Putin says Russia and North Korea have vowed to aid each other

■ Ship attacked by Yemen's Houthi rebels in fatal assault

NEET row: AAP holds protests in Haryana, seeks SC-monitored probe

Stood against hatred': Cong, INDIA bloc leaders hail Rahul on B-Day



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DIPHU, KARBI ANGLONG, THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2024 PAGES 12

PRICE ₹8

Protect and Prevent - Continue the fight against Japanese Encephalities

Methods

Remember, immediate medical treatment can save a life. If you feel any JE-like symptoms, consult a doctor immediately.

June, July and August months are considered high transmission time for Japanese Encephalities. Stay alert!

Symptoms of JE High fever

 Severe headache Irrelevant talk & confusion
 Unconsciousness

Unable to speak properly

Keep the drains around the house clean and do not allow water to accumulate in empty containers

 Use mosquito net while sleeping and use age appropriate mosquito repellents Wear long sleeve clothing and trousers

Pig rearing should be done atleast 100 meters away from human settlements

Vaccinate pigs against common diseases at regular intervals

(NHM/D/2024-25/111

DNA test twist to Sunil Gogoi 'murder' case

Lakhimpur BJP leader presumed beheaded declared prime accused in murder case: DGP

GUWAHATI, June 19: Assam Police on Wednesday said contractor and local BJP leader Sunil Gogoi, who was previously presumed beheaded, has been declared as an absconding accused for the murder of his family mason, whose headless body was mistakenly identified as Gogoi's and cremated.

In a twist, the DNA report of the headless and charred body revealed that it did not belong to Gogoi, as claimed by his family, but of Jahangir Hosain, a mason working at the politician's house in Sapatia Chetia village in Assam's Lakhimpur district, DGP G P Singh said.

"It has been scientifically established that the mortal remains bear genetic similarity to the family of Jahangir Hosain, indicating that Hosain was killed and subsequently burnt to conceal his identity," Singh said in a post on X.

Singh added that initial investigation suggested that the entire plan was hatched and executed by the suspects to gain financially through an insurance claim.

"Upon receiving the DNA report



from CDFD Hyderabad, a fresh case (Dhakuakhana PS Case No. 48/2024 U/S 120(B)/302/201/34 IPC) has been registered, naming Sunil Gogoi and his accomplices as prime suspects," the DGP said.

The body, found headless and half-burnt in an open field near Gogoi's residence on June 1, prompted further investigation. Gogoi's wife and other family members were interrogated on Wednesday at Dhakuakhana police station, an official said.

Lakhimpur SP Aparna N on Tuesday said Gogoi had recently purchased an insurance policy worth ₹41 lakh

Gogoi, vice-president of BJP Kisan Morcha Dhakuakhana District Committee and a contractor involved with Jal Jeevan Mission. had alleged corruption in the Public Health Engineering Department of Lakhimpur, leading to the arrest of an executive engineer by the Chief Minister's Vigilance & Anti-Corruption (V&AC) wing.

Earlier this week, chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma indicated that the body might not be Gogoi's and that (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Court extends CM Kejriwal's judicial custody till July 3

NEW DELHI, June 19: A Delhi court on Wednesday extended till July 3 the judicial custody of chief minister Arvind Kejriwal in a money laundering case linked to the alleged excise scam.

Special Judge Niyay Bindu extended the custody of Kejriwal after he was produced before the court through video conference on expiry of his judicial custody granted earlier.

During the hearing, the counsel appearing for Kejriwal opposed the ED's application seeking extension of his custody, saying there were no grounds justifying extension of his custody.

The judge also heard submissions on the bail application moved by Kejriwal in the case.

The judge will resume hearing arguments on the application on Thursday.

During the arguments, the Kejriwal's counsel told the court that the entire case upon the CM rests on statements

"Those statements are of those people who have confessed themselves to be guilty. They are not saints here. They are those who are not only tainted but it appears, some were arrested and they were given a promise of bail and promise of being granted pardon. Approvers. And there is another category who have not been arrested," the counsel said. He added that if the quality was only statements, (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Mizoram awaits centre's order on Myanmar refugee biometrics

AIZAWL, June 19: The Mizoram government is waiting for instruction from the Centre to initiate biometric enrollment for over 33,000 Myanmar refugees in the northeastern state, a home department

The official said that a new biometric enrollment portal has already been prepared.

"We are waiting for an instruction from the Centre. We will start the process of collecting biometric data of Myanmar nationals once we receive the instruction," the official told PTI.

Earlier, Mizoram chief minister Lalduhoma had said that biometric enrollment portal has been in place for collection of the data and it will be utilised in near future.



In April last year, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs had directed Mizoram and Manipur, which share borders with Myanmar, to capture the biometric and biographic details of "illegal immigrants" in their states. In June last the Centre (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

year, it directed the states that the campaign be completed by the end of September and directed both to prepare a plan and initiate the process. Although the Mizoram government had initially processed

5 die in landslide in Assam's Karimganj

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, June 19: At least five members of a family, including three minors, died on Wednesday in a landslide following incessant rain in Karimganj district of Assam, police said.

The incident took place at Gainachora village in Badarpur Police Station area, Karimganj SP Partha Protim Das said.

"Around 12:45 am, information was received about the landslide at a hillock in which a house was completely buried. The officer-in-charge of Badarpur Police Station, along with his staff and SDRF personnel, rushed to the spot," he said.

The team immediately started the rescue operation,

"After about three hours, five bodies were recovered. There was no survivor," he added.

The deceased have been identified as Roymun Nessa (55) and her children Sahida Khanam (18), Jahida Khanam (16) and Hamida Khanam (11).

A three-year-old child, Mehdi Hassan, the son of Mahimuddin, also lost his life in the landslide, the SP

Assam's flood situation worsened on Tuesday in the wake of relentless rain, with over 1.61 lakh people affected in eight districts.

As per the latest figures of ASDMA, a total of 2,96,384 individuals in 19 districts are affected by the floods. The affected districts include Kamrup, South Salmara, Goalpara, Nagaon, (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Guwahati Refinery donates health equipment

GUWAHATI, June 19: As part of the Aspirational District Programme, Guwahati Refinery has handed over a series of healthcare support systems to Assam's Darrang district, officials said on Wednesday.

A senior official of Guwahati Refinery said as part of its various Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) assistance to Darrang district, two ambulances and one anaesthesia workstation with ISO vaporizer were handed over to the district administration on Tuesday.

The two ambulances will be used by Kharupetia and Sipajhar community health centres, whereas the anaesthesia workstation was given to Mangaldai Civil Hospital. Thanking Guwahati Refinery for

the assistance, Darrang District Commissioner Munindra Nath Ngatey said the ambulances and anaesthesia workstation will provide much needed healthcare to the needy. (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Detention of **Amritpal Singh** extended by a year

CHANDIGARH, June 19: Detention of radical Sikh preacher and newly elected MP from Khadoor Sahib seat Amritpal Singh, who is lodged in Assam's Dibrugarh jail, has been extended by a year.

The Punjab government's home affairs and justice department ordered the extension on June 3 -- a day before the Lok Sabha election results came out.

The details of the order were revealed to the media on Wednesday. The chief of the 'Waris Punjab De' outfit is currently lodged in the Assam jail along with nine of his associates under the National Security

Contending as an Independent, he won the 2024 Lok Sabha electoral battle from the Khadoor Sahib constituency, with his nearest rival being Congress candidate Kulbir Singh Zira. Amritpal won by a margin of (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)





FOOD PRICES STILL A CONCERN Retail inflation gradually easing

MUMBAI, June 19: Retail inflation is gradually easing, but volatile and elevated food prices are interrupting the path of disinflation, the RBI Bulletin said on Wednesday

THE HILLS TIMES

An article on the "State of the Economy", published in the June 2024 Bulletin, said global growth was resilient in the first quarter of 2024, and many central banks have pivoted towards a less restrictive monetary policy stance in response to the fall in inflation in their economies

In India, high-frequency indicators suggest the real GDP growth in Q1 FY2024-25 is broadly maintaining the pace it achieved in the preceding quarter.

Also, the prospects for agriculture are brightening with the early landfall of the southwest monsoon,

NEW DELHI, June 19: Adani group will in-

vest more than USD 100 billion (around Rs

8.34 lakh crore) in energy transition projects

and manufacturing capability to produce

every major component required for green energy generation, its chairman said on Wednes-

Besides building solar parks to produce

electricity from sunlight and wind farms that

do the same from wind, the conglomerate is building major facilities to manufacture elec-

trolyzers for making green hydrogen, wind

hydrogen from water with the help of electrolyzers powered by clean energy, is seen as

a potential panacea for decarbonizing the in-

Speaking at 'Infrastructure - the Catalyst

for India's Future' event of Crisil, Adani

Group chairman Gautam Adani said energy

transition and digital infrastructure are tril-

lion-dollar opportunities which will transform

than USD 100 billion in the energy transition

space and further expand our integrated re-

newable energy value chain that today already

spans the manufacturing of every major com-

ponent required for green energy generation,"

the "world's least expensive green electron"

that will become the feedstock for several sec-

tors that must meet the sustainability mandate.

building the world's largest single-site renew-

able energy park in Khavda, in the district of

Kutch (in Gujarat). Just this single location

will generate 30 GW of power, thereby taking

our total renewable energy capacity to 50 GW

fundamentally change the global energy land-

scape forever. "The global transition market

was valued at approximately USD 3 trillion in

2023 and is expected to grow to nearly USD

6 trillion by 2030, and thereafter double every

"As many of you know, in the case of India,

our country aims to install 500 gigawatts of

renewable energy capacity by 2030. This am-

bitious target will require annual investments

of over USD 150 billion dollars. The transi-

tion to green energy in India is expected to

generate millions of new jobs in sectors such

as solar and wind, energy storage, hydrogen

and its derivatives, EV charging stations, as

well as grid infrastructure development," he

Adani said the energy transition space will

by 2030," he said.

10 years till 2050."

"And to make this happen, we are already

The coal-to-ports group wants to produce

"The next decade will see us invest more

India both at a local and at a global scale.

Green hydrogen, which is made by splitting

power turbines and solar panels

dustry as well as transportation.



tion is the Data Centre - the critical infrastruc-

ture needed to power all forms of computa-

tional needs, especially AI workloads for

machine learning algorithms, natural lan-

guage processing, computer vision, and deep

All of this is dependent on the ability to

process data at an unprecedented speed and

scale which are the precise capabilities that

data centres provide. However, this will need

massive amounts of energy, making the data

centre business the largest energy consuming

more complex and is raising electricity prices,

thereby adding to the already high prices be-

cause of the combined impact of climate

quired for energy transition and the infrastruc-

ture required for digital transformation are

now inseparable as the technology sector be-

comes the largest consumer of the precious

that it will productize and then take to market,

operational technology cybersecurity offer-

ings, super apps to leverage its B2C busi-

nesses across wide variety of consumer facing

businesses, Artificial Intelligence labs to cap-

italize on India's fast emerging expertise to

provide AI services to the world, and Data

Centres that will form the backbone of the en-

2030, the world will need 100 to 150 GW of

additional green energy just for the AI data

centres. We already have India's largest order

book for data centres and are now in discus-

sions for additional gigawatt-scale green AI

"In fact, it is anticipated that by the year

ergy intensive digital revolution.

Adani group's digital footprint will span in-

The billionaire said the infrastructure re-

change and demand growth," Adani said.

"This makes the energy transition even

industry in the world, he said.

green electrons.

said the article authored by a team led by Reserve Bank deputy gov-

ernor Michael Debabrata Patra. "Headline inflation is gradually easing, driven by sustained softening of its core component, although the path of disinflation is

USD 100 bn in energy

transition: Gautam Adani

interrupted by volatile and elevated food prices," the authors

The RBI has been mandated by the government to ensure retail or headline inflation remains at 4 per

Earlier this month, the RBI's monetary policy committee (MPC) voted to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.50 per cent and reiterated its stance of remaining focused on the withdrawal of accommodation to ensure that inflation progressively aligns with the target while supporting growth.

The central bank has projected the inflation to ease from 5.4 per cent in 2023-24 to 4.5 per cent in 2024-25, with evenly balanced risks from the rising incidence of adverse climate events, pressures from input costs and volatility in crude prices, among others.

The RBI said the views expressed in the Bulletin article are of the authors and do not represent the views of the central bank. (PTI)

Teaching-learning resource book for the school teachers

GUWAHATI, June 19: Bharti Airtel Foundation in collaboration with state education mission authority of Meghalaya (Samagra Shiksha Abhivan), recently launched 'Teacher Learning Resource

The book was officially unveiled by Swapnil Tembe, IAS, state project director of Samagra Shiksha and director of school education & literacy in Meghalava, and Mamta Saikia, chief executive officer of Bharti Airtel Foundation. This resource book comprises of creative and effective teaching aids on different themes, designed by teachers from partner government schools as part of Bharti Airtel Foundation's Quality Support Program (QSP).

L Lyngdoh (Jt director of school education & literacy, Meghalaya) among others.

silver climbs ₹ 100

72,430 per 10 grams in the local market on Wednesday in line with firm trends in the international markets, according to HDFC Securities.

grams on Tuesday.

Silver prices also climbed ₹ 100 to ₹ 91,400 per kg. It had ended at ₹ 91,300 per kg in the previous session. "In Delhi markets, spot gold prices (24 carat) are trading at ₹ 72,430 per 10 grams, up by ₹ 80 from the previous close," Saumil Gandhi, Research Analyst at HDFC Securities, said.

previous close.

Gold traded slightly positive on Wednesday, after weaker than expected US retail sales data, which Gandhi added.

In the previous session, it had finished at USD 29.35

HT Bureau

The book, designed by the teachers and for the teachers, aims to enhance children's academic understanding and skill development. The Teaching-Learning Materials (TLMs), stemming from daily classroom experiences, offer simple and innovative solutions to facilitate enjoyable and effective learning for the students. At the ceremony, Swapnil Tembe (state project director Samagra Shiksha and director of school education & literacy, Meghalaya), honored the teachers who won Educational Rockstar Achievers' Awards for their successful contribution towards designing effective and engaging teaching aid. He also felicitated four students from QSP partner schools who brought laurels to the State of Meghalaya by winning National Level Competitionsin (YUVIKA- Young Scientist Programme by ISRO and TickLinks- -Young Explorer Contest).

Other dignitaries present at the ceremony were

Gold rises ₹80;

NEW DELHI, June 19: Gold prices rose ₹ 80 to ₹

The precious metal had closed at

In the overseas markets, spot gold at Comex was trading at USD 2,327 per ounce, up USD 8 from the

drove the bullion prices in a positive direction, In addition, silver was up at USD 29.40 per ounce.

On digital infrastructure, he said data is indata centres which we are uniquely positioned deed the new oil and at the heart of all the acto deliver," he said. (PTI) Multiple-tripping incidents reported in northern region

Power demand shoots up to 89.4 GW NEW DELHI, June 19: Multiple-

HT Bureau GUWAHATI, June 19: KFC has launched limited period Krispy Days period. "Save upto 40% till 30th June only. Enjoy 8 pieces of your finger lickin' good KFC favourites such as the iconic Hot & Crispy Leg pieces, and Hot Wings starting at ₹ 299/- only. Walk into your nearest KFC restaurant to avail the droolworthy Krispy Days offer on dine-in or order via the KFC app and enjoy free delivery. So, chicken lovers, what are you waiting for? The clock is ticking. Make sure to grab the crispiest offer of the year before June 30," a PR stated.

KFC launches Krispy

days period

NOTICE

19th June 2024 Sarthe Phangcho English ME School needs one Assamese Language Teacher. The applicants should be a Graduate. Last Date 18th May 2024.

Sarthe Phangcho ME School 3 No. Dilawjan

Karbi Anglong (Assam)

"At 13:53, northern region demand experienced a reduction in load of the order of 16.5 GW. The incident occurred immediately after the tripping of both bipoles of +/-800 kV HVDC Champa (WR) -Kurukshetra (NR) which was carrying 4,500 MW from the Western Region to the Northern Region. After tripping of the HVDC link, low voltages were observed across the northern region and the above load reduction occurred," NRLDC

tripping incidents were reported in

the northern region on Monday

after power demand shot up to 89.4

gigawatt (GW), leading to a supply

gap of 16.5 GW, as per a Northern

Regional Load Despatch Centre

Haryana, Delhi, Punjab, Uttarak-

hand, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar

Pradesh, Rajasthan and J&K were

the affected states, the report said.

Load Despatch Centre (NLDC), which under the Union Ministry of

Power, is responsible for schedul-

ing and dispatch of electricity over

the inter-regional links.

NRLDC is a part of the National

(NRLDC) report.

partial outage of the 765/400kV Aligarh (PGCIL) station occurred due to the reported tripping of five 765 kV lines. Prior



to the event, the net import of NR was 15,500 MW and a demand of 89,410 MW was being catered.

Loads were gradually restored considering low voltages and high loading on 765 KV Agra-Gwalior lines. System load was restored to near normal level by 14.30 hours. All the transmission elements which tripped were restored by 16:00 hours.

In the Northern Region hydro generating units tripped at Bhakra, Karcham, Saini, Ranjit Sagar Dam (Total-1,237 MW). Thermal generating units tripped at Lalitpur, Ra-Unchahar, (Total-1,250 MW).

Reacting to the incident, the All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPEF) Chairman Shailendra Dubey urged the government to take necessary steps immediately.

"AIPEF requests the Centre to declare the present heat wave as a natural calamity like floods and cyclones etc and take measures in short and mid-term to tackle the sit-

uation," Dubey said. In a letter to the government, AIPEF has suggested that office timings should be changed to 7 am to 2 pm, all commercial establishments should be closed by 7 pm and there should a peak load restrictions on the industry. (PTI)

Titan lines up aggressive expansion plans this year: MD

CHENNAI, June 19: Tata Group's Titan Company Ltd has drawn up aggressive expansion plans across its various brand verticals, especially jewellery vertical Tanishq and saree label Taneira this year, a top official said. The company is also planning to launch its exclusive ladies' handbag brand store 'Earth' sometime later this year, Titan's Managing Director C K Venkataraman said.

Titan is a joint venture between the diversified conglomerate Tata Group and the Tamilnadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO).

Venkataraman was talking to reporters after unveiling one of the company's Helios watch stores along with the 59th jewellery store Tanishq and the 7th Taniera store at Pondy Bazaar, here.

Taniera offers the best of Indian sarees under one roof. It offers handcrafted sarees along with a range of ready to wear blouses, kurtas, short tops among others, the press release said.

The launch of the new brand outlets today marks a significant milestone in Titan's ongoing commitment towards aggressive retail expansion in FY24-25, particularly in Tier I, II and III geographies. The recent launches have expanded Titan's existing portfolio, taking the overall exclusive brand retail touchpoints in the state to 98 across the state, he said.

Briefing reporters, Venkataraman said the company was retailing Taniera which showcases a range of sarees from Kancheepuram, Banaras, and Bengal Silk among many others, across geographies.

The range of the sarees sold at Taniera is from ₹ 1,300 to ₹ 3 lakh, he said.



"Tanishq is a 25-year-old jewellery brand. Our first store was launched in Cathedral Road, Chennai... Taniera is our fourth showroom in Chennai and Tanishq is the 20th showroom in Chennai," he said.

Responding to a query, he said the company has drawn up plans to open 40-45 showrooms of Taniera and 40-45 showrooms of Tanishq this year. "We are also planning to launch women's handbags' exclusive brand store Earth," he said.

Asked about the investments, he said that 90 per cent of the stores are franchises.

"We are thrilled to expand our retail footprint in Chennai, a city that is both a cultural hub and a key growth market for us. The vibrant and fast growing consumer base in Chennai has shown a strong affinity of our brands, which has driven us to deepen our presence in the region," he said.

"Our new stores in Pondy Bazaar reflect our commitment to curate high-quality products and exceptional shopping experiences for our customers," he

Contd. from Page 1...

DNA test twist to Sunil Gogoi

a forensic examination would reveal the truth. During the investigation, it was discovered that Hosain had been missing since May 30.

A Special Investigation Team (SIT) was formed, and forensic experts were called in to probe the murder. Additionally, an IGP-level officer from the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of Assam Police monitored

Court extends CM Kejriwal's judicial

then it was a circumstantial evidence. "Circumstances have to be so intrinsically linked to lead to the guilt. This statement by tainted persons discredits the case of prosecution. There is no evidence that ₹ 100 crore came from South Group. These are all statements. There is no evidence," the counsel said.

He further said that there were several contradictory statements of the co-accused persons

"I won't be surprised if another statement is recorded to fill the lacunae. This is the process they follow. The investigations are always unending. Whenever they want they implicate anyone. This is the biggest instrument of oppression," he added.

The counsel also said that the Supreme Court had granted the interim bail after being satisfied that there was no likelihood that Kejriwal would escape from justice or influence the investigation or witnesses. He further added that the CM had no criminal antecedent.

The ED opposed the application, claiming that "the requirement is not that you don't have antecedents". "...that I hold a constitutional post is not relevant for grant of bail under PMLA. It may be an additional

factor for refusing bail but the only factor which is relevant is whether he is guilty," the counsel for the central Refuting Kejriwal's argument that the evidence was "only approvers' statements", the ED said it was difficult to get evidence, approvers are made.

'The law recognizes it. The law says inducements can be given. You can't say there is inducement so... It is what the law says," it said.

The ED further said that it was CBI's case that Kejriwal demanded bribe, and that he asked for bribe of ₹ "Kejriwal asked for funds for the Aam Aadmi Party. He demanded kickbacks from South Group. You can't

say he is not guilty of offence. If AAP commits a crime, then every person in charge of the party will be deemed to be guilty," it added.

It also said that at the time of Manish Sisodia, AAP was not made an accused. "Now, AAP has been made an accused. Kejriwal is responsible for the conduct," it said.

The fact that money laundering offence is committed is beyond doubt because the court has taken cognisance and it has not been challenged, it added.

"Co-accused Vijay Nair was media coordinator of AAP. He was coordinating. He was to hold meetings with those interested in liquor policy, the wholesalers. We have evidence that he was very close to Kejriwal. Demand is established. "The money has gone to Goa. It has gone to hawala dealers. We have recorded statements. Larger chunk of amount was paid in cash is also established. The entire trail has been established," the probe agency added. (PTI)

Mizoram awaits centre's order

direction by conducting training and appointing nodal officers, the Council of Ministers in its meeting held in September last year decided not to conduct biometric and biographic enrollment for Myanmar refugees citing it is not advisable to undertake biometric and biographic preparation due to the state assembly polls to be held in November that year. Lalduhoma said that the Myanmar and Bangladesh nationals, who took refuge in the state, feared deportation

due to the Centre's directive to collect biometric data from them. During his meeting with Shah in January, the latter had assured him that no refugees would be deported until

peace is restored in the neighbouring countries, the chief minister said. According to the state Home department, a total of 33,835 Myanmar nationals, including 12,901 children,

are currently taking shelter in different parts of the state with Champhai district hosting the highest number of Myanmar refugees at 14,212. At least 10,552 people live in 111 relief camps spread across six districts, while 9,269 others live outside relief camps by joining relatives or friends as well as staying in rented houses, it said.

More than 1,800 Bangladeshi nationals are also taking shelter in southernmost Mizoram's Lawngtlai district, it said. Besides, around 8,000 internally displaced people from Mizoram are also currently taking shelter in Mizoram, the home department said. (PTI)

5 die in landslide in Assam's Karimgani Bongaigaon, Lakhimpur, Hojai, Darrang, Nalbari, Karimganj, Udalguri, Tamulpur, Hailakandi, Biswanath

Barpeta, Cachar, Baksa, Bajali, and Sonitpur Currently, 12,166 people are taking shelter in relief camps, among them 3,059 are children. The Kopili river

in Kamrup district is flowing above the danger mark. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued predictions for heavy to very heavy rainfall, with

extremely heavy falls occurring at isolated places in Sub-Himalayan West Bengal & Sikkim. Heavy to very heavy rainfall is also expected at isolated places over Bihar, Assam & Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura, and Tamil Nadu.

In Nalbari, incessant rainfall has wreaked havoc, submerging the town and its 17 wards throughout the week. Local residents have voiced concerns over inadequate drainage systems exacerbating the situation. The Nalbari-Hazo road remains flooded, affecting daily life with the head post office, educational institutions, and marketplaces submerged. Meanwhile, a high-level team comprising officials from Revenue and Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), led by joint secretary Shyamal K Gogoi, visited Jorhat on Wednesday to assess flood preparedness measures. The team held a meeting at the Jorhat DC's office complex to review the flood situation and inspected areas likely to be affected, identifying potential locations for relief camps. All revenue circle officers from the district participated in the meeting and accompanied the team during

Guwahati Refinery donates health

Darrang was adopted by Guwahati Refinery as an aspirational district under the Aspirational District Pro-

Detention of Amritpal Singh extended

1,97,120 votes. He polled 4,04,430 votes, while Zira got 2,07,310. "On the basis of the facts and circumstances, the advisory board is of the opinion that there is sufficient cause for the detention of the detenue Amritpal Singh Sandhu @ Amritpal Singh under the provisions of National Security Act, 1980," read the June 3 order. According to the order, the detention of the preacher has been extended for a period of 12 months from April 23, 2024.

Amritpal, who styled himself after slain Khalistani militant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, was arrested in

Moga's Rode village on April 23 last year following an over a month-long manhunt. The Khalistan sympathizer had escaped the police net in Jalandhar district on March 18, switching vehicles and changing appearances. The Punjab Police had launched the crackdown after the February 23 Ajnala incident last year in which Amritpal Singh and his supporters, some of them brandishing swords and guns, broke through barricades and barged into the police station on the outskirts of Amritsar city, and clashed with police for the release of Lovepreet Singh Toofan, one of his aides.

He and his associates were booked under several criminal cases related to spreading disharmony among classes, attempt to murder, attack on police personnel and creating obstructions in the lawful discharge of duty by public servants. (PTI)

CEM Pramod Boro concludes budget session

REGION

BTC Legislative Assembly approves ₹ 2200 crore budget

THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2024

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KOKRAJHAR, June 19: The Bodoland Territorial Council Legislative Assembly (BTCLA) has approved a ₹ 2200 crore budget for the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) on Wednesday. The budget was presented on Tuesday by Pramod Boro, the chief executive member (CEM) of the BTC and Finance incharge, during the budget session.

The session, chaired by Katiram Boro, Speaker of the BTC Legislative Assembly, commenced on Tuesday and was scheduled as a two-day event at the BTCLA House in Bodofa Nwgwr, Kokrajhar.

The voting on the demands for grants for the financial year 2024-25 concluded on Wednesday afternoon in Kokrajhar the City of Peace

Prior to the approval, CEM Pramod Boro addressed questions from the Opposition regarding the ₹ 2200 crore budget he presented on Tuesday. In his remarks to the assembly members, CEM Boro stated, "When there is peace, beautiful things can be done, and in the absence of peace, we human beings are bound to make mistakes.'

The recent restoration of peace in the Bodoland region, following decades of violence and conflict, has empowered the people of the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) to collectively aspire, dream, and work towards remarkable achievements, CEM Pramod Boro remarked. Boro said that the budget for the year,

themed 'Vibrant BTR Mission 2024-25', adopts a people-centric approach, focusing on need-based asset creation, infrastructure development, and the implementation of schemes and projects. He highlighted the incomplete Kokrajhar Trade Centre project as an example of prior initiatives that lacked proper planning, resulting in significant financial losses and an unfinished, non-operational facility.

"We will not undertake any steps that do not serve a purpose or address a need," Boro asserted. He also discussed the necessity of producing quality doctors, engineers, and basic science graduates from the region. To this end, the Bodoland Science Education programme has partnered with the Agastya International Foundation to create an educational ecosystem in schools, starting from the elementary level. This initiative includes the Bodofa Super 50 Mission, aimed at achieving these educational

It is noteworthy that several executive members (EMs) and MCLAs shared their opinions during the second day of the budget session. Gautam Das, the EM for the Women and Child Development Department, emphasised the importance of mission-mode interventions to address existing gaps in service delivery across various sectors.

Praising the visionary initiatives of CEM Pramod Boro, Das stated, "The strategic budgeting of the BTR govern-



ing missions in the council areas is praiseworthy. Even the Government of India and the Government of Assam have initiated mission-mode programmes despite the presence of line department ac-

Das made these remarks in response to a question from leader of the Opposition, Derhasat Basumatary, who inquired about the necessity of missions like the Bodoland Child Rights Mission and the Bodoland Women Empowerment Mission, among other flagship programmes, when there were already departments designated to carry out similar work. On the other hand, Tourism Department executive member (EM) Dharma Narayan Das highlighted the stark difference between the former Hagrama-led government and the current Pramod Boro-led UPPL-BJP government, based on his experiences with both. He pointed out that the former government lacked goal-oriented budgeting and administration, whereas the current administration has shown consistent efforts towards these objectives. "It is the presence of long-term and short-term strategic visioning by Pramod Boro that has led to holistic change and transformation in BTR," Das stated in the assembly.

Supporting this view, MCLA Dipak

Mour remarked that the BTC Budget 2024-25, along with the three preceding budgets, successfully eradicated communal hatred in the region by addressing the needs and aspirations of all groups and communities in Bodoland, despite limitations in funding

Arpana Medhi, a nominated MCLA, commented on the significant impact of the recent budgets of the BTR government. She shared an anecdote where someone questioned, "Does BTC even have a budget session?" This, she explained, was due to the lack of proper budget sessions and debates in the council before the current government's tenure of three and a half years.

Deputy chief executive member Gobinda Chandra Basumatary, along with executive members Wilson Hasda, Ranjit Basumatary, Sanjit Tanti, Daobaisa Boro, Nilut Swargiary, Pradip Kumar Bayan, Doneswar Goyary, Hemanta Kumar Rabha, and Madhab Chandra Chetry, also delivered prominent speeches during the

In his concluding remarks, CEM Pramod Boro emphasised that ensuring equitable opportunities for all groups and communities in BTR is central to the vision of a 'Peaceful, Smart, and Green Bodoland'. He stated that the budget was crafted to accommodate the hopes and aspirations of the citizens. Aligning the ambitions of the people of BTR with the broader mandate of the state and nation

New BJP-EKADC spokesperson expresses

gratitude upon appointment

cannot afford to remain aloof while the entire country is marching towards a 'Viksit Bharat' under the leadership of Narendra Modi Ji!" he noted.

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It should be noted that several major social development missions were approved during the session, including: Vibrant BTR- 100 Days of Action; Multi-tier Monthly Meetings & Reporting System: Bodoland Child Rights Mission; Empowerment of Differently Abled Persons Programme of BTR; Bodoland Women Empowerment Mission; CEM's Special Initiative Schemes; Green Bodoland Mission; Programme for Effective Governance of VCDCs; Localisation of SDGs in BTR.

In summary, there was a noticeable sense of optimism among the members of the treasury bench during the budget session. Their deliberations were largely positive, with hopes for the swift and efficient execution of the proposed programmes and projects.

Meanwhile, citizens from various communities have praised the BTC budget for the financial year 2024-25, describing it as a people-oriented budget presented by CEM and finance in-charge Pramod Boro. They expressed hope that the budget would benefit the citizens of the Bodoland region by fostering a quality educational environment, promoting a green and smart Bodoland, enhancing social upliftment, and establishing peace and tranquility among the citizens in the

Krist Rongphar anointed as village chief HT Correspondent

BOKAJAN, June 19: Krist Rongphar was anointed as the village chief of Inglong Ke-er village in the Karbi tradition called Sar Kebat. The village is situated near the Assam-Nagaland border under Bokajan LA in Karbi Anglong district.The Sar Kebat ceremony was carried out in the morning at 9 o'clock, during which a chicken was sacrificed, and the signs of the offering were interpreted by the Karbi priest Kurusar. After the ceremony, a feast was held for other village headmen, Sarkari Goanburas, and

villagers who attended. Among those who attended the ceremony were the president of Karbi Rong Asar Amei (KRAA), Dhormo Sing Teron; village headman, Longki Rongphar; Secretary of Borjan Karbi Rong Asar Amei (KRAA), Dorsing Hanse; Karbi priest Jonasing Teron; and others.

MSSV introduces new courses and collaborations **HT Correspondent**

NAGAON, June 19: Mahapurush Sankardev wavidyalaya (MSSV) is set to introduce a range of new undergraduate and postgraduate courses along with integrated programs starting this academic year. Dr Mridul Hazarika, vice chancellor of the university, made this announcement during a press conference held at the university auditorium on Wednesday after-

Dr Hazarika briefed the media, stating that MSSV will introduce new undergraduate courses such as psychology, Bachelor of business administration (BFSI), digital marketing analytics, cloud computing, Bachelor of design (including interior design, fashion design, product design), and other relevant courses. Additionally, the university will offer integrated postgraduate and PhD courses, along with postgraduate diplomas in remote sensing and GIS. Dr Hazarika emphasised that the admission process has already commenced, urging interested students to register at www.mssv.ac.in or contact 9531089105 for further details.

The vice chancellor highlighted that these new courses are being launched in collaboration with Projectivity Consultancy Pvt Ltd, which will also provide scholarship opportunities and employment prospects for students. Furthermore, the remote sensing course will be offered in collaboration with the North Eastern Space Applications Centre. Present at the press conference were Dr Bichitra Bikash, assistant registrar (Academic), Manash Kapil Pathak, assistant controller of examination, Sounak Ghosh, chief executive officer of Projectivity Consultancy Pvt Ltd, and Gauri Prasad Sarma.

Paddy plantation programme

HT Correspondent
DEMOW, June 19: The district commissioner of Sivasagar district. Aditya Vikram Yadav, inaugurated the Sali hybrid 'Srabani and Numali rice' paddy plantation programme in Garhbhanga Gaon (Nitaipukhuri) on Wednesday. The initiative, organised by Dihingporia Mustard Fed Producer Company in collaboration with Sivasagar Krishi Bigyan Kendra and under the guidance of the Sivasagar District Agriculture Department, aims to conduct agricultural activities twice a year.

PM-KISAN 17th instalment disbursed to 51,300 Jorhat farmers

Union minister Murlidhar Mohol addresses farmers at KVK Jorhat event



HT Correspondent

JORHAT, June 19: Coinciding with the release of the 17th instalment of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Varanasi on Tuesday evening, a function was organised at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Jorhat, at Koliapani, Teok in Jorhat district at the same time to release the said instalment to farmers of the district.

An Agriculture Department official here informed that in the pro-

Agriculture Department and KVK, Jorhat, the address by the Prime Minister to farmers at Varanasi was webcast live to over 300 farmers across the district, who attended the event in the presence of Union minister of state for Civil Aviation and Cooperation Murlidhar

Altogether 51,300 farmers of Jorhat district received the 17th instalment of PM-KISAN through the DBT mode that totalled ₹ 10.65 crores and was deposited in the bank accounts of the farmers.

Speaking on the occasion, gram jointly organised by the Mohol highlighted various initia-

tives that the Narendra Modi-led government had undertaken in the last two terms and said that PM-KISAN was one such scheme through which farmers of the country have been benefiting.

Stating that India being primarily an agricultural country, the Prime Minister had laid importance on the development of the agriculture sector and farmers' welfare, the minister said that Modi, just after assuming office for the third time, had immediately released ₹ 20,000 crores for 9.26 crore beneficiary farmers as the 17th instalment of the PM-KISAN

Mohol also had an interaction with the farmers attending the program, which was also attended by Mariani MLA Rupjyoti Kurmi, senior officials of the district administration, police, Agriculture Department, and Assam Agricultural University.

Earlier, KVK, Jorhat, head, Dr Sanjay Borthakur, delivered the welcome address, and senior scientist Prabhat Baruah anchored the

Obituary

HT Bureau

ormer ONGC officer and a resident of Sivasaga ▲ Amolapatty, Kamakhya Sarmah (74) died of blood sugar-related ailments at a Dibrugarh Nursing Home on Tuesday night. He was associated with Amolapatty Hindu Dharma Naamghar Samaj and Sandhani Moina Parijat until his death. Sarmah left behind his wife, three daughters, and sonsin-law, besides the grandchildren. His death is condoled by Sivasagar Hindu Dharma Naamghar Samaj, Sivasagar Jila Moina Parijat, Sivasagar Municipality Tax Pavers Association. Brihattar Sivasagar Press Club, Sivasagar MV School Teachers Unit, Rangpur Sahitya Sabha, Drishyapat Sivasagar, Sanatan Dharma Naamghar Samaj, and Jyoti Sangha. His last rites were performed at Thanapatty crematorium on Wednesday.

Autonomous Council (KAAC), DIPHU, June 19: Laichan En-Tuliram Ronghang, and president of BJP-EKADC, Roland Killing, gleng, the newly appointed spokesperson of BJP, East Karbi among others, for appointing him Anglong District Committee (BJPas spokesperson of BJP-EKADC. The appointment letter was for-EKADC), has extended his thanks and gratitude to chief executive mally handed over by president member (CEM) of Karbi Anglong Roland Killing on Tuesday at the

BJP office in Diphu. Addressing a press conference

on Wednesday at the office of the Hill People Cultural Forum (HPCF), Laichan Engleng said, 'Firstly, I extend my heartfelt thanks to CEM Tuliram Ronghang, MP Amarsing Tisso, president of BJP-EKADC Roland Killing, secretary of BJPKADC Sarsing Phangcho, and the Board chairmen for appointing me as spokesperson of BJP. This marks a new chapter in my political career and presents challenges, as I am relatively inexperienced. Nonetheless, I have been entrusted with this position and will strive to strengthen the party to the best of my ability.'

Engleng also expressed his belief that working under the leadership of CEM Tuliram Ronghang is a privilege, and he pledges to serve society to the best of his abilities.

Flood crisis intensifies in Nagaon

Kapili river breaches danger mark

HT Correspondent

NAGAON, June 19: The flood situation in Nagaon district remains severe, with over 35 villages in the Kampur and Raha revenue circles submerged under floodwaters. As of the latest report, the Kapili river is flowing 1.16 meters above its danger level, posing a continued threat of inundation to additional areas within these circles in the coming hours.

During the second wave of flooding, more than one thousand hectares of crop land have been submerged, impacting over twelve thousand domestic animals in the district, according to sources.

In response, the district administration and the district disaster management department have initiated rescue operations and established relief camps in the affected areas. Additionally, relief efforts include the distribution of food items, sanitary pads, baby food, and other essential supplies to assist the flood victims.

Nalbari town submerged as flood ravages 17 wards



HT Correspondent

NALBARI, June 19: Nalbari town, including all 17 wards, has been submerged due to intensified week-long rainfall. Citizens of Nalbari are facing multiple hardships as the floodwater remains stagnant, with no proper drainage system in place to alleviate the situation

According to reports, a scheme costing nearly Rs 100 crores was sanctioned over a year ago to construct a drainage system, but there has been a lack of active planning and implementation. Consequently, citizens are enduring artificial floods.

Areas severely affected include Nalbari-Hajo Road, all roads in the 17 wards of the town, the head post office, educational institutions, vegetable markets, Bidyapur area, forest roads, among others. The floodwaters, contaminated with debris, have inundated residential houses and some offices. The Assam Jatiyatabadi Yuba Chatra Parishad Nalbari District Committee is urging the deputy commissioner of Nalbari to take immediate steps to efficiently utilise resources for building a robust drainage system in Nalbari town.

BNI celebrates success of 'BIZ Connect 2024' in Guwahati

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, June 19: BNI® (Business Network In-

ternational), the world's largest business networking and referral marketing organisation, recently organised 'BIZ Connect 2024' in Guwahati with great success. The premier event celebrated business networking with over 555 members of BNI Guwahati and Greater Assam, under the leadership of executive directors Sidharth and Neha Garodia. The event was graced by the presence of chairman and CEO of BNI, Graham Weihmiller, and district director of BNI India, Bimal Samal.

During this prestigious gathering, BNI honoured excellence and dedication that have propelled the region to new heights, fostering exceptional business growth and collaboration. This success has positioned Guwahati on the global business map, showcasing it as a city that means business. In his first visit to the north-east, chairman and CEO of BNI, Graham Weihmiller, emphasised that BNI is successfully changing the way the

Weihmiller highlighted that BNI® was founded in 1985 by Dr Ivan Misner, who serves as the founder and chief visionary officer. BNI® operates in over 79 countries, with more than 325,205 members across 11,135 chapters worldwide. In the last 12 months alone, BNI® members generated 14.06 million referrals, resulting in over ₹ 1,83,667 crores in closed business globally. In India, BNI® operates in 130 cities, with over 58,651 members in 1215 chapters, passing 39,50,336 referrals and generating over ₹ 38,533 crores in closed business.

BNI® Guwahati & Greater Assam, managed by executive directors Siddharth Garodia & Neha Garodia, has been a prominent region for over 5 years, boasting 525+ members across 10 chapters. Since its inception, BNI® Guwahati & Greater Assam members have passed 1,55,142 referrals, leading to over ₹ 1647 crores

Seminar underscores yoga's profound impact on health, morality & societal development

Guv Kataria inaugurates 'Yoga for Humanity' seminar

GUWAHATI, June 19: Governor Gulab Chand Kataria inaugurated

a national seminar on yoga, the ancient and wonderful knowledge of Indian culture at a programme held at GMCH auditorium here on The seminar titled 'Yoga for Hu-

manity' was organised by Srimanta Sankardev University of Health Sciences in association with Indian Yoga Culture and Yoga Therapy Centre, Guwahati to promote yoga as a cultural heritage of India. This seminar has been organised to mark the 10th International Day of Yoga to be celebrated on June 21.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor said that yoga has a positive impact on people's lives. Yoga awakens the feelings of kindness and compassion in a person, inspiring them to serve humanity. The Governor further said that in modern times, yoga is understood as a system of exercise and therapy for health and fitness. However, the purpose of yoga is not just physical and mental health benefits, but much more than that. He



also said that scholars around the world have accepted that the practice of yoga leads not only to physical and mental development but also to moral development. Yoga also awakens family values and beliefs in the individual. Therefore, by practicing yoga, qualities like love, compassion, empathy, and morality develop in a person, and it is through such qualities that a healthy family and society are developed, the Governor added.

that a healthy citizen leads to a

healthy family, and a healthy and

Moreover, the Governor said

cultured family leads to the establishment of an ideal society. The country will move forward on the path of development only through an ideal society. Therefore, yoga practice has a direct impact on the development of society and the country

Kataria also said that yoga is a priceless gift of ancient Indian culture. The history of yoga is thousands of years old, and yoga has been practiced ever since civilisation began. In Yoga Vidya, Lord Shiva is considered the first Yogi, the first Guru, or Adi Yogi. He also

said that apart from Maharishi Patanjali, many sages and yoga masters have made important contributions to the conservation and development of this region through yoga practices and yogic literature.

The Governor also observed that from the perspective of yoga, India has emerged as a 'soft power'. For the first time, Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed to celebrate 'Yoga Day' on June 21 at the international level in the General Assembly of the United Nations. The proposal received support from more than 170 countries worldwide, leading to the declaration of International Day of Yoga every June 21.

Dean of Academy, AIIMS, Guwahati Prof Mansi Bhattacharya; principal, Gauhati Medical College Dr Achyut Chandra Baishya; dean, Srimanta Sankardev University of Health Sciences Prof Pankaj Adhikari; president of Indian Yoga Culture and Yoga Therapy Centre Yogacharya Shubhashish, along with a host of other dignitaries, were present on the occasion.

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

Interpretation is the revenge of the intellectual upon art

Elon Musk's foray into EVM debate

The ongoing debate over Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) in India has recently found an unexpected advocate in Elon Musk, the enigmatic billionaire known for his groundbreaking innovations and equally controversial statements. Musk's assertion that EVMs should be eliminated has been seized upon by opponents of these machines. However, those against EVMs might want to reconsider if Musk is the best spokesperson for their cause. Elon Musk, the entrepreneurial force behind Tesla and SpaceX, is no stranger to making headlines, often for reasons that are as sensational as they are divisive. From calling a British diver involved in the Thai cave rescue a 'pedo guy' to joking about taking Tesla private at \$420-a figure he later claimed was a joke-Musk's Twitter feed is a well-known minefield. His infamous April Fool's joke about Tesla going bankrupt after poor Easter egg sales led to a sharp drop in Tesla's stock price, bewildering investors and catching the attention of regulators. This history of erratic statements raises questions about Musk's reliability on serious issues like electoral

Given this backdrop, one must question whether Musk holds any substantial insights into EVMs that have eluded global experts. His comments often seem more about stirring controversy than offering informed critique. Relying on Musk's opinions about EVMs is like asking a race car driver for gourmet cooking tips—it may be amusing but is hardly authoritative. His views on EVMs are as relevant as his thoughts on medieval art conservation—interesting, perhaps, but not expert. EVM detractors in India risk undermining their arguments by aligning with a tech mogul whose expertise is in rocketry, not electoral systems. The integrity of Indian democracy demands a grounded approach rooted in evidence and expertise rather than viral pronouncements. The results of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections offer a robust rebuttal to claims that EVMs can be tampered with to favor the ruling party. Despite allegations of EVM manipulation, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) failed to secure a majority, having to rely on coalition partners to form the government. This outcome contradicts claims of EVM tampering, underscoring the competitive and unpredictable nature of

One of the key factors reinforcing the integrity of EVMs in India is their design and operational protocols. Indian EVMs are standalone units, disconnected from the internet or any external network, significantly reducing the risk of remote hacking or tampering. Each machine includes built-in security features like tamper detection mechanisms, encryption, and robust physical security during storage and transportation. The Election Commission of India (ECI) has implemented stringent protocols and multiple layers of verification to ensure the security and reliability of EVMs. Before elections, political parties and candidates can inspect and verify the machines. Allegations of tampering or malpractice are subject to scrutiny and investigation by independent authorities and election observers. The diverse outcomes across different states and constituencies in the latest elections reaffirm the robustness and fairness of the electoral process. While it might be tempting for EVM opponents to use Musk's high-profile criticism to bolster their arguments, they would do well to consider his track record of unpredictable and sometimes unfounded statements. The integrity of India's democratic process deserves scrutiny based on solid evidence and expertise, not the whims of a tech mogul with a penchant for controversy.

The Monsoon: A tale of nature's majesty and humanity's struggle

The monsoon, that grand annual spectacle of nature, has long captivated humanity's attention. Its study, however, did not arise from mere the monsoon's volatility, yet often scientific curiosity but from prac-resulted in unintended ecological tical, commercial concerns inter- and social consequences. The twined with the perilous voyages of seafarers.

Indeed, mastering the winds that facilitated ocean crossings and understanding the storms that threatened sailors' lives were imperative. The genesis of meteorology, particularly in the context of the Indian subcontinent, finds its roots in the pragmatic needs of maritime navigation.

Ahmad ibn Mājid's 14th-century account in his "Kitab al-Fawa'id" marked the earliest written record of the monsoon's significance. By the 17th century, the English and Dutch East India companies meticulously documented weather data from their voyages, contributing to a burgeoning understanding of mete-

Henry Piddington's coinage of the term "cyclone" in the 1840s and the establishment of the Indian meteorological service in 1875 under-

scored the escalating importance of weather fore- EPIC AFFAIRS casting, particularly in

regions susceptible to cyclonic disturbances like the Bay of Ben-

SHASHANKA DAS

The 19th century bore witness to the grim repercussions of monsoon variability, with devastating famines exposing India's vulnerability to rainfall fluctuations. These calamities, exacerbated by imperial policies, underscored the intricate relationship between monsoonal patterns and human livelihoods. The quest for irrigation emerged as a paramount endeavor, driven by the imperative to mitigate the monsoon's unpre-

dictability. Henry Blanford's pioneering monsoon forecasts in the late 19th century laid the foundation for understanding the monsoon's broader climatic dynamics. Gilbert Walker's groundbreaking insights into the Southern Oscillation further illuminated the interconnectedness of global weather systems, heralding a new

era in meteorological research. However, the 20th century brought forth new challenges and paradoxes. Technological interventions, epitomized by ambitious dam projects, aimed to tame

green revolution, facilitated by tube-well irrigation and high-yielding crop varieties, ushered in an era of agricultural abundance but also exacerbated regional disparities and ecological imbalances

The hubris of mid-century confidence in technological solutions was shattered by successive monsoon failures in the 1960s, prompting a reevaluation of India's water management strategies. The insidious impact of aerosol emissions and land-use changes on monsoon dynamics further complicated the narrative, highlighting the interconnectedness of environmental, social, and economic factors.

As climate change looms large on the horizon, the monsoon emerges as a critical bellwether of global ecological health. Anthropogenic influences, coupled with natural variability, pose ex-

> istential threats to the delicate equilibrium of monsoonal systems. Ami-

tav Ghosh's poignant reflections on the "unthinkable" consequences of climate change underscore the urgency of confronting these

challenges. In the face of uncertainty, voices from the grassroots, like Suprabha Seshan's poignant observations, remind us of the profound stakes involved. The fate of the monsoon is inexorably linked to the fate of millions who depend on its benevolence for sustenance and survival. As we navigate an increasingly precarious future, reverence for nature's rhythms and humility in the face of its complexities may offer a

path forward. The monsoon, with its tempestuous beauty and life-giving rains, remains both a marvel of nature and a crucible of human resilience. In its ebb and flow, we find echoes of our shared destiny and a call to stewardship of the fragile planet we call home. (The author can be reached at shashankadas0007@gmail.com)

Bishnu Prasad Rabha: A visionary artist and revolutionary for social upliftment

alaguru Bishnu Prasad Rabha, a multifaceted genius, is commemorated annually on the 20th of June, yet his true impact and revolutionary ideals have often been overshadowed or underappreciated. Despite the grandeur of the celebrations honoring his death anniversary, a comprehensive assessment of his diverse contributions and his relentless pursuit to dismantle the oppressive political structures that subjugated the underprivileged remains elusive. While his name echoes through the annals of history, the depth of his vision and the fervor with which he championed the cause of the downtrodden have frequently been obscured or diminished, a disservice to the profound legacy he left behind.

Bishnu Prasad Rabha, a multifaceted personality, left an indelible mark on the cultural and social landscape of Assam. Born in 1909, he was a visionary artist, writer, researcher, and advocate for social reformation, dedicated to uplifting the oppressed and unifying the divided. Dr. Sibnath Barman aptly recognized him as a symbol of the Assamese Renaissance.

Rabha believed in the transformative power of art as a catalyst for social change, refusing to confine himself to the ivory tower of artistic expression. He was acutely aware of the urgent need to confront the societal injustices, exploitation, and divisive forces that perpetuated caste and communal divisions. Having witnessed the complex socio-economic realities of Assam during and after the freedom struggle, Rabha embraced both art and political ideals as vehicles for societal transforma-

His acquaintance with the works of Marx and Lenin provided him with a new lens to study the lives of the downtrodden, empathize with their struggles, and work towards their socio-economic upliftment. Inspired by the versatility and impact of figures like Leonardo da Vinci, Lord Krishna, and Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardeva, Rabha sought to emulate their multifaceted talents as an artist, writer, musician, and social reliorate the plight of the exploited masses, Bishnu Prasad Rabha carved a unique path, seamlessly blending artistic expression with a relentless pursuit of social justice and upliftment, leaving a lasting legacy that resonates through the ages.

Born into a family of affluence and privilege, Bishnu Rabha defied expectations by embarking on a revolutionary path, driven by a fervent desire to uplift the impoverished masses. Despite his father's status as a wealthy landowner and a British government police officer. Rabha chose to chart his own course. His educational journey began at

esteemed Tezpur Govern-High ment

School, where he completed his matriculation in 1926, followed by collegiate studies at St. Paul's in Bangladesh and Victoria College in Kochbehar. However, Rabha's pursuit of higher education was cut short as he heeded the call of the Indian freedom struggle, a decision that would profoundly shape the course of

Inspired by the nationalistic fervor of the time, Rabha's patriotism transcended narrow confines of prejudice and communal biases. He dedicated himself to the establishment of a society that would ensure equal opportunities and rapid development for all, regardless of caste or community. Rabha placed great emphasis on preserving and enriching the cultural heritage, believing that socio-economic progress must be accompanied by a nurturing of traditions. He held the conviction that the enrichment of the great Indian cultural tradition necessitated the cultivation and enhancement of the Assamese culture, which he viewed as an integral part of the larger tapes-

While his colleague Jyoti Prasad Agarwalla ventured to Germany to receive training in the art of filmmaking, Bishnu Prasad Rabha embarked on a mission of cultural exploration within the confines of his home-

During the tumultuous years of World War II, Rabha em-

him across the length and breadth of the state, affording him the rare opportunity to intimately witness the lives of various tribal communities, both those inhabiting the hills and those dwelling in the remote plains. His quest was driven by a desire to uncover the cultural treasures preserved within the sacred precincts of namghars and xatras, as well as those safeguarded in the hearts of the common folk.

Rabha's endeavor stemmed from a conviction that the existing social order had yet to render justice to the tribal populace. Consequently, he aimed to initi-DEGREE OF THOUGHT ate pragmatic measures de-

signed to foster the socio-economic development of these marginalized communities, who had long languished on the

fringes of mainstream society. Bishnu Rabha, a visionary and prolific writer, understood the importance of nurturing the linguistic and cultural diversity of Assam to solidify the foundation of the greater Assamese nation. While he contributed significantly to Assamese literature through his poems, songs, novels, and short stories, he never disregarded or undervalued the vernacular languages of

the region. With a broad-minded and inclusive approach, Rabha recognized that celebrating the growth and development of every community's language and literature was crucial for the unity and progress of Assam. His multilingual proficiency, encompassing Nepali, Bodo, Bengali, and Assamese, among others, allowed him to deeply appreciate and connect with the cultural richness of each community.

Rabha's far-reaching wisdom and liberal outlook could have prevented many of the conflicts and tensions that plagued the state in recent decades, had his foresight been embraced and the chauvinistic attitudes of some leaders been avoided. His ability to transcend boundaries and be embraced as a member of every community he engaged with made him an embodiment of the

languages and cultures in the tion led him to take up arms, Brahmaputra Valley.

Rabha's life and work serve as a testament to the power of embracing diversity and fostering an environment where every linguistic and cultural group can thrive, ultimately strengthening the fabric of the greater Assamese nation.

Rabha's association with the Indian Revolutionary Communist Party in 1945 marked a profound shift in his ideological leanings and worldview. While the Indian National Congress spearheaded the struggle against British colonial rule, Rabha championed the cause of emancipating the nation from the shackles of indigenous forces of oppression and exploitation, embodied by the zamindars, mahaians, and the like.

He firmly believed that the expulsion of the British colonialists was a necessary step, but true liberation would only be achieved by dismantling the archaic social structure and establishing the Panchayati Raj system, thereby putting an end to the exploitation of peasants and laborers. Rabha's vision extended beyond mere political independence: he envisioned a comprehensive social and economic transformation that would uplift the downtrodden and marginalized sections of so-

Bishnu Rabha's association with the Communist Party broadened his perspective, allowing him to intimately understand the plight of the oppressed masses. He recognized the rich cultural tapestry woven by these communities as a potent catalyst societal transformation. Seminal works like "Asomiya Kristir Somu Abhash,' 'Asomiya Kristi," and "Mukti Deol" reflects the evolution of his worldview, interpreting art, music, and literature through the lens of class struggle and power dynamics. Rabha pioneered a form of Marxist criticism, grounded in the economic and cultural theories of Karl Marx, analyzing the stark realities of social stratification and the toil endured by the impoverished.

His creations served as a clarion call, urging the masses to unite against oppression and demand change. Rabha's convic-

launching a rebellion against the landed gentry and the government, which he believed safeguarded the oppressors. He vehemently advocated for the inalienable rights of cultivators over their land, asserting that only those who tilled the soil should hold dominion over it. Undeterred, Rabha continued his crusade for this cause until his dying breath, a testament to his unwavering commitment to social justice and agrarian re-

The renowned artist Bishnu Prasad Rabha had a unique perspective on the purpose of art. While he did not solely view it as a vehicle for social change, his works undoubtedly reflected his belief in the power of art to inspire unity, solidarity, and revolution among the underprivileged masses. Rabha's creations beautifully captured the joys and struggles of the common people of Assam, showcasing his conviction that art could be a catalyst for transforming their circumstances.

However, Rabha's artistic endeavors were not merely tools for propagating political ideals; his creations remained aesthetically rich and captivating. His revolutionary approach to art did not diminish its intrinsic beauty and value. Indeed, we can proudly boast of the unparalleled and peerless works of this revolutionary artist.

The ideals that Bishnu Prasad Rabha dedicated his life to, and the artistic contributions that have enriched Assamese art, music, and culture, deserve far greater attention and in-depth academic study. Unfortunately, concerted efforts to make the younger generations aware of this versatile genius's remarkable ideals and invaluable contributions have been lacking.

It is imperative that the state government and universities take the initiative to encourage and facilitate research by the youth on the life and achievements of Bishnu Prasad Rabha. Doing so would not only honor his legacy but also inspire future generations to appreciate the profound impact of art on social $transformation.\ (\textit{The writer can}$ be reached at dipakkur-

Sahitya Akademi Award under suspicion

<u>Saurabh</u>

resterday, after the news of the announcement of the 2024 Yuva and Bal Sahitya Puraskar by the Central Sahitya Akademi on social media, along with congratulations, as has been happening every year regarding the Akademi Awards, some question or controversy always arises. This time too, Kumar Sushant wrote a post raising questions on the last date of entry and the books published after that, so obviously the matter was bound to escalate; many reactions are coming in the form of questions. There is no mention or provision of any privilege in any of the rules of the Academy for considering books re-

ceived after the last date. Rule 3 point (6) clearly states that the list of eligible books received in 24 Indian languages will be sent to all the members (including the convener) of the concerned Bhasha Advisory Board with the request that they should approve two books by the date fixed by the Academy.

It is written in the first paragraph of Rule 7 - Miscellaneous that if the deadline for sending recommendations is ignored by any member of the Bhasha Advisory Board or the jury, then the Academy will assume that there is no recommendation and will proceed with its award process accordingly, except in a special situation in which the Academy is in a position to extend the deadline and extends it.

ple about whom there are question marks are recommended by all three jury members, that is, all three books have been advocated. Wow, Sahitya Akademi. The amazing thing is that out of the three people who had advocated, only one has been given the award. Now it is a matter to think how honest the jury is. Is it not that all the names that

Surprisingly, the three peo-

ommended by the jury? Is it not that only the recommended names were considered and the books of those writers who submitted their books within the stipulated time were not considered (because they were not recommended)? Will the Sahitya Akademi tell which book included in the list was recommended by which jury

According to the famous critic, poet, and writer Navneet Pandey, the question is that if the Akademi does not change the last date declared in its notification or extends the date without public notice by informing the jury panel personally, then it is a different matter. Despite this, is it written anywhere in any rule that the jury or panel can include in the list a book received after the last date or published from any personal information or source? If there has been no amendment in these rules, if these are the rules, then despite knowing their provisions, if the jury considers the books received and published after the panel date and includes them in the final list and finds them worthy of the award and announces the award, then these talents are unique and extraordinary, there should be no doubt about this.

Let me remind you that the last date for submitting applications and entries for Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar-2024 was 31 August 2023. Out of the 12 authors whose names have been published by Sahitya Akademi with the announcement of the award, the books of two authors have come after the date of applica-

The first author is Shahadat and the second is Vihag Vaibhav. Shahadat's book 'Curfew Ki Raat' was published by Lokbharati Prakashan in 2024 i.e. 5 months after the last date of application and Vihag Vaibhav's book was published by Rajkamal Prakashan in Sepafter the last date of applica-

Readers can see the proof of publication of both books on Google. In such a situation, how did Sahitya Akademi consider the books of these two authors? What are the names of these two books in the final list? As per the rules, this is invalid and unethical.

While researching on this subject, it was found that the book of the award-winning author was published on 30 August 2023 and the last date for application was 31 August 2023. How did the author himself deliver the book from the publisher to the office of Sahitva Akademi in one day? It is written in the press release of Sahitya Akademi that "The applicant will have to submit two copies of the book along with self-certified birth certifi-

Sahitya Akademi is requested to look into this and take immediate action and withdraw the announcement of Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2024. A new announcement of the award-winning youth should be made. This is an injustice to other capable young authors. This is a very serious matter, very insulting to the academy which claims transparency, the authors should take cognizance, and the secretary and the president of the academy should be asked for an answer.

Sushant, all the litterateurs should look at the truth of Sahitya Akademi that you have exposed with evidence. Now these awards have no value. Are their members sponsored as well as the judges? At least literary awards must maintain transparency. Awards should be announced only after evaluating proper writing. (The author is a poet, freelance journalist and columnist, All India Radio and TV panelist who reached be laloo.barwa@7257289.msender-sib.com)

Election takeaways that one can count as significant

By: Tirthankar Mitra

hallenging long-standing narratives and sometimes setting them aside, 2024 Lok Sabha elections marked a pivotal moment in Indian politics. In sum, it is time for political pundits and pollsters to look at things they claim to know all about with an open mind. The common people need not bother themselves as they do not have "tunnel vision".

The emergence of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, a key figure belonging to the privileged Nehru-Gandhi family, is a case in point. He has come a long way from the time he tore up an 'ordinance" into pieces before it could become a piece of legislation. Not only his supporters, but also

those who voted against him and the promises he upheld are eager to know how responsibly he performs his role. After all, he is

slated to become Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha. Gandhi The

scion had conducted a rhetorical campaign. It is time now to display the scholarship of a good parliamen-

If past records are anything to go by, Rahul Gandhi failed to cut an impressive figure as an MP in his earlier stints. Indeed, he drew a poor comparison with his grandfather Feroze Gandhi or his father Rajiv Gandhi and was not within hailing distance of his great-grandfather, India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. Rahul will do well if he follows the practices which all three of his ancestors followed. Like them, he has to listen carefully and speak sensibly.

Reverting from the scion of the Nehru-Gandhi family, a renewed focus on Dalit politics comes up with interesting revelations. It is undergoing a transformation. There is a decline in the influence of established figures like Mayawati in the victory of Chandrasekhar Azad "Ravan" at Nagina in Uttar Pradesh. It is a pointer to a desire among Dalit voters

for new leadership. They seem to seek one that can advocate their interests more effectively. A multi-cornered contest from which Azad emerged at the top does him credit.

The defeat of BJP in a constituency like Faizabad, home of Avodhva Ram Mandir is a marker to the return and revival of secularism. It may be one of the most unlikely places for such a turnaround but this very fact makes it all the more significant.

The victory of Samaiwadi Partv (SP) candidate Awadesh Prasad could not have come at a better time. For the SP's Dalit candidate winning a general category seat sends a message to the saffron camp. The Hindutva brigade has been told in plain language of the voters' desire for in-

> Awadesh Prasad's victory is a resounding nay to religious politics caste divisions. It is also time

clusive politics.

the Left did more than field young faces to reinvent itself. Wiped out of the electoral map of West

Bengal, 27 out of 29 Left candidates lost their deposits. An "internal introspection" is on. If some of the senior Left leaders change into ashes and sackcloth (making a clean breast of things) and interact with the people, some lost political ground can be salvaged in the 2026 Assembly elections

in West Bengal. On a wider scale, the return of coalition politics marks a reinforcement of federalism. It will likely curb the BJP's centralisation tendencies. together with a higher pitch of the voices of smaller political outfits promoting a cooperative approach absent in governance in the past decade. Come the Budget, one would know whether the ruling dispensation has realised that economic issues fuelled voters' disaffection and election outcome. More inclusive economic policies would ensure that the boat of the NDA government is not rocked even as tensions between the RSS and the BJP can bring about shifts in the latter's internal dynamics. (IPA Service)



79 candidates withdraw nomination from ULB election in Nagaland

KOHIMA, June 19: Altogether 79 candidates have withdrawn their nomination from the Urban Local Body (ULB) election in Nagaland, an official of the State Election Commission (SEC) said. Tuesday was the last date for withdrawal of nomination.

A total of 669 candidates, including 238 females had filed their nomination papers for the 3 municipal and 36 town councils spread throughout the state, including the Eastern Na-

The SEC said the withdrawal of nominations includes 17 from Shamtor Town Council, 13 from Longleng TC, nine from Tizit TC, eight each from Chiephobozou TC, Pungro TC & Naginimora TC, four from Aboi TC, three from

Dimapur Municipal Council and one each from Kohima MC, Mokokchung MC, Wokha, Zunheboto, Chozuba, Aghunato, Atoizu, Peren and Niuland Town Councils.

ULB elections in Nagaland are scheduled to be held on June 26. It is after 20 years that the elections to ULBs are going to take place in Nagaland as the last ULB elections were held in 2004. It is for the first time that Nagaland will have 33 per cent women reservation in ULBs, which was the main objection of the tribal bodies in disallowing the conduct of the polls for 20 years.

Meanwhile, a total of 61 nominations were also filed in the 14 town councils under Eastern Nagaland Peoples' Organization (ENPO) areas

defying its call for abstention from the ULB elections. Two nomination papers were rejected during scrutiny while 59 candidates withdrew the nominations by Tuesday.

With this, the ENPO area has no candidates for the ULB elections. The tribal bodies which are the affiliates of

ENPO had issued summons and public statements demanding the aspirants to withdraw their candidature on or before the last date.

ENPO, the apex body of seven Naga tribes spread over six districts of the state, reiterated its demand for Frontier Nagaland Territory (FNT) on May 16 and announced its decision to abstain from participating in the local body

polls scheduled. (PTI)

Coordination meet on ULB polls held in Dimapur

HT Correspondent

DIMAPUR, June 19: The Dimapur district administration held the district-level coordination committee meeting at the Dimapur DC's conference hall on Wednesday for smooth and peaceful conduct of upcoming urban local body (ULB) elections in the district. The meeting was attended by goan burhas (village heads), colony chairmen and representatives from recognised political parties.

Nagaland is going for ULB polls on June 26. Chairing the meeting, Dimapur deputy commis-

sioner Tinojongshi Chang, who is the convener of the committee, directed the gaon burhas and colony chairmen to uphold the sanctity of their office and remain impartial towards different political parties and to work conscientiously.

He also stressed the importance of ensuring that the campaigning period is adhered to and asked the gaon burhas to keep the administration informed of any

issue and assist in maintaining law and order. He also requested the political parties to maintain decorum during canvassing to prevent any disturbances to the public. He highlighted the need for cooperation between all parties to ensure that the elections are conducted smoothly and peacefully.

Chang said the meeting was convened as per the directive of the State Election Commission.

Dimapur commissioner of police, Kevithuto Sophe requested the gaon burhas and colony chairmen and political parties to work closely with the administration and the police so that the elections can be held peacefully. He also emphasised on the dos and don'ts of the guidance for candidates and political parties to be observed from the date of announcement of the elections till its completion.

Speaking at the meeting, returning officer for Dimapur Municipal Council, W Manpai Phom said the municipal elections were being held after over 20 years and that there were lots of apprehensions regarding the situation in Dimapur.

He requested the candidates and political parties not to resort to unfair means.

Dated: 15/06/2024

KARBI ANGLONG AUTONOMOUS COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER::: DIPHU WATER RESOURCES DIVISION I P H U

No. EE/DPH/WR/TB-30/Pt-V/2017-18/43

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed tender in plain paper to be eventually drawn in H/F-2 Form affixing non refundable council cash receipt of Rs. 10.00 (Rupees ten) only for each group separately invited from the registered contractor/suppliers of Suppliers of Class-I(A,B,C) & Class III of W.R. Deptt. of Diphu W.R. Division, Diphu and will be received in the office of the undersigned upto 2.00 P.M. of 01/07/2024 (provided it remain a working day, else the next working day will be treated as last date of receiving and opening of tender and will be open on the same date, hour and place. Intending tenderers or their authorized agent may remain present at the time of opening of tenders, if the so desired. If the opening of tender date fall on any band then next working day will be valid.

Earnest Money: 2% in general and 1% of S.C/S.T./OBC to be enclosed along with the tender in each group separately in the form of NSC/Call deposit from any National Bank.

Sl. No.	Packaged No.	Name of the Scheme			
1	1	Protection of Rongsamphri Village up-Stream at Diphu from the erosion of river Diphu in Karbi Anglong dist. for the year 2024-25			
2	2	Construction of flood wall at Rogntheang-B from the erosion of river Shatunal in Karbi Anglong dist. for the year 2024-25			
3	3	Protection of Hidisajir near Tower area from the erosion of river Diphu in Karbi Anglong dist. for the year 2024-25	49.50		
4	4	Protection of Cremation ground at Rongpong pather from erosion of riverJamuna in Karbi Anglong dist. for the year 2024-25	24.50		
5	5	Construction of boulder pitching near RCC Bridge at Modertuli from the erosion of river Dighalpani in Karbi Anglong dist. for the year 2024-25	19.50		
6	6	Construction of boulder pitching at kelai Rongpi gaon from the erosion of river Dikrut in Karbi Anglong dist. for the year 2024-25	14.50		
7	7	Construction of boulder pitching at Sarthe Timung Aron, Bakalia from the erosion of river Longsekjan in Karbi Anglong dist. for the year 2024-25	14.50		
8	8	Construction of boulder pitching near PWD Bridge Bakalia from the erosion of river Tikoklangso in Karbi Anglong dist. for the year 2024-25	22.23		
9	9	Immediate measures to restore at Bamrui area from devastation of river Jamuna in Karbi Anglong dist. for the year 2024-25	20.00		
10	10	Construction of flood wall at Sangma Terang Gaon from the erosion of river Dekoi in Karbi Anglong dist. for the year 2024-25	19.40		
11	11	Construction of boulder pitching at Langhut Tokbi gaon from the erosion of river Marjong in Karbi Anglong dist. for the year 2024-25	14.50		
12	12	Construction of boulder pitching at Kathilangso, diphu near Raju Tisso residence from the erosion of river Chiphongsajir in Karbi Anglong dist. for the year 2024-25	19.25		
13	13	Exhibition stall at Karbi people Hall (KPH) at Taralangso.	10.00		
14	14	Immediate measures to restore at Singh Ghat Koch gaon area from devastation of river Dhansiri in Karbi Anglong District for the year 2024-25	15.00		
15	15	Immediate measures to restore at Tinglijan pobin Momin suk area from devastation of river Dhansiri in Karbi Anglong District for the year 2024-25	15.00		
16	16	Immediate measures to restore at Do-Mile Sochan Ghat area from devastation of river Dhansiri in Karbi Anglong District for the year 2024-25	15.00		
17	17	Immediate measures to restore at Ghariyaldubi area from devastation of river Dhansiri in Karbi Anglong District for the year 2024-25	15.00		
18	18	Protection of Cherakani amtol from the erosion of river Dighalpani in Karbi Anglong dist. for the year 2024-25.	15.00		
19	19	Immediate measures to restore at Cherakani amtol area from devastation of river Dishalpani in Karbi Anglong District for the year 2024-25	15.00		
20	20	Immediate measures to restore at Jamuna Gaon from devastation of river Jamuna in Karbi Anglong District for the year 2024-25	15.00		
21	21	Immediate measures to restore at Okreng Dighalpani from devastation of river Dighalpani in Karbi Anglong District for the year 2024-25	15.00		
22	22	Immediate measures to restore at Triganga from devastation of river Jamuna in Karbi Anglong District for the year 2024-25	15.00		
23	23	Immediate measures to restore at Gozalipar area from devastation of river Jamuna in Karbi Anglong District for the year 2024-25			
24	24	Construction of flood wall at Rongbong Timung gaon near Rongker than at 5th mile from the erosion of river Chutianala in Karbi Anglong dist. for the year 2024-25			
25	25	Anti-erosion measures at Harsing Engleng residence to T&T Complex from thr erosion of river Harina in Karbi Anglong dist. for the year 2024-25			
26	26	Construction of boulder pitching at Balirang Terang village from the erosion of river Lorulangso in Karbi Anglong dist. for the year 2024-25	19.50		
27	27	Construction of boulder pitching at Lorulangso river near Babu Bey residence at Harlongbi Village in Karbi Anglong dist. for the year 2024-25.	19.50		

- 1. The details particulars can be seen in the office of the undersigned in any working day during office hours before the last date of receiving the tender.
- 2. Tenderers are to produce photocopy of upto date Regn. Certificate, Trading Licence, Income Tax, Sale Tax, Professional Tax, Clearance Certificate, GST along with application. Without which tender paper
- 3. All the terms and conditions are as per N.I.T. and F-/H/K-2 form of the tender.
- 4. The payment will be made subject to availability of fund receiving from the KAAC.
- 5. The Schemes are under SOPD-G (2024-2025)
- 6. All Works must be completed within Stipulated time.
- 7. The undersigned reserved the right to accept/reject any or all tender in part or in full without assigning any reason thereof and the undersigned does not bind himself to accept the lowest rate.

Sd/-**Executive Engineer** Diphu Water Esources Division, Diphu.



6 THE HILLS TIMES

Putin says Russia and N Korea have vowed to aid each other if attacked in new partnership deal



SEOUL, June 19: Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un signed a partnership that includes a vow of mutual aid if either country is attacked, during a Pyongyang summit on Wednesday that came as both face es-

calating standoffs with the west. It was not clear what kind of assistance the deal, described

as a "comprehensive strategic partnership," would call for.
Putin's first visit to North Korea in 24 years comes amid growing concerns over an arms arrangement in which the country provides Moscow with badly needed munitions for its war in Ukraine in exchange for economic assistance and technology transfers that could enhance the threat posed by Kim's nuclear weapons and missile program.

Speaking after a signing ceremony, Putin said that security and international issues took up a large part of the talks with Kim, according to Russian state media. He was also quoted to say that Russia would not rule out developing military-technical cooperation with North Korea under the deal. Kim was quoted as saving that the agreement was of a peaceful and defensive nature. "I have no doubt it will become a driving force accelerating the creation of a new multipolar world," he was quoted to say. Russia and North Korea also signed agreements on cooperation in the fields of healthcare, medical education, and science, Russian state media reported, citing the Kremlin's website.

Putin was met upon his nighttime arrival by Kim, who shook his hands, hugged him twice and rode with him from the airport in a limousine in a huge motorcade that rolled through the capital's brightly illuminated streets, where buildings were decorated with giant Russian flags and portraits of Putin.

After spending the rest of the night at a state guest house, Putin attended a lavish welcoming ceremony at the city's main square, where he and Kim saluted an honor guard and walked across a red carpet. Kim then introduced key members of his leadership including Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui; top aide and ruling party secretary Jo Yong Won; and the leader's powerful sister, Kim Yo Jong.

The square was filled with what appeared to be tens of thousands of spectators, including children holding balloons and people wearing coordinated t-shirts in the red, white and blue of the Russian and North Korean flags. Huge crowds lined up on the streets to greet Putin's motorcade, chanting "Welcome Putin" and waving flowers and North Korean and Russian flags. As the talks began, Putin thanked Kim for North Korea's support for his war in Ukraine, part of what he said was a "fight against the imperialist hegemonistic policies of the U.S. and its satellites against the Russian Federation." (AP)

Ship attacked by Yemen's Houthi rebels in fatal assault sinks in Red Sea in their 2nd sinking

DUBAI, June 19: A bulk carrier sank days after an attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels believed to have killed one mariner on board, authorities said early on Wednesday, the second ship sunk in the rebels' campaign.

The sinking of the Tutor in the Red Sea marks what appears to be a new escalation by the Iranian-backed Houthis in their campaign targeting shipping through the vital maritime corridor over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip.

The attack comes despite a monthslong US-led campaign in the region that has seen the Navy face its most-intense maritime fighting since World War II, with near-daily attacks targeting commercial vessels and warship.

The Liberian-flagged, Greek-owned-and-operated Tutor sank in the Red Sea, the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations centre said in a warning to sailors in the region. "Military authorities report maritime debris and oil sighted in the last reported location," the UKMTO said. "The vessel is believed to have sunk."

The Houthis, quoting foreign reports in media outlets they control, acknowledged the sinking. The US military did not acknowledge the sinking, nor did it respond to requests for comment. The Tutor came under attack about a week ago by a bomb-carrying Houthi drone boat in the Red Sea. John Kirby, a White House national security spokesman, said on Monday that the attack killed "a crew member who hailed from the

The Philippines has yet to acknowledge the death, but the man who had been aboard the Tutor has been missing for over a week in the Red Sea, which faces intense summertime heat.

The use of a boat loaded with explosives raised the spectre of the attack in 2000 on the USS Cole, a suicide assault by al-Qaida when the warship was at port in the Yemeni city of Aden, killing 17 on board.

The Cole is now part of a US Navy operation in the Red Sea led by the aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower to try and halt the Houthi attacks, though the rebels continue their as-

The Houthis have launched more than 60 attacks targeting specific vessels and fired off other missiles and drones in their campaign that has killed a total of four sailors. They've seized one vessel and sunk two since November. A US-led airstrike campaign has targeted the Houthis since January, with a series of strikes May 30 killing at least 16 people and wounding 42 others, the rebels say.

In March, the Belize-flagged Rubymar carried a load of fertilizer sank in the Red Sea after taking on water for days following a rebel attack.

The Houthis have maintained their attacks target ships linked to Israel, the US or the UK. However, many of the ships they've attacked have little or no connection to the ongoing Israel-

The war in Gaza has killed more than 37,000 Palestinians there, while hundreds of others have been killed in Israeli operations in the West Bank. It began after Hamas-led militants attacked Israel on October 7, killing about 1,200 people and taking around 250 hostage.

A recent report by the US Defence Intelligence Agency acknowledged container shipping through Red Sea has declined by 90 per cent since December over the attacks. As much as 15 per cent of the world's maritime traffic flows through that cor-

Meanwhile on Wednesday, the Houthis said US-led airstrikes targeted Raymah, a province in Yemen under rebel control. The Houthi-controlled SABA news agency described a local radio station's building as being "totally destroyed" in the strikes. About a week earlier, the Houthis said similar strikes killed two people and wounded nine others, without saying if those hurt were fighters or civilians. (AP)

KARBI ANGLONG AUTONOMOUS COUNCIL ART & CULTURE DEPARTMENT **KAAC SECRETARIAT:: DIPHU**

No. KAAC/Art & Culture/Repairing/Nothengpi/2022/48

Dated Diphu, the 15th June 2024

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tender affixing non-refundable KAAC court fee stamp (receipt) Rs. 10.00 (Rupees Ten) only eventually to be drawn up in form ae hereby invited from KAAC Registered/reputed firms and will be received from 15-06-2024 to 19-06-2024 by the undersigned up to 4 P.M. as per the Annual Action Plan (AAP) for the financial year 2024-2025 under Art & Culture Dept., KAAC, Diphu for the scheme/works mentioned below and will be opened on the same date, place and hours in presence of the tenderers on their authority agent if any.

If any day of the opening of tender happens to be any holiday/non-working day, the tender will be re-opened in the next day. The undersigned has the right to accept, reject any reason thereof and will not be bound to accept the lowest tender quoted.

S1. No.	Name of Schemes/Works	Estimated Amount	Tender Amount	Earnest Money	Time allowed for the work completion
1	Repairing/Renovation of Electrical works at Nothengpi: Karbi Heritage Museum, Taralangso	Rs. 12.41 Lacs	Rs. 12.41 Lacs	ST/SC/OBC = 1% General = 2%	30 Days
2	Construction of Kitchen hall at Howraghat KCS office complex	Rs. 21.52 Lacs	Rs. 21.52 Lacs	ST/SC/OBC = 1% General = 2%	30 Days
3	Construction of RCC Ringwell at Traditional Music School, KPH, Taralangso, Diphu	Rs. 5.00Lacs	Rs. 5.00Lacs	ST/SC/OBC = 1% General = 2%	30 Days
4	Construction of Lighting Ramp at Singmirjeng Achatai, KPH, Taralangso, Diphu	Rs. 10.00 Lacs	Rs. 10.00 Lacs	ST/SC/OBC = 1% General = 2%	30 Days
5	Construction of 5 nos. Of Zonal Camps at KPH, Taralangso	Rs. 130.00 Lacs	Rs. 130.00 Lacs	ST/SC/OBC = 1% General = 2%	30 Days
6	Construction of drainage system of Artist village at KPH, Taralangso	Rs. 20.65 Lacs	Rs. 20.65 Lacs	ST/SC/OBC = 1% General = 2%	30 Days
7	Construction of 3 nos. Waiting Shed at KPH, Taralangso	Rs. 45.00 Lacs	Rs. 45.00 Lacs	ST/SC/OBC = 1% General = 2%	30 Days
8	Construction of KTMS Building, Hangjanglangso	Rs. 36.42 Lacs	Rs. 36.42 Lacs	ST/SC/OBC = 1% General = 2%	30 Days
9	Construction of Extension of Rooms for Karbi Traditional Music School at KPH Taralangso	Rs. 21.64 Lacs	Rs. 21.64 Lacs	ST/SC/OBC = 1% General = 2%	30 Days
10	Installation of permanent hoarding board of Kajir Ronghangpi at different places in Karbi Anglong	Rs. 10.00 Lacs	Rs. 10.00 Lacs	ST/SC/OBC = 1% General = 2%	30 Days
11	Renovation of KLA Office, Borjan	Rs. 10.00 Lacs	Rs. 10.00 Lacs	ST/SC/OBC = 1% General = 2%	30 Days
12	Renovation of KLA Office, Hangjanglangso	Rs. 10.00 Lacs	Rs. 10.00 Lacs	ST/SC/OBC = 1% General = 2%	30 Days
13	Renovation of KLA Office, Deopani	Rs. 10.00 Lacs	Rs. 10.00 Lacs	ST/SC/OBC = 1% General = 2%	30 Days
14	Staircase with railing and water pipe connection at Nothengpi: Karbi Heritage Meseum, KPH, Taralangso	Rs. 5.00 Lacs	Rs. 5.00 Lacs	ST/SC/OBC = 1% General = 2%	30 Days
15	Renovation of Zonal Camps at KPH, Taralangso	Rs. 15.00 Lacs	Rs. 15.00 Lacs	ST/SC/OBC = 1% General = 2%	30 Days
16	Earth cutting & Retaining wall at Bonglong Terang Memorial Park, Rongplimplam, Borjan	Rs. 15.00 Lacs	Rs. 15.00 Lacs	ST/SC/OBC = 1% General = 2%	30 Days
17	Const. of Tradition sports gallery (Hambi Aklam) at KPH, Diphu	Rs. 32.39 Lacs	Rs. 32.39 Lacs	ST/SC/OBC = 1% General = 2%	30 Days
18	Const. of Chikimo Memorial & Retaining Wall with boundary wall at KCS, Diphu	Rs. 16.17 Lacs	Rs. 16.17 Lacs	ST/SC/OBC = 1% General = 2%	30 Days
19	Earth cutting & filling at Zonal Camps, KPH, Taralangso, Diphu	Rs. 17.87 Lacs	Rs. 17.87 Lacs	ST/SC/OBC = 1% General = 2%	30 Days
20	Boundary wall & boulder pitching at Museum, KPH, Taralangso	Rs. 17.90 Lacs	Rs. 17.90 Lacs	ST/SC/OBC = 1% General = 2%	30 Days

Details N.I.T./Tender documents may be obtained from the Deputy Director, Art & Culture KAAC, Diphu during working hours and office hours.

Terms & Conditions:

N.B.

- 1. The rate to be quoted as %(percent) above/below/as per schedule rate for building/sanitary/works for all division under as per CPWD DSR 2021
- 2. Earnest Money should be deposited in favour of Deputy Director, Art & Culture Dept., KAAC, Diphu in the form of call deposit/Bank Draft & should attached with the tender without which no tender will be accepted.
- 3. The work must be carried on as directed by the EE (Works), KAAC/KAAC authority.
- 4. The contractor shall re-construct, if the works executed fails due to inferior quality works. The KAAC authority will take legal action, if contractor refuse to re-construct the same.
- 5. The following documents should be enclosed with the tender:-
 - (a) Professional Tax Clearance Certificate,
- (b) Sale Tax Clearance Certificate/GST registration, (e) Cast Certificate,
- (c) Council Registration, (f) Bank Details and Account number.

- (d) Call Deposit, 6. The undersigned is not bound to accept the lowest quoted rate.
- 7. Payment shall made subject to availability of fund.

Sd/-Deputy Director, Art & Culture Dept., Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council DIPHU

Rain triggers landslides, flood-like situation in several Arunachal districts

ITANAGAR, June 19: Incessant rain over the past few days had triggered landslides and flood-like situations in various parts of Arunachal Pradesh, officials said on Wednesday.

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The state capital witnessed landslides at several locations, with waterlogging reported along the Doimuk-Potin Road and several stretches of the Itanagar-Yupia Road.

A portion of NH-415 and a culvert were washed away at Karsingsa sinking zone on Tuesday morning, severing connectivity between Nirjuli and Banderdewa. Vehicular traffic between these areas has been diverted via Gumto Road.

With the IMD forecasting heavy rains in the state capital over the next few days, the district administration has urged residents in vulnerable areas to move to safer locations or designated relief camps. Eight relief camps have been established in the state capital to aid those affected by landslides and flooding, officials said. Landslides also damaged a few vehicles and a newly constructed house in Banderdewa. Fortunately, no loss of human lives has been reported. Similar reports of landslides have emerged from other districts. Major rivers and their



tributaries in the state are in high spate, though still below the danger mark. West Siang District Disaster Management Officer (DDMO) Dorjee Nima reported that several hectares of agricultural fields were damaged after water from the Hu stream, a tributary of the Yomgo river, flooded fields in Taba Sora village under Kodum circle. Aalo township also experienced artificial flooding due to an inadequate

drainage system, they added. Chief Minister Pema Khandu, who also holds the Disaster Management portfolio, convened a meeting on Wednesday with officials to review monsoon preparedness.

"Chaired a review meeting today with the Department of Disaster Management to assess

our monsoon preparedness, in the presence of Hon'ble Advisor Disaster Management Shri Nakap Nalo Ji," Khandu

"Ensuring the safety and well-being of our citizens is our top priority. We are committed to proactive measures and coordinated efforts to effectively manage and mitigate monsoon-related challenges. Let's stay alert and work together for a resilient Arunachal Pradesh," the chief minister

Khandu has urged citizens to stay safe, take necessary precautions, avoid unnecessary travel, and stay updated on weather advisories, emphasizing that the administration is on high alert to ensure everyone's

June 26 declared paid holiday in Nagaland

HT Correspondent
DIMAPUR, June 19: The Nagaland government on Wednesday declared June 26, the day of polling for urban local body elections in the state, as a paid holiday for all the employees of the state government in the municipal and town council areas of the districts going to polls to enable them to participate and exercise their franchise.

This also applies to all categories of employees ordinarily residing in one area, but having the place of work in another area, a

government notification said. The day of polling was also declared a paid holiday to all the employees of banks and financial institutions in the municipal and town council areas under the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 (Act, XXVI) to enable them to exercise their franchise.

In another notification, the state government declared June 22 (4th Saturday) as working day only for those offices/departments engaged in election works under the munic-

NSCN-IM refutes death of six Naga Army personnel

DIMAPUR, June 19: The NSCN-IM has strongly refuted reports death of six other Naga Army personnel along with Capt. Winson. "This was proved to be unfounded. Only Capt. Winson was martyred and no other Naga Army died in the battle with KNA(B)," the NSCN-IM clarified on Wednesday. Meanwhile, the NSCN-IM said, "We are proud of the brave Naga Army personnel, who have the courage to be in the frontline of the battle for the Naga nation." The NSCN-IM expressed its heartfelt condolences for the family of Capt. Winson, who had been martyred on June 15 in the battle against KNA(B) at Angko Hills Range in Myanmar. The NSCN-IM also said that the Naga nation saluted him, who laid down his life in the line of duty for the cause of the nation. (NNN)

NCP MLAs extend support to Khandu govt in Arunachal

ITANAGAR, June 19: Three NCP MLAs in Arunachal Pradesh on Wednesday extended their unconditional support to the BJP government led by Pema Khandu.

The MLAs - Nikh Kamini, Likha Soni and Toko Tatung handed over their letter of support during a meeting with Khandu in his office here. Khandu expressed his gratitude for their commitment and cooperation, acknowledging the importance of such an alliance in fostering the state's progress.

"I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Hon'ble MLAs from the Nationalist Congress Party (Ajit Pawar), Shri Nikh Kamin Ji, Shri Likha Soni Ji, and Shri Toko Tatung Ji, for their unconditional support to the BJP government in Arunachal Pradesh. The MLAs handed over their letter of support during their call on," Khandu posted on X. "Your commitment and cooperation is greatly appreciated. Together, we will continue to work towards the development and prosperity of Arunachal Pradesh", the chief minister added. While Nikh Kamin won the Bordumsa-Diyun seat, Toko Tatung was elected from the Yachuli seat and Likha Soni emerged victorious from Lekang constituency. In the past two days, three independent candidates and two People's Party of Arunachal (PPA) members have extended their support to the BJP government in the northeastern state. The BJP had won 46 seats in the 60-member assembly, elections for which was held on April 19 this year. The National People's Party (NPP) won five seats, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) three, People's Party of Arunachal two, Congress one and three independents also emerged victorious. The NPP and NCP are constituent partners of the North-East Democratic Alliance (NEDA). (PTI)

Nagaland DIPR dept allots 8 multimedia mobile vehicles to PROs

HT Correspondent

DIMAPUR, June 19: A total of eight well-equipped multimedia mobile vehicles were flagged off by advisor to DIPR and soil and water conservation departments, Imkong L Imchen at Nagaland civil secretariat plaza in Kohima on Wednesday. Organised by the directorate of information and public relations (DIPR), the vehicles were handed over to eight district public relations officers during the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Imchen reminded the officers to function together for one single purpose, which is to work toward the welfare and development of the people.

He also urged the officers to perform one's assigned duties diligently and utilise the brand new vehicles and other facilities provided for the service of the people and to disseminate government activities to the remotest parts of the state.

Sharing the concept of the project, IPR director Dzuvinuo Theunuo said the department felt the need to place these multimedia mobile vehicles in the districts and in the directorate as a proactive role in stepping up its activities with the ever-increasing requirements of dissemination of information to the

Theunuo said the vehicles would cater to broadcasting of various awareness and educational videos, documentaries and

Arunachal Governor interacts with NDA aspirants

Service in armed forces a noble profession: Guv



ITANAGAR, June 19: Arunachal Pradesh Governor Lt Gen (Retd) KT Parnaik interacted with students from Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya, who are preparing for the National Defence Academy (NDA), at the Raj Bhavan here on Wednesday. Sharing his experiences, the Governor provided inspiring ideas for their success. He emphasised that the UPSC and Staff Selection Board (SSB) exams are challenges that need to be overcome and that a high score in the UPSC written exam is crucial for making the merit list and securing selection for the NDA.

The Governor encouraged the students, who study at the vidyalaya located at Jairampur in Changlang district, to work hard for the written exams and emphasised the importance of good general awareness. He advised them to surround themselves with sources of knowledge, such as inspiring and successful people, the internet, and stories of war heroes.

Parnaik highlighted that service in the armed forces is a noble profession offering opportunities to lead, excel, and serve the motherland.

He suggested that educational institutes should conduct pre-UPSC examinations and create obstacle courses to prepare students for the SSB and NDA selection.

The Governor expressed his desire to see more youth from Arunachal Pradesh join the National Defence Academy, Indian Military Academy, and Officers Training Academy, bringing laurels to the state. As part of their preparation, NDA aspirants from different parts of Arunachal Pradesh underwent a two-month training course at Bhonsala Military School, Nasik, sponsored by Vivekananda Kendra, Arunachal Pradesh. (PTI)

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (P.H.E) HAMREN DIVISION, HAMREN WEST KARBI ANGLONG

NIT NO.- 01 of 2024-25 Dated. 18-06-2024

Separate sealed tender affixing non-refundable KAAC cash receipt of worth Rs.10.00 (Rupees ten) only, eventually to be drawn in APWD F-2 Form, are hereby invited by the undersigned up to 2.00 p.m. on 03/07/2024 from the registered contractors/ firms of PHE Department under KAAC area for the works as mentioned below in details of AAP 2024-25, (SOPD-G) duly approved and accorded administrative approval by the KAAC authority vide No. KAAC/PHE-3/AA/2019-20/2021-22/13-A Dated 13-06-2024 under Hamren (PHE) Division. Tenders received will be opened at the same date & hours in presence of intending tenderers or their authorized agents who like to be present. In case the last date of receiving tenders happens to be a holiday the tenders will be received and opened at the same hours on the next working day. Tenders must be accompanied with an earnest money of 2% of the estimated cost (1% in case of SC/ST/OBC/MOBC tenderers') deposited in the form of 'NSC' or 'KVP' duly pledge in favour of "Executive Engineer (PHE) Hamren Division, Hamren".

The detail tender papers and other terms & conditions may be obtained from the office of the undersigned on all working days up to 1:00 PM of 03/07/2024 on payment of Rs.200.00 (Rupees two hundred) in cash or demand draft which should be pledge in favour of the undersigned.

The undersigned have reserved the right to accept or reject the tender as a whole or part without assigning any reasons thereof.

Name of works against NIT No.01 of 2024-25.

CI NI	Name of works against NIT No.01	pr	Paris and Const.
Sl.No.	Name of work	Group No.	Estimated Cost (In Rupees)
1	Construction of Longchor scheme including springshed management at Nokterank, marlu langso under Hamren (PHE) Division.	I	Rs.9,00,000.00
2	Construction of Longchor scheme springshed management at Linchika tiri pelang under Hamren (PHE) Division.	II	Rs.7,00,000.00
3	Construction of Longchor scheme including springshed management at Artubong long under Hamren (PHE) Division.	III	Rs.6,00,000.00
4	Construction of Longchor scheme including springshed management at Rongbang Bapthali arong under Hamren (PHE) Division.	IV	Rs.7,00,000.00
5	Repairing of intake weir including supply, fitting and fixing of GI pipes at Borman Phangcho Longchor Scheme under Hamren (PHE) Division.	V	Rs.10,00,000.00
6	Construction of Longchor scheme including springshed management at Phang hongtor under Hamren (PHE) Division.	VI	Rs.7,00,000.00
7	Construction of Longchor scheme including springshed management at Ronghidi rongkhelan bey arong under Hamren (PHE) Division.	VII	Rs.3,00,000.00
8	Construction of Longchor scheme including springshed management at Hamren Habe Rongkimi under Hamren (PHE) Division.	VIII	Rs.8,00,000.00
9	Construction of Longchor scheme including springshed management at Langni bey arong under Hamren (PHE) Division.	IX	Rs.3,00,000.00
10	Construction of Longchor scheme including springshed management at Rongtreng under Hamren (PHE) Division.	Х	Rs.11,00,000.00
11	Construction of Longehor scheme including springshed management at Amselam teron arong under Hamren (PHE) Division.	XI	Rs.8,00,000.0
12	Construction of Longehor scheme including springshed management at Phongjangre Tokbi arong under Hamren (PHE) Division.	XII	Rs.6,00,000.0
13	Construction of Longehor scheme including springshed management at Sai terang arong under Hamren (PHE) Division.	XIII	Rs.11,00,000.0
14	Construction of Longehor scheme including springshed management at Phung apam under Hamren (PHE) Division.	XIV	Rs.7,00,000.0
15	Construction of Longehor scheme including springshed management at Parbot under Hamren (PHE) Division.	XV	Rs.3,00,000.0
16	Construction of Longehor scheme including springshed management at Rongehingdon under Hamren (PHE) Division.	XVI	Rs.8,00,000.0
17	Construction of Longchor scheme including springshed management at Somupong bey arong under Hamren (PHE) Division.	XVII	Rs.6,00,000.0
18	Construction of Longchor scheme including springshed management at Bey arong Nokterank under Hamren (PHE) Division.	XVIII	Rs.9,00,000.0
19	Construction of Longehor scheme including springshed management at Rong Arok under Hamren (PHE) Division.	XIX	Rs.7,00,000.0
20	Construction of Longehor scheme including springshed management at Langpampi under Hamren (PHE) Division.	XX	Rs.5,00,000.0
21	Construction of Longehor scheme including springshed management at Khilimulong, Meghalaya Border under Hamren (PHE) Division.	XXI	Rs.5,00,000.0
22	Construction of water Reservoir at Rongpi Gaon, Harlongjuve	XXII	Rs.3,00,000.0
23	Repairing & renovation of Kheroni Sub-Division office building	XXIII	Rs.10,00,000.0
24	Repairing & color washing of Staff quarter presently occupied by Debojit Hojai at Hamren (PHE) colony.	XXIV	Rs.2,80,000.0

(CONTD. ON PAGE-8)

NEET row: AAP holds protests in Haryana, seeks SC-monitored probe

Aam Aadmi Party held a protest in Haryana on Wednesday against the alleged irregularities in medical entrance exam NEET, demanding a probe under the supervision of a retired Supreme Court judge.

AAP staged protests in various districts including Kurukshetra, Palwal, Sonipat, Jind and Mahendragarh over the issue, seeking justice for the students.

A protest was also staged by the AAP's Chandigarh unit here.

Accompanied by party workers, party's Haryana unit chief Sushil Gupta staged a demonstration in Kurukshetra district.

Speaking to reporters, Gupta said, "The matter pertains to the future of lakhs of students across the country. Students and their parents are worried. So many questions are unanswered, but the government is not speaking up.

Later, in a post on X in Hindi, he said, "We demand that the NEET scam be investigated under the supervision of a retired Supreme Court judge and the exam be cancelled and held again." Gupta

J-K: 2 terrorists killed in Baramulla encounter

SRINAGAR, June 19: Two terrorists are believed to be killed while two security personnel sustained injuries in an encounter that broke out in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district on Wednesday, officials said.

The security forces launched a cordon and search operation in Watergam area of Baramulla district on Wednesday morning following information about the presence of ultras there, they said.

The officials said the search operation turned into an encounter after the terrorists opened firing on the security forces.

A senior police official said two bodies have been seen at the scene of the gunbattle but have not been

He added that two security personnel -- a cop and an army jawan -- were injured in the exchange of firing with the terrorists. (PTI)



added that until this happens, the AAP will continue its fight from the streets to the Parliament.

Meanwhile, in Chandigarh too, the AAP held a protest over the

Some AAP leaders and workers here alleged that they were briefly detained by police when they wanted to go to hand over a memorandum to Punjab Governor-cum-Chandigarh UT administrator, Banwarilal Purohit, to demand a probe into the alleged irregularities exam. On Tuesday, the Supreme Court said even if there was "0.001 percent negligence" on the part of anyone in the conduct of the NEET-UG 2024 examination, it should be thoroughly dealt with.

Observing that students have to labour hard while preparing for these examinations, the apex court had said the litigation pertaining to the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Undergraduate)-2024 examination ought not be treated as adversarial.

The examination was held on

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 petitions in several 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 National Testing Agency for admissions to MBBS, BDS, AYUSH and other related courses in the government and private institu-

Man with dyed hair, beard held for trying to travel as 60-plus passenger

DELHI AIRPORT

NEW DELHI, June 19: A 24-year-old man allegedly impersonating as a sexagenarian bound for Canada has been apprehended by the CISF at the Delhi international airport, a senior officer of the force said on Wednesday.

The passenger Guru Sewak Singh, with dyed hair and beard, was intercepted on Tuesday evening at Terminal-3 of the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport and has been handed over to the Delhi Police, he said. The man was first checked by CISF personnel as his activities were found to be suspicious. He initially produced his identity in the form of a passport bearing the name Rashvindar Singh Sahota, 67. He was supposed to board an Air Canada plane flying out of Delhi on Tuesday, the officer said.

"The man's appearance, voice and skin texture seemed significantly younger than the details provided in the passport. Closer observation revealed that he had dyed his hair and beard white, and was wearing glasses to appear older," he said.



The passenger, following further interrogation, disclosed his correct identity as Guru Sewak Singh, 24. The photo of a passport in this name was found also in his mobile phone, the officer said.

As the case was of forged passport and impersonation, the passenger along with his belongings was handed over to the Delhi Police for legal action in the matter, he said. (PTI)

'Stood against hatred': Cong, INDIA bloc leaders hail Rahul on B-Day

wishes poured in for Rahul Gandhi as he turned 54 on Wednesday with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge saying his qualities of unwavering commitment to the values espoused in the Constitution and his emphatic compassion for the millions of unheard voices set him apart.

Gandhi, a former Congress president and MP from Rae Bareli, has instructed all Congress workers to avoid any grand celebrations, and instead celebrate this occasion by engaging in humanitarian efforts and charity.

Gandhi celebrated his birthday at the AICC headquarters here and cut a cake along with Kharge. Congress general secretaries K C Venugopal and Priyanka Gandhi and treasurer Ajay Maken were also present on the occasion.

Gandhi also interacted with party workers who wished him on his birthday.

In a post on X earlier, Kharge extended birthday greetings to Gandhi. "Your unwavering commitment to the values espoused in the Constitution of India and your emphatic compassion for the millions of unheard voices, are the qualities which sets you apart," Kharge said of Gandhi.

"Congress party's ethos of unity in diversity, harmony and compassion, is visible in all your actions, as you continue in your mission to wipe off the tear from the last person standing, by showing the mirror of truth to power," he said.

Kharge wished Gandhi a long, healthy and happy life ahead.

Responding to Kharge's post, Gandhi said, "Congress President Kharge ji, thank you very much for your kind wishes. Your leadership and guidance inspires us all to continue fighting for an equitable and just India." He also thanked Congress leaders, workers and others for wishing him on his birthday.

Priyanka Gandhi posted a heartfelt message for her brother on social media and said he was her "friend, argumentative guide, philosopher and leader".

In a post on X, Priyanka Gandhi said, "Happy Birthday to my sweet brother whose unique perspective on life, the universe and everything lights up the path."



'Always my friend, my fellow traveller, argumentative guide, philosopher and leader. Keep shining (star emojis), love you the most!" the Congress general secretary said. Tamil Nadu chief minister and DMK chief MK Stalin

hailed Gandhi on his birthday. "Happy Birthday, dear brother Rahul Gandhi! Your dedication to the people of our country will take you to great heights. Wishing you a year of continued progress and success," Stalin said on X.

Former Uttar Pradesh chief minister and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav wished Gandhi on his birthday. NCP (SCP) chief Sharad Pawar also wished Gandhi on his birthday.

'Warm Birthday Greetings Rahul Gandhi. Wishing you healthy, long and successful life ahead," Pawar said on X.

Pawar's daughter and Lok Sabha MP Supriya Sule wished Gandhi a healthy year ahead.

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray also wished Gandhi on his birthday. RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav said, "Happiest returns of the day brother Rahul Gandhi! You have exhibited remarkable vision and leadership. Wishing you a long, happy, healthy and successful life ahead!" Congress general secretary, in-charge, organisation, Venugopal said on X, "I join crores of Indians in wishing our beloved leader Sh. Rahul Gandhi ji a very happy birthday!'

'Rahul ji is the undisputed leader of India's poor, marginalised and backward citizens. The voice of the voiceless, the pillar of strength for the weak, the guardian of our Constitution, the quintessential Nyay Yoddha, and India's brightest hope for a glorious fu ture!" Venugopal said on X.

"His selfless, dedicated and passionate commitment to serving the people is an inspiration for us all and his moral compass guides us every step of the way," he said.

"He (Gandhi) has seen the toughest of times, faced the worst abuses, withstood attacks from all corners, but he has stood tall and never wavered from his principles no matter the ridicule or insult he faces," Venugopal said.

In him today, our country has a conscience keeper and a leader who has a lifelong mission of making our country into an inclusive, progressive and prosperous nation of all our dreams, Venugopal said.

"I wish him a lifetime full of joy and the strength to fight the good fight! Rahul ji has specially instructed all Congress workers that they should avoid any grand celebrations, and instead celebrate this occasion by engaging in humanitarian efforts, charity and in an environmentally friendly manner," he said. Telangana chief minister A Revanth Reddy also wished Gandhi on the occasion and said his persona is to fight against all

"His outlook is to stand by the underprivileged. Sacrifice is inheritance and fighting is his philosophy. He is sagacious and the only leader to fulfil India's aspirations for tomorrow," Reddy said. In a post on X, the Congress said, "Happy birthday to a leader who taught us to 'Choose Love'. Choose love when hate is hurled at you. Choose love when kindness appears impossible. Choose love when the going gets tough. Choose love when compassion depletes. (PTI)

GOVT. OF ASSAM OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF TOURISM :: KARBI ANGLONG:: DIPHU

No. Dy. Dir/Dpu/Tender/69/2024-25/

Date /2024

SHORT TENDER NOTICE

Separate sealed tender affixing non-refundable KAAC receipt of Rs.10/- (Rupees Ten) only. Eventually to be drawn in APWD F-2 Form, are invited by the undersigned up to 2.00 p.m. on 26/06/2024 from the registered Contractors/firms for various works under the Annual Action Plan (SOPD) schemes for the year 2024-25. Details of tender papers/Group no./ items of works and other terms & conditions may be obtain on payment of Rs. 100/-(Rupees One hundred) only from the office of the undersigned during office hours from 19th June 2024. The tender papers shall be received and will be opened at the same date & hours in presence of intending tenderers or their authorised agent may remain present at the time of opening of tender. If the last tender date falls on any unscheduled holiday the tender will be received and will be opened on the next working day at the same place and same hours.

Sd/-

Dy. Director of Tourism,

Diphu, Karbi Anglong.

Memo No. Dy. Dir/Dpu/Tender/69/2024-25/ (A)

Dated 18/06/2024.

OFFICE OF THE **HOWRAGHAT MUNICIPAL BOARD HOWRAGHAT: KARBI ANGLONG**

No. HMB.06/SBM/2016/2024-25/53

Dated Howraghat the 14/06/2024

SHORT TENDER NOTICE

The undersigned on behalf of Howraghat Municipal Board invite separate Sealed Tenders from the intending contractors having valid registration no. of Howraghat MB with supporting documents for execution of the below mentioned work under SBM 2.0 vide letter No. SBM (U) 261 /2024/ 01 Dtd. 19/02/2024. Tenders will he received in Municipal Board Office. Howraghat upto 3.00 PM on 21/06/2024 casted in the tender box addressing the Executive Officer, Howraghat Municipal Board and the Tender Forms may be obtained from the Office of the Howraghat Municipal Board during office hour on payment of Rs.300/- (Rupees Once hundred) only **Conditions:**

- Tenders must accompany Howraghat Municipal Board receipt. Worth Rs. 20/- (Non refundable) Earnest Money by Bank draft. DCR, on the total value of the tender amount. (Refundable)
- (I% for ST, SC, OBC and 2% for Gnl.) **GST** clearence Certificate
- Valid Trading Licence for non-Tribal.
- Valid Professional Tax Clearance Certificate Caste Certificate

No. HMB. 06/SBM/2016/2024-25/ Dated Howraghat the /2024

- All rates shall be quoted on flat percentage As per/Below/Above the S/R of Building, Sanitary Fittings and Water Supply & Electrical Works for 2013- I4.(APWD)
- Time allowed for completion is 6(six) months from the issue of the formal work order Payment of the work will be made subject to the availability of fund.
- The allotment authority will consider the capability of the tenderer and be not bound to accept the lowest Allotment authority reserves the right to accept /reject any tender without assigning the reason thereo

SI. No.	Name of work	Amount in Rs.	Earnest Mo	ney 2%
1.	Construction of General Public Toilet at Pan Engti Market, Ward No. 5	Rs. 666567.00	6666.00	13331.00
No. II	IMB 06/SBM/2016/2024 25/ Dated Howraghat the	Execut Howraghat N	Sd/- ive Officer Municipal Board Karbi Anglong	

(CONTD FROM PAGE-7)

XXV	Rs.1,50,000.00
XXVI	Rs.1,50,000.00
XXVII	Rs.2,80,000.00
VVVIII	Rs.11,50,000.00
XXIX	Rs.4,00,000.00
XXX	Rs.8,00,000.00
XXXI	Rs.11,00,000.00
XXXII	Rs.2,70,000.00
XXXIII	Rs.4,00,000.00
XXXIV	Rs.,8,00,000.00
XXXV	Rs.1,70,000.00
XXXVI	Rs.1,00,000.00
	XXVII XXVIII XXIX XXXI XXXII XXXIII XXXIII XXXIV XXXV

TERMS & CONDITIONS:-

- 1. Bidder should quote their rates distinctly both in figures & words in percentage basis as per above/below/the Schedule of rates / departmental approved rates / estimated rates.
- The tenderer should furnish their full name and address distinctly in the tender papers.
- Earnest money to be deposited of 2% for General and 1% for ST, SC, OBC & MOBC.
- 4. GSTIN will be deducted as applicable.
- 5. The work should be completed within the stipulated time. The work should be started after signing necessary agreement in consultation with the AEE (PHE) / SO (PHE) i/c.
- Payment will be made subject to availability of fund released by the authority of KAAC, Diphu.
- 7. No advance payment will be made for the work.
- 8. Approximate value of the works may vary as necessary.
- Necessary Challans etc. against Forest products utilized in the work will have to be submitted with the Bill.
- 10. Non tribal tenderer must produce up to date KAAC trading license along with the tender documents.
- 11. All other terms & conditions will be followed as per APWD F-2 form of tender.
- 12. The right of settlement/allotment of any work to the tenderer is reserved by the Authority of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council, Diphu.

Sd-Executive Engineer (PHE) Hamren Division, Hamren

Memo.No.- PHEE/HRN/TB-23/2023-24/367-77

Dated 18/06/2024

Air pollution caused 8.1 million deaths in 2021 globally, 2.1 million in India: Report

Air pollution contributed to deaths of 1,69,400 children in India under the age of five in 2021

NEW DELHI, June 19: Air pollution contributed to 8.1 million deaths worldwide in 2021, with India and China recording 2.1 million and 2.3 million fatalities, respectively, according to a report released on Wednesday.

Published by the Health Effects Institute (HEI), an independent US-based research organisation, in partnership with UNICEF, the report stated that air pollution contributed to the deaths of 1,69,400 children in India under the age of five in 2021.

Nigeria followed with 1,14,100 child deaths, Pakistan with 68,100, Ethiopia with 31,100, and Bangladesh with 19,100.

The report also said that air pollution was the leading risk factor for deaths in South Asia, followed by high blood pressure, diet, and tobacco.

The report noted, "2021 saw more deaths linked to air pollution than were estimated for any previous year. With populations over 1 billion each, India (2.1 million deaths) and China (2.3 million deaths) together account for



54 percent of the total global disease burden." Other countries with high impacts included Pakistan (2,56,000 deaths), Bangladesh (2,36,300) and Myanmar (1,01,600 deaths) in Asia; Indonesia (2,21,600 deaths), Vietnam (99,700 deaths), and the Philippines (98,209) in Southeast Asia; and Nigeria (2,06,700 deaths) and Egypt

(1,16,500 deaths) in Africa. Taken together, air pollution from PM2.5 and ozone was estimated to contribute to 8.1 million deaths -- about 12 percent of the total global

More than 90 percent of these global air pollution deaths -- 7.8 million people -are attributed to PM2.5 air pollution, including from ambient PM2.5 and household

air pollution. These tiny particles, measuring less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter, are so small they remain in the lungs and can enter the bloodstream, affecting many organ systems and increasing the risks for noncommunicable diseases in adults such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes, lung cancer, and chronic obstructive pul-

According to the report, PM2.5 has been found to be the most consistent and accurate predictor of poor health outcomes around the world.

"We hope our State of Global Air report provides both the information and the inspiration for change," said HEI President Elena Craft.

"Air pollution has enormous implications for health. We know that improving air quality and global public health is practical and achievable." "This new report offers a stark reminder of the significant impacts air pollution has on human health, with far too much of the burden borne by voung children, older populations, and low- and middle-income countries," said Pallavi Pant, HEI's Head of Global Health, who oversaw the SoGA report release.

"This points sharply to an opportunity for cities and countries to consider air quality and air pollution as highrisk factors when developing health policies and other noncommunicable disease pre-

Police use water cannons, mistreat women among KSU activists holding protest marches

KANNUR/PALAKKAD June 19: Police on Wednesday used water cannons and dragged women protestors across the road to disperse activists of the Kerala Students' Union (KSU) who held marches in Kannur and Palakkad districts against the Left government in the state.

The student activists were raising the issue of alleged shortage of plusone seats in schools across the northern Kerala region of Malabar. The Left government has been facing flak over the issue after a girl student in Parappanangadi in Malappuram district in the region died by suicide on June 11 allegedly over anxiety about whether she would get a seat for plus-one (class 11) to continue her studies.

Several activists of the KSU, the students' wing of the opposition Congress in the state, marched towards the district collectorate in Kannur, demanding that additional plus-one batches be accommodated in schools.

When the protestors moved forward, raising slogans against Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and General Education Minister V Sivankutty, police blocked their path by tying a rope in the middle of the road. As they continued the sloganeering and refused to leave the place, police used water canons twice. The police also prevented the protestors from jumping across the barricade. There was also a minor scuffle between the KSU activists and the law enforcers, who later forcibly removed the agitators, including women, from the area. Many female protestors could be seen being dragged on the road by the police.

The KSU activists alleged that they were also beaten up by the police. There were tense moments during the KSU protests in Palakkad district as well. (PTI)

seventh day; health deteriorates

JALNA, June 19: The fast by two activists, seeking an assurance that the OBC quota will not be disturbed amid the Maratha reservation demand, entered the seventh day on Wednesday, with doctors saying that their health has started deteriorating.

After requests by OBC (Other Backward Classes) members, the activists - Laxman Hake and Navnath Waghmare - took a few sips of water, but maintained that they would continue their protest. Hake and Waghmare have been sitting on their hunger strike at

Government medical officer Anil Waghmare said the activist's blood pressure has risen and their blood sugar levels are low. Doctors have stressed that both need to

ping of the Maharashtra government's draft notification that recognises Kunbis as "sage soyare" (blood relatives) of Maratha community members. Kunbi, an agrarian group, enjoys quota benefits under the OBC

have shown concern and visited us had our protest been backed by the government," Hake said. (PTI)

OBC activists' fast over quota enters

Wadigodri village in Jalna district since June 13.

be hospitalised to prevent further health complications. The OBC activists have been demanding the scrap-

Speaking to reporters on Wednesday, Hake said no government representative has visited them, rejecting Maratha activist Manoj Jarange's allegations that their protest was government-sponsored. "Officials would

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM OFFICE OF THE DY DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION & **PUBLIC RELATIONS (HILLS)** KARBIANGLONG: DIPHU

No. KAE.5/SOPD/2024-25/

Dated Diphu, the 18th June, 2024

QUOTATION

Sealed quotations in plain paper affixing Rs. 10/-(Rupees ten) money receipt of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council are hereby invited from Govt. registered fir/Order supplier/Local contractors for the following mentioned works by the undersigned office. The sealed quotation will be received upto 25/06/2023 by 3.00 pm and will be opened on the same day at 3.30 pm in presence of Tenderer or their representatives.

SI No.	Name of Works	Tender Amount	Time of Completion
1	Renovation with minor room extension and tiles flooring & shifting water tank by construction platform over staircase of DDIPR (Hills), Diphu	Rs. 14.00 lakhs	30 days
2 3 4	Hi LED and furniture for new creation office of DIPRO, Hamren	Rs. 12.00 lakhs	-do-
3	Publication of book	Rs. 6.00 lakhs	-do-
4	Web site installation of I & PR deptt. at office of DDIPR(Hills), Diphu	Rs. 4.00 lakhs	-do-

Terms and Condition :-

- The rate to be quoted as % (percent) as per scheduled of rate of the works (prepared by the deptt)
- Earenest Money 2% for General and 1% for Schedule Tribes
- The following documents should be attached with quotation :-
 - (A) Professional Tax clearance certificate
 - (B) GST registration No. and up to date clearance certificate
 - (C) Caste certificate for ST/SC quotationer and Trading Licence for Non ST/SC.
- The undersigned reserved the right to accept or reject one or all Quotations without assigning any reason thereof and will not bound himself to accept the lowest quotations.

Previous experience in execution of DIPR deptt. works will be given weightage

Payment will be made subject to availability of fund received.

Sd/-

Deputy Director of Information and Public Relations (Hills), Karbi Anglong, Diphu

Memo No. KAE.5/SOPD/2024-25/07 (A)

Dated Diphu, the 18th June, 2024

No.KED/NIT-66/2023-24/1208

DETAILS TENDER NOTICE

Dtd. 18/06/2024

Sealed tender in prescribed form affixing non-refundable court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees Eight & paise twenty five) only subsequently to be drawn up in printed "F-2" form with validity period of "90 (Ninety)" days from the date of receipt of tenders are invited from the Registered Class - I (A,B,C) & Class-11 P.W.D. Electrical Contractor under P.W.D. Guwahati Electrical Circle, Guwahati - 1 and the Registered Class - III P.W.D. Kokrajhar Electrical Division of 2023-24 and having valid Electrical Contractor licence for the following electrical works and will be received in the Office of the undersigned up to 2.00 P.M of 25/06/2024 and will be opened at 3.00 P.M. of the same date. The Contractors or their authorized agents may be present at the time of opening tender.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Approx Estimated Value	Time of Completion	Earnest Money
	Installation of Security light with 6 Mtr height Octagonal Pole, U.G. Cable for the Outer Periphery road of District Jail, Dhubri.	Rs. 13,34,058.00	90 (Ninety) Days	General 2 % (Two) P.C. of Tender value (1 % of
	Providing with installation of 30 KVA D.G. set at residential colony of Judicial Officers at No. 3 Balurchar, Dhubri	Rs. 17,11,301.00		Tender value in case of OBC/SC/ST)

Tender forms can be had from the Office of the undersigned and Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Kokrajhar Electrical Division, Kokrajhar during working hours and up to 2.00 P.M. 24/06/2024 on application mentioned registration No. etc. on payment of Rs. 1000.00 (Rupees One thousand) only per set by Indian crossed postal order payable to the Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Kokrajhar Electrical Division, Kokrajhar.

> Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Kokrajhar Electrical Division, Kokrajhar

IPR(BTC)/C/2024-25/36

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF HANDLOOM & TEXTILES, **BOKAJAN, KARBI ANGLONG**

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

NO. SHTB(works),5/20124-25/6,

Dated 18/06/2024

TENDER/QUOTATION

In pursuance of Administrative Approval letter KAAC/H&T-15/AA&FS/Pt-I/2016-17 /441, Dt.14/06/2024, sealed Tender/quotation affixing non-refundable Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council cash receipt worth Rs.10 (Rs. Ten) only eventually to be drawn up in form are hereby invited from PWD/ KAAC registered contractors/ Approved Firms for implementation of schemes/works and purchase of Handloom weaving machine with all other accessories & Mercerize cotton yarn under State Owned Priority Development (SOPD) fund for the year 2024-25 under the Superintendent of Handloom and Textiles, Bokajan. The Tender/quotation will be received by the undersigned up to 2:00 P.M. on 02/07/2024, and will be opened on the same date, place and time in presence of the Tendered/quotationer or their authorize representative if they so desire.

Tender/Quotation will be received by the undersigned in the office of the Handloom Training Centre, Sarihojan, Bokajan, Karbi Anglong.

If the day of opening of quotation will be holiday or non working day, the quotation will be opened on the next working day. The undersigned reserve the right to accept/cancel any or all quotation necessary without assigning any reason thereof and will not be bound himself/herself to accept the lowest rate.

SI. No.	Name of Works/Schemes	Quantity	Amount (Rs. In Lcs)	Time of Completion
1.	Supply of Complete Frame Looms & Asscc.	18 Sets	Rs. 4.86	30 Days
2.	Supply of Fly-Shuttle Looms & Accessories	56 Sets	Rs. 8.40	30 Days
3.	Supply of Best quality of Cotton Yarn	360 Bundles	Rs. 9.00	30 Days
4.	Supply of Best quality of Cotton Yarn	45 Bundles	Rs. 1.125	30 Days
5.	Supply of Complete Frame Looms & Asscc.	4 Sets	Rs. 1.08	30 Days
6.	Supply of Best quality of Cotton Yarn	66 Bundles	Rs. 1.65	30 Days
7.	Purchase of office vehicle	1 No.	Rs. 15,00	15 Days
8.	Renovation of Kohora Guest House	1 No.	Rs. 6.00	30 Days

Detailed Tender/quotation documents may be obtained from the office of the H.T.C, Sarihojan, Bokajan, Karbi Anglong from 18/006/2024 during working hours.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-

- 1. The rate to be quoted as % above/below as per schedule rate of the works APWD for the yr. 2013-14
- 2. Earnest Money 1% for ST & 2% for others should be deposited in favour of Superintendent, H&T, Bokajan, in form of call deposit/Bank draft of any recognized Bank should be attached with the tender without which no tender will be accepted.
- 3. The following valid documents should be enclosed with the Tender/Quotation:-
 - 1. Photocopy of Professional Tax Clearance Certificate.
 - 2. Photocopy of GST Clearance Certificate/GST Registration.
 - 3. Photocopy of PWD/KAAC Registration/Approved Firms.
 - 4. Photocopy of Caste Certificate for ST/SC and Trading License for non ST/SC,
 - 5. Photocopy of PAN Card.
 - 6. Photocopy of Bank Passbook front page.
 - 7. Sale Tax Clearance Certificate
 - 8. Call Deposit/Bank Draft of any Govt. Recognized Bank.

Sd/-Superintendent, Handloom & Textiles, Bokajan Dated 18/06/2024

Memo No. SHTB (works),5/20124-25/6,

Anil Kapoor on hosting Bigg Boss OTT 3: 'Salman Khan is irreplaceable'



MUMBAI, June 19: Actor Anil Kapoor, who has taken over the hosting duties of "Bigg Boss OTT 3" from his friend Salman Khan, on Tuesday said it would be wrong to say he has "replaced" the superstar as both of them have their own standing.

Colors TV reality show "Bigg Boss" is synonymous with Khan, who has been hosting it since its fourth season. To anchor the proceedings for the third season of its OTT version, the makers have roped in Kapoor.

Kapoor, who has co-starred with Khan in films such as "No Entry", "Race 3", "Biwi No. 1", and "Yuvvraaj", said the former presenter is excited about him stepping in as the host.

"He is irreplaceable and so am I. Everyone's asking this question but it is very wrong. Nobody can replace Salman Khan. Similarly, nobody can replace Anil Kapoor. I spoke to him about it and he was excited that I've now taken over a non-fiction show.

"I wanted to do something different for a long time now. I've done many movies, judged shows but have never done anything like 'Bigg Boss', so I'm very excited for it," the actor told reporters here at the press conference of "Bigg Boss OTT" season three. Calling Khan his younger brother and friend, Kapoor said

"replacement" was an incorrect term and that actors often get replaced due to various reasons.

'Everyone has work, sometimes for some reason one can't do it or doesn't have time to do it. Recently, I've been replaced. I don't know the reason for getting replaced, but these things happen.

"Many people have replaced me, I've also replaced people. We are just doing a job, we should do it with a lot of sincerity and honesty,"

The 67-year-old also seemed unfazed when asked about being trolled on social media and being pitted against Khan as a host.

"Do it (trolling). How does it matter? Trolling is a part of life now. It is a part of social media, you have to face it. I've worked with honesty and sincerity, and by the grace of God, most of the times it (response) has been positive.

"Sometimes, a few things didn't work. Even when things don't work, I still keep on doing different things. I've been here (in the industry) for 45 years and I must've done something right (in my career) that I'm still here today," he said.

Kapoor, who was last seen in this year's action drama "Fighter", said he is looking forward to exploring newer kinds of films and shows, like "Bigg Boss OTT 3".

"I'm at the stage in my career where I want to do something I've never done before. I've done in a way a non-fiction thing on the film front, which was a global success that is 'Slumdog Millionaire'. "I've done fiction shows on OTT ('The Night Manager') and tele-

vision ('24'). So, this ('Bigg Boss OTT 3') was something I had not done. I thought why not do this? I'm happy to do it," he said. Fights are common in every household and Kapoor said, as the

host, he will deal with controversies in the "Bigg Boss" house wisely. "If someone crosses a line, I'll have to be fair and firm. There

would be a few things, which would be controversial in 'Bigg Boss' and they might be uncomfortable as well but all these things happen and that happens in life too. How you handle it is important. "If the contestant will lie to me, I can handle that. I'll get to know

if he or she is lying to me. But if they lie to themselves then it would be bad. I'll have to show some empathy and discipline. I'll also have to speak wisely with them. I'll have to be true to myself. Maybe some people will like it, some won't. But I promise to be true to myself in every situation," he added.

Any celebrity he would like to see in the "Bigg Boss" house? Kapoor said he would like Khan, Kapil Sharma, Karan Johar and himself to feature as contestants on the reality show, which should be hosted by Amitabh Bachchan.

Starring over a dozen celebrity contestants, "Bigg Boss OTT 3" will premiere on June 21 at 9 pm on JioCinema Premium.

The makers have promised interactive features and an unfiltered ad-free 24-hour live channel, delivering an immersive OTT experience to audiences.

The upcoming season is produced by EndemolShine India, part of the Banijay Group. (PTI)

Allu Arjun's 'Pushpa 2: The Rule' has a new release date

HERE'S ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW:



MUMBAI, June 19: Allu Arjun's much-awaited movie Pushpa 2: The Rule has a new release date and will now hit the theatres worldwide on December 6, the makers have announced.

Directed by Sukumar, Pushpa 2: The Rule is a sequel to Arjun's Pushpa 1: The Rise, which had turned out to be a huge blockbuster in the country after its re-

In a post on X on Monday evening, production banner Mythri Movie Makers shared the new release date of the movie, which was earlier slated for come in cinemas on August 15.

"We intend to give you the best. The wait increases for a memorable experience on the big screens. #Pushpa2TheRule Grand release worldwide on 6th DE-CEMBER 2024. His rule will be phenomenal. His rule will be unprecedented," the studio posted along with a brand new poster.

Mythri Movie Makers also released a statement, explaining the reason behind postponing the release of the film.

"'Pushpa 2: The Rule' is one of the most anticipated Indian films. Following the immense success of Pushpa: The Rise, our responsibility to deliver excellence has increased significantly. We have been tirelessly working to complete the movie and release it on time.

"However, due to the remaining shoot and subsequent post-production work, we will not be releasing the film on August 15th, 2024," the studio. The company said the decision was made in the best interests of the "film, the

audience, and all stakeholders". "Our goal is to provide a memorable experience on the big screen without

compromising quality," the statement added.

The studio has so far released a teaser of the film as well as two songs—

"Pushpa Pushpa" and "Sooseki"—and it said the "overwhelming response" across all languages has been "heartening" "We promise to deliver a film that you will truly love. We extend our heartfelt

The media and film industries have also been incredibly supportive. "'Pushpa 2: The Rule' will now be released worldwide on December 6th, 2024. We are committed to giving you the best, and you will see only the best in cine-

thanks to the audiences and our partners worldwide for their unwavering support.

mas," the statement concluded. Also starring Rashmika Mandanna, "Pushpa: The Rise" depicted the rise of a low wage labourer (Arjun) in the smuggling syndicate of red sandalwood, a rare wood that grows only in the Seshachalam Hills of Andhra Pradesh state.

The first part had set up a clash between Arjun's titular character and Malayalam star Fahadh Faasil's menacing inspector Bhanwar Singh Shekhawat. "Pushpa 2: The Rule" is produced by Naveen Yerneni and Y Ravi Shankar of Mythri Movie Makers in association with Sukumar Writings. (PTI)

SALMAN KHAN STARTS SHOOTING FOR 'SIKANDAR'

NEW DELHI, June 19: Salman Khan has started filming for his upcoming film "Sikandar", the superstar said on Wednesday.

Salman will play the titular role in the movie, which will be directed by AR Murugadoss of "Ghajini" and "Holiday: A Soldier Is Never Off Duty" fame.

Set to be released in theatres on Eid 2025. the project will be produced by Sajid Nadiadwala's banner Nadiadwala Grandson Entertainment. It also features "Pushpa: The Rise" star Rashmika Mandanna.

"Looking forward to #Eid2025 with team #Sikandar #SajidNadiadwala's #Sikandar Directed by @a.r.murugadoss Releasing in cinemas EID 2025," Salman wrote on Insta-

gram, alongside a photo with Nadiadwala

and Murugadoss. Nadiadwala Grandson Entertainment also shared the photo of the trio on its official In-

"The Sikandar Trio! Straight from the sets of the film!" the banner said. While Salman's last big-screen appearance

was 2023's "Tiger 3", Rashmika was "Animal" which was released in the same year.



'GoT' spin-off 'A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms' begins production

LOS ANGELES, June 19: The world of Game of Thrones is set to expand further as a new spin-off series has started production, American premium cable network HBO has

announced.

The show, titled A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms, commenced filming in Belfast, Ireland. It is based on author George RR Martin's novella The Hedge Knight, HBO said in a press release.

Five actors -- Finn Bennett, Bertie Carvel, Tanzyn Crawford, Daniel Ings and Sam Spruell -have joined the alreadyannounced cast members Peter Claffey and Dexter Sol Ansell.

The six-episode show is the second spin-off to epic fantasy series Game of Thrones, which ran for eight seasons on HBO from 2011 to 2019.

The first spin-off, House of the Dragon, recently returned on HBO with its second season.

A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms will follow the exploits of the knight Ser Duncan the Tall (Claffey) and his young squire, Egg (Ansell), roughly 100 years before the events of Game of Thrones and 100 years after the events of House of the Dragon.

"A century before the events of Game of

Thrones, two unlikely heroes wandered Westeros... a young, naive but courageous knight, Ser Duncan the Tall, and his diminutive squire, Egg. "Set in an age when the

Targaryen line still holds the Iron Throne, and the memory of the last dragon has not yet passed from living memory, great destinies, powerful foes, and dangerous exploits all await these improbable and incomparable friends," the official log-

In the show, the two protagonists will encounter several members of the Targaryen dynasty - including Prince

line read.

Aerion Targaryen (Bennett). Prince Baelor Targarven (Carvel) and Prince Maekar Targaryen (Spruell) — along with another knight known as the Laughing Storm, Ser Lyonel Baratheon (Ings) and a puppeteer named Tanselle (Crawford).

Sarah Adina Smith and Owen Harris will direct three episodes each of the

A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms is written and executive produced by Martin and Ira Parker. Ryan Condal, Vince Gerardis, Harris and Sarah Bradshaw will also serve as executive producers. (PTI)



Kohli expected to shine on big stage as India ponder over Kuldeep question



BRIDGETOWN (BARBA-DOS), June 19: Virat Kohli will be expected to hit his straps after a lean run while left-arm spinner Kuldeep Yadav will anxiously wait for his chance when titlefavourites India face a sprightly Afghanistan in their opening Super 8 fixture of the T20 World Cup here on Thursday.

The big talking point ahead of the game is the Indian team combination. Will India go in with the same line-up that worked for them in their best spinner over the last 12 months, Kuldeep, at the expense of a specialist pacer now? At the start of the tournament, skipper Rohit Sharma had expressed his keenness to include all four allrounders -- Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, and Ravindra Jadeja -- in the playing eleven.

That strategy suited the Indian team in the bowler-friendly conditions in New York and the captain is expected to retain the winning batting till number 8. The only way to fit Kuldeep into the team is to either drop Mohammed Siraj or Arshdeep Singh for the wily spinner. If that does happen, Siraj is most likely to be benched.

If the two practice sessions of the Indian team are an indication, the pitch could offer plenty to the spinners making Kuldeep's case stronger. With the gentle breeze blowing across the Kensington Oval, the pacers should get the ball to swing in the powerplay.

double digit score in the tournament. His strategy to go for his strokes did not yield the desired results in New York but he is expected to be at his imperious best on the better wickets in the

The 35-year-old is always operating at 100 per cent and the intensity he showed during the training sessions was a testament to his exemplary work ethic.

Shivam Dube, who was brought into the side to hammer sixes in the middle and death overs, has sent the ball out of the park only once in this competition .The pitches in USA did not allow him to go after the spinners. He would be expected to change that in the Super 8s and beyond.

Îndia's premier T20 batter Suryakumar Yadav too was back among runs against USA, albeit not in his usual swashbuckling style. But the effort was enough to boost his confidence.

Besides Kohli, runs are pending from the bat of Hardik Pandya, who has been exceptional with the ball. On the bowling front, Arshdeep Singh has grown in confidence with each passing game, playing perfect wingman to Jasprit Bumrah in both the powerplay and death overs.

With the surface likely to aid the slower bowlers, Axar and Jadeja would be backing themselves to make a decisive impact in the game. Afghanistan, on the other hand, head into the Super 8 fixtures after a humbling loss to the West Indies in St Lucia.

Their bowling attack, which allowed them to boss their first three games, was put to sword by the defeat as a blip in an otherwise impressive campaign, insisting that his team remains a worthy contender for a semifinal berth.

"As a bowler, you need to come up with plans to keep the scoring to under 10. The morale is still pretty high and this loss does not affect us. We have achieved our first goal of reaching the Super 8s and now it is about taking the next step," Rashid had said.

He will be heavily banking on left-arm pacer Fazalhaq Farooqi, who provided them with wickets in the powerplay and is currently the leading wicket-taker in the tournament with 12 scalps.

If he can the swing the ball back in like he has thus far, Rohit and Kohli will need to be on high alert. Rashid himself will be looking for wickets at a frugal economy rate in the middle overs. On the batting front, in-form openers Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran would be once again be crucial to the team's chances.

Squads: India: Rohit Sharma (captain), 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.

Afghanistan: Rahmanullah Gurbaz (wicketkeeper), Ibrahim Zadran, Gulbadin Naib, Azmatullah Omarzai, Mohammad Nabi, Najibullah Zadran, Karim Janat, Rashid Khan (c), Noor Ahmad, Naveen-ul-Haq, Fazalhaq Farooqi, Hazratullah Zazai, Fareed Ahmad Malik, Mohammad Ishaq,

Croatia and Albania draw 2-2 at Euro 2024, leaving both in difficult spot in Group B

June 19: Croatia and Albania drew 2-2 in an intense battle at Euro 2024 on Wednesday, a result that could make it difficult for both teams to survive the group stage

In the first ever competitive match between the two Balkan teams, Croatia tried to set the pace from the start, but it was Albania's Qazim Laci who scored first, heading in a cross from the

right flank in the 11th minute. Andrej Kramaric equalized

about half an hour into the second half and an own goal Klaus Gjasula made it 2-1 for Croatia just two minutes

later. Gjasula redeemed him-

equalizer in injury time. The result leaves both Croatia and Albania in a precarious situ-

ation in Group B after they lost to Spain and Italy, respectively, in their first matches. The Albanians, who are ahead

of Croatia on goal difference in the group standings, celebrated the most after the match, while Luka Modric and his teammates looked disappointed as they ap-

The Volksparkstadion in Hamburg was split evenly between red-clad Albania fans and spectators in Croatia's checkered shirt providing a loud and energetic atmosphere throughout the match.

Fans in Croatia's section set off flares repeatedly, despite warnings over the loudspeakers that it would result in disciplinary ac-

Croatia struggled to create chances in the first half and could have faced a greater deficit but goalkeeper Dominik Livakovic

> blocked a Kristjan Asllani and a header from Rey Manaj to keep it 1-0 at halftime.

The Croatcame more energy

in the second half and turned the match around in two minutes. Kramaric equalized with a shot just inside the post. And just moments later Gjasula was unlucky when Albania tried to clear the ball from the penalty area but it bounced off him and into the net for the fourth

own goal of the tournament. At that point Croatia seemed to be in control but Gjasula's strike five minutes into injury time made it 2-2 to the delight of the

Centurions Mandhana, Harmanpreet sparkle as India beat SA by four runs to clinch ODI series



BENGALURU, June 19: Ebullient hundreds of Smriti Mandhana and Harmanpreet Kaur were nearly upended by remarkable centuries from Laura Wolvaardt and Marizanne Kapp but India kept their nerves to beat South Africa by four runs in a lastover thriller to take an unassailable 2-0 in ODI series here Wednesday.

India had beaten South Africa by 143 runs in the first match here on Sunday.

It was a matter of margin once India posted an imposing 325 for three, riding on Mandhana's 136 and Harmanpreet's unbeaten 103, their seventh and sixth one-day tons respec-

tively. However, the Proteas fought back through Kapp and Wolvaardt, who added 184 runs off 170 balls for the fourth wicket, but could manage 321 for six.

The Chinnaswamy pitch stayed truer as compared to the previous match, and the Indian bowlers had to be precise in their line and length on this day to be effective.

They did just that. At no point, the home bowlers allowed SA batters a free run, picking up wickets at regular intervals.

Pacer Arundhati Reddy, who replaced Renuka Singh, gave India a good beginning, beating the defence of Tazmin Brits with a delivery that came in by that bit.

However, Mandhana gave crowd the moment of the day when she accounted for Sune Luus, caught behind by Richa Ghosh, to bag her maiden international wicket.

That brought together Wolvaardt and Kapp, who resisted the Indian spinners with excellent footwork and shot

Kapp, who made fifty off 53 balls, was the more aggressive of the duo, underlined by her two powerful pulls off Pooja Vastrakar that rocketed to the

Wolvaardt gave Kapp solid support and brought up her fifty in 69 balls, as she touched the mark with a well-timed swat four to mid-wicket off

They fetched 100 runs for the fourth wicket in 114 balls, when Kapp swept left-arm spinner Radha Yadav for a

The South African pair rarely played an aerial shot during their partnership but that survival-first approach also took the asking rate past nine and later 10.

The tourists required 103 runs in the last 10 overs and it did not look impossible with a set Kapp and Wolvaardt in the middle, but they had to take their chances for that.

Kapp, who reached her hundred in 85 balls and the enforcer of the alliance, went for the jugular against off-spinner Deepti Sharma but Vastrakar took a well-judged catch near the boundary to end the threatening stand.

Wolvaardt then combined with Nadine de Klerk to make 69 runs off 41 balls for the fifth wicket, but that was not enough on the night, as Vastrakar defended 11 runs off the last over. (PTI)

Hayden backs Kohli; Bishop calls Bumrah 'once in a generation bowler'

mer Australia opener Matthew Hayden on Wednesday backed Virat Kohli to come good in the Caribbean leg of the T20 World Cup, saying his experience of assessing conditions and different surfaces make him a world-class batter. Kohli, who was the highest run-getter at this year's IPL with 741 runs, is yet to make a significant contribution in the tournament. He had scores of 1. 4 and 0 in the group stages

"Kohli, in any condition, has been a world-class batter. These venues (Caribbean) where you have to think about the way you construct your innings and think about also the kind of realistic totals that are possible in these different venues," Hayden said on Star Sports Press Room.

"Outside of St Lucia, par scores are in the range of 160-170 and Virat, with all his experience, will be able to work out what to do, like hitting spin towards the windward side, depending on how significant it is.

"Virat is in a really good space, he's had extremely tough condi-



liked that in the competition. Everyone wants to see these great champions being able to play freely and that's going to be the case and experience counts.'

Hayden also backed Kohli to continue opening the innings for India during the Super 8 stage.

"During the IPL, I was advocating that if Kohli is going to be in the team, he needs to open. Virat at three, I don't think we get the best out of him. You can't just turn up and blast 250 on these wickets. You need thinking cricketers; it borders on performance during this World Cup.

'You look back at David Warner's performance this World Cup -- in Barbados on a sluggish wicket, he made 30-odd (39 in 16 balls vs England). It was a really well-constructed thirty. It depends on what your benchmark is. Are you looking at 100s, 50s, strike rate?

"The way Warner came out on a pretty (tough) wicket and blew the game away, that's what Kohli is going to be challenged with in

alone. He will show you why the Indian selectors have had faith in him at that position."

Hayden, however, said Kohli needs to keep in mind his strikerate. "And he needs to continue also to have a great strike back because clearly we've seen the pattern emerge here in the World Cup is that, those six overs, man you have to be in front of the

'It's too hard to catch up if you're looking to go, in the back half of this game. Must be a good, clinical first 10 overs."

Former India batter Krishnamachari Srikkanth also echoed Hayden's views.

Virat is king of kings. We are playing against Afghanistan tomorrow. And I don't think we should just worry. IJust leave him alone. He will score once again. He will win matches for India. Guys, just leave him alone," he

Former West Indies pacer Ian Bishop termed Jasprit Bumrah as once in a generation bowler and said opposition players don't seem to target him sometimes

FC Barcelona shuts down its football academies in India

NEW DELHI, June 19: Worldrenowned football club FC Barcelona has decided to shut down all its academies in India, 14 years after starting operations with an aim to train the country's kids in their famed 'La Masia (vouth academy)' style.

FC Barcelona did not provide any official reason for the closure. All its academies in the Indian cities of Delhi NCR, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Pune will cease to exist from July 1.

"FC Barcelona have informed the families involved in Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore and Pune will cease to operate as Barca Academies from 1 July 2024," the club said in a statement which it up-

loaded on its website. "Barcelona's presence in India began back in 2010 and since then thousands of youngsters have learned to play football in the Barca style and with the Club's values. "Furthermore, India was the venue for two Barca Academy APAC tournament in 2019 and 2020 and the academies have been an ever present in the 11 editions of the Barca Academy World Cup held in Barcelona during Easter Week," the club added.

Football legends such as Lionel Messi, Andres Iniesta, Sergio Busquets and Gerard Pique achieved their superstardom after undergoing training at the Barca

In the statement, FC Barcelona expressed gratitude to all the families for their trust in the project over the years, as well as to all the coaches, local staff, and Conscient Football, the club's India partner that has collaborated on the Barca academies project all these years.

Barca Academy India was the largest grassroots football training and development initiative in

As part of the venture, it set multiple football training centres in Delhi, Gurugram, Noida, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Pune, organising programs, camps, leagues, tournaments, and exposure trips.

Barca Academy is the flagship FC Barcelona school aimed at boys and girls between 4 to 17 years of age and its main objective is to provide a comprehensive training environment for their students. (PTI)

tions and no one would have We had our ups and downs but thanks for the memories: Stimac's farewell note to 'Blue Tigers'



NEW DELHI, June 19: Bitter with the All India Football Federation (AIFF) but full of praise for the players he coached for five years, Igor Stimac on Wednesday said he never expected to be "so personally invested" in the country when he first joined and lauded his wards for their "courage and charac-

Stimac, who was terminated after India lost to Qatar in its final second-round group match to bow out of the 2026 World Cup qualifiers, has threatened the AIFF with legal action if it failed to clear his dues in the next 10 days.

He has also accused AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey of breaching his contract multiple times and held him squarely responsible for the Indian team's failure to progress.

The Croat has said that his stint here left him with serious health problems and he never

wants to hear from the AIFF again. However, he expressed his affection for the players and fans in a note of thanks on his X page.
"To all Indian football fans

and my blue tigers, it's been an honour to serve you over the last five years. I didn't expect to form such a strong bond with this country and be so personally invested when I first joined you all," said the coach, who is now back at his base in Croatia.

"I am proud of every player and team member. Together we were able to create an environment of hope and belief, we pushed each other physically and mentally to play fearless, intelligent football, which required a lot of courage and effort," he added.

Stimac reiterated that the AIFF must shoulder a part of the blame for the team's failed World Cup qualifying campaign during which it lost to a lowerranked Afghanistan and settled for a draw against Kuwait in home matches which it was expected to win.

country acknowledges the type of game and character you intended to display every time you stepped on the pitch. We were very close to taking the next step but to make that happen, everyone needs to be on

"Not only the players on the pitch and the team staff members but also the ones sitting in the offices," he asserted.

Counting the positives of his tenure, the 56-year-old Croat said he would forever be thankful for the memories he made with the team. He said the team "survived

the FIFA ban, the administrators running the football house, two years of pandemic" and managed to get inside the top-100 for some time despite the many difficulties.

'We had our ups and our downs, but every one of you will always have a special place in my heart. Thank you for all the memories and a wonderful five years. Jai Hind," he signed off. (PTI)

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Williamson steps down as NZ's white-ball captain, declines national contract

CHRISTCHURCH, June 19: New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson on Wednesday decided to forego his national contract for the 2024-25 season and also stepped down from white-ball captaincy to extend his international career, following the Black Caps' shock early exit from the T20 World Cup.

"Helping push the team forward across the formats is something I'm very passionate about and something I want to keep contributing towards," the 33-yearold said in a New Zealand Cricket (NZC) release on Wednesday.

"However, pursuing an overseas opportunity during the New Zealand summer means I'm unable to accept a central contract offer.'

The Black Caps have very little international cricket scheduled during the January window and Williamson, who had stepped down from Test captaincy in December 2022, will be available to play all three formats outside that month.

"Playing for New Zealand is something I treasure, and my desire to give back to the team remains undiminished," he said.

"My life outside cricket has changed, however. Spending more time with my family and enjoying experiences with them at home or abroad is something

GROS ISLET (ST LUCIA),

June 19: An in-form West Indies

will be keen to carry the winning

momentum but won't underesti-

mate familiar foes England in their

opening Super Eight clash of the

T20 World Cup which promises to

are each competing for an unprece-

dented third T20 World Cup title.

While the hosts are undefeated in

the tournament so far, England had

a rather anxious group stage and

needed arch-rivals Australia's help

Having played catch up after a

loss against Australia in the league

stage, Jos Buttler and his men now

who head to the fixture on the back

of an eight-match winning streak,

put up a sensational display against

Afghanistan, notching a huge 104-

run win at the Darren Sammy Na-

They once again head to the sta-

dium that holds the name of their

head coach and two-time T20

World Cup-winning captain in

"It's not necessarily to send them

(England) a message (the huge win

against Afghanistan). It's just to

show them that as much as they are

playing good cricket, we're playing

good cricket - so come Wednesday

night it should be a very good

game," skipper Rovman Powell

said at the pre-match press confer-

West Indies are performing as a

cohesive unit. Their batters have

taken responsibility and stood up every time the team needed some-

one -- be it Shane Rutherford or

Nicholas Pooran. Their bowlers too

The flat pitches and relatively

short square boundaries here are a

paradise for batters with all matches

the past at a younger age as well."

Australia hates me".

rubbed off on him. (PTI)

of the team also speaks highly of the 'Bison'

have done their job.

tional Cricket Stadium.

search of a similar result.

On the other hand, West Indies,

to keep alive their title defence.

Both England and West Indies

be a run fest here.

Hosts West Indies primed

for Super 8 clash against

defending champions England

that's even more important to me.'

The Black Caps are scheduled to compete in eight Tests, including a tour of India and then a three-match home series against England in November-December, before Christmas.

There are a number of T20 leagues such as UAE's ILT20, South Africa's SA20, Australia's BBL and Bangladesh's BPL which are set to clash in January. New Zealand's Super Smash could also be scheduled during the same time period.

The leagues will be followed by the ICC Champions Trophy in Pakistan in February-March.

Players accepting the NZC central contracts must be available for both international and the domestic Super Smash

competition NZC CEO Scott Weenink said Williamson has earned the right to take some time off to pursue other goals, including family-oriented priorities.

'This is a good way to help keep Kane in the international game so that he continues to play a major role for the BLACKCAPS – both now and in the years to come," said Weenink.

"We have very little international cricket in New Zealand through January and outside that period he's still available for the BLACKCAPS.

played here so far being a high-

But the batters will have to be

carefully negotiate the cross winds

that sends some balls flying unex-

pectedly for six and others swirling.

Pooran targeted them ruthlessly

left-arm spin duo of Akeal Hosein

and Gudakesh Moti against Eng-

land's predominantly right-handed

the extra bounce still offers incen-

tive for the quicks and left-arm

medium pacer Obed McCoy's role

England pacers Jofra Archer and

The two teams have clashed

"When we play the English guys

so often, we play them actually

every year, so they know a lot about

us, we know a lot about them,"

"It's just that when you're play-

ing the game on the day, whoever

Joseph, Gudakesh Motie, Obed

McCoy, Shamar Joseph, Shimron

England: Jos Buttler (c), Moeen

Ali, Jofra Archer, Jonathan

Bairstow, Harry Brook, Sam Cur-

ran, Ben Duckett, Tom Hartley, Will

Jacks, Chris Jordan, Liam Living-

stone, Adil Rashid, Phil Salt, Reece

Match starts 6am IST. (PTI)

Hetmyer and Shai Hope.

Topley and Mark Wood.

Marsh not just a captain but a leader: Stoinis

NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA), June 19: Mitchell Marsh is not just a

captain but a true leader, Marcus Stoinis said eulogising his teammate

but added that the current Australia group is easy to lead with everyone

aware of their roles in specific situations. Marsh has been tasked with

"Mitchie is not a captain but a leader. The way he gets the groups together inspires it," fellow all-rounder Stoinis said on the 'Unplayable'

"He's been a leader for a longtime in this group. He has captained in

It is not just Stoinis that has lavished praise on the all-rounder, the rest

Marsh has had a love hate relationship with the fans, who booed him

But Marsh witnessed a resurgence last year and has now become a fan

But Marsh was perhaps destined for big things given his father, Geoff

when his performance dropped leading the all-rounder to claim "most of

favourite. He made his way back into the Test team and starred in Aus-

tralia's stunning World Cup win in India. He also performed well in T20s.

He was awarded with the prestigious Allan Border medal earlier this year.

Marsh was a former Australian ODI captain and World Cup winning

coach. Growing up, he was surrounded by the likes of legendary captains

Allan Border, Mark Taylor and Steve Waugh and that seems to have

leading Australia to their second T20 World Cup title.

rather regularly in the past and are

well aware of each other's strength

will also become important.

make most of the conditions.

While the pitch favours batters,

West Indies will bank on their

scoring affairs.

against Afghanistan

batting lineup.

and weaknesses.

Powell said.

Teams:

long as possible."

"NZC has a strong preference to select centrally contracted players for the BLACKCAPS, however we're happy to make an exception for our greatest ever batter - especially as he remains so committed to the team. I know it sounds a bit counterintuitive, but I'm very encouraged by this development.'

An all-format player who is considered one of the greats of modern day cricket, Williamson has been the Black Caps batting mainstay for over a decade, having played over 350 internationals.

Williamson has played 100 Tests, 165 ODI caps and 93 T20I caps. He also led New Zealand in 40 Tests, 91 ODIs and 75

New Zealand reached three finals with Williamson in the side -- the 2015 and 2019 ODI World Cups, the 2021 T20 World Cup and the inaugural World Test Championship final, which they won. Williamson led the Black Caps in three of those four tournaments.

Pacer Lockie Ferguson, who has played a Test, 65 ODIs and 42 T20Is, has also indicated that he won't accept a central contract offer. He had become only the second bowler and first in T20 World Cups to bowl four maidens in a men's T20I when he returned with figures of 4-4-0-3 against Papua New Guinea. (PTI)



Five IPL teams interested in buying stakes in Hundred club London Spirit: MCC chief Nicholas

"soft" interest in acquiring a stake in London Spirit, the Lord's based team participating in The Hundred

Nicholas, also a veteran commentator and writer, is set to take over as the Spirit's chairman later

Nicholas has based his revelation on a recent letter by MCC CEO Guy Lavender to the members, seeking their approval for England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB)'s offer to privatise 49 per

He, however, did not reveal which IPL teams have shown their interest in buying stakes. Those stakeholders will be finalised through a bidding process, and the remaining 51 per cent will remain

"What we are putting to a vote is to accept the ECB's offer of a 51 per cent share of this franchise (Spirit). We will always be a members' club. "The first target is membership

harmony because as a member you



are entitled to a view," Nicholas said at the Lord's while announc-Connects' symposium here on July

worked out by the ECB. "But the real truth is that not everything is clear yet. For exam-

bidding? We don't know that yet.

Nicholas also said it was only

uity or in sale of the equity," he

"We missed out on T20 in 2003

where we could have grabbed it.

India thought quicker than us and

were smarter than us, as India often

is. India moves at an extraordinary

pace to make things work," said

Nicholas. Nicholas, a former First-

Class cricketer of repute with

Hampshire for whom he scored

over 18,000 runs in county cricket,

said the second opportunity that

has been presented to English

cricket through 'The Hundred'

other opportunity. The MCC mem-

bership quite likes being part of the

chat, not being consigned to a

piece of history. The members I

talk to really love the idea of hav-

ing a team (an MCC team in the

Hundred), love the opportunity

tunity, either in growth of the eq-

"There will be financial oppor-

"The Hundred has given us an-

should not be missed.

Kettleborough, Illingworth to officiate blockbuster India-Australia Super 8 match

DUBAI, June 19: English duo of Richard Kettleborough and Richard Illingworth will officiate the blockbuster Group 1 Super Eight clash between India and Australia in the ongoing T20 World Cup in Gros Islet, Saint

India's opening Super Eight match against Afghanistan on Thursday will be officiated by the Australian pair of Rodney Tucker and Paul Reiffel, while David Boon will be the match referee.

England's Michael Gough and South African Adrian Holdstock will officiate India's match against Bangladesh in Antigua on June 22.

In other matches, Chris Gaffaney and Kettleborough, both members of the Emirates Elite Panel of ICC Umpires, will be the on-field umpires for USA's historic first-ever knockout match at the T20 World Cup, against South Africa on Wednesday.

The co-hosts qualified in second place from Group A, in part thanks to a magnificent Super Over victory against Pakistan and will now take on the Proteas as well as England and fellow cohosts West Indies in Group 2 of the Super 8s.

Joel Wilson will be the TV Umpire for USA versus South Africa match, while he will also stand as on-field umpire alongside Gaffaney when the American team takes on England in Barbados on June 23.

Allahudien Paleker, who is making his senior men's tournament debut in this competition, will be the fourth umpire.

Illingworth and Michael Gough will oversee Australia's Super 8s opener against Bangladesh, while Nitin Menon and Ahsan Raza are the on-field umpires for England's meeting with the West Indies.

Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid, making history in this competition as the first Bangladeshi official at the T20 World Cup, is the TV Umpire for the England versus West Indies match, and will be the on-field umpire alongside Chris Brown for England's second Group 2 game against South

Jeff Crowe, who has overseen more T20Is than anyone else, will be in the match referee for England's clashes against the West Indies and South Africa as well as Australia against India. (PTI)

LONDON, June 19: MCC presprudent for the English cricket ecoident Mark Nicholas has revealed system to try and exploit the boomthat five IPL teams have expressed ing world of franchise cricket, having missed it over two decades

cent stake in the Spirit.

with the franchise.

ing the inaugural 'World Cricket

The symposium is expected to be attended by BCCI secretary Jay Shah, outgoing India coach Rahul Dravid and his England counterpart Brendon McCullum along with representatives of some IPL franchises.

However, he said the pathway to the bidding process is still being

ple, how would the bidding process take place? What's the

"The ECB haven't declared that. We have met the investment bank I'm not sure they even know yet. There's still a lot for us to learn," Nicholas was quoted as saying by 'ESPNCricinfo'

rollout of these franchises in the

Several senior Pak players may be rested for series against Bangladesh: Sources

LAHORE, June 19: Several senior members of Pakistan's failed T20 World Cup campaign, including captain Babar Azam, Muhammad Rizwan and Shaheen Shah Afridi, may be rested for the home Test series against Bangladesh in

gets on top has to stay on top for as Sources said that the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is in touch with Test captain, Shan Masood, West Indies Squad: Rovman who is in England captaining Powell (c), Brandon King, Johnson county side Yorkshire, and new red-Charles, Nicholas Pooran (wk), ball head coach, Australian Jason Sherfane Rutherford, Andre Rus-Gillespie to finalise plans for the sell, Romario Shepherd, Roston Bangladesh series. Chase, Akeal Hosein, Alzarri

Pakistan were eliminated after losing their Group A league matches to newcomers USA and arch-rivals India.

"One of the proposals being considered is giving rest to some senior players namely Babar, Shaheen, Rizwan etc and instead trying out those players who are uncapped or have just played a few internationals for Pakistan," a source said.

"But, no final decision has been taken because in the end Masood and Gillespie will make the final call on the team selection, as in next few weeks the number of national selectors could also be reduced and the PCB might revert back to the old system of selection process," he added. The source said that the PCB will

Before the mega-event, Pakistan will host Bangladesh and England for five Tests. They will then tour Australia for a white-ball series before going to South Africa for a Test and white-ball series.

also consult Gillespie and white-

ball head coach, Gary Kirsten on

plans for the ICC Champions Tro-

phy in February-March next year.

Pakistan will return home in January to host South Africa and New Zealand in a 50-over Triangular series before the Champions Trophy. After the ICC event, Pakistan will host West Indies for two Tests and white-ball matches before the Pakistan Super League. (PTI)

Bangladesh bowler Tanzim fined for 'inappropriate physical contact' with Nepal skipper

DUBAI, June 19: Bangladesh seamer Tanzim Hasan Sakib has been fined 15 per cent of his match fee for "inappropriate physical contact" during a verbal altercation with Nepal skipper Rohit Paudel in their final group D match of the T20 World Cup.

The incident took place in the third over of the Nepal chase on Sunday when Tanzim, after bowling a delivery, walked towards Paudel "in an aggressive manner and made inappropriate physical contact.'

Tanzim bowled exceptionally well in the game and finished with a match-winning spell of 4/7 to help Bangladesh claim a 21-run win at the Arnos Vale Ground in Kingstown.

In addition to the fine, "one demerit point has been added to Tanzim's disciplinary record, for whom it was the first offence in a 24-month period." The 21-year-old was found to have breached Article 2.12 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to "inappropriate physical contact with a Player, Player Support Personnel, Umpire, Match Referee or any other person (including a spectator during an International Match".

The charges were levelled by on-field umpires Ahsan Raza and Sam Nogajski, along with third umpire Jayaraman Madanagopal and fourth umpire Kumar Dharmasena. (PTI)

You are one of the greats: Wesley Hall tells Kohli

BRIDGETOWN (BARBADOS), June 19: Legendary West Indies pacer Wesley Hall has seen a lot of great batters over the years and in his opinion, Indian superstar Virat Kohli belongs right at the top with the all-time legends of the game.

The 86-year-old from Barbados, who formed a lethal bowling partnership with Charlie Griffith in the 1960s, also feels that the modern day West Indies players can't be expected to turn down million-dollar contracts in franchise cricket though it does impact the health of Test cricket in the region.

current international cricketer, Hall played 48 Tests in a career spanning 16 years. He was a special guest at the Kensington Oval here on Tuesday when he met members of the Indian team and presented his autobiography to Kohli and head coach Rahul

In stark contrast to the nomadic life of a

ing session. Having also served as sports minister of Barbados, the man of many talents reserved humbling words for Kohli in his brief chat with the former India captain.

Dravid on the sidelines of their second train-

"You have come to practice and you have to see an old man," that was how he broke the ice with the Indian mainstay. "I have seen a lot of great players and you

are one of them. I have followed your career and I hope you play for India for many more



If I am from the proletariat, can't refuse IPL millions

T20 cricket in the West Indies seems to be in good health but the same can't be said about Tests, the only format Hall played and excelled at.

The Caribbean icon feels the administrators need to find a way to prevent a mass exodus from the longest format. "Well, I would say that if your date is

today, I'm not concerned. But if you told me

that's what happens," he said when asked about the state of the red-ball game in the re-

"You just need to get some players who will stick with you. I mean, at one time, we had some great players, but they weren't playing Test cricket. But that's the problem,

"If I am from the proletariat, I don't have any money and somebody offered me a million dollars for four years, well then I could not really refuse it. So we have to sort of deal with it in such a way that it doesn't happen every day," said Hall.

Asked about his views on how the game has changed over the years, Hall said he doesn't like the fact that cricket has become hatter-friendly. "Well, one has to be aware that things will

change. Now we are wondering what's happening, especially if you go into the area where you play the game of 20 overs. There are certain things that I wonder about. "I just wonder why would batsmen be

able to bat through the whole innings, the bowlers are restricted to four bowlers. I often

Hall, who is 6'5", believes a good fast bowler has to be at least six feet. He is also a fan of Jasprit Bumrah and is impressed with the pace talent in India.

"Earlier you had only Kapil Dev, now you have so many," he remarked.

"You have to remember that immediately after we left the scene, you know, we had about two fast bowlers in the West Indies. Some of them couldn't get in the side. We need to look for some good pacemen.

"I like a paceman that is six foot. When you put a ball in the slip corner, like how Big Bird Joel Garner used to do it, and (Curtly) Ambrose. These fellows, they bowl and they're able to get that bounce," said Hall. (PTI)

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