

WORLD
NATION

- S Korea summons Russian ambassador as tensions rise
- Armenia recognises a Palestinian state, and Israel summons its ambassador
- World looking at yoga as powerful agent of global good: Modi
- Defer implementation of three new criminal laws: Mamata to PM

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HT BRIEFS

Officer held

GUWAHATI: The Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption, Assam, apprehended Jnana Ranjan Das, AFS, DFO of Social Forestry, Golaghat, on Thursday for accepting a bribe of ₹ 30,000 at his official residence in Golaghat. The bribe was allegedly taken to prevent the cancellation of a work order, as stated by the complainant. In a related incident, Gopal Dekka, Forest Beat Officer of Gabhoru Beat in Sonitpur district, was also arrested for accepting a bribe within his office premises. The bribe was reportedly given to facilitate the unhindered transportation of vehicles carrying forest products.

Assamese Gamosa

GUWAHATI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during the International Yoga Day celebrations in Kashmir, once again adorned the customary Assamese Gamosa, highlighting this emblem of Assamese culture. Chief Minister of Assam Himanta Biswa Sarma praised Modi as the esteemed "brand ambassador" of the Gamosa, emphasising the Prime Minister's role in promoting Assamese heritage globally.

State flood scene grim, over 2.5 lakh people hit

Priyanka urges Assam govt to intensify flood relief efforts

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, June 21: Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi appealed to the Assam government on Friday to expedite relief and rescue operations for the flood-affected people in the state and provide compensation to the families of the deceased.

Her statement follows the devastating flood situation in Assam, which has affected over four lakh people across multiple districts.

Taking to the micro-blogging site X, Gandhi expressed concern over reports of floods severely disrupting normal life in Assam.

"The news of 36 people losing their lives in this disaster so far is heart-wrenching. Several lakh people in 19 districts of the state are grappling with the aftermath of floods. I appeal to the state government to accelerate relief and rescue operations and ensure compensation for the families of the deceased," said the Congress general secretary.

Gandhi also called upon Congress workers and leaders to ex-



tend all possible assistance to the affected people.

Meanwhile, reports indicate that several major rivers, including the Kopili, Barak, and Kushiya, have been flowing above the danger level since Thursday evening.

More than four lakh people in 19 districts—Bajali, Baksa, Barpeta, Biswanath, Cachar, Darrang, Goal-

para, Hailakandi, Hojai, Kamrup, Karimganj, Kokrajhar, Lakhimpur, Nagaon, Nalbari, Sonitpur, South Salmara, Tamulpur, and Udalguri—continue to be inundated by floodwaters, according to officials.

The state has been experiencing incessant rainfall over the past few days, exacerbating the flood situation. (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Kejriwal to remain in jail after HC bail stay

NEW DELHI, June 21: Embattled chief minister Arvind Kejriwal will have to remain in jail for now with the Delhi High Court on Friday putting an interim stay on a trial court's order granting him bail in the money laundering case linked to the alleged excise scam.

The AAP national convener, who was arrested on March 21 by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), could have walked out of Tihar jail on Friday had the high court not granted the interim relief to the central anti-money laundering agency.

"Till the pronouncement of this order, the operation of the impugned order shall remain stayed," a vacation bench of Justice Sudhir Kumar Jain said and asked the parties to file written submissions by June 24.

The high court said it was reversing the order for 2-3 days as it wanted to go through the entire records.

It also issued notice to Kejriwal seeking his response on ED's plea challenging the trial court's June 20 order by which he was granted bail. It listed the plea for hearing on July 10.

The ED's lawyer mentioned for an urgent listing its petition challenging the trial court's bail order which was passed late Thursday evening.

Additional Solicitor General (ASG) S V Raju, representing the ED, contended that the trial court's order was "perverse", "one-sided" and "wrong-sided" and that the findings were based on irrelevant facts. The relevant facts, he claimed, were not considered by the special judge.

"Material facts were not considered by the trial court. There cannot be a better case for cancellation of bail than this one. There cannot be greater perversity than this," he argued.

Seeking a stay on the trial court's order, he contended that the ED was not given adequate opportunity to argue its case.

The application for stay was vehemently opposed by senior advocates Abhishek Singhvi and Vikram Chaudhary, representing Kejriwal. They said Article 21 (protection of life and personal liberty) of the Constitution does not exist for the ED for which the liberty (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)



ABC DOCUMENTARY

It contains blatant untruths: India

NEW DELHI, June 21: India on Friday described as "blatant untruths" the content of a documentary made by ABC News that claimed to uncover alleged attempts of Indian intelligence agents to interfere in Australia's "national security".

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the documentary appeared to serve a particular agenda to "malign" India.

"The documentary contains blatant untruths, is biased and reflects unprofessional reporting. It appears to serve a particular agenda to malign India," he said at his weekly media briefing.

"We obviously oppose any such attempts to condone, justify and even glorify terrorism," he said.

In the documentary, the ABC (Australian Broadcasting Corporation) News claimed to "uncover the long arm of the Indian state" in Australia and even accused Indian intelligence agents of targeting the Indian diaspora in that country.

The documentary, titled "Infiltrating Australia - India's Secret War", also alleged that Indian intelligence agents tried to gain access to sensitive defence technology and airport security protocols.

In April, Australian media reported that Canberra expelled two Indian spies in 2020 for allegedly trying to "steal secrets" about sensitive (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

KAAC distributes arecanut and fruit saplings to farmers

HT Bureau

DIPHU, June 21: The Soil Conservation Department under the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC), as part of the State Owned Priority Development State (SOPD), distributed arecanut saplings along with lemon, pear, and Indian Jujube (apple boguru) saplings to farmers from Lumbajong and Dhansri Member of Autonomous Council (MAC) constituencies.

The distribution ceremony took place at Diphu Club on Friday.

Each beneficiary received 5 arecanut saplings along with horticulture saplings for plantation. The distribution was officiated by chief executive member (CEM) of KAAC, Tuliram Ronghang, along with executive member (EM) in charge of Soil Conservation and Industries and Commerce, Prabhat Chandra Taro, and MAC members Johny Timung and Tiltutoma Hasnu.

CEM Ronghang highlighted that KAAC, through its Soil Conservation and Agriculture departments, continues to support farmers with various saplings and seeds for cultivation.

"Two years ago, the Agriculture department distributed 7 lakh arecanut saplings to villagers in Lumbajong. (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Assam Guv, CM, Sonowal participate in Yoga Day events

GUWAHATI, June 21: Assam joined the nation in celebrating International Yoga Day on Friday with several events organised across the state on the occasion.

Governor Gulab Chand Kataria, chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Union minister Sarbananda Sonowal, among others, participated in yoga events held in various parts of the northeastern state since morning.

Kataria attended an event organised by Kamrup Metropolitan district administration at Nehru Stadium in Guwahati.

Sarma, in a post on X, wrote, "Yoga for a Fit India, Yoga for All! Participated in the state celebrations of the 10th International Day of Yoga at Tezpur."

"The Yoga Day is a celebration of Bharat's unique gift to the world to remain fit and healthy," he said,



while posting photographs of the event at Tezpur on the microblogging site.

Later, speaking to reporters, he lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi for popularising Yoga globally.

"Yoga is about both physical and



mental wellness. I urge parents to introduce yoga to their children from a young age as it will ensure a healthier life for them," the CM said.

Sonowal took part in an event in Tinsukia and urged all to practice yoga (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Always better if Lok Sabha Speaker chosen by consensus: Kiren Rijiju

NEW DELHI, June 21: Parliamentary Affairs minister Kiren Rijiju on Friday pitched for a consensus for the post of the Lok Sabha Speaker amid suggestions that the opposition Congress was keen on a contest for the key position.

"It is always better if there is a consensus," Rijiju replied to questions whether he had reached out to the opposition leaders on the selection of the Speaker.

He said consultations with the NDA partners will be held before arriving at any decision.

"We will take steps very soon," was Rijiju's refrain to questions on talks with the opposition leaders.

The first session of the 18th Lok Sabha will begin on June 24 and the election to the office of the Speaker, Lok Sabha has been fixed



on June 26.

The names of BJP leaders D Purandeswari, Radha Mohan Singh and Bhartuhari Mahtab have been doing the rounds for the post of Lok Sabha Speaker.

A section of the political circles was also of the view that the current Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla

could get a second term in the coveted office.

At any time before 12 noon on the day preceding the date fixed for the election, any member can give notice in writing to the secretary general of a motion supporting another member for the office of the Speaker, a Lok Sabha bulletin noted.

"In the present case, notices of motions for the election of the Speaker can be given before 12 noon on Tuesday, June 25," it explained.

The notice for the motion has to be seconded by a third member. Also, it has to be accompanied by a statement by the candidate contesting the poll that he or she is willing to serve as Speaker if elected. A member cannot propose one's own name, or second a motion, the (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Karbi Anglong observes Int'l Yoga Day



HT Bureau

DIPHU, June 21: Karbi Anglong on Friday joined the global celebration of International Day of Yoga with various programs organised by youth clubs, paramilitary forces, and schools.

The event in Diphu town included yoga sessions and activities marking the theme for this year, 'Yoga for Self and Society.'

Initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to recognize yoga's ancient Indian roots and its profound impact on mental, physical, and spiritual well-being, the first International Day of Yoga was celebrated on June 21, 2015 and continues annually worldwide.

At the Karbi Anglong Sports Association (KASA) indoor stadium, the District Administration, Karbi Anglong, collaborated with the National Ayush Mission and District Health Society for the International Yoga Day event.

Chief Executive Member (CEM) of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC), Tuliram Ronghang, emphasised yoga's benefits for overall well-being, announcing plans to establish yoga

centers in each of the region's 26 MAC constituencies to promote its practice.

"Yoga will be promoted in Karbi Anglong and for that yoga centres will be set-up in every sports complex in the 26 MAC constituencies," he said.

Ronghang also praised PM Modi for elevating yoga to an international platform and raising awareness about its physical, mental, and spiritual advantages.

The morning session attracted over 700 participants from diverse backgrounds, including children from local academies, members of sports associations, and personnel from CRPF and Assam Police. Art of Living instructors led participants through various yoga poses.

On the occasion, the district commissioner (DC) Madhumita Bhagawati highlighted the enthusiastic participation across different age groups and announced a district-level yoga competition.

In various age categories, participants competed, with winners like Mangal Deep Ronghang, Sangmir Teronpi, and Demi Jigdhung receiving (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

States ruled by BJP, allies 'nerve centre' of paper leaks: Borah

GUWAHATI, June 21: Assam Congress president Bhupen Kumar Borah claimed on Friday that states ruled by the BJP and its allies have become the "nerve centre" of question paper leaks, and the case of NEET-UG is the latest example of that.

Borah made the allegation while leading a demonstration against the alleged irregularities in the NEET-UG examination this year.

Holding the government responsible for the "question paper leaks", he said, "It has become clear that question paper leaks are happening repeatedly in BJP-ruled states, including in Assam."

"In this latest instance of NEET-UG examinations, it is the states ruled by BJP or its allies like Gujarat and Bihar, which have emerged as the nerve centre."

The Central government was un-

able to hold the examination smoothly, the state Congress chief claimed during the demonstration.

Several MLAs and other leaders of Congress, along with its student wing NSUI members, participated in the protest.

The NSUI members also attempted to stage a demonstration outside the party office but were prevented by the police from going out of the premises.

'India's rapid growth in women researchers highlights the ongoing gender equity efforts'

India 3rd in growth of women researchers: Elsevier report

NEW DELHI, June 21: India ranks third in the growth rate of women researchers, according to a report from scientific information disseminator Elsevier, which also underlined that gender equality in the domain remains "unacceptably far away" globally.

At two per cent, India's yearly growth rate of women's share of active researchers over the last decade was the third highest, behind Egypt and The Netherlands only, the report titled 'Progress Towards Gender Equality in Research and Innovation - 2024 Review' said.

Analysing inclusion and diversity across disciplines and geographies over 20 years, the report found that in India, women now make up 33 per cent of active researchers, compared to 22 per cent in Japan and 30 per cent in Egypt. India is now the world's third largest research producing country, it said.

"India's rapid growth in women researchers highlights the ongoing



gender equity efforts and are truly encouraging," said Prof. Sandeep Sancheti, vice president of Research Relations & Academic Affairs at Elsevier India.

"While we have made significant headway in creating a more inclusive academic environment, challenges still remain," said Sancheti.

Gender parity (40-60 per cent representation is defined as parity zone in the study) among re-

searchers in health sciences was achieved in 2022, with women representing 41 per cent of all active researchers in India, according to the report.

In life sciences, gender parity was achieved in 2021. As of 2022, women researchers in life sciences represented 43 per cent of the active ones, it said. The authors found that as of 2022, globally women researchers represented 41 per cent (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Sheikh Hasina's visit will give major boost to bilateral ties: India

NEW DELHI, June 21: Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Friday began a two-day State visit to India with an aim to further expand the already close ties between the two countries.

Bangladesh is a key partner and trusted neighbour of India and Prime Minister Hasina's visit will give a major boost to the "celebrated bilateral partnership", external affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said shortly after she arrived in Delhi.

It is the first incoming bilateral state visit by a foreign leader after the formation of the new government in India following the Lok Sabha elections.

The Bangladesh prime minister was received at the airport by Minister of State in the external affairs ministry Kirti Vardhan Singh.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Hasina are scheduled to hold wide-ranging talks on Saturday during which both sides are likely to firm up a raft of agreements providing for cooperation in several sectors.

Hasina was among seven top leaders from India's neighbourhood and the Indian Ocean region

who attended the swearing-in ceremony of Modi and the Union council of ministers at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on June 9.

Apart from holding bilateral consultations with Modi, the visiting leader is scheduled to call on President Droupadi Murmu and Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar.

External Affairs Minister S Jaisankar is scheduled to call on Hasina this evening.

The talks between the two prime ministers are expected to focus on taking the bilateral ties to new heights, said a source.

The overall strategic ties between India and Bangladesh have been on an upswing in the last few years.

Bangladesh is an important partner for India under its "Neighbourhood First" policy and the cooperation extends to areas of security, trade, commerce, energy, connectivity, science and technology, defence and maritime affairs among others.

The achievements in the connectivity sector included the inauguration of the Maitri Setu bridge over river Feni in Tripura and the rollout of the (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Zepto valued at USD 3.6 bn in latest fund raise; eyes IPO

NEW DELHI, June 21: Grocery delivery startup Zepto on Friday said it has raised USD 665 million in an investment round that valued the firm at USD 3.6 billion, almost triple of what it was worth a year back, and is preparing to list soon.

The fund raise will help Zepto compete with e-commerce giant Amazon, Zomato-owned Blinkit, and homegrown firms such as Swiggy's Instamart and Tata Group's BigBasket in the hyper-competitive grocery delivery space that is marred by high investments and low margins.

The three-year-old startup raised USD 665 million from new investors, including New York-based private equity firm Avenir Growth Capital, venture firm Lightspeed, and Avra Capital, a new fund started by former Y Combinator Continuity head Anu Hariharan and Andreessen Horowitz. Existing investors including Glade Brook, Nexus, and StepStone Group also participated, the Mumbai-based firm said in a statement.

Aadit Palicha, 21, who co-founded Zepto with childhood friend Kaivalya Vohra in 2021 after dropping out of Stanford's computer science programme and returning to India, said the company's gross merchandise value, or the value of total transactions through the platform, has "multiplied year-on-year to a base of USD 1 billion", and over 75 per cent of its 341 dark stores are profitable at a core operating level.

Zepto is "pretty close" to be-



coming operating cash flow positive and would look to go public and a listing in Mumbai in near future.

The startup plans to double warehouses that are used to deliver groceries within 10 minutes in a radius of two kilometers to more than 700 by March 2025 by reinvesting sales from mature stores to fund the expansion.

Zepto has about 29 per cent market share in 10-minute grocery delivery service (known as quick e-commerce), up from 15 per cent in March 2022. Blinkit is the market leader with nearly 40 per cent and the rest is with Instamart.

The latest fundraise comes less than a year after the Mumbai-based startup raised USD 235 million at a valuation of USD 1.4

billion.

"We've gone from 0 to 1 billion-plus in sales, or GMV, in 29 months, that is faster than any other internet company before us... Even on a base of over a billion dollars at this point, we are growing 100 per cent-plus year on year. And that for us is one of the big drivers of this fundraise," Palicha, who is also the CEO of the company, told PTI.

Attributing the growth to the performance of the quick-commerce firm, the young entrepreneur said, "This is largely because of the input excellence we've built across the supply chain."

"Whether it is sourcing excellence, mother hub efficiency, line haul utilisation, or our last mile, the innovation that we've done, or

forecasting, we're in this place where even as we've been able to grow, we've been able to drive efficiency to get the business to pretty much close to full operating cash flow positive today."

He said the overall business is close to operating at break-even cash flow.

Nearly 75 per cent of the company's stores are fully EBITDA positive as of May 2024, he said.

"Over the next 12-18 months, although it might fluctuate, but we'll still be pretty close to operating cash flow positive, and the idea is to keep in that direction, get the business to a place where we can list in the next 9-12 months," he said.

Zepto co-founder and CTO Kaivalya Vohra said the firm plans to hire top talent across engineering, product, growth, finance, operations, and category management.

"If you are looking for a high growth, high meritocracy and high intensity culture where you can convert hard work and ambition into disproportionate career growth, Zepto is the place for you," he said.

Company's stores previously took 23 months to achieve profitability; today, they only take six months, the firm said.

"This dynamic of stores turning profitable faster and faster has enabled Zepto to grow rapidly while simultaneously achieving near EBITDA positivity at a company level. (PTI)

Sensex falls 269 points as L&T, RIL weigh Markets halt record-breaking rally



MUMBAI, June 21: Halting their record-breaking rally, equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty buckled under selling pressure on Friday as investors pared exposure to oil & gas, capital goods and FMCG stocks amid a bearish trend in global markets.

However, recent foreign capital inflows and buying in index majors Bharti Airtel, Infosys and TCS helped indices restrict the losses, traders said. Snapping its six-day rally, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 269.03 points or 0.35 per cent to settle at 77,209.90. During the day, it tanked 676.93 points or 0.87 per cent to 76,802.

The Nifty rose 100.1 points to hit a record intraday peak of 23,667.10 earlier in the day. However, it failed to maintain the momentum and slipped 65.90 points or 0.28 per cent to end at 23,501.10.

On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark climbed 217.13 points or 0.28 per cent, while the Nifty went up by 35.5 points or 0.15 per cent.

"The domestic market witnessed minor profit-taking amid concerns over the slow progress of monsoon, resulting in underperformance in the FMCG sector. The global markets were subdued as weak guidance from Accenture led to profit booking in US tech stocks," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

Among the Sensex companies, UltraTech Cement, Larsen & Toubro, Tata Motors, Nestle, Tata Steel, Hindustan Unilever, Bajaj Finance, Reliance Industries, Mahindra & Mahindra and State Bank of India were the biggest laggards.

In contrast, Bharti Airtel, Infosys, JSW Steel, Tata Consultancy Services, Wipro and NTPC were among the biggest gainers.

"Nifty ended lower in a highly volatile session on Friday; however it rose for three weeks in a row to record its highest weekly close even as it fell on Friday. Asian shares were mostly lower Friday after a retreat on Wall Street," Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities, said.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge declined 0.26 per cent, while smallcap climbed 0.06 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, Oil & Gas went lower by 1.28 per cent, FMCG (1.08 per cent), capital goods (0.96 per cent), commodities (0.92 per cent), realty (0.75 per cent) and auto (0.71 per cent).

On the other hand, IT, telecommunication, metal, power, tech and services were the gainers.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower.

European markets were quoting in the red. US markets ended on a mixed note on Thursday. (PTI)

Gold surges ₹ 800; silver rallies ₹ 1,400

NEW DELHI, June 21: Gold prices surged ₹ 800 to ₹ 73,350 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday amid a rally in precious metal rates in the international markets, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous session, the yellow metal had closed at ₹ 72,550 per 10 grams. Extending gains for the fourth straight day, silver prices also rallied by ₹ 1,400 to ₹ 93,700 per kg. It had ended at ₹ 92,300 per kg on Thursday.

"In Delhi markets, spot gold prices (24 carats) are trading at ₹ 73,350 per 10 grams, up by ₹ 800 from the previous close," Saumil Gandhi, Research Analyst at HDFC Securities, said. In the global markets, spot gold at Comex was trading at USD 2,360 per ounce, up USD 28 from the previous close.

Gold climbed on Friday, boosted by weaker-than-expected US macro data, which raised the possibility that the US Federal Reserve will cut interest rates at least twice in 2024, Gandhi added. (PTI)

Blue Dart sets new benchmark in sustainable logistics

GUWAHATI, June 21: Blue Dart, a leading courier and integrated express package distribution company in South Asia, has successfully commenced drone deliveries in collaboration with Skye Air, a frontrunner in drone technology. This initiative marks a significant leap towards more efficient and eco-friendly delivery solutions.

Following their pioneering VLOS (Visual Line of Sight) trials in Vikarabad, Hyderabad, in September 2021, and BVLOS (Beyond Visual Line of Sight) trials under the Telangana Government's 'Medicine from the Sky' initiative, Blue Dart continues to lead in adopting drone technology for logistics. Initially targeting the burgeoning e-commerce sector, this innovation promises to revolutionize last-mile delivery by enabling same-day shipment deliveries, thereby drastically reducing both



delivery times and environmental impact.

"The logistics sector in India is experiencing an exhilarating phase," said Balfour Manuel, Managing Director of Blue Dart. "The nation's robust economic growth, coupled with rising consumer aspirations and increased purchasing

power in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, has amplified the demand for innovative solutions that foster growth while ensuring efficiency and sustainability. As we embrace drone technology, we look forward to expanding this service to additional pin codes in collaboration with our partners."

Ashutosh Motors announces special offers on Tata Nexon

HT Correspondent

NAGAON, June 21: Tata Motors, India's premier automotive manufacturer, is celebrating a remarkable milestone of 7 lakh unit sales of its top-selling SUV, the Nexon, in its seventh year. Since its launch in 2017, the Nexon has earned the distinction of being India's highest-selling SUV for three consecutive years, from 2021 to 2023. Notably, the Nexon was India's first vehicle to receive a 5-star rating from Global NCAP in 2018, setting a new safety benchmark for Indian automobiles.

To commemorate this achievement, Ashutosh Motors is offering special benefits across its outlets in Nagaon, Tezpur, Morigaon, Biswanath Charali, and Hojai. Since the launch of this limited-time offer on June 15, there has been a significant surge in demand for the new Nexon model.

Customers can enjoy benefits of up to ₹ 1.15 lakh, depending on the model and variant, whether they are booking a new Nexon, awaiting delivery of a previously booked vehicle, or upgrading their existing Nexon to the latest version. This offer presents an ideal opportunity for those eager to own India's No. 1 SUV.

Bharti Airtel Foundation launches Design-a-Thon challenge 2024

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, June 21: The Bharti Airtel Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Bharti Enterprises, has announced the launch of the TheTeacherApp Design-a-Thon Challenge 2024. Known for its commitment to enhancing education and empowering youth, the Foundation has already impacted the lives of over 3 million children, particularly in rural India, through initiatives such as the Satya Bharti Schools and Quality Support Program.

The newly launched Design-a-Thon Challenge, in collaboration with Arena Animation, a leader in animation and multimedia education, provides a platform for aspiring designers to contribute to national development. Participants will use TheTeacherApp to create innovative designs for self-learning modules aimed at teachers.

At the launch event, Mamta Saikia, CEO of Bharti Airtel Foundation, remarked, "TheTeacherApp Design-a-Thon Challenge represents our dedication to empowering youth through education. This initiative will allow next-generation designers to showcase their skills and creativity, enhancing the education landscape with innovative designs for the app. We eagerly anticipate the creative solutions that participants will bring forward."

Dr. Anuj Kacker, CEO (I) of Aptech Limited, added, "TheTeacherApp Design-a-Thon Challenge 2024 highlights our commitment to nurturing young talent and fostering creativity. By partnering with Bharti Airtel Foundation, we aim to support creative skill-building and empower the next generation of artists. We wish all Arena Animation students the best. Regardless of the outcomes, all participants will gain valuable experiences from this challenge."

Contd. from Page 1...

State flood scene grim, over

Meteorological forecasts predict light to moderate rain across most parts of Assam in the coming days, with isolated areas expected to experience thunderstorms, lightning, and heavy downpours. Karimganj remains the worst affected, with over 2.5 lakh people impacted, followed by Darrang and Tamulpur, officials reported.

The death toll from this year's floods, landslides, and storms has risen to 36.

To accommodate the affected population, more than 100 relief camps have been set up, providing shelter to over 14,000 individuals. Officials also noted significant damage to embankments, roads, and bridges in the affected districts due to floodwaters. (With PTI inputs)

Kejriwal to remain in jail after

of a person figured low in priority. Singhvi said the ED argued for 3 hours and 45 minutes before the trial judge. "This matter lasted for five hours (before the trial court). Nearly 3 hours 45 minutes were taken by Mr. Raju and then trial judge is faulted because she does not repeat every comma and full stop," he said.

During the arguments, Raju said after the order was passed, when the ED lawyers urged the trial court to keep its order in abeyance for 48 hours to enable them to approach superior courts, the prayer was not considered.

"I was not allowed to argue fully. I was not given proper time of 2-3 days to file written submissions. This is not done. On merits, I have an excellent case. The trial court said finish off in half an hour as it wanted to deliver the judgment. It did not give us full opportunity to argue the case," he contended, adding, "I am making the allegations with full seriousness."

Section 45 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) says an opportunity must be granted to the public prosecutor to present his case but that opportunity was not granted to me, he contended.

He said the trial court did not even look at his reply on the ground that it was bulky and claimed that the trial court came to a conclusion that there was malafide on ED's part after considering wrong facts and wrong dates.

Raju contended that the trial court has given findings which are contrary to those of the high court while upholding Kejriwal's arrest.

"If irrelevant facts are considered, that itself is a reason for cancellation of bail. There is evidence that Kejriwal demanded ₹ 100 crore but it was not considered by trial court," he argued.

"End to end money trail was given by us," he asserted, adding that proceeds of crime were utilised in the Goa assembly poll campaign by the AAP.

"We have made AAP an accused in the money laundering case and the offences thus are covered by section 70 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), which deals with companies. The ED had likened AAP to a company and Kejriwal its director," Raju argued.

Singhvi urged the court not to stay Kejriwal's bail order and said it may send him back to jail later if it finds overwhelming and cogent circumstances.

He also questioned the probe agency's "unfortunate" attempt to malign the judge (by claiming she did not give the ED enough time to argue and did not consider material evidence).

"There is misconception about what a bail hearing should be like. Just because there is a political antagonism involved and that if all the commas etc are not dealt with by the judge, it gives Mr. Raju the right to malign the judge. This whole approach is deplorable and sad. It should never have come from a government authority," Singhvi argued. Chaudhari submitted that Kejriwal had surrendered to the jail authorities on expiry of the interim bail period which showed his bonafide conduct.

"If he is out with conditions imposed by the court, what is the prejudice. He is not a terrorist that he will harm the society if he is let out. What will happen if the chief minister of the state comes out on bail?" he argued. The trial court, in its bail order, held that prima facie Kejriwal's guilt was yet to be established and that the ED failed to furnish direct evidence linking him to the proceeds of crime in the money laundering case.

The excise policy was scrapped in 2022 after the Delhi lieutenant governor ordered a CBI probe into alleged irregularities and corruption involving its formulation and execution. (PTI)

It contains blatant untruths: India

defence projects and airport security. "Indian spies were kicked out of Australia after being caught trying to steal secrets about sensitive defence projects and airport security, as well as classified information on Australia's trade relationships," an ABC report had said.

The so-called foreign "nest of spies" disrupted by the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) in 2020 was also accused of closely monitoring Indians living in Australia and developing close relationships with current and former politicians, it said. (PTI)

Assam Guv, CM, Sonowal

for a healthy society and adopt it as a daily habit. "Yoga transcends boundaries and is the beacon of good health and wellness for humanity. Let's together bring #Yoga into our lives for the betterment of society," he posted on X. "Yoga enriches the mind, body and spirit. It has for millennia given the gift of wellness to humanity & in the last 10 years led by the efforts of Hon'ble PM Shri @narendramodi ji, has become a global mass movement," the Union minister added. The Assam Police also organised yoga camps at various locations, with officers and police personnel participating in these events. "International Yoga Day 2024 at Assam Police establishments." Director General of Police GP Singh posted on X, sharing photographs of the camps.

The Army units and NCC also marked the day with camps at different locations.

General Officer Commanding (GOC), 51 Sub Area, Major General P S Joshi led the celebrations at Narangri military station in Guwahati, a defence spokesperson posted on X.

The event witnessed participation by army personnel, their families and children, with the GOC also interacting with the attendees. The Northeast directorate of NCC celebrated the day at Sarusajai stadium here, with the participation of about 2,500 cadets, a spokesperson said. Over 21,000 NCC cadets of Silchar Group under the Northeast directorate also celebrated the occasion across Assam, Mizoram and Tripura, he added. Similar yoga camps and other activities were organised across educational and other institutions in the state. (PTI)

Always better if Lok Sabha

secretariat pointed out, citing rules. If any motion is carried (adopted), the person presiding the proceedings (a pro-tem Speaker) will declare that the member proposed in the motion which has been carried has been chosen as the Speaker of the House. (PTI)

States ruled by BJP, allies 'nerve

in the exam. The allegations have led to protests in several cities and the filing of petitions in several high courts as well as the Supreme Court. (PTI)

KAAC distributes arecanut and fruit

Many received saplings from Borlangpher to Manja, although their planting status remains unclear," he said. Ronghang also informed farmers about ongoing initiatives where the Agriculture department distributes free paddy seeds and other seeds during every sowing season to support farmers who face financial constraints.

"Farmers from Lumbajong and Dhanisiri constituencies can approach their respective MACs to access these free seeds," he added. Furthermore, Ronghang announced that farmers in need of power tillers can obtain them with an 80% subsidy rate.

EM Tar emphasised during the distribution ceremony that providing high-quality seedlings free of cost empowers farmers to establish new plantations, enhance productivity, and increase income.

He also encouraged beneficiaries to maximize the benefits provided by the government by properly planting and nurturing the saplings, especially the arecanut saplings, which can yield significant monetary returns.

The event was attended by additional director (Hills), Soil Conservation, Chandan Jyoti Saikia, and divisional officer, Sangpi Terangpi.

Karbi Anglong Observes International

recognition for their performances. Elsewhere in Karbi Anglong, NCC cadets at Taralango and local communities in Bokajan, Balipathar, Hanjanglangso, and Khatkhathi also observed the International Day of Yoga with fervor.

Deputy speaker and Bokajan MLA Dr Numol Momin participated in yoga activities at Balipathar Higher Secondary School, while Ajit Dey, Deputy chairman of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council, joined youth and students for yoga at Howraghat Stadium, Shankardev Vidya Niketan, and Howraghat Srimanta Vidyalyay.

Sheikh Hasina's visit will give

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

The neighbouring country is India's biggest trade partner in South Asia and India is the second biggest trade partner of Bangladesh in Asia.

India is Bangladesh's largest export destination in Asia, with approximately USD 2 billion of Bangladeshi exports recorded to India in 2022-23.

The two countries share 4096.7 km of border -- the longest land boundary that India shares with any of its neighbours. There is active cooperation between various agencies of both countries to cooperate on police matters, anti-corruption activities and to combat illicit drug trafficking, fake currency, human trafficking, among others. (PTI)

India 3rd in growth of women

of those active, with a strong representation in health sciences. They added that while women have made gains in the last two decades, the progress has not been uniform across fields. For example, in physical sciences women made up only 33 per cent of the active researchers.

At the current rate, the authors of the report noted that globally, gender equality in research remains "unacceptably far away". They projected that although numbers of women researchers in mathematics, engineering and computer science are increasing, gender parity overall is not expected until 2052.

Women also filed "vastly fewer" patent applications than men, the authors said.

"As of 2022, three-quarters of patent applications came are filed either by men alone or by teams consisting only of men. Nearly, all patent filing teams (97 per cent) have at least one man in them. In contrast, just three per cent of patent applications as of 2022 are filed by teams consisting only of women," the authors wrote.

Regionally too, women's participation in the research workforce was found to differ with those in countries including Portugal and Brazil making up about half of the active researchers, and those in the US and the UK making up 40 per cent of the active researchers.

The report said that among active researchers working on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, women formed the majority. There were also slightly more women than men engaging in multidisciplinary research, considered important for solving complex challenges at the global level, it said. (PTI)

'Yoga for Self and Society' theme resonates as participants embrace the ancient practice

10th International Yoga Day celebrated across state

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, June 21: To promote yoga for overall development, Governor Gulab Chand Kataria participated in the 10th International Day of Yoga organised by National AYUSH Mission Assam in collaboration with the district administration, Kamrup(M), held at DTRP indoor stadium on Friday.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Kataria said, "Yoga is an ancient and wonderful science of Indian culture. The history of yoga is thousands of years old, and it is believed that yoga has been practiced ever since civilisation began. It is a science-based spiritual discipline that focuses on establishing harmony between mind and body. It is the art and science of healthy living."

Governor Kataria also mentioned that besides Maharishi Patanjali, many sages and yoga gurus have contributed significantly to the development of yoga through practice and yogic literature. He highlighted that today, the entire world benefits from yoga.

Addressing this year's theme, 'Yoga for Self and Society', the Governor emphasised that regular practice of yoga promotes individual well-being, which leads to societal harmony. "Yoga is an invaluable gift of our ancient tradition, which our Prime Minister Narendra Modi has spearheaded to make it a global phenomenon. Yoga has always been India's unique way to remain fit. It has immense potential in enhancing the physical and mental well-being of humankind, making one's life healthy and purposeful," the Governor added.

Furthermore, the Governor stressed that yoga should be integrated into everyone's daily routine for optimal health benefits. "Yoga should not be confined to practicing it on the occasion of Yoga Day only. It should be practiced daily. I would be happy if the participants continue practicing yoga to achieve the maximum benefits of this ancient tradition, keeping themselves fit and free from disease," he emphasised.

The yoga session witnessed active participation from minister of Finance, Ajanta Neog, additional chief secretary Biswaranjan Samal, mission director of National Health Mission Dr Lakshmi Priya, commissioner and secretary of Medical Education and Research Department Sidharth Singh, GMC mayor Mrigen Sarania, DC Kamrup(M) Sumit Sattawan, and several others.

In like manner, along with the rest of the nation, the 10th International Yoga Day was observed in Cachar in a befitting manner on Friday. A program was organised on the occasion at India Club's indoor stadium in Silchar by the district administration in collaboration with the district health society.

Present at the event were Silchar MLA Dipayan Chakraborty, newly-elected Silchar MP Parimal Suklabaidya, district commissioner Cachar Rohan Kumar Jha, district development commissioner Norsing Bey, additional district commissioner Van Lal Limpia Nampui, ACS, and assistant commissioners and Executive Magistrates Anjali Kumari and Jonali Devi.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Dipayan Chakraborty said, "Yoga is an ancient Indian practice that helps in maintaining both physical and mental well-being, and over the years, it has found popularity in other countries as well. In 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed marking a day as the International Day of Yoga in his address at the UN General Assembly, and the proposal was endorsed by 175 member states, following which the United Nations recognised June 21 as the day to celebrate yoga."

He added, "Over the past one and a half years, yoga has gained more importance due to the pandemic. Accordingly, the theme for International Yoga Day 2024 has been decided by the UN to be 'Yoga for Self and Society'. It should be our moral duty to build an immune, healthier, and stronger India by adopting yoga as an effective adjunct to prevent such pandemics. I urge everyone to adopt yoga as a lifestyle that is based on the science of holistic living."

Speaking at the event, MP Parimal Suklabaidya said, "It is with great joy and pride that I welcome you all to the 10th International Yoga Day celebration. Today marks a significant milestone in our journey of promoting health, harmony, and



peace through the ancient practice of yoga. As part of a global movement that transcends borders, cultures, and languages, yoga, with its roots in India, has grown into a worldwide phenomenon, embraced by millions for its profound benefits to the mind, body, and spirit."

He noted that the United Nations declared June 21 as International Yoga Day in 2014, recognising the universal appeal of this timeless practice. Since then, this day has served as a reminder of the holistic approach yoga offers to health and well-being.

Emphasising the importance of including yoga in daily life, Suklabaidya said, "Over the past decade, the world has witnessed an incredible surge in the popularity of yoga. From bustling urban centers to tranquil rural communities, people from all walks of life have discovered the transformative power of yoga. It has become an integral part of human lives, helping to navigate the complexities of modern living with grace and resilience." He added that this year's theme, 'Yoga for Self and Society', resonates deeply with our collective aspiration for a healthier, more compassionate world. It reminds us of the importance of nurturing physical health while also tending to mental and emotional well-being.

Earlier, different yoga exercises and meditation were performed under the supervision of yoga instructor of Jatiya Byam Vidyalaya, Chandan Deb, in the presence of MP Parimal Suklabaidya, MLA Dipayan Chakraborty, and DC Rohan Kumar Jha. This was stated in a press release issued by the Regional Office of Information & Public Relations, Barak Valley Zone, Silchar.

Similarly, International Day of Yoga (IDY-2024) was celebrated on Friday throughout NF Railway as a global celebration of well-being. Yoga practice sessions were organised at headquarters, all divisions, and workshops to spread awareness among the masses about the importance of yoga and its effects on human health. The International Yoga Day 2024 theme, 'Yoga for Self and Society', emphasises the dual benefits of yoga practice: enhancing personal well-being and improving society at large. This theme recognises that inner serenity and self-care are the cornerstones of a happy and healthy existence. Notably, the 2024 International Yoga Day marks the 10th anniversary of the event.

At the NFR Headquarters, the International Day of Yoga program was held at the Railway Indoor Stadium, Maligaon, with the theme 'Yoga for Self and Society'. Chetan Kumar Shrivastava, general manager, NF Railway, along with other senior officials, was present on the occasion where railway officers and staff participated wholeheartedly, performing 'asanas' with their families. The IDY-2024 was also observed at all five divisions of NFR, with the participation of thousands of railway employees and their family members.

The June 21, being the longest day in the Northern Hemisphere, symbolises a period of development, growth, and reestablished ties to the natural world and oneself.

NF Railway used various social media platforms to create extensive awareness among the public about the benefits of practicing yoga.

Likewise, International Yoga Day was observed at different venues in Dima Hasao district along with the rest of the world on Friday. A central program was organised at the district headquarters in Haflong by Ayush Mission in collabora-

tion with the North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council and the district administration.

Executive member, NCHAC in charge of Elementary Education, Donphainon Thaoen, attended the program as chief guest, along with executive members Probita Johori, Zosumthang Hmar, and members of the Autonomous Council. District commissioner Simanta Kumar Das, along with ADCs and assistant commissioners, also participated. Officers from Assam Police, along with their officials, gathered to participate in International Yoga Day.

During his speech, chief guest EM Thaoen said, "Yoga is an invaluable gift from our forefathers and this is not just an exercise but unity of mind and body, and this should be practiced by all for our well-being." Prizes were distributed to the winners of the yoga competition.

The main program of the event included demonstrations of yoga postures and meditation sessions by instructor Paiham Kemprai, which saw significant participation from students of different schools and colleges, administrative officials, police personnel, and other institutions.

Our Nagaon correspondent adds: The National Ayush Mission, in association with the Nagaon district administration, observed the 10th International Yoga Day at the community hall of Nagaon Police Reserve on Friday. The event commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial earthen lamp by DC Narendra Kr Shah, who also delivered the welcome address, highlighting the prospects and impacts of yoga on human health and wellbeing. Local MLA Rupak Sarma attended the program as the chief guest and participated in the yoga activities. In his address, MLA Sarma emphasised that yoga and other physical exercises help people maintain mental and physical health, urging the next generation to incorporate yoga into their daily routines.

Yoga guru Prabhat Ch Bora led the yoga activities during the event. Participants included SP Sapanneel Deka, DC (Development) Gunajit Kashyap, chief executive officer of Nagaon Zila Parishad Ananta Gogoi, joint director of District Health Services Dr Phoni Pathak, CRPF commandant, and other officials from the Nagaon district and police administration. Similarly, Delhi Public School, Nagaon, celebrated International Yoga Day with great enthusiasm on the school campus. The hour-long yoga session was inaugurated and introduced by Ritu Rajnish, the principal of the school. The event began with a brief note on the benefits of yoga by Gurpreet Monga, highlighting numerous advantages for both body and mind. During the event, students from classes 5, 6, and 7 performed 'sukhasana' with breathing exercises, and 'Om Shanti' created a calm and focused atmosphere for the session. The event was seamlessly executed by Mehboob Rasul Borbhuyan, the physical education teacher of the school.

Additionally, Arogya Care Foundation, in collaboration with the National Ayush Mission, celebrated the day with great enthusiasm at Nagaon Central Jail, Morigaon District Jail, and Biswanath District Jail. According to a press note, inmates of Nagaon Central Jail actively participated in the event by performing the IDY yoga protocol and a captivating yoga demonstration. Attendees included Tapash Kumar Bhuyan, superintendent; Manash Pratim Burhagohain, jailer; Dhiraj Basumatary, assistant jailer; and Ajoy Singh, assistant jailer. Yoga Guru Tapan Kumar Dey, yoga instructor Dipesh Ch Dey, and Nijara Bora guided and supported the entire event, which was coordinated by



Rupjyoti Kar, as stated in the press note.

Our Morigaon correspondent adds: With the theme 'Yoga for Self and Society', the 10th International Yoga Day was celebrated with pomp and gaiety by the Morigaon district administration at Morigaon Police Reserve on Friday. The Morigaon district administration, in collaboration with Ayush Mission, Assam, organised the community yoga practice here. The International Yoga practice began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp. A team of yoga teachers guided the participants, including the superintendent of police, ADCs, police personnel, and students.

Our Hojai correspondent adds: In synchronisation with the rest of the world, the 10th International Yoga Day was observed by various institutions and individuals in Hojai district on Friday. The Hojai district administration organised the event at the community hall in Sankardevnagar, Hojai.

MLA of Hojai Constituency, Ramkrishna Ghosh, graced the occasion along with many other dignitaries. Speaking on the occasion, Ghosh said, "Yoga originated from our motherland, India. It is a precious gift for a healthy and prosperous life; everyone should take its benefits." Many other guests and officers also took part in the yoga session.

Our Kokrajhar correspondent adds: Along with the rest of the state, the 10th International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2024 was celebrated at different locations in the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) districts on Friday with befitting programs scheduled, witnessing a massive number of yoga participants.

In Kokrajhar, the government of Bodoland Territorial Region, in association with the 7th Assam Battalion of the National Cadet Corps (NCC), celebrated the International Day of Yoga at the BTC Secretariat Complex, Bodofa Nwgrw, and the Kokrajhar District Sports Association organised the event at the KDSA indoor stadium in Kokrajhar on Friday.

People from all sections of society, including government officials and citizens, participated in the event and took part in the yoga exercise session.

Pramod Boro, the chief executive member of Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR), graced the yoga day celebration and took part in the yoga exercise session with enthusiasm. CEM Boro extended his warm greetings to all citizens of the Bodoland region, as well as the state as a whole, on the occasion of International Day of Yoga on Friday.

"I am glad to participate in the 10th International Day of Yoga celebrations today across the state. Yoga is the journey of the self, through the self, to the self. To alleviate the ails of humanity, 'Yoga for Self and Society' is the panacea. Let us all strive to embrace the holistic benefits of yoga and inculcate this ancient practice in our daily lives," he said.

He also said, 'Yoga for Self & Society' is more than a mere theme; it forms the basis of personal peace & societal harmony.

Meanwhile, the NTPC Bongaigaon Salakati marked the 10th International Yoga Day with a mass yoga session at the community hall on Friday. The event saw enthusiastic participation from over 100 individuals, including HODs, employees, representatives of the union and association, family members, members of Bardwi Shikla Ladies Club, and associates.

The session was conducted by Rubul Das, a certified yoga guru and jawan from the CISF, NTPC Bongaigaon unit. Induri S Reddy, GM (O&M), NTPC Bon-

gaigaon, led the yoga session and addressed the gathering, emphasising the importance of yoga in achieving holistic well-being and fostering a sense of global unity.

Senior officials, including A K Singh, AGM (FM), Sushil Kr Singh, AGM (C&M), Paresh Mathur, AGM (TS), and Onkar Nath, AGM (HR), along with representatives from the union and association, participated in the session.

Rubul Das led the participants through various asanas based on the Common Yoga Protocol (CYP) released by the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India. He provided valuable insights into maintaining a healthy and mindful diet and demonstrated asanas aimed at reducing body weight and improving breathing for longevity.

The event highlighted the collective commitment to promoting health and wellness through yoga. This year's theme, 'Yoga for Self and Society', underscores the importance of yoga in enhancing personal and communal well-being.

In Chirang, Joyanta Basumatary, Lok Sabha MP, attended the yoga day celebration held at Kajalgaon. Participants from various corners enthusiastically participated in the yoga exercise session.

Our Biswanath Chariali correspondent adds: On Friday, Assam Rifles celebrated the 10th International Yoga Day with mass yoga demonstrations.

In Sonitpur district, Assam Rifles co-hosted a large-scale yoga event graced by the presence of chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. Haflong Garrison in Dima Hasao district conducted a mass yoga display and a special session for children in KV and ARHS. The Srikona Garrison in Cachar district fostered community well-being through its demonstration.

Similarly, Biswanath district administration organised the central program of the 10th International Yoga Day at Kamalakanta Natya Samaj on Friday at 6:30 in the morning, in association with the Department of AYUSH. The program was attended by Biswanath MLA Pramod Borthakur, Biswanath district commissioner Dr Neha Yadav, CEO Biswanath Dighanta Baishya, Biswanath SP Shubhashis Barua, ADC Dhrubajyoti Das, circle officer Trishna Mipun, assistant commissioner cum DIPRO (i.e.) Pushpankar Patir, Bichitra Das, and other dignitaries.

It is noteworthy that the two-day yoga program began on June 20, and the district administration organised competitions among students. The winners of the yoga day competitions received their prizes during the event.

Our Gossaigaon correspondent adds: The 31st Battalion of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) Gossaigaon celebrated International Yoga Day with a series of invigorating yoga events held at various locations within the Gossaigaon sub-division, including the Battalion Headquarters, all its BOPs, Raimona National Park, and Habrubil Community Centre, Gossaigaon. The celebrations saw active participation from Battalion personnel, local officials, and community members, emphasising the importance of yoga in promoting health and well-being.

At the Battalion Headquarters, the event was graced by the presence of senior officers including Chiranjib Bhattacharjee, commandant; LN Singh, deputy commandant; Dighade SR, deputy commandant; and Pranava Shukla, deputy commandant, along with numerous Battalion personnel. The session included a series of yoga asanas and breathing exercises aimed at enhancing physical and mental health, highlighting the integral role of yoga in

maintaining a balanced lifestyle.

Simultaneously, at the scenic Raimona National Park, Pranava Shukla, deputy commandant, led the yoga session with the participation of Battalion personnel. The serene environment of the national park provided an ideal backdrop for the yoga practices, allowing participants to connect deeply with nature while performing various asanas.

Similarly, Habrubil Community Centre, Gossaigaon, hosted a vibrant yoga event attended by Aranyak Saikia, IAS, SDO-Civil, Gossaigaon, Ranjeet Kumar, assistant commandant, local civil officials, community members, and personnel from the 31 Battalion. This gathering underscored the communal spirit of International Yoga Day, bringing together civilians and security forces to celebrate the holistic benefits of yoga. The event featured a variety of yoga practices designed to cater to participants of all ages and fitness levels, fostering a sense of unity and collective well-being.

Commandant Chiranjib Bhattacharjee expressed his delight at the enthusiastic participation across all venues and asserted that, "Yoga is a powerful tool for enhancing both physical and mental resilience, crucial for our personnel and the community. The overwhelming response to today's events demonstrates our collective commitment to fostering a healthier and more harmonious society."

Our Tezpur correspondent adds: Tezpur University (TU) observed the 10th International Day of Yoga on Friday at the Community Hall of the University. The event began with a traditional lamp lighting ceremony, symbolising the dispelling of darkness and the ushering in of knowledge and enlightenment. Prof Shambhu Nath Singh, vice chancellor of TU, graced the occasion as the chief guest.

In his inaugural address, the vice chancellor emphasised the importance of integrating yoga into daily life for a healthier and more balanced lifestyle. "Yoga implies the union of mind, body, and spirit with the supreme being. It is a way of life, and regular practice of yoga, even if for 30 minutes, can have numerous benefits for our physical and mental health," Prof Singh said.

During the event, the vice chancellor also inaugurated the second edition of 'MANTHAN', an e-magazine published on the occasion of International Day of Yoga.

Prof Paponi Baruah, head of the Centre for Yoga and Sports Sciences and chairperson of the organising committee, delivered the welcome address. She highlighted how the yoga activities at TU have extended beyond the university's boundaries through outreach activities like cycle rallies, children camps, yagathon, and meditation camps. The attendees participated in a common yoga protocol session led by experienced yoga instructors Nagendra Jain and Partha Pratim Das. The session included various asanas, pranayama (breathing exercises), meditation, and other exercises. During the celebration, Tezpur University students and children from various age groups who attended the yoga camp showcased their yoga performances. It's noteworthy that the university concluded its 51-day Yoga Mahotsav on Friday, organised by the Centre for Yoga and Sports Sciences in collaboration with the National Service Scheme wing of the university.

Our Jorhat correspondent adds: State minister for Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and Veterinary Affairs, Atul Bora, led the 10th International Yoga Day celebrations in Jorhat district by participating in the yoga session held at Chandra Kamal Bezbaruah Commerce College campus on Friday morning.

Jorhat district commissioner Pulak Mahanta, GMCH principal Dr Achyut Chandra Baishya, district administration and health department officials, yoga trainers, and local people practiced the ancient art along with Bora, who inaugurated the session by lighting the ceremonial lamp.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister emphasised the health benefits of yoga and advocated for its inclusion in education from a young age. He highlighted that practicing yoga helps maintain both mental and physical fitness, noting its increasing global popularity.

After the session, Bora awarded prizes to the winners of the yoga competition organised at the Jorhat District Yoga Centre on June 16 as part of the International Yoga Day celebrations.

Sarathi Pro Pack receives 'Best Houseware Manufacturers North East Award'

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, June 21: Sarathi Pro Pack of Guwahati, one of the pioneer and premium plastic industries in the North East, was awarded the 'Best Houseware Manufacturers North East Award' at the Modern Plastic India Awards Show, recently held at the Taj Hotel, Mumbai. The company's CEO, Satyam Khandelwal, received the award. The award was presented by the consulate of Georgia in Mumbai, Satindarpal Ahuja, in the presence of chief guest RA Mashelkar (Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan). The 'Modern Plastic India Awards' is the only award in the Indian plastics industry organised by Modern Plastics Global Network. It is a hunt for the top brightest entrepreneurs, innovators, and game-changers in the plastics sector.

Renowned industrialist and chairman of the Khandelwal Group of Companies, OP Khandelwal, said, "Our company, Sarathi Pro Pack, manufactures a wide



range of plastic products such as containers, buckets, mugs, trays, jugs, dustbins, flower pots, and many more. We also manufacture plastic items for Emami, Marico, Dabur, etc. for their various products. Our manufacturing unit is situated at Brahmaputra Industrial Park, and our corporate office is situated at Sriji Tower, 3rd Floor, GS Rd, near Walford Bus Stop, Christian Basti, Guwahati, Assam 781005.

MLAs uncover rampant illegal coal mining in Margherita

HT Correspondent

MARGHERITA, June 21: A team of legislators from the Assam Legislative Assembly was left stunned during a field visit to coal mining sites in the Margherita area of North East Coalfields.

The visit, intended for inspection and assessment, took a shocking turn when the MLAs discovered extensive deposits of illegally mined coal at various locations, including the Tikak West mining site, Tirap Colliery, and Tipong Firing Range under Northeastern Coalfields Coal India Ltd, Margherita. Led by senior MLA Ramendra Narayan Kalita, the delegation included Pradip Hazarika, Terosh Gowaia, Suren Phukan, Rafiqul Islam, Suman Haripriya, and Shivamoni Bora. The delegation witnessed firsthand the scale of illegal activities in the region. The presence of large coal reserves and ongoing illegal mining operations came as a shock to the lawmakers.

Amid their inspection, the MLAs were accompanied by Tinsukia district deputy commissioner Swapneel Paul (IAS), who conducted a raid on an illegal coal depot right in the presence of the legislators.

Protest against land requisition at Maskara Tea Estate

HT Correspondent

DEMOW, June 21: Under the patronage of the All Tea Tribes Students Association (ATTSA), Demow branch in association with

Rajmai sub-branch, labourers, and employees of Maskara Tea Estate, a protest program was held in front of the Demow Revenue Circle Office on Friday. They strongly opposed the land requisition and eviction of land from Maskara Tea Estate. Despite a road leading to Sivasagar Medical College, the protesters expressed serious concerns over the land acquisition from Maskara Tea Estate and plans for constructing another road.

The protesters shouted slogans against the state government and BJP, declaring that the land of Maskara Tea Estate would not be given up. Later, the ATTSA, Demow branch,

submitted a memorandum to the Demow circle officer. In the memorandum, they demanded the halt of land acquisition from Maskara Tea Estate and the cessation of evic-



tion from the tea estate. Additionally, they urged for reservation of appointment seats for educated unemployed youths from Sivasagar district for Sivasagar Medical College.

The labourers of Maskara Tea Estate also submitted a memorandum to the district commissioner of Sivasagar district through the Demow circle officer on Friday.

Career in elderly care

By: **Ranjan K Baruah**

We grow from childhood to adulthood and there will be many challenges when we become old. We should be aware that by 2050, it is estimated that 1 in every 6 people will be aged 65 or over, increasing the vulnerability experienced by older persons to violence and around 1 in 6 people 60 years and older experienced some form of abuse in community settings during the past year.

The serious concern is that elder abuse can lead to serious physical injuries and long-term psychological consequences and it is predicted to increase as many countries are experiencing rapidly ageing populations.

This year's World Elder Abuse

Awareness Day (WEAD), with the theme "Spotlight on Older Persons in Emergencies," emphasizes the urgent need to protect and support older individuals during crises. The day is observed on 15th June around the world.

It calls on governments, international donors, organizations, and communities to prioritize the safety and well-being of older persons in their emergency preparedness and response strategies. We can reaffirm our commitment to safeguarding the rights and dignity of older persons, ensuring that no one is left behind, especially in times of crisis.

Between 2019 and 2030, the number of persons aged 60 years or over is projected to grow by 38%, from 1 billion to

1.4 billion, globally outnumbering youth, and this increase will be the greatest and the most rapid in the developing world, and recognizing that greater attention needs to be paid to the specific challenges affecting older persons, including in the field of human rights.

According to the World Health Organization, elder abuse can be defined as "a single, or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship, where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person."

Elder abuse can take various forms such as physical, psychological or emotional, sexual and financial abuse. It can also be the result of intentional or unintentional neglect.

The United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030) is a global collaboration, aligned with the last ten years of the Sustainable Development Goals, to improve the lives of older people, their families, and the communities in which they live. There are many programmes around the world for the older persons.

In India, The National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP) was announced in 1999 to reaffirm the commitment to ensure the well-being of older persons.

The Policy envisages State support to ensure financial and food security, health care, shelter and other needs of older persons, equitable share in development, protection against abuse and exploitation, and availability of services to improve the quality of their lives.

As ageing is a concern and it is an issue we can think of different career options and opportunities related to elderly people.

When there are any challenges we have to also think of solutions and engage elderly people in a positive way and giving them their rights could be a career option for many people in a country like India or even abroad.

We have to ensure that their health is taken care of and they get space to participate in different activities.

Few career options related to elderly include geriatric physicians, geriatric care giver, nursing assistant, recreation therapist, hearing aid specialists, fitness instructor, occupational therapists, audiologists, patient



advocate, social worker, etc.

There are special courses which can be opted by aspirants who would like to work with senior citizens. Jobs are available in the government sector and also in development sectors. Skilled caregivers may even go abroad and work and earn for themselves.

The Government of India is implementing various schemes and programmes, through different Ministries and Departments

for care and welfare of senior citizens. These include shelter, food, healthcare, financial security, social security, awareness, recreation etc. There is no shortage of jobs for qualified and skilled individuals in this field. *(The author is the Advisor of Skill, Employment and Entrepreneurship Department of Bodoland Territorial Council, Kokrajhar, Assam and can be reached at 8473943734 or bkranjan@gmail.com)*

NEEPCO Recruitment 2024 – 24 Executive Trainee Posts, Online Apply

Last Date: 28/06/2024

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

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

No of posts: 16 [UR:11, SC:4, ST:1]

Upper age limit as on 01.05.2024: UR: 30 years and SC/ST:35 years.

Pay: Scale of Pay ₹ 50,000-3%-1,60,000 (IDA)

Essential Qualification: Full-time Bachelor's Degree in Engineering or Technology/AMIE/ BSc. Engg. in Electrical/ Mechanical Engineering from a recognized Institute or University with not less than 65% marks as per respective institute/ University norms (55% marks for SC/ ST candidates).

Candidates must have appeared and qualified in the Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) in 2024.

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

No of posts: 6 [UR:4, EWS:2]

Upper age limit as on 01.05.2024: UR/ EWS: 30 years

Pay: Scale of Pay ₹ 50,000-3%-1,60,000 (IDA)

Essential Qualification: Must have passed the final exam of CA (conducted by Institute of Chartered Accountants of India) /CMA (Previously ICWA) (conducted by Institute of Cost Accountants of India).

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

No of posts: 2 [UR:1, ES:1]

Upper age limit as on 01.05.2024: UR/ EWS: 30 years

Pay: Scale of Pay ₹ 50,000-3%-1,60,000 (IDA)

Essential Qualification: Graduate with a full-time MBA or Post Graduate Degree/Diploma in Personnel & Administration/ Industrial Relations/Human Resource Development/ Human Resource Management of minimum 2 years duration (65% marks or equivalent grade from a recognized University or Institute).

Candidate must have appeared in UGC-NET in Labour Welfare/ Personnel Management/ Labour & Social Welfare / HRM in 2023 (December cycle) and must have secured at least 40% marks in both the papers of UGC-NET in order to apply.

Application Fee:

General/ EWS/ OBC: ₹ 560

SC/ ST/ PwDs/ESM/Female: Nil

Payment Mode: Online

Important Dates of NEEPCO Vacancy 2024

Starting date of online application submission: 8th June 2024

Last date of online application submission: 28th June 2024

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

Last Date: 30/06/2024

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

1. Mechanical Engineer

No of posts: 93

Age Limit: 25 years.

Pay: Pay scale ₹ 50000 – 160000

Educational Qualification: 4-years full-time regular engineering course in Mechanical Engineering.

2. Electrical Engineer

No of posts: 43

Age Limit: 25 years.

Pay: Pay scale ₹ 50000 – 160000

Educational Qualification: 4-years full-time regular engineering course in Electrical Engineering.

3. Instrumentation Engineer

No of posts: 5

Age Limit: 25 years.

Pay: Pay scale ₹ 50000 – 160000

Educational Qualification: 4-years full-time regular engineering course in Instrumentation Engineering.

4. Civil Engineer

No of posts: 10

Age Limit: 25 years.

Pay: Pay scale ₹ 50000 – 160000

Educational Qualification: 4-years full-time regular engineering course in Civil Engineering.

5. Chemical Engineer

No of posts: 7

Age Limit: 25 years.

Pay: Pay scale ₹ 50000 – 160000

Educational Qualification: 4-years full-time regular engineering course in Chemical Engineering.

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

No of posts: 6

Age Limit: 28 years.

Pay: Pay scale ₹ 60000 – 180000

Educational Qualification: 4-years full time regular engineering course in Mechanical/ Electrical/ Instrumentation/ Civil Engineering and 3 years of experience.

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

No of posts: 4

Age Limit: 28 years.

Pay: Pay scale ₹ 60000 – 180000

Educational Qualification: 4-years full time regular engineering course in Mechanical/ Electrical/ Instrumentation/ Civil Engineering and 3 years of experience.

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

No of posts: 12

Age Limit: 29/32 years.

Pay: ₹ (60000- 180000)/ (70000- 200000)

Educational Qualification:

a) Full time MBA or PGDM with specialization in Sales/ Marketing/ Operations AND
b) 4-years full time regular engineering course in Mechanical/ Electrical/ Instrumentation/ Chemical/ Civil Engineering AND
c) 02/05 years of experience.

9. Senior Officer - Non-Fuel Business

No of posts: 12

Age Limit: 29/32 years.

Pay: ₹ (90000- 240000)

Educational Qualification:

a) Full time MBA or PGDM with specialization in Sales/ Marketing/ Operations AND
b) 4-years full time regular engineering course in Mechanical/ Electrical/ Instrumentation/ Chemical/ Civil Engineering AND
c) 11 years of experience.

10. Manager- Technical

No of posts: 2

Age Limit: 34 years.

Pay: ₹ (80000- 220000)

Educational Qualification: 4-years full time regular engineering course in Chemical/ Polymer /Plastics Engineering and 9 years of experience.

11. Manager- Sales- R&D Product Commercialisation

No of posts: 2

Age Limit: 36 years.

Pay: Pay scale ₹ 80000- 220000

Educational Qualification:

Essential: 4-years full time regular engineering course in Chemical Engineering
Desirable: 2 Years full time MBA regular course
AND 9 years of experience.

12. Deputy General Manager- Catalyst Business Development

No of posts: 1

Age Limit: 45 years.

Pay: Pay scale ₹ 120000- 280000

Educational Qualification:

Essential: 4-years full time regular engineering course in Chemical Engineering
Desirable: 2 Years full time MBA regular course
AND 18 years of experience.

13. Chartered Accountant

No of posts: 29

Age Limit: 27 years.

Pay: Pay scale ₹ 50000 – 160000

Educational Qualification: Qualified Chartered Accountant (CA) from Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) along with completion of mandatory Articleship and Membership of ICAI.

14. Quality Control (QC) Officer

No of posts: 9

Age Limit: 30 years.

Pay: Pay scale ₹ 50000 – 160000

Educational Qualification: 2 Years full time regular M.Sc. In Chemistry (Analytical / Physical / Organic/ Inorganic) AND 3 years of experience.

15. IS Officer

No of posts: 15

Age Limit: 29 years.

Pay: ₹ 15 Lakhs per annum

Educational Qualification: 4-years full time regular engineering course in B. Tech. with Computer Science/ IT Engineering
OR
Post Graduate in Computer Applications (MCA)/ Data Sciences AND 2 years of experience.

16. IS Security Officer- Cyber Security Specialist

No of posts: 1

Age Limit: 45 years.

Pay: ₹ 36 Lakhs per annum

Educational Qualification:

Essential: 4-year full time regular engineering degree course/s in Computer Science/ Information Technology/ Electronics & Communications Eng/ Information Security.
Or
Post Graduate in Computer Applications (MCA)
Desirable: 2-year full time regular masters in engineering course/s in Computer Science and Information Security/ Information Security/ Cyber Security. Relevant certifications such as CEH, CISSP, or GIAC certifications are a plus
AND 12 years of experience.

17. Quality Control Officer

No of posts: 6

Age Limit: 30 years.

Pay: ₹ 10.2 Lakhs per Annum

Educational Qualification: 2 Years full time regular M.Sc. In Chemistry (Analytical / Physical / Organic/ Inorganic) AND 3 years of experience .

Application Fee of HPCL Recruitment

SC, ST & PwBD candidates are exempted from payment of application fee.

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

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

Important Dates of HPCL Recruitment 2024

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

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

SEBI Recruitment 2024 – 97 Assistant Manager Posts, Online Apply

Last Date: 30/06/2024

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

Name of post: Officer Grade A (Assistant Manager)

No of posts: 97

Stream-wise vacancy:

General: 62

Legal: 5

Information Technology: 24

Engineering (Electrical): 2

Research: 2

Official Language: 2

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

Eligibility Criteria of SEBI Recruitment

Age Limit: A candidate must not have exceeded the age of 30 years as on March 31, 2024 i.e., candidate must have been born on or after April 01, 1994.

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

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

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

Legal:

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

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

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

Engineering (Electrical):

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

Desirable Experience: (i) Working knowledge of electronic systems like CCTV surveillance systems, Addressable Security Alarm and Fire Alarm systems, EPABX, UPS system, etc.

(ii) Experience in maintenance of lifts, pumps, air-conditioning plants, etc.

(iii) Experience of administering construction projects in all its aspects and knowledge of PERT/CPM techniques

Research:

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

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

Master's Degree/ Post Graduate Diploma* (minimum two years' duration) in Statistics/ Mathematical Statistics/ Statistics & Informatics/ Applied Statistics & Informatics/ Data Science/ Artificial Intelligence/ Machine Learning/ Big Data Analytics; OR

Master's Degree in Mathematics and one year post graduate diploma in Statistics or related subjects from a recognized University / Institute.

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

Official Language:

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

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

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

Application Fee:

UR/ OBC/ EWS: ₹ 1000 + 18% GST

SC/ ST/ PwBD: ₹ 100 + 18% GST

Important Dates of SEBI Officer Recruitment 2024

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

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

NKEM Sr. Secondary School Jorhat Recruitment – Faculty Post

Last Date: 30/06/2024

NKEM Senior Secondary School, Jorhat has released an employment notification for the recruitment of a Faculty post. Interested and eligible candidates may apply online.

Name of post: Faculty

No of posts: 1 (Mathematics)

Educational Qualification: MSc in Mathematics.

Experience: Freshers or with experience of teaching are welcome.

Age Limit: 30 Years.

Pay: Negotiable

How to Apply for NKEM Sr. Secondary School Jorhat Recruitment?

Potential candidates having the requisite qualification and experience can send their CVs at nkemjorhat@gmail.com or submit the same at the College Office.

Last date of submission of application: 30th June, 2024.

About NKEM Senior Secondary School

NKEM Senior Secondary School was established with a vision to create a benchmark in the education scenario of Assam.

NKEM Senior Secondary School is an emerging co-educational Senior Secondary School in the heart of Jorhat City providing education from Nursery to Grade 12 under the same roof.

This comes 2 days after Moscow & Pyongyang reached a pact vowing mutual defense assistance if either is attacked

South Korea summons Russian ambassador as tensions rise with North Korea

SEOUL, June 21: South Korea summoned the Russian ambassador to protest the country's new defense pact with North Korea on Friday, as border tensions continued to rise with vague threats and brief, seemingly accidental incursions by North Korean troops.

Earlier on Friday, the powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un issued a vague threat of retaliation after South Korean activists flew balloons carrying anti-Pyongyang propaganda leaflets across the border, and South Korea's military said it had fired warning shots the previous day to repel North Korean soldiers who briefly crossed the rivals' land border for the third time this month.

That came two days after Moscow and Pyongyang reached a pact vowing mutual defense assistance if either is attacked, and a day after Seoul responded by saying it would consider providing arms to Ukraine to fight Russia's invasion.

South Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kim Hong Kyun summoned Russian Ambassador Georgy Zinoviev to convey Seoul's stance on the deal between Putin and Kim and on alleged military cooperation between Russia and North Korea. Seoul's Foreign Ministry didn't immediately confirm what was said during the meeting.

Leafletting campaigns by South



Korean civilian activists in recent weeks have prompted a resumption of Cold War-style psychological warfare along the inter-Korean border.

The South Korean civilian activists, led by North Korean defector Park Sang-hak, said it sent 20 balloons carrying 300,000 propaganda leaflets, 5,000 USB sticks with South Korean pop songs and TV dramas, and 3,000 US dollar bills from the South Korean border town of Paju on Thursday night.

Pyongyang resents such material and fears it could demoralize front-line troops and residents and eventually weaken Kim Jong Un's grip on power, analysts say.

In a statement carried by North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency, Kim Yo Jong, one of her brother's top foreign policy officials, called the activists "defector scum" and issued what appeared to be a threat of retaliation. "When you do something you

were clearly warned not to do, it's only natural that you will find yourself dealing with something you didn't have to," she said, without specifying what the North would do.

After previous leafletting by South Korean activists, North Korea launched more than 1,000 balloons that dropped tons of trash in South Korea, smashing roof tiles and windows and causing other property damage.

Kim Yo Jong previously hinted that balloons could become the North's standard response to leafletting, saying that the North would respond by "scattering dozens of times more rubbish than is being scattered on us."

In response, South Korea resumed anti-North Korea propaganda broadcasts with military loudspeakers installed at the border for the first time in years, to which Kim Yo Jong, in another state media statement, warned that Seoul was "creating a prelude

to a very dangerous situation."

Tensions between the Koreans are at their highest in years as Kim Jong Un accelerates his nuclear weapons and missile development and attempts to strengthen his regional footing by aligning with Russian President Vladimir Putin in a standoff against the US-led West.

South Korea, a growing arms exporter with a well-equipped military backed by the United States, says it is considering upping support for Ukraine in response.

Seoul has already provided humanitarian aid and other support while joining US-led economic sanctions against Moscow. But it has not directly provided arms, citing a long-standing policy of not supplying weapons to countries actively engaged in conflict.

Putin told reporters in Hanoi, Vietnam, on Thursday that supplying weapons to Ukraine would be "a very big mistake," and said South Korea "shouldn't worry" about the agreement if it isn't planning aggression against Pyongyang. North Korea is extremely sensitive to criticism of Kim's authoritarian rule and efforts to reach its people with foreign news and other media.

In 2015, when South Korea restarted loudspeaker broadcasts for the first time in 11 years, North Korea fired artillery rounds across the border, prompting

South Korea to return fire, according to South Korean officials. No casualties were reported.

South Korea's military said there are signs that North Korea was installing its own speakers at the border, although they weren't yet working.

In the latest border incident, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said several North Korean soldiers engaged in unspecified construction work briefly crossed the military demarcation line that divides the two countries at around 11 am on Thursday.

The South Korean military broadcast a warning and fired warning shots, after which the North Korean soldiers retreated. The joint chiefs didn't immediately release more details, including why it was releasing the information a day late.

South Korea's military says believes recent border intrusions were not intentional, as the North Korean soldiers have not returned fire and retreated after the warning shots.

The South's military has observed the North deploying large numbers of soldiers in frontline areas to build suspected anti-tank barriers, reinforce roads and plant mines in an apparent attempt to fortify their side of the border.

Seoul believes the efforts are likely aimed at preventing North Korean civilians and soldiers from escaping to the South. (AP)

Armenia recognizes a Palestinian state, and Israel summons its ambassador



GAZA STRIP, June 21: Armenia said it would recognize a Palestinian state on Friday, prompting Israel to summon its ambassador for what the Foreign Ministry described as a "severe reprimand."

Dozens of countries have recognized a Palestinian state, though none of the major Western powers has done so. Palestinians believe the recognitions confer international legitimacy on their struggle, especially amid international outrage over the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

Last month, Spain, Ireland and Norway said they had decided to recognize a Palestinian state, and since then Slovenia and the Caribbean nation of Antigua and Barbuda have followed suit. On Thursday, a U.S.-built pier in Gaza began unloading humanitarian aid again after being removed for a second time last week because of rough seas, the U.S. military said.

Aid groups have sharply criticized the plan to bring aid by sea into Gaza, saying it's a distraction that took pressure off Israel to open more land border

crossings that are far more productive. Palestinians face widespread hunger as the war has largely cut off the flow of food, medicine and basic goods to Gaza, which is now totally dependent on aid.

Meanwhile, Israel's pledge to guard a new aid route into southern Gaza has fallen flat, as the U.N. and international aid organizations say a breakdown in law and order has made that route unusable.

Israel's war against Hamas, now in its ninth month, faces growing international criticism over the U.S.-backed campaign of systematic destruction in Gaza, at a huge cost in civilian lives. Israeli ground offensives and bombardments have killed more than 37,100 people, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between combatants and civilians in its count.

Israel launched the war after Hamas' Oct. 7 attack, in which militants stormed into southern Israel, killed some 1,200 people — mostly civilians — and abducted about 250. (AP)

Russia-North Korea pact could dent China's influence, but Beijing still holds sway over both



BEIJING, June 21: With no obvious options, China appears to be keeping its distance as Russia and North Korea move closer to each other with a new defense pact that could tilt the balance of power among the three authoritarian states.

Experts say China's leaders are likely fretting over potential loss of influence over North Korea after its leader Kim Jong Un and Russian President Vladimir Putin signed the deal this week, and how that could increase instability on the Korean Peninsula. But Beijing may also be struggling to come up with a response because of its conflicting goals: keeping peace in the Koreas while countering the U.S. and its Western allies on the global stage.

Beijing so far has not commented on the deal — which requires both countries to provide defense assistance if the other is attacked — and only reiterated boilerplate statements that it seeks to uphold peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and advance a political settlement of the North-South divide.

The Chinese response has been "very weak," said Victor Cha, senior vice president for Asia and Korea chair at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, adding that it could be a sign that Beijing doesn't yet know what to do.

"Every option is a bad option," he said. "You're either unable to make a decision because of very strongly held competing views or ... you're just incapable of making a decision because you just don't know how to evaluate the situation."

Some in Beijing may welcome the Russia-North Korea partnership as a way of pushing back at America's dominance in world affairs, but Cha said that "there is also a great deal of discomfort" in China, which doesn't want to lose its sway over its neighbor to Russia, doesn't want to see a destabilizing nuclear power on its doorstep, and doesn't want to bring the conflict in Europe to Asia.

But China isn't raising these concerns publicly. "They don't want to push Kim Jong Un further into the arms of Vladimir Putin," Cha said, referring to the leaders of the two countries.

Lin Jian, a spokesperson for the Chinese Foreign Ministry, declined to comment on the new agreement.

"The cooperation between Russia and the DPRK is a matter between two sovereign states. We do not have information on the relevant matter," he said, referring to North Korea by the initials for its official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

John Kirby, the White House national security spokesman, told reporters that the pact between Russia and North Korea "should be of concern to any country that believes that the U.N. Security Council resolutions ought to be abided by." The Security Council has imposed sanctions on North Korea to try to stop its development of nuclear weapons.

Kirby also said the agreement "should be of concern to anybody who thinks that supporting the people of Ukraine is an important thing to do. And we would think that that concern would be shared by the People's Republic of China."

One area that China could be concerned about is whether Russia will help North Korea's weapons program by sharing advanced technology, said Alexander Gabuev, director of the Carnegie Russia Eurasia Center.

"If China is indeed concerned, it has leverage in both Russia and North Korea and it could probably try to put some limitations to that relationship," he said.

The meeting between Putin and Kim this week was the latest chapter in decades of complicated political and military relationships in East Asia, where the Chinese Communist Party, once an underdog, has emerged as a leading power that wields influence over both North Korea and Russia.

That and other developments have raised alarms in the U.S. that Beijing, now the world's second-largest economy, could challenge the U.S.-led world order by aligning itself with countries such as Russia, North Korea and Iran. Beijing has rejected that allegation.

Sun Yun, director of the China program at the Stimson Center, said Beijing doesn't want to form a three-way alliance with North Korea and Russia, because it "needs to keep its options open."

Such a coalition could mean a new Cold War, something Beijing says it is determined to avoid, and locking itself to Pyongyang and Moscow would be contrary to China's goals of maintaining relationships with Europe and improving ties with Japan and South Korea, she said.

Sun added that the rapprochement between North Korea and Moscow "opens up possibilities and potentials of uncertainty, but based on what has happened so far, I don't think that China's national interests have been undercut by this."

Closer ties between Putin and Kim could weaken Beijing's sway and leave it as the "biggest loser," said Danny Russel, who was the top U.S. diplomat for Asia in the Obama administration. (AP)

Former Pakistan Prime Minister Abbasi launches new political party



ISLAMABAD, June 21: Former Pakistan prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi on Friday formed a new political party named Awaam Pakistan after parting ways with the ruling PML-N due to the differences with the party's way of politics.

Abbasi, who served as the prime minister from August 2017 to May 2018, was joined by former finance minister Miftah Ismail who also parted ways with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) led by former

prime minister Nawaz Sharif.

The slogan of the new political entity is 'badliyaen nizam' (we will change the system). The party would be formally launched on July 6 or 7, The Express Tribune newspaper reported.

A video shared on Awaam Pakistan's official X handle featured disheartened citizens addressing national issues such as inflation, energy shortages, corruption, unemployment, and educational disparities.

Abbasi, 65, has been appointed

as head of the organising committee, while Ismail has been initially named as his deputy.

The organising committee also includes former Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa governor and PML-N leader Sardar Mehtab Abbasi, former PML-N Senator Javed Abbasi and former Muttahida Qaumi Movement lawmaker Sheikh Salahuddin.

The founding members include former PML-N lawmaker from Faisalabad Rana Zahid Tauseef, former PTI health minister Zafar Mirza, former PML-N provincial lawmaker Zaeem Qadri, Hazara region activist Fatima Atif, Sindhi nationalist leader Anwar Soomro, legal expert Moiz Jafari and educationist Tariq Banuri.

Abbasi served as prime minister from August 2017 to May 2018 until PML-N chief Nawaz Sharif was disqualified by the Supreme Court.

He belongs to the Murree area

of Rawalpindi, which is a famous hill resort frequented by tourists in summer to seek relief from scorching heat and in winter to enjoy snowfall. He is a businessman whose family owned the country's AirBlue airline. He entered politics in 1988 when he was elected as a member of the National Assembly for the first time. He was elected at least six times on the PML-N ticket and was considered close to Nawaz Sharif and also served as a federal minister.

Abbasi and Ismail, who served as ministers in his cabinet, left the PML-N due to policy disagreements and initiated discussions nationwide in 2023 under the banner 'Reimagining Pakistan' to pay ground for a new party.

He in many discussions and seminars has been insisting that only a new political party with the will to change the current system can pull the cash-strapped country out of crisis. (PTI)

Historic flooding in southern China kills 47, with more floods feared in coming days

BEIJING, June 21: At least 47 people have died as downpours in southern China's Guangdong province caused historic flooding and slides, state media reported on Friday, while authorities warned of more flooding ahead in other parts of the country.

State broadcaster CCTV said on Friday afternoon that another 38 people were confirmed dead in the jurisdiction of Meizhou city, adding to nine others previously reported dead elsewhere in Meizhou.

Heavy rains caused landslides, floods and mudslides that severely damaged eight

townships in Pingyuan County, where the latest deaths were reported, CCTV said.

The previous day, CCTV reported four deaths in Meizhou's Meixian district, and five in Jiaoling County.

The heaviest rains were from Sunday into Tuesday, toppling trees and collapsing homes.

A road leading to Meixian district completely collapsed during the heavy rains.

The Songyuan river, which winds through Meizhou, experienced its biggest recorded flood, according to CCTV.



The estimated direct economic loss is 3.65 billion yuan (\$502 million) in Jiaoling county, while in Meixian district, the loss is 1.06 billion yuan (\$146 million).

Other parts of the country also face torrential rains and

extreme weather in the next 24 hours, with the National Meteorological Center issuing a warning for several provinces in the south and a few individual places in the north.

Henan and Anhui provinces in central China,

as well as Jiangsu province on the coast and the southern province of Guizhou, all are expecting hail and strong thunderstorms, according to the forecast.

Rainfall could be as high as 50 mm to 80 mm (1.9 to 3.14 inches) in one day in Henan, Anhui and Hubei provinces, the National Meteorological Center said.

Last week, it was southern Fujian and Guangxi provinces experienced landslides and flooding amid heavy rain.

One student died in Guangxi after falling into a river swollen from the downpour. (AP)

Tourist killed by mob for allegedly desecrating Quran in Pakistan's tourist town

PESHAWAR, June 21: An enraged mob in the picturesque Pakistani town of Swat has gunned down a tourist, dragged him through the town and later hanged him in full public view for allegedly committing desecration of the Quran. The incident happened on Thursday night when Muhammad Ismail, a resident of Sialkot in Punjab province, was visiting the northwestern Pakistan hill resort town of Swat and was accused of having burnt the pages of Islam's holy book in Madyan tehsil of Swat district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

District Police Officer (DPO), Swat, Zahidullah said that initially the police had taken Ismail in custody and locked him up in the police station when the alleged desecration incident was reported.

However, the incident was announced from mosques through loudspeakers in the market, prompting thousands of people to gather outside the police station. Soon after, the angry mob demanded that the police hand over the suspect to them. On refusal, a fierce exchange of fire took place between the local people and the police in which eight persons were injured, The Express Tribune newspaper reported.

After that the mob torched the police station, forcing the cops on duty to flee for their lives. "After that, the people entered the police station and shot and killed the suspect and dragged his body to the Madyan Ada, where they hanged him. The people also set the police station and police vehicles on fire, while the policemen on duty fled. Meanwhile, more police force was called to control the mob," the officer was quoted as saying.

According to the police officials, the incident has caused a law and order situation in the hill town. More police force was called to restore order in the popular tourist destination. Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province Ali Amin Gandapur has sought a report from the provincial police chief.

He has directed the Inspector General of Police to take emergency steps to control the situation and urged people to remain calm. (PTI)

Yoga enthusiasts worldwide mark 10th International Day of Yoga

NEW YORK/TEL AVIV, June 21: Thousands of yoga enthusiasts from across the world rolled out their yoga mats as they joined day-long sessions of the ancient Indian practice to commemorate the 10th International Day of Yoga on Friday.

Recognising its universal appeal, in December 2014, the UN proclaimed June 21 as the International Day of Yoga. The draft UN General Assembly resolution establishing the International Day of Yoga was proposed by India and endorsed by a record 175 member states.

The Consulate General of India in New York along with the Times Square Alliance hosted special yoga sessions at the iconic Times Square.

Amid heat advisories in place for the New York area, which experienced temperatures as high as 93°F (33.8°C) during the day, people from all walks of life and nationalities

arrived early morning on Thursday and rolled out their yoga mats in the heart of the popular New York City destination.

Yoga instructor and breath meditation teacher Richa Dhekne, who has over two decades of experience as a volunteer and faculty member with the Art of Living Foundation, led the yoga and meditation session hosted by the Consulate General of India in New York.

Several other yoga teachers and experts led various meditation, exercises and breathing sessions throughout the day at Times Square, as thousands participated in the day-long activities.

In Washington, hundreds of yoga enthusiasts came together to observe the day at an event that was addressed by India's Deputy Ambassador to the US Sripriya Ranganathan.

At the picturesque Wharf, overlooking the Potomac



River, the International Yoga Day event on Wednesday began with prayers and Indian classical dance performances. The yoga session highlighted the spirit of oneness and harmony inspired by the ancient Indian practice.

Over three hundred people from across Israel rolled out yoga mats and performed asanas as they participated in International Yoga Day celebrations at the Peres Centre for Peace and Innovation in Tel Aviv.

First Lady Michal Herzog was the chief guest at the main International Yoga Day event

on Thursday. A series of events were held across the country.

The event was organised by the Embassy of India in Israel in association with the Tel Aviv-Yafo Municipality and the Ministry of Culture and Sports of Israel.

At the event, Herzog spoke about the deep friendship between India and Israel.

Singapore's Minister of State for Health Rahayu Mahzam joined more than 200 yoga enthusiasts and the Indian High Commissioner Dr Shilpak Ambule in celebrating the 10th International Yoga

Day here on a rain-washed cool morning.

The minister emphasised in her keynote speech the importance of yoga in fostering a healthy and balanced lifestyle.

"India has certainly played a leading role in promoting the benefits of yoga to the world. The flexible and adaptable nature of yoga also makes it inclusive for people of different ages, genders, and physical abilities. I am glad to see participants from all walks of life in today's event," she said.

The event is celebrated by the High Commission of India in Singapore in partnership with Gardens by the Bay at Waterfront Plaza, a sprawling green complex popular among tourists and local joggers.

The Embassy of India in Nepal on Thursday organised yoga demonstrations at three iconic landmarks of Pokhara, the tourism capital of the country.

"What better way to spread

the message of #YogaForSelfAndSociety than to assimilate Yoga, Nature and Spirituality! @IndiaInNepal organised yoga demonstrations at 3 iconic landmarks of #Pokhara, the tourism capital of Nepal," the mission tweeted.

The mission also organised a Yoga demonstration at Lumbini. The chief minister of Lumbini, various provincial leaders and more than 900 people participated in the yoga demonstration, it said.

"Hon'ble CM of Lumbini, Joki Bahadur Mahara, thanked for organising the event at the sacred birthplace of Lord Buddha and for strengthening bilateral ties," it said.

India's Ambassador to Nepal, Naveen Srivastava underlined that the birthplace of Lord Buddha is an ideal place for the timeless practice of Yoga for health and longevity. (PTI)

Nagaland 1st NE state to release district domestic product report

GSDP of Nagaland at present is ₹ 39,566 crore with growth rate of 7.73 %

HT Correspondent

DIMAPUR, June 21: Nagaland became the first state in the Northeast to release the report on the district domestic product (DDP), aimed at addressing the inter-district economic disparity in the state and bringing about balanced regional development and realising the economic potential of each district.

Adviser to economics and statistics and IT and communication departments, H Sethrongkyu Sangtam released the first report on the DDP of Nagaland at the one-day state-level workshop to promote user-producer interface on Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) and District Domestic Product (DDP) at Capital Convention Centre in Kohima on Friday.

In his address, Sangtam said the GSDP of Nagaland at present was estimated to be ₹ 39,566 crore with a growth rate of 7.73 per cent.

He said as per the report, Dimapur district has the largest economy with



a GDDP value of ₹ 5,43,611 lakh during 2019-20, while Longleng is the smallest with a value of ₹ 62,112 lakh. He also said Dimapur district has the highest per capita income with a value of ₹ 1,54,002 while Mon district has the lowest per capita amongst the districts in the state with a value of ₹ 77,738.

Sangtam called upon the officers and staff to work diligently and usher the people to greater economic prosperity and social inclusivity.

Saying that GSDP is the most important indicator to know the level of development achieved by the economy, he said the GSDP estimate is being used by the finance ministry

for devolution of funds to the states.

He also said as per the Finance Commission's recommendation, the state governments were allowed to borrow 3 per cent of the estimated GSDP from financial institutions.

Chief secretary, J Alam acknowledged the significant improvement in the quality of data being published by the economics and statistics department.

He said if the data was not properly projected and was understated or overstated due to inaccurate figures, it would have a negative impact and lead to grievances.

Highlighting the issue of regional disparity, Alam said the DDP would help dispel the wrong perceptions about the state.

Special invitee, additional director and head, national accounts division, Union ministry of statistics and programme implementation, Prafulla Chandra Mishra said the DDP report would play a crucial role in local development.

Expedite process of conducting exams: Arunachal Guv tells APPSC



ITANAGAR, June 21: Arunachal Pradesh Governor Lt Gen K T Parnaik (Retd) on Friday asked the state public service commission to expedite the process of conducting competitive examinations.

Interacting with the Arunachal Pradesh Public Service Commission (APPSC) team led by chairman, Pradip Lingfa, who called on him at Raj Bhawan here, the Governor suggested various means and ways to address the challenges of conducting examinations, a Raj Bhawan communique said.

Parnaik advised the team to uphold the mandate of the commission and ensure integrity and merit

in every action.

Earlier, Lingfa submitted a special report on the commission and briefed the Governor on the initiatives of the commission and the way forward.

APPSC members Colonel (Retd) Koj Tari, Rosy Taba and Jalash Pating and secretary Parul Gaur Mittal were present in the meeting.

The chairman of the newly constituted APPSC was sworn in on January 21 this year while the members were sworn in on December last year.

The APPSC hit the headlines last year after the question paper leak case came to light.

The question paper of the assistant engineer (civil) exam, conducted by the APPSC in 2022 was leaked which snowballed into a major issue forcing the state government to cancel the appointments of a new chairman and members of the commission in February last year.

More than 400 candidates appeared in the examination held on August 26 and 27 in 2022. (PTI)

Create more opportunities for senior citizens: Nagaland Governor

HT Correspondent

DIMAPUR, June 21: Nagaland Governor La Ganesan Ganesan on Friday called for working together to create more opportunities that enhance the quality of life for senior citizens.

"By doing so, we not only honour them, but also set an example for future generations to follow," he said. Ganesan was speaking at a programme after inaugurating a water reservoir at Good Samaritan's Senior Citizens' Home, a home for the elderly at Meriema under Kohima district.

"This occasion is particularly close to my heart not just because of the significance of the project but, also because it encompasses the spirit of care and respect we must hold for our elderly community," Ganesan said while addressing the inaugural programme.

He said the water reservoir that was inaugurated on Friday was more than just a structure.

"It is a symbol of our commitment to ensuring the well-being and comfort of the elderly residents of this esteemed home," he said.

"Water is essential to life and by providing a reliable supply, we are addressing one of the most fundamental needs, ensuring that our senior citizens live with dignity and without worry," the Governor said.

He exhorted the residents of the home by saying that they are the pillars of our society, the bearers of wisdom and cherished traditions.

"Their contributions have shaped the society we live in today, and it is our duty to ensure that their golden years are filled with comfort, peace, and joy. So this water tank is a small gesture of gratitude for everything they have done for us," Ganesan added.

He stressed that in our fast-changing world, people should remember the values of compassion and empathy.

"Our elders deserve the best care and attention and it is our collective responsibility to provide it. Let this reservoir stand as a testament to our unwavering respect and commitment to our elders," he said.

AFFIDAVIT

I, Fajj Uddin, S/O-Late Burhan Uddin, resident of Vill. Ghaniarpar, P.O.-Ambari, P.S.-Murajhar, Dist.-Hojai, (Assam) That, in the Land Jama-bandi Copy Vide Patta No.32, Dag No. 107, 141, 202 under Nomati Mouza wherein my father's name has been recorded as Mo: Aa: Wahid instead of Burhan Uddin. This is true. That, Burhan Uddin & Mo: Aa: Wahid are the names of one and same person i.e. of my father's name.

Tripura minister urges Vaishnav to introduce train services on Agartala-Kolkata route via Dhaka



AGARTALA, June 21: Tripura transport minister Sushanta Chowdhury has written to Union railway minister Ashwini Vaishnav, requesting him to introduce train services from Agartala to Kolkata via Bangladesh's capital Dhaka.

He also urged the central ministry to commence train services from Agartala to Chittagong in the neighbouring country through the railway tracks between the capital of Tripura and Akhaura in Bangladesh.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina had virtually inaugurated the Agartala-Akhaura railway link in November last year. However, train services on this route have not been introduced till now, Chowdhury said.

"Under your stewardship, we have witnessed significant strides in enhancing the efficiency, safety and reach of our railway network. I request you to introduce the passenger and goods train service from Agartala to Kolkata via Dhaka and Agartala to Chittagong through the newly inaugurated railway track between Agartala and Akhaura (Bangladesh)," Chowdhury wrote in a letter to the railway minister on Thursday.

He also demanded the revival of the railway link between Belonia in south Tripura and Feni in Bangladesh.

The Belonia-Feni link is among the 14 proposed railway connectivity routes in the northeastern region.

Chowdhury urged the central minister to convert the existing single-line tracks into double-line and demanded additional daily passenger trains on the Agartala-Dharmaragar route.

He also appealed to Vaishnav to commence the Agartala-Guwahati intercity train services. (PTI)

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

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

Date: 20/06/2024

This is for information to all bidders that reference to this Division's tender No. PKDI/M/6/2023-24/534 Dt. 10/06/2024 the work "Renovation of Headwork and Canal system of Ghumghat FIS under SOPD-G for the year 2023-24" is placed in Gr.No. VII (Seven) The same work is repeated in Gr.No.IX (Nine) by mistake.

Therefore, it is notified not to bid in Gr.No.IX (Nine). Other terms and conditions will remain same.

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

IPR/BTC/C/2024-25/51

No.DPRD/BTC/(Gen)-235/2023/48

Dated Kokrajhar the 21st June, 2024

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed tenders with a validity period of 180 (One hundred eighty) days from the date of receipt in prescribed form affixing non-refundable court fee stamps of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight and paise twenty five) only subsequently to be drawn up in printed F-2 form are hereby invited from the Govt. registered PWD (Roads/ Building), Irrigation, Water Resources, PHE others Govt. Contractor's under Class-I (A, B, C), Class-II and Class-III category from approved firm/ suppliers of 2020-21/2021-22 according to tender limit of eligibility for the following works and will be received in the office of the undersigned up to 2.00 pm on 21/06/2024 and will be opened on the same date and place at 2.15 pm in the presence of willing contractors or their authorized agents.

Sl. No.	Name of Dev. Block	Name of Scheme	A/A Amount (in Rs. lakh)	Tender Amount (in Rs. lakh)	Earnest Money (ST, SC, OBC-1 % & Gen-2%)	Cost of Tender	Time for completion in days
01	Bechimari	Const. of Community Toilet at Si-Bwrai Asham	15.00	14.28912	(ST, SC, OBC-1 % & Gen-2%)	@ 450/-	6 months

Details NIT may be seen in all working days in the office of the undersigned. Tender paper will be issued to the contractors or their authorized agent up to 12.00 Noon on all working days from 21-06-2024 to 17-07-2024 in the office of the undersigned on payment of in the form of Banker cheque/ Demand draft of any nationalized Bank (Preferable SBI) duly pledged to the Director, P&RD, BTC, Kokrajhar. The Cost of tender (Non-Refundable) must be in the form of Demand Draft/ Banker Cheque of a Nationalized Bank drawn in favour of the Principal Secretary, BTC, Kokrajhar and payable at SBI, Kokrajhar to be deposited 0.03%. The Contractor should submit valid Registration certificate, GSTIN, PAN Card, Voter Card, Aadhar Card, Caste Certificate and Labour License along with the tender. In case the office remain closed in tender receiving/ opening day the same will be received/ opened on the next working day.

Note:-

- The Director, P&RD, BTC, Kokrajhar does not bind himself to accept the lowest tender and also reserves the right to reject all tenders without assigning any reason.
- Payment will be made subject to availability of fund under appropriate Head of Account No claim what so ever in this regard will be entertained.
- Taxes will be deducted as per relevant provision of Act.
- Contractors will have to submit their tender with upto date registration certificate and item of annexure should be enclosed with the tender otherwise tender will be treated as cancelled.
- The tenderer should submit their tender with up to date GSTIN certificate and PAN Card failing which the tender may be treated as cancelled.

Sd/- Director,
Panchayat & Rural Development,
BTC, Kokrajhar

IPR/BTC/C/2024-25/49

Arunachal Governor, CM, Deputy CM participate in yoga events



ITANAGAR, June 21: The 'International Yoga Day' was celebrated in Arunachal Pradesh on Friday with Governor Lt Gen K T Parnaik (Retd), chief minister Pema Khanda, deputy chief minister Khuman Mein and various ministers participating in events organised across the state.

The Governor speaking on the occasion said that the people from different parts of the world are taking an interest in yoga.

In times of tension, depression and challenges, yoga brings peace of mind and physical fitness. It has remedies for various physical challenges and diseases, he said.

Parnaik appealed to the people to incorporate yoga into their daily routines and lifestyles. He said that regular practice of yoga will create positivity in life and working environment, which in turn will ensure better productivity and success in work and professional endeavours.

He also advised the participants to do yoga for at least 30 minutes daily and exhorted them to encourage and motivate their peers and family members to practice the pride of Indian tradition.

The Governor, who suggested maximum participation of school children in the Raj Bhawan programme to inculcate the practice of yoga at a young age, emphasised that there must be yoga classes in every educational institute.

He said that physical training instructors must be trained in yoga.

As part of his endeavour to promote yoga amongst the people, Parnaik distributed yoga booklets to all participants on the occasion.

The chief minister urged the

people of the state to practice yoga for a healthy society.

"By regularly practising yoga, a person can imbibe some very good qualities like courage which protects like a father, forgiveness as possessed by a mother and mental peace which becomes a permanent friend," Khandu posted on X after performing yoga at an event here.

"Through regular practice of yoga truth becomes our child, mercy our sister, self-control our brother, the earth becomes our bed and knowledge satiates our hunger. Happy International Day of Yoga," the chief minister added.

The DyCM who participated in an event at Namsai district, called upon the people to embrace the ancient art of yoga and incorporate it into their daily lives.

"In the midst of our busy lives, it's important to take a moment to connect with ourselves and find inner peace through yoga, which provides us with the perfect platform to do just that. On this International Yoga Day, let's take the opportunity to embrace the ancient art of yoga and incorporate it into our daily lives. #InternationalYogaDay #YogaForAll," Mein said in a social media post.

Organised by the District Health Society Namsai, in collaboration with the district administration and Assam Rifles, the day featured a soulful session of yoga asanas followed by a friendly volleyball match between Assam Rifles and Arunachal Pradesh Police. Additionally, a plantation drive was also carried out in the DRDA complex.

The day was also observed in several districts of the state. (PTI)

Manipur in difficult phase, govt will lay path for betterment of society: CM

IMPHAL, June 21: Noting that ethnic strife-torn Manipur was going through a difficult phase, chief minister N Biren Singh on Friday asserted that his government will lay the path for betterment of the society. Speaking at the state-level 'International Yoga Day' function at Khuman Lampak Sports Complex, Singh said the current situation in Manipur is a turning point for indigenous people and their future and if things are tackled wisely, a safe and secure future is guaranteed.

"We shouldn't allow emotions and politics to drive our actions, and in the process divert from the core issues. We know we are tired... but we have to endure it for a few more days. We cannot be happy without going through a tough phase," he said. More than 200 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in ethnic violence in Manipur between hills-based Kuki-Zo people and Imphal Valley-based Meiteis since May last year. (PTI)

International Yoga Day observed at USTM

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, June 21: The University of Science and Technology Meghalaya (USTM) celebrated the 10th 'International Yoga Day' on Friday with a day-long programme at its campus in Ri Bhoi district in Meghalaya. Hundreds of students, faculty members, doctors, nurses, officials and staff took part in the event aimed at promoting good health with a sound mind. The event was organised by various departments of USTM in collaboration with the IA Ayurvedic Medical College (IAAMC) and the upcoming PA Sangma International Medical College (PIMC) at the USTM campus. The theme for 'International Yoga Day 2024' was 'Yoga for Self and Society' highlighting the vital role of yoga in enhancing the well-being of self and society as a whole.

Professor GD Sharma, vice-chancellor of USTM inaugurated the celebration the programme in the morning by lighting a ceremonial lamp. He was joined by RK Sharma, advisor at USTM, Anil Kumar Sharma, advisor of IAAMC, RK Sharma, principal of IAAMC, Biraj Kumar Das, principal of PIMC, Pooja Chaudhary, head of the department of physiotherapy and others.

The participants performed various asanas as guided by the yoga instructor during the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, GD Sharma said, "Yoga is a way of life that aims towards a healthy mind in a healthy body. The art of practicing yoga helps in controlling an individual's mind, body and soul."

On the other hand, the doctors and staff of PIMC have celebrated the occasion at the medical college campus on Friday. Here the ceremonial lamp was lit by Mahbubul Hoque, chancellor USTM, Padma Shri Sarbeswar Sahariah, pro vice-chancellor of USTM, Biraj Kumar Das, principal of PIMC and others. The doctors performed yoga asanas on the occasion.

Addressing the doctors, Mahbubul Hoque said, "Yoga is a journey of self-discovery, a path to inner peace and a means to cultivate a balanced life. Through the practice of yoga, we connect our body, mind and spirit, thereby fostering a holistic sense of well-being."

Sahariah also addressed the gathering and said that yoga taught people resilience in the face of challenges, patience in moments of stress and the importance of mindfulness in our fast-paced world.

Simultaneously, faculty members from different colleges and universities, who are at USTM attending the ongoing weeklong Faculty Development Programme organised by PQH School of Education, also observed the 'International Yoga Day'. The resource person S. M. Khan, professor of psychology at the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) shared valuable insights into the psychological benefits of yoga.

International Yoga Day celebrated in Sikkim Sikkim governor credits PM Modi for giving yoga new identity at global stage



GANGTOK, June 21: The 'International Yoga Day' was celebrated in Sikkim on Friday with Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya taking part in a yoga session at Paljor stadium here.

Speaking on the occasion, Acharya credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for giving yoga a new identity at the

global stage leading to the worldwide celebration of International Yoga Day on June 21.

"The global recognition is a testament to the Prime Minister's commitment and leadership in making yoga an integral part of Indian culture, respected and recognised globally," he said.

The Governor said that through yoga, India has conveyed the message of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' to the world, which means 'one earth, one family, one future'.

Acharya said yoga's increasing popularity has united the world and promoted the messages of peace, fraternity, and harmony.

The Governor expressed his happiness at the yoga day celebration in Sikkim and said that with the development of appropriate facilities and infrastructure, Sikkim could be established as a world-class centre for yoga and meditation. This would boost local tourism and the economy and at the same time provide the people with the art of healthy living through yoga and meditation, he said.

Acharya urged everyone to embrace the theme of 'Yoga for Yourself and Society' and make yoga an integral part of their lives for a healthy lifestyle, a healthy Sikkim, a healthy nation, and a healthy world. (PTI)

World looking at yoga as powerful agent of global good: Modi

SRINAGAR, June 21: The world is looking at yoga as a powerful agent of global good, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on International Yoga Day on Friday while stressing that it has the potential to transform the economy of Jammu and Kashmir by attracting more tourists.

Choosing the SKICC on the picturesque banks of the Dal Lake to lead the nation in celebrating the 10th International Yoga Day, the prime minister described yoga as not just knowledge but also a science.

"When people talk about yoga, most of them think it is a spiritual journey as if it is to find Allah, Ishwar or God... Leave aside the spiritual journey which can happen any time later. For now, you can focus on personal development and yoga is part of that."

"If you approach it that way, I am sure you will get a lot of benefits. Personal development leads to the benefit of society, which in turn leads to the benefit of humankind," he said while addressing a gathering at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre.

The prime minister's event was scheduled to be held in the open but early morning rain forced the event indoors. Notwithstanding the rain, scores of students were amongst those who joined the prime minister in performing various asanas on the occasion. They also requested for him for selfies and he happily obliged.

Modi, who was last in Srinagar in March to address a public rally, put out a tweet saying, "Post Yoga selfies in Srinagar! Unparalleled vibrancy here, at the Dal Lake", and posted pictures of him taking selfies with students.

Addressing a gathering at the event, the prime minister said yoga has helped people realise their welfare is linked to the welfare of the world



around them. "The world is looking at yoga as a powerful agent of global good. Yoga helps us live in the present moment without the baggage of the past," he said.

"When we are peaceful within, we can also make a positive impact on the world... Yoga is making new ways of positive change in the society."

The number of yoga practitioners across the globe is growing every day and the regimen is becoming a part of their daily life, he said.

"The number of yoga followers is growing continuously. Wherever I go, there is hardly any (international) leader who does not talk to me about the benefits of yoga."

"In many countries, yoga is becoming a part of the daily lives of people," Modi said, citing the examples of Turkmenistan, Saudi Arabia, Mongolia and Germany.

In his address, the prime minister referred to 101-year-old Frenchwoman Charlotte Chopin who was awarded a Padma Shri for her services in popularising yoga in her country.

Modi said the spread of yoga globally has led to a change in perception about it as more people are travelling to India to get authentic knowledge on it.

"We are now seeing yoga tourism in states like Uttarakhand and Kerala."

"People are now hiring personal yoga trainers for fitness, and companies are including yoga in mind and body (fitness) programmes for their employees. It has opened new avenues of livelihood," he added.

The prime minister said yoga provides solutions to several problems.

"In this era of information revolution, there is a flood of information sources and it is a challenge for the human mind to focus on one subject."

"A solution for this is also in yoga as it helps the mind to focus. That is why from army to sports, yoga has been included in their routine," he said.

The prime minister said astronauts and people working on space projects are trained in yoga as it increases "productivity as well as tolerance."

Modi also focused on the potential impact of yoga on Jammu and Kashmir.

"I have been seeing since yesterday that yoga is becoming popular with the people of Srinagar and (rest of) Jammu and Kashmir. It is a big thing that 50,000 to 60,000 people are associated with yoga. This will attract more tourists here," he said.

He said yoga could help the union territory attract more tourists, which in turn would provide new livelihood opportunities to locals.

The prime minister cited a competition in

Egypt where yoga was used to promote tourism.

"I recently saw a video from Egypt. They organised a competition and awarded the best yoga photographs and videos from iconic tourist places in the country. In the pictures and videos, I saw girls from Egypt standing in front of the iconic Pyramids doing yoga, it was so attractive."

"For Kashmir, yoga can become such a big source of livelihood. It can become a centre of attraction for tourists," Modi said.

The PM lauded the determination of the practitioners to stay back even in adverse weather.

"Our daughters used their yoga mats to protect themselves from rain but they did not leave. It is heartening to see," he said.

He said yoga, once made a part of daily life, gives uninterrupted benefits for a long time.

"We have to understand the importance of yoga in life. Just like brushing teeth or combing hair becomes a daily routine, with similar ease yoga becomes a process to follow when you get used to it. It keeps giving benefits every moment," he said.

He cited the example of trainers who help people improve their memory power through the use of special techniques.

"The attention is linked to how much our mind is focused. You must have seen many people develop techniques to improve memory power and for those who follow the process, their memory power improves."

"Similarly, working with a focus on any issue will give the best of the best results, which leads to personal development and with the least exertion you get maximum satisfaction," Modi said.

"If you do something while your attention is divided among the 10 things, it increases exhaustion," the prime minister added. (PTI)

Defer implementation of three new criminal laws: Mamata to PM



NEW DELHI, June 21: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to defer the implementation of the three "hurriedly passed" criminal laws that are set to be rolled out on July 1.

Banerjee stressed having a fresh review of the laws by Parliament.

In a letter to Prime Minister Modi, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) chief expressed "grave concern" over the impending implementation of the three laws -- Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023, Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) 2023 and Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) 2023.

According to sources, the TMC chief also met senior Congress leader P Chidambaram on Thursday, who was also a part of the parliamentary standing committee that examined the bills, and discussed the issue.

TMC leader Dinku O'Brien, DMK's N R Elango and Chidambaram had given dissent notes to the reports on the three bills.

Banerjee, in her letter, noted that the three bills were passed in Lok Sabha at a time when 146 MPs had been suspended.

"The outgoing government of yours had passed these three critical bills unilaterally, and with absolutely no debate. That day, almost 100 members of the Lok Sabha had been suspended and a total 146 MPs of the both Houses were thrown out of Parliament," Banerjee said.

She said the three bills were passed in an "authoritarian manner" in that "dark hour of democracy". The matter deserves review now, she added.

"I urge your esteemed office now to consider at least a deferment of the implementation date. Reasons are two-fold -- ethical and practical," she said.

Banerjee said significant legislative changes should be placed before the newly elected Parliament for fresh deliberation and scrutiny.

"Given the wide-ranging reservations expressed in the public domain regarding the hurriedly passed new laws, fresh parliamentary review of these attempts would demonstrate a commitment to democratic principles... This approach would afford the newly elected people's representatives an opportunity to thoroughly examine the proposed," she said.

Banerjee said the request for postponement also stems from a pragmatic assessment of the challenges and preparatory work required for a smooth transition, particularly concerning the training of law enforcement personnel and judicial officers.

Any far-reaching legal change requires meticulous groundwork beforehand to ensure effective enforcement and administration, and there is no reason to avert such homework, she said.

"I humbly request you to consider our appeal for a deferment of the implementation of The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023, The Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) 2023, and The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) 2023," she said.

"We believe this postponement will enable a renewed parliamentary review/mandate, reinforce public trust in the legal system and uphold the rule of law in our beloved country," Banerjee added.

Sources said the issue will be raised by the opposition parties in the upcoming Parliament session. Several INDIA bloc parties have backed the demand for deferring the implementation of the new laws, they said.

The three new criminal laws will come into force from July 1, Union Law and Justice minister Arjun Ram Meghwal has said. (PTI)

ED acting as if Kejriwal 'most wanted terrorist': Sunita Kejriwal



NEW DELHI, June 21: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's wife Sunita Kejriwal lashed out at the ED for challenging her husband's bail order in the high court, accusing it of acting as if the AAP national convener was the "most wanted terrorist in India".

Speaking in south Delhi's Bhogal where Delhi Water Minister Atishi began an indefinite hunger strike to press on her demand for getting more water from Haryana, Sunita Kejriwal said dictatorship in the country has crossed all limits.

"It was only yesterday your chief minister got bail. In the morning, the order was supposed to be uploaded. Even before the order was uploaded, the ED approached the Delhi High Court. This happened as if Kejriwal is the most wanted terrorist in India," Sunita Kejriwal said.

"Dictatorship in the country has crossed all limits. The ED does not want to give anyone liberty and has gone to the high court against the chief minister demanding a stay (on his bail). The high court's decision is yet to come. We hope the high court will deliver justice," she added.

Before reaching Bhogal, Sunita had also accompanied Atishi and other AAP leaders to Rajghat to pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi.

Sunita also read out a message from Kejriwal, who is currently lodged in Tihar jail, in which he expressed hope that Atishi's 'tapasya' would be successful.

The chief minister said he was immensely pained by seeing on TV the plight of the people facing water shortage amid the ongoing intense heatwave, he said.

"It's our culture to provide water to the thirsty. Delhi gets water from neighbouring states. We hoped support of neighbouring states in such intense heat. But, Haryana reduced Delhi's water share."

"Although there are governments of different parties in the two states but is this time for politics over water," he said, referring to the BJP that is in power in Haryana.

The Delhi High Court on Friday put on hold the trial court order granting bail to the chief minister till it hears the Enforcement Directorate's plea challenging the relief granted to him in the money laundering case linked to the alleged excise scam.

The Enforcement Directorate mentioned its plea challenging the trial court's order before a bench of Justices Sudhir Kumar Jain and Ravinder Dubeja. (PTI)

Will urge Nitish for CBI probe into Tejashwi's links with accused in NEET case: Bihar Dy CM

PATNA, June 21: Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha on Friday said he would request CM Nitish Kumar to recommend a CBI probe into the suspected links of the arrested prime suspect in the NEET "paper leak" case with officials associated with RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav. Responding to this, Yadav said the state government is free to order a high-level probe into Sinha's allegation and asserted that the BJP's "links" with two other arrested accused persons also need to be investigated.

"Recommending a probe by an independent agency like the CBI is the prerogative of the CM. We will meet him and urge him to do the needful in the matter pertaining to suspected links of the arrested accused in the NEET paper leak case with officials associated with Tejashwi Yadav," Sinha told PTI.

The BJP leader had on Thursday

claimed that officials associated with Yadav were in constant touch with prime suspect Sikander Prasad Yadav in the NEET "paper leak" and demanded a 'high-level' probe into the matter.

The DyCM demanded the probe amid rising nationwide protests over the alleged irregularities in the NEET-UG-2024 exam. The Supreme Court will hear the matter on July 8.

Asked why he needs to demand a high-level probe when BJP is the ruling party in Bihar and only a recommendation by the state government is required for such an investigation, Sinha said, "I am repeating that it is the prerogative of the CM. We will apprise him (CM) and request for a high-level probe, including CBI. The deputy CM said he had shared with the media pieces of evidence regarding the 'involvement' of officials close to Yadav in the row."

"I hope that the Economic Offences Unit (EOU) of Bihar Police, which is probing the alleged NEET paper leak case, will probe this aspect," he said.

The EOU of Bihar Police had last month arrested 13 people in connection with the NEET-UG 2024 row. The arrested accused included examinees, their parents and the "mastermind" Sikander Prasad Yadav.

Sinha had on Thursday alleged that the official associated with Yadav used to arrange accommodation for Sikander at guest houses in Patna and other places.

The BJP leader had also claimed that he had details of messages which the official sent to the persons concerned for arranging accommodation for Sikander.

Reports also suggested that the accused was associated with RJD supremo Lalu Prasad when he was in judicial custody in Ranchi, the deputy chief minister

On first visit to Gujarat after LS polls, Shah thanks voters for backing BJP

AHMEDABAD, June 21: On his first visit to Gujarat after Lok Sabha elections, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday thanked the people for giving BJP victory on 25 out of 26 seats in the state.

Addressing a gathering in Naranpura area here, he thanked the voters of Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency for re-electing him with a massive margin of more than 7 lakh votes. He was addressing the gathering after inaugurating 30 'smart schools' run by the municipal school board of the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation. The board has converted 30 of its existing schools into 'smart

schools' at a cost of ₹ 36 crore, said Shah. "I am visiting Gujarat for the first time after the Lok Sabha elections. I am happy the first programme I am attending after getting re-elected as an MP and becoming minister is meant for the children of economically weaker sections," said Shah.

"In the 2024 general elections, the people of this country gave a third straight term to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. I thank the people of Gujarat for giving 25 out of 26 seats this time. People of Gandhinagar Lok Sabha also continued its tradition of electing the BJP with a huge margin. I thank the voters of Gandhinagar," he

said. The BJP, which won all the 26 Lok Sabha seats in 2014 and 2019 general elections, failed to complete a hat-trick of clean sweeps after the Congress managed to wrest Banaskantha. Shah promised to turn his Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency, which includes parts of Ahmedabad city, into the "number one" constituency in terms of development during the next five years.

Of the 30 'smart schools' inaugurated by Shah, nine are in Ghatodia, four in Naranpura, 10 in Vejalpur and seven in Sabarmati assembly constituency, which fall under Gandhinagar Lok Sabha seat. (PTI)

India criticises Canadian parl observing 'one minute silence' in memory of Nijjar

NEW DELHI, June 21: India on Friday was critical of the Canadian parliament observing "one minute silence" in the memory of Khalistan extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, who was gunned down in Surrey, British Columbia, in June last year. "We naturally oppose any moves giving political space to extremism and advocacy of violence," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. In an unusual move, the Canadian parliament observed "one minute silence" two days ago in memory of Nijjar. The relations between the two countries came under severe strain following Trudeau's allegations in September last year of a "potential" involvement of Indian agents in Nijjar's killing. New Delhi rejected Trudeau's charges as "absurd". India has been maintaining that the main issue between the two countries is that of Canada giving space to pro-Khalistan elements operating from Canadian soil with impunity. (PTI)

'Nehru's First Recruits', published by Harper Collins India, uses stories and experiences of India's earliest diplomats to present the foundational history of the country's diplomatic corps and the beginning of the country's engagement in global affairs'

When a speech translation led to war of words between Nehru, Harivansh Rai Bachchan

NEW DELHI, June 21: Hindu, Urdu or something in between. That was the kernel of an argument between first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Hindi poet Harivansh Rai Bachchan over the translation of a presidential address from English to Hindi that was to be read by vice president Zakir Husain.

Nehru thought that Bachchan's translation of president Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan's speech was too complex and the Hindi poet was adamant it was not, says the book "Nehru's First Recruits" by journalist Kallol Bhattacharjee. Both were unwilling to relent.

Recounting what had happened, the book says Nehru lost his cool with Bachchan, whom he had recruited as an officer on special duty for Hindi at the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

Bachchan, who authored the landmark "Madhushala", joined the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) in 1955 on a monthly salary of Rs 1,000, a good Rs 250 hike from his previous job as a producer in the All India Radio (AIR), according to the book.

The major part of his responsibility in the MEA included translating speeches of the president and the vice president -- the commonly used Hindi name 'Videsh Mantralaya' for 'External Affairs Ministry' was, in fact, coined by Bachchan.

The argument with Nehru happened when Bachchan translated the president's speech in English into Hindi, which in accordance with regular practice was to be delivered by the vice president.

"Do you realize who is to read this



speech? Dr Zakir Husain -- and he won't even be able to pronounce some of the words you have used," the book quotes Nehru as saying.

"Panditji, language cannot be changed to suit the convenience of some individual's pronunciation; why don't you have the speech translated into Urdu?" Bachchan had replied.

The clash of egos between two men, held in high esteem in their respective domains of governance and literature, led to a full blown verbal spat and Nehru ran out of patience. The book quotes in detail the conversation between the two luminaries.

"There is enough trouble in this country. Even if we get it translated into Urdu, we'd

have to call it Hindi -- and what's the difference between the two, anyway?" Nehru said.

According to the book, Bachchan, in his endeavour, had forgotten the realities of India and was about to get the vice president of India into a difficult situation.

"The vice president stumbling over difficult Hindi words while reading a speech in the Parliament would not have gone down well before the media and the critics of the Nehru government."

"And Nehru was also right to some extent in his own way because the speech could not possibly have been translated into Urdu, as the Indian Constitution only allowed for the use of Hindi speeches in such sessions,

and a Hindi speech with many Urdu words, therefore, would have to be called a 'speech in Hindi' and not an Urdu speech," the book explains.

Ultimately, Nehru regained his composure and convinced Bachchan to produce a text that Zakir Husain would not find difficult to read. And Bachchan duly obliged.

Husain, who held the office of vice president from 1962-67, under the presidency of Radhakrishnan, later succeeded him as the third president of India.

Nehru knew Bachchan, both hailing from Allahabad, way before he recruited him in the IFS, says the book.

In fact, he had helped Bachchan receive a scholarship after he got admission in Cambridge and Oxford in the early 1950s. Bachchan had faced a series of rejections from then education secretary Humayun Kabir and education minister Maulana Azad.

"Bachchan sought time from PM Nehru and met him in the Parliament. Nehru remembered Bachchan, the poet, and gave a patient hearing. On learning that he had failed in securing a scholarship, Nehru called his personal secretary in Parliament, BN Kaul, and asked him to arrange a scholarship of Rs 8,000 for Harivansh Rai Bachchan," informed the book.

"Nehru's First Recruits", published by Harper Collins India, uses stories and experiences of India's earliest diplomats to present the foundational history of the country's diplomatic corps and the beginning of the country's engagement in global affairs. (PTI)

Atishi begins fast for more water from Haryana

NEW DELHI, June 21: Delhi Water Minister Atishi began her indefinite hunger strike in south Delhi's Bhogal on Friday to get more water from Haryana, in the presence of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's wife Sunita Kejriwal and other AAP leaders. Sunita Kejriwal read out a message from the chief minister, who is currently lodged in Tihar jail, in which he expressed hope that Atishi's 'tapasya' would be successful.

The chief minister said he was immensely pained by seeing on TV the plight of the people facing water shortage amid the ongoing intense heatwave, he said.

"It's our culture to provide water to the thirsty. Delhi gets water from neighbouring states. We hoped support of neighbouring states in such intense heat. But, Haryana reduced Delhi's water share."

"Although there are governments of different parties in the two states but is this time for politics over water," he said, referring to the BJP that is in power in Haryana.

Earlier, Atishi, accompanied by Sunita Kejriwal, AAP MP Sanjay Singh, Delhi minister Saurabh Bhadraj and other leaders paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat before heading to Bhogal.

In the morning, the minister said she would begin her indefinite hunger strike in Bhogal as, despite all efforts, the Haryana government was not releasing the full share of Delhi's water.

"I will start 'Pani Satyagrah' from today... I will start an indefinite fast at Bhogal, Jangpura from 12 o'clock until the people of Delhi get their rightful share of water from Haryana," she said on X earlier in the day," she said on X. (PTI)

In India and across globe, people perform 'asanas' to mark Yoga Day

NEW DELHI, June 21: Millions across India and the globe stretched, twisted and breathed in and out on the International Day of Yoga on Friday, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi leading the celebrations in the country from Kashmir.

While the main event was held at the SKICC on the picturesque banks of the Dal Lake in Srinagar, people marked the day by performing 'asanas' in yoga sessions organised across the length and breadth of the country, with one also being held at sea on the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya.

The world is looking at yoga as a powerful agent of global good, Prime Minister Modi said and described it as not just knowledge but also a science.

"When people talk about yoga, most of them think it is a spiritual journey as if it is to find Allah, Ishwar or God... Leave aside the spiritual journey which can happen any time later. For now, you can focus on personal development and yoga is part of that," he said while addressing a gathering at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) on the 10th International Yoga Day.

The prime minister's event was scheduled to be held in the open but early morning rain forced the event indoors. Unmindful of the rain, scores of students were amongst those who



joined Modi in performing various 'asanas' on the occasion. They also requested for him for selfies and he happily obliged.

In Delhi, President Droupadi Murmu along with officials of the President's Secretariat performed yoga at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

"Yoga is a way to physical, mental and spiritual well-being. Let us resolve to adopt yoga as an integral part of our day-to-day living," the president said in a post on X and shared pictures of her doing yoga.

This time the theme for the International Day of Yoga -- celebrated to raise awareness about yoga's physical, mental and spiritual benefits -- was "Yoga

for Self and Society".

While in Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu, a group of people performed 'Jal Yoga' in the water, personnel from the armed and paramilitary forces, did 'asanas' in the snow-capped mountains of Siachen and in the sand dunes of the Thar Desert in Rajasthan.

The day was observed in all states with chief ministers, ministers and governors participating in programmes. Union ministers, including Amit Shah, S Jaishankar and Rajnath Singh, were also part of yoga sessions organised in different cities or by their ministries.

In ethnic violence-hit Manipur, Chief Minister N Biren Singh at an event asserted that his government will lay the

path for betterment of society.

Speaking at the state-level Yoga Day function in Imphal, Singh said the current situation in Manipur is a turning point for indigenous people and their future and if things are tackled wisely, a safe and secure future is guaranteed.

Recognising its universal appeal, in December 2014, the UN proclaimed June 21 as the International Day of Yoga. The draft UN General Assembly resolution establishing the International Day of Yoga was proposed by India and endorsed by a record 175 member states. The Consulate General of India in New York along with the Times Square Alliance hosted special yoga sessions at the iconic Times Square. There was also a gathering of hundreds of yoga enthusiasts at Washington.

More than 300 people from across Israel performed asanas as they participated in International Yoga Day celebrations at the Peres Centre for Peace and Innovation in Tel Aviv.

Indian Embassies in other parts of the world, including Singapore, Sri Lanka, France, the UK, Malaysia, Indonesia, Kuwait and Italy, also observed the day.

The UK High Commission and embassies of the United States and Israel were among the diplomatic missions in India that joined in the yoga day celebrations. (PTI)

Rajkot fire tragedy: SIT submits report, finds lapses; suggests changes in Gujarat Police Act



AHMEDABAD, June 21: A Special Investigation Team (SIT) appointed by the Gujarat government to probe the May 25 Rajkot game zone fire incident, which claimed 27 lives, submitted its interim report on Friday to Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi in Gandhinagar.

In its 100-page interim report, the SIT, headed by senior IPS officer Subhash Trivedi, has suggested some changes to Section 33 of Gujarat Police Act (GP Act), which empowers local police to give various licenses to such game zones.

"We submitted an interim report to the government today. We found lapses on the part of the police, fire department, town planning and Road and Building department. We have collected relevant evidence about their negligence and drawn the government's attention towards it through our report," Trivedi said.

"The SIT has suggested some changes to section 33 of the Gujarat Police Act, under which local police gives premises license and ticket license to such recreation facilities. We will not spare the guilty. The SIT probe is still on. We are currently investigating the roles played by senior police as well as civic officials," he told reporters.

During a hearing on a suo motu PIL taken up by the Gujarat High Court over the game zone fire, sen-

ior advocate Amit Panchal on June 13, citing photos available on social media, informed the bench that the then Superintendent of Police of Rajkot, district collector, municipal commissioner of Rajkot and District Development Officer had attended the inaugural ceremony of TRP Game Zone.

Chief Justice Sunita Agarwal had then slammed the government and asked why no action was taken against these senior officials who had attended the opening ceremony of TRP Game Zone.

Asked about the allegations, Trivedi said these officers went there nearly one year after it was opened.

"We have already questioned four IAS and one IPS officer who had visited the game zone in the past and got themselves clicked there. These officers told the SIT they went there with their family members in March 2022 to celebrate the birthday of one of the officers. It was not the opening event of the game zone as is being claimed," said Trivedi.

The SIT will interrogate other IAS and IPS officers if needed before concluding the probe, the official asserted.

As many as 27 persons, including children, were charred to death in a massive fire which gutted the entire facility on May 25. A subsequent investigation by police revealed the game zone was running without a no objection certificate (NOC) from the fire department of the Rajkot Municipal Corporation.

Following the incident, the state government formed an SIT under Trivedi to find out the causes of fire, loopholes in the system and to suggest steps to be taken to prevent such incidents in the future.

The state government recently informed the Gujarat High Court that the SIT will submit its final report by June 20 and further action will be taken accordingly. So far, police have arrested five owners of the game zone and six government officials in connection with the fire. (PTI)

Rain brings relief from intense heat in Delhi; waterlogging, fallen trees reported

NEW DELHI, June 21: A splash of rain in parts of Delhi on Friday brought some relief from the battering heatwave conditions with the maximum temperature settling at 40.4 degrees Celsius, two notches above the season's normal.

However, the light downpour accompanied by gusty winds with speeds of 30-40 kmph caused water logging in many areas that led to traffic and incidents of uprooting of trees, according to civic body officials.

The city and its adjoining NCR area witnessed light to moderate-intensity rains in several parts during the evening.

The India Meteorological Department has predicted relief from the searing heatwave in Delhi over the weekend, as well as the sky is likely to remain partly cloudy on Saturday and Sunday.

As per the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, at least 13 areas across the national capital reported waterlogging till 6 pm.

There were nine complaints of uprooting of trees received by the civic body's control room till that time due to the gusty winds, it said.

The areas where waterlogging and incidents of fallen trees were reported include Karol Bhagh zone, South zone, Shahdara North and South zone, and Narela, among others.

According to PWD officials, waterlogging calls were received from two areas -- Azadpur underpass and Kashmere Gate.

The waterlogging issue at Azadpur underpass was resolved within 10 to 15 minutes while at Kashmere Gate, the issue was resolved within 30 to 35 minutes, they said.

Meanwhile, the soaring temperatures in Delhi that kept officials on their toes to roll relief measures, dipped on Friday. The city recorded a minimum temperature of 28.4 degrees Celsius, normal for this time of the season, the Met Office said.

The relative humidity oscillated between 70 per cent and 71 per cent during the day.

The IMD on Thursday said that heatwave conditions have abated from Delhi under the influence of western disturbance and lower-level easterlies from the Bay of Bengal.

Delhi has been reeling under an intense heatwave and a severe water crisis.

According to a senior police official, bodies of more than 50 people were recovered from in and around Delhi in the last five days. Police, however, have not confirmed if they died of heat-related causes. (PTI)

Brutal heatwave: Death toll climbs to 143, actual numbers could be high

NEW DELHI, June 21: The prolonged heatwave sweeping large parts of the country has claimed more lives, with 143 recorded deaths and 41,789 people suffering from suspected heatstroke between March 1 and June 20 this year, Health ministry sources said on Friday.

However, the heatwave toll is expected to be higher than this as the data compiled under the National Heat-Related Illness and Death Surveillance by the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) does not have updated submissions from states. Several health facilities are also yet to upload data on number of heatwave casualties.

According to the official data, on June 20 itself there have been 14 confirmed deaths due to heatstroke and nine deaths due to suspected heatstroke, taking the death toll in the March-June period to 143 from 114.

Uttar Pradesh is the worst-affected, having reported 35 deaths followed by Delhi (21) and Bihar and Rajasthan (17 each), according to the data.

Union Health Minister J P Nadda on Thursday asked officials to visit Central

hospitals till the heatwave conditions persist to see if separate arrangements have been made for affected patients and also to assess the number of deaths due to heatstroke over the last few days.

Swathes of northern and eastern India have been in the grip of a prolonged heatwave, increasing heat stroke casualties and prompting the Centre to issue advisory to hospitals to set up special units to cater to such patients.

Nadda on Wednesday directed that special heatwave units to be set up in all central government hospitals to cater to those falling ill due to the heat.

He also asked officials to ensure all hospitals are prepared for providing the best healthcare to the affected as he reviewed the situation across the country and preparedness of hospitals to deal with it.

Under the directions of the Union Health Minister, an advisory for State Health Department on 'Heat Wave Season 2024' has been issued by the health ministry.

"The country may observe above normal seasonal maximum temperatures in-

line with the observed trend of summer temperatures. To reduce health impacts of extreme heat, health departments must ensure preparedness and timely response," the ministry said.

The advisory asked state nodal officers under the National Programme for Climate Change and Human Health (NPCC-CHH) to start submitting daily the data on heatstroke cases and deaths and total deaths from March 1 besides reporting under Heat-Related Illness and Death Surveillance.

It called for maintenance of digital line list of heatstroke cases and deaths (suspected/confirmed) at health facility/hospital level in given formats and undertaking

They have been asked to ensure dissemination of National Action Plan on Heat Related Illnesses (HRI) to all districts and strengthening of health systems preparedness for HRI.

It stressed on dissemination of early warning of heatwaves issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and said forecast for the next four days should be disseminated to health facilities and

vulnerable populations.

The advisory also directed for health facility preparedness for prevention and management of severe HRI and procurement and supply of adequate quantities of ORS packs, essential medicines, IV fluids, ice packs, and equipments to support management of volume depletion and electrolyte imbalance etc.

It also called for ensuring availability of sufficient drinking water at all health facilities, general cooling appliances in waiting and patient treatment area and their functioning and stressed that cases with suspected heatstroke should be rapidly assessed and actively cooled using standard treatment protocols.

"Coordinate with electricity distribution company/corporation for uninterrupted electricity supply to hospitals for constant functioning of cooling appliances. Adopt measures to reduce indoor heat and energy conservation in health facilities like cool roof/green roof, window shading, rainwater harvesting, solarization etc. Provide shade outside the health facilities in heat-prone regions," the advisory added. (PTI)

Is it not confinement if juvenile is kept in custody after bail, asks Bombay HC

MUMBAI, June 21: The Bombay High Court on Friday queried if it amounted to confinement when the juvenile accused in the Pune Porsche case was granted bail but was taken back in custody and kept in an observation home.

A division bench of Justices Bharati Dangle and Manjusha Deshpande said there was no denying that the accident was unfortunate.

"Two people have lost their lives. There was trauma but the child (juvenile) was also in trauma," the court said.

The bench also questioned the police under what provision of law, the order granting bail to the minor accused in the Porsche accident case was amended and how he has been kept in "confinement".

In the early hours of May 19, the juvenile was allegedly driving a Porsche car at very high speed in an intoxicated state when the ve-

hicle crashed into a bike, killing two software engineers - Aneesh Awadhya and Ashwini Koshta - in Pune's Kalyani Nagar.

The 17-year-old was granted bail the same day by the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB), which ordered that he be kept under the care and supervision of his parents and grandfather. He was also asked to write a 300-word essay on road safety.

Amid a nationwide uproar over the quick bail, the police appealed to the JJB to amend the bail order. On May 22, the board ordered the boy to be taken into custody and remanded him to an observation home.

Last week, the teenager's paternal aunt filed a habeas corpus (produce person) petition claiming that he was illegally detained and sought his immediate release.

The bench, while hearing the arguments in the plea on Friday, noted that till date, the police have

not filed any application before a higher court seeking cancellation of the bail order passed by the JJB.

Instead, an application was filed seeking amendment of the bail order, HC said, adding that based on this application, the bail order was amended, the boy was taken in custody and remanded to an observation home.

"What type of remand is this? What is the power to remand? What kind of procedure is this where a person has been granted bail and then a remand is passed taking him in custody," the court said.

The bench added that the minor was taken away from the care and supervision of his family members and sent to an observation home.

"He is a person who has been granted bail, but now he has been confined to an observation home. Is this not confinement? We would like to know your source of power," HC said. (PTI)

TN hooch tragedy toll rises to 47, 30 critical

CHENNAI, June 21: The toll in Kallakurichi hooch tragedy rose to 47 and the condition of at least 30 people is critical, the Tamil Nadu government said on Friday. The mortal remains of 29 people who died till Thursday were handed over to their relatives and the bodies were either buried or cre-

critical," he said.

"A heartening news is that three affected persons have recovered," the collector said. Earlier, speaking to reporters after visiting the patients undergoing treatment at the Kallakurichi GH, the Collector said special teams have been formed to prevent the sale of illicit arrack in the district and they have been told to take up intense combing operations.

The administration had sufficient stock of medicines to treat the affected and presently efforts were on in taking door enumeration in Karunapuram on the number of persons who could be affected.

He appealed to those among the public who had consumed illicit liquor to voluntarily subject themselves to medical examination soon and undergo treatment if needed and thus avert possible threat to their lives. (PTI)



mated, Kallakurichi District Collector Prasanth MS said. "A total of 165 people were admitted to the Kallakurichi, JIPMER, Salem and Mundiambakkam government hospitals after consuming spurious liquor. Of them, 47 have died so far. The condition of 30 among 118 undergoing treatment is

1.2 lakh Indian pilgrims undertook Haj, 40,000 above 60: Union health secretary

NEW DELHI, June 21: Around 1,20,000 pilgrims undertook the Haj pilgrimage this year from India and 356 doctors and paramedics were deployed for the medical care.

Union Health Secretary Apurva Chandra released a document titled 'Medical Care Arrangements for Haj Pilgrims' here on Friday in collaboration with the ministry of minority affairs.

Mohammed Shahid Alam, Consulate General of India in Jeddah (who joined virtually), representatives of WHO and other stakeholders were also present.

Haj represents the largest and most enduring annual mass gathering event globally, the health ministry said in a statement.

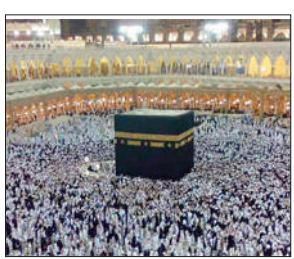
The responsibility for medical care arrangements lies with the Emergency Medical Relief Division and the International Health Division of the Directorate General of Health

Services under ministry of health, it said.

On the occasion, Chandra stated that "this document lays the roadmap of the health services and how those services can be availed of by the pilgrims".

Noting that this is only the second year since the healthcare responsibilities have been assigned to the Union health ministry, he said, "The experience has provided significant learning for improving the healthcare services. Around 1,20,000 pilgrims undertook the Haj pilgrimage this year from India, of which approximately 40,000 were above the age of 60.

"In view of the harsh weather conditions this year, the health challenges have necessitated round the clock services for the pilgrims. Last year, oral health and dental care services have been added learning from the past experience," he said.



The Union health secretary also added that nearly two lakh OPDs have been conducted this year, along with visits by the medical teams to the pilgrims.

Chandra stated that with the help of National Informatics Centre (NIC), a live portal has been developed that provides real time data and analysis on the pilgrims seeking medical care and the services being provided.

"We are continuously monitoring and this will help us to improve our services significantly, such that we become the beacon of excellence to be emulated by other countries,"

he added.

The Union health secretary said, "It is a matter of pride to be of assistance to our citizens wherever they might be. Be it for evacuating our students from Ukraine or assisting our people who got stuck in the fire incident in Kuwait, India has always been at the forefront in helping its citizens."

He stated that India has even helped citizens from other countries, including the European countries who sought its help during crisis.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) Additional Secretary L S Changan emphasised on the importance of comprehensive healthcare planning for such a large gathering, especially in the demanding Saudi Arabian climate, the statement said.

She highlighted the strategic placement of medical teams in Mecca and Medina for easy convenience of the pilgrims and the collaboration between

MoHFW and NIC on creating a portal for real time access of data on admissions and operations of the health mission.

She also acknowledged the tireless efforts of the medical teams in Saudi Arabia which are still there and working hard for ensuring health and safety of pilgrims. She commended the dedication of all stakeholders involved, which included ministry of minority affairs, consulate general of India, Jeddah; Haj Committee of India, NIC, WHO India, HLL Life-care Limited, central government hospitals, all AAIMS and all states and institutions from across the country for their support towards this endeavour.

Alam highlighted that the publication of the document is vital for institutionalising the healthcare arrangement system for the Indian pilgrims. He explained the on-field experiences and challenges faced during Haj. (PTI)

PUBLIC NOTICE

No. SSA/PM-POSHAN/Engagement/171/2024/908

In pursuant to the advertisement published vide No. SSA-18011(12)/1/2023-MDM-Sarba Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)/1/356476/2023 dated 04.12.2023, it is for general information to all concerned that the schedule of Skill test for the posts under PM-POSHAN is mentioned below :

Name of the post	Date of Skill test	Time of Skill test	Venue of Skill test
District MIS Manager[For District Mission Office]	04.07.2024	9.30 to 11.00 am	Assam Engineering Institute, Chandmari, Guwahati-3
Electronic Data Processor [For State Nodal Office]	04.07.2024	11.45 am to 1.15 pm	
State MIS Manager[For State Nodal Office]	04.07.2024	2.00 pm to 3.30 pm	

The date-wise list of short-listed candidates is uploaded in the official website of Samagra Shiksha Axiom at <https://ssa.assam.gov.in>

The short-listed candidates are requested to attend in the Skill test before one hour of the scheduled date and time with original copies of Aadhar Card/Pan Card and admit card.

The short-listed candidates name may be downloaded their admit card from the official website of Samagra Shiksha Axiom at <https://ssa.assam.gov.in> w.e.f. 27.06.2024.

Janasanyog/DF/356/24/22-Jun-24



Sd/-Officer on Special Duty
Samagra Shiksha Axiom
Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

If you're replaced in a film, you get something better: ANIL KAPOOR ON 'NO ENTRY', 'WELCOME' SEQUELS

MUMBAI, June 21: If you get replaced in a film, god has something better planned for you, says actor Anil Kapoor about not being part of the upcoming sequels of "Welcome" and "No Entry".

There are reports that he is upset with producer-brother Boney Kapoor on how the sequel for "No Entry" has panned out but the actor would not publicly comment on the issue.

"See, one should keep household matters private and not discuss them on the streets. 'Dignity issi mein hai', that's what I believe," Anil said when asked about reports of a rift with his brother.

"Whatever god does, it's for

the best. I feel if you are replaced in a film, then you will get something better and this is what has happened with me," Anil told PTI in an interview.

The actor said if he counted the films he missed out on, the number would be more than twenty, and not just the two films ("Welcome" and "No Entry").

During the promotions of his film, "Maidaan" in March, Boney had said that the sequel of "No Entry" will feature Varun Dhawan, Diljit Dosanjh and Arjun Kapoor in lead roles.

Anees Bazmee, who directed the first part with Fardeen, Salman Khan and

Anil Kapoor in lead roles, is returning for the follow-up as well.

Boney, in an interview, admitted recently that Anil was upset with him as he got to know about the news through media.

The two brothers have extensively worked together in the 1990s and early 2000s for films such as "Woh Saat Din", "Mr. India", "Roop Ki Rani Choron Ka Raja", "Loafer", "Judaai", "Pukar", "Hamara Dil Aapke Paas Hai", "Be-wafaa" and "No Entry", among others.

"No Entry 2" is expected to go on floors in December this year. Anil was a key figure in "Welcome" franchise, playing

the role of Majnu Bhai in first part that became a huge blockbuster after it released in 2007. "Welcome" also starred Nana Patekar, Akshay Kumar, Katrina Kaif, Paresh Rawal, and Mallika Sherawat.

He reprised the role in "Welcome Back" alongside Patekar who portrayed Don Uday Shetty.

However, the two actors are not returning for the upcoming threequel, titled "Welcome to the Jungle", which was announced by Kumar in September last year.

Anil presently serves as the host of "Bigg Boss OTT 3", which is set to start streaming on JioCinema from Friday. (PTI)



SONAKSHI SINHA, RITEISH DESHMUKH-STARRER 'KAKUDA' TO DEBUT ON ZEE5 IN JULY

MUMBAI, June 21: Horror comedy "Kakuda", featuring Sonakshi Sinha, Riteish Deshmukh and Saqib Saleem, will premiere on ZEE5 on July 12, the platform announced on Friday.

The movie is directed by Aditya Sarpotdar, whose horror comedy "Munjya" is currently running in theatres. The streamer shared the news of the film's release date in a post on social media platform X. "Purushon Ke Hit Mein Jaari-

#Kakuda aa raha hai '12 July' ko, toh ghar pe rahein aur theek 7:15 baje, darwaza khula rakhna naa bhoolein.

Kyunki #AbMardKhatreMeinHai, #Kakuda only on #ZEE5," the company posted. "Kakuda" is set in the village of Ratodi in

Uttar Pradesh's Mathura district. "While Ratodi seems like any other village, it isn't because of the curse inflicted upon it for years. Every house in the district has two similar looking doors, one that

is normal size and one which is smaller than the other. "The film revolves around a peculiar ritual that demands the opening of the smaller door of each house every Tuesday at 7:15PM sharp. Failure to comply with this rule invites the wrath of Kakuda, who punishes the man of the house. But who is Kakuda...

Why does he punish the men in the village? How will the villagers get rid of the curse? Beware! Ab Mard Khatre Me Hai!" according to the official synopsis.

"Kakuda" is produced by Ronnie Screwvala's banner RSV. (PTI)



Don't have any relationship with any religion: Annu Kapoor

MUMBAI, June 21: Veteran actor Annu Kapoor, whose upcoming film "Hamare Baarah" courted legal trouble over allegations of being derogatory towards Islam, on Thursday said he doesn't follow any religion and identifies as an "atheist". Set to be released in theatres on Friday, the movie is directed by Kamal Chandra. It is produced by Radhika G Film & Newtech Media Entertainment. Ravi S Gupta, Birender Bhagat, Sanjay Nagpal, and Sheo Balak Singh are credited as producers, with Triloki Prasad set as co-producer.

Kapoor described "Hamare Baarah", previously titled "Hum Do Humare Baarah", as the story of a Muslim family led by his character Mansoor Ali Khan Sanjari. "I don't have any relationship with any religion. I am an atheist. I don't participate in religious discussions because I don't have that intellect," the actor told reporters here at a press conference ahead of the film's release. The Bombay High Court on Wednesday allowed the release of the film after its makers agreed to delete certain objectionable portions. It was originally slated for release on June 7 and then on June 14. "Hamare Baarah" got embroiled in a legal battle after a bunch of petitions were filed in the high court claiming that it distorted the Quran and was derogatory towards the Islamic faith and the Muslim community. The plea sought a ban on the release of the movie. Asked why films such as "The Kashmir Files" and "The Kerala Files" appear to target a particular community, one of the producers urged the media to "not make it a communal issue". (PTI)



ALWAYS WANTED TO KIND OF SINK IN SLOW MOTION AND DANCE: ROHIT SARAF ON 'ISHQ VISHQ REBOUND'

MUMBAI, June 21: Rohit Saraf always wanted to do a film that gave him a chance to showcase his dance moves and he's happy that he got the opportunity in "Ishq Vishq Rebound".

The young adult drama, which is a follow-up of the 2003 "Ishq Vishq", starring Shahid Kapoor, Amrita Rao and Shehnaz Treasury, revolves around four friends and their complicated love lives. Saraf, who made a name for himself as an actor with "The Sky is Pink", "Ludo" and Netflix series "Mismatched", said the film helped him fulfil his dream of dancing on screen.

"I feel, no matter how serious an actor you are, I think one would always want to have an opportunity in life where they can kind of sink in slow motion and dance... This was the first time I ever got to do that in a film... I was very excited by it."

"It was on my bucket list. And what's even more exciting is that it really helps you connect with the audiences. Like, there were so many people who came up to us and said, 'When we saw the song, it felt like you were singing to us.' To me, that is such a big

deal," the actor told PTI in an interview.

Marathi filmmaker Nipun Avinash Dharmadhikari has directed the movie, which also features Pashmina Roshan, Jibraan Khan and Naila Grewal.

"Ishq Vishk Rebound" is Saraf's first in the lead role but the actor said that he has never approached a film from the mindset that it completely belongs to him.

"I don't look at a film and say this is completely my film. I don't think I have that approach because to be able to say that it is my film, I would have to do everything on my own. I would have to direct it, produce it, act in all parts and then call it my film. "It is a lot of people's hard work. All four characters in the film are important. You take one character out of the film and I don't think the film is complete.. It is everybody's film, more than the actors."

The actor believes there is a strong appetite for romantic comedy films among the audiences, something that was proved by the success of the last few films in the genre. "We were missing it,

but I think starting from 'Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar'... I think it's coming back, and it's very exciting because there's definitely an appetite for it," Saraf said.

Jibraan Khan, best known for his work as a child artist in "Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham", plays the other male lead in "Ishq Vishk Rebound".

The actor said he has been a fan of the genre, especially for the light-hearted nature of romantic comedies.

"We need rom-coms, we need life and we need love in our country right now. I hope what we've done does resonate with the Indian lovers again... I was lucky enough to do it right now. I love to see beautiful songs and dance. I love to see the heart-break. And we've been really lucky to have a film like this," the actor said.

Khan recalled that he was a kid when he watched Shahid's film at a theatre.

"I remember watching it at Chandan theatre with my sister and her friends. It was such a good feeling because I definitely remember coming out of the theatre singing, 'Ishq Vishk' and

today I'm doing it. Like, every day I'm waking up, listening to it and watching people do it to our song," he said.

What has made the experience even more memorable is the green signal the team got from Shahid as well as his "Ishq Vishk" co-star Amrita Rao.

"He's given his support to us. He's put up a couple of (Instagram) stories for us, and I think that says a lot from him because he's given us the green signal that, 'okay, you guys are doing justice to something that I have done back in the day.'"

"It's not only him, but many of the star cast. Amrita Ma'am put up a reel on one of our songs called 'Chot Dil pe lagi' and I think we were just mesmerized because she's not aged one day... It's just a good feeling that the industry people are coming out and pushing us so much and giving us that push which we newcomers need," Khan added.

Produced by Ramesh Taurani and co-produced by Jaya Taurani under the banner Tips Films Limited, "Ishq Vishk Rebound" is set to be released in theatres on Friday. (PTI)



The sooner Kalyan Chaubey leaves, the better it is for Indian football: Stimac

NEW DELHI, June 21: Ousted India football coach Igor Stimac on Friday launched a stinging attack on AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey, saying the sooner he leaves the post, the better it would be for the future of football in the country where the globally-loved sport is not growing at all.

Stimac was on Monday sacked as head coach following the team's failure to reach the third round of the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers. A day later, the Croat threatened to file a lawsuit against the All India Football Federation (AIFF) in the FIFA Tribunal if his outstanding dues were not cleared in 10 days.

During a lengthy online press conference on Friday, Stimac said Indian football is "imprisoned" and blamed Chaubey for most of the problems besetting the game. He also said that he was "fed up of the lies and unfulfilled promises" during his tenure.

"The sooner Kalyan Chaubey leaves AIFF, the better it is for Indian football," Stimac said.

"Football is the most popular sport in the world, but India is the only place where football is not growing," he added.

Stimac was appointed as the head coach following the departure of his predecessor Stephen Constantine in March 2019. A few days after India suffered a defeat against Qatar in the final second round match of World Cup Qualifiers earlier this month, the AIFF sacked Stimac.

The outspoken coach also took aim at AIFF Technical Committee head and India great



I M Vijayan, saying he is not fit for the job.

"I M Vijayan was a fantastic player but he is not the person to head the national federation's technical committee," he said.

Stimac, who was part of Croatia team that won the bronze medal at the 1998 FIFA World Cup, said he has been sacked as a coach for the first time in his career.

"In my career, I've not been

sacked till now, this was the first time. And it was wrongly so - in my reply to AIFF I've done the same. "It was impossible for me to continue without enough support, I was fed up of the lies, the unfulfilled promises and being surrounded by people who are only thinking about their own interests," Stimac said from Croatia.

The 56-year-old revealed that he was given a final warning be-

fore the Asian Cup merely for trying to convince the AIFF about the importance of the FIFA World Cup qualifiers.

Stimac said that the meeting resulted in him going to the hospital and undergoing a surgery to treat a heart condition.

"After I told them that the World Cup Qualifiers were more important than Asian Cup, I received a final warning from AIFF. When I received the final

warning on December 2, no one knows this, I finished in the hospital.

"I was disturbed with everything going on; stressed from the obvious problems. I had an immediate surgery on my heart. I wasn't ready to speak to anyone or find excuses.

"I was ready to put myself on the line to prepare my team for the Asian Cup to give the best shot," Stimac said. (PTI)

Messi creates both goals as Argentina opens Copa America title defense by beating Canada 2-0

ATLANTA, June 21: Lionel Messi's through ball led to Julián Álvarez's goal in the 49th minute, then he assisted on Lautaro Martínez's goal in the 88th as Argentina began the defense of its Copa America title with a 2-0 victory over Canada.

Argentina is seeking its third straight major title after winning the 2021 Copa America and the 2022 World Cup.

"It's been a long time since we've done this," Messi said through a translator, "but we had patience to retain possession of the ball and it was hard to find the good open spaces."

With South America's championship moved to the United States for the second time, Messi set a Copa America record with his 35th match, one more than Chile's Sergio Livingstone from 1941-53. Messi extended his own record with his 18th assist.

Messi, who turns 37 on Monday, created the first goal when following a throw-in, he headed a pass through the defense for Alexis MacAllister. The midfielder side-footed a pass to Álvarez while crashing into an onrushing goalkeeper Maxime Crépeau about 8 yards out. Álvarez had a virtually empty net and kicked the ball in over a sliding defender for his eighth goal in 32 international appearances.

Messi extended his Copa America record when he ran through the center of the midfield and rolled a

perfectly weighted pass to Martínez, who had entered in the 76th minute and slotted it past Crépeau for his 25th international goal.

Argentina had a 12-3 shots advantage in the second half and Messi failed to convert on a pair of excellent chances. Crépeau made a diving stop in the 65th minute and Messi's attempt off the rebound was blocked by the head of defender Derek Cornelius. Messi put a chip wide after he came in alone on Crépeau in the 79th.

He was shaken up by a sliding tackle from defender Moïse Bombito in the 82nd minute, but remained in the game.

"It was physically intense," Messi said.

Argentina plays Chile on Tuesday at East Rutherford, New Jersey, then closes the first round against Peru on June 29 at Miami Gardens, Florida. Canada faces Peru on Tuesday at Kansas City, Kansas, and finishes the group stage against Chile on June 29 at Orlando, Florida.

Fourteen U.S. stadiums are hosting the tournament, which runs through June 14 and ends at Miami Gardens, Florida. Six nations from North and Central America and the Caribbean were added to the 10 South American teams, just as in the centennial Copa America in 2016. Slow starts did not prevent the Albiceleste from winning their previous two tournaments. (AP)

Spain advances to knockout round at Euro 2024 with statement win over defending champion Italy

GELSENKIRCHEN (GERMANY), June 21: Europe beware — Spain might just be back.

The three-time European champion advanced to the round of 16 at Euro 2024 after a 1-0 win against holders Italy on Thursday. A 55th-minute own goal by Riccardo Calafiori settled the Group B game at the Veltins Arena in Gelsenkirchen. But that didn't begin to tell the full story of a statement performance from Spain, which surely marks it as one of the favorites to win a record-extending fourth European Championship. "I think it was the best Spain performance I have taken charge of," coach Luis de la Fuente said. "I don't see a ceiling on this team. The sky is the limit."

Spain totally dominated defending champion Italy, with 16-year-old winger Lamine Yamal further enhancing his reputation as one of soccer's most exciting young stars.

Player of the match Nico Williams also tormented Italy's defenders and was the width of the crossbar away from scoring in the second half.

It took Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma to keep the score down with a string of fine saves until inadvertently pushing the ball into the legs of Calafiori, who couldn't prevent it from ricocheting into his own goal.

"They deserved to win and we were never in the game," Italy coach Luciano Spalletti said. "There was too much of a gulf. We were constantly stretched, we were never able to squeeze the gaps between the various units and they were able to cause us problems. They caused us more problems than the score line suggests, let's not beat around the bush." Spain produced a throwback performance that brought to mind the years when it ruled international soccer when winning back-to-back Euros and the World Cup from 2008 through 2012.

Having failed to dominate possession for the first time in 136 competitive games in its opening 3-0 win over Croatia, Spain was back to its old ways in starving Italy of the ball and dictating play in a largely lopsided game. (AP)

Mirabai determined to remain injury-free ahead of Olympics

NEW DELHI, June 21: Olympic silver medallist weightlifter Mirabai Chanu feels her success at the Paris Games will hinge on her ability to remain injury-free, especially as she strives to breach the elusive 90kg mark in the snatch event of the quadrennial extravaganza.

The focus until her competition on August 7 will be on "managing all the muscles" and "improving technique to lift at least 90kg in snatch", said the Manipuri who competes in the 49kg weight class.

"For me, injury management and staying stress free will be important. I have to do the things that helped me recover," Chanu told SAI Media.

"Injuries and pain are companions for us. You never know when they will strike. We have to conquer them and Paris Olympics will tell me how well I have managed these aspects of the sport."

Chanu, who has a personal best of 88kg in snatch and 119kg in clean and jerk, is no stranger to injuries and has struggled with a persistent



back problem.

More recently, she suffered from hip tendonitis at the Asian Games in September-October last year, which sidelined her for five months.

She returned to competitive action at the IWF World Cup in April, finishing 12th with a total effort of 184kg (81kg+103kg), a whopping 33kg behind China's Hou Zhihui, who will look to defend

her Olympic title.

"After the Asian Games injury, the World Cup was my first competition. I was certainly apprehensive about picking up another injury. I didn't want to spoil my Paris chances. So, yes, that injury fear was there."

Chanu and her team will be off to Le Ferre-Milon in France in the first week of July and will have almost a month

to acclimatise ahead of the Olympics.

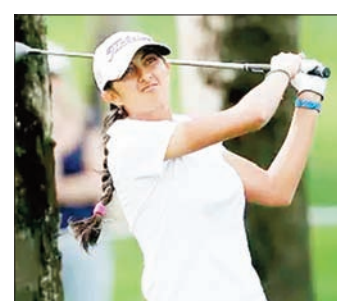
The star weightlifter, for whom the sports ministry, through the Target Olympic Podium Scheme and other athlete funding programmes, has spent over Rs 2.7 crores for her training in the Paris cycle, laments for not having an Asian Games medal in her cabinet.

"An Asian Games medal seems to be jinxed, I definitely want to win one and I was just one lift away from getting one in Hangzhou when the injury occurred."

"Even after so much preparation, I got injured. That hurts for sure but at the same time, injuries make me determined to come back stronger for India. So never had negative thoughts to quit."

"For any weightlifter to take part in two Olympics is a big thing. To compete at the world level is tough. It will be a dream for me and my family to win a second Olympic medal but I also know that even the best of preparation can fail," she added. (PTI)

Aditi Ashok fights back on the back nine to lie 22nd in Women's PGA



SAMMAMISH (WASHINGTON), June 21: Indian golfer Aditi Ashok rebounded from a disappointing front nine of 3-over to finish at even par for the first round in the KPMG Women's PGA Championship here. Aditi, playing her 30th Major, was tied-22nd after the first round.

Aditi made the cut at both the Chevron and the US Open this year and this is her third Major of 2024 with Evian and AIG Women's Open still to come.

She had bogeys on the first, seventh and ninth, but started making up with birdies on 10th and 11th on the back nine. A dropped shot on the 14th was followed by birdies on the 16th and 18th for a 72.

Aditi's record at the PGA is modest with the 26-year-old making the cut four times in six previous starts and having a best finish of tied-29th in 2017.

Lexi Thompson grabbed the lead after shooting a 4-under 68. Thompson made six birdies on her way to a one-shot lead over Nelly Korda and Patty Tavatanakit.

Teeing off in the afternoon on the dried out Sahalee Country Club, Thompson started hot with three straight birdies.

The 29-year-old Thompson shot a bogey-free 32 on the front nine. After a bogey at No. 10, she rebounded with birdies at No. 12 and 14 before another bogey at the 16th.

She won the last of her 11 LPGA Tour titles at the ShopRite LPGA Classic in June 2019. The top-ranked Korda, who missed the cut at the U.S. Women's Open and the Meijer LPGA Classic in her last two starts after winning six out of seven events, made four birdies on her first six holes. She had a total of six birdies, a bogey and a double on the par-4 fourth hole, which dropped her back to 2-under. (PTI)

India to push its 2036 Olympic bid case in Paris; will seek inclusion of indigenous disciplines

NEW DELHI, June 21: India's sports administrators would be "lobbying" hard during the upcoming Paris Olympics to brighten the country's chances of hosting the 2036 Games where they will push for the inclusion of indigenous disciplines like yoga, kho kho and kabaddi if their ambitious bid is successful.

The Sports Authority of India's Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) presented its detailed report on the measures needed for a successful bid to new sports minister Manu Sukh Mandaviva on Thursday.

In this document, MOC has identified six disciplines, including yoga, kho kho, kabaddi, chess, T20 cricket and squash for inclusion in the 2036 Olympics if the country gets to host the quadrennial extravaganza.

"We met the new Sports Minister yesterday and handed him the report. The minister said he will need a few days to go through it. But he asked us to prepare another report on how sports can be a career option in the country, how to build interest among youth, how to bring private players into

sports," a senior member of the MOC told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"We are way ahead in preparing for the Olympic bid which will take place after Paris. But we will have to do a lot of lobbying with IOC during the Paris Games and we are completely prepared," the member added.

Inclusion of host country preferences will be discussion for much later as the hosting rights of the Games have not been finalised. The decision is likely only after the International Olympic Committee has a new President after elections next year.

If at all, India's bid is successful, the proposed events will first have to be introduced as demonstration events in the 2032 Brisbane Games before getting a final go ahead.

During the International Olympic Committee (IOC's) Congress in Mumbai last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi revealed India's ambition to host the Games in 2036, stating that the administration would "leave no stone unturned" in bringing the showpiece



to the country for the first time.

The MOC member said that while the inclusion of these sports would help in enhancing India's medals tally in 2036 Olympics, but the road ahead is not easy as the country will have to extend all possible support in building the base for these disciplines in a minimum number of participating nations.

"The sports ministry asked the MOC to prepare a detailed report about our readiness for 2036 Olympics, including identifying new sporting disciplines which a host nation can pitch for, how to control doping menace, bringing more accountability in the working of the national federations and identifying private entities who are interested in investing in sports," the member told PTI.

"We researched in detail and identified six sports in which are strong. We are masters in yoga, chess, cricket, and kho kho is our traditional sport. So these sports will enhance our medal chances," the member said.

"We have already submitted our report to the ministry which will

take it up with the PMO in due course of time."

As per the IOC rules, the host Organising Committee of an Olympics can propose for the inclusion of one or more sports, which are popular in the region but that particular event has to be played in all five continents of the world.

Also taken into account is the history of the sport and the ease with which broadcasters can telecast it.

The MOC member said it won't be easy to win the Games hosting rights as India will have to fight it out against countries like Qatar, Saudi Arabia, China, Hungary, Italy, Germany, Denmark, Canada, Spain United Kingdom, Poland, Mexico, South Korea, Egypt, Chile, Turkey and Indonesia.

"But these indigenous sports will have to be introduced as demonstration events in 2032 Olympics. Besides India will have to extend support and ensure that a minimum number of countries, which is around 70 plus, have federations in place there. (PTI)

T20 WC: Pressure building on top-order and Dube as India take on Bangladesh

NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA), June 21: The ever-present tension of their over a decade-long big-stage rivalry would make for an engrossing sub-plot when an undefeated India takes on a faltering Bangladesh, both teams desperately hoping for their batting stars to strike form in the Super Eights clash of the T20 World Cup here on Saturday.

The overall head-to-head record is overwhelmingly in India's favour but Bangladesh have been known to be plucky and Rohit Sharma and his men would be wary of that.

The two South Asian neighbours have also been locked in some off-field drama in the past with Bangladesh often expressing its misgivings with India's financial might in the sport.

At the ongoing World Cup though, there is no doubt that India are as mighty a cricketing power to be a serious title contender.

The Men in Blue produced a professional performance against Afghanistan in their opening Super Eights match.

With only a travel day separating their remaining two games, they would be hoping that the players, who have not performed as per expectations so far, deliver the goods.

Top of that list would be the opening pair of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, both of whom have got starts but have not been able to turn them into defining knocks. They have made a conscious effort



to force the pace but have ended with minimal returns.

Another under-pressure team member is left-hander Shivam Dube, who was picked in the World Cup squad to hammer sixes in the middle and death overs.

However, the IPL form that helped him seal a World Cup berth has deserted him and he is yet to come to the party.

The southpaw did make an unbeaten 31 against the USA in a group league game but it was Suryakumar Yadav's effort that made the difference ultimately.

Another failure might force the team management to consider Sanju Samson in the middle order.

The biggest positive in the batting department in the Afghanistan game was Hardik Pandya's cameo.

The all-rounder is known for his brutal hitting and that was on display on Thursday.

On the bowling front, India are expected to retain the combination having given the first opportunity of the tournament to crafty left-arm spinner Kuldeep Yadav.

The wickets in the Caribbean have provided enough help for the spinners, prompting India to play three at the Kensington Oval.

The combination is likely to continue here with Kuldeep retaining his place at the expense of Mohammed Siraj.

"Playing three left-arm spinners, I feel there is an advantage. There are three left-arm spinners out of which we have two finger spinners and one wrist spinner," said Axar Patel after the

Afghanistan game.

"The combination of the three of us is very good. We have a good team. We communicate well. Like whoever comes to bowl first, we communicate what is working and what is not. I think that is very important when you bowl as a unit," he added.

India's sole aim in the Caribbean is to win the trophy and a solid performance against Bangladesh will be another step forward in that context. A tougher battle awaits against Australia on June 24.

Bangladesh, who have struggled with their batting throughout the tournament, find themselves in a must win situation after the loss to Australia.

The lack of power-hitters is hurting them and there is no quick fix to that problem. The under-performance of opener Litton Das and Tanzid Khan has also compounded Bangladesh's woes.

"It's very important for the top-order to get runs like we did today, that's a big boost, hopefully the bowlers will continue their form. Looking for a good show against India in our next match," Bangladesh captain Najmul Shanto said after the loss to Australia here on Friday.

Both Shanto (41) and Towhid Hridoy (40) did well but the rest of the line-up was not quite up to it.

They will need to find a way to tackle Bumrah, who has been sensational thus far, taking eight wickets at an unparalleled economy rate of 3.46 runs per over.

West Indies face crunch USA clash



BRIDGETOWN (BARBADOS), June 21: West Indies cannot afford another misstep as they take on a tenacious USA outfit in the Super Eights of the T20 World Cup here, seeking to renew their quest for an unprecedented third title.

After remaining unbeaten in the group stage, the West Indies slumped to an eight-wicket loss to defending champions England in their opening Super Eight fixture, paying the price for playing out as many as 51 dot balls and failing to rotate strike. The heavy defeat to England has not only pushed Ravman Powell and his men to the bottom of the group but they now have -1.343 net run rate and need to win big to keep their hopes of

lifting the title at home alive.

USA, on the other hand, haven't won any game since their victory against Pakistan earlier this month. But they gave a good account of themselves against India and almost shocked South Africa, falling just 18 runs short of the Proteas' 194/4 against a high-quality bowling attack. The co-hosts of the tournament have shown that they are not here just to make up numbers and are not to be taken lightly. They have played an aggressive brand of cricket so far and in likelihood will continue to do so in the coming matches.

"Of course, I would say we're playing good cricket and the team is gelling well together and at the end of the day we know that we're

going to be the underdogs for all teams that we played against in the Super 8s.

"So, we're just here to play good cricket and if we go in, we win - if we lose, we lose," USA batter Steven Taylor said at the pre-match press conference.

However, their weakness is their inexperienced bowling attack that sometimes lacks discipline, and the West Indies, who are blessed with big hitters like Nicholas Pooran, Andre Russell, Powel, will like to capitalise on that.

"We did lack discipline in the bowling at times. Once we play good cricket we can beat any team in the world. But we need to be a lot more disciplined," vice-captain Aaron Jones had said after the game against South Africa.

Even though they have their backs against the walls, West Indies coach Darren Sammy asserted their "spirits are not dampened".

"In a tournament, there's a game where the opposition will get the better of you. But that doesn't mean you're out of it. Now, in order to win, we've got to win all our matches. And that's what we'll focus on," Sammy said.

Brandon King, who suffered a side strain and was forced to retire hurt against England, remains a doubtful starter for the hosts. If he doesn't recover, Shimron Hetmyer

could take King's place in the playing XI.

USA have been without skipper Monank Patel since their game against Pakistan.

Teams:

West Indies Squad: Rovman Powell (c), Brandon King, Johnson Charles, Nicholas Pooran (wk), Sherfane Rutherford, Andre Russell, Romario Shepherd, Roston Chase, Akeal Hosein, Alzarri Joseph, Gudakesh Motie, Obed McCoy, Shamar Joseph, Shimron Hetmyer and Shai Hope.

USA: Monank Patel (c), Aaron

Jones, Andries Gous, Corey Anderson, Ali Khan, Harmeet Singh, Jessy Kumar, Milind Kumar, Nisarg Patel, Nitish Kumar, Nosh-tush Kenjige, S a u r a b h Nethralvakar, Shadley Van S c h a l k w y k, Steven Taylor, Shayan Jahangir.

Reserve Players: Gajanan Singh, Juanoy Drysdale, Yasir Mohammad.

Match Starts 6 am IST. (PTI)

Pak players face criticism for taking families along in T20 WC

LAHORE, June 21: Pakistan's disastrous T20 World Cup campaign in the USA has expectedly triggered a backlash against the players, who are being criticised for taking their families along, even as their beleaguered cricket board mulled invoking a new defamation law to tackle "unsubstantiated claims and reports".

According to a local media report, apart from the nearly 34 players, support staff and officials who were part of the national squad in the USA, the team hotel was teeming with around 26 to 28 family members of the players.

These included their wives, children, parents and even siblings in some cases. Pakistan were eliminated after losing to India and debutants USA in their group league stage matches held in New York.

The report said players like Babar Azam, Haris Rauf, Shadab Khan, Fakhar Zaman, and Muhammad Amir were among those who had family members travelling with them.

Babar, who is not married, had his father, mother and brothers staying in the team hotel.

"The extra expenses incurred on having families is obviously paid by players but having family members around does hit the focus of the players," another report said.

"Some 60 rooms were booked where the team stayed to accommodate the other people travelling with the team. The environment was a family one with take-away dinners and outings being the norm for some players," one report said. (PTI)

Big margin between Bumrah and rest, India fortunate: Manjrekar

BRIDGETOWN, June 21: India are fortunate to have a bowler of the calibre of Jasprit Bumrah, who is head and shoulders above the rest in international cricket, feels former batter Sanjay Manjrekar.

Bumrah bowled an incisive spell (3/7) to guide India to a convincing 47-run victory over Afghanistan in their opening Super Eights fixture of the T20 World Cup here.

With the bat, Suryakumar Yadav was the star performer as he slammed a 28-ball 53 to power India to 181 for eight in 20 overs.

"There were many matches when we had not conceded the boundary and look at the difference between him and the couple of other seamers," Manjrekar told ESPN-cricinfo.

"They were also international standard, but quite rightly I mean, he's looking even better and when you look at all the top-class bowlers around the world.

"There's a big margin between them and Bumrah and India is so fortunate to have him in your playing 11," Manjrekar added.

Former India captain Anil Kumble also lauded Bumrah's performance.

"The kind of understanding of his own bowling you can make out, even when he got Rahmanullah Gurbaz out on a slower ball and wide line. He gets the execution perfect.

"For each batsman he would have figured that out and then doing it right in a big game. This doesn't come easy and I think he has given limited boundaries in the entire tournament," Kumble said.

Regarding Suryakumar, Manjrekar said his presence puts India at an advantageous position.

"This is the advantage India have for having one of the best T20 batters in the world. Tricky pitch, Rashid Khan on song and again you saw the value that Suryakumar Yadav brings to any team.



"And again the thing to like about him which is not really highlighted much is the amount of ground shots that he plays. He chips the balls over the infield in the gaps.

"So, he's not somebody who's always looking for sixes which means sometimes there can be miss-execution trying to extract power," Manjrekar said.

Kumble hails SKY impact in Super 8s

Kumble said Suryakumar regaining form in the Super Eights is a good sign for India.

"It (Suryakumar's presence) gives India the kind of power and stroke play that you need from someone who's batting at number four," said Kumble.

"It certainly puts pressure on the opposition bowlers because it's not easy to control a Surya in this kind of a form.

"You don't know where to bowl, wherever you bowl, you find it hard to stop him from scoring boundaries.

"So, yeah, it certainly augurs well. First game of the Super 8s and you have Surya coming back into this kind of form," Kumble said. (PTI)

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CANDIDATES REGISTERED BEFORE 2nd JAN 2024 IN EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES OF ASSAM ARE REQUESTED FOR RE-REGISTRATION THROUGH SEWA SETU PORTAL BEFORE 15th AUGUST 2024 FAILING WHICH THEIR EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE REGISTRATION WILL BE INVALID.

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