerstone of India's defense strategy, bolstering its security and asserting its position on the global stage.

Stereotypes: A deep-rooted barrier in women empowerment

By: Suvrashree Kalita

Women's empowerment explicitly states that all rights, including social and political rights, economic security, judicial authority, and other rights, should apply equally to men and women. Men and women shouldn't be treated differently. Women should now be aware of the basic and social rights they acquire upon birth.

Stereotypes are assumptions or generalizations made about particular social groupings based on factors such as gender, race, ethnicity, or other characteristics. When it comes to gender stereotypes, they frequently uphold established roles and standards for women, limiting their options and potential. Stereotypes are widely held, which continues to be a huge barrier in the way of gender equality and women's empowerment. Stereotypes are engrained cultural precepts that place gender-based assumptions on people in terms of roles, traits, and expectations. These preconceptions frequently reinforce detrimental biases against women and impede their advancement in a variety of areas of life. This article addresses strategies for overcoming stereotypes and looks at how they harm women's empowerment.

1. Stereotype: "The Perfect Homemaker": Women's roles as mothers and housewives are one persistent stereotype. According to this stereotype, a woman's primary responsibility is to care for her family and take care of her home, while she neglects her own goals and ambitions. This expectation restricts women's options and supports the idea that the only place in which they are valuable is in the home.

The consequences of this stereotype are far-reaching. Given that cultural norms place a higher priority on their domestic roles, women may experience barriers to pursuing employment, getting an education, or holding leadership positions.

2. Stereotype: "The Fragile and Emotional": Another stereotype that is frequently applied to women is that they are innately less able to handle stress or make logical decisions due to their emotional fragility. Women's trustworthiness and skill in a variety of fields, including politics and business, are undercut by this stereotype. It results in unfair practices such salary disparities based on gender and little prospects for career progression. In addition, the idea that women are overly emotional may prevent them from speaking up or accepting leadership roles out of apprehension over being laughed at or called "hysterical." This prevents women from contributing their full potential by silencing their voices, ideas, and talents.

3. Stereotype: "The Beauty Standard": Society often perpetuates the stereotype that a woman's value lies in her physical appearance. Women are under tremendous pressure to meet strict standards of attractiveness because of this unattainable beauty standard, which affects their sense of value and self-esteem. Women's confidence is hampered and kept from pursuing opportunities where their value extends beyond physical attractiveness by the emphasis on looks rather than talents and abilities.

Overcoming stereotypes and promoting women's empowerment:

1. Education and awareness: Awareness-building about gender stereotypes and the damage they do is essential. Stereotypes need to be actively challenged and disproved by educational institutions, neighbourhood organizations, and media outlets. Women can be empowered, and change can be sparked by correct knowledge and the promotion of strong role models.

2. Encouraging critical thinking: By fostering critical thinking abilities, people can challenge prejudiced attitudes and cast doubt on widely held stereotypes.

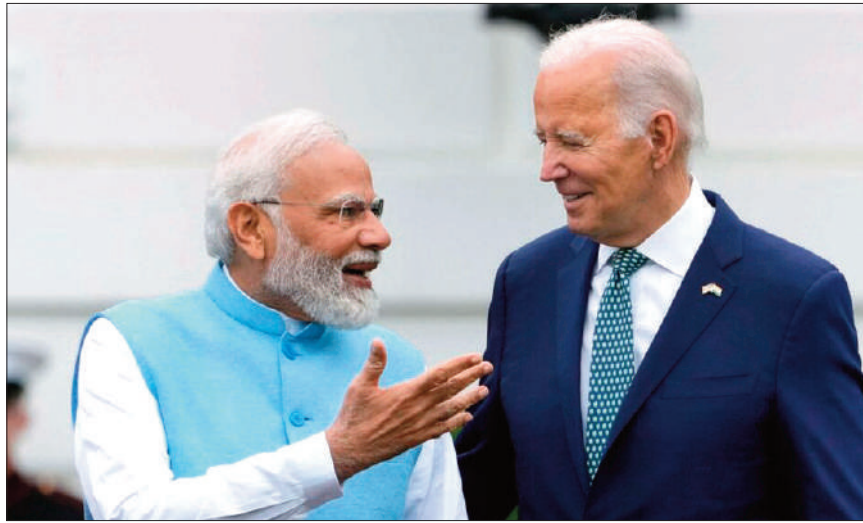
3. Promoting equal representation: Promoting equitable representation of women in all spheres—including leadership, the media, and decision-making—is crucial to combat stereotypes. By raising awareness, we disprove stereotypes and emphasize the accomplishments and capacities of women.

4. Men as allies: The struggle against gender stereotypes must include men as supporters. Men can actively support and promote women's empowerment to fight and destroy misconceptions. We may cooperate to remove barriers by establishing inclusive cultures that embrace gender equality and diversity.

Conclusion

Women's empowerment is hampered by stereotypes, which also prevent them from moving forward in different facets of life. To combat these preconceptions, we must work together to dispel prejudiced ideas, advance equal representation, and inform people about the negative effects of stereotypes. By destroying preconceptions, we can make the world more welcoming and empowering for women, where their abilities, goals, and accomplishments are praised and recognized.

Biden puts geopolitical interests above human rights in his talks with Narendra Modi



Even the fragrance of the pleasant words that were bestowed upon Narendra Modi before his departure from the United States had faded, the Indian prime minister had to taste the bitter bite of American anger at some of his cabinet ministers and senior BJP leaders unleashing online harassment of journalist Sabrina Siddiqui, who at the press meet at White House had dared to ask Modi an uncomfortable question. Siddiqui had asked: "Mr. Prime Minister, India has long prided itself as the world's largest democracy, but there are many human rights groups who say that your government has discriminated against religious minorities and sought to silence its critics... What steps are you and your government willing to take to improve the rights of Muslims and other religious minorities in your country and uphold free speech?"

It is indeed a matter of shame that the Hindutva ecosystem has completely demolished the aura that Modi managed to create around him by coining the new word AI (America-India), putting in hefty diplomatic efforts. While the Hindutva troll army think that they have simply targeted Siddiqui, the unfortunate truth is that they have turned the Americans against their President Joe Biden for according official state welcome and elevating the status of Modi. True enough, realising the intensity of the hatred directed towards Siddiqui, the Biden administration subsequently had to adopt a tough posture against India and the Modi government.

What worsened the situation for Biden is the reckless insinuation and revolting crusade against former US president Barack Obama by two senior cabinet colleagues of Modi, the Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman and defence minister Rajnath Singh. Both the ministers accused former President Obama of ordering bombing on six Muslim countries while the latter helmed the White House, as they decried his remark on Modi's stance towards Indian Muslims.

The Biden administration, which had just accorded a red carpet welcome to Modi, was quite enraged at the insinuation campaign launched by the saffron ecosystem and came out with a stern warning that it was completely unacceptable. Through their rancorous campaign, the RSS and BJP cadres and Modi bhakts have, ironically enough smeared the face of India and lowered its prestige across the world. Ironically, this nasty act was performed by the very men, who have been striving to project Modi as the "Vishwa Guru". No doubt, it is a disgrace for India.

BJP's ecosystem and its senior leaders were not content with simply calling Siddiqui an "Islamist", they trolled Siddiqui as "the daughter of Pakistani parents" and for "echoing the claims of Islamists". US media has turned hostile to Modi and India to such an extent that US National Security Council Coordinator for Strategic Communications, John Kirby, had to say:

"We're aware of the reports of that harassment. It's unacceptable. And we absolutely condemn any harassment of journalists anywhere under any circumstances. That's...completely unacceptable. And it's antithetical to the very principles of democracy that...were on display last week during the state visit."

White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said that the US government is committed to the freedom of the press. "We certainly condemn any efforts of intimidation or harassment of a journalist or any journalist that is just trying to do their job". More than getting angry at Siddiqui questioning Modi, the BJP leaders and political ecosystem directing their hostility towards former US president Obama, whom, incidentally, Modi had once described as his "friend", is perplexing. Who can forget Modi preparing and offering tea to Obama on his visit to India? While Modi was still in the US, Obama, in an interview to CNN's Christiane Amanpour had said, "If I had a conversation with Prime Minister Modi, who I know well, part of my argument would be that if you do not protect the rights of ethnic minorities in India, there is a strong possibility at some point that India starts pulling apart. If the President (Biden) meets with PM Modi, then the protection of the Muslim minority in a majority-Hindu India, that's something worth mentioning."

Barely hours after his remark, Himanta Biswa Sarma, the BJP chief minister of Assam, made a snide remark referring to him as a "Hussain Obama". This indeed was a prejudiced attack on Obama. Sarma's comments outright contradicted Modi's statement in Washington. This was a deliberate attempt of Sarma, who joined BJP barely three years ago deserting his parent party Congress.

Within twenty four hours of Sharma's vitriolic, the Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman accused Obama of indulging in Modi bashing by saying that his remarks about minority rights in India were surprising as six Muslim-majority countries had faced US "bombing" during his tenure. She said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has received the highest civilian awards from 13 countries, including six with predominantly Muslim population. The finance minister alleged that "organised campaigns" were being run to level "baseless" allegations on the treatment meted out to minorities at the behest of the Opposition, as it cannot defeat the BJP electorally under Modi. While observing that it is also important to see who are the people behind them, she said that the Congress is "deliberately" raising "non-issues" and levelling allegations "without facts" to vitiate the country's atmosphere.

As the finance minister she should have shown moral conviction by officially calling the remarks by Obama as motivated and absurd. But she preferred to hide behind the façade of party platform. She came out with this allegation as the spokesperson of the BJP. She recalled how Modi at a press conference had reiterated 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' principle.

One feels pity at her ominous attempts to distort the facts and history. It is worth recalling that Obama was elected in 2008 partly because of his opposition to the Iraq war and awarded the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize after he assumed office. His military decisions to attack are intentionally being twisted by Sitharaman. USA had killed the dreaded Al-Qaeda terrorist Osama Bin Laden inside Pakistani soil. Will she also say that US was attacking Muslims in Pakistan? Of course, US has targeted al-Qaeda and Taliban fighters in controversial drone "precision strikes" in Pakistan's tribal areas for over a decade.

In all the seven Muslim countries which were attacked by US, the primary targets were the terrorists: ISI, Taliban or Al Qaeda. Obama had admitted in 2012: "For the most part, they've been very precise precision strikes against al-Qaeda and their affiliates, and we're very careful in terms of how it's been applied." US target ISIS in Somalia. It was again ISIS menace in Syria. Facing threats from al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, the Obama administration significantly ramped-up the use of armed drones. U.S. drones have targeted militants associated with al Shabaab,

a terrorist network that perpetrated a high-profile attack last year at a mall in Kenya.

Sitharaman distorting the facts and protecting her leader Modi by describing Obama as anti-Muslim has not come as mere surprise. It was really a shock. How could a cabinet minister speak such blatant lies! But this was not the first and last. Close on her spiteful remarks, the defence minister Rajnath Singh also raised accusing fingers towards Obama. He said: Obama should think about how many Muslim countries he attacked. In his pro-Modi homily, he said Obama should know that the people of India believe in the concept of 'vasudhaiva kutumbakam' and consider all people as members of one global family. Rajnath slammed Obama saying: "I want to tell you with confidence that even Muslim countries would not have all the 72 sects of the community. It is only in India that you will find them all." What a shame then that even in a country, which has 72 Muslim sects, they are ill-treated by the RSS and BJP leaders? Like Sitharaman he too did not speak on behalf of the government. Singh spoke as a well-wisher to Modi.

In any other political backdrop, this issue might have flared into a major diplomatic storm, but in the prevailing situation, the Biden administration would prefer to give it a peaceful decent burial as its stakes are quite high. The Bay of Bengal possesses significant geostrategic importance for US, especially Biden. It is a known fact that for countering the expansionist policy of China, it is imperative that US must have a strong base in the region. US having a strong naval base in the Bay of Bengal will enhance its power projection capabilities and maintain deterrence. Obviously in this backdrop, notwithstanding the BJP political ecosystem launching a scathing attack on Obama, the Biden administration would not sound too harsh towards Modi and his men. Any harsh approach will help China cause. India, as the largest country bordering the Bay of Bengal, holds crucial strategic interests. Insult of a journalist by the BJP ministers and leaders has no relevance, rather counts immaterial, when it comes to preserving and promoting the interest of the USA.

Harvard history professor Maya Jasanoff had warned that the US attempting to rope in Narendra Modi's India as an ally in the cold war against China could spell doom for the global project of freedom. But it failed to impress Biden. She had said: "But here is what Americans need to know about Mr. Modi's India. Armed with a sharp-edged doctrine of Hindu nationalism, Mr. Modi has presided over the nation's broadest assault on democracy, civil society and minority rights in at least 40 years. He has delivered prosperity and national pride to some, and authoritarianism and repression of many others that should disturb us all." She has even cited India's fall on multiple global indices of freedom, democracy, free press and academic freedom. (IPA Service)

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's legacy: Illuminating the path to dignity, equality and justice in Eastern Nagaland

By: Dr. Aniruddha Babar

In the forgotten corners of Frontier Nagaland, where the cries of the invisible orphan people have long been drowned out by the echoes of neglect, a profound awakening is stirring. This article delves into the heart-wrenching realities of a region long forsaken, shedding light on the relevance of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's transformative thoughts and ideas. With unwavering determination, the Frontier Nagaland Movement rises to reclaim political participation and justice, to restore the constitutional rights of a people who have been relegated to the shadows for far too long. In this soul-stirring journey, we witness the resilience of a community shattered by years of systematic economic and political marginalization. The Eastern Naga people, eternal victims of manufactured backwardness of a callous state government, have withstood the weight of their silent suffering. But now, armed with the spirit of renewed vision and the power of the Constitution of India, they forge a path towards emancipation and empowerment.

Emotions run deep as we explore the profound impact of Dr. Ambedkar's legacy. His teachings on social justice resonate powerfully, providing a beacon of hope for those grappling with political and economic injustice. The Frontier Nagaland Movement becomes a testament to the unwavering spirit of these resilient souls, who refuse to be silenced any longer. As the words unfold, we are transported to a realm where injustice meets resistance and hope springs eternal. The profound journey of Frontier Nagaland and the indomitable spirit of its people merge with the transformative ideals of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Together, they weave a tale of redemption, resilience, and the pursuit of a just and inclusive society.

In the remote and often overlooked regions of Eastern Nagaland, a movement is brewing - a movement that seeks to restore the constitutional rights and dignity of the eastern Naga people. The Frontier Nagaland Movement, with its roots deeply embedded in the struggle for political and economic justice has found resonance in the thoughts and ideas of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the architect of India's Constitution and a champion of social justice.

One of the key pillars of Dr. Ambedkar's philosophy was the importance of political participation. He believed that true democracy could only be realized when every individual had the opportunity to actively participate in the political process. In the context of the Frontier Nagaland Movement, this means empowering the eastern Naga people to have a voice and representation in decision-making bodies. For far too long, these remote regions have been marginalized and their concerns overlooked by the state government of Nagaland. By embracing Ambedkar's vision of political participation, the Frontier Nagaland Movement seeks to challenge this systemic neglect and bring about meaningful change through the creation of a separate autonomous region-The Frontier Naga Territory.

Another crucial aspect of Dr. Ambedkar's ideology is the pursuit of economic justice. He recognized that social and political empowerment cannot be achieved without economic upliftment. In the case of Frontier Nagaland, the region has been plagued by economic disparities and the perpetuation of a systematically manufactured backwardness. The people of these remote areas have been deprived of basic infrastructure, quality education, healthcare facilities, and employment opportunities. By embracing Ambedkar's ideas of economic justice,

the Frontier Nagaland Movement aims to address these inequalities and uplift the socio-economic conditions of the eastern Naga people through the creation of a separate, autonomous region-The Frontier Naga Territory.

The restoration of constitutional rights is at the heart of the Frontier Nagaland Movement. The eastern Naga people have long felt the weight of being invisible orphans, neglected by the state government for decades. Their demands for constitutional justice have often been met with indifference or suppression in the past. Dr. Ambedkar, as the architect of the Indian Constitution, laid the foundation for a just and inclusive society, where every citizen is guaranteed fundamental rights and freedoms. The Frontier Nagaland Movement draws inspiration from Ambedkar's vision and seeks to reclaim the constitutional rights that have been denied to the people of Frontier Nagaland through the creation of a separate, autonomous, self-ruled region under the constitutional protection-The Frontier Naga Territory.

The neglect and indifference that eastern Nagas have endured for decades have created a sense of disillusionment and disenfranchisement. The Frontier Nagaland Movement is a testament to their resilience and determination to reclaim their rights. It is a call for justice, equality, and the restoration of their rightful place within the larger framework of Nagaland and the Indian nation.

The relevance of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's thoughts and ideas cannot be overstated in the context of the Frontier Nagaland Movement. His emphasis on political participation, economic justice, and constitutional justice resonates deeply with the aspirations of the eastern Naga people. His philosophy provides a guiding light and a moral compass for those who are fighting for a more

inclusive and equitable society.

As we reflect on the Frontier Nagaland Movement and the relevance of Dr. Ambedkar's thoughts, it becomes clear that the struggle for justice and equality is an ongoing one. It requires the collective efforts of the people, the government, and civil society to address the grievances and aspirations of the eastern Naga people through a common platform that could be formed only through the creation of separate, autonomous, self-ruled region in the state of Nagaland that eastern people visualized - THE FRONTIER NAGA TERRITORY. Frontier Nagaland movement is a unique journey of eastern Naga people that demands dialogue, empathy, and a commitment to upholding the principles of social justice. Let us all understand that, the Frontier Nagaland Movement serves as a reminder of the unfinished agenda of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar - a vision of a just and inclusive society where every individual, regardless of their background or geographical location, is afforded dignity, rights, and opportunities. The movement's demand for political participation, economic justice, and the restoration of constitutional rights reflects the deep-rooted aspirations of the eastern Naga people. By embracing the thoughts and ideas of Dr. Ambedkar, the Frontier Nagaland Movement seeks to pave the way for a more inclusive and equitable future, not just for the people of Frontier Nagaland but for the entire nation. It is a clarion call for justice, and it is a call that cannot be ignored.

In the profound depths of struggle, where the cries of the marginalized echo through the forgotten corners of Frontier Nagaland, we find solace in the enduring spirit of the Frontier Nagaland Movement. It is a testament to the indomitable human will, fueled by the timeless ideals of Dr. B.R.

Ambedkar that seeks to transcend the shackles of invisibility and manufactured backwardness. With each step taken in pursuit of political justice, economic emancipation, and the restoration of constitutional rights, the eastern Naga people redefine the very essence of resilience.

In the face of neglect and marginalization, the unwavering determination of eastern Nagas becomes a beacon of hope, shining a light on the path towards a just and inclusive society. Their struggle is not merely for themselves but for all those forgotten souls who yearn for recognition and dignity. It is a battle fought not with guns and violence, but with the sheer strength of their conviction, as they strive to forge a legacy that will resonate through the annals of history. For in the depths of their pain, they have found the strength to rise. The timeless wisdom of Dr. Ambedkar, who taught us that justice knows no boundaries and equality knows no limits is relevant to the struggle of eastern Nagas for constitutional justice.

Let the struggle of the Eastern Nagas serve as a reminder to us all that the fight for 'justice' is a collective responsibility, transcending geographical boundaries and cultural barriers. As we witness the unfolding of this momentous movement for the restoration of constitutional rights of the forgotten people, let us pledge our unwavering support, standing shoulder to shoulder with the eastern Naga people, as they reclaim their rightful place in the tapestry of our nation. For their struggle is our struggle, their aspirations are our aspirations, and their victory will be a testament to the triumph of justice over oppression, light over darkness, and hope over despair. (The author is an academician in the Dept of Political Science, Tetso College, Nagaland)

Career towards Sustainable Gastronomy

By: **Ranjan K Baruah**

We are aware of different career options and today, I would like to mention an option which is unique and many of us have not heard about the same. We are familiar with courses like hotel management or culinary arts but today we are talking about gastronomy. Well, let's explore gastronomy and understand the same. At the same time we shall also mention why sustainable gastronomy is important and how one may choose it as his or her career choice.

Gastronomy is the study of the relationship between food and culture, the art of preparing and serving rich or delicate and appetizing food, the cooking styles of particular regions, and the science of good eating. One who is well versed in gastronomy is called a gastronome, while a gastronomist is one who unites theory and practice in the study of gastronomy. Generally it is associated with the practice and study of the preparation, production, and service of the various foods and beverages, from countries around the world.

It is sometimes called the art of food. It can

also refer to a style of cooking from a particular region. In other words, gastronomy often refers to local food and cuisine. Sustainability is the idea that something (e.g. agriculture, fishing or even preparation of food) is done in a way that is not wasteful of our natural resources and can be continued into the future without being detrimental to our environment or health. Sustainable gastronomy, therefore, means cuisine that takes into account where the ingredients are from, how the food is grown and how it gets to our markets and eventually to our plates.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the UN General Assembly work to facilitate the observance of Sustainable Gastronomy Day (18th June), in collaboration with Member States, UN organizations and other international and regional bodies, as well as civil society, to observe the Day in raising public awareness of its contribution to sustainable development. The UN General Assembly adopted on 21st December 2016 its resolution A/RES/71/246 and designated 18th June as an international observance, Sustainable

Gastronomy Day.

Choosing gastronomy as a career is easy but the challenge is to make it as sustainable gastronomy. All those who are interested in this field may choose a career like Hotel Management. Courses like hotel management include culinary arts and also cooking. There is specialization through which we could see expert chefs coming from the field of hotel management. The minimum educational qualification is Class XII passed but someone with less qualification may also excel as chef and culinary arts.

There are many shows like reality shows and other programmes which encourage aspiring chefs. One must be innovative who can make use of their ideas with food and culture and make the habit of sustainable gastronomy. When it comes to food and culture then young people from the North Eastern region have more advantage as they can innovate dishes and make them global around the world. The option is endless as food is essential and there is no limit for the qualified, innovative and passionate persons. *(The author is a career mentor and skill trainer and can be reached at 8473943734 or bkranjan@gmail.com)*



APSC Recruitment 2023 – 10 Senior & Junior IPRO Vacancy

Last Date: 18/07/2023.

Assam Public Service Commission has released two employment notifications for the recruitment of 10 Senior Information & Public Relations Officer and Junior Information & Public Relations Officer vacancy under Information, Public Relations, Printing & Stationery Department, Assam. Interested and eligible candidates may apply online.

1. Senior Information & Public Relations Officer

No of posts: 4 posts

Category-wise vacancy:

UR: 3

OBC/ MOBC: 1

Scale of Pay: Rs. 30,000/- to 1,10,000/- GP: Rs. 13,900/-

Educational Qualification:

i. A graduate in Science/Arts/Commerce from a recognized university only will be acceptable (Professional/Technical Degrees allowed).

ii. A degree/diploma in Journalism or in Mass Communication from an Institute recognized by University Grants Commission (UGC) or at least five years' experience in Journalism in a responsible capacity in a Newspaper/News/Public Relations Organization/ Government Public Relations Department.

iii. A good command over English.

iv. Knowledge of Assamese or any other regional language or local language of the state.

v. Knowledge of Computer Application. The candidates must possess a minimum 6 (six) months Diploma/Certificate in computer proficiency from a Govt recognized institute.

2. Junior Information & Public Relations Officer

No of posts: 6 posts

Category-wise vacancy:

UR: 4

STP: 1

STH: 1

Scale of Pay: Rs. 30,000/- to 1,10,000/- GP: Rs. 12,700/-

Educational Qualification:

i. A graduate in Science/Arts/Commerce from a recognized university only will be acceptable (Professional/Technical Degrees allowed).

ii. A degree/diploma in Journalism or in Mass Communication from an Institute recognized by University Grants Commission (UGC) or at least three years' experience in Journalism in a responsible capacity in a Newspaper/News/Public Relations Organization/ Government Public Relations Department.

iii. A good command over English.

iv. Knowledge of Assamese or any other regional language or local language of the state.

v. Knowledge of Computer Application. The candidates must possess a minimum 6 (six) months Diploma/Certificate in computer proficiency from a Govt recognized institute.

Related Article: APSC CCE Exam 2022

Other Criteria of APSC Recruitment

Age Limit: The candidates should not be less than 21 years of age and not more than 38 years of age as on 01/01/2023.

Age Relaxation: The category-wise age relaxation is as mentioned below.

SC: 5 years

ST: 5 years

OBC/ MOBC: 3 years

For more details pl read the official notification/s.

Citizenship: Candidates must be Indian Citizens as defined in Articles 5 to 8 of the Constitution of India.

Residency:

(i) The candidate must be a permanent resident of Assam.

(ii) The candidate must produce PRC issued in Assam for educational purpose/ Employment Exchange Registration certificate / Voter ID card of the candidate or his/her parents will be treated as proof of residency along with the application form.

Application Fee:

Category Fee (in Rs.)

General/EWS 297.20

SC/ST/OBC/MOBC 197.20

BPL/ PwBD 47.20

Important Dates of APSC Recruitment 2023

Starting date of submission of online application: 18th June 2023

Last date of submission of online application: 17th July 2023 [Senior IPRO]

Last date of submission of online application: 18th July 2023 [Junior IPRO]

SEBI Recruitment 2023 – 25 Officer Grade A (Assistant Manager) Vacancy

Last Date: 09/07/2023.

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has released an employment notification for the recruitment of 25 Officer Grade A (Assistant Manager) vacancy in Legal Stream. Interested and eligible candidates may apply online.

Name of post: Officer Grade A (Assistant Manager) - Legal

No of posts: 25 posts

Category-wise vacancy:

UR: 11

OBC: 7

SC: 3

ST: 2

EWS: 2

Pay Scale: Rs. 44500-2500(4)-54500-2850(7)-74450-EB-2850(4)-85850-3300(1)-89150 (17 years)

Eligibility Criteria of SEBI Recruitment

Age Limit: A candidate must not have exceeded the age of 30 years as on May 31, 2023 i.e., candidate must have been born on or after June 01, 1993.

Age Relaxation: The upper age-limit prescribed above will be relaxable:

SC/ ST: 5 years

OBC: 3 years

PwBD: 10 years

PwBD (OBC): 13 years

PwBD (SC/ST): 15 years

Ex-servicemen: 5 years

Educational Qualification: Bachelor's Degree in Law from a recognized University / Institute.

Desirable Experience: Two years post qualification experience as an Advocate (including as an associate in an Advocate's or Solicitor's Office or Law firm) after being enrolled under the Advocates Act, 1961 (25 of 1961) shall be a desirable qualification. Application Fee:

UR/ OBC/ EWS: Rs. 1000/- + 18% GST

SC/ ST/ PwBD: Rs. 100/- + 18% GST

Important Dates of SEBI Officer Recruitment 2023

Starting date of submission of online application: June 22, 2023

Last date of submission of online application: July 09, 2023

College Of Veterinary Science Guwahati Recruitment 2023 – 4 Posts

Last Date: 18/07/2023.

Department of Animal Biotechnology, College of Veterinary Science, Guwahati has released an employment notification for the recruitment of 4 Research Associate, Technical Assistant & Laboratory Assistant posts under a DBT-funded Project. Interested and eligible candidates may apply.

1. Research Associate-I

No of posts: 1

Essential Qualification: Ph.D. degree in Life Sciences/ Biotechnology/ Animal Biotechnology/ Veterinary Microbiology OR Master's degree in Life science/ Veterinary Science with 3 years of R & D experience and at least one research paper in Science Citation Indexed (SCI) Journal.

Desirable Qualification: Preference will be given to candidates having experience in animal cell culture related work.

Emoluments: Rs.47,000/- + HRA

Date & Time of Interview: July 24, 2023, 10:30 AM

2. Technical Assistant

No of posts: 2

Essential Qualification: B.V.Sc. & A.H./B.Sc. (Biotech)/B.Sc. (Microbiology)/B.Sc.

Desirable Qualification: Proficiency in computer applications/Previous working experience in similar capacity.

Emoluments: Rs.20,000/- + HRA

Date & Time of Interview: July 24, 2023, 12:30 PM

3. Laboratory Assistant

No of posts: 1

Essential Qualification: B.Sc./B.Sc. (Lab. Science)/B.Sc. (Lab. Technology)

Emoluments: Rs.20,000/- + HRA

Date & Time of Interview: July 24, 2023, 2:30 PM

How to Apply for College of Veterinary Science Guwahati Recruitment?

Interested candidates with requisite qualifications have to do registration of their candidature for respective posts applied for (in the given format) on or before 18th July, 2023 and upload their BIODATA in the given format along with a single PDF file containing relevant certificates testifying their academic credentials, working experience and proof of age.

Candidates willing to apply for more than one post may indicate the same by clicking on the corresponding check boxes.

Only selected Short-listed candidates will be called for appearing in the interview to be held on 24th July, 2023. They will be intimated by email and/or phone on 20th/ 21st July, 2023.

At the time of interview, the short-listed candidates have to submit a copy of their BIODATA (format enclosed), one set of hard copies of all relevant documents (self-attested) and a Bank Draft of Rs. 50.00 (Rupees Fifty only) / Rs.25.00 (Rupees Twenty five only) for ST/SC candidates (separately for each post applied for), drawn in favour of Director of Research (Veterinary) payable at Khanapara, Guwahati. They shall have to also produce the original documents for verification at the time of interview.

ITBP Constable Recruitment 2023 – 458 Vacancy, Online Apply

Last Date: 26/07/2023.

Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force (ITBP) has released an employment notification for the recruitment of 458 Constable (Driver) Group 'C' Non-Gazetted (Non-Ministerial) posts on temporary basis likely to be permanent in ITBPF. Interested and eligible candidates may apply online here .

Name of post: Constable (Driver)

No of posts: 458 posts

Category-wise vacancy:

UR: 195 posts

SC: 74 posts

ST: 37 posts

OBC: 110 posts

EWS: 42 posts

Pay: (Level-3 in the Pay Matrix) Rs. 21700-69100 (as per 7th CPC).

Related Article: ITBP Recruitment 2023

Age Limit: Candidates age must be between 21 to 27 years as on 26th July, 2023. Candidates should not have been born earlier than 27th July, 1996 and later than 26th July, 2002.

Age Relaxation: Category-wise age relaxation is as mentioned below.

OBC/ NCL: 3 years

SC/ ST: 5 years

Educational Qualification:

i) Matriculation or 10th pass from a recognized Board or Institution or equivalent;

ii) Must possess valid Heavy Vehicle Driving License.

Application Fee:

UR/ OBC/ EWS: Rs 100/-

SC/ ST/ EX-S/ Female: Nil

Payment Mode: Online

Important Dates of ITBP Constable Vacancy 2023

Starting date for online application submission: 27th June 2023

Last date for online application submission: 26th July 2023

Gauhati University Recruitment 2023 – 8 Vacancy

Last Date: 10/07/2023.

Gauhati University has released 2 employment notifications for the recruitment of 08 Multitasking Assistant (MTA) and Hostel Administrator posts in Gauhati University. Interested and eligible candidates may apply.

1. Multitasking Assistant (MTA)

No of posts: 7

Educational Qualification:

(i) Graduates in any discipline (except Fine Arts) with minimum 45% marks or equivalent grade with uniform academic career.

(ii) Minimum 6 months certificate course on Computer Application.

Remuneration: Rs. 21,000/- per month.

Age Limit: Applicant must not be less than 21 years and more than 45 years on the last date of application.

2. Hostel Administrator (Contractual), Girls Hall

No of posts: 1 (Female only)

Essential Qualification: Master's Degree or equivalent in any stream from any recognized University/National Institution.

Desirable Qualification: Person with Management degree/ diploma are desirable.

Salary: Rs. 23,000/- per month.

Age Limit: Not below 40 years and not more than 50 years on the last date of submission of application.

Application Fee: Rs 500/- only is to be paid through SBI Collect.

Agriculture Insurance Company Recruitment 2023 – 30 MT Vacancy

Last Date: 09/07/2023.

Agriculture Insurance Company (AIC) of India Limited has released an employment notification for the recruitment of 30 Management Trainee (MT) Vacancy in the discipline of Rural Management. Interested and eligible candidates may apply online.

Name of post: Management Trainee

No of posts: 30 posts

Category-wise vacancy:

SC: 4

ST: 2

OBC: 8

EWS: 3

UR: 13

Emoluments & benefits: The selected candidates would be paid a consolidated pay of Rs. 60,000/- p.m. for the one year of training

Eligibility Criteria of Agriculture Insurance Company Recruitment

Age Limit: Candidates' age must be between 21 years to 30 years i.e. a candidate must have been born not earlier than 2nd June 1993 and not later than 1st June 2002 (both dates inclusive).

Age Relaxation: Category-wise age relaxation is as mentioned below:

SC/ ST: 5 years

OBC: 3 years

PWD: 10 years

Educational Qualification:

Graduation in Agriculture Marketing/ Agriculture Marketing & Cooperation/ Agriculture Business Management/ Rural Management with a minimum of 60% marks (SC/ST - 55%) in aggregate from University / Institution recognized by the Govt. of India/Govt. Bodies/AICTE OR

Graduation in any discipline with a minimum of 60% marks (SC/ST - 55%) in aggregate from University / Institution recognized by the Govt. of India/Govt. Bodies/AICTE with 2 years full time Post Graduate Degree/ Diploma in any of the following (with a minimum of 60% marks (SC/ST - 55%) in aggregate from University / Institution recognized by the Govt. of India/Govt. Bodies/AICTE): -

> MBA: Rural Management/Agriculture Marketing/ Agri Business Management/ Agri-Business and Rural Development .

> Post Graduate Diploma: Rural Management/ Agri Business Management (PGDM-ABM)/ Agriculture Marketing.

> Post Graduate Degree: Agriculture Marketing/ Agri Business Management/ Rural Management.

Application Fee:

SC/ST/PwBD Rs. 200/-

Others: Rs. 1000/-

Important Dates of AIC of India Recruitment 2023

Starting for submission of online application: 24th June 2023

Last date for submission of online application: 09th July 2023.

RFRI Jorhat Recruitment 2023 – 3 Technical Assistant & MTS Vacancy

Last Date: 19/07/2023.

Rain Forest Research Institute (RFRI), Jorhat has released an employment notification for the recruitment of 3 Technical Assistant & Multi Tasking Staff (MTS) Vacancy in Rain Forest Research Institute (RFRI), Jorhat. Interested and eligible candidates may apply here.

1. Technical Assistant

No of posts: 2

Agriculture: 1 (UR)

Forestry: 1 (OBC)

Age Limit: Not less than 21 (Twenty One) years and not more than 30 (Thirty) years as on the last day of receipt of application. Only OBC candidates can apply for the post of Technical Assistant (Forestry) and age relaxation upto 3 (Three) years will be them as per Govt. norms.

Educational Qualification: Bachelor's degree in Science in the relevant discipline or equivalent from a recognized University.

2. Multi Tasking Staff (MTS)

No of posts: 1 (PWD)

Age Limit: Not less than 18 (Eighteen) years and not more than 37 (Thirty Seven) years (42 years for SCs/STs and 40 years for OBCs) as on the last day of receipt of application.

Educational Qualification: 10th class pass from a recognized Board.

Desirable: 3 years or more experience in relevant trade.

Application Fee: Non-refundable amount of 500.00 (Rupees Five Hundred only) is to be deposited to this office Savings Bank Account No. 393102010059247 (IFSC Code: UBIN0539317) with Union Bank of India, Jorhat Branch in favour of Director, ICFRE-Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat and proof of payment/deposit of application fee is to be attached with the application form.

Persons with disabilities (PWD) and female candidates are exempted from payment of fees. Relaxation in fees is not applicable to SC/ST/OBC candidates applying against unreserved posts.

How to Apply for RFRI Jorhat Recruitment ?

Interested and eligible candidates who fulfil all the requirements and are willing to serve anywhere in India may apply to the following address.

Director,
Rain Forest Research Institute,
Sotai Deovan, Jorhat-785001, Assam .

Candidates must send application along with self-attested copies of :

(a) Certificate of proof of age.

(b) Certificates/Mark-sheets of educational qualification.

(c) Certificate issued by the competent authority in prescribed format in support of claim belonging to Persons with Disability (for the post of MT S), as applicable. In case the certificate is in a local vernacular language, its English translation should be submitted.

(d) Certificate in support of claim for age relaxation/fee concession, as applicable.

Putin made these remarks on Thursday at a forum in Moscow organised by Russia's Agency for Strategic Initiatives

President Vladimir Putin calls Prime Minister Narendra Modi 'big friend of Russia'

MOSCOW, June 30 (PTI): President Vladimir Putin has called Prime Minister Narendra Modi "a big friend" of Russia and said his 'Make in India' campaign has had a "truly impressive effect" on the country's economy.

Putin made these remarks on Thursday at a forum in Moscow organised by Russia's Agency for Strategic Initiatives (ASI).

"Our friends in India and our big friend, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, launched the 'Make in India' initiative several years ago. It has had a truly impressive effect on the Indian economy. It would do no harm to emulate what is working well, even if it was not us but our friends who created it," the president was quoted as saying by the RT

News.

Putin made a case for India as he discussed the opportunities for Russian companies due to the West's sanctions policies, and the need for Moscow to "offer support tools to help our companies market their products more efficiently".

Crediting Indian leadership for creating an effective model to develop local manufacturing capabilities and woo foreign investors, Putin emphasised the need to think about "making our products more convenient and functional, with a modern look and properties", the report added.

Industrial and product design should become an important resource for the development of domestic business, Putin said.



This was one of the major public appearances of President Putin; days after a Russian mercenary group launched a short-lived armed

rebellion against him.

The rebellion by Yevgeny Prigozhin and his Wagner group on Saturday marked the most serious challenge to President Putin in more than two decades of his rule.

On Wednesday, Russia's Security Council Secretary Nikolai Patrushev briefed NSA Ajit Doval on the latest developments in the country following the rebellion.

The 'Make in India' initiative was launched by Prime Minister Modi in 2014 and aimed to create and encourage companies to develop, manufacture and assemble products made in the country and incentivise dedicated investments into manufacturing, it said.

With the largest population of over 1.4 billion people and the 5th

largest GDP of around USD 3.7 trillion, India has in recent years emerged not only as an alternative destination for license manufacturing for global companies but also as a massive consumer market for foreign investors, the report said.

India's export performance has improved, according to official data, from around USD 468 billion in 2014 to an estimated USD 770 billion in the 2022-23 fiscal year, it said. India has also seen a significant increase in foreign direct investment inflows, from USD 36 billion in 2014 to over USD 81 billion in 2020-21.

Putin and Modi last met on the sidelines of a regional security bloc summit in Uzbekistan in September 2022.

President Xi will attend virtual SCO summit hosted by India: Chinese Foreign Ministry

BEIJING, June 30 (PTI): Chinese President Xi Jinping will attend next week's virtual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) being hosted by India, an official announcement here said on Friday.

At the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President Xi will attend via video conference in Beijing, the 23rd meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO on July 4 and deliver important remarks, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said in a brief press release.

This is the first official announcement about Xi's participation in the SCO summit being hosted by India.

The SCO is an influential economic and security bloc and has emerged as one of the largest trans-regional international organisations.

The SCO was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the presidents of Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. India and Pakistan became its permanent members in 2017.

India holds the rotating Presidency of the organisation this year.

Ahead of the summit to be held for the first time under India's Presidency, India on Tuesday inaugurated an exquisitely designed "New Delhi Hall" at the SCO Secretariat in Beijing.

While the SCO's six founding members, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan have their halls highlighting their cultures and unique features, India is the first to add its own.

Virtually inaugurating the hall, External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar in his address said the New Delhi Hall, is conceived to be a "mini-India" showcasing various facets of Indian culture.

600 arrested and 200 police officers hurt on France's 3rd night of protests over teen's killing

NANTERRE, June 30 (AP): Protesters erected barricades, lit fires and shot fireworks at police in French streets overnight as tensions grew over the deadly police shooting of a 17-year-old that has shocked the nation. More than 600 people were arrested and at least 200 police officers injured as the government struggled to restore order on a third night of unrest.

Armored police vehicles rammed through the charred remains of cars that had been flipped and set ablaze in the northwestern Paris suburb of Nanterre, where a police officer shot the teen identified only by his first name, Nahel. On the other side of the city hall of the suburb of Clichy-sous-Bois and set a bus depot ablaze in Aubervilliers. The French capital also saw fires and some stores ransacked.

In the Mediterranean port city of Marseille, police sought to disperse violent groups in the city center, regional authorities said.

President Emmanuel Macron planned to leave an EU summit in Brussels, where France plays a major role in European policymaking, to return to Paris and hold an emergency security meeting Friday.

Some 40,000 police officers were deployed to quell the protests. Police detained 667 people, the interior minister said; 307 of those were in the Paris region alone, according to the Paris police headquarters.

Around 200 police officers were injured, according to a national police spokesperson. No information was available about injuries among the rest of the population.

Schools, town halls and police stations were targeted by people setting fires, and police used tear gas, water cannons and dispersion grenades against rioters, the spokesperson said.

Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin on Friday denounced what he called a night of "rare violence."

His office described the arrests as a sharp increase on previous operations as part of an overall government effort to be "extremely firm" with rioters.

The government has stopped

short of declaring a state of emergency — a measure taken to quell weeks of rioting around France that followed the accidental death of two boys fleeing police in 2005.

The police officer accused of pulling the trigger Tuesday was handed a preliminary charge of voluntary homicide after prosecutor Pascal Prache said his initial investigation led him to conclude "the conditions for the legal use of the weapon were not met." Preliminary charges mean investigating magistrates strongly suspect wrongdoing but need to investigate more before sending a case to trial.

The detained police officer's lawyer, speaking on French TV channel BFMTV, said the officer was sorry and "devastated." The officer did what he thought was necessary in the moment, attorney Laurent-Franck Lienard told the news outlet.

"He doesn't get up in the morning to kill people," Lienard said of the officer, whose name has not been released as per French practice in criminal cases. "He really didn't want to kill."

The shooting captured on video shocked France and stirred up long-simmering tensions between police and young people in housing projects and other disadvantaged neighborhoods.

The teenager's family and their lawyers haven't said the police shooting was race-related and they didn't release his surname or details about him.

Still, anti-racism activists renewed their complaints about police behavior.

"We have to go beyond saying that things need to calm down," said Dominique Sopo, head of the campaign group SOS Racisme. "The issue here is how do we make it so that we have a police force that when they see Blacks and Arabs, don't tend to shout at them, use racist terms against them and in some cases, shoot them in the head."

In Nanterre, a peaceful march Thursday afternoon in honor of Nahel was followed by escalating confrontations, with smoke billowing from cars and garbage bins set ablaze.

Ukraine aims to wear down and outsmart a Russian army distracted by infighting

KYIV, June 30 (AP): The ambush had been postponed three times before Ukrainian commanders decided one recent night that conditions were finally right. Cloaked in darkness, a battalion of Kyiv's 129th brigade pressed ahead, advancing stealthily on unsuspecting Russian soldiers.

By the time the Russians situated along the front line realized they were under attack, it was too late.

Ukraine's recapture of the small village of Neskuchne in the eastern Donetsk region on June 10 encapsulates the opening strategy of a major counteroffensive launched earlier this month. Small platoons bank on the element of surprise and, when successful, make incremental gains in territory and battlefield intelligence.

"We had a few scenarios. In the end, I think we chose the best one. To come quietly, unexpectedly," said Serhiy Zherebylo, the 41-year-old deputy commander of the battalion that retook Neskuchne.

Across the 1,500-kilometer (930-mile) front line, Ukrainian forces are attempting to wear down the enemy and reshape battle lines to create more favorable conditions for a decisive, eastward advance. One strategy could be to try to split Russia's forces in two so that the Crimean Peninsula, which Moscow illegally annexed in 2014, is isolated from the rest of the



territory it controls.

Ukraine's troops were given a boost of morale last week by an armed rebellion in Russia that posed the most significant threat to President Vladimir Putin's power in more than two decades. Yet how the revolt by Wagner Group mercenaries under the command of Russian warlord Yevgeny Prigozhin affects the trajectory of the war remains to be seen.

The infighting is a major distraction for Russia's military and political leaders, but experts say the impact on the battlefield so far appears minimal.

For the past four days, Ukraine has stepped up operations around the eastern city of Bakhmut, which Wagner forces seized after months of intense fighting and then handed over to Russian soldiers, who continue to lose some ground on their southern flank.

IMF reaches staff-level agreement with Pak on USD 3 billion 'stand-by arrangement'

ISLAMABAD, June 30 (PTI): In a major relief to cash-strapped Pakistan, the government and the IMF have reached a long-awaited staff-level agreement to inject USD 3 billion into the ailing economy after months-long negotiations that pushed the country to the brink of default.

Pakistan and the Washington-based global lender reached an agreement on Thursday to support the authorities' immediate efforts to stabilise the economy from external shocks.

Pakistan's economy has been in a free fall mode for the last many years, bringing untold pressure on the poor masses in the form of unchecked inflation, making it almost impossible for a vast number of people to make ends meet.

"I am pleased to announce that the IMF team has reached a staff-level agreement with the Pakistani authorities on a nine-month Stand-by Arrangement (SBA) in the amount of SDR 2,250 million (about USD 3 billion or 111 per cent of Pakistan's IMF quota)," Nathan Porter, the International Monetary Fund's Mission Chief to Pakistan, said in a statement on Thursday.

"The new SBA builds on the authorities' efforts under Pakistan's 2019 EFF-supported programme



which expires at the end-June. This agreement is subject to approval by the IMF's Executive Board, which is expected to consider this request by mid-July," the statement added.

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar shared the IMF's press release on Twitter accompanied by a message: "God may be praised", Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal called it "good news" and urged them to use the opportunity to turn around the country.

The USD 3 billion funding, spread over nine months, is higher than expected for Pakistan. The country was awaiting the release of the remaining USD 2.5 billion from a USD 6.5 billion bailout package agreed in 2019, which expires on Friday.

"The new SBA will support the authorities' immediate efforts to stabilise the economy from recent external shocks, preserve macroeconomic stability and provide a framework for financing from multilateral and bilateral part-

ners," the statement said.

The full and timely implementation of the programme will be critical for its success in light of the difficult challenges, it said.

The statement said that Pakistan's Parliament approved the FY24 budget "in line with the goals of supporting fiscal sustainability and mobilising revenue, which will enable greater social and development spending".

Pakistan had to bend back to limits to get the loan as the fund put forward tough conditions and refused to budge until the government fulfilled them.

Ultimately Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had to intervene who had several interactions with IMF Managing Director, Kristalina Georgieva to persuade the lender to approve the deal.

Pakistan had been barely managing its external liabilities as its foreign reserves hovered around USD 4 billion while experts warned of default in coming months. With the IMF approving its policies, the country will get access to multilateral and bilateral loans to build its reserves and plan for a long time.

The country's economy has faced several challenges in recent times, including devastating floods last year and commodity price hikes following the war in Ukraine.

Sri Lanka's main opposition party to oppose government's debt restructuring plan in Parliament

COLOMBO, June 30 (PTI): Sri Lanka's main opposition party on Friday said it will vote against the government's domestic debt restructuring (DDR) plan as it is concerned over its implications on the cash-strapped country's banking and finance sector.

The Cabinet approved the debt restructuring plan on Wednesday which was to be referred to the public finance committee in parliament and finally for parliament's approval on Saturday.

Sri Lanka's banking and finance sector feared for the worse as the government set about restructuring the local debt of USD 42 billion, which is more than its external debt component.

"We will vote against it as there is no clarity on it," Ranjith Maduma Bandara, General Secretary of the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) party told reporters.

Harsha De Silva, another lawmaker from the SJB, who heads the public finance committee said, "Based on the Governor's explanation, the banking and insurance sectors as a whole won't be affected. But through the international sovereign bonds and the Sri Lanka Development Bonds the banks could get affected".

The opposition said they were

looking forward to seeing the final proposal that will be presented in Parliament at the special session.

The parallel negotiations with the external creditors are ongoing in terms of the International Monetary Fund's bailout conditions for a nearly USD 3 billion bailout over 4 years.

President Ranil Wickremesinghe, who is also the finance minister, hopes to reduce USD 17 billion out of the total external debt of USD 41 billion.

Explaining the implications of the domestic debt restructuring on the local banks, the governor of the central bank Nandalal Weerasinghe said on Thursday that the banking sector would be totally safe from any adverse effects of the DDR.

He said the Central Bank holdings will be restructured, "the treasury bills will be exchanged for treasury bonds, with a longer-term grace period of 5 years and with maturity extensions, the treasury bonds held by banks would be excluded.

More consultations by the parliament's public finance committee are billed to take place today and the final form of the parliamentary motion would be known thereafter.

Meta also made a similar announcement last week, saying it would remove news from Facebook and Instagram before the law comes into force

Google set to remove news links in Canada over online news law

OTTAWA (ONTARIO), June 30 (AP): Google has said it will remove links to Canadian news on its platforms across Canada over a new law that will require digital giants to compensate media outlets for content they share or otherwise repurpose.

The tech giant on Thursday said it will remove Canadian news links from Google News — a personalised aggregator service available by web or app that highlights local news — and from Google Discover, a feature on mobile phones that helps people find content.

Canadian Heritage Minister Pablo Rodriguez accused Google of trying to bully Canadians, but added that "big tech isn't bigger than Canada".

"Big tech would rather spend money changing their platforms to block news from Canadians instead of paying a small share of the billions they make in advertising dollars," Rodriguez tweeted.

Google said it informed Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberal government of its decision. It did not say exactly when it would begin



to remove news, but indicated it would happen before the law takes effect by the end of the year. That law was passed last week. Only Canadian news will be blocked, so Canadian users will still be able to see content from outlets like Fox News or BBC, for example.

Meta made a similar announcement last week, saying it would remove news from its social media platforms Facebook and Instagram before the law comes into force. It is also ending existing deals with local publishers.

Meta is already running a test to block news for up to 5 per cent of its Canadian users. Google ran a

similar test earlier this year.

Kent Walker, president of global affairs for Google and its parent company, Alphabet, said the law is "unworkable".

In a blog post published to Google's website Thursday, Walker said the bill creates a price on links, resulting in an uncapped financial liability "simply for facilitating Canadians' access to news from Canadian publishers".

"We don't take this decision or its impacts lightly and believe it's important to be transparent with Canadian publishers and our users as early as possible," Walker wrote.

The Online News Act requires

both Google and Meta to enter into agreements with news publishers to pay them for news content that appears on their sites if it helps them generate money. Google had been seeking assurances about how much that could cost it and how the bargaining process would unfold. Those details are likely to become clear after the bill's regulatory process is complete.

Legacy media and broadcasters have praised the bill, which promises to "enhance fairness" in the digital news marketplace and help bring in more money for shrinking newsrooms. Tech giants including Meta and Google have been blamed in the past for disrupting and dominating advertising, eclipsing smaller, traditional players.

Rodriguez had previously expressed hope the government could come to a positive resolution with both companies to prevent them from removing news. He also said the government would continue to support newsrooms if Google and Meta pulled news from their platforms, though he did not say exactly how that would be done.

UNITED NATIONS, June 30 (AP): The UN General Assembly has approved a resolution that will establish an independent body to determine what happened to more than 130,000 people missing as a result of the conflict in Syria.

The resolution, an important response to appeals by their families and loved ones, was adopted on Thursday by the 193-member world body on a vote of 83-11 with 62 abstentions. Among those opposing the resolution was Syria, which said it will not cooperate with the new institution. Russia, China, North Korea, Venezuela, Cuba and Iran also voted no.

The resolution, spearheaded by Luxembourg, noted that after 12 years of fighting in Syria "little progress has been achieved in alleviating the suffering of families by providing answers as to the fate and whereabouts of all missing persons".

It authorises the establishment of an Independent Institution of Missing Persons in the Syrian Arab Republic, under UN auspices, "to clarify the fate and whereabouts of all missing persons... and to provide adequate support to victims, survivors and the families of those missing".

It says victims, survivors and the families of the missing should be represented in the new body, which will be guided by principles including "do no harm," impartiality, transparency and the confidentiality of sources and information.

Under the resolution, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres must present terms of reference for the new institution within 80 working days and take



steps to speedily establish the body and put it in operation. It requests the UN chief to report on implementation of the resolution within 100 working days.

Luxembourg's UN ambassador, Olivier Maes, told the General Assembly before the vote that "every day families, especially women, face administrative and legal difficulties, financial uncertainties and deep trauma as they continue to search for their missing loved ones".

He noted that Guterres recommended in a report last August that UN members consider establishing an independent institution to clarify the fate of the missing. He cited insufficient coordination among current bodies dealing with Syria's missing and said families often had to report disappearances to multiple places.

Maes said the new institution will be "a one-stop shop" and serve as a single place to collect and compare data and ensure coordination and communication with all parties.

Toll rises to 3 in fresh firing in Manipur

IMPHAL, June 30 (PTI): The toll in exchange of fire between security forces and suspected rioters in Manipur's Kangpokpi district a day before, rose to three on Friday, with one more person succumbing to injuries in hospital, officials said.

Five people were reported injured in the firefight, they said.

Armed rioters had opened unprovoked firing at Haraothel village on Thursday. The Army said security forces personnel "responded in a calibrated manner" to tackle the situation, they said.

The mob dispersed by 10 pm, as police and RAF were employed for crowd control, the officials said.

Members of the community to which two of the rioters belonged collected their bodies on Thursday and took out a procession to chief minister N Biren Singh's residence here, they said.

The demonstrators, led by women, even dared police to arrest them, and were also seen burning tyres in the middle of the road to prevent police movement, the officials said.

As security personnel stopped them from marching to Singh's residence, the processionists turned violent, prompting police to use tear gas shells and resort to lathicharge to disperse the mob.

Assam Rifles columns were deployed at National Sports University & K Munlai village on Thursday, after intermittent gunfire from automatic weapons was heard from multiple directions towards Haraothel village.

An official said unidentified gunmen fired without provocation in the early hours of Thursday and again in the evening.

Giving details of the morning firing, the official Twitter handle of the Army,



operating in the region, stated armed rioters opened unprovoked firing at 5.30 am.

"Own troops deployed in the area immediately mobilised to prevent escalation

of situation. While enroute to the site, own columns drew effective fire from armed rioters," the official 'Spear Corps' handle of the Army said.

It said the troops "responded in a cali-

brated manner to prevent any collateral damage. Swift action by troops resulted in cessation of firing".

In another tweet in the evening, the Spear Corps said: "At approx 4 PM,

troops deployed in the area heard firing from east of village K Munlai. Further, at approx 5.15 PM, exchange of fire reported from direction of village Bethel, south of National Sports University. Own columns are dominating the area to de-escalate the situation."

The area is located around 20 km from capital city of Imphal.

A candlelight march was also held in Churachandpur on Thursday to pray for peace in Manipur.

More than 100 people have lost their lives in the ethnic violence between Meitei and Kuki communities in the northeastern state so far.

Meiteis account for about 53 per cent of Manipur's population and live mostly in the Imphal Valley. Tribals -- Nagas and Kukis -- constitute another 40 per cent of the population and reside in the hill districts.

Meghalaya launches PRIME tourism vehicles to enhance high-value tourism experience



HT Bureau

SHILLONG, June 30: The state government of Meghalaya has taken a momentous stride towards promoting economic growth through tourism by unveiling PRIME tourism vehicles. With a vision to position Meghalaya as a USD 10 billion economy by 2030, the government recognises the immense potential of tourism in driving the state's development. The tourism industry in Meghalaya not only provides livelihood opportunities for thousands but also contributes around 4.1% to the state's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). Leveraging the multiplier effects on various sectors, tourism offers the prospect of inclusive growth and economic prosperity. The ceremonious launch of the PRIME tourism vehicles was conducted by chief minister of Meghalaya, Conrad K Sangma, in the presence of key dignitaries including Paul Lyngdoh, tourism minister, government of Meghalaya.

To meet the expectations of discerning tourists seeking exclusive experiences, Meghalaya aims to offer luxury infrastructure and personalized travel options. After conducting market research and stakeholder discussions with tour operators and the Tourism Department, the government identified a gap in providing superior ride quality, spacious interiors, chauffeur-driven vehicles, and other amenities to cater to high-value tourists. To bridge this gap and promote high-value tourism, the Tourism Department of Meghalaya launched the "PRIME Tourism Vehicle" scheme, targeting entrepreneurs, tour operators, and tourism cooperative societies.

Meghalaya, blessed with breathtaking landscapes, cascading waterfalls, and rich biodiversity, has emerged as a paradise for nature enthusiasts. In addition to its natural beauty, the state boasts a vibrant cultural heritage and exquisite handicrafts. However, the development of infrastructure is crucial to facilitate tourism growth while preserving the delicate nature of the state's tourist sites.

Expressing his enthusiasm for the initiative, chief minister Conrad K Sangma stated, "We are thrilled to launch the PRIME Tourism Vehicles scheme, a significant leap forward in elevating Meghalaya's tourism potential. By offering luxurious travel options, well-trained drivers, and prioritizing safety, we aspire to curate unforgettable experiences for our esteemed visitors. This initiative not only drives economic growth but also empowers entrepreneurs and skilled drivers, fostering the holistic development of Meghalaya."

Emphasising sustainable tourism, the government of Meghalaya adopts a holistic approach to tourism development. The "PRIME Tourism Vehicle" scheme aligns with the principle of high-value, low-volume tourism, ensuring that tourist footfall harmonizes with infrastructure capacity, socio-cultural values, and environmental sustainability. The scheme aims to enrich the travel experience of high-spending tourists, provide well-trained drivers who can also serve as guides, facilitate easy vehicle booking at government-approved rates, and create livelihood opportunities.

During the one-month launch period, the scheme received an overwhelming response, with over 600 applicants applying for the program. Through a rigorous assessment process, 47 beneficiaries were selected in the first phase. The Tourism Department conducted training sessions and assessments to ensure the competence of drivers and prioritize passenger and driver safety. To enhance safety further, GPS devices have been installed in all vehicles for easy tracking in case of emergencies.

In addition to the PRIME Tourism Vehicle Scheme, the Tourism Department has distributed life jackets, first aid boxes, and inflatables to tourism stakeholders across the state, emphasizing the safety of tourists visiting water bodies. Collaborating with the Tour Operators Association of Meghalaya, the department has also organized training workshops for boatmen in various locations, focusing on basic lifesaving skills and CPR.

The launch of the PRIME Tourism Vehicles scheme marks a significant milestone in Meghalaya's journey towards becoming a sought-after tourist destination. The state government remains committed to promoting sustainable tourism, driving economic growth, and creating unparalleled experiences for visitors.

Dr Ampareen Lyngdoh commends healthcare heroes at ET's Best Healthcare Brands 2023

HT Bureau

SHILLONG, June 30: Dr Mazel Ampareen Lyngdoh, the minister of health and welfare for Meghalaya, graced the 6th edition of The Economic Times' Best Healthcare Brands 2023. In her role as the chief guest, Dr Lyngdoh delivered a powerful address, highlighting her efforts in making healthcare accessible and affordable at the grassroots level. Distinguished attendees included Vishal Chauhan, joint secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, and Dr K Madan Gopal, National Health Systems Resource Centre, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, along with several eminent figures from the healthcare industry.

Dr Lyngdoh expressed her joy in addressing the esteemed gath-

ering and commended ET Edge for organising the 6th edition of the Doctors Day Conclave. She emphasised the collaborative nature of the event, offering a unique platform for sharing expertise, insights, and innovative ideas that will shape the future of healthcare. Recognising the resilience and adaptability demonstrated by the healthcare sector, the minister applauded the leaders who strive for robust and inclusive healthcare solutions. She expressed her honor in witnessing the convergence of brilliant minds and dedicated professionals who are at the forefront of revolutionising healthcare in the country.

Dr Lyngdoh shed light on Meghalaya's progressive healthcare model, which tackles technical challenges and socio-economic factors affecting its citizens. The state's three-di-

mensional approach focuses not only on curative aspects but also on prevention and education. Through initiatives like the Meghalaya Health and Insurance Scheme, the state aims to provide effective healthcare solutions accessible to all segments of society. Meghalaya's dedication to early childhood development was also highlighted, with the launch of a dedicated mission in 2021, ensuring healthcare, nutrition, and cognitive development opportunities for children in the state.

The minister extended her admiration to healthcare workers, acknowledging their unwavering commitment and sacrifices, as well as the unwavering support of their families. She further reflected on the remarkable bravery and resilience displayed by healthcare professionals in the face of the pandemic.

Tipra Motha chairman meets Tripura CM

AGARTALA, June 30 (PTI): Tipra Motha chairman Pradyot Kishore Manikya Debbarma met Tripura chief minister Manik Saha and discussed a host of issues related to 'political and administrative' matters.

Debbarma met Saha at his official residence here on Thursday night.

"I met the chief minister and discussed various issues related to politics and administration in a most cordial atmosphere. Let's see what comes out," he told reporters after the meeting.

Asked if he discussed Greater Tripaland and Roman script for Kokborok with the chief minister, he replied, "Everything can't be shared with the media because the meeting was private between me and the chief minister."

However, the royal scion made it clear that he will continue to speak for the development of 'dofa' (com-

munity) as they have been chosen for speaking for the community. "Mind it, I will not speak against any community," he said.

"... It's been three months since the talks with the Centre on Greater Tripaland. I will not make any statement till something concrete happens," he said.

Debbarma said he also discussed the budget outlay for the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) and fund flow to the autonomous tribal council.

Reiterating that he doesn't believe in 'boycott politics', Debbarma said he also used to meet former chief minister Manik Sarkar and Biplob Kumar Deb on various issues.

"I also speak positive things. Now, the elections are over and let's begin to work for the development of the state," he said.

Police seize heroin worth ₹13.8 crore in Tripura

AGARTALA, June 30 (PTI): Police recovered heroin worth nearly ₹13.80 crore and arrested two persons from Ambassa in Tripura's Dhalai district, a senior official said on Friday. This is the "biggest seizure of heroine or any other drug" in Tripura so far, he said.

"Police intercepted a vehicle at Ambassa naka point on Thursday evening. During searches, 300 cases of heroin weighing 3.415 kg, having market value of around ₹13.8 crore, was recovered hidden inside a cloth bag," SP, Dhalai, Avinash K Rai told PTI over phone. Two persons have been arrested in connection with the recovery, and a case was registered against the duo, he said. Chief minister Manik Saha lauded the police for its efforts in the Ambassa drug recovery. Rai said police have this year also seized 6.4 kg of heroin at Ganganagar and Kamalpur in Dhalai district. Nearly 2,500 kg of cannabis were recovered till date in 2023, he added.



AXOM SARBA SIKSHA ABHIJAN OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT MISSION CO-ORDINATOR, SSA, WEST KARBI ANGLONG

No. SSA/KAAC/WKA/KGBV/Engagement/11/2018/311

Dated 30/6/2023

Engagement under SSA

SSA West Karbi Anglong invites application from eligible candidates who are permanent residents of the administrative jurisdiction of KAAC for the following positions for engagement in different posts at Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) as mentioned below. The engagement will be purely contractual for 11 Months period.

Sl. No	Name of the Post	Vacancy Position	Qualification
1.	Full Time Asstt. Teacher, Mathematics at KGBV type-II (Reserved for Female Candidate)	4	Minimum Educational qualification: Master degree in (Mathematics/Physics/Chemistry/Statistics) with B.Ed and Higher Secondary TET qualified. Preference: Experience in teaching in UP/HS/HSSS level. On non availability of Higher Secondary TET qualified candidate.
	Full Time Asstt. Teacher, Mathematics at KGBV type-III (Reserved for Female Candidate)	1	Minimum Educational qualification: Master degree in (Mathematics/Physics/chemistry/Statistics) with B.Ed. Preference: Experience in teaching in UP/HS/HSSS level. Age Limit: Below 45 years as on 1 st Jan' 2023.
2	Full Time Asstt. Teacher, Science at KGBV Type-II (Reserved for Female Candidate)	2	Minimum Educational qualification: Master degree in (Zoology/Botany/Bio-Chemistry) with B.Ed and Higher Secondary TET qualified. Preference: Experience in teaching in UP/HS/HSSS level. On non availability of Higher Secondary TET qualified candidate. Minimum Educational qualification: Master degree in (Zoology/Botany/Bio-Chemistry) with B.Ed. Preference: Experience in teaching in UP/HS/HSSS level. Age Limit: Below 45 years as on 1 st Jan' 2023.

- Relaxation of upper age limit will be applicable for SC, ST, ST(P), ST(H), OBC & PH Candidates for another 5 years as per Govt of Assam OM No. ABP 06/2016/04 dtd.03/03/2016.
- **Salary:** Monthly fixed remuneration Rs. 22,000.00 per month for TET qualified and Rs. 20,000.00 for Non-TET

During engagement of teacher first preference will be given to the candidates qualified in Higher Secondary TET. On non-availability of Higher Secondary TET qualified candidates, non-TET passed candidates will be selected but the selected candidate should qualify Higher Secondary TET within 3 consecutive TET examinations.

1. How to Apply:

- Application in plain paper stating (i) Name of the post applied for (ii) Name of Applicant (iii) Permanent Address (iii) Address for communication (iv) Contact Telephone/Mobile no./email address (v) Age as on 1st January, 2023 (vi) Educational Qualifications (vii) Working Experience along with one attested copy of passport size photograph and attested copies of certificates/testimonials relating to Educational Qualification, Experience etc. should be submitted to **District Mission Co-ordinator, SSA, West Karbi Anglong, Donkamukam** latest by **15/07/2023**. Incomplete applications will be summarily rejected.
- Envelope containing the application must be superscribed in bold letters "**Application for the post of in KGBV under SSA West Karbi Anglong**".
- Applicants have to pay Council receipt of Rs. 10/- only.
- List of shortlisted candidates with the date, venue of screening test/personnel interview will be notified on the office notice board. The shortlisted candidates will have to appear in the verification cum interview on the date and time specified with all original testimonials. No separate call letter will be issued and no T.A/D.A will be provided for attending the verification cum interview.

Sd/-

**District Mission Co-ordinator
SSA, West Karbi Anglong**

SHORT TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tender (Two Bid system comprising of Technical Bid and Financial Bid) affixing Court Fee of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight and twenty five paise) only are invited from the intending suppliers/manufacturers/firms for servicing and repairing of Air Conditioner in various ward, OTS, ICU, LABS and departments etc. at Diphu Medical College and Hospital, Diphu. The bidders are requested to submit the tender in separate sheet with seal and signature. The tender documents along with the specification may be downloaded from the office website of DMC&H (www.dmcassam.in) and deposit the payment of Rs. 1000/- as tender fee (non-refundable) and Bank Guarantee/Performance Security in EMD of Rs. 5000/- (Refundable) in the form of Demand Draft in favour of Principal-cum-Chief Superintendent, Diphu Medical College and Hospital, Diphu along with the Tender documents submit on or before 06/07/2023 at 1:00 P.M. The tender will be opened on the same date at 2:00 P.M in the presence of tenderers or their authorized representatives. The tender is to be submitted to the office of the Principal cum Superintendent, Diphu Medical College and Hospital, Diphu on all the working days during office hours.

Sd/-

**Principal-cum-Chief Superintendent
Diphu Medical College & Hospital, Diphu, Assam**

Janasanyog /C/6087/23

Futuristic policies in last few years boosted global recognition for Indian universities: PM

Valedictory ceremony of Delhi University's centenary celebrations

NEW DELHI, June 30 (PTI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Friday that futuristic policies and decisions taken in the last few years in the education sector have boosted global recognition for Indian universities.

Addressing the valedictory ceremony of Delhi University's centenary celebrations, Modi noted that the number of Indian universities that featured in the latest QS global ranking has surged to 45 from 12 in 2014, the year he became prime minister.

He referred to the rise in the numbers of IITs, IIMs, AIIMS and NITs across the country and described them as the building blocks of the new India.

Modi took a metro ride to reach the event. During his journey, he interacted with students.

At the event, the prime minister spoke about his recent state visit to the US and said the global respect and prestige for India has grown because of the rise in its capability as well as the world's faith in the country's youngsters. Futuristic policies in the education sector boosted global recognition for Indian universities, Modi said.

Citing agreements signed between the two countries during his visit, he said these will bring new opportunities for youngsters of India in fields ranging from the earth to space, semiconductors and artificial intelligence.

India's youngsters will have access to technologies which used to be out of their reach, PM Modi said, adding that it will boost their skill development.

Companies like Micron and Google will be investing heavily in



the country. It is a sign of the India of the future, he said.

Lauding Delhi University's contribution to different aspects of life, the prime minister said it is not merely a university but a movement.

Modi referred to celebrated ancient Indian universities in Nalanda and Taxila and said they were a source of happiness and prosperity and India's science guided the world in that era.

"India's rich education system is the carrier of its prosperity," he said, underlining the high Indian share in the global GDP of that time. Continuous attacks during the period of slavery destroyed these institutions leading to obstruction of the intellectual flow of India and bringing the growth to a standstill, he added.

He said that after Independence, universities played a crucial role in giving concrete shape to the emotional swell of post-independence India by creating a strong genera-

tion of talented youngsters.

Delhi University too played a major part in that, he said. This understanding of the past gives shape to our existence, shape to our ideals and expansion to the vision of the future, he said.

He also underlined that India which was once considered a fragile economy has now become one of the top five economies in the world. Modi asserted that those with knowledge are happy and strong.

The number of Indian start-ups has crossed a lakh now, he said, compared to a few hundred of them before 2014.

Citing India's growth in the last few years, the prime minister said the figures for patents have surged.

"The third decade of the last century gave new momentum to the struggle for India's independence, now the third decade of the new century will give impetus to the development journey of India," he said.

Noting that the university's 125th year will coincide with the country's 100th year of Independence, Modi said it should dedicate itself to the goal of having a developed India by 2047.

During the event, PM Modi also laid the foundation stone of the Delhi University Computer Centre, buildings of the Faculty of Technology and of the Academic Block on the North Campus of the university.

The University of Delhi was established on May 1, 1922. Since then, it has grown and expanded immensely and now has 86 departments, 90 colleges, and more than six lakh students.

At the event, the prime minister noted that the centenary celebrations of the University of Delhi are taking place at a time when India is celebrating the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav after completing 75 years of its independence.

"The universities and educational institutions of any nation present a reflection of its achievements," he said. In the 100-year journey of DU, the prime minister said, there have been many historic landmarks which have connected the lives of many students, teachers and others.

Noting that the number of women studying at DU is more than men, he pointed out that the gender ratio has significantly improved in the country.

Modi emphasised the importance of an interconnection between the resolutions of a university and a nation and said that the deeper the roots of educational institutions, the higher the progress of the country.

He also talked about the flexibility provided in the new National Education Policy for selecting subjects.

Modi mentioned that the National Institutional Ranking Framework is helping in quality improvement and infusing competitiveness among institutions.

He also pointed out the effort to link the autonomy of the institutions with the quality of education.

He explained the impact of the growing profile of India on the students.

He said now people wish to know about India. He mentioned India's help to the world during the coronavirus pandemic, adding that this created a curiosity in the world to know more about India that delivers even during a crisis.

He said growing recognition through events like the G20 presidency is creating new avenues for students such as yoga, science, culture, festivals, literature, history, heritage and cuisine.

"There is an increase in the demand for Indian youth who can tell the world about India and can take our things to the world," he said.

He gave the example of tribal museums being set up in different states of the country and the development journey of independent India being presented through the prime ministers' museum. He also expressed delight that the world's largest heritage museum - 'Yuge Yugeen Bharat' - is also going to be built in Delhi.

The prime minister also recognised the growing recognition of Indian teachers and mentioned how world leaders have often told him about their Indian teachers.

If Rahul becomes PM, scams and corruption will become India's destiny: Amit Shah



UDAIPUR, June 30 (PTI): Union home minister Amit Shah on Friday said that if Rahul Gandhi becomes prime minister, scams and corruption will become the destiny of India and if Narendra Modi is re-elected, fraudsters will go behind bars.

He also targeted the Congress government in Rajasthan, saying that had it set up a special court in the Kanhaiya Lal murder case, which happened in Udaipur last year, the accused would have been hanged by now.

He accused the Ashok Gehlot government of being the number one in corruption and called upon the people to oust it from power in the upcoming assembly elections.

The minister exuded confidence that the BJP will form government in the state in the upcoming assembly elections and Modi will become prime minister once again in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections with 300 seats.

Addressing a public meeting in Udaipur to highlight the central government's achievements in the last nine years, Shah said these nine years were transformative for India in many ways.

Taking a jibe at opposition parties that held a meeting in Patna recently to chalk out a joint strategy ahead of next year's Lok Sabha polls, he said that those who had assembled there were involved in corruption and do not want to do good for people, but were looking for the future of their sons. He said that the goal of Sonia Gandhi is to make Rahul Gandhi prime minister, Lalu Yadav's goal is to make his son Tejashwi Yadav prime minister, Mamata Banerjee's goal is to make her nephew Abhishek chief minister and similarly Ashok Gehlot wants to make his son Vaibhav Gehlot chief minister. "If Rahul Gandhi becomes prime minister, scams and corruption will become the destiny of India and if Narendra Modi becomes the PM again, fraudsters will go behind bars," he said. Further targeting the Gehlot government, he alleged that it was doing vote bank politics and was responsible for the delay in the punishment to culprits of the Kanhaiya Lal murder case. Kanhaiya Lal, a tailor in Udaipur, was murdered on June 28 last year by two cleaver-wielding men, who had accused him of insulting Islam after he allegedly posted content in support of suspended BJP leader Nupur Sharma.

Alleging that the government did not provide security to Kanhaiya Lal, Shah said it should be "ashamed". "Who did not give security to Kanhaiya? Whose police remained silent till he died. You didn't even want to catch (the accused), the NIA had caught them. And don't lie Gehlot ji that the charge sheet has not been filed, I say with authority that the charge sheet was filed on December 22, 2022. The task of setting up a special court is yours (state government), so that the accused are punished soon," he said. "The Rajasthan government, taking the High Court into confidence, did not constitute a special court otherwise the culprits of Kanhaiya Lal would have been hanged by now. Shame on them (Congress), they do vote bank politics," he said.

Shah alleged that majority community members were being exploited under the Congress rule in Rajasthan. "Modi banned PFI but in Gehlot's rule, a rally of PFI was held in Kota, Hindu festival was stopped in Karauli, Sangh's path sanchalan stopped, 300-year-old Shiva temple was demolished in Alwar," he alleged.

"Even after so many years of independence, keeping the Constitution aside in the greed of vote banks, injustice is being done to the majority here. Only those who do vote bank politics can do this. BJP does not do vote bank politics," he said. He also said that due to weak prosecution, the accused of the Jaipur bomb blast case of 2008 were acquitted by the Rajasthan High Court. Shah said that on the completion of Modi's nine years, BJP has started thanksgiving yatras across the country.

"I have travelled across the country, the support I have seen, it is certain that Modi is going to become the prime minister with 300 seats," he said. He said that the respect that Modi is getting in the whole world, it is not the respect of Modi or of BJP, it is the respect of 130 crore people of the country. Shah said that before 2014, during Manmohan Singh's government, "Aaliya-Maliya-Jamaliya" (terrorists) from Pakistan used to enter India and carry out blasts, but Pakistan committed mistakes in Uri and Pulwama because this time, Narendra Modi was the prime minister and within ten days, air strike and surgical strike were executed and terrorists were eliminated in Pakistan.

Launching a sharp attack on the Gehlot government, Shah said that the Congress government has broken all records of corruption and was doing vote bank politics. He claimed that more than 19 recruitment examination question papers have been leaked, and the son of the state Congress president tops the exam. Commenting on CM Gehlot's tour of different districts and inflation relief camps, Shah said that Gehlot is roaming here and there in this age but the BJP's government is going to be formed in the assembly elections. "If someone shows a video of this meeting to Gehlot, then he will know that the time has come for his government to go. The BJP government is going to be formed with full majority in both 2023 (assembly polls) and 2024 (Lok Sabha elections)," he said.

UCC draft for U'khand ready to be submitted to govt: Panel head Ranjana Desai

NEW DELHI, June 30 (PTI): The draft of the proposed Uniform Civil Code for Uttarakhand is complete and would soon be submitted to the state government, Justice (ret'd) Ranjana Prakash Desai said on Friday. Desai, who heads the committee of experts set up by the Uttarakhand government last year, said the panel has drafted the code taking into account all shades of opinions and looking into various statutes and uncodified laws, including the statutory framework in select countries.

Besides, the Committee has tried to understand the "finer nuances" of the various customary practices that prevail in different parts of Uttarakhand. "It gives me immense pleasure to inform you that the drafting of the proposed uniform civil code for Uttarakhand is now complete," Desai told a press conference here.

"The report of the committee along with the draft code would soon be printed and submitted to the gov-

ernment of Uttarakhand," she added. The Uttarakhand govt had constituted a committee of experts under retired Supreme Court judge Desai in May last year, to examine the various existing laws regulating personal civil matters of the residents of Uttarakhand and to prepare draft law or laws or suggest changes in existing laws on such subjects as marriage, divorce, property rights, succession, inheritance, adoption, maintenance, custody, and guardianship. A notification in this regard was issued on May 27, 2022, and the terms of reference were notified on June 10 last year. Replying to questions, Desai refused to share the details of the draft UCC or the committee's report, saying it has to be first submitted to the state govt. "Our emphasis is to ensure gender equality, with keeping women, children and disabled persons in focus. We have tried to bring everyone on an equal footing with elimination of arbitrariness and discrimination," she, however, said.

AAP govt challenges Centre's Delhi services ordinance in SC

NEW DELHI, June 30 (PTI): The Delhi government on Friday moved the Supreme Court against the Centre's ordinance over control of services in the national capital, officials said.

Earlier in the day, the AAP had announced that chief minister Arvind Kejriwal will burn copies of the Centre's ordinance at the party office in central Delhi on July 3.

The party had on June 11 organised a maha-rally against the ordinance. The Centre had on May 19 promulgated the ordinance to create an authority for the transfer and posting of IAS and DANICS officers in Delhi, with the AAP government calling the move a circumvention of the Supreme Court verdict on control of services.

The ordinance, which came a week after the Supreme Court handed over the control of services in Delhi, excluding police, public order and land, to the elected government, seeks to set up a National Capital Civil Service Authority for the transfer of and disciplinary proceedings against Group-A officers.

Transfer and postings of all officers of the Delhi government were under the executive control of the Lieutenant Governor before the May 11 verdict of the apex court.

Appointment of ministers CM's sole prerogative, says DMK Govt 'rejects' Governor's sacking of Senthil Balaji



CHENNAI, June 30 (PTI): The ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu on Friday strongly asserted that appointment and dismissal of ministers is the sole prerogative of the chief minister and lashed out at Governor R N Ravi for his move of dismissing V Senthil Balaji from the MK Stalin-led Cabinet, which was subsequently retracted on the advice of the Union Home Ministry on the matter. Stating that the Tamil Nadu government was "disregarding" the Governor's action of sacking Balaji, finance minister Thangam Thennarasu said Stalin will write a detailed letter to Ravi on the matter. The party also said it may weigh all options and legal factors related to Ravi's action, which came in for criticism from allies of the ruling party as well as other quarters.

Addressing the press here along with law minister S Renghupathy and Rajya Sabha member P Wilson, who is also an advocate, Thennarasu recalled Stalin earlier saying the Governor has no right to sack Balaji and that the issue will be faced legally.

He alleged that Ravi acted "unilaterally" and "in haste" over the matter and decided to dismiss Balaji without getting proper counsel, only for the Union Home Ministry to point out that he should speak to the Attorney General on the matter.

"After that, he wrote to the chief minister saying he was keeping in

abeyance the letter informing of the dismissal of Senthil Balaji," the minister said. "In this matter, the CM is going to send a detailed letter to the Governor. The Governor has no legal authority to dismiss Senthil Balaji nor is there any Constitutional basis to do so."

"It is the sole prerogative of the CM to appoint and dismiss ministers...this has been made clear by the CM to the Governor and that his action is not valid," he added.

Thennarasu said a governor should "apply his mind" before taking a decision, and reiterated that Ravi acted in haste in this matter. Therefore, "this government rejects (the Governor's action) completely."

The Tamil Nadu government makes it clear the Governor has no authority to do so," he asserted. "We disregard the letter," he said, adding that all legal options will be explored as part of future course of action.

Earlier, the CM went into a huddle with legal experts on the matter. The party brass may consult its leaders and office-bearers to devise a strategy -- both legal and political -- on the matter, sources said.

"The Governor has backtracked and he has been exposed thoroughly," a DMK office-bearer told PTI adding that all the "political maneuvering" of the BJP to target the DMK has been backfiring in Tamil Nadu.

'Proactive' Modi govt helps people even before they face problems, has reduced poverty, says Nadda

KHARGONE, June 30 (PTI): Bharatiya Janata Party chief JP Nadda on Friday said the Narendra Modi government at the Centre was "proactive" as it took care of people even before they faced any problem, which had resulted in reduction in poverty in the country. Addressing a public gathering in Khargone in Madhya Pradesh to highlight achievements in nine years of Modi rule, Nadda said poverty had dipped from 22 per cent nine years ago to 10 per cent, while the "very poor" category was now less than 1 per cent of the population. While the PM had launched several welfare programmes, the Congress had hit below the belt by calling him names, lowly, illiterate, chawala (tea seller) etc, Nadda said. "The Narendra Modi government is proactive and pro-responsive. It takes care of people even before they face any problem. It can be seen in Central schemes like Ayushman Bharat,

which is aimed to protect people's health, and the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi (direct benefit transfer to farmers)," Nadda said. The Ayushman Bharat scheme, under which cover of ₹ 5 lakh per family is provided, is among the biggest health schemes in the world and benefits 40 per cent of the country's poor irrespective of caste, creed and religion, he said. Slamming Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, the BJP national president said the former had gone to London and spoken about the need to restore democracy in India, whereas it was his grandmother and former PM Indira Gandhi who had imposed Emergency in 1975, leading to 1.78 lakh people being jailed. Nadda said just one house was allotted under the Indira Awas Yojana in a panchayat in his constituency when he was an MLA in 1993, while the Modi government had built nine crore houses in the past nine years under the PM Awas Yojana.

Andheri subway shut twice due to waterlogging, water stock in lakes rises

Intermittent showers continue in Mumbai

MUMBAI, June 30 (PTI): Moderate to heavy rains continued to lash Mumbai and its suburbs on Friday, which hit the road traffic in some parts due to waterlogging but boosted levels in lakes providing water to the city, while the local train operations remained largely unaffected, officials said.

A busy subway between Andheri and Jogeshwari railway stations of the Western Railway had to be kept shut for traffic twice during the day due to accumulation of water around it, they said.

Since the onset of southwest monsoon over Mumbai on June 25, the city has been getting heavy showers. As per the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) data, the city has received more than 95 per cent of the rainfall recorded this month in just six days - between June 24 and 29.

Incassant rainfall increased to the water level of seven lakes supplying water to the city. The aggregate water stock of these reservoirs was 7.26 per cent on June 28, which has now gone up to 10.88 per cent, they said.

The city civic body earlier announced that it would impose a 10

per cent water cut starting from Saturday in view of the dwindling stock.

In the 24 hours ending 8 am on Friday, Mumbai, its eastern suburbs and western suburbs received an average rainfall of 31 mm, 45 mm and 61 mm respectively, an official said.

The city has been getting moderate to heavy showers since early morning and the intensity of rainfall is more in the suburbs, which resulted in waterlogging at some locations, he said.

The Andheri subway had to be closed for traffic twice during the day due to waterlogging.

The police first closed the subway for traffic around 10.45 am and traffic was diverted to other routes. After the accumulated water receded, vehicular movement was resumed around 11.45 am. However, it was again shut for traffic around 3.40 pm, officials said.

"Due to waterlogging, Andheri Subway is closed, while traffic is diverted to Vile Parle bridge and Captain Gore Marg, SV road," Mumbai traffic police tweeted.

The suburban train services of



the Central Railway and Western Railway were normal, the railway authorities said.

However, commuters on some routes, including the Central Railways' Harbour line that operates services between Panvel and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT), complained of delay in train operations in the morning hours.

Trains were running some minutes behind their regular schedule on the Main line of the Central Railway as well, some office-goers said.

A spokesperson of the Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) said that despite rains, none of its buses had to be diverted to alternative routes.

In its warning issued at 7.30 am, the IMD predicted moderate to intense spells of rain at isolated places in Mumbai and neighbouring Thane and Palghar districts over the next three to four hours.

"For the next 24 hours, the IMD Mumbai has predicted moderate rainfall in the city and its suburbs with the possibility of heavy rainfall at isolated places," a civic of-

ficial said.

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said the useful water stock in seven reservoirs supplying water to the metropolis has increased to 10.88 per cent, which was 10.51 per cent on this day in 2022 and 17.81 per cent in 2021.

The seven reservoirs - Bhatsa, Upper Vaitarna, Middle Vaitarna, Tansa, Modak Sagar, Vihar and Tulsi, located in Mumbai, Thane and Nashik districts - provide 3,800 MLD water to Mumbai everyday.

As per the BMC's disaster management cell, Mumbai reported 40 incidents of tree fall or tree branches fall, 13 of short-circuits in the 24-hour period ending 8 am.

Seven incidents involving collapse of parts of residential properties were also reported during that period.

The ceiling of a bathroom caved in on Thursday night, in which a 35-year-old person lost his life at Kandivali East, while a wooden loft fell at a house in slum-dominated Ganapati Patil Nagar in Dahisar that led to death of a one-and-half-year old child, it said.

Guv cannot act unilaterally in dismissing minister without aid and advice of council of ministers: Legal experts

NEW DELHI, June 30 (PTI): Legal experts on Friday voiced surprise at Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi's unprecedented order unilaterally dismissing jailed minister V Senthil Balaji from the council of ministers, only to keep it in abeyance hours later amid mounting criticism.

In a sudden development on Thursday, the governor dismissed Balaji, who was recently arrested in an alleged cash-for-jobs scam, from the state council of ministers. However, under fire from the ruling DMK and other parties, he later informed Chief Minister MK Stalin that he wanted the order to be kept in abeyance and will seek legal opinion on the issue.

Former attorney general Mukul Rohatgi, commenting on the development, said, "Governor has no business to dismiss a minister unilaterally. He has exceeded his jurisdiction. How can he decide who should be in the cabinet and who should not be in the cabinet? He has to act on the aid and advice of the council of ministers."

Senior advocate Ajit Sinha said it was not advisable for the governor to act unilaterally and sack a minister.

"It was not advisable for him to take a decision unilaterally. It is a settled law of the constitution bench of the Supreme Court in the 1994 (S R) Bommai case. At the most, he can suggest to the chief minister to take action against the minister but the governor has to act on aid and advice of the council of ministers. Ultimately, it is in the name of the governor that a decision to dismiss will be taken but he can't act unilaterally," Sinha said.



In March 1994, a nine-judge constitution bench of the apex court gave a landmark judgement in the S R Bommai case with respect to Article 356 and its arbitrary use by the central governments.

Another senior lawyer, who did not wish to be named, said a governor cannot act on his own in such matters after the 1974 verdict of the Supreme Court in the Shamsher Singh case.

"The Shamsher Singh case dealt with the power of the president and governor. In the western system of governance, the president and governor have no individual discretionary powers except very limited ones. Otherwise, he is bound entirely by the aid and advice of the council of ministers."

"He does not have independent power to remove a minister. Otherwise, the entire federal structure will fall because if the governor has this power, then tomorrow he can say he will dismiss the entire government," he said.

In the SR Bommai case, which dealt with imposition of the Presi-

dent's Rule under Article 356, the top court held, "The office of the Governor is a vital link and a channel of impartial and objective communication of the working of the Constitution by the State Government to the President of India. He is to ensure protection and sustenance of the constitutional process of the working of the Constitution in the State playing an impartial role."

It had said the governor should play an important role, and in his dual undivided capacity as a head of the State, he should impartially assist the President.

"As a constitutional head of the State Government in times of constitutional crisis he should bring about sobriety," the SC had said in its verdict.

In the 1974 case of Shamsher Singh versus State of Punjab which dealt with appointment of subordinate judges, the top court held, "We declare the law of this branch of our Constitution to be that the President and Governor, custodians of all executive and other powers under various Articles, shall, by

virtue of these provisions, exercise their formal constitutional powers only upon and in accordance with the advice of their Ministers save in a few well known exceptional situations."

The top court, in its 2020 verdict in Shivraj Singh Chouhan versus Speaker of Madhya Pradesh Assembly held, "The powers which have been entrusted to the Governor are, generally speaking, exercised on the basis of the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers in terms of the provisions of Article 163 (1). It said Article 163(1) stipulates that the Council of Ministers with the chief minister as its head would aid and advise the governor in the exercise of his functions except where the Constitution requires the governor to exercise his functions or any of them at his discretion.

On Thursday, in an official release, the Tamil Nadu Raj Bhavan said, "There are reasonable apprehensions that the continuation of V Senthil Balaji in the Council of Ministers will adversely impact the due process of law, including fair investigation that may eventually lead to the breakdown of Constitutional machinery in the State."

"Senthil Balaji is facing serious criminal proceedings in a number of cases of corruption, including taking cash for jobs and money laundering. Abusing his position as a minister, he has been influencing the investigation and obstructing the due process of law and justice," the release said, adding "Under these circumstances, the Governor has dismissed Senthil Balaji from the Council of Ministers with immediate effect."

Gujarat to host four G20 meets in July

AHMEDABAD, June 30 (PTI): Gujarat will host four meetings of G20 in the first two weeks of July, including a meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors of G20 countries, an official said on Friday.

The meetings will take place in Surat, Kevadia and Gandhinagar and Ahmedabad, the official said.

"Gujarat will hold important events in the third phase of G20, which includes ministerial and summit-level meetings. Generally, final reports will be prepared in these events," said Mona Kandhar, senior bureaucrat and nodal officer for G20 meetings in Gujarat.

A summit meeting of mayors of G20 countries under Urban 20 will be held at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar on July 7 and 8, while a final meeting of the working group of finance ministers, Central Bank governors as well as finance secretary and deputy governors of central banks will be held in Gandhinagar from July 14, she said.

"Apart from this, the third trade and investment working group meeting will be held at Ektanagar in Kevadia from July 10 to 12, which is also very important and a side event for logistics will also be held," Kandhar said.

A meeting of business representatives under B20 (Business 20) to be held in Surat from July 1, where they will discuss about textiles, finance, banking, and diamond, which are core industries in Surat, she said.

Speakers at the Surat event include Union Cabinet Minister, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways & Ministry of Ayush Sarbananda Sonowal as the chief guest.

These meetings will provide an opportunity for business representatives to share their perspectives, insights, and policy recommendations on various economic and business-related topics and will play a very significant role in shaping global economic agendas and policies, the official said. "A visit to the DREAM City in Surat and a diamond manufacturing unit is planned for the guests during this B20 meet," Kandhar said.

Speaking about the Global Investors Summit held in Lucknow earlier this year, Adityanath said, "Investment proposals worth ₹ 36 lakh crore were received during the event. One crore people will get jobs from this investment."

Referring to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, he said, "This is the time when we should not be misled by anyone. This country is not run by slogans but by the ground reality and this ground reality has been shown by Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi."

On Maurya's suggestion, Adityanath directed the PDA and the district administration to prepare a detailed project report to build a convention centre with a seating capacity of 10,000 in Prayagraj.

State minister Nand Gopal Gupta, MPs Rita Bahuguna Joshi and Keshari Devi Patel, Allahabad West MLA Siddharth Nath Singh and Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani were also present at the event.

Kejriwal emphasises on tackling water contamination in review meeting with DJB officials

NEW DELHI, June 30 (PTI): Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday held a review meeting with officials of the Delhi Jal Board and asserted that there will be no dearth of funds to supply clean water to city residents.

During the meeting, it was decided that the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) will end the problem of dirty water by finding out the root cause of pipeline leakages with the help of modern technology and resolve the issue permanently.

"Arvind Kejriwal held a regular review meeting with the Delhi Jal Board today and discussed about the detailed plan for ending the problem of dirty water in some of the areas. DJB officials said that to end the problem, they will use modern technology like helium gas and cameras to identify the pipeline leakage and find a permanent solution to it," the Chief Minister's Office said in a tweet.

Kejriwal urged DJB chairperson and minister Saurabh Bharadwaj to resolve the problem of contam-

inated water at the earliest. He also directed the Board to cross-examine and verify the localities listed out under its survey as those receiving dirty water supply.

"To address pipeline defects which may include cracks that allow the entry of impure water, officials suggested the use of helium-based tracking methods. Helium-based tracking eliminates the need for excavation or any other obstruction, making it a non-disruptive and efficient solution," a DJB official said.

During the meeting, Kejriwal noted that in the monsoon season, the low-lying areas of Delhi often face waterlogging due to incessant rains which leads to water contamination in certain areas of the city.

Earlier, in response to the severity of the situation, the chief minister had directed additional chief engineers (Maintenance) (ACE-M) from all zones to compile a comprehensive list of areas affected by water contamination.



Govt says tomato prices will cool down in next 15 days; normalise in a month

NEW DELHI, June 30 (PTI): Tomato prices are expected to cool down in the next 15 days with increase in supplies from producing centres and reach a normal level in a month, a top government official said, as retail prices of the kitchen staple shot up over ₹ 100 per kg in major cities.

Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh, in a media briefing, also said the retail prices of tomato in the national capital will come down immediately on improved supplies from Solan and Sirmour districts of Himachal Pradesh.

"The phenomena of price rise in tomato happens every year at this time. Every agriculture commodity in every country goes through a seasonality in the price cycle. In June, prices reached a high level,"



he said.

Tomato is also a highly perishable commodity and weather vulnerability, which has become prevalent in the recent times due to climate change and other issues, has disturbed the supplies, he added.

The secretary further said, "You cannot store tomato for a long time and transport it for a long distance. There is an inherent vulnerability in the commodity, Transportation is also a big issue."

June-August and October-No-

vember are also lean production seasons and prices in this period normally see a sharp increase, he said.

All India average retail price of tomato on June 29 was ruling at Rs 49 per kg as against ₹ 51.50 per kg in the year-ago same day, he said, and added, "I am not justifying the rate. This also proves seasonality."

Stating that it's a complex problem, the secretary said, however the government is handling it and finding a solution to streamline the supplies throughout the year. For this, a Grand Tomato Challenge was launched on Friday.

It is like a hackathon where ideas are being invited from students to industry stakeholders on primary processing, storage and valorisation of tomato, he said.

Contd. from Page 1...

Manipur CM clears air

with one more person succumbing to injuries in hospital, officials said. Armed rioters had opened unprovoked firing at Haraothel village on Thursday. The Army said security forces personnel "responded in a calibrated manner" to tackle the situation, they said. Members of the community to which two of the rioters belonged collected their bodies on Thursday and took out a procession to the CM's residence here, they said.

The demonstrators, led by women, even dared police to arrest them, and were also seen burning tyres in the middle of the road to prevent police movement, the officials said. As security personnel stopped them from marching to Singh's residence, the processionists turned violent, prompting police to use tear gas shells and resort to lathi-charge to disperse the mob. More than 100 people have lost their lives in the ethnic violence between Meitei and Kuki communities in the northeastern state so far.

Meiteis account for about 53 percent of Manipur's population and live mostly in the Imphal Valley. Tribals -- Nagas and Kukis -- constitute another 40 percent of the population and reside in the hill districts.

Govt to hold cultural fest in

all those who participated in the mega Bihu event. Sarma said that Assam has 28 thousand villages and from November to April in all the villages, cultural festivals will be organised.

In each village during the cultural fest arrangements will be made to hold Jyoti Sangeet, Bhupendra Sangeet, Bishnu Sangeet, Rabindra Sangeet and any of the ethnic dances of the state. The winners of the villages will take part in constituency level and then in district level and ultimately in the state level cultural fest will be organised in Guwahati. He said that as a part of the cabinet decisions taken at Tezpur, a step has been taken for the beautification of Borpukhuri involving a financial outlay of ₹ 14.85. Moreover, the integrated sports complex at Hazarapur has been aimed at promoting the healthy body and mind of the youth through sports.

Voice against delimitation

lodged strong protests against delimitation. The earlier draft was prepared under the chairmanship of former Justice Kuldeep Singh in 2007. The UOF secretary and president Asom Jatiya Dal Lurinyoti Gogoi, said that the delimitation move is not free from the political interests of the ruling party. He said that the UOF will take the issue to the people so that the delimitation move cannot destroy the contours of ethnic and indigenous communities which began with Saulung Sukapha in the Sivasagar district.

The present delimitation draft is opposed by the people of Sivasagar as it shatters the age-old communal and cultural heritage of the constituency. Senior Congress leader Rokibul Hussain, Rajor Dal supreme Akhil Gogoi, Congress leader, and MP Gaurav Gogoi and several others were present at the meeting.

Rahul Gandhi meets Manipur

United Naga Council, the apex body of Naga community in Manipur, the Scheduled Tribe Demand Committee, and prominent personalities including JNU professor Bimol A. Gandhi also visited two relief camps at Moirang in Bishnupur district, party officials said. Gandhi, who reached Moirang by a chopper from Imphal, met a number of affected people and listened to their plight.

Party sources said both the camps that Gandhi visited shelter around 1,000 people. Gandhi was accompanied by former Manipur chief minister Okram Ibobi Singh, party general secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal, PCC president Keisham Meghachandra Singh and former MP Ajoy Kumar.

He visited the INA war memorial and placed a floral tribute to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and the freedom fighters who raised the tricolour here in 1944. "We visited Moirang and went to two relief camps. After meeting the people of the relief camps, we visited the Netaji memorial where Rahul Gandhi paid floral tributes," Dr Kumar said. On Thursday, he had visited relief camps in Churachandpur, one of the worst affected towns in the ethnic rioting, which has plagued the northeastern state for the last two months.

High drama ensued during the trip, as his convoy of cars was stopped at Bishnupur by the local police, fearing the carcade may face attacks. Gandhi eventually turned back and flew down to Churachandpur by a helicopter. The Congress leader is on a two-day visit to Manipur to "bring a healing touch" to local communities.

Man lynched in Tripura

her husband was brutally assaulted by a group of people after tying him with an electric post. "There were no injury marks on the body but he might have suffered fatal injuries internally that resulted in the death. We have registered an FIR and arrested two accused. An investigation has already been started to find the actual cause of his death and who else was involved in the crime", the OC said.

Russian President Putin and PM

and security of its citizens," it said. The rebellion by Yevgeny Prigozhin and his Wagner group on Saturday marked the most serious challenge to President Putin in more than two decades of his rule and triggered questions over his leadership. The Wagner mercenary group had taken control of Rostov-on-Don town. The revolt ended when Prigozhin ordered his troops back.

KAAC allots land to APDCL

bighas land has been allotted to APDCL. The land is in Lahorijan, Choto Lengrijan, Bor Lengrijan, Long Kathar, Nahorjan and Karagaon area under Borjan mouza close to Assam-Nagaland inter-state border. The KAAC will receive annual revenue of 10 percent i.e. ₹ 300 to 400 crore. "The EM also said, "The solar power plant site is occupied by encroachers. There are encroachers occupying 200 bighas, 300 bighas and 500 bighas. By allotting the land to the APDCL it will be protected from encroaching more land. It will be the second solar power plant after Bhadla Solar Park in Rajasthan in the country. The Central government will invest 80 percent, while the State government will invest 20 percent in the project."

The EM also said that those land that fall under the solar power plant and the land owner will be compensated and relocate them to another area. Local youths will be absorbed in the solar power plant for jobs. The APDCL has started initial works on it.

Karnataka's free rice scheme to be rolled out today, beneficiaries to get cash for now



BENGALURU, June 30 (PTI): Karnataka food and civil supplies minister K H Muniyappa on Friday said the government is all set to roll out the 'Anna Bhagya' scheme, by crediting money to the bank account of the beneficiaries in lieu of the additional 5 kg of rice promised to every member of a BPL household, as sufficient quantity of the foodgrain is unavailable.

Facing difficulty in procuring large quantities of rice required to fulfil its poll guarantee, the state government on Wednesday decided to pay cash into the beneficiaries' accounts at the rate of ₹ 34 per kilo, for the additional 5kg of rice under the free rice scheme.

The minister also said that of the total additional 5 kg, the government plans to include 2 kg of ragi (finger millet) and jowar (sorghum) - instead of rice -- under the scheme in the southern and northern parts of Karnataka respectively, as per requirement, as these grains are considered a staple in these two regions.

In the southern part of the state, the government plans to give 2 kg of ragi and remaining will be rice, while in north Karnataka it will be 2 kg of jowar and remaining will be rice, the minister said. There is adequate stock of ragi available, while the stock of jowar is less, so we will supply as much as we can, after that we will provide a full 5 kg of rice, he added.

"We will get information about the beneficiaries and, based on their inputs in the days to come, if there is demand for more quantities of ragi and jowar from southern and northern parts of Karnataka respectively, changes will be made in the quantity," he said, adding that the

government will procure required quantities of ragi and jowar directly from the farmers at MSP rates and stock it.

"From tomorrow, the scheme will begin. To pay to the bank accounts (of beneficiaries), we have information that 99 per cent of them have the accounts. Those without an account but have ration cards will have to open a bank account. We have said we will pay ₹ 34 per kg, and each person will get (cash for) 5 kg," Muniyappa said.

Speaking to reporters here, he said the amount will be paid to the bank account of the beneficiaries until there are enough grains to be distributed.

"The process is on for purchase of rice, as we had said we will supply rice or foodgrains for the poor..." he added.

Pointing out that the chief minister had promised to supply foodgrains from July 1, which is a Congress poll guarantee, Muniyappa said, "To keep up the promise, we are giving money for now."

"If the Centre had given rice from the stocks available, for cash payment, the state government would have supplied it from tomorrow," he said, adding, "Our month-long efforts in getting rice despite approaching central ministers and officials have failed."

"There are issues (in procuring rice). We have to issue a public tender. It has not been finalised. Also what kind of rice. We will decide on it and start giving rice as soon as possible," he added.

Asked as to how long the government will pay the amount to the account of the beneficiaries instead of supplying rice or foodgrains, the minister said, "I cannot give you a date for now, but I assure you that we will give rice as soon as possible. Giving money is a temporary arrangement."

On whether cash would be credited to the bank accounts from tomorrow itself, he said, "Money is ready, we have information about accounts. It will begin from tomorrow."

Adityanath hands over keys of houses built on land freed from Atiq Ahmad to 76 PMAY beneficiaries

PRAYAGRAJ (UP), June 30 (PTI): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday handed over keys of houses built on land freed from the "illegal" possession of slain gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmad under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) to 76 beneficiaries.

Ahmad along with his brother Ashraf was shot dead at point-blank range by three men posing as journalists during a media interaction in April.

Addressing the event, Adityanath said the previous government stood with the mafia when it came to freeing the land of the poor.

"I will ask all the development authorities to build houses for the poor on the land freed from the mafia so that the poor can get shelter and their faith in the government will increase," he said.

Adityanath said 54 lakh poor people in the state have been allotted houses under PMAY in the



past six years and 10 lakh more houses will be allotted soon.

"Six years ago, not a single poor person used to get a house under this scheme. The poor did not get houses because the state government at that time did not want to think about them. The central government used to write letters to provide accommodation, but the state government did not want to take the houses," he said.

According to a Prayagraj Development Authority (PDA) official,

four-storey towers housing 1 BHK flats have been built in the Lukharganj area here.

Each flat costs ₹ 6 lakh and the beneficiaries paid ₹ 3.5 lakh. The central government paid ₹ 1.5 lakh, while the state government paid ₹ 1 lakh for every house, the official said.

Each flat has a balcony, electricity, sewerage and parking facility. Adityanath also inaugurated and laid foundation stones of 226 development projects worth ₹ 768 crore at the event.



'RRR' team, Karan Johar, Mani Ratnam among new members invited to join AMPAS

LOS ANGELES, June 30 (PTI): The "RRR" team, including actors Ram Charan, Jr NTR and composer MM Keeravaani, as well as filmmakers Mani Ratnam and Karan Johar are among the 398 artistes and executives who have received invitations to join the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS). The list, however, does not feature the film's director Rajamouli. "RRR" lyricist Chandrabose, who along with Keeravaani won the Oscar for best original song for the film's blockbuster track "Naatu Naatu" in March, has also received an invitation. Two other invitees include "RRR" cinematographer KK Senthil Kumar and production designer Sabu Cyril, a press release stated. The filmmaker congratulated the team

for the invitation to become Academy members that among other things gives them Oscars voting rights.

"Extremely proud that 6 members of our RRR team have been invited as members for The Academy Awards this year. Congratulations Tarak, Charan, Peddanna, Sabu sir, Senthil & Chandrabose garu. Also, congrats to the members from Indian Cinema who received the invitation this year," Rajamouli tweeted with a smiley emoticon. The fact that six members of the "RRR" family have been invited to join the Los Angeles-based institution is a "proud moment", said Jr NTR, who played the role of Komaram Bheem in the SS Rajamouli directorial. "I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all of them for this well-deserved honor. I thank The

Academy for bestowing this honour upon us. I would also like to congratulate my colleagues in the Indian film fraternity who have received invitations from the Academy as well," the actor said in a statement. In a note shared on his Instagram Stories, Johar extended his "deepest gratitude" for being selected as a member for the Academy in a year which marks the silver jubilee of his career as a filmmaker. "Twenty-five years of being in the industry of not just films but storytelling, magic and dreams – it all starts and restarts here for me. Thank you for the prestigious honour of representing India, our country in every corner of the world. @theacademy," said the director, who was recently felicitated by the UK Parliament for his contribution to the "global enter-

tainment industry".

Ratnam's frequent collaborator and two-time Oscar winning composer AR Rahman, who is already a member, welcomed the "Ponniyin Selvan" director to the Academy. "Congratulations #Manirathnam sir for becoming member of the @TheAcademy. ... #Oscar #PS 1 & 2 #Dilse #Roja #Bombay and many more! Welcome to the club," the music maestro tweeted. Indian names feature heavily in Academy's class of 2023 with the inclusion of Shaunak Sen, the director of Oscar-nominated documentary "All That Breathes", Siddharth Roy Kapur, the producer of India's official Oscar entry "Chhello Show", and Chaitanya Tamhane, known for critically-acclaimed Marathi titles "The Disciple" and "Court" in the list.

Kartik Aaryan, Kiara Advani's 'Satyaprem Ki Katha' mints ₹ 9.25 cr on day one



MUMBAI, June 30 (PTI): Kartik Aaryan and Kiara Advani-starrer "Satyaprem Ki Katha" collected Rs 9.25 crore on its opening day at the domestic box office, the makers announced Friday.

The musical romance drama is directed by National award-winning filmmaker Sameer Vidwans, known for the critically-acclaimed 2019 Marathi drama "Anandi Gopal".

Produced by Sajid Nadiadwala and Namah Pictures, the film debuted in theatres countrywide on Thursday.

In a statement, the makers said "Satyaprem Ki Katha" has pro-

vided Aaryan the "third-highest opening of his career".

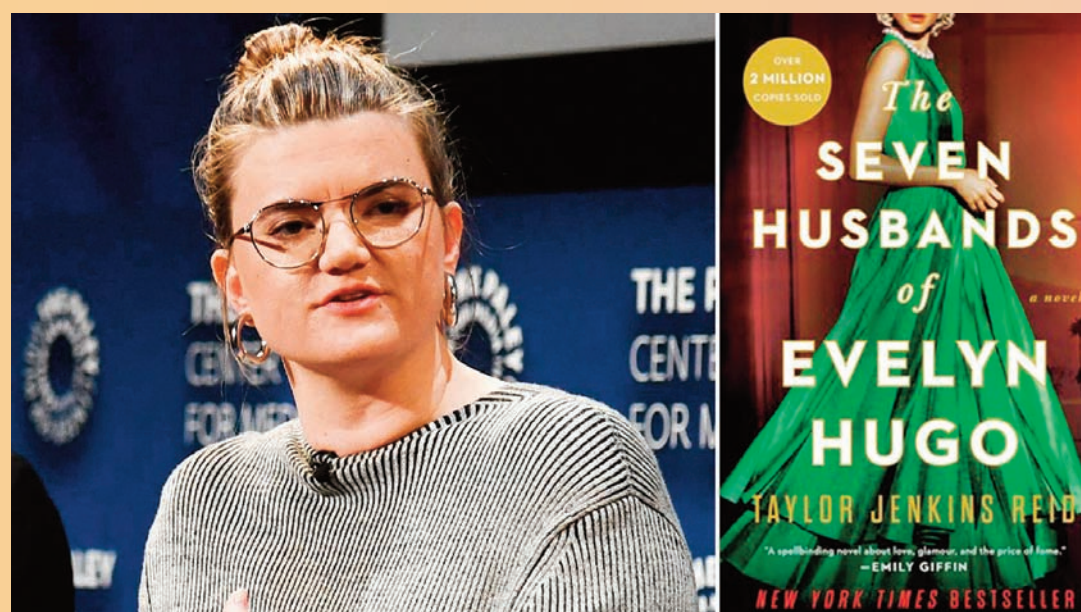
"Satyaprem Ki Katha" has brought back the theatres and opened at a relishing note for the distributors. The theatres have certainly seen a rush of the audience that has made the film open bigger than a lot of biggies with its first-day collection of 9.25 crore on the first day," the statement read.

The film marks a reunion between Aaryan and Advani, who most recently featured in horror comedy "Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2".

"Satyaprem Ki Katha" also stars Gajraj Rao, Supriya Pathak and Rajpal Yadav.

LESLYE HEADLAND TO HELM FILM VERSION OF NOVEL 'The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo'

Headland, known for feature films 'Bachelorette' and 'Sleeping with Other People', will direct the project from a script adapted by writer Liz Tigelaar



LOS ANGELES, June 30 (PTI): Streaming service Netflix has roped in filmmaker Leslie Headland to tackle the film adaptation of popular novel "The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo".

Headland, known for feature films "Bachelorette" and "Sleeping with Other People" as well as the hit Netflix series "Russian Doll", will direct the project from a script adapted by writer Liz Tigelaar, a press release stated.

Penning by author Taylor Jenkins Reid, "The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo" was published in 2017 and tells the story of the fictional Old Hollywood star Evelyn Hugo.

"In a long awaited interview with a young journalist, Evelyn Hugo, an aging Hollywood starlet, pulls back the curtain on her seven marriages, and as she tells tales of Hollywood scandals, betrayals, and woe, she unveils shocking truths about her own life and the lives of everyone around her," the official synopsis of the film read.

The movie will be produced by Liza Chasin for 3Dot Productions and Brad Mendelsohn for Circle of Confusion. Reid will executive produce alongside Margaret Chernin.

Akshay Kumar announces 5th part of 'Housefull' franchise

FILM TO RELEASE ON DIWALI 2024

MUMBAI, June 30 (PTI): Superstar Akshay Kumar on Friday announced the fifth instalment of his comedy franchise "Housefull".

Tarun Mansukhani, known for movies "Dostana" and "Drive", will direct "Housefull 5", which will be released in theatres on Diwali 2024.

Along with Kumar, actor Riteish Deshmukh will also return for the fifth chapter, to be produced by producer Sajid Nadiadwala's banner

Nadiadwala Grandson Entertainment.

"Get ready for FIVE times the madness! Bringing to y'all #SajidNadiadwala's #Housefull5 Directed by @tarun_mansukhani See you in cinemas on Diwali 2024!" Kumar posted on his social media handles. The franchise started with 2010's "Housefull", which was followed by three sequels -- "Housefull 2" (2012), "Housefull 3" (2016) and "Housefull 4" (2019).



Greta Lee on Past Lives: 'Never felt so deeply connected to anything I'd read before'

NEW DELHI, June 30 (PTI): 'In-yun', or the Korean term for fate that connects people, often crops up in Sundance breakout movie Past Lives and its lead star Greta Lee says she now strongly believes in the idea that "we are all connected to each other".

The film, about two soulmates meeting each other after years, marks the phenomenal debut of playwright Celine Song. It is a story that is inspired by a moment from her own life when Song found herself acting as a translator between her American husband and her Korean

childhood sweetheart, as the first-time filmmaker said in earlier interviews.

In Past Lives, Lee plays Na-young or Nora, a Korean who immigrates to Canada as a child and later moves to New York for her writing career. The 40-year-old actor said they wanted to tell a tale of "human experience of living" through a love story.

"In-yun' has everything to do with my process. I like to think that I had 'in-yun' with the script, actually immediately. I'd never felt so deeply connected to anything I'd read before... Now, 'in-yun' is something



that I see everywhere. I can't unsee it. It's just the way that we are all connected to each other," Lee, also known for the web series Russian Doll and The Morning Show, told PTI in a virtual interview.

"In-yun", the leitmotif in Past Lives, comes from Buddhism and the concept of reincarnation, as Nora's character explains in the film. According to her character, every encounter between people is 'in-yun' but "it takes 8,000 layers of 'in-yun' for two people to be together in a lifetime.

Lee, an American actor born to Korean immigrants, said she felt an instant bond with writer-director Song. "She and I had this immediate connection based on what our hopes and ambitions for the movie could

be, and telling the way we were hoping to tell the story about love," she added.

Past Lives takes viewers on a journey of time and fate through two young souls in South Korea, who, torn apart by destiny, find themselves reunited decades later in New York. The movie also features South Korean star Teo Yoo as Nora's childhood sweetheart Hae-sung and American actor John Magaro as her husband Arthur.

The movie was one of the most talked-about titles at the 2023 Sundance Film Festival and was later screened at the Berlin Film Festival. Earlier this month, it opened in US cinemas to unanimous praise. PVRI-NOX Pictures will release the film in India on July 7.

THE 54-YEAR-OLD HAS OVER TWO DECADES OF EXPERIENCE

Want Upton to make Indian hockey players mentally tough: Hockey India

NEW DELHI, June 30 (PTI): Hockey India wants Paddy Upton to develop in the men's team players an unshakable resolve and toughness that does not crumble under pressure -- the very traits that made Mahendra Singh's side a world beater in 2011.

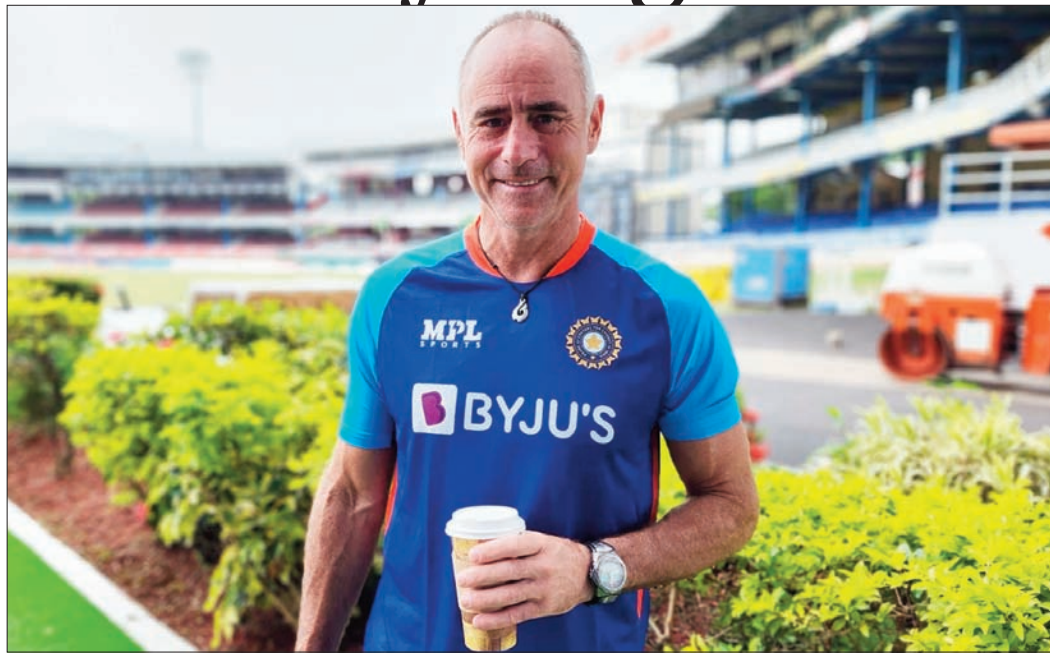
Hockey India Secretary General Bhola Nath Singh said if the celebrated South African mental conditioning coach can make a difference to the Indian men's team's performance, he could be asked to work till 2024 Olympics.

Upton is scheduled to hold three mental conditioning sessions, starting Saturday, during the ongoing National Camp for the men's core group at SAI Centre in Bengaluru.

HI will pay Rs 30 lakh to Upton for three sessions.

The association is expected to help the team ahead of Asian Champions Trophy in Chennai and the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China later this year.

According to Bhola Nath, the Indian team's habit of losing close games and conceding match-deciding goal at the last moment has been bothering the team management for long and they wanted to address it.



"We just want the development of Indian hockey at any cost. We have been losing most games or drawing them after conceding goals in the last few minutes or seconds. That has been bothering us for a long time. So we thought of bringing in someone of Upton's stature to work on that area,"

Bhola Nath told PTI.

"Upton has achieved success with the Indian cricket team in 2011 and was also part of the many IPL teams besides some other big teams. He has vast knowledge about mental side of the game. "We just want him to help our players develop mental

toughness, just like he did it with Indian cricket team in the 2011 World Cup," he added.

The 54-year-old Upton has over two decades of experience, having worked with professional athletes and teams across various sports. During his stint with the Indian cricket, the side had also

achieved the top spot in the Test rankings.

The South African had also contributed to South African cricket team's unprecedented achievement of simultaneously holding the World No. 1 ranking in all three formats of the game.

Upton has also provided mental training workshops to the South African men's hockey team, Australia men's hockey team, Indian Super League (ISL) sides FC Goa and FC Hyderabad, England men's Rugby team and many other sports teams.

Besides, he has worked with franchises like Delhi Daredevils (now Capitals) and Rajasthan Royals in IPL.

Hockey India said Upton could work till next year's Olympic Games, provided the team produces results in the Asian Games, scheduled to be held from September 23 to October 8.

As per his contract, Upton will work with both the men's and women's teams at the SAI centre in Bengaluru.

"We might have Upton as part of our hockey contingent in the Asian Games. We are eager to continue with him till the Paris Olympics," Bhola Nath said.

Mexico beat Haiti 3-1 to reach CONCACAF Gold Cup quarterfinals



GLENDAL, ARIZ., June 30 (AP): Henry Martín scored on a diving header 44 seconds into the second half, and Mexico beat Haiti 3-1 Thursday night to clinch a berth in the CONCACAF Gold Cup quarterfinals.

Martín headed Uriel Antuna's cross past goalkeeper Alexandre Pierre for his 11th international goal. Haiti's Ricardo Adé gave Mexico a 2-0 lead with an own goal in the 56th when he poked in Jesús Gallardo's cross for Orbelín Pineda.

No. 87 Haiti scored its third goal in 11 matches against Mexico and first since 1981 when Danley Jean-Jacques evaded Johan Vásquez and headed Der-

rick Etienne's cross past Guillermo Ochoa in the 78th. Santiago Giménez got his third international goal in the 83rd, poking in Antuna's cross.

No. 14 Mexico, which opened with a 4-0 rout of Honduras, closes Group B on Sunday against invited guest Qatar at Santa Clara, California. Haiti, which began with a 2-1 win over Qatar, plays Honduras at Charlotte, North Carolina.

In the doubleheader opener, Al-berth Elis scored 5:45 into six scheduled minutes of second-half stoppage time, giving Honduras a 1-1 draw against Qatar. Tameem Mansour scored in the seventh minute.

Bayern Munich to play Werder Bremen in Bundesliga season opener

FRANKFURT, GERMANY, June 30 (AP): Bayern Munich will start its title defense at Werder Bremen in the opening game of the new Bundesliga season, continuing one of Germany's longest-running rivalries, after the schedule was announced Friday.

The game on Aug. 18 will be the 113th time that Bayern and Bremen have met in the Bundesliga, the most frequent fixture between two clubs since the league began in 1963. Before that, Bayern hosts German Cup winner Leipzig in the Super Cup on Aug. 12.

Borussia Dortmund, which lost

to Bayern on goal difference for the title last season, starts its new campaign at home to Cologne on either Aug. 19 or 20.

The first "Klassiker" of the season between Bayern and Dortmund will be played at Dortmund's stadium on either Nov. 3, 4 or 5, according to the schedule. The second "Klassiker" in Munich is listed for either March 30 or 31.

Newly promoted Heidenheim's first-ever top-division game will be at Wolfsburg on Aug. 19 or 20. The other promoted team, Darmstadt, visits its local rival Eintracht Frankfurt the same weekend.

Duleep Trophy: Saurabh Kumar triggers East collapse, Central close in on win

BENGALURU, June 30 (PTI): Central Zone's Saurabh Kumar bagged four wickets to reduce East Zone to 69 for 6 and placed his side on the doorstep of a victory on the third day of the Duleep Trophy quarterfinal here on Friday.

Chasing an improbable 300 to win, East now need 231 runs more with four wickets remaining. Along with Saurabh, the East Zone should be thankful to their batters too for this position of strength. In the second innings, they made 239 all out to construct an overall lead of 299 runs.

Starting from their overnight 64 for no loss, Central moved ahead in the match through openers Himanshu Mantri and Vivek Singh.

Mantri (68, 153 balls, 7x4) and Vivek (56, 120 balls, 4x4, 2x6) milked 124 runs for the opening wicket, giving a clear edge to their side.

They departed in quick succession and the Central could not sustain the steam for the rest of the innings.

However, cameos by Saransh Jain (32) and Shubam Sharma (23) ensured that Central would not lose the momentum given by the openers.

East failed to take the cue from Central batting, though.

Their batting malfunctioned for the second time in the match against left-arm spinner Saurabh. Riyan Parag was batting on 6 at close but the target seems too tall for a one-man effort.

Leipzig signs Fábio Carvalho on a season-long loan from Liverpool



LEIPZIG, GERMANY, June 30 (AP): Leipzig signed Fábio Carvalho from Liverpool on a season-long loan Friday after the promising midfielder lacked game time in the Premier League.

Carvalho signed for Liverpool last year after scoring 10 goals for Fulham on the way to promotion from the second division.

Carvalho played 21 times for Liverpool in all competitions last season but his game time dried up in the second half of the season. He made only two brief Premier League substitute appearances after the new year and played once in the Champions League and once in the FA Cup.

"He will now continue his development and gain more experience in Germany with Leipzig," Liverpool said.

He joins a Leipzig team which is looking to build on its strong form at the end of last season. The team recovered from a poor start to finish third in the Bundesliga and qualify for the Champions League.

The 20-year-old Carvalho was born in Portugal and grew up in London. He represented England up to under-18 level and has since played four times for Portugal's under-21 team.

Compound mixed team in final, India eyeing two World Cup Gold

KHOBAR, SAUDI ARABIA, June 30 (AP): — Former Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler was hired as coach of Saudi Arabian team Al-Qadisiyah on Thursday. In a summer that has seen a host of Europe's top players head to the lucrative Saudi Pro League, Fowler is taking over a team in the oil-rich kingdom's second tier.

The club confirmed the former England striker's appointment on its Twitter channel.

"Robbie Fowler.. one of the most famous players in Liverpool and the English Premier League.. coach for Qadisiyah," it tweeted. Fowler is one of Liverpool's most celebrated players, having scored 183 goals in two spells with the Premier League club. Leeds and Manchester City were among the other teams he played for.

He has not hit such heights in his managerial career, which has seen him coach Thai team Muangthong United, Australia's



Brisbane Roar and East Bengal in the Indian Super League.

Al-Qadisiyah did not state the length of his contract.

Saudi Arabia has embarked on an ambitious recruitment drive since the turn of the year, following Cristiano Ronaldo's move to Al-Nassr in December.

This summer has seen more star players head to the country, with Karim Benzema, N'Golo Kante, Reuben Neves, Kalidou Koulibaly and Edouard Mendy making the move.

Saudi's sovereign wealth Public Investment Fund has taken a majority ownership stake in four of the country's top clubs, including Al-Ittihad and Al-Nassr, as part of a nationalization project encouraging public sector organizations to invest in sports. Oil giant Saudi Aramco will take over Al-Qadisiyah. Aramco is a publicly listed company, but the Saudi government still owns the vast majority of its shares.

Oman penalised for slow over rate against Zimbabwe

BULAWAYO, June 30 (PTI): Oman have been fined 40 per cent of their match fee for maintaining a slow over-rate against Zimbabwe, in their ICC World Cup Qualifier match here.

Muhammad Javed of the ICC international panel of match referees imposed the sanction after Oman were ruled to be two overs short of the target, after time allowances were taken into consideration.

In accordance with Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of Con-

duct for players and player support personnel, which relates to minimum over-rate offences, players are fined 20 per cent of their match fee for every over their side fails to bowl in the allotted time.

Captain Zeeshan Maqsood pleaded guilty to the offence and accepted the proposed sanction, so there was no need for a formal hearing. Meanwhile, Oman player Kaleemullah has been reprimanded for breaching Level 1 of the ICC Code of Con-

duct during the same match.

Kaleemullah was found to have breached Article 2.5 of the ICC Code of Conduct for players and player support personnel, which relates to "using language, actions or gestures which disparage or which could provoke an aggressive reaction from a batter upon his/her dismissal during an international match." In addition to this, one demerit point has been added to the disciplinary record of Kaleemullah, for whom it was

the first offence in a 24-month period. The incident occurred in the 12th over of Zimbabwe's innings, when Kaleemullah gave an inappropriate send-off to Zimbabwe captain Craig Ervine after dismissing him.

The player accepted the sanction, so there was no need for a formal hearing.

The on-field umpires Roland Black and Wayne Knights, third umpire Asif Yaqoob and fourth umpire Martin Saggers levelled the charges.

Rana back as Manu's personal coach two years after widely-publicised split

NEW DELHI, June 30 (PTI): Legendary pistol marksman and multiple Asian Games gold medalist Jaspal Rana confirmed on Friday that he is back as coach of one of India's best shooters Manu Bhaker, nearly two years after a split that hogged the headlines for days.

Manu, the winner of several gold medals at World Cups, silver medalist at the World Championships and champion at the 2018 Commonwealth Games, had parted ways with Rana because of reported irreconcilable differences in the run-up to the Tokyo Olympics in 2021.

Manu's split with Rana was being attributed as the main reason for her forgettable performance in Tokyo, where she also suffered a pistol malfunction that

almost left her in tears.

Manu's downfall coincided with her split with Rana.

"Yes, I will be pairing (up) with Manu Bhakar and (will) train her. It's confirmed. It's between me and Manu, I don't need any permission from anyone for that. I will be coaching just Manu and not the entire Indian pistol team. I'll be her personal coach," Jaspal told PTI.

"It is a long-term commitment. I will need to bring the champion out of her. Shooters like Manu Bhakar are technically sound normally, so I will focus a lot on the mental side of her game, apart from looking a bit into the technical aspect," he added.

On how did the patch-up come about, Rana indicted the initiative came from Manu's side.

"I think the credit goes to her. It (the talk was) between me and Manu, nobody else was involved in us deciding (to pair up again)," said Rana, who was the junior national coach prior to the Tokyo Olympic Games.

Rana said he had made it clear to Manu that this will be a fresh start to their association with the rancour of the past being forgotten. "I told her very clearly that what had happened in the past had happened and I don't give a damn about it. What is done is done, the damage is done. But now there will be a mutual understanding and there will be no talk about the past. We'll just talk about shooting and the professional way of doing things," he said. Rana said he has not committed anything to Manu, and he has not guaranteed her



medals at the Asian Games and World Championships, which is also a 2024 Paris Olympics quota-winning event. "I have started training her for the Asian Games

(in Hangzhou) and World Championships. I have not committed anything," he said. During the Tokyo Olympics, Ronak Pandit had gone as the pistol coach and

Manu was seeking guidance from him. Asked if Manu will also take guidance from Pandit, Rana said, "I have no idea about it, or anyone." Rana said he had started training Manu on a regular basis and was also in Delhi coaching her during the national trials. "We are on the phone almost everyday now and I was in Delhi between the (ongoing) trials. It's not that difficult (to train her) because I know everything about her (technique). Five days I can train her at my academy in Dehradun, and five days, I can go to Delhi for training."

"So, it should not take long (for her) to be on track. But since a lot of damage has been done mentally and technically (in the last two years) so, let's see. She's a champion and she will come out of it," opined Rana.

"I've seen her shoot and I've seen her doing things and it makes me confident she will come out of it," said Rana of the 21-year-old Manu.

"The most important thing is whatever she is that's a different story... but, yes, she is committed and she is honest about moving forward for the coming competitions. I told her very clearly there will be no miracle or magic... that I come back and things will be on track. "It will be a lot of hard work from her side and from my side as well. And, hopefully, if everything is positive from both sides, it will be much easier for us to move forward. Winning an Olympic quota is not that difficult for these guys but getting to the podium there is very, very tough," added Rana.

Service chiefs flag off Durand Cup 'Trophy Tour'

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, June 30: General Manoj Pande, the Chief of the Army Staff, along with Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari, the Chief of Air Staff, and Kalyan Chaubey, the president of the All India Football Federation (AIFF), flagged off the 'Trophy Tour' of the 132nd edition of the Durand Cup, India's oldest football tournament, at a ceremony held at the Manekshaw Centre, Delhi Cantt on Friday. The tournament is scheduled to commence in Kolkata from August 3 to September 3, 2023. The event was attended by numerous young football enthusiasts and eminent sports personalities.

The Durand Cup is Asia's oldest and the world's third oldest football tournament, featuring top Indian football clubs from across the country. Organised by the Indian



Armed Forces, the Durand Cup has served as the breeding ground for India's finest football talent over the years. Its inaugural edition took place in Shimla in 1888, initially as an Army Cup exclusively for the British Indian Army troops in India. However, it soon opened up to civilian teams as well.

The Durand Cup tourna-

ment stands out as the winning team walks away with three trophies: the Durand Cup (a rolling trophy and the original prize), the Shimla Trophy (also a rolling trophy, first presented by the residents of Shimla in 1904), and the President's Cup (a permanent keepsake, first presented by Dr. Rajendra Prasad, India's first President, in 1956).

Over the next month, these three trophies will embark on a Trophy Tour across the country, making appearances in major cities such as Shimla, Udhampur, Jaipur, Mumbai, Pune, Bengaluru, Bhubaneswar, Kokrajhar, Guwahati, and Shillong before arriving in Kolkata for the grand event.

The 132nd edition of the tournament will feature the participation of 24 teams, including teams from Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh. This marks the foreign teams' return to the tournament after a hiatus of 27 years. The tournament is open to all club teams and is conducted by the Durand Football Tournament Society (DFTS) under the auspices of the All India Football Federation (AIFF). Throughout its history, the tournament has symbolized excellence, sportsmanship, and competitiveness in the field of sports.

Duleep Trophy: North Zone move closer to victory with command performance

BENGALURU, June 30 (PTI): North Zone hurtled ruthlessly towards a crushing win over North East Zone while rattling up 259 for 6 in their second innings, pathway to their giant 665-run lead on the third day of the Duleep Trophy quarterfinal here on Friday.

Once that strong foundation was set, the North bowlers made optimum use of it to reduce North East to 58 for 3 at close. NE trail by 607 runs. But before their batsmen came into the party for the second time in the match, North bowlers led by Siddharth Kaul bundled out NE for 134 to gift them a lead of 406 runs.

Despite that massive first innings lead, North opted against enforcing follow-on. The thought, perhaps, fuelled by the desire to give some hopefuls another chance to impress with the bat.

However, the plan did not fructify in its entirety. Dhruv Shorey and Nishant Sindhu, the first innings centurions, fell cheaply for 11 and 3 respectively.

Jotin Singh bowled a peach of a delivery to evict Shorey. The ball pitched on the middle and leg before moving to hit the top of the off-stump, to leave Shorey

a stunned man and it was the ball of the day by some miles. The dismissal had put North in a minor trouble at 23 for 2, but Ankit Kalsi and Prabhsimran Singh allayed all that with a fine 83-run stand for the third wicket in a little over 15 overs.

Both Prabhsimran and Kalsi batted at a good clip bringing out their natural flair. Just when they looked set for a bigger haul, Kalsi was ousted for 49 and later Prabhsimran too fell for 59. At 146 for 5, North East might have dreamt of bringing quick curtains to their opponent's innings but it did not pan out that way. North captain Jayant Yadav (55 no, 78 balls, 8x4) and Ankit Kumar (70, 101 balls, 8x4) further punished their rivals with a 113-run alliance for the sixth wicket.

Jayant, who led North in the place of injured Mandeep Singh, made no harm to his aspirations batting with poise to nullify a failure in the first innings.

Jayant's previous appearance for India was in the Mohali Test against Sri Lanka in March 2022. The pair was in extreme comfort in the middle till Ankit was stumped by Prafullmoni off left-arm spinner Kishan Singha.

India beat Iran to defend men's Asian Kabaddi C'ships title

BUSAN (KOREA), June 30 (PTI): The Indian men's kabaddi team beat Iran 42-32 in a high-voltage final to defend its Asian Championships title, here on Friday.

It was India's eighth title in the continental championships.

Iran started aggressively, but the Indians were up to their tasks. Captain Pawan Sehrawat helped India inflict the first All-Out with two touch points and gave his side a 10-4 lead.

India kept building pressure on the Iranians and produced another All-Out. India were leading 23-11 at half time.

Iranian all-rounder Mohammadreza Chiyaneh tried to lead his side make a comeback but they ended up conceding another All-Out to trail 14-33. India maintained their stranglehold and sealed the issue.

"With the score of 42-32 in the final match against Iran, Team India retains the Asian Kabaddi Championship Title! Kudos to the entire team. Well played boys," the Sports Authority of India tweeted.

India had beaten arch-rivals Pakistan in the final in the last edition held in Iran in 2017.



Harness Partnership to Defeat Dengue

Anti Dengue Month

1st - 31st July 2023

LOOK OUT FOR SYMPTOMS OF DENGUE



High Fever

Joint Pain



Headache

Redness of the Eyes



Pain Behind Eyes

Rash on Skin



Muscular Pain

Bleeding from Gums



STEPS TO PREVENT DENGUE

Make sure there is no water stagnating in and around your house, in open containers, discarded coconut shells, unused flower pots etc.

Always use a mosquito net (LLIN) while sleeping, even during the day. Dengue mosquitoes bite during the day.

Protect yourself from mosquito bites by wearing long sleeved clothes and trousers. Use age appropriate repellents like electric mats, coils etc.

If you feel any dengue-like symptoms, consult a doctor immediately. Do not take medicines without a doctor's consultation.

Prevent incubation of mosquitoes inside and outside your home. Save yourself from Dengue.



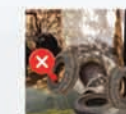
Fill open pit with soil and do not allow water to stagnate



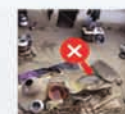
Cover overhead tanks



Avoid water collection in flower pots



Avoid water collection in tyres



Avoid water collection in broken pots and utensils



Wear full sleeves clothes



Use Mosquito net while sleeping

Treatment of Dengue is available in all Government Hospitals. Laboratory facilities for testing Dengue is available free of cost in all District Hospitals and Medical Colleges.

Call 104 for Health related queries | Call 108 for Ambulance Service | For any help, contact ASHA/ANM

(NHMD/2023-24/974)



National Health Mission, Assam



Shri Keshab Mahanta
Minister, Health & Family Welfare, Assam

“ Let us show our gratitude to all the doctors who have tirelessly worked for the benefit of the community at all times, be it under normal circumstances, natural/man-made disasters or pandemic situations. Our doctors have always stood by us.

This National Doctors' Day, we recognize the contributions of our Doctors to individual lives and communities. We salute their undaunted spirit and unparalleled dedication. ”



NATIONAL DOCTORS' DAY

1st July 2023



(NHMD/2023-24/964)