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PM Modi, Macron discuss ways to further cement strategic ties

BARI (ITALY), June 14: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said he had an excellent meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron, their fourth meeting in one year, and discussed ways to further strengthen the strategic partnership in areas like defence, nuclear and space.

The two leaders met on the sidelines of the G7 summit here in the southern resort town of Italy.

The meeting with Macron is Modi's first official bilateral meeting with an international leader since taking charge for his third term as Prime Minister earlier this month. Modi thanked President Macron for his warm wishes on assuming office for the third consecutive term.



"Had an excellent meeting with my friend President @Emmanuel-Macron. This is our fourth meeting in one year, indicating the priority we accord to strong India-French ties," Modi posted on X.

"Our talks covered numerous subjects such as defence, security, technology, AI, Blue Economy and more. We also discussed how to encourage innovation and research among the youth," Modi wrote.

"At the G7, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and I discussed the main issues of the strategic partnership that unites India and France, in the fields of energy, defense, research, and culture, and I must say: what momentum!" Macron posted on X. Modi also (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Work on 1,000-mw solar power plant in Karbi Anglong to begin soon

3000 mw solar power in state by 2030: Himanta

HT Bureau GUWAHATI, June 14: The construction of a 1,000-mw capacity solar power plant in Karbi Anglong will begin shortly.

Informing this today, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said "The 120-Mw Lower Kapili Hydropower project, on the other hand, has started yielding electricity. The state will be able to produce around 3,000-Mw of solar generated electricity by 2030."

Sarma said this in a public meeting after laying the foundation stone for a 25-Mw capacity solar power generation project at the premises of the Namrup Thermal Power Station in Dibrugarh district.



A joint venture collaboration between the Assam Power Generation Corporation and Oil India Limited, the project will be spread across 108 acres of land and is likely to cost ₹ 115 crore in project cost.

The solar project, approved by the state cabinet on August 19, 2022, is projected to produce 50

million units of electricity every year and its construction is expected to be completed by July 2025.

Sarma said that when he was sworn-in as chief minister in 2021, the peak-hour demand of electricity in the state stood at 1800 Mw but the same has now increased to 2500 Mw owing to the increased number of industries and electrification of un-electrified villages across the state.

"The state, on its own, produces a mere 419 Mw power resulting in purchase of around 2100 Mw of power on a daily basis," he said.

Sarma said that initiatives such as the solar power project at Namrup (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Focus on strengthening India's maritime security: Rajnath

VISAKHAPATNAM (ANDHRA PRADESH), June 14: Defence minister Rajnath Singh said here on Friday that he would focus on further strengthening India's maritime security and marking its presence as a naval power in the Indian Ocean Region more effective and robust.

Singh made this observation on his first outstation visit after becoming the defence minister for the second consecutive time.

He visited the Eastern Naval Command (ENC) in Visakhapatnam to review the operational readiness of the Indian Navy and embarked on a 'Day at Sea' programme on INS Jalashwa.

"The Indian Navy is continuously becoming stronger, factored by growing industrial infrastructure. Our shipyards are expanding, aircraft carriers increasing, and our Navy is emerging as a new powerful force. We will give momentum to our (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Long-serving MLA resigns after Lok Sabha win

GUWAHATI, June 14: Assam's longest-serving legislator Phani Bhushan Choudhury of the AGP resigned from the assembly on Friday, following his election to the Lok Sabha.

Choudhury, who won the Barpeta Lok Sabha seat, handed over his resignation letter to speaker Biswajit Daimary, flanked by senior AGP leaders, including party chief Atul Bora and Rajya Sabha MP Birendra Prasad Baishya.

He had been representing the Bongaigaon assembly segment continuously since 1985 and was a minister during the second AGP government from 1996 to 2001. He was also a minister in the BJP-led government from 2016 to 2021.

He tasted victory in the Lok Sabha elections in his second attempt, having fought the 2014 polls unsuccessfully when AGP had no alliance with any other party. Speaking to (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Yaba tablets worth ₹ 6 crore seized in Cachar, 3 held



GUWAHATI, June 14: Narcotic drugs valued at ₹ six crore were seized in Assam's Cachar district on Friday, chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

Three persons, including a woman, from Mizoram were arrested in this connection.

"Based on secret inputs, @cacharpolice carried out a special operation in an inter-state border area and apprehended 3 people who were in possession of 21,000 YABA tablets worth ₹ 6cr," Sarma posted on X.

Yaba is a combination of stimulants, the most important being methamphetamine and caffeine. It has many aliases like Thai name 'crazy medicine', 'madness drug' or 'Nazi speed'.

The consignment was brought from a neighbouring state, he said.

Sources said the arrested persons brought the consignment from Mizoram.

Acting on a tip-off, the police launched an operation in the Saptagram area on the Silchar-Aizawl Road and the trio had come to the spot on a two-wheeler to hand over the consignment to another group of people who had arrived in a car. On seeing the police, those inside the car managed to escape from the spot but the three persons could not, a police official said.

The police launched a search operation to nab those who managed to escape from there, he added.

Earlier, 2,20,000 Yaba tablets worth more than ₹ 66 crore were seized on Wednesday from Karimganj district. The police also recovered 36,000 tablets from Karbi Anglong district on the same day. The chief minister congratulated the Assam Police for its efforts in making the state drug-free. (PTI)

ASBTC Joins Global Observance of World Blood Donor Day in Guwahati

HT Bureau GUWAHATI, June 14: The Assam State Blood Transfusion Council (ASBTC) joined the global community in observing World Blood Donor Day on June 14, 2024, at the Sri Sri Madhabdeva International Auditorium, Kalakshetra, Guwahati.

The theme for World Blood Donor Day 2024 is "20 years of celebrating giving: Thank you, blood donors!"

Addressing the gathering as the chief guest, Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Keshab Mahanta, expressed gratitude to blood donors for their invaluable contribution to saving lives.

"The 20th anniversary of World Blood Donor Day is an excellent and timely opportunity to thank blood donors for saving precious lives through blood donation and this day provides us an opportunity to honour the donors who have been helping in saving lives. Through blood donation we have been able to help people who need



blood and even we help the patients of the private hospitals to get blood. There are 83 blood banks in Assam and 7 more blood banks will be established soon," he said. Mahanta further (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Case filed after man dies in Dibrugarh jail

DIBRUGARH, June 14: A case was registered in Assam's Dibrugarh district on Friday after an undertrial man died in jail, police said.

Shailja Borgohain, 30, was lodged in the Dibrugarh Central Jail for the last three days after his arrest in a case related to domestic violence. His family had gone to receive him from the jail on Thursday after he procured bail when they claimed that they learned about his death.

Borgohain's family alleged that the jail authorities allegedly tried to hand over his lifeless body by placing it in a wheelchair.

The family refused to take possession of the body, following which the police transferred it to the morgue.

"The family members have lodged a complaint at the Dibrugarh police station and a case has been registered. The body has been sent to the (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Bangladesh PM Hasina set to visit India next week

NEW DELHI, June 14: Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is likely to pay a two-day visit to India next week with an aim to further bolster the already close strategic ties between the two sides.

Hasina is scheduled to begin her visit on June 21 and is set to hold wide-ranging talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi the next day, authoritative sources said on Friday.

Several agreements covering various key areas are expected to be firming up during the talks, they said.

The Bangladeshi prime minister was among seven top leaders from India's neighbourhood and the Indian Ocean region who attended the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Modi and the Union council of ministers at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on June 9. (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)



সমগ্ৰ ভাৰত
অসম চৰকাৰ

‘অম্বৰ কুশল, ত্ৰোমাৰ বুকুৰ ত্ৰেজে স্বাধীন দেশতে
আহুে অনিৰ্বাণ বন্তি জ্বলাই।
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কুশল জীয়াই আহুে মাই মৰা মাই’
-নলিনীবালা দেৱী

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Janasanyog ID/159924/15-Jun-24

Prices of tur, chana, urad dals likely to soften from July on good monsoon, higher imports: Govt

NEW DELHI, June 14: Prices of tur, chana and urad dals are likely to soften from next month helped by expectations of a good monsoon and increased imports, Union Consumers Affairs Secretary Nidhi Khare said on Friday, stressing there is no need for panic.

Imports of these three pulses will also increase from next month, she said adding this would help augment domestic supply.

"Prices of tur, chana and urad dals have been stable in the last six months but at a high level. The price situation in moong and masoor dals is comfortable," Khare told reporters here.

On June 13, the average retail price of chana dal was Rs 87.74 per kg, tur (arhar) Rs 160.75 per kg, urad Rs 126.67 per kg, moong Rs 118.9 per kg and masoor Rs 94.34 per kg. The consumer affairs department collects retail prices from 550 major consuming centres.

"From July onwards, prices of tur, urad and chana are likely to soften," Khare said.

The secretary noted that weather



office has forecast normal monsoon rains.

"We are expecting good monsoon, more than average rainfall. We expect area under pulses to improve significantly. Farmers will put more area under crops considering high market prices. Market sentiments will also improve," she said, adding that the government is making efforts to provide better services to farmers.

Khare asserted that the government would take all necessary measures to boost domestic avail-

ability and keep retail prices under check. She highlighted that the government's scheme to sell Bharat chana dal at Rs 60 per kg is providing relief to the common man.

"We are not leaving any stone unturned to boost domestic availability," she emphasised.

India imported nearly 8 lakh tonne of tur and 6 lakh tonne of urad in the last financial year. Myanmar and African countries are major exporters to India.

The secretary said her depart-

ment is in constant touch with global suppliers to boost imports as well as domestic retailers, wholesalers and big retail chains to ensure there is no hoardings.

Tur production stood at 33.85 lakh tonne in 2023-24 crop year (July-June) while consumption is estimated at 44-45 lakh tonne. Chana output stood at 115.76 lakh tonne while demand is 119 lakh tonne.

In case of urad, production was 23 lakh tonne, while consumption is estimated at 33 lakh tonne. The gap between demand and supply is met through imports.

In case of vegetables too, Khare said monsoon rains will have salutary effect on retail prices.

She said the demand for potatoes has increased as heatwave has affected harvest of green vegetables.

The government has started procurement of onions for buffer stocks and 35,000 tonne have been already purchased. It is also making efforts to boost shelf life of onion through cold storage and irradiation process. (PTI)

Electricity in Punjab to cost more as PSERC hikes power tariff by 10-15 paise per unit

CHANDIGARH, June 14: Electricity charges are set to cost more in Punjab with the power regulator PSERC announcing an increase in power tariff by 10 to 15 paise per unit for different categories of consumers. For the domestic category, the hike in power tariff is 10-12 paise a unit while for the industry category, the increase is 15 paise a unit.

The Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission (PSERC) on Friday announced a new tariff order which will be effective from June 16 till March 31, 2025. The PSERC said minimal increase in the charges was made to ensure that the consumers do not feel burdened. In Punjab, the domestic consumers get 300 units of free electricity per month. However, the electricity consumers using over 300 units per month will have to bear the burden on account of increase in the power tariff. In the new tariff order, the rates for domestic consumers having load up to 2 Kilo Watt (KW) with 0-100 units slab have been increased from ₹ 4.19 a unit to ₹ 4.29. For 101-300 units, the new rate will be ₹ 6.76 per unit, an increase of 12 paise a unit.

However, for more than 300 units, the rate of ₹ 7.75 per unit has remained unchanged.

For those having a load between 2 KW and 7 KW, the new rates for up to 100 units of consumption will be ₹ 4.54 per unit and for 101 to 300 units, the new rate will be ₹ 6.76 a unit.

There is no change in electricity rate for the domestic consumers having a load more than 7 KW.

The fixed charges for the domestic consumers were not changed, according to the order. The electricity

rates have not been revised for the non-residential supply category. For the industry category, the new rate for units having up to 20 Kilo Volt Amperes (KVA) load has been revised upward by 15 paise per unit from ₹ 5.67 to ₹ 5.82, while from 20 KVA to 100 KVA load, the rate has been increased from ₹ 6.10 per unit to ₹ 6.25. Similarly, from 100 KVA to 2,500 KVA load, the electricity charges have been increased by 15 paise a unit. The fixed charges for the industry have also been increased by ₹ 5 per KVA.

The tariff for the farm sector (agriculture pumpset) has been raised from ₹ 6.55 per unit to ₹ 6.70 a unit.

The farmers in Punjab get free electricity supply. Power utility Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) had sought Aggregate Revenue Requirement (ARR) of ₹ 53,360.48 crore projecting that it has a revenue deficit of ₹ 5,419.82 crore. The PSPCL had requested for an increase in tariff accordingly.

However, the PSERC determined a revenue gap of ₹ 654.35 crore after the requisite and thorough prudence check and allowing for previous period dues of ₹ 4,072.27 crore. The Commission determined an additional revenue requirement of ₹ 654.35 crore instead of ₹ 5,419.82 crore sought by the PSPCL.

The average cost of supply (ACoS) for the financial year 2024-25 works out to be 715.55 paise per kWh (kilowatt hours), which is 1.59 per cent higher than the ACoS of 704.34 paise per kWh as determined in the previous tariff order, resulting in an increase of approximately 11 paise a unit over the average cost of supply of 2023-24. (PTI)

Contd. from Page 1...

India's forex reserves hits new all-time high of USD 655.8 bn



MUMBAI, June 14: India's forex reserves jumped USD 4.307 billion to a new all-time high of USD 655.817 billion for the week ended June 7, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday.

The kitty had jumped USD 4.837 billion to USD 651.51 billion in the previous reporting week.

The previous high for the kitty -- a crucial guard against any disturbances in the external sector -- was USD 648.87 billion on May 10. In the past few weeks, the reserves have witnessed handsome jumps.

For the week ended June 7, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased by USD 3.773 billion to

USD 576.337 billion, the data released on Friday showed.

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 increased USD 481 million to USD 56.982 billion during the week, the RBI said.

The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up USD 43 million to USD 18.161 billion, the apex bank said.

India's reserve position with the IMF was up USD 10 million to USD 4.336 billion in the reporting week, the apex bank data showed. (PTI)

BMW Unveils All-New R 1300 GS

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, June 14: BMW Motorrad has introduced the all-new R 1300 GS, featuring the most powerful two-cylinder boxer engine in the brand's history. The redesigned engine produces an impressive 107 kW (145 hp) at 7750 rpm and a maximum torque of 149 Nm at 6500 rpm. Notably, the engine's compact design is achieved through a gearbox located under the engine and a new camshaft drive arrangement. The engine also incorporates BMW's innovative ShiftCam technology, which varies valve timing and stroke on the intake side for optimal performance.

The R 1300 GS comes standard with Dynamic Suspension Adjustment (DSA), Shift Assistant Pro, and the Dynamic Package, which includes sport brakes and Riding Modes Pro. This modes—Dynamic, Dynamic Pro, Enduro Pro, Rain, Road, and Eco—allow riders to tailor the bike's performance to various road conditions and maximize fuel efficiency. The Enduro mode is specifically designed for off-road riding.

The new R 1300 GS also includes Keyless Ride, heated grips, a smartphone charging compartment with a USB socket, an additional 12V power socket, hand protectors with integrated turn indicators, a lithium-ion battery with Battery Guard, and Dynamic Cruise Control (DCC) with brake function.

BMW offers a comprehensive range of original accessories and gear for further personalization of the R 1300 GS, allowing riders to tailor the bike to their specific needs and preferences.

ITC Vivel expands soap portfolio

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, June 14: ITC Vivel has announced the launch of its latest soap variant, "Lime + Aloe Vera," designed to offer consumers a refreshing and rejuvenating skin care experience. This new product will be available in both the Rs 10 and Full Value segments, catering to a broad range of customers.

The INR 10 pack targets general trade markets in Assam, the North-East, and West Bengal. Meanwhile, the Full Value pack, featuring a 450g banded pack of

three 150g soaps, will be distributed across retail stores, with a focus on DMART outlets.

Vivel's "Lime + Aloe Vera" soap boasts an invigorating blend of natural ingredients that promises to leave skin feeling soft and revitalized. Notably, the 150g pack is classified as Grade 1 soap and claims 97% natural ingredients. Additionally, the product is made from 100% vegetable oils and comes in recyclable packaging, aligning with ITC's commitment to sustainability.

Wholesale inflation rises to 15-month high of 2.61 pc in May, heatwave pushes up food items

NEW DELHI, June 14: The wholesale inflation rose to a 15-month high of 2.61 per cent in May, as heatwave conditions pushed up prices of food items, specially vegetables, and on costlier manufactured products.

The wholesale price index (WPI) based inflation has been rising for three months in a row. It was 1.26 per cent in the previous month and (-) 3.61 per cent in May 2023.

"Positive rate of inflation in May, 2024 is primarily due to increase in prices of food articles, manufacture of food products, crude petroleum & natural gas, mineral oils, other manufacturing etc," the Ministry of Commerce & Industry said in a statement on Friday.

The May WPI print is at a 15-month high. The last high was seen in February, 2023, when inflation was 3.85 per cent.

As per the data, inflation in food articles rose to a 10-month high of 9.82 per cent in May.

Inflation in vegetables was 32.42 per cent in May, up from 23.60 per cent in the previous month. Onion inflation was at 58.05 per cent, while potato was 64.05 per cent. Pulses inflation rose 21.95 per cent in May.

Bank of Baroda Economist Aditi Gupta said food inflation is also likely to remain elevated due to severe heatwave in the country. Progress of the monsoon will play a key role in determining the trajectory of food inflation going forward.

"With severe heatwave conditions persisting in several parts of the country, prices of vegetables and fruits are witnessing an up-



ward momentum even in June '24 and are likely to keep inflation elevated in the near-term," Gupta said.

Besides, an uptick in global metal prices has contributed to an increase in inflation in the manufacturing category. In manufacturing products, inflation was at 0.78 per cent in May, higher than (-) 0.42 per cent in April.

Barclays Economist Shreya Sodhani said sequentially, the price index for manufacturing (which has the highest weight in the WPI, at 64 per cent), has risen sequentially for the fourth straight month, indicating that firms' input costs are rising.

ICRA Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said the core-WPI (non-food manufacturing WPI) reverted to the inflationary territory in May 2024 after a gap of 14 months. This alone contributed as much as 57 bps to the 130 bps uptick in the headline print compared to April 2024.

In the fuel and power basket, inflation stood at 1.35 per cent, marginally lower than 1.38 per cent in April.

"Global commodity prices, in-

cluding those for the Indian basket of crude oil have also retreated on a month-on-month basis in June 2024 so far. This would help contain the uptick in the year-on-year WPI inflation print in the month, countering the adverse base. Overall, ICRA expects the headline WPI inflation to inch up modestly to 3 per cent in June 2024," Nayar said. The rise in May WPI is in contrast to the retail inflation data for the month. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) mainly takes into account retail inflation while framing monetary policy.

Retail inflation eased to 1 year low of 4.75 per cent in May, data released earlier this week showed.

The RBI earlier this month kept the interest rate unchanged for the eighth time in a row.

Sodhani said while WPI was in deflation all of last year, the rise in wholesale prices this year is expected to gradually feed into retail prices, if firms' pricing power improves and consumption revives.

"We expect a window for monetary easing to open in December 2024, with a likely shallower rate cut cycle of 50bp in total," Sodhani added. (PTI)

PM Modi, Macron discuss ways

conveyed his best wishes to Macron on the hosting of the Paris Olympics, which begins next month. France will host the 2024 Summer Olympics from July 26 to August 11. The two leaders reviewed India-France bilateral relations, focusing on the 'Horizon 2047' Roadmap and the Indo-Pacific Roadmap.

Discussions included cooperation in defence, nuclear, space, education, climate action, digital public infrastructure, connectivity and cultural initiatives such as the National Museum partnership and enhancing people-to-people ties. The two leaders agreed to further intensify strategic defence cooperation with an increased focus on 'Make in India'.

They also agreed to expand cooperation in the realms of Artificial Intelligence, critical and emerging technologies, energy and sports, while working closely in the context of the forthcoming AI Summit and United Nations Oceans Conference, both to be hosted in France in 2025.

The two leaders also exchanged views on key global and regional issues. They emphasised that a strong and trusted Strategic Partnership between India and France is crucial for a stable and prosperous global order and agreed to work closely to make it scale greater heights. The two leaders last met in January when the French President visited India to attend the 75th Republic Day of India.

During their last meeting, the two leaders reaffirmed their shared vision for bilateral cooperation and international partnership, outlined in Horizon 2047 and other documents from the July 2023 Summit.

Horizon 2047 Roadmap sets an ambitious and broad-ranging course for the bilateral relationship for 2047, the centenary year of India's independence.

Modi is attending the 50th G7 Summit on the invitation of Italian President Georgia Meloni and will address an Outreach session on Artificial Intelligence, Energy, Africa and the Mediterranean alongside leaders of other invited countries and Pope Francis. (PTI)

3000 mw solar power in

would augment the state's power generation capacity and will contribute greatly towards reducing reliance on power purchased from outside the state. Stating that till date, a total of seven solar power projects are functional in the state, the chief minister said these account for 175 Mw of daily power generation.

He further added that the upcoming power plants in Sonitpur district's Barchalla and Dhubri district's Khudigaon are at various stages of development. Referring to the Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana that was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Chief Minister appealed to the eligible households of the state to opt for it to bring down their power consumption expenses.

Today's event was also attended by ministers of Assam Cabinet Bimal Bora, Sanjoy Kishan, former Union minister Rameswar Teli, members of Assam Legislative Assembly Prashanta Phukan, Taranga Gogoi, Terash Gowalla, Binod Hazarika, Chakradhar Gogoi, along with a host of dignitaries.

Focus on strengthening India's maritime

efforts in this tenure as well." Singh was quoted as saying in a press release. He noted that the government's focus on land borders and maritime security has a broader vision, which is to bind the northern and southern parts of the nation in one thread. Further, he said the Indian Navy will ensure that no nation suppresses another in the Indo-Pacific region or endangers its strategic autonomy.

"It is a matter of great pride that our Navy is ensuring safe trade and promoting peace and prosperity in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Securing free navigation, rules-based world order, anti-piracy and peace and stability in the region are our biggest objectives," he added. As part of the 'Day at Sea', Singh witnessed the dynamic operations of various ships, submarines and aircraft of ENC, among others. (PTI)

ASBTC Joins Global Observance

emphasised the significance of honoring those who have made a difference through blood donation and stressed the importance of making blood donation a mass movement. Celebrity guest, actor Kopil Bora, commended the efforts of blood donors and encouraged the continuation of the blood donation movement to save lives. Ashok Babu, IAS, commissioner & secretary to the Government of Assam, Health & FW Department, highlighted the significance of World Blood Donor Day and expressed gratitude to all individuals who have donated blood, emphasising its life-saving impact.

The event saw the felicitation of 31 blood donors, including Gyan Chand Jain, who has donated blood an impressive 113 times. Additionally, a voluntary blood donation camp held at the venue saw participation from 54 donors, further contributing to the noble cause.

The presence of key officials including Dr Indranoshee Das, director of ASBTC, Kamaljit Talukdar, director of Family Welfare, Dr Umesh Phaugcho, director of Health Services, and Dr Dipankar Baruah, officer in-charge Blood Centre, GMCH, added significance to the occasion.

Long-serving MLA resigns

reporters, an emotional Choudhury expressed his gratitude to the people of Bongaigaon for their continued faith in him.

"I thank the people of Bongaigaon, whom I had considered my family and they too had reciprocated my feelings. I am forever indebted to those who have always supported me," said Choudhury, 72, famous for living a simple life, as tears rolled down his cheeks.

He said some of his dreams for Bongaigaon have remained unfulfilled, even as he hoped that as the MP of Barpeta, he would be able to do equal justice to all the assembly segments in his constituency.

Party president Bora, in a post on X, said the Barpeta constituency stands to benefit from Choudhury's experience. Expressing gratitude to the people of Bongaigaon for their unwavering support of Choudhury over the last four decades, he said, "Now, the people of Barpeta LS Constituency have chosen him as their Member of Parliament. We are confident that Phani da's extensive experience will elevate the development of Barpeta Parliamentary Constituency to new heights." "We are confident that Phani da will be a strong advocate for Assam's interests in the Lok Sabha. We wish him all the best in his new endeavour," Bora added.

Choudhury is the first AGP leader to be elected to the Lok Sabha in the last 15 years, with the previous representative from the party in the Lower House of Parliament being Joseph Toppo in 2009.

The party had contested two seats in this Lok Sabha polls as part of the BJP-led alliance in the state. (PTI)

Case filed after man dies in

Assam Medical College and Hospital for post-mortem examination," a police officer said. Refusing to comment on the probable cause of death, he said, "We have to wait for the post-mortem report. Only then we can say anything." Borghain's family demanded an investigation into the death.

"We were handed over the lifeless body in a wheelchair. The way the jail authorities treated him was insensitive and was a gross violation of human rights. He was a healthy man when he was arrested. We want to know what happened to him in jail," a relative said. (PTI)

Bangladesh PM Hasina set

The talks between the two leaders are expected to focus on taking the bilateral ties to new height, said a source. The overall strategic ties between India and Bangladesh have been on an upswing in the last few years.

Bangladesh is an important partner for India under its "Neighbourhood First" policy and the cooperation extends to areas of security, trade, commerce, energy, connectivity, science and technology, defence and maritime affairs among others. The achievements in the connectivity sector included the inauguration of the Maitri Setu bridge over river Feni in Tripura and the rollout of the Chilahati-Haldibari rail link.

Bangladesh is India's largest development partner with nearly one-fourth of New Delhi's commitment under the Line of Credit has been made to that country.

Bangladesh is India's biggest trading partner in South Asia and India is the second biggest trading partner of Bangladesh in Asia. India is Bangladesh's largest export destination in Asia, with approximate USD 2 billion of Bangladeshi exports to India in 2022-23.

In 2022-23, the total bilateral trade has been reported as USD 15.9 billion. (PTI)

NAME CORRECTION

My actual and correct name is Mohammad Kolim Uddin S/O- Motahir Ali ,DOB-28-06-1989.Vill-Kachari Para P.O. & P.S.- Doboka, Dist- Hojai (Assam). That wrongly my father name has been written in my passport No. J4089198 as Mohammad Motahir Ali and DOB 28-06-1981 which is not correct. My father actual and correct name is Motahir Ali and DOB 28-06-1989.

Kapili river erosion threatens villages

Residents demand investigation & accountability for technical failures in construction



HT Correspondent

NAGAON, June 14: Following the devastating waves of recent floods in the greater Kampur and Raha revenue circles, massive erosion of the Kapili river now threatens the lives and habitats of residents in two villages, Kakotigaon and Borchung, under Kampur revenue circle.

It is reported that unabated erosion along the south bank of the Kapili river has reached the doorsteps of these villages, forcing many residents to immediately relocate to nearby areas, according to sources.

Sources further claimed that due to the recent floods and ongoing erosion, approximately 25 meters of a newly constructed rock dam on the south bank near Borchung village has been eroded. Additionally, small and large cracks have appeared in several places along the rock dam constructed by the Water Resources Department, Nagaon division.

Last year, the Nagaon Water Resources Division constructed a 600-meter-long rock dam on the south bank of the Kapili river, covering Kakotigaon and Borchung villages under the Kampur revenue circle, aimed at halting erosion. The completion of the rock dam had brought hope to the people residing in these riverine villages.

"However, within a year of its construction, it has been destroyed," said local villagers during interactions with local media persons here. They alleged that there were likely technical or other irregularities in the construction of the rock dam, leading to its collapse within a year.

Therefore, the villagers have called for a high-level investigation into the matter and demanded appropriate punishment for all those involved in irregularities and misconduct during the construction of the rock dam.

Cattle trafficking and illegal liquor trade ring busted

HT Correspondent

SIVASAGAR, June 14: The illegal cattle trafficking from Upper Assam districts is a significant issue that has been garnering considerable media attention lately. However, the government has yet to take concrete action against this crime. Recently, the situation in Sivasagar, Charaideo, Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Golaghat, and Jorhat has taken a dire turn, highlighted by the arrest of BJP leader Manoj Hazarika. Allegedly the kingpin of cattle trafficking and the illegal liquor trade, Hazarika was expelled from the BJP and arrested by Sivasagar Police on Thursday morning. The arrest was made in connection with a case (56/24 under Section 379 IPC) related to illegal cattle trafficking.

Numerous complaints and cases have been lodged in various police stations regarding cattle trafficking, despite the Cattle Preservation Act being in force. The amended

version of the Cattle Act allows for the transportation of cattle between districts for bona fide agricultural or animal husbandry purposes under the Central Government Rules of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960. However, it prohibits cattle from being transported to Assam's border districts. Cattle traders, nevertheless, employ ingenious strategies to circumvent these restrictions and continue transporting truckloads of cattle from the Upper Assam districts to Bangladesh, in blatant violation of all rules and regulations. The same syndicate allegedly led by Manoj Hazarika is also involved in the illegal liquor trade. A significant quantity of Arunachal Pradesh liquor was regularly transported from Bandaruwa to the Upper Assam districts without proper licenses. On May 5, Demow Police seized over 845 cartons of Arunachal Pradesh wine from a truck (AS01-NC 1843) at

Demow Dehajan. The driver revealed that the consignment, belonging to Manoj Hazarika, was being transported from Nirjuli in Arunachal to Namsai. The police arrested the driver and the truck's handyman, registering a case (No 13/24 U/S 379/420 and 34 of the IPC) under Section 531A of the Assam Excise (Amendment) Act, 1910, which carries a penalty of up to two years of imprisonment and a fine. However, Hazarika himself evaded arrest due to reasons unknown.

Hazarika, who was once the state president of NSUI for two years, later became an executive member of the state BJP Youth Morcha. He obtained bail from the High Court in connection with the Demow case and was about to submit the papers when Sivasagar Police took him into custody. He was produced in the Court of CIM in Sivasagar and was remanded to police custody for a day.

World Blood Donor Day organised



HT Correspondent

MARGHERITA, June 14: The Indian Army organised an awareness lecture and blood donation camp on the occasion of World Blood Donor Day at Lekhapani, under Tinsukia district, with the campaign 'A Call to Action for Life-Saving Donations' on Friday.

The event was attended by students, teachers, and local youth to create awareness about the importance of blood donation on World Blood Donor Day.

This day is dedicated to raising awareness about the crucial need for safe blood and blood products and to honour the selfless individuals who donate blood to save lives.

World Blood Donor Day, initiated by the World Health Organisation (WHO), highlights the critical role of voluntary blood donors in healthcare systems around the world.

This year's theme, 'A Call to Action for Life-Saving Donations', underscores the importance of regular blood donations to ensure a stable supply of safe blood for patients in need.

The event was attended by 120 students, teaching staff of schools, and more than 50 youths who actively participated in the blood donation camp organised at Lekhapani, Tinsukia district.

The event created a sense of unity and fostered goodwill among the local populace, who pledged their continued support to the security forces.

Superintendent of Morigaon Handloom & Textile Office arrested

HT Correspondent

MORIGAON, June 14: The superintendent of the Morigaon Handloom & Textile Office, Rabul Saikia, was arrested by the police for allegedly making a proposal of carnal nature to a woman employee in his office on Friday. The woman employee had been facing mental harassment for a long time, which led her to inform the Morigaon district commissioner, Debashis Sarma, on Friday. After thorough investigation of the case, the Morigaon district commissioner instructed the OC of Morigaon PS to take Rabul Saikia, superintendent of the Handloom & Textile office, Morigaon, into police custody. The police interrogation of the accused officer is ongoing.

Menstrual Hygiene Day observed at Biswanath

HT Correspondent

BISWANATH CHARIALI, June 14: An awareness programme on the theme "Together for a Period-Friendly World", convened by the District Hub for Empowerment of Women and District Social Welfare Office, Biswanath under the umbrella project 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao', was held on the occasion of Menstrual Hygiene Day 2024 at Adarsha Vidyalaya, Sakomotha on Thursday.

The programme was attended by Moinul Haque, social welfare officer, Biswanath, Pallabi Devi, district coordinator of Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), teachers, students, officials from the DHEW department, district mission coordinators, and OSCs. Addressing the awareness programme, Pallabi Devi, district coordinator of RBSK, discussed the causes of menstrual cycles, both biological and physical, related to this phenomenon. She also briefly explained the procedures for making sanitary pads at home at a low cost. The social welfare officer also spoke at the awareness programme. A series of competitions were organised among the students. Prior to this, a plantation drive was conducted within the school premises.

School bids farewell to retired teachers & employees

HT Correspondent

DEMOW, June 14: A farewell meeting was organised in the auditorium of Demow Higher Secondary School on Friday to bid farewell to two retired teachers, Arup Kumar Dutta and Binita Barua, and two retired employees, Giris Barua and Sanatan Chauria. Runu Dutta, a retired subject teacher from Demow Higher Secondary School, presided over the meeting. Lalit Deori, an assistant teacher, spoke about the aims of the meeting, and Bokul Dutta, the principal of Demow Higher Secondary School, delivered the welcome speech. The meeting was graced by chief guests Lambadar Gogoi, Ajit Kumar Nath, Mrinal Ranjan Gogoi, Dipali Dutta (all retired teachers), and Anjumoni Gogoi Medhi, president of SMDC. The retirees were honoured with phulam gamosa, citation, xorai, cheleng, and a book packet during the ceremony.

Timber mafia apprehended

HT Correspondent

MARGHERITA, June 14: Acting on a tip, Lekhapani range forest officer and her team apprehended a notorious timber mafia from Lingkok Manmao, Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh, on Thursday evening. He had been absconding for four months.

Parashmita Neog, Lekhapani forest range officer, said that on the early morning of March 18, a JCB and a TC truck bearing registration number AS 23 6984 were seized along with precious hollow logs from the Tipong reserve area. Due to darkness, the driver and handyman fled from the spot. Parashmita Neog said that after a four-month thorough inquiry, it was found that Wonthung Kimsing, a permanent resident of Lingkok Manmao, Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh, had taken the JCB and TC truck on contract to carry illegal precious hollow logs from reserve forest areas of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. Parashmita Neog said that after interrogation, Wonthung Kimsing revealed that he had been involved in the illegal timber syndicate for many years. A case numbered LP 36/23,24 dated March 18, 2024, has been registered at the Lekhapani forest range office against Wonthung Kimsing. He was produced in the Margherita sub-divisional magistrate court and then sent to judicial custody at Tinsukia.

Khei Dhalabil organises quiz competition

HT Correspondent

BISWANATH CHARIALI, June 14: Like previous years, Khei Dhalabil, a socio-cultural and literary organisation in the greater Dhalabil area of North Jamuguri, is all set to organise a state-level Abani Prasad Bora Memorial Quiz Competition to commemorate the birth anniversary of Kalaguru Bishnu Prasad Rabha. According to a press release issued by Ratnakanta Nath and Rajmani Bora, president and secretary of the organisation respectively, the competition will be held in two categories: Group A and B. In category A of the subjective quiz competition, students up to class 10 can participate, while category B is open to all. The questions in category A will cover the life of Kalaguru Bishnu Prasad Rabha and current affairs; similarly, the subject spectrum of category B will cover 'Assam: 100 years (1924-2024)'. Notably, the quiz competition will be held on June 19 at the office premises of North Jamuguri Sahitya Sabha Bhawan, located at Dhalabil Commercial Center, starting from 9:00 am onwards. The first prize carries a cash award of Rs 5,000; the second prize carries Rs 3,000, while the third prize is Rs 2,000. The winners will receive mementos and citations. Any interested teams and contestants may contact the organisers at 8638106082 or 7002565967 for further details.

Udropan celebrates 10th foundation day

HT Correspondent

TEZPUR, June 14: Environment organisation 'Udropan' at Tezpur celebrated its 10th foundation day on Thursday with a day-long program at Darrang College, in collaboration with the Eco Club and IC of the college. Led by Professor Harendra Nath Morang, Udropan has been actively engaged since 2015 in urban afforestation and environmental development initiatives.

The organisation has beautified public spaces and populous areas of Tezpur with various tree species, transforming the city's skyline into a spectacular, multi-coloured vista that delights visitors and locals alike. The meticulously planted rows of trees reflect Professor Morang's deep commitment to plantation and underscore his profound love for the environment.

During the program, Dr Haren-



dra Nath Morang outlined the aims and objectives of the day-long event. In his speech, he emphasised the urgent need for urban afforestation to combat rising pollution.

"Global warming, air pollu-

tion, etc., pose serious threats to the world. If we do not take necessary steps to increase greenery and oxygen levels in the air, future generations will face survival challenges," Dr Morang stressed.

Countdown program of 10th International Day of Yoga 2024 underway in Tezpur



HT Correspondent

TEZPUR, June 14: The National Ayush Mission, Assam, in collaboration with Sonitpur district administration, commenced the first day of the '7-Day Countdown Program' for the state-level celebration of the 10th International Day of Yoga 2024 on June 21 in Tezpur. On Friday, they organised a yoga session at Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (Borsola), Dhekiajuli.

The session began at 7 o'clock in the morning with the lighting of the lamp by vice chairman of Assam State Textbook Production and Publication Corporation, Tulshi Borthakur.

He was accompanied by circle officer of Dhekiajuli Revenue Circle, Nayan Jyoti Pathak; assistant commissioner Barsha Talukdar; block development officer of Barchalla Development Block, Tanumoni Bhuyan; and Ashram administrator cum yoga trainer of the Art of Living Foundation,

Guwahati, Brahmachari Madhavanand. The focus of the yoga event was 'women empowerment', and approximately 150 students from KGBV (Borsola), Dhekiajuli participated. Notably, a team from Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), Frontier Headquarters Tezpur, also joined the event.

The welcome speech was delivered by superintendent cum warden of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya, Ritumoni Das. At the conclusion of the yoga session, invited guest Tulshi Borthakur, vice chairman of Assam State Textbook Production and Publication Corporation, highlighted the benefits of yoga and emphasised its relevance in current times, urging students to practice regularly. Assistant commissioner Barsha Talukdar and block development officer of Barchalla Development Block, Tanumoni Bhuyan, then delivered motivational speeches on the importance of women empowerment.

Drishyapat celebrates World Blood Donation Day

HT Correspondent

SIVASAGAR, June 14: On the occasion of World Blood Donation Day, Drishyapat Sivasagar organised a blood donation camp at Sharma Nursing Home on Friday.

The camp was inaugurated by assistant commissioner, Sivasagar, Subhajit Khaund, and the ceremonial lamp was lit by Dr Giriraj Sharma, owner of Sharma Nursing Home and a prominent physician of the town. Dr Dwijen Koch, district TB officer, Sivasagar, and supervisor of Sivasagar Blood Bank delivered a thoughtful speech to raise awareness about blood donation. The president of Marwari Yuva Manch, Sivasagar Pragati Branch, Pael Agarwal, urged people to support the noble cause.

The committee collected about 50 units of blood and donated them to the blood bank in Sivasagar, said Abhinav Deb Kashyap, secretary of Drishyapat, Sivasagar.

Two arrested for murder

HT Bureau

DIPHU, June 14: Two persons were arrested by the Karbi Anglong police in connection with the murder of a young lady, Hukuri Tissopi on June 11.

A case has been registered against the two arrested under Section 120B/302 IPC and Section 25 (1A) of the Arms Act.

Tissopi was murdered at her residence at Arlonglangso, Diphu, by unknown miscreants in the wee hours of June 11, when two persons went into her house. One person stayed outside, while another crawled inside the room where Tissopi was sleeping, through a hole being dug out and shot her to death.

Additional SP (Crime) Jayanta Baruah briefing media persons said two suspected persons have been arrested on Friday in connection with the killing of Tissopi.

"A special investigation team has been constituted under Additional SP (Crime) to carry out the investigation and today two persons have been arrested. There is proof of their involvement in the killing of Tissopi. As investigation is going on and names of the arrested persons will not be disclosed," Baruah informed.

The two have been produced before the District Judicial Court here and they will be kept under remnant for four days. They have been arrested as suspects and following the investigation will lead to more arrests to find the real accused, the additional SP said.

Tezpur University to host session on GI products



HT Correspondent

TEZPUR, June 14: Focusing on the promising prospects of products with Geographic Indications (GIs) status from Assam, a brainstorming session will be hosted on June 18, 2024, at Tezpur University.

The program is a collaboration between Tezpur University's Intellectual Property Rights Cell (TUIPR Cell) and the Assam Science Technology & Environment Council (ASTEC), Guwahati.

Supported by the Science Technology and Climate Change Department, Government of Assam, the session aims to bring together visionaries, experts, and stakeholders to explore innovative strategies for maximising the benefits of GI status. It also aims to motivate farmers and craftspeople associated with each product to become authorised users and proudly display the GI tag on their packaged products.

An exhibition is also organised to facilitate the exchange of innovative concepts, resolve bottlenecks, and pave the way for the seamless commercialisation of both granted and potential GIs.

Various craftspeople and Farmer Producer Groups (FPOs) involved in 33 granted GIs of Assam, such as muga silk of Assam, Assam orthodox tea, Tezpur litchi, judima, Bodo eri silk, etc., are expected to participate and showcase their products.

Attendees will benefit from the experience of around 100 authorised users and registered proprietors of GIs, along with experts from various domains.

Discussions will cover topics such as GI laws, requirements for becoming an authorised user, obligations, innovative industrial designs for enhancing GI tagged products in domestic and international markets, and sustainable packaging alternatives as key marketing strategies.

Dima Hasao Autonomous Council launches new electrical shop

Inauguration marks effort to boost local economy



HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, June 14: Dima Hasao Autonomous Council chief executive member, Debolal Gorlosa, inaugurated M/S Sengya Sambudhan Phonglo Electrical Shop in Haflong Town on Friday, in the presence of Dima Hasao Autonomous Council EM Donphainon Thaoson and MAC Rupali Langthasa.

The electrical shop was set up with the support of the Dima Hasao Autonomous Council. This store aims to provide facilities for wiring and other electrical services. With the opening of this shop, CEM Debolal Gorlosa aims to create job opportunities for students who have completed their courses at the Skill Development Institute in Diyungbra.

Addressing the media, CEM Debolal Gorlosa said, "With the establishment of this shop, we seek to advocate for more local employment and economic development." With the opening of this shop, the council team also plans to launch additional branches throughout the district. Further, he urged the people of Haflong to visit M/S Sengya Sambudhan Phonglo Electrical Shop, located opposite Joyshree Hotel, Haflong.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

We will fail when we fail to try — Rosa Parks

The Unending Water Crisis in Delhi

The water crisis in Delhi has once again come to the fore, exacerbated by allegations and counter-allegations between political parties and claims of illegal activities by the so-called 'water and tanker mafia'.

According to Swaraj, the DJB's infrastructure, including pipelines and storage systems, is in a state of disrepair. In response, Delhi Water Minister Atishi has maintained that the government is taking stringent measures to ensure that no water is wasted due to pipeline leaks.

The plight of Delhi's residents is a stark reminder of the critical importance of sustainable water management. The ongoing crisis calls for a multifaceted approach involving both immediate and long-term solutions. Firstly, there needs to be a collaborative effort between the Delhi and Haryana governments to ensure equitable water distribution.

Modi's BJP has little place in India's backward lagging villages



By: Tirthankar Mitra

One of the first tasks of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi on assuming office for the third consecutive occasion was to sign a file awarding the 17th instalment of the Kisan Samman Nidhi.

The matter actually goes far beyond the farmers-NDA face off. In the recent elections, the BJP, riding high on the personality cult of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, failed to get a decisive mandate.

Unemployment and inflation have taken a heavy toll on the rural sector though BJP leaders have led themselves to believe that such issues are nonexistent. The reverse in the rural areas is a pointer to the fact that impressive national growth metrics cannot camouflage deep-seated regional disparities and localised hardship.

The allure of economic growth and social welfare programmes highlighted in Prime Minister Modi's campaign waned in the face of everyday economic hardships which the rural voters read, especially the homemakers, come across regularly.

India under Prime Minister Modi is claiming the status of the fastest growing economy in the world. Nothing wrong in that but such growth has failed to translate into tangible benefits in the rural heartlands.

India lives in her villages, said Mahatma Gandhi, long before his

detractors and followers had rural development in their agenda of governance. Presently, 60 percent of the country lives in the rural areas in a state of civic and economic being which leaves much to be desired.

Declining incomes and rising living costs coexist with these men and women. Relying once on agriculture and small scale industries, this section of the populace is struggling to make ends meet. The depth of rural distress was overlooked by the BJP think-tank. The rank and file of the party also did not send a cautionary feedback.

Focus on nationalistic rhetoric and confidence on urban strongholds did not resonate well with the rural voters who felt left out.

They were more concerned with immediate economic issues like joblessness, inflation and income disparity. The interim budget of Prime Minister Modi was not marked by rural uplift schemes. This led to a significant shift in rural voter-sentiment. Fall of BJP's average victory margin from 22.9 percent to 15.6 percent is a pointer to this voter dissatisfaction.

The rural base loss almost threatened to derail Modi's ambition of a third-term prime minister. Indeed the loss of rural votes was so substantial that the BJP had to depend on its allies, a state of affairs not at all to its liking. Time the saffron camp learnt that the only growth which is acceptable has to be an inclusive one. The national economy cannot flourish leaving behind vast sections of the populace. (IPA Service)

No room for complacency - A warning that BJP can't deny

The Sangh (RSS) and the BJP are known to sing from the same hymn sheet. Both, being the proponents of the same nationalist view, holding the nation to be supreme, with its adorable motherhood, an ideal that they frequently declare that their lives are made to make a sacrifice for, have recently developed a slight ideological rift.

Mohan Bhagwat, the RSS Chief made unequivocal remarks on the power that the BJP was building around, and the party mechanism, according to him, needs to undergo an ideological overhauling. The drying up of the BJP's electoral exchequer in the Hindutva heartlands especially in Uttar Pradesh might have triggered an intellectual churn in the Sangh.

movement believes in dialogues and corrections. As for Narendra Modi, the Sangh cohorts understand the fact that he had never hesitated to express his association with the RSS as a pracharak (full time worker) and even today his ideological bonhomie with the organization is intact.

Probably, the congeniality of the coalition structure of politics made him choose the middle path of a conscience keeper among the alliance partners. He preferred to keep his Sangh ideology a personal brand of understanding but he was sure to keep it aside when coalition dharma needed a larger platform to create consensus.

Therefore, the question on how his administrative temperament and strict visionary zeal of being an unquestioned power center would support him run the coalition did not arise. Vajpayee had a humorous way of handling his partners and he was ready to make policy adjust-



ments in decision making. The RSS, being the largest ideological entity in the Sangh parivar, seems to have sensed Modi's unchallenged wave of power that controlled the government for a decade.

Modi's unquestionable power rose to immeasurable heights as his party won 303 seats in 2019. His party and the RSS too, probably accepted the larger than life image of the Prime Minister. The statements of the RSS Chief passed tremors of discontent as it was possibly ignored and literally sidelined by the overconfident BJP leadership.

Indirectly, Mohan Bhagwat was holding the

Modi government responsible for its failure as it was unable to chalk out a credible solution to check the ruthless bloodshed in the state.

Bhagwat's strike on the BJP was precise, straight and unexpected. As usual, he was composed and kept the manners of great intellectualism of an orator. His words were loaded with humility. But, of course, they intended to warn the political party that was born and grown as an ideological offshoot of the Sangh.

The poll campaign this time was verbally violent and disrespectfully shot in haste on the opponents. Neither the Prime Minister nor his cohorts in the party nor even the opposition paused for a restraint. The aggressive narrative war brought the entire

campaign down to mere mudslinging. The RSS chief's critical examination further reiterated as to who a true sevak is. "The one who maintains decorum does his work, but remains unattached. There is no arrogance that I did this. Only such a person has the right to be called a sevak," he said.

The writing on the wall is clear. The RSS, though it never hesitates to support the BJP, has now come out with warning signals against the personality cult in the party. The Sangh believes with certainty that organization is above people. It also believes with conviction that nobody in the doctrinal framework of the Sangh Parivar enjoys the power of an emperor.

Highlighting the pre-poll gimmicks of the ruling party indirectly, the Sangh chief's words were to set the thought process in the BJP right. Stressing hard on the need for consensus in the parliament, Bhagwat appeared to have literally passed a leaf of reminder for the BJP and its leadership. That the government without consensus being built cannot push for reforms.

Elected members, irrespective of their strength in numbers, hold complete right to know the policy mobilization and 'consensus' is the catchphrase that in practice makes the government run smoothly. Bhagwat's decisive remarks force us to go back to the days of Vajpayee's coalition government. Pol-

itics, being an art of compulsion, demands Vajpayee's accommodative, inclusive and consensual behavior.

Prime Minister Modi, in the last decade of his administration had never been forced to change his self-willed and as he is frequently criticized, his independent style of functioning. Moreover, the most critical element that sticks out with uncertainty and waiting for a way to get enhanced in the coalition regime is his party's hardcore Hindutva ideology.

Bhagwat, politely reminding the government and its leadership about the value of consensus, does a great service. He doesn't ask the party to sit back and cry. But his ammunition is aptly dropped on the arrogance that the party was loaded with. While trying to understand the tectonic ideological shift in the RSS, it was Bhagwat whose out-reaching efforts to the Muslim clergy recently made headlines.

Almost a hundred years now, the RSS and its present chief realize that the BJP, if left without being strictly toned down, would become a political catastrophe. The 'Congressization' of the BJP has already begun. The Sangh seems to have taken its 'Tutor's Stick' to teach the party a lesson. The RSS wants the saffron party to survive in power. (The author is a freelance journalist who can be reached at mrlalu30@gmail.com)

US to supply weapons directly to Ukraine's Fascist Azov Battalion

By: John Wojcik

Only two weeks ago, the Biden administration lifted its ban on the use of U.S. arms by Ukraine inside of Russia. It also said U.S. troops, under the umbrella of NATO, could even end up directly battling against Russians inside of Ukraine.

The Azovs are notorious for training fascists from all over the world. The leader of the neo-Nazis that marched in the deadly torchlight parade in Charlottesville several years ago boasted that he had been "trained" by the Azov Battalion in Ukraine.

The Biden administration assured Congress that it would abide by the policy of no weapons for the fascists but has now decided to reverse that policy. It has now decided to provide both weapons and training directly to the Azov group, according to reports in the European press and news outlets in the U.S.

The Azov Battalion was formed in 2014 as the result of a merging of a variety of neo-Nazi organizations. The groups, including Azov, were sent by the

coup government in Kiev to fight separatists in eastern Ukraine. The Russian-speaking people in the East, forbidden by the right-wing government in Kiev to even speak their own language, had the backing of Russia.

Over the next several years, some 15,000 were killed in fighting between the fascist militias and the armed forces of the right-wing Kiev government that had been installed in a coup backed by the U.S. on one side and Russian-backed separatist groups on the other. The coup replaced the legitimately elected, although corrupt, government of President Viktor Yanukovich.

His government had refused to agree to austerity demands coming from the European Union as a condition of Ukrainian membership in that organization. When they tried to strike an economic deal with Russia instead, the U.S. and other European countries backed the 2014 overthrow of his government.

The new right-wing government sent the militias, including the Azov Battalion, to put down the revolts in the East by the Russian-speaking Ukrainians. The government also allowed individuals associated with Azov and other fascist groups to burn alive the trade unionists they had locked into a building where they were meeting in Odessa. When people jumped from windows to save their own lives, the fascists beat to death anyone left alive on the pavement outside.

Almost immediately after the right-wing U.S.-backed coup took place in Kiev, Human Rights Watch began raising alarms about Azov. The human rights group said its investigation of Azov showed the allegations of fascism

and of killing and other abuses by the organization were credible.

Members of the group could literally shoot opponents of the coup government on the streets with no official repercussions.

Attempts by Azov to recast its fascist image, particularly since the Russian invasion and the uptick in NATO military support have been rejected by left and progressive groups in Ukraine, which has banned unions and all opposition political parties and press. There are no media left that can report on what is really going on with Azov.

Yet Azov continues to be involved in the destruction of Soviet war memorials and the setting up of memorials to Stepan Bandera, a fascist Ukrainian leader responsible for murdering thousands of Jews and Poles in Western Ukraine when the region was occupied by Germany's Nazi armies during World War II.

Russia has continually pointed to the activities of the Azov Battalion as proof that it is battling Nazi influence in Ukraine.

The Azov Battalion has publicly praised the U.S. decision to directly provide it with weapons, saying the decision will make it "more powerful and more dangerous to the Russians."

The issue of sending weapons directly to Azov has been ignored by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, who, in addition to demanding more and more U.S. weapons, is now calling for a half-trillion dollars in aid to repair his country's electricity network.

Speaking at a two-day Ukraine Recovery Conference in Berlin

this week, Zelensky also renewed calls for more help in repelling Russian missile attacks.

Among other immediate problems, sustained Russian attacks on Ukraine's power grid in recent weeks have forced energy companies to institute nationwide rolling blackouts. Zelensky told the conference that, in the coming months, Ukraine needs equipment for heating and electricity plants that are currently out of service.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said the World Bank agrees that rebuilding and modernizing Ukraine will require investments of nearly \$500 billion over the next ten years.

Scholz, whose country has become Ukraine's second-biggest weapons supplier after the U.S., appealed again to other allies to help strengthen Ukraine's air defense, "because the best reconstruction is that which doesn't have to take place."

Sending U.S., German, and other allied weapons to fascist groups in Ukraine, along with the never-ending demands by Zelensky for more and more money, are not covered much by corporate media in the U.S.

Instead, they focus on actions Russia has taken in response, especially drills in the last two weeks by Russia and Belarus to train troops in the use of tactical nuclear weapons. The drills, clearly intended by Russia to encourage the U.S. to stop supplying weapons to Ukraine, are nevertheless a dangerous move that increases the chance of a war from which there is no recovery.

Casting aside that concern, the Biden administration has said, however, in defense of sending more and more weapons to

Ukraine, that it does not believe Russian President Vladimir Putin intends to use nuclear weapons.

On the one hand, the U.S. describes Putin as a dangerous warmonger but, on the other hand, to assure people its own warmongering is safe because Putin will not really use nuclear weapons. The U.S. appears more willing to risk wider war than it is willing to engage in negotiations and a ceasefire to end the war in Ukraine.

The pro-war stance of the U.S. results in danger on many fronts. Poland is now calling for the placement of U.S. nuclear weapons in their country.

In announcing its nuclear training manoeuvres last month, the Russian Defense Ministry said they were in response to "provocative statements and threats of certain Western officials regarding the Russian Federation."

Biden has not been the only leader to make provocative statements on the Ukraine-Russia war and to resist peace talks. The Kremlin expressed outrage after French President Emmanuel Macron said that he doesn't rule out deploying troops to Ukraine, and that, of course, was followed by the U.S. allowing Kiev to use its weapons to hit targets inside Russia and now by its even more dangerous decision to supply weapons directly to the fascist Azov Battalion.

The Morning Star reported Tuesday that Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said "Russia's drills are maintaining combat readiness and are important in view of 'hostile decisions and actions by the U.S. and its allies in Europe and their daily provocations.'" (IPA Service)

PM Narendra Modi takes running a coalition govt as a challenge

By: Harihar Swarup

With Narendra Modi elected Prime Minister for the third time, this time at the head of a coalition government, the question at the uppermost on the people's mind as he took the oath of office and secrecy at Rashtrapati Bhavan was: Could Modi be a coalition builder?

Atal Behari Vajpayee ran coalitions during his prime ministership in 1996, 1998 and 1999. Modi on the other hand has always run majority governments, in Gujarat (2001 to 2014) and nationally for the last 10 ten years.

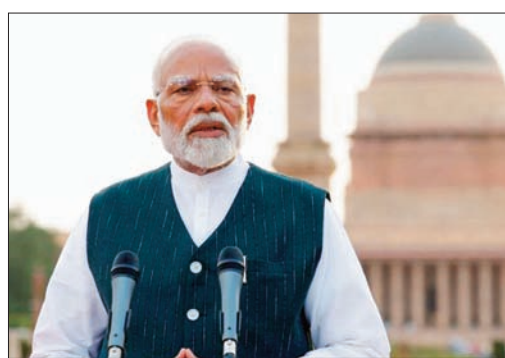
The results on June 4 did not go as per the PM's expectations but he had recovered by the next evening when he addressed his cabinet colleagues.

The Prime Minister is believed to have told them that he would run a coalition government successfully and fully fulfill the 'coalition dharma'. Those who were with him came away with the feeling that the PM had taken up running a coalition government as a challenge and was de-

termined to prove his skeptics wrong. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's new cabinet signals continuity as well as caution. He has retained many of his old and experienced ministerial colleagues to show that the situation is possibly stable and he is aware of the rumblings from

within his party just when he is trying to stabilize a new situation with the allies. The TDP (16 MPs) and the Janata Dal-United (12 MPs) have emerged as key players, and it would be surprising if they were not moving in step. Both of them have long governance experience in the United Front governments and NDA government headed by Vajpayee.

Chandrababu Naidu has always been a sober player and is looking for a financial package for his state and its capital Amaravati. Yet - and this is curious-he has agreed to only one cabinet ministerial berth and one minister of state (MOS) position despite having 16 MPs-the same number given to Nitish Kumar's JD (U) despite having 16 MPs-the same number given to Nitish Kumar's JD(U) despite its fewer (12) MPs.



The question that remains is if Naidu is still pushing for the Lok Sabha Speaker's position or he will be satisfied with a financial bonanza for the state.

The Speaker is a crucial position in a coalition government. As a senior journalist summed it up, "Jaisa Speaker, Uski Sarkar (the party that gets the Speaker's

post, holds the government's fate in its hand)." It would be tempting for a ruling party without a majority to break smaller parties to get a majority.

P V Narasimha Rao who also won 240 seats in 1991 went on to acquire a majority two years later by splitting smaller parties. For the moment, the JD(U) will also want to consolidate its gains in Delhi and Patna and get ready to face a resurgent RJD in the Bihar Assembly elections next year.

In the last few days, the PM appeared to have shifted gear, striking conciliatory notes. He made it clear that the government was not a Modi or a BJP government but an NDA government.

Rajnath Singh proposed Modi's name as the leader of the NDA parliamentary party (and therefore the PM-designate), the BJP Parliamentary party, and leader of Lok Sabha - all together in one go-and was seconded by Amit Shah and Nitin Gadkari. In the past, the election of the leader of the BJP Parliamentary party used to precede the election of the leader of the NDA. (IPA Service)

Combined Defence Services Examination 2024

By: **Ranjan K Baruah**

We have published about the National Defence Academy Examination and how one may join the prestigious institute and serve the nation and the society. Aspirants who are dreaming to join the defence services may also join through Combined Defence Services Examination which is held twice a year and written exam is conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

CDSE (II), 2024 will be conducted by the UPSC on 01st September, 2024 for admission to the under mentioned courses:—

- Indian Military Academy, Dehradun - 159th (DE) Course commencing in July 2025 [including 13 vacancies reserved

- for NCC 'C' (Army Wing) holders]—100 Vacancy
- Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala - Course commencing in July, 2025 Executive Branch (General Service)/Hydro [including 06 vacancies for NCC 'C' Certificate (Naval Wing) holders—32 Vacancy
- Air Force Academy, Hyderabad - (Pre-Flying) Training Course commencing in July, 2025 i.e. No. 218 F(P) Course. [including 03 vacancies are reserved for NCC 'C' Certificate (Air Wing) holders through NCC Special Entry]—32 Vacancy
- Officers' Training Academy, Chennai (Madras) 122nd SSC (Men) (NT) (UPSC) Course Commencing in October, 2025.—276 Vacancies
- Officers Training Academy, Chennai (Madras) 36th SSC

Women (NT) (UPSC) Course commencing in October, 2025—19 Vacancies

- Total Vacancy - 459

Age Limits, Sex and Marital Status who are aspiring to join the services are as follows:

- For IMA—Unmarried male candidates born not earlier than 02nd July, 2001 and not later than 1st July, 2006 only are eligible.
- For Indian Naval Academy—Unmarried male candidates born not earlier than 02nd July, 2001 and not later than 1st July, 2006 only are eligible.
- For Air Force Academy—Age: 20 to 24 years as on 1st July, 2025 i.e. born not earlier than 2nd July, 2001 and not later than 1st July, 2005 (Upper age limit for candidates holding valid and current Commercial Pilot Licence issued by DGCA



(India) is relaxable upto 26 yrs. i.e. born not earlier than 2nd July, 1999 and not later than 1st July, 2005 only are eligible. Many students are confused about the required educational qualification. The required educational qualifications are as follows:

- For I.M.A. and Officers' Training Academy, Chennai - Degree of a recognized University or equivalent.

- For Indian Naval Academy— Degree in Engineering from a recognized University/Institution
- For Air Force Academy— Degree of a recognised University (with Physics and Mathematics at 10+2 level) or Bachelor of Engineering.

Candidates (excepting Female/SC/ST candidates who are exempted from payment of fee) are required to pay a fee of ₹

100 (Rupees Two Hundred Only) either by remitting the money in any Branch of SBI by cash, or by using Visa/Master/Rupay Credit/Debit Card/UPI Payment or by using internet banking facility of any Bank.

The candidates applying for the examination should ensure that they fulfil all the eligibility conditions for admission to the Examination.

Their admission at all the stages of the examination will be purely provisional subject to satisfying the prescribed eligibility conditions.

Candidates are required to apply online by using the website upsconline.nic.in. It is essential for the applicant to register himself/herself first at One Time Registration (OTR) platform, available on the Com-

mission's website, and then proceeds for filling up the online application for the examination. Candidates should note that there will be a penalty (Negative Marking) for wrong answers marked by a candidate in the Objective Type Question Papers.

Aspirants may collect the question papers of previous years to get an idea and there are different guide books available which can be collected.

After getting selected in the written exam there should be an interview for the final selection. **(The write is the Advisor, Skill Employment and Entrepreneurship Department of Bodoland Territorial Council, Kokrajhar and can be reached at bkranjan@gmail.com or 8473943734 for career related queries)**

Hojai Judiciary Recruitment 2024 – 6 Posts

Last Date: 21/06/2024

Office of the Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM), Hojai has released an employment notification for the recruitment of 6 Peon Posts in the establishment of Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM), Hojai. Interested and eligible candidates may apply.

Name of post: Peon
No of posts: 06 [UR: 5, SC: 1]
Age Limit: Candidates shall not be more than 40 years of age and shall not be less than 18 years of age as on 01-01-2024. The upper age limit relaxation shall be as per Govt. rules.
Educational Qualification: Minimum VIII Standard Pass. A candidate who has passed HSSLC or above shall be ineligible to apply for the post.
Scale of pay: ₹ 12000-37500 + GP ₹ 3900 per month

Other Criteria of Hojai Judiciary Recruitment

Age Relaxation: The Upper Age limit is relaxable for the reserved categories as per rule.
Nationality: Candidate must be an Indian citizen as defined in article 5 to 8 of the Constitution of India.
Employment Exchange Registration: Candidates must have registered their names in the Employment Exchange.

How to Apply for Hojai Judiciary Recruitment ?

- The eligible candidates must submit their applications in the Standard Form of Application published in Assam Gazette Part-IX (annexed with this advertisement).
- The application must be accompanied with the following:
 - 4 (four) copies of recent passport size coloured photographs with signature on the reverse side,
 - Self-attested copies of testimonials in support of his/her AGE, CASTE, EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION etc.
 - Self-declaration certificate.
 - Valid Employment Exchange Registration Certificate.
- Applicant must mandatorily provide their mobile number and E-mail ID (if available) in their application.
- Last date for receipt of applications is 21-06-2024.

NEEPCO Recruitment 2024 – 24 Executive Trainee Posts, Online Apply

Last Date: 28/06/2024

North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited (NEEPCO) has released an employment notification for the recruitment of 24 Executive Trainee posts. Interested and eligible candidates may apply online.

1. Executive Trainee (Electrical/ Mechanical) (E-2) Grade

No of posts: 16 [UR:11, SC:4, ST:1]
Upper age limit as on 01.05.2024: UR: 30 years and SC/ST:35 years.
Pay: Scale of Pay ₹ 50,000-3%-1,60,000 (IDA)
Essential Qualification: Full-time Bachelor's Degree in Engineering or Technology/AMIE/ BSc. Engg. in Electrical/ Mechanical Engineering from a recognized Institute or University with not less than 65% marks as per respective institute/ University norms (55% marks for SC/ ST candidates).
 Candidates must have appeared and qualified in the Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) in 2024.

2. Executive Trainee (Finance) (E-2)

No of posts: 6 [UR:4, EWS:2]
Upper age limit as on 01.05.2024: UR/ EWS: 30 years
Pay: Scale of Pay ₹ 50,000-3%-1,60,000 (IDA)
Essential Qualification: Must have passed the final exam of CA (conducted by Institute of Chartered Accountants of India) /CMA (Previously ICWA) (conducted by Institute of Cost Accountants of India).

3. Executive Trainee (Human Resources) (E-2) Grade

No of posts: 2 [UR:1, ES:1]
Upper age limit as on 01.05.2024: UR/ EWS: 30 years
Pay: Scale of Pay ₹ 50,000-3%-1,60,000 (IDA)
Essential Qualification: Graduate with a full-time MBA or Post Graduate Degree/Diploma in Personnel & Administration/ Industrial Relations/Human Resource Development/ Human Resource Management of minimum 2 years duration (65% marks or equivalent grade from a recognized University or Institute).
 Candidate must have appeared in UGC-NET in Labour Welfare/ Personnel Management/ Labour & Social Welfare / HRM in 2023 (December cycle) and must have secured at least 40% marks in both the papers of UGC-NET in order to apply.

Application Fee:

General/ EWS/ OBC: ₹ 560
 # SC/ ST/ PwDs/ESM/Female: Nil
 # Payment Mode: Online

Important Dates of NEEPCO Vacancy 2024

Starting date of online application submission: 8th June 2024
 # Last date of online application submission: 28th June 2024

HPCL Recruitment 2024 – 238 Engineer, Safety Officer & Other Vacancy

Last Date: 30/06/2024

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has released a notification for the recruitment of 238 Engineer, Safety Officer & Other vacancy. Interested and eligible candidates may apply online.

1. Mechanical Engineer

No of posts: 93
Age Limit: 25 years.
Pay: Pay scale ₹ 50000 – 160000
Educational Qualification: 4-years full-time regular engineering course in Mechanical Engineering.

2. Electrical Engineer

No of posts: 43

Age Limit: 25 years.
Pay: Pay scale ₹ 50000 – 160000
Educational Qualification: 4-years full-time regular engineering course in Electrical Engineering.

3. Instrumentation Engineer

No of posts: 5
Age Limit: 25 years.
Pay: Pay scale ₹ 50000 – 160000
Educational Qualification: 4-years full-time regular engineering course in Instrumentation Engineering.

4. Civil Engineer

No of posts: 10
Age Limit: 25 years.
Pay: Pay scale ₹ 50000 – 160000
Educational Qualification: 4-years full-time regular engineering course in Civil Engineering.

5. Chemical Engineer

No of posts: 7
Age Limit: 25 years.
Pay: Pay scale ₹ 50000 – 160000
Educational Qualification: 4-years full-time regular engineering course in Chemical Engineering.

6. Senior Officer –City Gas Distribution (CGD) Operations & Maintenance

No of posts: 6
Age Limit: 28 years.
Pay: Pay scale ₹ 60000 – 180000
Educational Qualification: 4-years full time regular engineering course in Mechanical/ Electrical/ Instrumentation/ Civil Engineering and 3 years of experience.

7. Senior Officer –City Gas Distribution (CGD) Projects

No of posts: 4
Age Limit: 28 years.
Pay: Pay scale ₹ 60000 – 180000
Educational Qualification: 4-years full time regular engineering course in Mechanical/ Electrical/ Instrumentation/ Civil Engineering and 3 years of experience.

8. Senior Officer/ Assistant Manager - Non-Fuel Business

No of posts: 12
Age Limit: 29/32 years.
Pay: ₹ (60000- 180000)/(70000- 200000)
Educational Qualification:
 a) Full time MBA or PGDM with specialization in Sales/ Marketing/ Operations AND
 b) 4-years full time regular engineering course in Mechanical/ Electrical/ Instrumentation/ Chemical/ Civil Engineering AND
 c) 02/05 years of experience.

9. Senior Officer - Non-Fuel Business

No of posts: 12
Age Limit: 29/32 years.
Pay: ₹ (90000- 240000)
Educational Qualification:
 a) Full time MBA or PGDM with specialization in Sales/ Marketing/ Operations AND
 b) 4-years full time regular engineering course in Mechanical/ Electrical/ Instrumentation/ Chemical/ Civil Engineering AND
 c) 11 years of experience.

10. Manager- Technical

No of posts: 2
Age Limit: 34 years.
Pay: ₹ (80000- 220000)
Educational Qualification: 4-years full time regular engineering course in Chemical/ Polymer /Plastics Engineering and 9 years of experience.

11. Manager- Sales- R&D Product Commercialisation

No of posts: 2
Age Limit: 36 years.
Pay: Pay scale ₹ 80000- 220000
Educational Qualification:
 Essential: 4-years full time regular engineering course in Chemical Engineering
 Desirable: 2 Years full time MBA regular course AND 9 years of experience.

12. Deputy General Manager- Catalyst Business Development

No of posts: 1
Age Limit: 45 years.
Pay: Pay scale ₹ 120000- 280000
Educational Qualification:
 Essential: 4-years full time regular engineering course in Chemical Engineering
 Desirable: 2 Years full time MBA regular course AND 18 years of experience.

13. Chartered Accountant

No of posts: 29
Age Limit: 27 years.
Pay: Pay scale ₹ 50000 – 160000
Educational Qualification: Qualified Chartered Accountant (CA) from Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) along with completion of mandatory Articleship and Membership of ICAI.

14. Quality Control (QC) Officer

No of posts: 9
Age Limit: 30 years.
Pay: Pay scale ₹ 50000 – 160000
Educational Qualification: 2 Years full time regular M.Sc. In Chemistry (Analytical / Physical / Organic/ Inorganic) AND 3 years of experience.

15. IS Officer

No of posts: 15
Age Limit: 29 years.
Pay: ₹ 15 Lakhs per annum
Educational Qualification: 4-years full time regular engineering course in B. Tech. with Computer Science/ IT Engineering **OR** Post Graduate in Computer Applications (MCA)/ Data Sciences AND 2 years of experience.

16. IS Security Officer- Cyber Security Specialist

No of posts: 1
Age Limit: 45 years.
Pay: ₹ 36 Lakhs per Annum
Educational Qualification:
 Essential: 4-year full time regular engineering degree course/s in Computer Science/ Information Technology/ Electronics & Communications Eng/ Information Security

Or
Post Graduate in Computer Applications (MCA)
Desirable: 2-year full time regular masters in engineering course/s in Computer Science and Information Security/ Information Security/ Cyber Security. Relevant certifications such as CEH, CISSP, or GIAC certifications are a plus AND 12 years of experience.

17. Quality Control Officer

No of posts: 6
Age Limit: 30 years.
Pay: 10.2 Lakhs per Annum
Educational Qualification: 2 Years full time regular M.Sc. In Chemistry (Analytical / Physical / Organic/ Inorganic) AND 3 years of experience .

Application Fee of HPCL Recruitment

SC, ST & PwBD candidates are exempted from payment of application fee.
 # UR, OBCNC and EWS candidates are required to pay a Non-Refundable Amount of ₹ 1180 + payment gateway charges if any (Application fee of ₹ 1000 + GST@18% i.e. ₹ 180 + payment gateway charges if applicable).

Payment Mode: Debit / Credit card/UPI/Net Banking: On paying application fee online, the payment status will automatically change to "Your Transaction is successfully completed", on successful receipt of fees.

Important Dates of HPCL Recruitment 2024

Starting date of online application submission: 5th June, 2024
 # Last date of online application submission: 30th June, 2024

SEBI Recruitment 2024 – 97 Assistant Manager Posts, Online Apply

Last Date: 30/06/2024

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has released an employment notification for the recruitment of 97 Officer Grade A (Assistant Manager) vacancy for the General Stream, Legal Stream, Information Technology Stream, Engineering Electrical Stream, Research Stream and Official Language Stream. Interested and eligible candidates may apply online.

Name of post: Officer Grade A (Assistant Manager)
No of posts: 97

Stream-wise vacancy:

General: 62
 # Legal: 5
 # Information Technology: 24
 # Engineering (Electrical): 2
 # Research: 2
 # Official Language: 2

Pay Scale: ₹ 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 March 31, 2024 i.e., candidate must have been born on or after April 01, 1994.

Age Relaxation: Relaxation in age limits will be given as per applicable rules.

Educational Qualification: Discipline-wise educational qualifications are as under.
 # General: Master's Degree/ Post Graduate Diploma* (minimum two years' duration) in any discipline/ Bachelor's Degree in Law/ Bachelor's Degree in Engineering from a recognized University/ Institute or Chartered Accountant/ Chartered Financial Analyst/ Company Secretary/ Cost Accountant.

* (Equivalent to a Master's Degree in that discipline as recognized by the Association of Indian Universities).

Legal:
Mandatory 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).

Information Technology:
Desirable Experience: Bachelor's Degree in Engineering in any branch or Bachelor's Degree in any discipline with a post graduate qualification (minimum two years' duration) in computer science/ computer application/ information technology from a recognized University / Institute.

Engineering (Electrical):
Mandatory Educational Qualification: Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering from a recognized University/ Institute.

Desirable Experience: (i) Working knowledge of electronic systems like CCTV surveillance systems, Addressable Security Alarm and Fire Alarm systems, EPABX, UPS system, etc. (ii) Experience in maintenance of lifts, pumps, air-conditioning plants, etc. (iii) Experience of administering construction projects in all its aspects and knowledge of PERT/CPM techniques

Research:
 Master's Degree/ Post Graduate Diploma* (minimum two years' duration) in Economics/ Commerce/ Business Administration/ Econometrics/ Quantitative Economics/ Financial Economics / Mathematical Economics/ Business Economics/ Agricultural Economics/ Industrial Economics/ Business Analytics; OR

Master's Degree/ Post Graduate Diploma* (minimum two years' duration) in Finance/ Quantitative Finance/ Mathematical Finance/ Quantitative Techniques/ International Finance/ Business Finance/ International and Trade Finance/ Project and Infrastructure Finance/ Agri. Business Finance; OR

Master's Degree/ Post Graduate Diploma* (minimum two years' duration) in Statistics/ Mathematical Statistics/ Statistics & Informatics/ Applied Statistics & Informatics/ Data Science/ Artificial Intelligence/ Machine Learning/ Big Data Analytics; OR
 Master's Degree in Mathematics and one year post graduate diploma in Statistics or related subjects from a recognized University / Institute.

* (Recognized equivalent to a Master's Degree in that discipline by Association of Indian Universities).

Official Language:
 Master's Degree in Hindi/ Hindi Translation with English as a subject at the Bachelor's Degree level; OR

Master's Degree in Sanskrit/ English/ Economics/ Commerce with Hindi as a subject at Bachelor's Degree level; OR

Master's Degree in both English and Hindi/ Hindi Translation from a recognized University / Institute

Application Fee:

UR/ OBC/ EWS: ₹ 1000 + 18% GST
 # SC/ ST/ PwBD: ₹ 100 + 18% GST

Important Dates of SEBI Officer Recruitment 2024

Starting date of submission of online application: June 11th, 2024
 # Last date of submission of online application: June 30th, 2024

Migration is of particular interest to summit host Italy, which lies on one of the major routes into the EU for people fleeing war and poverty

G7 leaders tackle the issue of migration on the second day of their summit in Italy

BARI, June 14: Leaders of the Group of Seven leading industrialized nations turned their attention to migration at the start of the second day of their summit Friday, seeking ways to combat trafficking and increase investment in countries from where migrants start out on often life-threatening journeys.

The gathering in a luxury resort in Italy's southern Puglia region is also discussing other major topics, such as financial support for Ukraine, the war in Gaza, artificial intelligence, climate change, as well as China's industrial policy and economic security.

But some divisions also appeared to emerge over the wording of the summit's final declaration, with disagreement reported over the inclusion of a reference to abortion.

Migration is of particular interest to summit host Italy, which lies on one of the major routes into the European Union for people fleeing war and poverty in Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

Right-wing Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni, known for her hard-line stance on the issue, has been eager to increase investment and funding for African nations as a means of reducing migratory

pressure on Europe.

Italy "wanted to dedicate ample space to another continent that is fundamental to the future of all of us, which is Africa, with its difficulties, its opportunities," Meloni said at the summit opening Thursday.

"Linked to Africa, and not only to Africa, there is another fundamental issue that Italy has placed at the center of the presidency, which is the issue of migration, the increasingly worrying role that trafficking organizations are assuming, clearly exploiting the desperation of human beings," she said.

Meloni has a controversial five-year deal with neighboring Albania for the Balkan country to host thousands of asylum-seekers while Italy processes their claims.

She has also spearheaded the "Matti Plan" for Africa, a continentwide strategy to increase economic opportunities at home and so discourage migration to Europe.

More than 22,000 people have arrived in Italy by sea so far in 2024, according to UNHCR figures. In 2023, more than 157,000 arrived, and nearly 2,000 died or went missing while attempting the perilous Mediterranean crossing.

The United States has also



been struggling with a growing number of migrants at its southern border. President Joe Biden introduced new policies to curb migration after a bill he tried to get through Congress failed to pass.

However, immigrant rights advocates filed lawsuits on Thursday over the new policies, and it is unclear whether they will be able to withstand the legal challenges in the U.S. courts.

Tackling migration "is a common challenge," European Council President Charles Michel said after arriving at the summit.

"This is the route that we intend, together with our partners, to put in place: this coalition to fight against the smugglers, these criminal groups which are abusing (vulnerable people) to make money and to destabilize regions and countries across the world," he added.

Apart from the G7 nations of Canada, France, Germany,

Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the U.S., the Italian hosts have also invited several African leaders — Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, Kenyan President William Ruto and Tunisian President Kais Saied — to press Meloni's migration and development initiatives.

Pope Francis will also become the first pontiff to address a G7 summit when he delivers a speech on artificial intelligence Friday. Other invitees include Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The summit opened Thursday with a strong show of support for Kyiv: an agreement reached on a U.S. proposal to back a \$50 billion loan to Ukraine using frozen Russian assets as collateral.

Russian President Vladimir Putin denounced the freezing

of Russian assets as "theft" and vowed it "will not go unpunished."

"Western countries have frozen a part of Russian assets and foreign exchange reserves, and are now thinking about some kind of legal basis in order to completely appropriate them," he said in a speech at the Russian Foreign Ministry on Friday.

"But, despite all the scheming, theft will remain theft, and it will not go unpunished."

Biden also signed a bilateral security agreement with Zelenskyy on Thursday evening, aiming to send a signal to Russia of American resolve in supporting Kyiv.

Describing it as a "truly historic day," Zelenskyy said the agreement was "on security and thus on the protection of human life." But some cracks appeared among the G7 leaders, with French President Emmanuel Macron deploring a lack of reference to abortion in the draft of the summit's final document.

The statement after last year's summit in Hiroshima, Japan, expressed a commitment to provide access to safe and legal abortion to women and girls, and pledged to defend gender equality and the rights of members of the LGBTQ+ community. (AP)

Putin vows truce if Ukraine exits Moscow-occupied areas and drops NATO bid - a nonstarter for Kyiv



MOSCOW, June 14: Russian President Vladimir Putin promised on Friday to "immediately" order a cease-fire in Ukraine and begin negotiations if Kyiv started withdrawing troops from the four regions annexed by Moscow in 2022 and renounced plans to join NATO.

Such a deal appears a nonstarter for Kyiv, which wants to join the military alliance and has demanded that Russia withdraw its troops from all of its territory. There was no immediate comment from Ukraine on Putin's proposal.

"We will do it immediately," Putin said in a speech at the Russian Foreign Ministry in Moscow.

His remarks came as leaders of the Group of Seven leading industrialized nations met in Italy and as Switzerland prepared to host scores of world leaders -- but not from Moscow -- this weekend to try to map out first steps toward peace in Ukraine. The US and Ukraine this week also signed a 10-year security agreement that they hailed as a milestone in relations.

Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. After Ukrainian forces thwarted a Russian drive to the capital, much of the fighting has focused in the south and east - and Russia illegally annexed regions in the east and the south, although it doesn't fully control any of them.

Putin said his proposal is aimed at a "final resolution" of the conflict in Ukraine rather than "freezing it," and stressed that the Kremlin is "ready to start negotiations without delay."

Broader demands for peace that the Russian leader listed included Ukraine's non-nuclear status, restrictions on its military force and protecting the interests of the Russian-speaking population in the country. All of these should become part of "fundamental international agreements," and all Western sanctions against Russia should be lifted, Putin said.

"We're urging to turn this tragic page of history and to begin restoring, step-by-step, restore the unity between Russia and Ukraine and in Europe in general," he said.

Putin's remarks represented a rare occasion in which he clearly laid out his conditions for ending the war in Ukraine, but it didn't include any new demands. The Kremlin has said before that Kyiv should recognize its territorial gains and drop its bid to join NATO.

Russia doesn't fully control any of the four regions it illegally annexed in 2022, but Putin insisted Friday that Kyiv should withdraw from them entirely and essentially cede them to Moscow within their administrative borders.

In Zaporizhzhia in the southeast, Russia still doesn't control the region's namesake administrative capital with a pre-war population of about 700,000, and in the neighboring Kherson region, Moscow withdrew from Kherson's biggest city and capital of the same name in November 2022.

Putin said that if "Kyiv and Western capitals" reject his offer, "it is their business, their political and moral responsibility for continuing the bloodshed." (AP)

Iran installing and starting cascades of advanced centrifuges as tensions high over nuclear programme

DUBAI, June 14: Iran has started up new cascades of advanced centrifuges and plans to install others in the coming weeks after facing criticism over its nuclear programme, the United Nations' atomic watchdog said on Friday. The US called the moves "nuclear escalations".

Spinning up new centrifuges further advances Iran's nuclear programme, which already enriches uranium at near-weapons-grade levels and boasts a stockpile enough for several nuclear bombs if it chose to pursue them. However, the acknowledgement from the International Atomic Energy Agency did not include any suggestion Iran planned to go to higher enrichment levels amid wider tensions between Tehran and the West as the Israel-Hamas war rages in the Gaza Strip.

The IAEA said its inspectors verified Monday that Iran had begun feeding uranium into three cascades of advanced IR-4 and IR-6 centrifuges at its Natanz enrichment facility. Cascades are a group of centrifuges that spin uranium gas together to more quickly enrich the uranium.

So far, Iran has been enriching uranium in those cascades up to 2% purity. Iran already enriches uranium up to 60%, a short, technical step away from weapons-grade levels of 90%. Iran also plans to install 18 cascades of IR-2m centrifuges at Natanz and eight cascades of IR-6 centrifuges at its Fordo nuclear site. Each of these classes of centrifuges enrich uranium faster than Iran's baseline IR-1 centrifuges,



which remain the workhorse of the country's atomic programme.

Tehran did not immediately acknowledge the decision. However, it comes after Iran threatened to take action following a vote earlier this month at the IAEA's Board of Governors that censured Iran for failing to cooperate fully with the agency.

The decision immediately drew criticism from State Department spokesman Matthew Miller.

"Iran aims to continue expanding its nuclear program in ways that have no credible peaceful purpose," Miller said in a statement. "These planned actions further undermine Iran's claims to the contrary. If Iran implements these plans, we will respond accordingly."

Miller did not elaborate on what steps the US and its allies might take. However, Iran already faces grinding economic sanctions from Washington and others that have deeply cut into its economy and sent its rial currency tumbling over recent years.

Since the collapse of Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers following the US' unilateral withdrawal from the accord in 2018, it has pur-

sued nuclear enrichment just below weapons-grade levels. US intelligence agencies and others assess that Iran has yet to begin a weapons program.

Iran, as a signatory to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, has pledged to allow the IAEA to visit its atomic sites to ensure its program is peaceful. Tehran also agreed to additional oversight from the IAEA as part of the 2015 nuclear deal. However, for years it has curtailed inspectors' access to sites while also not fully answering questions about other sites where nuclear material has been found in the past.

The IAEA's director-general, Rafael Mariano Grossi, visited Iran in May in an effort to boost inspections, but there hasn't been any major public change in Iran's stance. All this comes as the Islamic Republic also appears to be trying to contain the risk it faces from the US after launching an unprecedented attack on Israel. The assault — a response to a suspected Israeli strike on April 1 which killed two Guard generals and others in Damascus, Syria — has pushed a years-long shadow war between Israel and Iran out into the open. (AP)

Canada's defence investment in the Arctic puts it on track to meet NATO guideline, minister says

BRUSSELS, June 14: Canada looks on track to meet NATO's military spending guideline soon, Defence Minister Bill Blair said on Friday, notably by boosting investment in the Arctic near its shared border with Russia as the region warms quickly due to climate change.

After Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in 2014, NATO allies agreed to halt budget cuts and move toward spending 2% of their gross domestic product on defence within a decade. Canada was barely spending 1% at the time.

Last year, as it became clear that Russia's war with Ukraine would grind on, they decided that 2% should be a spending minimum. According to NATO figures, Canada was estimated to be spending 1.33% of GDP on its military budget in 2023.

"My defence spending budget will increase by 27% next year over this year," Blair said at a meeting with his NATO counterparts in Brussels. "We've begun the important processes of acquiring the additional capabilities that we require (and) to meet NATO's requirements of us."

He said that Canada is investing "quite significantly in the high Arctic" and building new military capabilities like maritime sensors that can detect threats. "I believe it brings us inevitably to over 2% of defense spending. But I've got some work to do in order to be able to articulate that both to my own country and to our allies," Blair told reporters. NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg has said that he expects around two thirds of the alliance's 32 member countries to spend 2% of GDP on their defence budgets this year, up from just three countries a decade ago. (AP)

Muslims start the Hajj against backdrop of destructive Israel-Hamas war

MINA, June 14: In sweltering temperatures, Muslim pilgrims in Mecca converged on a vast tent camp in the desert on Friday, officially opening the annual Hajj pilgrimage. Ahead of their trip, they circled the cube-shaped Kaaba in the Grand Mosque, Islam's holiest site.

More than 1.5 million pilgrims from around the world have already amassed in and around Mecca for the Hajj, and the number was still growing as more pilgrims from inside Saudi Arabia joined. Saudi authorities expected the number of pilgrims to exceed 2 million this year.

This year's Hajj came against the backdrop of the raging war in the Gaza Strip between Israel and Palestinian militants, which pushed the entire Middle East to the brink of a regional war between Israel and its allies on one side and Iran-backed militant groups on the other.

Palestinians in the coastal enclave of Gaza were not able to travel to Mecca for Hajj this year because of the closure of the Rafah crossing in May when Israel extended its ground offensive to the



strip's southern city of Rafah on the border with Egypt.

Palestinian authorities said 4,200 pilgrims from the occupied West Bank arrived in Mecca for Hajj. Saudi authorities said 1,000 more from the families of Palestinians killed or wounded in the war in Gaza also arrived to perform Hajj at the invitation of King Salman of Saudi Arabia. The 1,000 invitees were already outside Gaza — mostly in Egypt — before closure of the Rafah crossing.

"We are deprived of (performing) Hajj because the crossing is closed, and because of the raging wars and destruction," said Amna Abu Mutlaq, a 75-year-old Palestinian woman from Gaza's southern city of Khan Younis who had planned to perform Hajj this year. "They (Israel) deprived us from

Niger's highest court lifts immunity of deposed President Mohamed Bazoum

DAKAR (SENEGAL), June 14: Niger's highest court lifted the immunity of the country's democratically elected president, Mohamed Bazoum, nearly a year after he was overthrown by mutinous soldiers, his lawyer said on Friday, opening the door for the military junta to prosecute him for alleged high treason.

Bazoum and his family have been under house arrest since a military coup that overthrew his rule last summer. The junta authorities said they planned to prosecute him for "high treason" and for undermining national security, and earlier this year initiated legal proceedings to lift his immunity in a newly created State Court, which became the country's highest judicial authority.

Before Bazoum was forcibly removed from power, Niger was the West's last major security partner in the Sahel, the vast region south of the Sahara Desert that has become a hot spot for violent extremism. But the military junta ordered the withdrawal of Western troops from the country and turned to the Russian mercenary group Wagner for security assistance. US forces are poised to leave by the middle of September, the Pentagon said earlier this month.

The proceedings before the State Court have been marred by serious irregularities, including violations of Bazoum's rights to present evidence in his defence, to communicate with his legal counsel, and to be heard before an independent court, according to Human Rights Watch, a leading rights group. Bazoum's lawyer, Reed Brody, criticised the ruling as a "mockery" of the rule of law in Niger. "We never even got to speak to our client," Brody said. "This is a travesty of justice." Bazoum's lawyers have been unable to communicate with him since last October and have had restricted access to case material, according to HRW.

Later last year, the highest court of West African regional bloc ECOWAS ruled that Bazoum and his family were arbitrarily detained and called for him to be restored to office. (AP)



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Later last year, the highest court of West African regional bloc ECOWAS ruled that Bazoum and his family were arbitrarily detained and called for him to be restored to office. (AP)

Pak PM invites former ally JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman to join ruling coalition

ISLAMABAD, June 14: Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has invited his former ally JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman to become a part of the ruling coalition led by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and play a role in resolving the political tensions in the country, according to a media report on Friday.

Sharif, who is heading a coalition government supported by Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari's Pakistan Peoples Party and other smaller parties, visited the residence of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) chief, 70, to enquire about his well-being on Thursday, the Dawn newspaper reported.

The 72-year-old premier also proposed the formation of a committee to address the prevailing political issues and asked Maulana Rehman to join the ruling coalition.

Quoting a source in the PM Office, the newspaper said the JUI-F leader was asked to join the ruling alliance and play a role in a proposed committee to resolve political tension prevailing in the country. However, Maulana Rehman refused to join the government, a JUI-F spokesperson said. (PTI)

Chinese journalist who promoted #MeToo movement sentenced to 5 years in prison



BEIJING, June 14: Supporters say a Chinese journalist who promoted women's rights as part of the country's nascent #MeToo movement has been sentenced to five years in prison on charges of incitement to subvert state authority, almost three years after she and an activist were detained.

The verdict provided to The Associated Press stated that Huang Xueqin would also face a fine of 100,000 yuan (USD 14,000), underscoring the ruling Communist Party's intolerance of any activism outside its control in a system whose upper echelons are dominated by men.

China's #MeToo movement flourished briefly before being snuffed out by the government. China often silences activists by

holding them incommunicado for a long time and then sentencing them to prison.

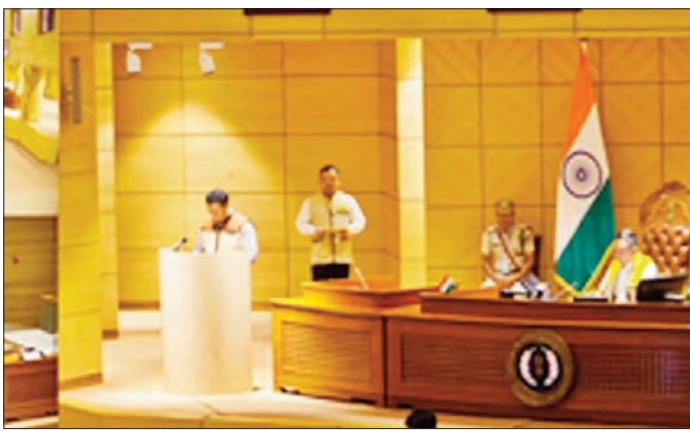
Huang's release date was listed as September 18, 2026, accounting for her earlier detention. Co-defendant Wang Jianbing was sentenced to three years and six months on the same charge. Wang is more known for his labour rights activity but also helped women report sexual harassment.

Huang and Wang's cases appear to have become intertwined as part of the most recent wave of a general crackdown on rights advocates, a trend that predates the #MeToo movement and includes previous incidents such as the 2015 detentions of women distributing pamphlets against sexual harassment on public transport.

Working as a freelance journalist, Huang helped spark China's first #MeToo case in 2018 when she publicised allegations of sexual harassment made by a graduate student against her Ph.D. supervisor at one of China's most prestigious universities. (AP)

Pro-tem speaker Ninong Ering administers oath to newly elected 59 MLAs

Elected MLAs take oath in Arunachal Pradesh



ITANAGAR, June 14: Newly elected MLAs of Arunachal Pradesh took oath on Friday.

Pro-tem speaker Ninong Ering administered the oath to the newly elected members during the inaugural day of the two-day special session summoned by Governor Lt Gen (Retd.) K T Parnaik.

Eleven of the newly elected MLAs took oath in Hindi.

Fifty-nine of the 60 MLAs took oath during the day, while Ering was administered the oath by the governor on the previous day.

As many as 35 members of the outgoing assembly were re-elected while five former members also got elected this time. There are 20 fresh faces in the current assembly.

A total of four woman candi-

dates were also elected to the assembly in the April 19 polls.

Ering, while congratulating the elected members, advised them to perform their duties diligently to keep the tradition of the House and the aspirations of the people alive.

"Participate in healthy deliberation and debates to uphold the dignity of the temple of democracy," Ering said.

The House also observed a two-minute silence for all the former members who have died.

The Speaker and Deputy Speaker would be elected on Saturday.

The ruling BJP bagged 46 seats in the 60-member House, while the National People's Party (NPP) won five seats and the Ajit Pawar faction of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) secured three seats.

The People's Party of Arunachal (PPA) won two seats and the Congress one. There are also three Independent MLAs. (PTI)

Students protest against irregularities in teachers' recruitment

IMPHAL, June 14: A group of students have attempted to lock the offices of the Directorate of Education(S) and Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) in Imphal in protest against alleged irregularities in the recruitment of pre-primary teachers.

The students launched the protest on Thursday under the aegis of the Democratic Students' Alliance of Manipur (DESAM). The police detained three leaders of the students' body while coming to lock the office campus of the Directorate of Education(S) at Lamphel in Imphal West district.

The protesters demanded resignation of the director of School Education, while seeking immediate halt to all processes related to the recruitment of 1140 pre-primary teachers on contract basis.

They alleged that the ongoing recruitment process contravened the NEP-2020 guidelines for appointment of teachers.

Talking to the reporters on the sidelines of the protest, DESAM president Mayengbam Somorjit said that the students' body has been seeking conduct of the recruitment of pre-primary teachers strictly as per the guidelines laid down under the NEP-2020.

Despite repeated appeals from the students' body to stop, the recruitment processes continue, he alleged, while asserting that DESAM has been campaigning not to indulge in acts compromising quality of education by all concerns.

Asserting that for quality education, a good and qualified teacher is a must, the DESAM president said that the students' body would always stand against any irregularities in the functioning of the state education department.

He alleged that the Director of Education (school) continuing with the recruitment processes for the pre-primary teachers went against the guideline of the NEP-2020. (NNN)

DDMAs directed to take measures against environmental hazards

DDMAs to sensitise public on management of plastic wastes, non bio-degradable garbage in respective districts

HT Correspondent

DIMAPUR, June 14: The Nagaland State Disaster Management Authority (NSDMA) on Friday directed the district disaster management authorities (DDMAs) to examine the vulnerability of the different water bodies in their respective districts and the environmental hazards caused by irresponsible disposal of plastic wastes and non bio-degradable garbage.

In an order, the NSDMA, in pursuance to the provision of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 section 22 (2) (b) (h) and (i), asked the DDMAs to bring out specific measures to be taken for its prevention or mitigation.

The NSDMA said the order was issued in view of the need to take urgent measures for preventing and controlling environmental hazards and as a matter of caution.

The DDMAs have also been directed to promote general education and awareness regarding the management of

'World Blood Donor Day' celebrated at USTM



HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, June 14: The 'World Blood Donor Day' was celebrated at the University of Science and Technology Meghalaya (USTM) in Ri Bhoi district of Meghalaya on Friday.

The pathology department of the upcoming P.A. Sangma International Medical College and Hospital (PIMCH) organised a day-long programme on the occasion at the university campus, which was attended by doctors, paramedics, students, faculty members and staff of PIMCH, the IA Ayurvedic Medical College and students and faculty members of the university.

A blood donation camp was also held successfully with the support of the Saharia Blood Centre and the North East Cancer Hospital and Research Institute (NECHRI).

The World Blood Donor Day is observed every year on the USTM campus. The theme for this year is "20 Years of Giving: Thank You, Blood Donors."

The 20th anniversary of the day provides a perfect and timely occasion to express

gratitude to blood donors worldwide for their life-saving contributions over the years and to acknowledge the significant impact on both patients and donors. Additionally, it serves as a crucial moment to address ongoing challenges and expedite progress towards achieving universal access to safe blood transfusions.

Biraj Kumar Das, principal of the upcoming P.A. Sangma International Medical College, Habibul Islam, former professor of pathology, professor of I/C Blood Centre, PIMCH and Dwijen Ch Dutta, head of the department of pathology of PIMCH addressed the audience and emphasised the significance of awareness and blood donation.

The speakers urged the public and students to come forward and donate blood to help needy patients. Representatives of the Saharia Blood Centre and NECHRI actively participated in this event. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks extended by Pallavi Deka of the department of pathology of PIMCH.

KSU demands reservation policy to ensure equal opportunities for all tribes

SHILLONG, June 14: The Khasi Students' Union (KSU) has asserted the need to come up with a comprehensive new or revised Meghalaya State Reservation Policy to ensure equitable representation and opportunities for all Khasi, Jaintias and Garos of the state.

In a letter to the expert committee on State Reservation Policy on Thursday, the KSU said that the state government while making any provision for reservation of appointment or post in favour of Garo and Khasi-Jaintia scheduled tribes may take the total population of a particular tribe

and after doing the necessary exercise make the reservation and provide the extent of percentage of post to be reserved to the respective ST and the percentage has to be followed strictly.

"According to the 2011 census, the state is home to about 14.1 lakhs Khasi-Jaintia population and slightly over 8.21 lakhs Garo individuals. Therefore, the figure underscores the significance of a comprehensive revision of State Reservation Policy to ensure equitable representation and opportunities for all individuals of the Khasi-Jaintias and Garo communities," it said. (NNN)

Over 1,200 tourists stranded due to landslides, rains in Sikkim

GANGTOK, June 14: More than 1,200 tourists, including 15 foreigners, were stranded as massive landslides triggered by incessant rainfall caused devastation in northern Sikkim's Mangan district, an official said on Friday.

The office of the chief secretary has already initiated talks with the Centre for airlifting of all the tourists, depending on the weather conditions, Sikkim Tourism & Civil Aviation Department's Principal Secretary C S Rao said in a statement.

Chief minister Prem Singh Tamang chaired a high-level meeting in Mintokgang to take stock of the situation after landslides triggered by heavy rain impacted the

Himalayan state severely, damaging properties and disrupting road connectivity, power and food supplies, and mobile networks in several areas.

"As per the ground report, around 1,200 domestic and 15 foreign tourists (Thailand: 2, Nepal: 3, Bangladesh: 10) are stranded in Lachung, Mangan district due to road blockages caused by heavy rainfall and landslides," Rao said in the statement.

The stranded tourists are all safe and sound, and the local authorities have requested them to stay put in their respective places and avoid taking risks, he said.

There is adequate stock of food supplies and rations to cater to all

the stranded tourists, the official said.

If required, the tourists will be evacuated by road, and the department is "working in close coordination with the district administration, police and tourism officials in Mangan" along with the local tourism stakeholders for the safe evacuation of those stranded there, he said.

He assured the tourists of extending all possible support and assistance to them during this period of distress due to natural calamity.

Only Lachung is cut off from the rest of the state and all other parts of Sikkim are open and safe for travel, Rao said.

Landslides blocked stretches of roads and several houses were in-

undated or damaged due to heavy rain in the district, while electricity poles were swept away, another official said.

The chief minister's meeting was "crucial for strategising and coordinating our response to restore normalcy and ensure the safety and well-being of our residents", he said.

During the meeting, officials concerned provided details on the extent of damages on critical roads and the immediate challenges for affected people.

They apprised the chief minister of the damaged infrastructure, especially roads and bridges vital for transportation, and relief operations. (PTI)

Man arrested for involvement in Manipur-based banned group

GUWAHATI, June 14: A man was arrested on Friday near Guwahati for being allegedly involved in sabotage activities of a Manipur-based banned organisation, police said.

Acting on a tip-off, the Special Task Force (STF) intercepted a vehicle at Sonapur tollgate on NH 27. During the search of the vehicle, intelligent flight batteries, suspected to be used in drones, ₹ 3.40 lakh in cash, four pairs of shoes and a mobile handset were found.

The man from Manipur, identified as Khaigoulen Kipgen, who was travelling in the vehicle with two minors was arrested, police said.

The confiscation of these items, particularly the drone batteries, underscored the clandestine efforts by certain Manipur-based banned organisations to procure drones for illicit activities, a police officer said. An investigation was underway, he said. (PTI)

Manipur govt to provide ₹10,000 to every flood-affected family

IMPHAL, June 14: The Manipur government has decided to provide ₹ 10,000 to every flood-affected family as "immediate relief", an official said on Friday. The decision in this regard was taken during a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Thursday evening, he said.

The meeting also "deliberated on several issues of the state and resolved to constitute a cabinet sub-committee for rehabilitation and resettlement of internally displaced persons (IDPs)", who have been affected by the ethnic violence.

More than 1.88 lakh people have been affected and over 24,000 houses damaged, mostly in Imphal Valley, in floods in the last week of May as river embankments were breached following heavy rain triggered by Cyclone Remal. (PTI)

Elected from two constituencies, Sikkim CM vacates Soreng-Chakung

GANGTOK, June 14: Sikkim chief minister Prem Singh Tamang on Friday resigned as the MLA of Soreng-Chakung assembly constituency and decided to retain his other seat, Rhenock. His resignation was accepted by Speaker M N Sherpa, according to a notification issued by the Sikkim Legislative Assembly (SLA). Tamang was elected from the two seats in the assembly elections. The SKM swept the polls, winning 31 of the 32 constituencies.

"In pursuance of Section 70 of the Representation of People Act, 1951 read with Rule 91 of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, P S Tamang, member, elected from 07-Soreng-Chakung and 19-Rhenock assembly constituencies has tendered his resignation from 07-Soreng-Chakung assembly constituency on June 14, 2024," the notification issued by SLA secretary Lalit Kumar Gurung said. (PTI)

GOVT. OF ASSAM OFFICE OF THE ASSTT. DIRECTOR, DAIRY EXTENSION SERVICE, DIPHU, DAIRY DEV. DEPARTMENT KARBI ANGLONG TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tender/Quotation affixing Council court fee Stamp of Rs:-10 (Ten) only are Invited from the interested local contractor for the Departmental work. The tenders will be received from 11 AM of 15th June/2024 to 2 P.M or 25th June/2024 and will be opened on the same date. In case of any unavoidable case/bandh, arises the next official date will be considered for receive & opening of the tender. The details of the tender quotation can be seen in the Notice Board of the following offices:-

- 1) OFFICE OF THE ASSTT. DIRECTOR, DAIRY EXTENSION SERVICE, DIPHU
 - 2) OFFICE OF THE ASSTT. DAIRY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER TMSS, MANJA.
- Tender/ Quotation should be accompany the following documents along with the
 - Earnest money of 2% for General and 1% in case of ST/SC/OBC in the form of Bank call deposit/Bank Draft
 - GST Up to date clearance
 - P/Tax & Up to date clearance
 - I /Tax. C Up to date clearance
 - Pan card copy
 - Bank a/c Details (Name as per Bank passbook, Name of the bank, Branch Name, account number IFSC Code)
- Submit photo copy of 1st page of Bank pass book.

The authority of KAAC, Diphu is the sole authority for acceptance of tender quotation and the rate therein & allotment of works.

Sd/-
Asstt. Director,
Dairy Extension Service,
Karbi Anglong, Diphu

NO. PKD/M/6/2023-24/534

Date. 10/06/2024.

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed tender affixing non-refundable court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight and twenty five paise) only in prescribed form which will subsequently be converted and drawn up in the printed APWD F-2 form of Tender Agreement are hereby invited from the eligible registered Contractors for the year 2024-25 of Irrigation Department, Assam and BTC for submitting tenders for the works as stated below. The tenders will be received by the undersigned up to 2.00 p.m. on 02/07/2024 and will be opened on the same day at 2.00 p.m. by the undersigned or the officers authorized to open the tenders in presence of the tenderers or their authorized representatives who may wish to present.

In the event of non functioning of the office on the date due to any reason or any Govt holiday being declared on that day then next working day of the office will be the date of receiving and opening of the tenders .

The rate to be quoted in percentage (%) basis i.e at per estimate/below the estimate/above the estimate rate.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Group No.	Approx Value in Rs.	Time of Completion
1	Renovation of Canal System of Kulshik Flow Irrigation Scheme at Polashgarh under SOPD-G for the year 2023-24.	I	Rs.14,00,000.00	60 (sixty) days from the date of Issue of Work Order.
2	Renovation of Headwork & Canal System of Kuchiamari Flow Irrigation Scheme under SOPD-G for the year 2023-24.	II	Rs.14,00,000.00	
3	Renovation of Headwork & Canal System of Rambari Flow Irrigation Scheme under SOPD for the year 2023-24.	III	Rs.12,00,000.00	
4	Renovation of Canal System of Ghogla Flow Irrigation Scheme under SOPD-G for the year 2023-24.	IV	Rs.9,00,000.00	
5	Renovation of Headwork & Canal System of Bhutia Pukhuri Flow Irrigation Scheme under SOPD-G for the year 2023-24.	V	Rs.11,00,000.00	
6	Renovation of Headwork & Canal System of Mirakhat Flow Irrigation Scheme under SOPD-G for the year 2023-24.	VI	Rs.11,00,000.00	
7	Renovation of Headwork & Canal System of Ghurnighat FIS under SOPD-G for the year 2023-24.	VII	Rs.15,00,000.00	
8	Renovation of Headwork & Canal System of Genua Flow Irrigation Scheme under SOPD-G for the year 2023-24.	VIII	Rs.11,00,000.00	
9	Renovation of Headwork & Canal System of Ghurnighat FIS under SOPD-G for the year 2023-24.	IX	Rs.15,00,000.00	

The Tender Paper may be obtained in all working days during office hrs from the office of the undersigned on payment of non-refundable Rs.500.00 in the form of Demand Draft only from any Nationalized Bank duly pledged in favour of the undersigned payable at Udalguri up to 1.00 PM on 01/07/2024. Tender paper must be filled up addressing to all points/terms specified with the tender form, otherwise tender will be treated as cancelled. The contractors must submit Self attested copy of Up to date Registration Certificate, Labour Certificate, I.T certificate, GST Registration, Pan card, Xerox copy of Bank pass book along with the Tenders. The tenderer has to be deposit 2% for General (1% for SC/ST/OBC/MOBC) as Security Deposit Money against the work value in the form of Fixed Deposit only from any Scheduled Bank guaranteed by RBI and duly pledged in favour of the Undersigned along with the tender. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the tenders without assigning any reason thereof and also the undersigned is not bound to accept the lowest tendered rate. Payment/Proportionate payment for the work will be made subject to the availability of full fund/part fund under the concerned Head of A/C and proportionate to the physical progress of works. No claims (including any interest on bill amount) whatsoever will be entertained for delayed payment due to non-receipt of fund from the authority under the concern head of A/c and Department will in no case be responsible for the same.

Sd/-(S. Barman)
Executive Engineer
Paner-Kalaigaon Division (Irrigation),
Tangla

IPR(BTC)2024-25/20

Home Minister reviews J&K security situation; calls high-level meeting tomorrow

NEW DELHI, June 14: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday reviewed the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir in the wake of several terror incidents there, including an attack on a bus ferrying pilgrims, sources said.

He called a high-level meeting on June 16, to be attended by National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha, top officials of the Army, CRPF and others to review the prevailing situation in the Union Territory and steps taken to check terror incidents.

During Sunday's meeting, the home minister will also take stock of the preparedness for the annual Amarnath Yatra which will begin on June 29, sources said.

The home minister was briefed about the prevailing situation in Jammu and Kashmir and the steps taken following the terror incidents, they said.

Terrorists struck at four places in Reasi, Kathua and Doda districts of Jammu and Kashmir over the past four days, killing nine pilgrims and a CRPF jawan, and leaving seven security personnel and several others injured.

Two suspected Pakistani terrorists were also killed in an encounter with security forces in Kathua district and a large quantity



of arms and ammunition were recovered from them.

On Sunday, terrorists opened fire on a 53-seater bus carrying pilgrims when it was en route to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Katra from the Shiv Khori temple. The bus, carrying pilgrims from Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi, plunged into a deep gorge following the gunfire, killing nine people and injuring 41 others.

On Tuesday, terrorists fired at a joint checkpoint of the Rashtriya Rifles and police at Chattergalla in Bhandarwah while a search party in the Gandoh area of Doda district

was attacked on Wednesday, resulting in injuries to seven security personnel, including a police personnel.

The search operation launched in Jammu and Kashmir to track down and neutralise terrorists after the June 9 attack on a bus carrying pilgrims continues, officials said.

Officials said security forces launched a fresh search and cordon operation in Kathua's Saida Sukhal village on Thursday following information about the presence of two more terrorists. This came a day after two suspected Pakistani terrorists and a CRPF jawan were

killed in the village after an over 15-hour operation.

A large quantity of arms and ammunition, including one M4 Rifle, an AK assault rifle, a satellite phone and more than Rs 2.10 lakh besides Pakistan-made eatables, medicines and electronics were recovered from the possession of the slain terrorists, one of whom was said to be a top commander of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) outfit.

Police had on Wednesday released sketches of four terrorists involved in two attacks in Doda district and announced a reward of Rs 20 lakh for information leading to their arrest.

In Reasi district where terrorists had attacked a bus carrying pilgrims on Sunday, police said so far 50 suspected persons were detained as the search operation was intensified to remote pockets.

Police had also issued an advisory, urging residents of the Jammu region to stay vigilant regarding the movement of suspicious individuals and objects.

The advisory was issued following intelligence inputs suggesting the possibility of a terror threat in parts of Rajouri and Jammu districts. Meanwhile, police in Jammu and Kashmir have started preparation for the two-month-long Amarnath yatra.

Additional Director General of

Police Vijay Kumar last week directed the security forces to fortify the existing security infrastructure, improve surveillance tactics and bolster personnel deployment along the Amarnath pilgrimage route.

He also directed officials to mitigate potential risks by deploying anti-sabotage teams along the Yatra routes to identify and neutralise any potential terror threats.

Kumar also held a joint meeting with the officers of the police, Army, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and other agencies and discussed the overall security arrangements to be adopted for the safe, smooth and incident-free conduct of the pilgrimage.

Services of specialised forces like the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and Snow and Avalanche Study Establishment (SASE) may also be utilised in order to get vulnerable points along the pilgrimage route mapped so that these can be monitored on a regular basis to enhance the overall safety measures, officials said.

Security will be enhanced to mitigate potential risks by deploying anti-sabotage teams along the Amarnath Yatra route to identify and neutralise any potential terror threats, they said. (PTI)

Pawan Kalyan named Deputy CM; allotted Rural Development portfolio



AMARAVATI (ANDHRA PRADESH), June 14: The Andhra Pradesh government on Friday designated Janasena chief Pawan Kalyan as Deputy Chief Minister.

The actor-turned-politician has been allotted Panchayat Raj and Rural Development, Environment, Forests, and Science and Technology portfolios. Rural Water Supply department would also be handled by Kalyan.

"Congratulations to Pawan Kalyan on becoming the Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. I congratulate all my colleagues in the cabinet on being assigned their portfolios," said Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu in a post on X.

Noting that the new ministers have taken a solemn oath to serve the people of Andhra Pradesh and usher in an era of people's governance, Naidu exuded confidence that all the ministers will strive to deliver and meet people's expectations.

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's son Nara Lokesh was given Human Resources Development, Information Technology and Communication portfolios.

During the erstwhile TDP government between 2014 and 2019, Lokesh had worked as the IT Minister.

Along with Naidu, as many as 24 ministers were sworn in on Wednesday.

Anitha Vangalapati was given Home Affairs and Disaster Management portfolios while K Atchannaaidu, Andhra Pradesh TDP president, has been allotted Agriculture, Co-operation, Marketing, Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development & Fisheries departments.

P Narayana was allotted one of the key departments—Municipal Administration—which would be responsible for the development of the Amaravati capital region.

K Ravinda was named Minister for Mines & Geology and Excise.

Janasena leader N Manohar has been entrusted with the Food and Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs portfolios.

BJP's Satya Kumar Yadav has been Minister for Health and Family Welfare & Medical Education.

Nasyam Mohammed Farook is Minister for Law & Justice and Minority Welfare while P Keshav is Fi-

nance, Planning and Commercial Taxes & Legislative Minister.

A Satya Prasad was given the portfolios of Revenue and Registration & Stamps.

K Parthasarathy would be the Minister for Housing and Information & Public Relations.

D Bala Veeranjanya Swamy has been allocated Social Welfare, Disabled and Senior Citizen Welfare and Sachivalayam & Village Volunteer Minister.

Gottipati Ravi Kumar is the Energy Minister.

Janasena's K Durgesh will be Tourism and Culture & Cinematography Minister.

G Sandhya Rani has been entrusted with Women & Child Welfare and Tribal Welfare portfolios while BC Janardhan Reddy will be Minister in charge of Roads & Buildings and Infrastructure & Investments.

TG Bharat is the Industries & Commerce and Food Processing Minister.

S Savitha has been named Minister for BC Welfare, Economically Weaker Sections Welfare and Handlooms & Textiles while V Subash has been allocated the Labour, Factories, Boilers & Insurance Medical Services portfolios.

K Srinivas is the Minister for MSMEs, Society for the Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) and NRI Empowerment & Relations and M Ramprasad Reddy will handle the Transport and Youth & Sports portfolios. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu will hold the portfolios of General Administration Department (GAD), Public Enterprises and all other portfolios not allocated to any minister.

"My best wishes to you (ministers) all as you embark on this journey of service and devotion," Naidu added.

Along with Naidu, the Cabinet is 25-member strong and includes those from the Janasena and BJP. It is an amalgamation of 17 freshers and eight experienced ministers. Eight ministers come from BC communities, one Muslim, two SCs and an ST, among others.

Besides Naidu, 20 ministers belong to TDP, three are from Janasena and one from BJP.

The age bracket of the new ministers ranged between 41 and 74. (PTI)

It will be 'good' if Yediyurappa appears before CID in POCSO case soon, says Home Minister

BENGALURU, June 14: Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara on Friday said that with a non-bailable arrest warrant against him in a POCSO case, it will be "good" if former Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa comes back to Bengaluru soon and appears before the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), which is probing it.

According to reports, the veteran BJP leader has gone to an "undisclosed" location in New Delhi.

"Warrant has been issued, he will be brought and information will be gathered from him, and further action will be taken in accordance with law," Parameshwara told reporters. On Yediyurappa's whereabouts, Parameshwara said he is said to have gone to Delhi and has informed that he will be back on June 17. "Now that a warrant has been issued, it is good if he comes back soon," he said.

A Bengaluru court on Thursday issued a non-bailable arrest warrant against Yediyurappa in the case registered against him under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act on March 14 this year.

The Special Investigation Team of the CID had moved the First Fast Track Court seeking an arrest warrant against him since he failed to appear for questioning on Wednesday. Yediyurappa had sought time to

join the probe.

When asked about BJP alleging "vendetta politics" on the part of the ruling Congress, Parameshwara said: "They have to say such things, what else can they say?"

Answering a question as to why the police was "silent" for three months and all of a sudden is now acting on the case after the Lok Sabha election polls are over, the Minister said: "Investigation was on, FSL reports had to come. Procedurally what has to be done is being done, because he (Yediyurappa) is a senior leader, a VIP. So after proper verification they (police) are going ahead because if anything is wrong it will come on them." Asked about "reports" that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had allegedly instructed for Yediyurappa's arrest, during his recent visit to Bengaluru, Parameshwara outrightly rejected them and said: "No, why will he (Rahul) involve himself in this? There is no use in simply cooking up a story. It is a local issue...there is no pressure from anyone."

Meanwhile, hitting out at the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government, the Karnataka BJP said following the "humiliating defeat" in the Lok Sabha elections, Congress leaders have become busy plotting various conspiracies against the BJP.

"Congress, resentful towards the BJP, is now attempting to arrest our respected leader, Yediyurappa ji, based on a complaint from a mentally unstable woman. This comes after Rahul Gandhi faced court proceedings for spreading misinformation against Karnataka BJP," it said in a post on 'X'.

BJP alleged that in light of the corruption charges involving Minister B Nagendra (who subsequently resigned) in the Maharashtra Valmiki Development Corporation and the subsequent allegations against the government itself, the Congress has devised a conspiracy to divert attention by maligning Yediyurappa.

"Previously, the Home Minister Parameshwara himself had stated that the complaint from the mentally unstable woman was malicious and without merit. It is absurd that the case is being revived after three months," it said.

"Why is the government focusing on Yediyurappa ji's only, among 53 complaints filed by the woman, including against her own children and husband? Why plot a sudden arrest three months after the complaint was filed? If Congress leaders in Delhi succumb to such vile, vindictive politics and target Shri Yediyurappa ji, there is no doubt that Congress will be thrown out of Karnataka," BJP added. (PTI)

Plans afoot to place Kovind panel's report on simultaneous polls

NEW DELHI, June 14: The Union Law Ministry plans to place before the Cabinet the report of the high-level committee on "one nation, one election" "at the earliest" as part of the 100-day agenda of the Legislative Department, sources said on Friday.

Ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had directed all union ministries and departments to draw up a 100-day agenda for the next government.

The high-level committee on "one nation, one election", headed by former president Ram Nath Kovind, submitted its report to President Droupadi Murmu on March 15, recommending simultaneous elections for Lok Sabha and state assemblies as the first step followed by synchronised local body polls within 100 days. The panel had also proposed setting up an "Implementation Group" to look into the execution of the recommendations made by the committee. Simultaneous polls will help save resources, spur development and social cohesion, deepen "foundations of the democratic rubric" and help realise the aspirations of "India, that is Bharat", the panel had said. It has also recommended the preparation of a common electoral roll and voter ID cards by the Election Commission of India in consultation with state election authorities.

At present, the Election Commission of India is responsible for Lok Sabha and assembly polls, while polls for municipalities and panchayats are managed by state election commissions. (PTI)

50 pc of Delhi street vendors report significant income loss due to extreme heat: Study

Data from over 700 respondents highlight the devastating impact on their health, productivity, and livelihoods

NEW DELHI, June 14: Over 80 per cent of the street vendors surveyed in Delhi reported a decline in customers during heatwave days in April and May, and around 50 per cent experienced significant income loss, according to a new report by the think tank Greenpeace India and the National Hawker Federation.

The study, involving 721 street vendors, was conducted in April and May in various locations including Meena Bazaar, Old Delhi Railway Station area, Red Fort area, Nehru Place, Guru Tegh Bahadur Nagar, Karol Bagh, India Gate, Janpath, Chandni Chowk, Sadar Bazar Road, Saket, Sarojini Market, among others.

"Data from over 700 respondents highlight the devastating impact on their health, productivity, and livelihoods. We demand immediate government intervention, including the establishment of heat shelters in markets with essential facilities, safety kits, and institutional support for the most vulnerable," said Sandeep Verma, Convener of the National Hawker Federation Delhi.

"80.08 per cent of street vendors observed a decline in customer numbers during heatwaves. 49.27 per cent of them have been experiencing a loss of income due to extreme climatic conditions," the report said.

A large number of respondents experienced health issues due to the hot weather. Irritability was the most common issue, affecting 73.44 per cent of respondents, followed by headaches (66.93 per cent), dehydration (67.46 per cent), sunburn (66.53 per cent), fatigue (60.82 per cent), and muscle cramps (57.37 per cent).

Seven out of eight women street vendors reported experiencing high blood pressure, while women in the middle age group raised concerns about delays in their menstrual cy-



cles due to the extreme heat.

All the women who participated in the study reported that sleeplessness during the night has become quite common due to increased heat, and this results in exhaustion throughout the day.

Guddi, one of the women street vendors who operate a cane crusher, said, "After being exposed to the heat of the sun all day, I don't feel like eating dinner at night. All I can think about is stretching my legs and going to sleep."

Seema Bhaskaran, Gender Lead at Transform Rural India, said excessive heat leads to exhaustion, dehydration, and urinary infections among women workers.

"Women working as street vendors, tea estate workers, and 'safai sathis' in low-paid precarious occupations are on the streets exposed to extreme heat. Their productivity is

impacted, and they are exposed to illnesses. For women, sustenance tasks like fetching water, fuel wood, and fodder take longer and impact their health. Pregnant women can face issues of stillbirth and miscarriages," she said. The participants also flagged the issue of children in their families exhibiting symptoms like vomiting, diarrhoea, and nosebleeds, further complicating the vendors' challenges.

Over 82 per cent of street vendors said they have not received any guidance on how to handle heatwaves.

The study found that a majority (71.05 per cent) of street vendors struggled to get medical care due to financial constraints.

Around 20 per cent said they could not afford healthcare at all. Only 27 per cent could afford healthcare without compromising other household necessities. (PTI)

India experienced multiple intense and prolonged heatwaves in April and May which tested the limits of human endurance and the country's disaster preparedness, with many states, including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Odisha, reporting heatwave-related deaths.

According to the India Meteorological Department, 14 of the 36 sub-divisions in the country have recorded over 15 heatwave days (when the maximum temperature is at least 40 degrees Celsius and 4.5 degrees above normal) from March 1 to June 9.

Experts attribute the extreme heat to the naturally occurring El Nino phenomenon -- an unusual warming of the ocean surface in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean -- and the rapidly increasing concentration of heat-trapping greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

Studies show that rapid urbanisation has exacerbated warming in urban areas, with outdoor workers and low-income households bearing the brunt of the impact.

Low-income households have limited capacity to adapt to extreme heat because of poor access to water and electricity. The design and construction of informal houses often means there is poor ventilation and little shelter from extreme heat.

The heatwave in May saw several places across the country, including the hills of Assam, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Arunachal Pradesh, recording all-time high temperatures. The mercury breached 50 degrees Celsius in Rajasthan and neared this mark in Delhi and Haryana.

Similar heatwaves, which once occurred every 30 years, have become about 45 times more likely due to climate change, according to 'World Weather Attribution', a group of leading climate scientists. (PTI)

Tragedy beyond words, hope it never happens again, says Kerala Gov

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, June 14: Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan on Friday said the Kuwait fire incident was a tragedy beyond words and hoped that something like it never happens again in future.

Khan, speaking to reporters, also said that there was a need to do some long-term thinking regarding why people are forced to go abroad for employment leaving their home and health behind.

"They have no option but to go abroad seeking jobs, because locally there are no opportunities available. So, we need to do some long-term thinking," he said.

Khan also said that now was not the time to do long-term thinking.

"This is the time when we have to sympathise with the bereaved families and honestly, I am at a loss for words. This is such a serious and heart-rending tragedy, that one does not know what to say," Khan said.

An Indian Air Force (IAF) flight carrying the mortal remains of the 45 Indians who died in the fire landed at the Cochin international airport around 10.30 am.

Of them, remains of 31 -- 23 from Kerala, 7 from Tamil Nadu and one from Karnataka -- were received at the airport by Central and state ministers and political leaders.

Officials on Thursday had said that 49 people were killed in the fire in the Al-Mangaf building on June 12 and 45 of them were Indians. The remaining were Pakistani, Filipino, Egyptian and Nepali nationals.

The building in southern Kuwait's Mangaf area housed around 195 migrant workers. (PTI)

SC issues notices on NTA's plea for transfer of cases on NEET-UG exam row from high courts to it

'In recent years, institutions such as India International Arbitration Centre and Mumbai and Delhi International Arbitration Centres have been set up and are seeing a steady flow of arbitration matters'

NEW DELHI, June 14: The Supreme Court on Friday sought responses of those who had moved various high courts for re-test of NEET-UG 2024 alleging question paper leaks and other irregularities on a plea of the National Testing Agency for transfer of such cases to the top court to avoid multiplicity of litigation.

Several high courts are seized of many petitions seeking reliefs like re-test, quashing of award of grace marks and independent probe into the alleged malpractices in the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test-Under Graduate, 2024 (NEET-UG) exam which was held on May 5.

A vacation bench of justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta took note of the submission of the National Testing Agency's (NTA) counsel Vardhaman Kaushik that the pending pleas are needed to be transferred to the apex court.

"Issue notice," the bench said, adding it will be taken up for hearing on July 8 along with other related petitions on the NEET-UG row.

Kaushik, however, said the NTA wanted to withdraw three other petitions, which were seeking transfer of cases from high courts to the top



court, as they pertained to grant of grace marks to 1,563 candidates on account of loss of time during the examination on May 5.

He said the NTA will be informing the high courts that the issue over grace marks has been settled and that the decision to cancel the compensatory marks given to 1,536 candidates has been taken.

The bench permitted the NTA to withdraw the transfer petitions pertaining to row over grant of grace marks to 1,563 candidates.

On June 12, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta had told the Delhi High Court that the NTA will be soon approaching the Supreme Court for transfer of petitions filed by NEET-UG candidates before sev-

eral high courts over alleged paper leak and anomalies in evaluating answers to certain questions.

"We are filing transfer petitions in the Supreme Court because there is a likelihood of conflicting views by different high courts. Could your lordship consider waiting for a week or two? We will file a transfer petition," Mehta had told the high court.

On June 14, the Centre and the NTA told the Supreme Court they have cancelled the grace marks given to 1,563 candidates who took the examination for admission to MBBS and other such courses.

They will have the option to either take a re-test or forgo the compensatory marks awarded to them for loss of time, the centre had said.

The examination was held on May 5 across 4,750 centres and around 24 lakh candidates took it. The results were expected to be declared on June 14 but were announced on June 4, apparently because the evaluation of the answer sheets got completed earlier.

There have been allegations of question paper leaks in states like Bihar and other irregularities in the prestigious exam.

The allegations have led to protests in several cities and filing of cases in seven high courts as also the Supreme Court. Scores of students protested in Delhi on June 10 seeking a probe into alleged irregularities.

As many as 67 students scored a perfect 720, unprecedented in the NTA's history, with six from a centre in Haryana's Faridabad figuring in the list, raising suspicions about irregularities. It has been alleged that grace marks contributed to 67 students sharing the top rank.

The NEET-UG examination is conducted by the NTA for admissions to MBBS, BDS, AYUSH and other related courses in government and private institutions across the country. (PTI)

Bonn climate talks: Countries leave much to do at COP29

NEW DELHI, June 14: Countries made little progress in finding common ground on the crucial issue of climate finance at the mid-year UN climate talks in Bonn, Germany, even as floods, extreme rains, and brutal heatwaves upended lives and livelihoods in several nations.

Negotiators will now have to work exceptionally hard to achieve success at the UN climate conference (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan, where the world will reach the deadline to agree on the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG). The NCQG is the new amount that developed nations must mobilize annually starting in 2025 to support climate action in developing countries.

Some wealthy nations argue that countries with high emissions and higher economic capacities, such as China and petro-states that classify themselves as developing countries under the Paris Agreement, should also contribute to climate finance.

Developing countries, however, cite Article 9 of the Paris Agreement, which states that climate finance should flow from developed to developing nations.

Developed countries want the funds to prioritize nations most vulnerable to climate impacts, such as the least developed countries and small island developing states. Developing countries assert that they all deserve support. Developing nations also demand clarity on what constitutes climate finance, insisting that development finance should not be counted as climate finance and that funds should not be provided as loans, as has happened in the past. Climate policy experts at the think tank E3G said the Bonn talks have left a steep path ahead, and an escalation in political dialogue will be crucial for achieving a breakthrough in negotiations.

The independent think tank Centre for Science and Environment said differences between developed and developing countries on the NCQG have deepened instead of converging, signaling a long and arduous path to an agreement at Baku.

Developing countries made clear demands for grant-

based and concessional financing for climate action and highlighted that the financial system creates a 'disabling' environment for finance to flow to them.

The G77 and China bloc remained united in its demands and upped the ante in its statement at the closing plenary, saying they "cannot go beyond COP29 without defining the NCQG" and that there is a need to "move from conceptual to concrete discussions".

However, developed countries chose to focus on distractions such as the expansion of the contributor base for the NCQG. "Several developed countries continued to call for the provision of climate finance to be extended beyond just developed countries to include certain developing countries as well, arguing that this would have the new climate finance goal reflect 'new economic realities'," said Sehr Raheja, programme officer for climate change at CSE, who attended the Bonn talks.

Regarding the "quantum" of the NCQG, the Like-Minded Developing Countries, Arab Group, and African Group have suggested amounts ranging from USD 1.1 to 1.3 trillion per year. However, developed countries did not engage meaningfully on the issue of quantum, nor did they propose their own amounts.

Tasneem Essop, Executive Director of Climate Action Network International, said the outcome of the Bonn climate talks reflects a decades-old fight to get rich nations to meet their obligations and support developing countries in taking action to address the climate crisis.

"Until that deadlock is broken, all other issues (such as mitigation and adaptation) will be held hostage," she said. Developing countries have put proposals for the new climate finance goal on the table, but developed countries have refused to engage on how much public money they are willing to provide. This is despite climate finance being key to staving off climate catastrophe and a legal obligation under the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, said Mariana Paoli, Global Advocacy Lead at NGO Christian Aid. (PTI)

Major land scam unearthed in Jammu; 5 FIRs registered

JAMMU, June 14: The Anti-Corruption Bureau on Friday claimed to have unearthed a major scam involving more than 28 acres of land usurped by the land mafia here in connivance with officials, a senior police officer said. Five FIRs have been registered against the accused, including government officials, and raids are underway at the premises of 16 people involved in the scam. Deputy Inspector General of ACB, Jammu, Vikas Gupta told reporters here.

Gupta, who was flanked by senior officers including Senior Superintendent of Police, ACB (central) Surinder Kumar Sharma, said a number of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) refugees, who were allotted some of the land in 1955-56 for their settlement, were deputed by the conspirators.

Sharma, who is leading the investigation in the case, said 225 kanals of custodian land in Asarwan, Mishriwala and Bhalwal area of Jammu district has been found usurped by the land mafia in connivance with the officials of the Custodian, Revenue and Police departments.

He said eight to 10 serving and retired revenue officials, including tehsildars, naib-tehsildars and Patwaris, have been named so far in the FIRs.

Inputs were received that custodian land in thousands of kanals had been grabbed by the land mafia and gangsters after tampering with the revenue records and the land was sold to various people, he said. Sharma said a formal verification was conducted and it was found that in furtherance of the criminal conspiracy, FORM 3-A (Form AIF) along with power of attorneys (POAs) were obtained from various PoK refugees, alluring them of additional lands and providing them instant money ranging from ₹ 5,000 to ₹ 50,000 by the conduits of land grabbers. Thereafter, insertions or additions regarding additional chunks of custodian lands were made in the revenue records by the officials of the revenue and custodian department.

They did this by abusing their official positions and these lands were sold by the conduits and attorney holders to various people, including their own gang leaders and members, by resorting to fraudulent means, thereby causing a huge loss to the government, he said.

Owing to the establishment of, prima facie, nexus of the criminal elements, land grabbers and the Revenue/Custodian officers/officials in alienation of Custodian land through fraudulent means, ACB has registered five formal case FIRs for investigation under the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act, criminal conspiracy, cheating, forgery and fraud, the SSP said. During the course of the investigation, after obtaining the search warrants from the Special Judge Anti-Corruption Jammu, search teams comprising ACB officers, independent witnesses, and magistrates were dispatched to 16 locations throughout Jammu and its adjoining areas, Sharma said, adding the searches were still going on when last reports were received. (PTI)

Two more arrested in Renukaswamy murder case; under no pressure to favour Darshan, says Govt

BENGALURU, June 14: Two more persons were arrested on Friday in connection with the Renukaswamy murder case, in which Kannada actor Darshan Thoogudeepa is an accused along with his friend Pavithra Gowda, police sources said.

Jagadish and Anukumar were taken into custody from the district headquarters town of Chitradurga by a team led by Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Dinakar. They are reportedly involved in kidnapping Renukaswamy from Chitradurga, the sources said. Darshan, popularly known as "Challenging Star", and 12 of his close associates were arrested on Tuesday for the murder of the 33-year-old Renukaswamy, a fan of the actor.

Renukaswamy, a resident of Chitradurga, allegedly commented on the social media account of Gowda, a small-time actress, accusing her of creating a rift between the actor and his wife. He also allegedly used "indecent language" and posted offensive messages, according to police sources.

Police on Thursday arrested three people, including a close aide of Darshan, in connection with the case. They had also recovered CCTV footage purportedly showing the suspected abduction of the victim in a car.

According to sources, one of the accused, Raghavendra, who is part of Darshan's fan club in Chitradurga, had brought Renukaswamy to a shed in R R Nagar here, on the pretext that Darshan wanted to meet him. It was in this shed that he was allegedly tortured and killed. The body was found near a storm-water drain next to an apartment in Sumanahalli on June 9.

The investigation team is believed to have gathered enough evidence including CCTV footage, which could establish that Darshan was present during the alleged assault on Renukaswamy, leading to his death, sources said, adding that the victim had suffered multiple injuries on his body. (PTI)

Pune car crash: Teen driver's aunt files plea in HC, says his detention illegal, seeks release

MUMBAI, June 14: A paternal aunt of the teenager allegedly involved in the Pune Porsche car crash that killed two IT professionals last month has moved the Bombay High Court claiming the boy was in "illegal" detention and sought his immediate release. The woman, in her habeas corpus (produce the person) plea, has sought immediate release of the 17-year-old boy, who is currently lodged at an observation home in Pune.

The petition said no matter what perception this unfortunate incident is looked at, it was an accident and the person who was said to be driving the vehicle was a minor. The petition, filed on June 10, came up for hearing before a division bench of Justices Bharati Dangre and Manjusha Deshpande on Friday.

A habeas corpus petition is filed to ensure a person under arrest is brought before a court which determines whether the detention is legal.

Public Prosecutor Hiten Venegaonkar, representing the Pune police, challenged the maintainability of the petition and argued the boy was in legal custody in the observation home.



Senior advocate Aabad Ponda, representing the petitioner, sought the urgent release of the boy.

After the arguments, the bench posted the hearing on the plea for June 20.

In the early hours of May 19, the juvenile was allegedly driving a Porsche car at a very high speed in an intoxicated state when it crashed into a motorbike, killing two software engineers -- Aneesh Awadhya and Ashwini Koshta -- in Pune's Kalyani Nagar area.

The boy's aunt, in the plea, claimed because of public uproar coupled with political agenda, the police deviated from the right course of investigation in the case,

thus defeating the entire purpose of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act.

"The intent of the law is abundantly clear and there cannot be any iota of doubt that the most important factor and the crucial element is the well-being of a minor child who is in conflict with law," the petition said.

The woman claimed the boy and his family were portrayed as "monstrous".

"In the present case, the boy, who was also subjected to physical assault (after the crash), was shown to be a monster and removed from his home where he could feel protected and is kept in illegal detention," the petition said.

The teenager must have been kept with other children in conflict with law at the observation home which could be detrimental to him. Instead of an observation facility, he ought to be kept in the custody of a family member (the boy's parents are in jail in separate cases related to the crash) who could take care of him, according to the plea.

The petition said the police were trying to make an example out of this case and

in the process acting in contravention of provisions of law.

On May 19 itself the boy (hours after the crash) was released in the custody of his grandfather with certain conditions. However, pursuant to a motivated public uproar, the release order passed by the Juvenile Justice Board was challenged by the police and on May 22, the boy was taken back into custody and sent to an observation home, it said.

Pursuant to this, the boy's parents and grandfather were arrested (on different charges related to the accident) and are currently in judicial custody. The boy continues to be illegally detained in violation of provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, the petitioner claimed.

"The petitioner is compelled to file the petition against the respondents (police) for their abuse of process and blatant disregard to the rule of law, further compounded by the arbitrary and illegal detention of the boy," the plea said.

Earlier this week, the Juvenile Justice Board extended the teenager's custody at the observation facility till June 25. (PTI)

Residents oppose allotment of flat to Muslim woman under govt scheme

VADODARA, June 14: Several residents of a housing complex built by the Vadodara Municipal Corporation (VMC) under a Gujarat government scheme have been staging protests against the allotment of a flat to a Muslim woman, saying the locality is meant only for Hindus. Demanding cancellation of the flat allotment, the residents warned of intensifying their agitation and taking up the matter to the state government and the Centre. The woman beneficiary said although she was allotted the house six years back, she could not move into it due to the opposition by other residents.

While the residents claim that houses can not be allotted to members of the minority communities because Harni area, where the complex is located, is a locality of Hindu inhabitants and falls under the Disturbed Areas Act that bans the sale of property by members of one religious community to those from another community without the prior approval of the district collector in the declared as "disturbed areas".

Municipal Commissioner of Vadodara, Dilip Rana, said he has received a representation from the residents of Motnath Residency in Harni area and an appropriate decision will be taken after studying all the relevant documents.

"I have just received a representation from the resi-

dents. I will check all the documents and then make an appropriate decision. We have a provision, under which Hindus and Muslims are given flats in their respective areas. This applies only to those housing projects which are situated in disturbed areas. We have to check if this society falls in that category," he said.

Motnath Residency, which has nearly 460 flats, is the VMC's housing project for the low income group families under the state government's Mukhyamantri Awas Yojana.

Residents have been staging protests and writing letters to different authorities after a Muslim woman, who currently lives in another area, was allotted a house in 2018. "Though I was allotted the house way back in 2018, I could not move in because of the opposition by other residents. Even today, there is no solution in sight. I currently live at another place with my son," said the woman. Demanding cancellation of allotment of the flat to her, over 50 residents of Motnath Residency staged a protest near the society's main gate on Friday too.

"Despite the fact that the entire area falls under the Disturbed Areas Act, one flat in this society, having 12 towers, has been allocated to a Muslim woman. We don't know how this allotment was made. We all purchased flats in this society thinking that we will be able

to live peacefully because of the enforcement of that law," said Jitendra Parmar, one of the agitating residents. "We are not against anyone. We just want her to be allotted a house in her area so that everyone can live peacefully. Despite our protest, her flat was not transferred to another scheme by the VMC. If the allotment is not cancelled, we will intensify our stir and stage protest in Gandhinagar and Delhi," said Parmar. Another agitating resident said they are determined to stage protests in Gandhinagar and Delhi if the issue is not resolved.

"This is a Hindu area and there is a provision which says that minorities should not be allotted flats in Hindu areas. However, since a flat has been allotted to a person from a minority community, other residents have been protesting for the last several years and gave a memorandum to the authorities in the past too. However, the VMC is not cancelling the allotment," said the resident who does not wish to be identified.

"VMC had earlier announced that minorities will be allotted houses in their areas like Tandajla and Akota. If our demand is not met, we will stage protests outside offices and residences of corporators, MLAs and MPs. We will gherao chief minister Bhupendra Patel in Gandhinagar if the issue is not resolved," he said. (PTI)

WHO collaborates with Hyderabad-based NIIMH for traditional medicine research

NEW DELHI, June 14: The World Health Organization (WHO) has designated the National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage as WHO-Collaborating Centre (CC) for "Fundamental and Literary Research in Traditional Medicine".

The National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage (NIIMH), Hyderabad, is a unit under the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), ministry of Ayush.

This prestigious recognition is granted for a period of four years, starting from June 3, an Ayush ministry statement said.

Established in 1956, NIIMH is a unique institution dedicated to documenting and showcasing medico-historical research in Ayurveda, Yoga Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa, Homoeopathy, Biomedicine and other related healthcare disciplines in India.



Under the diligent leadership of Vaidya Rabinarayan Acharya, Director General of CCRAS, NIIMH and Head of the WHO-CC has achieved this remarkable milestone through constant perusal and dedication, the statement said.

Professor Acharya remarked, "This designation by WHO is a significant milestone, reflecting our relentless efforts in the field of traditional medicine and historical research."

The institute has been a pioneer in various digital initiatives of Ayush, including the AYUSH Manuscripts Advanced Repository (AMAR) portal, which catalogues 16,000 Ayush manuscripts, featuring 4,249 digitised manuscripts, 1,224 rare books, 14,126 catalogues, and 4,114 periodicals.

The Showcase of Ayurvedic Historical Imprints (SAHI) portal showcases 793 medico-historical artefact, while the e-Books of Ayush project provides digital versions of classical textbooks.

The National Ayush Morbidity and Standardized Terminologies Electronic (NAMASTE) portal collects cumulative morbidity statistics from 168 hospitals, and the Ayush Research Portal indexes 42,818 published Ayush research articles, the statement said.

The NIIMH houses more than 500 physical manuscripts, alongside the Medical Heritage Museum and Library, featuring rare books and manuscripts dating back to the 15th century AD, the statement said.

The institute also publishes the Journal of Indian Medical Heritage.

The detailed information about the institute can be found at the NIIMH official website.

In India, there are approximately 58 WHO-CCs spanning various disciplines of biomedicine and allied sciences. Notably, CCRAS-NIIMH joins the ranks as the third WHO-CC in the domain of traditional medicine, following the Institute for Teaching and Research in Ayurveda, Jamnagar, and the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY), New Delhi.

As the first WHO-CC for "Fundamental and Literary Research in Traditional Medicine," NIIMH is tasked with assisting WHO in standardising terminologies for Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Sowa-Rigpa, and updating the Traditional Medicine Module-II for the 11th edition of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11).

Additionally, the WHO-CC will support the member states to develop research methodologies for traditional medicine, the statement said. (PTI)

PAINTING OF BRIDGES GIRDERS OF BOGIBEEL BRIDGES

Tender Notice No. DCBL/05/2024/MLG. Date: 11-06-2024. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work: **Tender No.: DCBL072024MLG. Name of Work:** Painting of bridges girders of Br. No. 44 (Bogibee) at Km 23/3-28/8 between station Dhamalgaon-Tangani having approximate surface area 248489 sqm. **Approximate Tender Value:** ₹ 10,88,182/-; **Bid Security:** ₹ 4,05,500/-; **Date & time of closing of tender at 15:00 hrs. and opening at 15:05 hrs. on 02-07-2024.** For complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> Dy. CE/Bridge-Line, Maligaon **NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY** Serving Customers With A Smile

AFFIDAVIT

Ajay Kumar Gupta, S/o Jai Prakash Gupta resident of J.K Kedia Road, Ward No. 18, Hojai Town, P.O. & P.S. Hojai, Dist. Hojai, Assam do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that my father's actual and correct name is Jai Prakash Gupta but in Passport bearing No. F9678430, his name has been inadvertently recorded as Jay Prakash Gupta instead of Jai Prakash Gupta. I hereby declare that Jay Prakash Gupta and Jai Prakash Gupta are names of one and same person, i.e my father vide an affidavit signed before the Notary Hojai District at Hojai on 31/05/2024.

Big responsibility for me: Sharvari Wagh on working with Alia Bhatt on YRF-led spy film



MUMBAI, June 14: Actor Sharvari Wagh is ecstatic to feature alongside Alia Bhatt in Yash Raj Films' (YRF) female spy universe movie, calling it a "big responsibility".

In March this year, YRF CEO Akshay Widhani had officially announced their maiden female-led spy film. The YRF spy universe began in 2012 with Salman Khan and Katrina Kaif-starrer "Ek Tha Tiger", followed by blockbusters like "Tiger Zinda Hai", "War", "Pathaan", "Tiger 3", and "Fighter".

The yet-to-be-titled film will see Bhatt and Wagh play super-agents in the action entertainer. The movie will go on floors this year. (PTI)

'ORIGINAL EVENT FILM'

Emily Blunt in talks for Steven Spielberg's next movie

LOS ANGELES, June 14: Hollywood star Emily Blunt in veteran filmmaker Steven Spielberg's next feature directorial project.

Hollywood studio Universal and Spielberg's Amblin Entertainment will be releasing the movie worldwide on May 15, 2026, according to entertainment news outlet Deadline.

Though the details of the plot have been kept under wraps, the untitled movie has been billed as an "original event film".

Based on a story by Spielberg, the screenplay is written by longtime collaborator David Koepp, who previously collaborated with the director for Jurassic Park and Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull.

Spielberg last directed the semi-autobiographical The Fabelmans, which was released in 2022.

Blunt, 41, was most recently seen in The Fall Guy, co-starring Ryan Gosling. Her film credits also include critically-acclaimed and blockbusters like Edge of Tomorrow, A Quiet Place and Christopher Nolan's multiple Oscar-winning movie Oppenheimer.

Her upcoming movie is The Smashing Machine, opposite Dwayne Johnson. (PTI)



Emma Roberts' 'Space Cadet' to stream on Prime Video from July 4



LOS ANGELES, June 14: Streaming giant Prime Video has unveiled that the Emma Roberts-fronted comedy 'Space Cadet' will debut on its platform on July 4. Written and directed by Liz W Garcia, the film explores themes of self-belief, ambition, and the pursuit of dreams.

Emma Roberts stars as Tiffany 'Rex' Simpson, a young woman with aspirations of space travel. Despite her life not going as planned, Rex remains undeterred. With the encouragement of her best friend Nadine, she embellishes her application

and secures a spot in NASA's fiercely competitive astronaut training program. Relying on her sharp intellect and sheer determination, Rex strives to excel and achieve her cosmic ambitions. According to the official logline, NASA program directors Pam and Logan take note of her potential, but Rex must prove her mettle to make it through the rigorous training without exposing her true background. 'Space Cadet' features a stellar ensemble cast including Tom Hopper, Poppy Liu, Gabrielle Union, and more. (PTI)

ACTION FOR THE SAKE OF ACTION IS LIKE AN ITEM NUMBER: KABIR KHAN



NEW DELHI, June 14: When action is detached from sentiments, it only serves as a promotional tool in the movie, much like an item number, says filmmaker Kabir Khan, who has pulled off a pivotal eight-minute-long continuous war sequence in his latest "Chandu Champion".

The much-talked about shot highlights the "emotional drama" of the story instead of showing action for the sake of it, said Khan, adding that they shot it at 9,000 feet above sea level in Kashmir's Aru Valley.

After four days of rehearsal, the section was filmed in one day which featured fighter jets, bomb blasts, and intense combat scenes.

"I have always believed and have done that even in my earlier action films that action for the sake of action never really works, then it's an item number. Action works when the emotional drama and arc of the story moves forward with the action. The start of the action and the end of the action has to move and that in this film is huge. It's one of the most pivotal points in the plot," the filmmaker told PTI in an interview here.

Inspired by the life of India's first Paralympic gold medalist Murlikant Petkar, "Chandu Champion" stars Kartik Aaryan in the title role as a man across ages and phases, including being an Indian Army soldier, a wrestler, a boxer, a 1965 war veteran and a swimmer.

Khan, known for directing "Ek Tha Tiger", "Bajrangi Bhaijaan", "83" and "Kabul Express" earlier, said the underlying reason for shooting the eight-minute uncut sequence was to stay close to his protagonist and experience the events unfold through his eyes.

"We are so used to doing things in films that if it's not happening, take two or take three or take four, and we can keep achieving. Here, we had no take two. It was only one take and we had to get it correct because a lot of big structures were going to crumble and fall and you cannot set it up all over again.

"On top of that, we were shooting on location in Kashmir at a very high altitude. Carrying people and equipment up there and training them for several days before attempting the single take was quite a task," the 55-year-old added.

"Chandu Champion" is Khan's first directorial venture since "83", which released during the peak of the third wave of the pandemic on December 24, 2021. Fronted by Ranveer Singh, the film was based on the Indian men's cricket team's first World Cup win.

"Covid changed the planet and our lives. There was a moment in time where we were very unsure about how it was all going to pan out. Strangely, my film was on the cusp of that. Unfortunately, we released on the day the third wave sort of hit us in our face," the filmmaker recalled.

Much like the film industry and exhibition sector, Khan also took time to return to direction. "Exhibition was hit badly, it took them months to come back to normal. They couldn't come back to full capacity for seven-eight months. A lot of projects had stalled, so there was a backlog of actors' dates, projects being greenlit.

"We are facing it even now. If you notice, there are not too many projects that are coming out from the industry. It was a tumultuous time but it was a tumultuous time for the whole planet so I should not be complaining," he added.

The Hyderabad-born filmmaker said he spent all the time during the pandemic-induced lockdowns "diving deep" into some stories, including "Chandu Champion". "Everything has a silver lining and the fact that I got the time to dive deep into a story like 'Chandu Champion', plan it the way we could, prep it the way we could, so that when we finally made it, it looked a certain way...

"You need time to make it look a certain way. Here we are, a long gap but come back with something I'm very proud of and I know will be a strong part of my filmography for years to come," he said. (PTI)

Young people more intelligent, know what stories to tell: AR Rahman on India's show at Cannes

NEW DELHI, June 14: Music composer A R Rahman says talent shouldn't be restricted to a region and young Indian artists like Cannes winner Payal Kapadia, who are in tune with changing times, play a key role in making stories from India go global.

Kapadia, an alumnus of the Film & Television Institute of India (FTII), is the first Indian filmmaker to win the Grand Prix award for "All We Imagine as Light" at the Cannes Film Festival. The Malayalam-Hindi feature, an India-French production, was the first film from an Indian director after 30 years to make it to the main competition section of the European gala.

Rahman, a multiple award-winning musician feted both at home and around the world with double

wins at Oscars and Grammys besides a Golden Globe, said beautiful stories from India deserve international recognition.

"The spirit of the young people has changed now. They are more intelligent. They know where to move stuff, what kind of stories to tell. As long as we tell beautiful stories about India and not just poverty, it's a good thing.

"The art of film is not just for (audience at home), it's international... It's important to learn certain things, not be happy with, 'Oh we got a great audience here, box office is good here.' Some people are not satisfied with that. So they go for (international festivals), Payal Kapadia is one (of them)," the composer told PTI in an interview. Last month, Rahman was also at Cannes to unveil the Naga-

land-set "Headhunting to Beat Boxing", directed by Rohit Gupta, at the festival's market.

"Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Know" by FTII student Chandananda S Naik and Anasuya Sengupta of "The Shameless" fame won major awards at Cannes. Sengupta became the first Indian to win the best actress prize in Un Certain Regard, while Naik's "Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Know..." won the La Cinef first prize (film school fiction or animated films) at the film festival.

Recalling the time when he earned two Academy Awards for the British film "Slumdog Millionaire" in 2009, Rahman said there were people who said he deserved to win an award for "Lagaan" (which made it to the final five in the best foreign film Oscar cate-

gory in 2002) and 1992's "Roja".

"We want our stories to be heard, represented and accredited. There's a system to follow. Even when I won Oscars and everything for 'Slumdog Millionaire', (people said) 'Lagaan' should have won, 'Roja' should have won. I said, 'First of all, I didn't even enter (these awards at the time), I didn't even enter all the stuff in any of the systems'," said the composer, who won the best original song Oscar for "Jai Ho" and another one for the original score of "Slumdog Millionaire".

In February, Zakir Hussain was India's big winner with three Grammys, flautist Rakesh Chaurasia picked up two. Singer Shankar Mahadevan, violinist Ganesh Rajagopalan and percussionist Selvaganesh Vinayakram, Hus-

sain's collaborators in the fusion group Shakti, won one Grammy each. Giving the example of multiple Grammy winners Hussain and Ricky Kej, Rahman said all in all, the Indian field of arts has witnessed a great high in the last decade.

"Half of the people don't even know (how to enter the system). (They say) 'I think this should win the Grammy'... It's not like that. There's a process for everything. So, even in this case, I think they said it was a collaboration... even Payal Kapadia's film," he added.

"Headhunting to Beat Boxing" is a musical documentary that follows the story of a tribe in the North-eastern state "engulfed in the depths of violence and bloodshed, (the tribe) resurrects itself through the healing power of music and

emerges through a musical renaissance". Rahman, who has backed the film via his ARR Immersive Entertainment banner, said he boarded it as a producer five years ago after he fell in love with Nagaland while attending the state's annual Hornbill Festival.

"I am into music and there was a kind of a correlation between me and the culture. We also adopted an orphanage and sent our (music) teachers to Nagaland to teach strings and everything."

Rahman had worked with Gupta on the 2016 miniseries "The Creative Indians" and that's why he reached out to the filmmaker for a potential project on Nagaland.

The musician said Gupta shot the film for five years and then they worked on the edit and now have a cut ready. (PTI)

Run-rate manipulation would've been against Spirit of Cricket: Cummins



GROS ISLET (ST LUCIA), June 14: Insisting that Josh Hazlewood's remarks were not serious, Australia lead pacer Pat Cummins said they would have never tried to manipulate their net run rate to knock England out of the ongoing T20 World Cup, which would have been "against the Spirit of Cricket". Pacer Hazlewood had sparked

a controversy when he said Aussies would try to eliminate England from the tournament if there was such an opportunity for them in their upcoming Group B match against Scotland. "I think when you go out and play you are trying your best every time and if you are not, that's probably against the spirit

of cricket. We haven't really thought too deeply because it's (NRR manipulation) never really popped up," Cummins told reporters here. Cummins said he had a talk with Hazlewood about the latter's comments, and said the thought about NRR never really figured in anybody's thought process.

"I was speaking to Joshy, who had a bit of a joke about it the other day, and think it (his comments) got taken a little bit out of context. We'll go there and just try and play Scotland who have had a really good tournament so far and will be tough. "It's (NRR) something you kind of discuss as one of the quirks of the set-up but in terms

of does it change the way we play, absolutely not," Cummins offered.

"I've never stepped into the field without the mindset of trying to take the game on and be aggressive, like the guys have so far," he added. Cummins himself would know a fair bit about the Spirit of Cricket as he was in the eye of a storm during the last Ashes as Alex Carey's stumping off Jonny Bairstow paved way for heated debates.

However, the scenario of Australia manipulating their NRR does no longer exist after England's thumping eight-wicket over Oman on Friday at Antigua.

The victory has boosted England's NRR to 3.08, well ahead of Scotland's 2.16.

If England manage to go past Namibia on Saturday, and Australia beat Scotland, then the Three Lions can enter the Super Eight.

However, if Scotland (5 points) beat Australia, then England (3 points) will have to pack their bags.

Senior pacer Mitchell Starc will be available for selection after sitting out of the match against Namibia with a sore calf, but Cummins said the management has not taken any call towards the rotation of players.

"I haven't spoken to the selectors, so, I don't know what they're thinking. But I wouldn't be surprised. I know going into the start of the tournament, in a perfect world, we'd get a game into just about all the squad members," he noted. (PTI)

England beat Oman by 8 wickets to boost chances at T20 World Cup

NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA), June 14: Adil Rashid took 4-11 and England boosted its chances of reaching the Super Eight stage of the Twenty20 World Cup by bowling out Oman for 47 on Thursday en route to an eight-wicket win in a pivotal match for the defending champions.

Phil Salt launched the first two balls of the England innings for sixes before being bowled third ball in a dramatic start as his team chased the fastest-possible win. It reached 50-2 from a record 3.1 overs — 20 deliveries, including a no-ball — led by captain Jos Buttler's 24 from eight balls.

It was not only the magnitude of the win but the speed with which it was achieved that helped improve England's outlook at the tournament. It moved up to third place in Group B with three points, behind already qualified Australia (six points), and Scotland (five points).

Most importantly, England's net run-rate that was minus 1.800 before the match is now plus 3.08, ahead of Scotland's plus 2.164. Scotland next faces 2021 champions Australia.

England took a point from its first match against Scotland, a washout, and then lost to Australia by 36 runs. That made it imperative that it not only won Thursday's match but won it

emphatically to improve its run-rate and prospects.

Buttler won the toss and chose to bowl against Oman, theorizing that England would be in a better position to manage the run-rate equation if it was chasing.

The plan worked when England bowled out Oman in 13.2 overs on a glassy surface at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium which supported both Rashid's leg spinners and the England fast bowlers Jofra Archer and Mark Wood. "We had a point to prove after the last couple of games," said Wood, who returned 3-12.

England needed quick wickets and Archer delivered, capturing his first wicket on the eighth ball of the match. He had Pratik Athavale caught at cover by Salt from a full, fast delivery.

Archer then dismissed captain Aqib Ilyas in the fourth over when Oman was 16-2.

The England quicks operated well in tandem, with Wood adding the wickets of Zeeshan Maqsood (1), caught and bowled, and Kashyap Prajapati (9) to leave Oman 25-4 at the end of the six-over power play.

Salt clubbed the first two balls of the England innings over the long boundaries for sixes, then was bowled by the third ball from Bilal Khan (1-36). Jacks then defended the fourth ball in a rare moment of calm. (AP)

Aditi makes solid start with 4-under 68 for tied 11th spot

BELMONT (USA), June 14: Aditi Ashok opened her challenge at the Meijer LPGA Classic with one of her best rounds of the season, carding a 4-under 68 for a tied 11th place here.

Aditi's round started on the tenth with birdies on the 11th and the 12th holes.

A bogey on 17th followed by a birdie on the 18th saw her turn in 2-under.

On the second nine, the front side of the Par-72 Blytheheld Country Club, she parred all the way till she picked birdies on the eighth and the ninth, her final two holes.

Two of her five birdies came on Par-5s on a course that has five Par-5s.

Aditi's best round this season before this was also 68 at the Honda LPGA in Thailand in February and she finished tied 31 in the event.

Her best finish this season has been 21st at the HSBC World championships. She has made eight cuts in 11 starts prior to this week.

Californian Alison Lee holds a first-round lead after an opening round 65. She took advantage of the five par-5s with a birdie or better on each.

This has been her best 18-hole score of the season so far. Lee, who was runner-up three times in 2023, is looking for her first win.

There were nine players in tied second and they were all at 5-under 67.

The big names in the bunch were Brooke Henderson, Carlota Ciganda, Lizette Salas and Jennifer Kupcho.

World No. 1 Nelly Korda is tied 133 at 4-over after never quite recovering from going double-bogey, bogey, bogey in her first three holes. (PTI)

Everton captain Seamus Coleman signs a one-year contract extension

LONDON, June 14: Everton captain Seamus Coleman has signed a one-year contract extension to stay at the Merseyside club for what is expected to be the team's final season at Goodison Park.

The 35-year-old Ireland right back has played nearly 15 full seasons for the Toffees, having joined in January 2009 from Sligo Rovers for just 60,000 pounds (\$75,000).

"It's such a big year coming up for the club — the massive history that we all have — and of course our last season at Goodison Park," Coleman said Friday in the Premier League club's announcement.

"It's going to be a special and emotional season, and I'm over the moon that I'm going to be part of that."

The Irishman's contract was set to expire this summer. His 422 appearances for Everton is 13th all time in club history.

Everton avoided relegation last season despite two separate points deductions for breaching Premier League spending rules.

Ownership questions linger, however, after a proposed takeover by American investment firm 777 Partners col-

lapsed this month.

Everton is due to move into its new waterfront stadium in time for the 2025-26 season.

Crystal Palace signed 20-year-old Chadi Riad to a five-year contract on Friday following the Morocco defender's impressive season with Real Betis.

The center-back made 30 appearances last season for the Seville club, on loan from Barcelona.

He is the Premier League club's first summer arrival.

"The club has high-level players who are young and I have come here to follow their same trajectory, to grow as they have grown," Riad, who turns 21 on Monday, said in the team's announcement.

Born in Spain, Riad made his Morocco debut in January and scored his first international goal against Republic of Congo this week.

The signing protects Palace in case center-back Marc Guehi leaves for a bigger club. Guehi is currently in the England squad at the European Championship.

Financial details of the transfer were not disclosed. (AP)

Farooqi seals Af's maiden Super Eight berth with rout of PNG

TAROUBA (TRINIDAD), June 14: The pace combination of Fazalhaq Farooqi and Naveen-ul-Haq led Afghanistan's seven-wicket rout of Papua New Guinea here as the strife-torn country stormed into the T20 World Cup's Super Eight stage for the first time, knocking out group favorites New Zealand in the process.

Gulbadin Naib scored an unbeaten 49 as Afghanistan gunned down the target of 96 in 15.1 overs overcoming early jitters. Put in to bat, PNG were bundled out for 95 with Farooqi and Naveen ripping through the lineup. The Afghans will face title favorites India in their first Super Eight clash on June 20 in Barbados. The result also meant that New Zealand, the 2021 finalists, were knocked out of the ICC showpiece. The Kiwis find themselves at the bottom of the table with two defeats from as many matches. Tournament co-hosted West Indies have already entered the Super Eight from Group C with six points, which is the same as the Afghans.

New Zealand will face Uganda and PNG in their re-



maining two matches, which will now be of mere academic interest. On Thursday, Farooqi took two wickets in two balls in his second over and finished with 3/16 from his four overs after Rashid Khan opted to bowl.

He now has tournament figures of 11.2-0-42-12 to lead the bowling chart.

His pace bowling partner Naveen provided the perfect assistance, returning with a miserly 2.5-0-4-2 as PNG were bowled out in 19.5 overs. Semo Kamea

was run out in the penultimate delivery of their innings.

It would have been much worse for PNG had Afghanistan not leaked 25 runs in extras, and 13 of them wides.

This was yet another superlative display by the Afghanistan bowlers who are yet to concede 100 runs in this tournament — Uganda (58; 16 overs), New Zealand (75; 15.2 overs).

"Feeling great to qualify for the next round. First time for Afghanistan being in Super

Eight in T20Is. The boys have done well, adjusting to the conditions very quickly and that is something very pleasing for me," said skipper Rashid Khan.

Congratulating the team, Farooqi said: "I feel proud. Before the warm-up match, I was in the IPL. I did not get any chances there unfortunately. I played just one warm-up game.

However, Afghanistan stuttered in their small chase as both their in-form openers — Rahmanullah Gurbaz (11) and Ibrahim Zadran (0) — were dismissed by the gritty PNG new-ball bowlers Alei Nao and Kamea inside three overs. But Gulbadin Naib ensured that there was no further disruption as he returned to form and anchored the chase with his 36-ball 49 not out.

Naib took his time before coming on his own, hitting four fours and two sixes. PNG kept chipping away with the wickets as Norman Vanua got rid of Azmutullah Omarzai (13, 18 balls) against the run of play, but Mohammed Nabi stayed calm and provided assistance to Naib who sealed it with a six over Chad Soper's head. (PTI)

SA series will ensure continuity, game-time ahead of T20 WC: Muzumdar



BENGALURU, June 14: Indian women cricket team head coach Amol Muzumdar said an all-format home series against South Africa, beginning with the first ODI here from Sunday, will ensure proper game-time and continuity for his wards

ahead of the T20 World Cup in October.

The women's T20 WC will take place in Bangladesh, and Muzumdar wanted to set the right pathway ahead of the marquee event.

"Yes. That continuity is very

important ahead of the World Cup. In this series, we are playing the ODI first and then the Test and the T20s. We then go into the Asia Cup, which is once again a T20 event," Muzumdar told the media here on Friday.

"By the Asia Cup (scheduled between July 19-28 in Sri Lanka), we should be ready for the T20 World Cup. And then we have a downtime of around seven weeks before we go to Bangladesh. This is a well thought out series and I'm looking forward to it," he added.

Muzumdar said the team has entered the road to the World Cup during the recent away five-match T20I series against Bangladesh, which they won 5-0.

"We had fantastic preparations in the last eight weeks. We went to Bangladesh and won the series 5-0. We practiced on the same ground where we will be playing the World Cup. So, we had good preparation," he said.

While the World Cup remains high on their priority list, Muzumdar said the team's im-

mediate goal was to win the series against South Africa.

"South Africa have always been a competitive side, as this will be a good, hard-fought series. We are looking forward to it," he added.

The Mumbai stalwart said beyond the tangible target of a series win, the team would like to make further progress in their fielding and other fitness parameters.

"First, we need to win the series. But we will also look into certain aspects. When I took over last December, fielding and fitness were the cornerstone and we have been driving that message to the group.

"They have responded nicely to that. The fielding is a work in progress," he noted.

Muzumdar expected the Bengaluru pitch to stay true to its character — a paradise for the batters.

"It looked like a typical Bengaluru pitch. We expect good cricket, and hopefully, a good crowd will turn up. We saw that in the WPL," he said. (PTI)

Expect to see more competitive scores in Super Eight stage: Rabada

KINGSTOWN (ST VINCENT), June 14: South African pacer Kagiso Rabada expects to see "competitive scores" in the Super Eight stage of the T20 World Cup as the West Indian pitches are more consistent in nature compared to the drop-in decks being used in the US leg of the tournament.

The 22-year strip in New York kicked up a storm because of the excess and varied bounce it offered to the bowlers, which made run-making a hazardous job. Now, the Super Eight matches will be played exclusively at Caribbean venues.

"I do expect that conditions are going to level up because you had the drop-in pitches in the USA. You never really know how they're going to play," said Rabada on the eve of South Africa's final Group D match against Nepal here.

"Now, you've actually got squares that have been there for years, here in these venues. And you'll probably see more competitive scores," he added.

Rabada said balanced playing surfaces are important to ensure an equal contest between bat and ball. "You want to get a game and find pitches where you have enough in it for the bowlers and enough in it for the batters.

"That's essentially what a cricket game is. Otherwise, you might as well just call it batting or you might as well call it bowling," he explained.

The 29-year-old cited the example of the match between Australia and England at Barbados on June 8 to underline his point. "You look at the game between Australia and England, where 200 played 150. So, if you bat well in these conditions, you can still reach 200," he said.

Rabada also hoped that the much-vaunted South African batting unit consisting of range-hitters like Heinrich Klaasen and Tristan Stubbs would regain its mojo in the Super Eight after their struggles in the group phase.

"You can't really judge their form on wickets that we've just played on. As much as it's not an excuse, common sense would prevail. But in saying that, no one's got any demons. (PTI)

T20 WC: Kohli's form a bothering point as India face Canada amid rain threat

LAUDERHILL (USA), June 14: Star batter Virat Kohli's string of low scores would be a concern for India when they square off against Canada in their final group match of the T20 World Cup on Saturday, hoping that the sky remains clear in this city even as several parts of Florida are ravaged by torrential rain.

With three consecutive wins, India are through to the Super Eight stage, which will be held entirely in the West Indies.

Kohli came into the T20 World Cup after setting the IPL ablaze, scoring upwards of 700 runs at a strike-rate of over 150 for Royal Challengers Bengaluru.

Therefore, it wasn't an entirely misplaced expectation that he will continue to fire in the ICC showpiece, which is perhaps his final chance to earn India an ICC World Cup after 13 years.

But three matches have gone by, and Kohli has five runs at an average of 1.66, including a 'Golden Duck' against the USA.

His form has provided an interesting subplot to the game against tournament-debutants Canada, which is otherwise inconsequential, at least for India.

Perhaps, an 1850km trip from New York to Florida might bring with it a turnaround in fortunes for

Kohli, who must be hurting after those ordinary outings.

The pitch at the Broward County stadium might not be as spiteful as the one in New York, where the uneven bounce of the tracks and the slow nature of the outfield became bigger talking points than the cricket that was played.

What would ease some pressure on him is the fact that the lean run has not really affected the team's fortunes.

However, the premier batter's low scores, particularly since he is opening alongside skipper Rohit Sharma, has put some pressure on the subsequent batters to take the India board forward.

Creditably, Rishabh Pant and Suryakumar Yadav have more than made up for Kohli.

Pant made 36 and 42 against Ireland and Pakistan, good enough contributions for India to emerge victors.

Suryakumar overcame a diffident start to the tournament just at the right time, making a crucial fifty against the USA.

'Spin Basher' Shivam Dube has been on a tailspin since his arrival in the US, but a laboured 31 off 35 balls against the co-hosts might just have fetched him another game ahead of the waiting Sanju



Samson and Yashasvi Jaiswal.

If India want to bring in Jaiswal, then it has to be as an opener and Kohli will have to return to his No.3 slot.

While India's batting might, just as other teams, has been neutralised by the drop-in pitches in New York, their bowling worked like a well-oiled machine on those

very tracks.

The trio of Jasprit Bumrah (five wickets), Hardik Pandya (seven wickets), Arshdeep Singh (seven wickets) have not given anything

to the rival batters. The performance of Pandya and Arshdeep would be particularly pleasing to the management.

Both of them had a torrid time in the IPL on various counts and were heavily criticised.

But here, they have put all that behind them to lead India's attack along with the ever-reliable Bumrah.

The think-tank will also hope that at some stage Mohammed Siraj (one wicket) and Ravindra Jadeja, who is yet to pick up a wicket, will join their colleagues, even though both of them have not leaked runs.

However, it will not be entirely surprising to see the big wigs bring in some changes in the bowling department. They can think of giving a chance to either Kuldeep Yadav or Yuzvendra Chahal or even both against Canada.

In that case, India might give a break to Jadeja and Axar Patel, another impressive performer with both bat and ball. It can also help the bowling unit prepare ahead of the Super Eights in the Caribbean, where the pitches are expected to be more spin-friendly.

On the other hand, Canada are a bit green behind the ears but not short of determination, as they had manifested during their 12-run win

over Ireland.

Players such as opener Aaron Johnson can spring a surprise on their day.

But stopping this superior quality Indian side on its tracks could be a task beyond the Canadians, who might be banking more on the predicted spell of disruptive rains for cricket in the American market.

Lauderhill is about 50km from Miami, which has been battling flash floods caused by a tropical storm, a worrisome situation for the organisers of the showpiece who are hoping to make space for cricket in the American market.

Squads:

India: Rohit Sharma (c), Hardik Pandya, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant, Sanju Samson, Shivam Dube, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Arshdeep Singh, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammad Siraj.

Canada: Saad Bin Zafar (c), Aaron Johnson, Dillon Heyliger, Dilpreet Bajwa, Rishiv Joshi, Jeremy Gordon, Junaid Siddiqui, Kaleem Sana, Kanwarpal Nathgaur (wk), Navneet Dhaliwal, Nicholas Kirton, Pargat Singh, Ravinderpal Singh, Rayankhan Pathan, Shreyas Movva (wk).

Match starts at 8 PM IST. (PTI)

England eye dominant show to stay in Super 8 contention; ousted Kiwis search elusive win



NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA), June 14: Defending champions England will be eager to brush aside Namibia ruthlessly here on Saturday and stay relevant in the race to the T20 World Cup Super Eight stage.

England were living on the edge after a washout against Scotland and a loss against Australia, but the Jos Buttler-led side turned it around in style with an eight-wicket win over Oman.

After bundling out Oman for 47, England raced past the target in just 3.1 overs, a record margin of 101 balls to spare.

The result has also done wonders to England's net run rate (NRR), the crucial separating factor between them and Scotland in Group B. The Three Lions' NRR leapt from -1.8 to +3.08, going past Scotland's +2.16.

However, Scotland have five points to England's three. Hence, the former two-time champions will need to defeat Namibia to go equal with Scotland and then hope that the latter will lose to Australia, who have already qualified for Super Eight.

In that scenario, England will enter Super Eight with better NRR, but an upset win over Australia by Scotland or a washout at Gros Islet will eliminate Buttler and his wards.

But skipper Buttler sounded confident after their massive win over Oman.

"I've been around long enough to know how it works," Buttler said after their win over Oman. "We know what's going on in the dressing room. We have lots of confidence in our

team and we have another huge match to come," he added.

The pitch at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium here has offered steep bounce and turn.

England bowlers such as leg-spinner Adil Rashid (4/11) and the pace duo of Jofra Archer and Mark Wood, who claimed identical figures of 3/12, exploited it to their advantage while bowling out Oman for their lowest over T20 total of 47 -- the overall fourth lowest in the T20 World Cup.

Buttler will hope to win the toss again to unleash his bowlers against the inexperienced Namibia who had folded for 72 in their last match against Australia.

Teams:

England: Jos Buttler (c), Moeen Ali, Jofra Archer, Jonathan Bairstow, Harry Brook, Sam Curran, Ben Duckett, Tom Hartley, Will Jacks, Chris Jordan, Liam Livingstone, Adil Rashid, Phil Salt, Reece Topley and Mark Wood.

Namibia: Gerhard Erasmus (c), Zane Green, Michael Van Lingen, Dylan Leicher, Ruben Trimpelmann, Jack Brassell, Ben Shikongo, Tangei Lungameni, Niko Davin, JJ Smit, Jan Frylinck, JP Kotze, David Wiese, Bernard Scholtz, Malan Kruger and PD Bignaut.

Match starts: 10.30pm IST

Evicted NZ search elusive win
New Zealand will take on Uganda at the pace-friendly Tarouba in what will be first of their two dead rubbers of this T20 World Cup.

Afghanistan pushed the Kiwis out of the

Super Eight race from Group C following their win over Papua New Guinea here.

It meant that the Black Caps have failed to advance from the group stage in a World Cup for the first time in a decade, across ODI and T20 formats.

The Kiwis will hope that they will head back home with their heads held high securing wins over newcomers Uganda and PNG.

Their ageing batters have looked woefully out of sorts and desperately in need of a revival, even as bowlers had their moments.

Teams:

New Zealand: Kane Williamson (c), Finn Allen, Trent Boult, Michael Bracewell, Mark Chapman, Devon Conway, Lockie Ferguson, Matt Henry, Daryl Mitchell, Jimmy Neesham, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Mitchell Santner, Ish Sodhi and Tim Southee.

Uganda: Brian Masaba (c), Simon Ssesazi, Roger Mukasa, Cosmas Kyewuta, Dinesh Nakrani, Fred Achelam, Kenneth Waiswa, Alpesh Ramjani, Frank Nsubuga, Henry Ssenyondo, Bilal Hassun, Robinson Obuya, Rizaz Ali Shah, Juma Miyaji and Ronak Patel.

Match starts: 6am IST

SA face Nepal, aim four in four
Having already stormed into the Super Eight, South Africa will take on Nepal in a clash between Group D table-toppers and wooden spooners at Kingstown.

Anrich Nortje, who is the joint second leading wicket-taker with eight scalps, has been in splendid form, and he will look to make life tough for Nepal batters.

The Proteas would also hope that their top-order in Quinton De Kock, Reeza Hendricks, skipper Aiden Markram and Tristan Stubbs to get back their mojo ahead of the Super Eight.

Teams:

Nepal: Rohit Paudel (c), Aasif Sheikh, Anil Kumar Sah, Kushal Bhurtel, Kushal Malla, Dipendra Singh Airee, Lalit Rajbanshi, Karan KC, Gulshan Jha, Sompal Kami, Pratis GC, Sundeep Jora, Abinash Bohara, Sagar Dhakal and Kamal Singh Airee.

South Africa: Aiden Markram (c), Ottniel Baartman, Gerald Coetzee, Quinton de Kock, Bjorn Fortuin, Reeza Hendricks, Marco Jansen, Heinrich Klaasen, Keshav Maharaj, David Miller, Anrich Nortje, Kagiso Rabada, Ryan Rickelton, Tabraiz Shamsi and Tristan Stubbs.

Match starts: 5am IST. (PTI)

Chennai FC sign Kiyan Nassiri from Mohun Bagan

CHENNAI, June 14: Former champions Chennai FC on Friday announced the signing of rising Indian forward Kiyan Nassiri from Kolkata heavyweights Mohun Bagan.

Son of East Bengal great Jamshid Nassiri, the 23-year-old made his senior professional debut with the Mariners in 2019.

The youngster has signed a three-year contract keeping him at the Chennai-based club until 2027, the club said.

"I am extremely excited and grateful to be a part of this amazing sea of blue. Bringing all my humility and respect for the management, coaches and fans.

"Looking forward to bringing with me, my endless passion for the beautiful game and my spirit to win with and for my team."

CFC head coach Owen Coyle added, "When you score a hat trick on your debut against your biggest rivals, it says everything there is to be said. He's a great boy and we have no doubt he will quickly become a fan favourite."

Kiyan had begun his youth career with Calcutta Cricket and Football Club (CC&FC) and Mohammedan Sporting Club before moving to Mohun Bagan.

Since making his senior debut, Kiyan has scored nine goals in 69 appearances and had two assists.

He has won four titles to date, including the ISL Cup (2022-23) and the ISL League Shield (2023-24), besides also winning the I-League (2019-20) and the Durand Cup (2023). Additionally, Kiyan also won the Mohun Bagan Best Forward Award in 2022.

He happens to be CFC's sixth signing of the season after Jitendra Singh (midfielder), Elsinho (defender), Laldinpa (defender), Daniel Chima Chukwu (striker) and Wilmar Jordan (striker). (PTI)

HI begins registration process for revived league



NEW DELHI, June 14: Hockey India on Friday said it has started the registration process for its flagship national league, which is set to be revived after a gap of eight years and will feature both the men's and women's teams.

The Hockey India League (HIL) will feature eight men's and six women's teams and the registration deadline for it is June 30.

HI has also invited applications for players and support staff to register their interest in featuring in the league, which is set to run between December 2024 and February 2025.

The window has been approved by the International Hockey Federation (FIH).

"This step signifies that we are close to restarting the HIL, a league that was loved by hockey players and fans across the world," HI President Dilip Tirkey said in a media release.

"We are confident that budding Indian hockey players will snatch the opportunity to play with and against some of the best players in

the world."

The HIL was first started in 2013, and its last edition was played in 2017, won by Kalinga Lancers. All five editions were won by five different sides.

Ranchi has won two titles. The inaugural edition was won by Ranchi Rhinos before the franchise was discontinued.

Later, a new Ranchi franchise was created -- Ranchi Rays -- owned by the legendary Indian cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni, which won in its debut season in 2015.

Commenting on the upcoming revamped new season, HI Secretary General Bhola Nath Singh stated, "The HIL played a pivotal role in the resurgence of the Indian Hockey Teams, and it is a matter of great joy and pride that we are on the verge of restarting it."

"The league will help improve the standard of young players and propagate a culture of hockey across the nation. We look forward to receiving heaps of applications from India and abroad," he added. (PTI)

Indian women's archery team gets fifth seed in Olympic qualifiers, two wins shy from Paris quota

ANTALYA (TURKEY), June 14: Indian women's recurve team of Deepika Kumari, Bhajan Kaur and Ankit Bhatkal qualified as fifth seed in the Final Olympic Qualifiers here on Friday and now stands two victories away from securing quota for the Paris Games.

The Indian team aggregated 1978 points to finish behind leaders China (1996), second-placed Japan (1991), Spain (1990) and Chinese Taipei (1982) in the qualifying standings.



By qualifying as fifth seeds, India will start from the round of 16 in the 24-team draw against 21st seeds Ukraine and may have to overcome Chinese Taipei in the quarters to grab the Paris quota.

The semifinals will land Paris Olympic quota places.

The elimination rounds are slated later in the day. India had an incredible qualifying round, shooting 90 perfect scores of 10 and X (the closest to the centre arrow).

It was second behind the Taiwanese archers who shot 91 10+X scores. But it did not matter as they fell behind in the overall scores.

To put things in perspective, Chinese team had a share of 88, while Japan and Spain shot 89 and 76 10+X scores.

The 10+X shots are counted to determine the placings in case of a tie. The men's team qualifying event will be held on Saturday and will see stiff competition among 46 teams for 80-plus available quotas.

More than 300 recurve archers from just three nations are competing in the final qualifying event for the Paris Olympics, beginning on July 26. (PTI)

Nice feeling but we haven't won anything yet: Afghanistan coach Jonathan Trott

TAROUBA (TRINIDAD), Jun 14: There is understandable elation among Afghanistan players after ensuring a maiden Super Eight berth in the T20 World Cup but head coach Jonathan Trott says the jubilation has not come in the way of their understanding of the reality that they "haven't won anything yet".

Afghanistan hammered Papua New Guinea by seven wickets on Thursday to record a third consecutive group stage victory that took them into the Super Eights. The result also knocked 2021 edition's finalists New Zealand out of the tournament.

"We still have one game left, an important group game, and that's going to be a good gauge of where we are against a powerful West Indies side who won an incredible game last night (against New Zealand) from the position they were in," Englishman Trott said in the post-match press conference.

"So, it's nice to have won tonight and got qualification as such. To come to a World Cup and win three is a nice feeling, but also the realisation and reality that we haven't won anything yet.

"We only achieved the group stage and we've got some important cricket matches coming up which we're going to have to play well in."

The war-torn South Asian nation has been in terrific form in the mega event, led by tal-



ismatic all-rounder Rashid Khan and propelled by some strong performances by the likes of pacer Fazalhaq Farooqi, who has 12 wickets in his kitty so far.

The batting form of openers Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran has also been a crucial aspect of the Afghans' success story.

They will face India in their first Super Eight clash on June 20 in Barbados.

"I believe we're very, very talented and when we play our best cricket, we can take on anyone. We've seen that.

"I feel that we still haven't played our best game. There's still things we need to work

on and we'll be working on those over the next few days to give ourselves the best chance to beat the major teams," Trott said.

The former England batter lavished praise on Farooqi and credited bowling coach Hamid Hassan for polishing him.

"He's been really good I think when he gets his line and with the pace and the swing, he's very dangerous. So, I still think with the amount of talent (he has), he can even bowl better," Trott said.

"And working with our bowling coach Hamid Hassan and, obviously, Dwayne Bravo for this tournament, we've seen him stand up and have some real match winning performances or man of the match performances.

"But a lot of other bowlers have bowled well as well. So, I was pleased with how everybody else supported him today. It's not just about one bowler. And that's exciting going forward for St. Lucia," he said.

The match against PNG was the first time Afghan openers Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran failed to click and Trott said he has full faith in them to come good in the next stage.

"...today is a good reminder of just how fickle cricket can be when you just relax a little bit or not as focused or doing the basics as much as the pitch or the conditions deserve," he said. (PTI)