

6 WORLD Biden apologizes to Ukraine's Zelenskyy for monthslong holdup Israeli strikes kill at least 18 in central Gaza 8 NATION Achieving unanimity will be aim in all our decisions: PM Modi at NDA meet Tharoor bats for Rahul as LoP, says he was 'man of match' of LS polls

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Modi govt to take oath on Sunday evening

PM-designate asks NDA MPs not to fall prey to hoaxes about ministries, portfolios

NEW DELHI, June 7: President Droupadi Murmu on Friday appointed NDA Parliamentary Party leader Narendra Modi as Prime Minister-designate and the new government will take oath on Sunday evening. Murmu handed over the letter of appointment to Modi, who called on her at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here on Friday evening. Earlier, leaders of the BJP-led NDA had called on Murmu and handed over letters of support for Modi, who was elected as the leader of the NDA Parliamentary Party. Addressing the media in the forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhavan, Modi said he has been appointed as Prime Minister-designate by the President. "The President has asked me to work as the PM-designate and she



has informed me about the oath ceremony," Modi said and added that he has informed the President that they will be comfortable if the event is held on the evening of June 9. He said the Rashtrapati Bhavan will work out the details of the oath taking ceremony on Sunday by

of new energy, youthful energy, and people have given the NDA government one more chance, Modi said. The BJP-led NDA won 293 seats in the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections and enjoys majority in the 543-member House. Meanwhile, Modi on Friday urged NDA MPs not to fall prey to hoaxes about ministries and portfolios and claimed the "INDI Alliance" could also indulge in spreading "fake news" about such issues. Addressing a meeting of the NDA Parliamentary Party, Modi said he did not find much truth in what was being aired on TV in the last couple of days. "I did not find any truth in what is being run. I said one should ask where do they get such information from. There had not been such an occasion (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Flood situation improves in state



GUWAHATI, June 7: The flood situation in Assam improved further with major rivers in the state showing a receding trend, though a population of 54,467 were still affected in eight districts, according to an official report. Twenty-five lives were lost due to floods so far, while 34 have died in storms, rain and landslides since May 28, it said. The affected districts are Cachar, Kamrup, Hojai, Morigaon, Hailakandi, Karimganj, Nagaon and West Karbi Anglong, the Assam State Disaster Management Authority said in a bulletin. Cachar is the worst hit with a population of 32,110 affected, followed by 11,554 in Nagaon, 5,285 in Karimganj and 2,896 in Hojai, among others. A population of 6,175 are taking shelter in 44 relief camps in the affected (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Congress demands SC-monitored probe into NEET exam 'irregularities'

NEW DELHI, June 7: The Congress on Friday demanded a high-level investigation under the Supreme Court's supervision into "irregularities" in NEET for medical courses and accused the BJP of cheating youngsters and playing with their futures. Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge said paper leaks, rigging and corruption have become an integral part of many examinations, including the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET). "The Modi government is directly responsible for this. For the candidates appearing in recruitment exams, then facing several irregularities, getting caught in the labyrinth of paper leaks, is playing with their futures. The BJP has cheated the youth of the country," he said in a post in Hindi on X. "We demand that a high-level investigation should be conducted under the supervision of the Supreme Court so that our talented students appearing in NEET and other exams get justice," he added. The National Testing Agency (NTA) has denied any irregularities and said the changes made in

National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) textbooks and grace marks for losing time at examination centres are behind the students scoring higher marks. Jairam Ramesh, the Congress general secretary in charge of communications, said the "scam" involving lakhs of candidates is "completely unacceptable and unforgivable." "This is a direct gamble with the future of lakhs of candidates of the country, which should be immediately investigated at the high level under the supervision of the Supreme Court," he said in a post in Hindi on X. "This year, there was news of a paper leak in it that was suppressed. Now, many candidates have alleged that the marks of the students have been increased. Students say that this time a record 67 candidates have secured the top rank and six of these candidates are said to be from the same examination centre," he claimed. The results for the medical entrance exam NEET-UG on Tuesday. (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

HT BRIEFS

Bus accident

DIPHU: At least 5 persons were severely injured and several others sustained injury after mini bus hit a divider and turned turtle at Mohendijua along NH-29 under Manja Police station in Karbi Anglong, Assam in the wee hours on Friday. A local Suraj Chetri with friends helped the victims. He said a bus MN-01BA-0234 was coming from Siliguri and heading to Manipur met with an accident, when the bus hit a divider on NH-29 at Mohendijua before reaching Manja and turned turtle at around 4:30 am under Manja police station. Manja police reached the spot and took the injured passengers to nearby Manja Primary Health Centre for first aid. There were 21 passengers who received minor injuries while 5 persons received head injury were later referred to Diphu Medical College.

Heroin seized

BOKAJAN: The police in Karbi Anglong seized two plastic cases containing heroin from a Tata Punch car, AS 03 AF 5557, on the under-construction four-lane road under Bokajan police station. The contraband weighs 20.81 gms. The car was coming from Dimapur and had five occupants. All have been apprehended and identified as Jotrika Shyam, Diwakar Singh, Nalin Basumatari, Surja Basumatari and Timuti Sangma. The police officers that carried out the operation were police officer Rustam Raj Brahm; Khatkhathi police station in-charge Ramen Bar-dolrai and his associates SI Deepak Lahan, SI Samdhan Sargiyari, SI Viman Chetia and Karagaon outpost in-charge Pankaj Saikia and his team.

Panchayat elections

GUWAHATI: Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday announced that the Panchayat elections in Assam will be held in November this year. The decision was made on Thursday during a meeting of the state cabinet arranged under the chairmanship of the state's chief minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma. The cabinet also came to a conclusion that a delimitation exercise will be conducted for all Development Blocks in the entire state inclusive of delimitation of Ward / AP/GP/ZP.

Assam: AIUDF to form committee to analyse cause of defeat in LS polls

GUWAHATI, June 7: The All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) will form a fact-finding committee, comprising senior leaders, to analyse the causes of the party's defeat in the three Lok Sabha seats it had contested in Assam. AIUDF suffered a blow after its president and Dhubri MP for three consecutive terms, Badruddin Ajmal, was trounced by a record margin of over 10 lakh votes by Rakibul Hussain of the Congress. "We will have to analyse our mistakes and where we went wrong. A fact-finding team will be formed and its members will go to each district to interact with people

and find out why they did not vote for us," party spokesperson Aminul Islam told a press conference here. The AIUDF had also contested in Nagaon and Karimganj, where its candidates Aminul Islam and Sahabul Islam Choudhury came third. Asked about contesting in only three constituencies, Islam said, "We did not want the secular votes to be divided, so we contested in only three seats, but the people rejected us and gave the mandate in favour of the Congress". He claimed that 78 per cent of the minority votes in this election have gone in favour of the Con-

gress, and Assam is no exception. "In politics, there is victory and defeat. There have been several occasions when parties have not performed well, but that does not mean they should be written off," the AIUDF leader said. "Efforts will be made to rectify the mistakes pointed out by the people, and we will make a new beginning to win back their confidence," Islam said. He also said that by-elections are scheduled to be held in five assembly constituencies, and the party's core committee will decide on the strategy regarding the seats that they will contest in these polls. (PTI)

BJP fails to retain at least 26 reserved LS seats

NEW DELHI, June 7: The BJP lost to Congress or its allies in the INDIA bloc in at least 26 reserved Lok Sabha seats across the country where it had sitting MPs, with some of them Union ministers. The BJP, however, retained at least 42 reserved constituencies and on many other such seats some of its NDA allies such as the Janata Dal (United) and Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) emerged victorious. The losing candidates from the saffron party in the recently concluded general elections included Union ministers Arjun Munda, Kaushal Kishore, Nisith Pramanik and Bharati Pravin Pawar.

Among the NDA candidates, Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal won from Bikaner, Chirag Paswan from Hajipur and former Bihar chief minister Jitan Ram Manjhi from Gaya. For the 543-member Lok Sabha, polls were held in 542 seats with Surat being won by the BJP uncontested. Of the total seats in the lower house of Parliament, 131 seats are reserved for Scheduled Castes (84) and Scheduled Tribes (47). In Bihar's Sasaram (SC) seat which had a BJP MP, Congress' Manoj Kumar won by defeating the ruling party's candidate Shiv-esh (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Himanta is unhappy over Ajmal's defeat: Rakibul

HT Bureau GUWAHATI, June 7: Congress leader Rakibul Hussain Friday claimed that Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma is unhappy with the defeat of Badruddin Ajmal in Dhubri. The Samaguri legislator said, "The Chief Minister was unhappy about Ajmal's defeat. He wished that the AIUDF chief would win the election." He has also alleged that Sarma is also not happy with Sarbananda Sonowal's win in the Dibrugarh Lok Sabha seat. Hussain said that people have shown great support for the Congress party in the Lok Sabha polls. "People have been suffering due to the misrule of the BJP government. (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

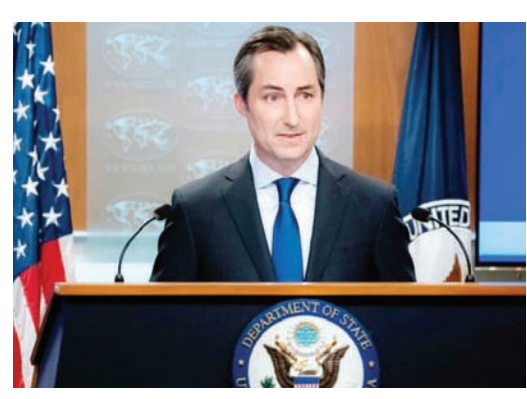
NDA parliamentary party meet Balance regional aspirations, national interests: TDP chief

NEW DELHI, June 7: Key BJP allies -- TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu and Bihar Chief Minister and JD(U) supremo Nitish Kumar -- on Friday endorsed Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the leader of the National Democratic Alliance with a message to balance regional aspirations and national interests. Speaking at the NDA Parliamentary Party meeting here, BJP allies JD(S) leader H D Kumaraswamy, Shiv Sena chief Eknath Shinde, NCP chief Ajit Pawar, HAM(S) chief Jitan Ram Manjhi among others supported the proposal moved by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to elect Modi as the leader of the NDA. The meeting in the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan, the old Parliament House, saw a lot of bonhomie as well as lighter moments among the leaders with Shinde describing the alliance as a "Fevicol bond", Kumar trying to touch the feet of Modi, who stopped him midway and the prime minister patting Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath on his shoulder. LJP(Ram Vilas) chief Chirag Paswan, who repeatedly referred to

Modi as 'Sir' while supporting the resolution, received a warm embrace from the prime minister. Jana Sena Party Pawan Kalyan received a special mention in Modi's speech when he said that "Pawan was not wind but a storm". Paswan credited Modi for the NDA victory, while Kalyan asserted that India would not bow down before anyone as long as Modi was the prime minister. At the outset, as soon as Modi entered the Central Hall for the NDA meeting, he bowed before a copy of the Constitution placed there, and lifted it to his forehead reverentially. Another ally, RLD chief Jayant Singh, who was seated in the audience with other leaders, later posted on X: "NDA (New - Developed - Aspirational India) has chosen our Prime Minister for a historic third term, Shri Narendra Modi ji!" NDA coalition partners Kumar and Naidu wholeheartedly praised Modi for his leadership and also reminded him not to ignore the development of states. "Balancing regional aspirations and national interests must run parallelly (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

'Part of diplomatic business': US on China's objection to Modi-Lai exchange on Indian polls

WASHINGTON, June 7: Amid China's protest over the exchange of greetings between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te, the US State Department said such congratulatory messages between two foreign leaders are a part of diplomatic business. "I would say that such congratulatory messages are the normal course of diplomatic business," State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller told reporters on Thursday at his daily news conference. He was responding to a question on China protesting over Modi's comment that he looked forward to having closer ties with Taiwan after his victory in the just concluded Lok Sabha elections. Earlier on Wednesday, Modi's remarks came in response to a congratulatory message from Taiwan President Lai Ching-te on his election victory. Lai, elected as Taiwan's President last month, in a message posted on X said: "My sincere congratulations to Prime Minister @narendramodi on his election victory. We look forward to enhancing the fast-growing #Taiwan-#India partnership, expanding our collaboration on trade, technology & other sectors to contribute to peace & prosperity in the #IndoPa-



cific." In his reply posted on X, Modi said: "Thank you @ChingteLai for your warm message. I look forward to closer ties as we work towards mutually beneficial economic and technological partnership." China views Taiwan as a rebel province that must be reunified with the mainland, even by force. On Thursday, China objected to the exchange between the Indian and Taiwanese leader, insisting that New Delhi should resist (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Drugs worth ₹ 70 lakh seized in Tripura

AGARTALA, June 7: Drugs worth over ₹ 70 lakh have been seized in separate incidents in Tripura, police said. A large consignment of banned Yaba tablets worth ₹ 20 lakh was seized and one person arrested in West Tripura district on Friday, a police officer said. Acting on a tip-off, a joint team of the state police and BSF raided a house in Matinagar village in Sepahijala district bordering Bangladesh and seized over 20,000 Yaba tablets, a pistol and four cartridges. West Tripura Superintendent of Police Kiran Kumar told reporters. The house owner, identified as 51-year-old Abu Salem Bhuiyan, was arrested. Meanwhile, ganja worth over ₹ 50 lakh was seized from a vehicle in Churaibari area of North Tripura district on Thursday. Speaking to PTI over the phone, North Tripura SP (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

NDA dispensation is strongest alliance govt: PM Modi

NEW DELHI, June 7: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday accused the opposition of seeking to erode people's trust in democracy and casting a shadow of defeat over the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance's poll win, asserting that the ruling bloc scored a grand victory in the Lok Sabha elections. "If you see in the context of alliances and statistics, then this is the strongest alliance government," Modi said while addressing newly-elected MPs and leaders of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) from across the country following his election as leader of the ruling bloc ahead of his government's swearing-in on Sunday.

He flayed opposition INDIA bloc leaders for casting suspicions on Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and the Election Commission throughout the poll process, alleging that they wanted to stoke fire across the country if the results did not suit them. However, the EVMs silenced them by June 4 evening, he said in an apparent reference to the opposition's better-than-expected showing. Modi said the world will also be drawn towards appreciating the diversity and expansiveness of Indian democracy following these results. The prime minister projected the results as a nationwide popular endorsement (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Two days Swasthya Manthan-12 organised by the National Health Mission in Khanapara

Maternal and child deaths drop significantly in state: NHM, Assam

HT Bureau GUWAHATI, June 7: In a notable development, Assam has demonstrated substantial progress in its healthcare landscape, marked by a significant reduction in maternal and child mortality rates, claimed an official statement from National Health Mission, Assam. According to the statement, the state has shown remarkable improvement in key health indicators during the financial year 2023-24, signaling a positive trend in its healthcare sector. The latest data reveals that the number of maternal deaths in Assam during the fiscal year 2023-24 stands at 374, a notable decrease from the 510 reported deaths recorded in the preceding



fiscal year 2022-23. "The number of Child Death cases in during the financial year 2023-24 is reported as 4,793 against 6,721 number of deaths during the financial year 2022-23, showing a decline of 1,928 deaths (28.7%)," the official

statement said. Similarly, there has been a noteworthy decrease in child mortality rates, with the number of child deaths reported at 4,793 during the financial year 2023-24, compared to 6,721 deaths documented in the previous fiscal year. This marks a significant decline of 1,928 deaths, representing a notable decrease of 28.7%, the statement said. As per the statement, the National Health Mission, Assam organised Swasthya Manthan-12, a review cum orientation workshop on 6th to 7th June, 2024 at Assam Administrative Staff College Guwahati's Khanapara. Dr M S Lakshmi Priya, IAS, mission director - NHM, Assam, Dr (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Sensex, Nifty hit all-time closing high levels as RBI raises GDP growth projection

MUMBAI, June 7: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty climbed over 2 per cent to settle at record closing high levels on Friday after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) revised upwards the GDP growth projection to 7.2 per cent for 2024-25 from 7 per cent earlier.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 1,720.8 points, or 2.29 per cent, to hit a new record peak of 76,795.31 in day trade. The benchmark ended at 76,693.36, up 1,618.85 points, or 2.16 per cent.

The NSE Nifty climbed 498.8 points, or 2.18 per cent, to 23,320.20 during the day and is just 18.5 points from hitting its record high level. It settled with a jump of 468.75 points, or 2.05 per cent, at 23,290.15.

IT and interest rate-sensitive bank, realty, and auto stocks ended with sharp gains.

The RBI left its key interest rates unchanged on Friday as expected, keeping the focus on inflation amid robust economic growth that is likely to provide the new



Modi government headroom for manoeuvring reforms.

The Monetary Policy Committee, consisting of three RBI and an equal number of external members, kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.50 per cent for an eighth straight policy meeting and stuck to its relatively hawkish stance of "withdrawal of accommodation", Governor Shaktikanta Das said in his statement.

With the Indian economy, Asia's third-largest, growing faster than

expected in the previous year, the RBI raised its GDP growth projection for the current fiscal through March 2025 to 7.2 per cent from 7 per cent while maintaining its inflation forecast at 4.5 per cent.

"The anticipation of stability within the coalition government at the centre, coupled with the RBI's upward revision of its growth forecast for FY25 to 7.2 per cent, fuelled a broad-based rally in the domestic market. The Indian market surpassed its previous record

high set on exit-poll day and reached a fresh peak," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

All the 30 Sensex companies ended in the positive territory, with Mahindra & Mahindra, Wipro, Tech Mahindra, Bharti Airtel, Infosys and Tata Steel emerging as the biggest gainers.

In Asian markets, Seoul, and Shanghai settled with gains while Tokyo and Hong Kong ended lower.

European markets were trading lower. US markets ended on a mixed note on Thursday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.04 per cent to USD 79.95 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹ 6,867.72 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data.

Regaining the 75,000 level, the BSE benchmark jumped 692.27 points, or 0.93 per cent, to settle at 75,074.51 on Thursday. The Nifty climbed 201.05 points, or 0.89 per cent, to 22,821.40. (PTI)

Gargya Toyota launches Toyota's all-new Urban Cruiser Taisor



GUWAHATI, June 7: Gargya Toyota launched Toyota's all-new Urban Cruiser Taisor, a compact SUV, in a glittering event held on Friday at The Heritage Udesha premises at GS Road in Guwahati.

The car was officially launched by popular singer Richa Bhardwaj.

The launch event also kicked off a three-day fanfare with celebrities, music, live radio, podcast, activities and special offers to continue at Udesha and across all showrooms of Gargya Toyota in Assam and Meghalaya from 7th to 9th of June.

Urban Cruiser Taisor as a product marks Toyota's foray into the competitive mass A-SUV segment and also indicates Toyota's intention to garner a greater share of the Indian automobile market.

Speaking on the occasion Mr Rahul Dev Sharma, MD, Gargya Toyota mentioned their aggressive plans to reach closer to the customer and penetrate deeper into the rural and semi-rural market. Currently Gargya Toyota

has eight showrooms in Assam and Meghalaya, with many more in the pipeline in next six months. Mr Sharma expressed confidence that customers will respond positively to the new compact SUV product. Launched at a competitive starting price of Rs 7.73,500, the Taisor will definitely help Toyota's desire to penetrate deeper into the Indian market.

The All-New URBAN CRUISER TAISOR is available in 1.0L Turbo, 1.2L Petrol and E-CNG options. The 1.0L Turbo is available in 5 Speed Manual Transmission and 6 Speed Automatic Transmission, thus offering a versatile choice for customers who prioritize both power and performance. While the 1.2L Petrol comes in 5 Speed Manual Transmission and Intelligent Gear Shift (IGS), the 1.2L E-CNG is available in 5 Speed Manual Transmission. This new product is expected to provide the Japanese Manufacturer's edge of high fuel efficiency and low maintenance cost to customers combined with Gargya Toyota's excellence in after sales service.

Silver prices surge to ₹ 95,900; gold up ₹ 150

NEW DELHI, June 7: Silver prices continued to shine bright by rallying sharply ₹ 2,600 to ₹ 95,900 per kg in the national capital on Friday, while gold went up ₹ 150, in line with firm global trends.

According to HDFC Securities, rising for the second straight session, silver prices surged ₹ 2,600 to ₹ 95,900 per kg. It had closed at ₹ 93,300 per kg in the previous session. Meanwhile, gold prices climbed ₹ 150 to ₹ 73,650 per 10 grams. In the previous session, precious metal had settled at ₹ 73,500 per 10 grams.

"Spot gold prices (24 carats) in the Delhi markets are trading at ₹ 73,650 per 10 grams, up by ₹ 150, taking bullish cues from the overseas market," Saamil Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

In the overseas markets, spot gold at Comex was trading at USD 2,366 per ounce, up USD 6 from the previous close.

"Gold traded slightly positively on Friday, supported by a soft US dollar and weak US macro data."

"Following expectations that major central banks will cut borrowing costs to boost economic activity after the European Central Bank on Thursday confirmed in its meeting that it will cut interest rates this week which will further provide direction for the bullion prices," Gandhi said.

Silver also traded higher at USD 31.05 per ounce. It had finished at USD 30.30 per ounce on Thursday.

According to Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst of Commodity and Currency at LKP Securities, said, "Earlier in the week, lower nonfarm employment data supported gold, increasing expectations for a rate cut by the US Federal Reserve."

"However, significant data to be released on Friday, including nonfarm payroll and unemployment, will provide clearer indications for future trends. The likelihood of a rate cut in September will heavily influence gold's rally," Trivedi added. (PTI)

Unchanged policy rate by RBI on expected lines, likely to have stabilising effect in realty: Experts

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, June 7: The status quo maintained by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on policy rate at 6.5 per cent is on expected lines, while growth has been revised upwards to 7.2 per cent for the FY-25 from 7 per cent, on the other hand, inflation forecasts were kept unchanged, experts said on Friday.

Realtors said the decision to keep the repo rate unchanged in the latest monetary policy review is expected to have a stabilising effect on the real estate sector.

The Monetary Policy Committee, consisting of three RBI and an equal number of external members, kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.50 per cent for an eighth straight policy meeting and stuck to its relatively hawkish stance of "withdrawal of accommodation", Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das said in his statement.

The recent move of the European Central Bank to cut rates by 25 basis points and indications of an impending Fed Rate cut are also leading indicators of how the RBI may look towards its own interest rate regime, though domestic factors will still hold greater sway on the movement and timing of future rate cuts, said Samantak Das, Chief Economist and Head of Research and REIS, India, JLL.

"With controlled inflation paving the way for future rate cuts, 2024 holds the promise of heightened affordability levels within the residential real estate sector, second only to the peak levels of 2021. Anticipating an upsurge in demand, particularly in the mid-tier and high-income segments, the Indian housing market is set to witness skyrocketing growth with residential sales in India's top seven markets predicted to further show a bump of 15-20 per cent over the historic high of 2023," the official said.

Equirus Economist Anitha Ran-



gan said the apex bank in its second monetary policy for the current fiscal "maintained the policy rate at 6.5 per cent as expected and the growth has been revised upwards to 7.2 per cent while keeping inflation unchanged at 4.5 per cent for the full fiscal".

"Overall, the key reason for keeping the policy rate unchanged is the uncertainty on the outlook of domestic inflation led by the food basket," the economist said.

RBI said that while core inflation is encouraging, it is the food inflation which is playing the spoilsport, requiring vigilance, Rangan mentioned.

"In addition to that, the crude outlook remains uncertain. The growth revision only reiterates that RBI is willing to wait and watch before changing its stance on policy rates", Rangan said.

CRISIL Chief Economist Dharmakirti Joshi said that RBI has preferred to stay put by not altering the policy rate. "The RBI has to rein in consumer price-based (CPI) inflation to keep at its stated goal of around 4 per cent."

"Food inflation continues to be cause for worry. The RBI has kept its inflation forecast unchanged at 4.5 per cent. It also remains optimistic about growth, revising the GDP upwards by 20 basis points," Joshi said.

"We now see the RBI cutting rates starting October," he added. Real estate body CREDAI West Bengal president and Merlin Group chairman Sushil Mohita welcomed the RBI monetary policy announcement as the un-

changed repo rate implies that there will be no immediate effect on real estate or home loan EMIs.

"This will keep the residential real estate sector buoyant. Additionally, the RBI has kept its inflation forecast for this fiscal unchanged at 4.5 per cent and remains optimistic about growth. I hope that the repo rate may come down as growth in the US is robust," he said.

Moreover, a constant repo rate will support the commercial real estate sector by ensuring steady borrowing costs, increasing investor confidence, and allowing long-term investment planning, he said.

These factors will help create a favourable climate for development and sustainability in the commercial real estate market, he said.

"The better-than-expected growth has afforded the RBI leeway to keep the repo rate unchanged at 6.5 for the eighth consecutive time, indicating a prudent and measured approach towards ensuring that inflation aligns durably and sustainably to the target. This strategic move ensures a stable and predictable interest rate environment, a transformative factor for both homebuyers and developers," Das said.

Abheek Barua, chief economist, HDFC Bank adds, "The RBI remains in a wait and watch mode to assess domestic developments like the monsoon performance, food inflation, and the new fiscal strategy before moving on rates. We continue to see the possibility of a rate cut in Q4 2024."

Despite the governors' emphasis that monetary policy decisions are driven primarily by domestic considerations, we think that any rate cut action could end up being aligned with the timing of the Fed's rate cut cycle to limit financial market volatility, he said. (With inputs from PTI)

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Modi govt to take oath

in the last 10 years, so there will be such excitement. Some people reach out to you and say they have high contacts and will make you minister... We fall for it thinking this could be a way to become a minister," Modi said. He said now technology is such that people could also come out with a list of ministers with even his signatures on it. (PTI)

Flood situation improves

districts. The bulletin said a total crop area of 3,181 hectares was still inundated with flood waters. Embankments, roads, bridges and other infrastructure have been damaged in Cachar, Karimganj, Hojai, Kamrup and West Karbi Anglong, it added. (PTI)

Congress demands SC-monitored probe

"The question is how did the students get cheated, who did it and why was this result deliberately declared on June 4 amid the noise of election results, whereas it was to be declared on 14 June?" Ramesh asked.

He further said, "Several questions are being raised on the results of NEET - How did 67 toppers simultaneously get 720/720 marks? How did eight students from the same centre get 720/720 marks? Every question was worth four marks, then how did the numbers 718-719 come? 67 students getting 720 out of 720 marks in the results released after the NEET question paper was leaked raises serious suspicion."

The NTA issued a clarification after uproar over the results, he said and added that the affected students have termed this explanation "superficial" and "unreliable".

"In such a situation, it is very important to restore the faith of students in the purity of this examination, which is possible only through a fair and transparent investigation," Ramesh said.

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also slammed the Narendra Modi government over the alleged irregularities and called for a resolution of the students' "legitimate complaints" through an investigation.

In a post in Hindi on X, Gandhi said, "First the NEET exam paper was leaked and now the students allege that there has been a scam in its results as well. Serious questions are being raised on six students of the same centre getting 720 out of 720 marks and many kinds of irregularities are coming to the fore."

"Why is the government ignoring the voice of lakhs of students? Students want answers to legitimate questions related to the rigging in the NEET exam results," the Congress general secretary said.

Gandhi asked if it isn't the government's responsibility to resolve these "legitimate complaints" by conducting an investigation. Congress leader Randeep Surjewala on Thursday claimed there was a possibility of "huge irregularities" in the NEET-UG results and the government should ensure accountability. (PTI)

BJP fails to retain at least

Kumar by a margin of 19,157 votes. Kumari Selja of the Congress dislodged the BJP from Haryana's Sirsa (SC) seat previously held by Sunita Duggal. She defeated Ashok Tanwar of the BJP by a margin of 2.68 lakh votes. In Jharkhand, Nalin Soren of the JMM snatched the Dumka (ST) seat from the BJP by defeating Sita Murmu with a margin of 22,527 votes. In Khunti (ST), sitting MP Arjun Munda lost to Congress' Kali Charan Munda by a margin of over 1.49 lakh votes while in Lohardaga (ST) seat, Sukhdeo Bhagat of the grand old party defeated BJP's Samir Oraon. Telangana's ruling Congress has bagged the lion's share of reserved Lok Sabha constituencies in the state. Of the five reserved seats (three SC and two ST), the Congress won all the three SC and one ST reserved seats. The BJP emerged victorious in one ST-reserved constituency.

The Congress won Peddapalle (SC), Nagarkurnool (SC) Warangal (SC) and Mahabubabad (ST) constituencies, while BJP retained the Adilabad (ST) seat.

In Karnataka, the sitting MP of Gulbarga (SC) seat and BJP leader Umesh G Jadhav was defeated by the Congress' Radhakrishna. The grand old party also wrested Bellary (ST) and Chamarajanagar (SC) seats from the BJP in the southern state. In Maharashtra, the Congress dislodged the sitting BJP MPs in Nandurbar (ST), Gadchiroli-Chimur (ST), and Dindori (ST) seats. Sitting MP from Amravati (SC) seat and BJP candidate Navneet Ravi Rana was defeated by Balwant Baswant Wankhade of the main opposition party that also won Latur (SC) and Solapur (SC) seats held earlier by the BJP.

In Rajasthan, the Congress wrested Ganganagar (SC), Bharatpur (SC), Karauli-Dholpur (SC) and Dausa (ST) constituencies from the BJP, while the Banswara (ST) seat was won by the Bharat Adivasi Party.

Punjab's Hoshiarpur (SC) seat was picked by the AAP with Congress and BJP finishing in second and third positions, respectively. In the Daman and Diu (ST) constituency, the sitting BJP MP was defeated by an Independent. In Uttar Pradesh, Union minister Kishore lost his Mohanlalganj (SC) seat to the Samajwadi Party's R K Chaudhary. SP candidates also unseated sitting BJP MPs from Etawah (SC), Jalaun (SC) and Kaushambi (SC) seats, while the Congress wrested the Barabanki (SC) seat from the ruling party. (PTI)

Himanta is unhappy over Ajmal's

In the whole country, only Assam has increased the prices of fuel and diesel. We will protest against the anti-people decisions of the ruling dispensation," he said. The Congress leader also asserted that the Lok Sabha poll results have brought tension to the BJP's camp and the saffron party will be ousted from power in the next assembly elections.

Drugs worth ₹ 70 lakh

Bhanupada Chakraborty said that an Assam-bound vehicle coming from Agartala was searched at Churaibari check-gate, and 275 kg of ganja was found in it. However, the driver managed to escape and a manhunt has been launched to nab him, he added. Yaba tablets containing a mixture of methamphetamine and caffeine, also called 'crazy drug', have been banned in India. (PTI)

Balance regional aspirations, national

while ensuring holistic development for all strata of society," Naidu said. Naidu said Modi's rallies in Andhra Pradesh helped the TDP win 16 seats in the Lok Sabha elections.

"Today, India is having the right leader at the right time, that is Narendra Modi. This is a very good opportunity for India. If you miss now, you will miss forever. That is why we are having a wonderful opportunity today," Naidu said. Kumar expressed confidence that Modi will develop India in a big way and also pay attention to Bihar. "We are confident that Modi will develop India and we will wholeheartedly support him every passing day," Kumar said.

"All the pending works of Bihar will be done. It is a very good thing that all of us have come together and we will all work together with you... we will all work under your leadership," he said.

The Bihar chief minister slammed the opposition and expressed confidence that they will be defeated in the next Lok Sabha elections.

"I have noticed that a few people have won (Lok Sabha elections) here and there by saying useless things. They haven't done any work and never served the country. Next time when you win, they all will be defeated," Kumar said. Shinde said Shiv Sena and BJP were ideologically similar. "The Shiv Sena-BJP coalition forged under the leadership of Balasaheb Thackeray is a 'fevicol bond' which will not break," he said. (PTI)

'Part of diplomatic business': US on

Taiwan authorities' "political calculations". Addressing a media briefing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said China opposes "all forms of official interactions between the Taiwan authorities and countries having diplomatic relations with China. There is but one China in the world. Taiwan is an inalienable part of the territory of the People's Republic of China". (PTI)

NDA dispensation is strongest

of his government's agenda, moving to quell any sense of pessimism among his own party members after the BJP fell short of a majority. He cited people's increased support to the alliance in south India and Odisha, where the BJP is also set to form its maiden government, to laud its performance.

"The Congress has not got as many seats in three Lok Sabha polls since 2014 as we have got in these elections. It has not been able to touch even the 100 mark this time," he said.

"People know that we had not lost and have not lost," he said, adding that even a child would tell that it is the NDA that was in power before the polls and which is in power after the polls. "Where did we lose? The NDA was there yesterday, is there today and will be there tomorrow."

By every parameter, the world recognises that the results reflect the NDA's grand victory, he said. At the ceremony held in the Central Hall of the Parliament complex, it was NDA all the way in optics as well as substance as nine leaders of as many allies flanked Modi, besides three BJP leaders on the dais.

It was the NDA that Modi repeatedly mentioned while highlighting his government's policies and programmes, and how its different members, including the Telugu Desam Party's (TDP) N Chandrababu Naidu and JD(U)'s Nitish Kumar, have ushered in development in their respective states.

After Modi's election, leaders of different parties met President Droupadi Murmu to submit to her their letters of support to him. (PTI)

Maternal and child deaths drop

Umesh Phangcho, director of health services, Dr. Kareng Rongpipi, additional DHS, state programme officials and district health teams along with officials from partner organisations were present in the meeting.

The review cum workshop was held with participants from all the districts, led by the joint director of Health Services along with district programme management unit including district programme managers, district data managers, district accounts managers, district community mobilisers, district programme coordinators (NCD) and other concerned district officials.

The program commenced with MD-NHM presenting the gist of overall NHM performance for the financial year 2023-24, appreciating the best performing districts for their hard work and dedication, and encouraging all for ensuring better results in the coming years. Further a district wise review was held on the health performance of each district of all the NHM programmes along with discussion on the district record of proceeding (RoP) dissemination for the financial year 2024-26 was done and as accordingly discussions were held on how to improve the health status of the people in the state. In the meeting, district wise gaps identification and in accordance with that improvement strategies were presented and discussed in detail.

"It is expected to determine any further course correction that may be required by the districts and any hand-holding required to improve the health indicators," the statement added.

In the review meet, the best performers and best performing districts were awarded under various categories and also State Division teams and partner organisations were felicitated by Lakshmi Priya for their hard work and dedication towards improving the health system.

It may be noted that, this is the 12th Swasthya Manthan held under the initiative of Lakshmi Priya. The previous Swasthya Manthans from 1st to 11th were held on 08th June, 2022, 02nd August, 2022, 27th September, 2022, 31st October, 2022, 28th December 2022, 4th March 2023, 26th April 2023, 3rd June 2023, 29th September 2023, 29th November 2023 and 30th January 2024 respectively.

NAME CORRECTION

I, Rafiqul Islam of the below mentioned address do hereby affirm and declare that my actual and correct name is Rafiqul Islam. But my name has inadvertently been recorded in some of my school documents as Md Rafiqul Islam in place of Rafiqul Islam and my father's name as Shri Md Nurul Islam in place of Nurul Islam.

Sd/-

Rafiqul Islam
SO- Nurul Islam
RO- No. 5 Baruahar
PO- Chakarabasti
PS- Dalgaoon
Dist- Darrang (Assam)

LOST

I, Nikta Kumari lost my HS Registration Certificate No. 14988 year 2015-16 of Assam Higher Secondary Education Council on June 3, 2024 while going to Diphu Market. If anyone finds the lost documents kindly contact - 9365607782.

Name : Nikita Kumari
Father's Name :
Shadeo Ramdas
Address : Birla, Dilaji
3 miles, Diphu,
Karbi Anglong.

Guwahati Airport launches service for shipment of excess baggage

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, June 7: A special service aimed at safely dispatching passengers' excess baggage to any destination in the country was inaugurated on Friday at Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport.

This service allows passengers to pack and ship additional baggage that exceeds the airline's prescribed limit to any destination. Launched under the supervision of GIAL, this service enables passengers to carry excess baggage to different parts of the country at a minimum rate per kilogram and have it delivered as required. The service also facilitates the retrieval of lost items at the airport.

This initiative helps passengers save time and money, ensuring seamless travel. Passengers arriving at Guwahati Airport with excess baggage, not permissible by airlines, can now ship it directly to their home or any other destination from the airport.

The service was inaugurated by the chief airport officer, Utpal Barua, and commandant of CISF, Lalmoan Thakur, in the presence of many senior officials of the airport.

ACMS members and workers voice grievances over poor living conditions, unpaid dues & lack of essential supplies

Tea garden workers stage protest at Dehing Tea Estate



HT Correspondent
MARGHERITA, June 7: Assam Chah Mazdoor Sangha (ACMS) Margherita branch committee and tea garden workers on Friday organised an hour-long protest programme in front of the gate of Dehing Tea Estate Margherita under Tinsukia district. The workers of Dehing Tea Es-

tate Margherita and ACMS members shouted various slogans against the management due to the various burning problems they have been facing for many years.

Over the past few years, the management of Dehing Tea Estate has not repaired the quarters of workers, which are in deplorable condition, and the water supply has

been cut off for the workers in this scorching heat, said a tea garden worker.

Workers are angry that the water supply has been stopped in the name of saving diesel for the tractors which carry water tanks in the garden for the workers.

Even after two or more years of retirement, the workers of Dehing

Tea Estate have not received their PF and gratuity money.

The workers of Dehing Tea Estate have been deprived of essential items such as slippers, umbrellas, firewood, tarpaulins, and water supply.

The workers of Dehing Tea Estate have to perform their duties while fighting with poisonous snakes and reptiles due to the long bushes which have not been cut for many years.

Workers alleged that Dehing Tea Estate manager Mohammad Noorshad Alam has been running the Tea Estate by exploiting the workers in the name of work.

The workers of Dehing Tea Estate Margherita have given a deadline that if by June 12 their demands are not fulfilled, then another protest programme will be taken up at Dehing Tea Estate Margherita.

When attempting to reach the manager of Dehing Tea Estate Margherita, this correspondent found that he was unavailable.

Illicit paddy trade thrives in Kharupetia



HT Correspondent
MANGALDAL, June 7: The small town of Kharupetia, nestled in Darrang district, has unfortunately become a hub for illicit paddy trade. Exploiting the vulnerabilities of local farmers, unscrupulous individuals purchase their produce at significantly lower rates than the government-mandated minimum support price. These profiteers then swiftly transport truckloads of paddy to neighbouring West Bengal on a daily basis.

Reports suggest that a faction within the community disseminates false information among unsuspecting farmers, misleading them about the actual support price of paddy, which stands at ₹ 2183. By sowing seeds of doubt regarding timely payment from government purchasing agencies, these manipulators secure paddy at rates as low as ₹ 1650-1700 per quintal. This egregious margin of profit, roughly ₹ 400 per quintal, fuels the illegal trade as the paddy finds its way to various mills in West Bengal, transported under the alleged oversight of a

high-ranking official from the Food and Public Supply Department in Darrang district.

The clandestine operation sees a constant flow of trucks laden with paddy, departing from key locations within Kharupetia such as Nageshwar Chowk, Block Chowk, V Mart Chowk, and others, bound for destinations in West Bengal. It's purported that the intricate web of corruption is greased by the compliance of said official, facilitating the movement of paddy through multiple checkpoints with ease.

Under the guise of supporting farmers, the government has set minimum prices for agricultural commodities, including paddy, aiming to bolster their income. However, despite the efforts of legitimate government agencies to procure paddy at fair rates and promptly compensate farmers, a syndicate of black marketers tarnishes this system. Exploiting the farmers' trust, they siphon profits by purchasing paddy well below the mandated price, subsequently redirecting the produce to other states for significant gains.

Student injured in accident

HT Correspondent

DEMOW, June 7: A road accident occurred in Demow Maskara on NH-37 on Friday, resulting in serious injuries to a student. According to sources, after the dismissal bell of the school, Rahul Chaura, 6, a student from Madhupur, was crossing NH-37 when he was hit by a car. The car fled the scene after the accident, leaving the student seriously injured. Local residents immediately took Rahul Chaura to Demow Model Hospital. After providing primary treatment, the health official at Demow Model Hospital informed that Rahul was referred to Dibrugarh for better treatment.

Electrocution claims life of esteemed teacher

HT Correspondent

SIVASAGAR, June 7: In a tragic incident, Bitumoni Khanikar, a teacher at Samguri Neelakshi Memorial Academy, noted singer, and cultural activist, died of electrocution on Thursday noon when he tried to switch on a table fan in his Charingia Pukhuri residence. Family members rushed him to the Jaysagar Civil Hospital, but he was declared dead. Bitumoni, 35, was the only son of Bolen Khanikar and Rohini Khanikar. He was a meritorious student and a leading cultural worker in the area. His death has been mourned by Amguri MLA Pradip Hazarika, along with numerous institutions and organisations.

Laharighat unites to combat tobacco menace

HT Correspondent

MORIGAON, June 7: To create intensive awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco use, particularly among youth and rural communities, an awareness meeting was organised by the Social Justice and Empowerment Department, government of Assam. The event was supported by the Laharighat Child Development Project Office, Morigaon, and initiated by Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan. It was held at the auditorium hall of the Laharighat Block Development Office on Friday. The child development project officer, Jitu Deka, delivered the inaugural speech at the program. Speaking on the occasion, the CDPO asked the attending AWWs, AWHs, and students to cooperate with the district tobacco control cell, led by Dr Jayaprava Bodo, who has been conducting intensive awareness campaigns. He expressed hope that these efforts could soon turn the greater Laharighat block into a tobacco-free zone. Earlier, senior supervisors of the Laharighat CDPO office, Satya Deka, Manumai Kathar, Begum Faria Kamal, Namita Barman, Namita Saikia, and Bhagyashree Borkataki, felicitated the invited guests. A power-point presentation on tobacco consumption and its harmful effects was displayed by Dr Jayaprava Bodo, nodal officer, DTCC, Morigaon.

IIE launches capacity building programme for women entrepreneurs

Initiative aims to foster women's participation in tourism sector, enhance skills in hospitality management & promote local culture



HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, June 7: To encourage and promote the participation of women in Assam's tourism sector and promote women entrepreneurs, a '10-day Capacity Building Program' for the establishment of home stays owned and operated by women entrepreneurs of Assam was launched at the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE) on Friday in the august presence of Masanda Pertin, IAS, state mission director, ASRLM, Bhanu Prakash Verma, GM, SIDBI, H R Das, joint director, Assam Tourism, KC Baishya, deputy director Tea Board, Punita Bansal technical director KPMG, Dr Lalit Sharma, director, IIE, Prasanta Goswami, course director, IIE officials of IIE, and other distinguished guests.

Welcoming the women entrepreneurs, Dr

Lalit Sharma, director, Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE) said, "Home stays can play a very important role in promoting tourism and developing self-employment among women. Home stays would also promote local culture, indigenous products, ethnic food, and nearby scenic locations." The training would make the women take a more professional approach towards running and managing a home stay business, he said.

Masanda Pertin, IAS, state mission director, ASRLM encouraged all the women beneficiaries to promote their local home stay business through adapting innovative ideas like local resources, diversity in the food pattern in the upcoming days. She also stated that women entrepreneurs have significant potential in the home stay business, therefore encouraging

women to inherit their skills in hospitality and management will create a significant impact in the home stay sector.

Sponsored by Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) through the Cluster Intervention Scheme to promote tourism in Assam, the program offers a 10-day training (total duration of 80 hours) covering broad topics such as entrepreneurship, promoting home stay businesses, using online booking platforms like Airbnb and MakeMyTrip, social media marketing, managing home stays, client handling, financial literacy, and government schemes for home stay businesses. The Assam State Livelihoods Mission (ASLRM) supports this initiative by identifying and mobilising women entrepreneurs from different districts of Assam for the training program. The Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE) is the implementing agency of the program.

The home stay business in Assam holds promising prospects due to the region's rich cultural heritage and natural beauty. Recently, tourist mobility has significantly increased, directly accelerating the demand for hotels and home stays. Women entrepreneurs of Assam have significant potential in the home stay business. Operating a home stay allows them to leverage their inherent skills in hospitality and management. Women excel in creating warm, welcoming environments, essential for successful home stays. Their attention to detail and nurturing nature result in exceptional guest experiences, fostering repeat visits and positive word-of-mouth referrals.

Awareness meeting held on food safety measures in Kokrajhar

HT Correspondent
KOKRAJHAR, June 7: Along with the rest of the state, World Food Safety Day was observed on Thursday at the conference hall of the joint director of Health Services (DHS) in Kokrajhar. The event emphasised the importance of maintaining food safety to ensure public health and prevent foodborne diseases.

The meeting discussed elaborately on ensuring food safety measures and saw active participation from food business operators, ICDS supervisors, workers, health workers, senior citizens, and students from Kokrajhar Girls Higher Secondary School.

The event was graced by additional district commissioner (ADC) for Health, Kokrajhar, Kabita Deka; designated officer, Food Safety headquarters, Kokrajhar, Bilifang Brahma; food safety



officer, Gossaigaon, Jaiklong Narzary, Chakramani Brahma, coordinator of the National Children's Science Congress and Kokrajhar district coordinator, who shared insights on food safety measures.

Speakers highlighted various strategies and practices that can be implemented to enhance food safety standards in the region. The

initiative aimed to raise awareness and promote a culture of food safety among community members, ensuring safer food practices for all in the region.

"The day's observation has highlighted the positive aspects of food safety measures for maintaining good food practices and healthy health measures," said a student participant.

Sapekhati Block Congress mourns demise of Tarun Saikia

HT Correspondent

SIVASAGAR, June 7: Sapekhati Block Congress secretary and a leading citizen of the area, Tarun Saikia, 52, died of cardiac arrest on Thursday while being taken to a Sonari Hospital from his residence in Bhogbari. Utpal Gogoi, president of the Charaideo District Congress Committee, paid a floral tribute to the dedicated Congress worker and placed an INC flag on his body. Other Congress leaders, including Ananta Bora, Neepa Bhowmik, Rajiv Kalita, Mintu Bora, Tankeswar Lahan, Luhit Mohan, Nipen Konwar, and Bolu Gogoi, also paid glowing tributes to the departed Congress worker. He leaves behind his wife and a daughter.

Meeting addresses control measures for vector-borne diseases in Morigaon

HT Correspondent

JAGIROAD, June 7: An important meeting on Japanese Encephalitis, Malaria, Dengue, and other vector-borne diseases under the National Vector Disease Control Program was held at the District Commissioner's conference hall, Morigaon, on Friday. The meeting was attended by additional commissioner of Morigaon district, Dr Sangeeta Barthakur, and district Malaria officer, Supriya Das.

The district Malaria officer emphasised creating widespread awareness to prevent the outbreak of malaria. He stated that the health department has taken several steps to free Morigaon district from malaria and Japanese Encephalitis (JE). As a result, the prevalence of malaria in Morigaon district has decreased significantly. Three people have been infected with malaria so far this year; two of them are currently recovering, and another is undergoing treatment.

ATASU sets forth agitation plan



HT Correspondent

SIVASAGAR, June 7: The All Tai Ahom Students Union (ATASU), in its central executive committee meeting held here on Friday, resolved to resume their stir for the Tai Ahom community's inclusion in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution or Scheduled Tribe (ST) Status.

According to the president of the organisation, Basanta Gogoi, ATASU will launch the next phase of agitation with the 'Dispur Sholo' program on June 18, followed by a massive bike rally on June 21. On September 6, they call for the 'Delhi Sholo' program, which will be followed by mass agitation in Sivasagar on October 26, 2024. ATASU leaders threatened the BJP government with dire consequences if their demands are further neglected.

Gogoi further informed the media that Kumud Gogoi has been elevated to the post of executive president, while Tridib Konwar has been nominated as the vice president of the organisation.

The foundation day of the organisation will be held on July 14 & 15.

Workshop on vermicomposting and solid waste management in Biswanath Chariali

HT Correspondent

BISWANATH CHARIALI, June 7: The Eco-Club at Biswanath College organised a two-day workshop on 'Vermicomposting' and 'Solid Waste Management' from June 5 to 6. The workshop was catalysed by IQAC (Internal Quality Assurance Cell) and IIC, Biswanath College; sponsored by Assam Science Technology and Environment Council (ASTEC) and supported by the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Government of India, in view of Mission LiFE in Assam.

Nearly 150 students from nine different schools of Biswanath district, along with their teachers in-charge, and Biswanath College students attended the workshop. The first day focused on 'Vermicomposting' with Dr Pallab Kumar Sharma, chief scientist of Biswanath College of Agriculture (BNCA), serving as the resource person—an inspiration for many young generations. The workshop began at 10:00 am with an introductory speech by Dr Nilofar Sheikh, Coordinator of the Eco-Club, Biswanath College, presided over by Dr Chinta Mani Sharma, principal cum chairperson, Eco-Club, Biswanath College. Er Kobil Hazarika, president of the Governing Body, Biswanath College, graced the occasion as a special guest, along with other dignitaries.



The workshop consisted of two sessions. The first session included a speech by the resource person on the value of vermicomposting, while the second session provided hands-on training on setting up a vermicompost unit using the proper ratio of ingredients.

On the second day of the workshop, June 6, the topic shifted to 'Solid Waste Management', with Dr Raju Ojah, an associate professor in the department of Chemistry at Chaiduar College, serving as the resource person. The workshop commenced at 10 am and

also consisted of two sessions - a speech by the resource person and a hands-on training session. Following the hands-on training, students prepared DIY recycle models on the spot. To encourage students in managing solid wastes, three prizes were distributed by selecting the finest models from participating schools, focusing on the 5 R's (Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, and Recycle). Jnan Bharati School, Chariali Girls' HS School, and Biswanath Abhyasan Vidyapeeth won the first, second, and third prizes, respectively.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Success is not final; failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts — Winston Churchill

Rising dissent within BJP

The ongoing friction between Prime Minister-elect Narendra Modi and the Sangh Parivar shows no signs of abating, as senior BJP leaders Nitin Gadkari and Shivraj Singh Chouhan emerge as vocal critics. Modi's recent actions, including prostrating before Nitish Kumar and Chandrababu Naidu for their support, starkly contrast his previous claims of divine endorsement and unassailable political dominance. Modi's projection of himself as an incarnation of Lord Vishnu, supported by his assertions that he was sent by God and possesses supernatural energy, underscores a troubling quest for power. This imagery is a strategic effort to fortify his position, but his past actions, such as the controversial handling of the Gujarat riots and the exploitation of the Pulwama attack for electoral gain, reveal a darker side to his leadership. Modi's strategy for retaining power involves targeting high-profile opponents like the Nehru-Gandhi family, thus positioning himself as a challenger to Nehruvian hegemony. This approach has resonated with the electorate, enabling him to overshadow senior BJP and RSS leaders and consolidate his authority within the party. During his tenure, Modi has largely sidelined the RSS, refraining from visiting its Nagpur headquarters and diminishing the influence of senior RSS leaders in BJP affairs.

The recent sight of Modi seeking support from Nitish Kumar and Chandrababu Naidu is perceived by many as a calculated move rather than a genuine change of heart. Modi's reluctance to concede key positions like Speaker, Home, and Finance to his allies highlights his desire to maintain absolute control. This manoeuvring raises questions about his insistence on a third term as Prime Minister, with some suggesting it stems from an inferiority complex and a desire to match Jawaharlal Nehru's legacy of three consecutive terms. Modi's manipulation of the NDA meeting to secure his election as its leader, bypassing the customary process involving the newly elected MPs and the party's national body, further illustrates his determination to retain power. Senior BJP leaders, reportedly opposed to his continuance, had communicated their discontent to the RSS leadership, indicating internal resistance to Modi's leadership. Modi's loyalists argue that the international invitations for his swearing-in ceremony, sent to leaders like Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe, underscore his indispensability. However, RSS leaders dismiss this argument, viewing it as a manifestation of Modi's autocratic tendencies.

Recent meetings at Amit Shah's residence with RSS leaders failed to resolve these tensions, indicating deep-seated divisions. The RSS's displeasure with Modi's unilateral distribution of ministries and the composition of the Union Council of Ministers is evident. Senior RSS leaders, except Arun Kumar, boycotted the meeting, highlighting the discord between the BJP leadership and the Sangh. The continuing dissent within the BJP, despite Modi's election as the leader of the BJP Parliamentary Party and the NDA, points to ongoing challenges. How Modi and RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat navigate this turbulent political landscape will shape the future course of Indian politics. The resolution of these internal conflicts is crucial for the stability of the BJP and its ability to govern effectively. As the political drama unfolds, it is clear that Modi's quest for power is fraught with complexities. His relationship with the Sangh Parivar and senior BJP leaders will play a pivotal role in determining his political future and the broader trajectory of Indian democracy.

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

The monsoon, that grand annual spectacle of nature, has long captivated humanity's attention. Its study, however, did not arise from mere scientific curiosity but from practical, commercial concerns intertwined with the perilous voyages of seafarers. Indeed, mastering the winds that facilitated ocean crossings and understanding the storms that threatened sailors' lives were imperative. The genesis of meteorology, particularly in the context of the Indian subcontinent, finds its roots in the pragmatic needs of maritime navigation.

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

Henry Piddington's coining of the term "cyclone" in the 1840s and the establishment of the Indian meteorological service in 1875 underscored the escalating importance of weather forecasting, particularly in regions susceptible to cyclonic disturbances like the Bay of Bengal.

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

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

However, the 20th century

brought forth new challenges and paradoxes. Technological interventions, epitomized by ambitious dam projects, aimed to tame the monsoon's volatility, yet often resulted in unintended ecological and social consequences. The green revolution, facilitated by tube-well irrigation and high-yielding crop varieties, ushered in an era of agricultural abundance but also exacerbated regional disparities and ecological imbalances.

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

As climate change looms large on the horizon, the monsoon emerges as a critical bellwether of global ecological health. Anthropogenic influences, coupled with natural variability, pose existential threats to the delicate equilibrium of monsoonal systems. Amitav Ghosh's poignant reflections on the "unthinkable" consequences of climate change underscore the urgency of confronting these challenges.

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

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

Challenges and opportunities before Modi government

The results of the 18th Lok Sabha elections shown up with different scenarios, even if the Bharatiya Janata Party did not get the absolute majority, even if the India Alliance stood as a challenge, still Narendra Modi, becoming the Prime Minister of India for the third time, is moving ahead with more strength, determination and will to build a new and strong India than in the first two terms.

BJP may have suffered a loss in terms of seats, but it emerged as the largest party for the third consecutive time. The party has surprised everyone with its excellent performance in Odisha and Telangana. In Odisha, not only in the Lok Sabha, the party also broke the 24-year-old dominance of the Biju Janata Dal in the Assembly.

In the 60-member assembly elections of Arunachal Pradesh, BJP has succeeded in forming the government on the strength of 54 percent votes and a massive majority of 46 seats. At the same time, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh remain the strongholds of BJP, while Modi is still the biggest and dominant leader in the country's politics. He will continue to give the nation new wings of development with his surprising and unique decisions. BJP should review and ponder over the reasons for getting fewer seats and accept the reasons for its defeat with ease and generosity and should remove the mistakes that led to fewer seats.

The role of the Election Commission in conducting this election in a planned and effective manner was commendable. Even though the India Alliance had tarnished the country and democratic processes by questioning the impartiality of EVMs and the Election Commission, the elec-

tion results have not only shattered such misleading statements and myths, but have also restored the vibrant, pluralistic, secular and healthy democratic image of India.

The left-jihadi-communalist political group that blindly opposes Prime Minister Modi has left no stone unturned in its non-sense blabbering and anti-national conspiracy.

Despite this, the election results have been satisfactory in many ways for the constituent parties of the India Alliance. This election has become the harbinger of new life for the Congress. Anyway, for an ideal democracy, it is necessary to have a strong opposition; this is what gives beauty to democracy. Indian voters have given the message to the India Alliance to play the opposition role effectively.

This time the election results have also raised many questions in front of many political parties. The courts decide who will stay in jail. But Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had handed over the right to the voters to stay in or out of jail, the result of which was that AAP's account was not even opened in Delhi ruled by him, while his party failed to repeat the miracle of Assembly Elections-2022 in Punjab and won only 3 out of 13 seats.

Who is Sharad Pawar's political heir and whose is the real Shiv Sena? Are Maya and Mamta still powerful? This election started with many such questions. Some of these have been answered and some are still pending. The kinds of results that have come have also raised doubts whether economic reforms will continue in the country? Will the country continue to move on the

path of development? What will happen to policy stability?

Perhaps due to this doubt, there was a huge fall in the stock market. But these questions were answered to a large extent in the speech given by Narendra Modi at the first BJP headquarters and in the meeting with the alliance parties, due to which the stock market also gained momentum and enthusiasm was generated among the workers of BJP and the alliance parties.

The country is once again entering the era of coalition governments. Now it is a reality that in view of the current mandate, forming a coalition government has become a compulsion for the BJP. Certainly, there is a big difference between running a government with allies with an absolute majority and running a government with allies in minority. The question is being raised whether the BJP, which has taken big decisions in the interest of the country in two terms with an absolute majority, will be able to feel comfortable in ruling under the pressure of coalition partners? But there is no doubt that the government under the leadership of Modi will move forward with strength and will give shape to its resolutions and plans.

A coalition government is going to be formed for the first time at the central level in the country after 2009. In the past, Narasimha Rao and Atal Bihari Vajpayee have also run coalition governments efficiently and have also taken forward the reforms.

Mamohan Singh has also run a coalition government for ten years, but it cannot be ignored how he had to bow down to undue pressure from allies many times. Atal Bihari Vajpayee also

struggled with the challenges of a coalition government. But Modi's circumstances are different. He is a master of politics and Amit Shah is a player of political manipulation.

Considering this, it is believed that the BJP and the NDA government led by it will be able to do their work successfully. Not only the government, but the major issues of the BJP will also be implemented. Whenever the BJP faces situations of undue political pressure, the government will find a meaningful way out.

Anyway, the BJP is not far from the majority figure, so it is expected that it will be much easier for it to run the government with other allies including Telugu Desam Party, Janata Dal-U, Shiv Sena. Even after this, Prime Minister Modi will be running a coalition government for the first time.

Although he is aware of the ways of running such a government due to working under the coalition government led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee, running such a government will be a new experience for him. But he is aware of the efficient running of the activities of the organization while holding many posts in the BJP organization. Facing pressures from within the country and abroad, he has made India a power.

When the world is facing an economic crisis, India's economy is moving towards becoming the third economy of the world. His running of the coalition government will certainly give a new dimension to his leadership ability and political skill of taking everyone along. He has a political vision and skill to solve the country's problems amidst challenges.

Coalition governments have some positive aspects as well as

some negative aspects. The leader of coalition governments has to work in coordination with the constituent parties. The problem arises when the constituent parties start making unreasonable demands or try to bargain or start doing politics of pressure to fulfill their narrow interests. To deal with these situations, the Modi government is already making efforts to include other independent MPs and other political parties in its fold. The allies should worry about the political and economic interests of their states instead of unreasonable demands and pressure, but while doing so, they should not lose sight of national interests. They should also ensure that the coalition government runs smoothly.

Certainly, Modi government is facing challenging situations, just like 'Pandavas' faced complex situations in Mahabharata war. Today, there is appeasement instead of Drona, corruption instead of Kripacharya, terrorism instead of Ashwatthama, ambition and immorality instead of Duryodhan, internal and global conspiracy instead of Shakuni, all kinds of disruptive forces instead of nationalism - linguistic, regional, casteism, communalism, selfishness etc. and fundamentalism instead of Karma.

Along with this, there are extremely complex problems of inflation, unemployment, discontent etc. and now India is trapped in them. Still, the light in the form of Narendra Modi will become more powerful in his new innings and break all these "Chakravayuh" of India. Playing the most successful innings of his political life, he will once again show the negative and anti-national forces their place. (The author is a writer, journalist & columnist who can be reached at lalitgarg11@gmail.com)

Modi's ambitious assertions fail to measure up

By: Dipak Kurmi

As I draft this piece, television screens flash with breaking news: the BJP, under Narendra Modi's leadership, has surpassed the halfway mark in the Lok Sabha's 543 seats. However, it finds itself engaged in a tight contest with a resurgent Congress, striving to secure a comfortable lead.

While Modi is poised to form a government with a simple majority, reliant on the support of BJP's allied parties within the NDA, it's evident that his ambitious projections of 400+ seats for the NDA and 370+ for the BJP have fallen short.

The outcome of the 2024 Lok Sabha election resembles a political upheaval—a seismic shift. The BJP, aiming for a decisive victory in Uttar Pradesh, finds itself thwarted. Likewise, its aspirations in Maharashtra have been dashed. These results underscore a stark reality: voters in Maharashtra and UP have reacted adversely to the BJP's decision to align with the breakaway factions of the NCP and the RLD, led by Jayanth Choudhry.

In this context, the BJP appears to have overlooked historical lessons, particularly the episode where Choudhry Charan Singh thwarted the Morarji Desai-led Janata Party Government in his pursuit of the Prime Ministership. Ajit Singh,

Choudhry Saheb's son, similarly betrayed V P Singh, Chandrasekhar, and A B Vajpayee.

The BJP's choice to form an alliance with the RLD at this critical juncture puzzles many observers. Equally perplexing is their decision to embrace figures like Ajit Pawar and Praful Patel, whom they had previously denounced as symbols of corruption. The fervent ambition of a Maharashtra-based leader to seize the Prime Minister's seat is now viewed as a misstep by hastily appointing Ajit Pawar as Chief Minister immediately following the last assembly election, only to witness his abrupt resignation in a humiliating manner.

Typically, politicians heed the lessons of past setbacks, striving to avoid repeating their mistakes. However, the Prime Minister's recent actions have eroded whatever goodwill he once held with the electorate. Merely championing causes like the Ram Temple is no longer sufficient to appease the public's concerns.

Voters had set a high standard for Narendra Modi, valuing his integrity, honesty, and patriotism. Yet, the moment political opportunists like Satyapal Mallik were embraced by the BJP and rewarded with significant positions, such as the gov-

ernorship of Kashmir, the party's fortunes took a sharp downturn.

The BJP's alliance with the family-controlled JD(S) in Karnataka backfired. Upon assuming leadership of the NDA after the impressive 2014 victory, Modi pledged to present a progress report to constituents at the end of his five-year term. The electorate gave him top marks, propelling the BJP to an absolute majority in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, a rare achievement in India's recent electoral history.

Modi's tenure from 2019 to 2024 surpassed expectations, overcoming challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic and relentless opposition attacks. His government was hailed for its integrity and effectiveness, delivering on promises like a corruption-free administration.

However, the indiscriminate forging of alliances with various opportunistic players who praised Modi's name proved detrimental. This misstep, more than anything the Congress or other opposition parties could muster tarnished the BJP's image. Despite this, Modi's administration achieved notable successes, including constructing over 11 crore toilets, providing nearly five crore sturdy houses for the impoverished, extending healthcare through the Ayushman Bharat program to over 50 crore beneficiaries, and facilitat-

ing access to credit for artisans and small-to-medium entrepreneurs through the Mudra Loan scheme, all significantly impacting the lives of ordinary citizens. During his media interactions, the Prime Minister highlighted that six crore individuals found employment in the organized sector, a claim dismissed by the opposition as mere rhetoric. However, they remained silent when he presented data showing a 400 percent increase in the Employees Provident Fund, suggesting his assertions were grounded in reality. Drawing parallels, the revitalization of the US economy under President Eisenhower, marked by the construction of the Interstate Highway System, echoes Modi's infrastructure initiatives in India.

Yet, the BJP's comfortable majority was jeopardized by one individual's power-hungry ambitions. The key lesson for the Opposition is to recognize that the populace values leaders who treat them as equals, not beggars. Moreover, it's time for them to move beyond merely opposing Modi and focus on constructive policies. As winners and losers reflect on the outcome, they might heed the words of Winston Churchill: "In War: Resolution. In Defeat: Defiance. In Victory: Magnanimity. In Peace: Goodwill." (The writer can be reached at dipakkurmigpltd@gmail.com)

2024 Lok Sabha election verdict: One step forward but fight to go on

By: P. Sudhir

The verdict of the 2024 Lok Sabha election is remarkable for the assertion by the people that they value democracy and the constitution. The people have deprived the BJP of an absolute majority, something which it had achieved both in 2014 and 2019. The BJP's tally has come down from 303 seats to 240 seats – a 21 per cent reduction. NDA has won 292 seats while the INDIA bloc has got 234 seats.

The elections were held in the background of the ten years of Modi rule whose hallmark was the institution of an authoritarian regime which promoted the Hindutva-communal agenda. Every aspect of the constitutional set-up was under siege leading to the capture of State institutions. This was reflected in the run-up to the elections, which saw concerted attacks on the opposition – leaders were targeted by central agencies, two chief ministers were jailed and the finances of political parties like the Congress and the CPI(M) were subject to appropriation.

The election campaign was conducted with no level-playing field for the opposition. The Election Commission's role was deplorable in this regard. Having packed the Election Commission with pliant commissioners, the commission proved spineless in curbing and punishing gross violations of the model code of conduct. The vi-

cious Muslim baiting in the speeches of Prime Minister Narendra Modi went unchecked.

By not being transparent about the collation of polling data, the EC raised unnecessary suspicions and speculations, which hurt the credibility of this vital constitutional body.

The BJP monopolised the space in the corporate media and put in huge resources into the social media. It spent thousands of crores of rupees in the campaign, including distribution of money amidst voters.

Throughout the campaign, Modi and his cohorts adopted an intimidating and bullying approach to the INDIA bloc of parties. It is in such adverse circumstances that the INDIA bloc conducted their election campaign.

As against the rabid communal rhetoric of Modi, the opposition countered by focusing on unemployment and jobs, price rise and inflation, agrarian distress and the threats to democracy and the constitution posed by the Hindutva forces. For the first time, the need to protect the constitution found resonance amongst large sections of the people, particularly the dalits.

At the heart of the BJP's loss of majority lies the setback it suffered in Uttar Pradesh. Out of the 80 seats, the BJP could win only 33 as compared to 62 in the previous election. Uttar Pradesh is the heartland of Hindutva politics and the Ram temple at Ayodhya symbolizes the Hindu supremacist agenda. Yet, despite

this, the BJP vote declined by 9 per cent.

The cumulative problem of joblessness, price rise, farmers' discontent and youth anger against the Agniveer scheme and leakage of test papers got the better of communal polarisation, aided by some deft caste-coalition building by the Samajwadi Party. The defeat of the sitting BJP MP of Faizabad constituency, where Ayodhya is situated, brought out this voter alienation in stark terms.

The flood of exit polls, which came out in the evening after the seventh and last phase of polling projected a big win for the NDA as the average of all the polls gave it a tally of 367. The exit polls were weaponised to demoralise the opposition and prop up the hegemony of the ruling party. A base motive was to make a killing in the stock market by the media-corporate nexus that saw investor wealth in Mumbai Stock Exchange shoot up by Rs 14 lakh crores.

The elections also saw the decisive defeat of the Biju Janata Dal in Odisha and the YSRCP in Andhra Pradesh, where both parliament and assembly elections were held together. They lost the state governments apart from the Lok Sabha polls. The BJP has triumphed in Odisha, sweeping 20 of the 21 Lok Sabha seats and winning a majority in the assembly.

These two states hold a lesson for regional parties – those who choose to collaborate or support the Modi government. The BJP

will defang and devour you, if you consort with it. Only the regional parties, which have strongly opposed the BJP, whether it be the DMK, Samajwadi Party or RJD, have survived and emerged stronger.

Eventually the verdict is a downsizing of the larger than life image of Narendra Modi, which has been sedulously cultivated by himself and the BJP. If the BJP has taken a hard knock, it is solely due to Modi. The election was all about Modi with the BJP as a party being inconspicuous. Even the election manifesto of the BJP was called Modi ki Guarantee. The aura of invincibility built around Modi has been badly dented.

The formation of a NDA coalition government will, hopefully, check the impunity with which Modi and Amit Shah have been operating. The NDA is far from having a two-thirds majority. This, in itself, will put paid to some of the harmful projects which were in the offing, such as the One Nation, One Election system.

Amit Shah had promised that simultaneous elections would be brought into being immediately in the third term of the Modi government. With a number of constitutional amendments required, this now seems out of reach.

However, there is need for constant vigilance. The authoritarian-Hindutva instincts are imbedded in the genes of the BJP-RSS combine and as such, they will be constantly looking

for ways to push their agenda forward covertly, if not directly.

Here is where the role of a united opposition would come into play both within and, more importantly, outside parliament. The INDIA bloc of parties need to ensure better coordination and working through a common platform.

The experience of the few months of the INDIA bloc shows the efficacy of not having a rigid alliance but a broad platform, which accommodates the diversity and overlapping of political programmes and policies. The binding principles should be the commitment to democracy, secularism and federalism. The struggle against the authoritarian-communal danger is far from over.

For the CPI(M) and the Left parties, while sharing the success attained by the INDIA bloc, their electoral performance must be critically reviewed. There has been a slight improvement in the electoral tally of the Left parties. They have won eight seats compared to five last time – CPI(M) 4, CPI 2 and CPI(ML) 2. The results in Kerala have been disappointing for the CPI(M) and the LDF, where they were expected to win more seats. There has to be a self-critical examination to ascertain the reasons and identify the shortcomings. A strengthened Left is of utmost importance in the coming days, when the struggle against the Hindutva-corporate nexus is bound to intensify. (IPA Service)

EV Industry & career options

By: Kaustov Kashyap

As the world increasingly prioritizes sustainability, the Indian electric vehicle (EV) sector emerges as a promising field for career advancement. Understanding the sought-after roles, necessary skills, recommended courses, and other relevant details is crucial to future-proofing careers in this industry.

Electric vehicles have gained significant attention, with the EV sector experiencing rapid growth and offering lucrative career prospects. This article aims to explore some of the well-paying career opportunities within the EV industry. The Indian government has launched a program called FAME, aimed at subsidizing the purchase of nearly 1 million electric bikes, 7,000 electric buses, and 55,000 electric vehicles over a span of three years.

History of EV Industry

Electric vehicles, including electric cars, hydrogen fuel cell

cars, and hybrid electric vehicles, were once considered impractical. Critics argued that they would not have enough power to travel long distances, making them unsuitable for journeys. However, through extensive research and development, battery electric vehicles have become a reality.

These zero-emission vehicles first emerged in the 19th century, with Scooter's India Pvt Ltd. pioneering the invention of the first electric vehicle, a three-wheeler. Today, companies like Tesla, Mercedes-Benz, Audi, Hyundai, Mahindra, Chevrolet, BMW, and Renault are actively producing electric automobiles, marking a significant shift towards sustainable transportation.

Career Options in EV Industry

Smart Technologies

Automakers are increasingly harnessing smart technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, embedded systems, and the Internet of



Things (IoT) to analyze data and ensure quality control at every stage of electric vehicle (EV) production. Moreover, research has shown that AI and ML can optimize EV charging speeds, expanding their application in the industry. This creates numerous opportunities for computer engineers, software developers, embedded system specialists, and data analysts.

Cybersecurity

Electric vehicles rely on various sensors that are vulnerable to cyber threats. Furthermore, there have been incidents where attackers compromised charging

stations to access sensitive customer data. To mitigate such risks, EV manufacturers depend on cybersecurity professionals.

Research & Development

In the electric vehicle (EV) industry, a dedicated research and development (R&D) team is essential to stay abreast of the latest global trends in technology and ideas. Their focus is on enhancing battery charging, recharge technology, as well as sourcing fuel and materials.

The R&D team is responsible for investigating and testing EV technology. Typically, chemists and material scientists assess

battery life and performance, while also exploring new materials to improve EV components. These efforts aim to develop faster recharging technologies to surpass conventional vehicles.

Electrical Engineering

In the electric vehicle (EV) sector, a core competency is electrical engineering. Proficiency in electricity principles, circuits, and power electronics is indispensable for designing and managing EV systems. Students can pursue degrees in electrical engineering or related fields to establish a solid groundwork.

Battery Technology

EVs heavily rely on advanced battery technology. Students can specialize in battery chemistry, energy storage, and battery management systems to enhance battery efficiency, safety, and longevity. Developing expertise in this domain is vital for driving innovation in EV batteries.

Environmental Engineer

The role of an environmental engineer involves assessing the

environmental impact of electric vehicles and devising strategies to reduce their carbon footprint. They also ensure compliance with pollution and emission regulations.

Sales and Marketing Manager

Sales and marketing managers oversee market research, product positioning, and advertising campaigns for electric vehicle sales and marketing initiatives. Project Manager Project managers are responsible for overseeing the development and production of electric vehicles from conception to launch. They manage finances, schedules, and resources to ensure projects are completed on time and within budget constraints.

Automotive Engineering

A background in automotive engineering can provide an edge for those interested in the EV industry. It encompasses understanding vehicle design, manufacturing techniques, and safety standards. Specialized

courses or degrees in automotive engineering are available to cater to this interest.

Design and Development

The design and development sector encompasses individuals involved in the entire vehicle modelling process, from initial concepts to final product development. This includes engineers, software developers, industrial designers, technicians, and drafters. Their objective is to devise cost-effective solutions that enhance vehicle affordability. The team endeavours to create vehicles accessible to individuals across various socioeconomic backgrounds. Professionals in chemical, electrical, electronic, mechanical, and industrial engineering, as well as software development and design, are in high demand for roles in this sector within the EV industry. *(The author is an HR & Career Consultant based in Jorhat, Assam. He can be reached at 9957663224 or pragati-group08@gmail.com)*

Bodoland University Kokrajhar Recruitment – 2 Scientist & Research Assistant Posts

Last Date: 11/06/2024

Bodoland University, Kokrajhar has released an employment notification for the recruitment of 2 Scientist & Research Assistant Posts in Bodoland University, Kokrajhar for Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) sponsored National Task Force Project entitled "Sickle cell disease-related stigma, economic loss and quality of life among tribal population of India-Udalguri district, Assam" under Prof (Dr.) Jatin Sarmah, Department of Biotechnology. Interested and eligible candidates may apply.

1. Scientist-C (Non-Medical)

No. of posts: 1

Qualification & Experience:

1st Class Master's Degree in Anthropology/Psychology from a recognized University with 4 years research experience OR 2nd class Master's Degree + Ph.D. degree (in Anthropology/Psychology) from a recognized University.

Desirable: Experience in (i) health systems research on sickle cell/haemoglobinopathies in tribal areas, (ii) handling big data sets with working experience in SPSS, (iii) experience of handling qualitative data, (iv) scientific writing with evidence of publications in peer reviewed journals, (v) communication skill in local languages.

Age Limit: Below 40 Years

Salary: ₹ 51,000 pm + HRA on Basic Salary

2. Research Assistant

No. of posts: 1

Qualification & Experience: Post-Graduate (in Anthropology/Psychology/Zoology) from a recognized University

Desirable: Prior research experience from a recognized institution in (i) haemoglobinopathies related research in tribal areas, (ii) working experiences in SPSS, (iii) experience of qualitative research, (v) communication skills in local languages.

Age Limit: Below 30 Years

Salary: ₹ 31,000 pm

How to Apply Bodoland University Recruitment?

Interested and suitable candidates may send their application in plain paper, CV with communication details, mark sheets, publications (if any) and all certificates from HSLC onwards along with the name and details of one academic referee to Prof (Dr.) Jatin Sarmah, Department of Biotechnology, Bodoland University, Kokrajhar-783370, Assam (Contact No-9707175220) via email at jatinsarmahindia@gmail.com on or before 11th June, 2024.

Tezpur University Faculty Recruitment 2024 – 40 Faculty Posts

Last Date: 15/06/2024

Tezpur University has released an employment notification for the recruitment 40 Faculty Vacancy in various departments/ Centres. Interested and eligible candidates may apply online.

1. Professor

No. of posts: 22 posts

Subject-wise vacancy:

- # Civil Engineering: 1
- # Computer Science & Engineering: 4
- # Electrical Engineering: 1
- # Electronics & Communication Engineering: 1
- # Food Engineering & Technology: 1
- # Applied Sciences (Physics): 1
- # Physics: 1
- # Chemical Sciences: 1
- # Molecular Biology & Biotechnology: 1
- # Cultural Studies: 1
- # Social Work: 1
- # Education: 1
- # Law: 1
- # Commerce: 1
- # Assamese: 1
- # Foreign Languages: 1
- # Design: 1
- # English: 1
- # Linguistics & Language Technology: 1

2. Associate Professor

No. of posts: 13 posts

Subject-wise vacancy:

- # Computer Science & Engineering: 1
- # Electrical Engineering: 1
- # Molecular Biology & Biotechnology: 1
- # Education: 1
- # Business Administration: 2
- # Foreign Languages: 2
- # Design: 2
- # Commerce: 1
- # Mass Communication & Journalism: 2

3. Assistant Professor

No. of posts: 5 posts

Subject-wise vacancy:

- # Mechanical Engineering: 1
- # Chemical Sciences: 1
- # Education: 1
- # Food Engineering & Technology: 1
- # Mass Communication & Journalism: 1

Eligibility Criteria of Tezpur University Faculty Recruitment

Educational Qualification: For more details about Educational Qualification, candidates are requested to check official advertisement.

Advertisement NO.: 04 / 2024

Application Fee:

Others: ₹ 1,000 (Rs. One thousand only)

SC/ ST/ PWD: Nil

Mode of payment: Through Payment Gateway (as provided in the CU-Chayan Portal)

Important Dates of Tezpur University Faculty Vacancy 2024

Starting date for submission of application: 22nd March 2024

Last date for submission of application: 15th June 2024

Last date for submission of duly signed hard copy of the online application: 25th June 2024

Morigaon Judiciary Recruitment – 2 Office Assistant & Peon Posts

Last Date: 15/06/2024

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Morigaon has released an employment notification for the recruitment of 2 Office Assistant and Peon posts for Contractual engagement in the office of the LADCS under the establishment of District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Morigaon as per NALSA Legal Aid Defense Counsel Modified Scheme, 2022. Interested and eligible candidates may apply.

1. Office Assistant

No. of posts: 01

Remuneration: ₹ 15,000 per month

Educational Qualification:

Candidate must be Graduate in any discipline

Minimum Six months diploma certificate in computer application with proficiency in MS Office, Internet & Email.

2. Peon

No. of posts: 01

Remuneration: Rs. 10,000 per month

Educational Qualification: Minimum VIII standard pass. A candidate who has passed HSSLC or above shall be ineligible to apply for the post.

Age Limit: Candidates must not be less than 18 years and more than 40 years of age as on 01-01-2024, however, age relaxation for candidates belonging to SC/SI/OBC and specially abled persons will be as per Govt norms.

Other Criteria of Morigaon Judiciary Recruitment

Citizenship: Candidates must be Indian citizen as defined in the article 5 to B of the Constitution of India.

Employment Exchange Certificate: The candidate must have registered his/her name in the Employment Exchange and the Registration Number

How to Apply for Morigaon Recruitment ?

Interested and eligible candidates need to apply in Standard Form along with self-attested photocopies of relevant documents.

Candidates have to mention their Contact Number at the bottom of the Application Form. Incomplete Applications and Applications received after last date will be summarily rejected.

The last date of submission of application form is 15.06.2024 (Saturday).

The envelope containing the application form should be super scribed the name of the post, eg. "APPLICATION FOR THE POST OF OFFICE ASSISTANT" or "APPLICATION FOR THE POST OF PEON" and the same should be addressed to "THE SECRETARY, DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY, JUDICIAL COURT, MORIGAON, ASSAM, PIN-782105".

Important Dates of Morigaon Judiciary Recruitment 2024

Starting date of application submission: 1st June 2024

Last date of application submission: 15th June 2024

AIIMS Guwahati Recruitment 2024 – 79 Faculty Posts, Online Apply

Last Date: 17/06/2024

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Guwahati has released an advertisement for the recruitment of 79 Professor, Additional Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor posts in the various departments in All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Guwahati (Assam). Interested and eligible candidates may apply online.

1. Professor

No. of posts: 19

Educational Qualification:

Essential for Medical Candidates

1. A medical Qualification included in the I or II schedule or part II of the third schedule to the Indian Medical Council Act of 1956 (Persons possessing qualifications included in part II of third schedule should also fulfil the conditions specified in section 13(3) of the Act.)

2. A postgraduate qualification e.g. MD/MS or a recognized qualification equivalent thereto in the respective discipline/subject.

AND/OR

3. M.Ch. for surgical super specialities and D.M. for Medical super specialities (2 years or 3 years or 5 years recognized course) or qualification recognized equivalent thereto.

Experience:

Fourteen years teaching and/or research experience in recognized Institution in the subject of speciality after obtaining the qualifying degree of M.D./M.S. or qualification recognized equivalent thereto.

OR

Twelve years teaching and/or research experience in recognized Institute in the subject of speciality after obtaining the Degree of M.Ch./D.M. (2 years or 5 years course recognized after MBBS) in the respective discipline/subject or a qualification recognized equivalent thereto.

OR

Eleven years teaching and/or research experience in recognized Institution in the subject of speciality for the candidates possessing 3 years recognized Degree of D.M./M.Ch. in the respective discipline/subject or a qualification recognized equivalent thereto.

Essential for Non-Medical Candidates:

1. Postgraduate qualification e.g. Master degree in the discipline/allied subject.

2. A Doctorate degree of a recognized University in concerned discipline.

Experience:

Fourteen years teaching and/or research experience in the discipline/subject concerned after obtaining the Doctorate degree.

2. Additional Professor

No. of posts: 19

Educational Qualification:

Essential for Medical Candidates:

1 to 2 same as for Professor (Medical)

Experience:

Ten years teaching and/or research experience in recognized Institution in the subject of speciality after obtaining the qualifying degree of M.D. /M.S. or qualification recognized equivalent thereto.

Essential for super speciality disciplines:

1) Same as Professor (Medical)

2) D.M. in the respective discipline/subject for medical super specialities and M.Ch. in the respective discipline/subject for surgical super specialities (2 years or 3 years or 5 years recognized course) or a qualification recognized equivalent thereto.

Experience:

Eight years teaching and/or research experience in a recognized Institution in the subject of speciality after obtaining the qualifying degree of D.M./M.Ch. (2 years or 5 years recognized course after MBBS) in the respective discipline/subject or a qualification recognized equivalent thereto.

OR

Seven years teaching and/or research experience in a recognized Institution in the subject of speciality for the candidates possessing 3 years recognized degree of D.M. /M.Ch. in the respective discipline/subject or a qualification recognized equivalent thereto.

Essential for Non-Medical Candidates:

1 & 2 are same as for Professor (Non – Medical)

Experience:

Ten years teaching and/or research experience in the discipline/subject concerned after obtaining the Doctorate degree.

3. Associate Professor

No. of posts: 19

Educational Qualification:

Essential for Medical Candidates (for General Discipline):

1 to 2 same as for Professor (Medical).

Experience:

Six years teaching and/or research experience in recognized Institution in the subject of speciality after obtaining the qualifying degree of M.D. /M.S. or a qualification recognized equivalent thereto.

Essential for super speciality disciplines:

1. Same as Professor (Medical)

2. D.M. in the respective discipline/subject for medical super specialities and M.Ch. in the respective discipline/subject for surgical super specialities (2 years or 3 years or 5 years recognized course) or a qualification recognized equivalent thereto.

Experience:

Four years teaching and/or research experience in a recognized Institution in the subject of speciality after obtaining the qualifying degree of D.M./M.Ch. (2 years or 5 years recognized course after MBBS) in the respective discipline/subject or a qualification recognized equivalent thereto.

OR

Three years teaching and/or research experience in a recognized Institution in the subject of speciality for the candidates possessing 3 years recognized degree of D.M. /M.Ch. in the respective discipline/subject or a qualification recognized equivalent thereto.

Essential for Non-Medical Candidates:

1 & 2 are same as for Professor (Non – Medical).

Experience:

Six years teaching and/or research experience in the discipline/subject concerned after obtaining the doctorate degree.

4. Assistant Professor

No. of posts: 22

Educational Qualification:

Essential for Medical Candidates (For General Disciplines):

1 to 2 same as for Professor (Medical).

Experience: Three years teaching and/or research experience in recognized Institution in the subject of speciality after obtaining the qualifying degree of M.D. /M.S. or qualification recognized equivalent thereto.

Essential for super speciality disciplines:

1. Same as Professor (Medical)

2. D.M. in the respective discipline/subject for medical super specialities and M.Ch. in the respective discipline/subject for surgical super specialities (2 years or 3 years or 5 years recognized course) or a qualification recognized equivalent thereto.

Experience:

One years teaching and/or research experience in a recognized Institution in the subject of speciality after obtaining the qualifying degree of D.M./M.Ch. (2 years or 5 years recognized course after MBBS) or qualification recognized equivalent thereto. However, no experience is necessary for the candidates possessing the 3 years recognised degree of D.M./M.Ch. or qualification recognised equivalent thereto.

Essential for Non-Medical Candidates:

1 & 2 are same as for Professor (Non – Medical).

Experience:

Three years teaching and/or research experience in the discipline/subject concerned after obtaining the Doctorate degree.

Other Criteria of AIIMS Guwahati Recruitment

Maximum Age Limit:

Professor/ Additional Professor: Not exceeding 58 (Fifty-Eight) years as on the last date of the online application.

Associate Professor/ Assistant Professor: Not exceeding 50 (Fifty) years as on the last date of the online application .

Age Relaxation: Permissible relaxations in upper age limit for different categories are as under:

SC/ ST: 5 years

OBC: 3 years

PwBD: 10 years

Application Fee:

Candidates have to pay a certain amount as application fee depending up on their category. The details are as given below:

Category	Fee
UR/OBC/EWS	₹ 1500
SC/ST/PwBD/ Women	₹ 100

Important Dates of AIIMS Guwahati Faculty Vacancy

Starting date to apply online: 8th March 2024

Last date to apply online: 17th June 2024 (11:59 PM)

The US will send about \$225 million in military aid to Ukraine

Biden apologizes to Ukraine's Zelenskyy for monthslong holdup to weapons that let Russia make gains

PARIS, June 7: U.S. President Joe Biden on Friday for the first time publicly apologized to Ukraine for a monthslong holdup in American military assistance that let Russia make gains on the battlefield, as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy appealed for bipartisan U.S. support "like it was during World War II."

Speaking in Paris a day after they attended 80th anniversary events of D-Day in Normandy, Biden apologized to the Ukrainian people for the weeks of not knowing if more assistance would come while conservative Republicans in Congress held up a \$61 billion military aid package for Ukraine for six months.

Still, the Democratic president insisted that the American people were standing by Ukraine for the long haul. "We're still in. Completely. Thoroughly," he said.

Zelenskyy pressed for all Americans to support his country's defense against Russia's invasion, and he thanked lawmakers for even-

tually coming together to approve the weapons package, which has allowed Ukraine to stem Russian advances in recent weeks.

"It's very important that in this unity, United States of America, all American people stay with Ukraine like it was during World War II," Zelenskyy said. "How the United States helped to save human lives, to save Europe. And we count on your continuing support in standing with us shoulder to shoulder."

The United States is by far Kyiv's biggest supplier of wartime support, and Ukraine is trying to fend off an intense Russian offensive in eastern areas of the country. The push is focused on the Ukrainian border regions of Kharkiv and Donetsk, but Ukrainian officials say it could spread as Russia's bigger army seeks to make its advantage tell.

The offensive is seeking to exploit Kyiv's shortages of ammunition and troops along the roughly 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) front



line. That shortfall in weaponry came after U.S. military aid was held up in Congress for six months before Biden in April signed the \$61 billion package into law.

The slow pace of delivery of pledged Western weaponry has long frustrated Zelenskyy, as has Biden's hesitation over supplying more hardware for fear of provoking Russian President Vladimir Putin. That has caused tension in their relationship.

The U.S. will send about \$225 million in military aid to Ukraine, U.S. officials said on Thursday. The latest package includes munitions

for the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, or HIMARS, as well as mortar systems and an array of artillery rounds, officials said.

Easing their stance amid Russia's most recent onslaught and with Ukraine's army reeling, some NATO allies including the U.S. said last week they would allow Ukraine to use weapons they deliver to Kyiv to carry out limited attacks inside Russia.

That step brought a furious response from the Kremlin, which warned that Europe's biggest conflict since World War II could spin out of control.

Biden and Zelenskyy attended the anniversary

events of D-Day in Normandy, northern France, on Thursday, along with European leaders who have supported Kyiv's efforts in the war. Biden pledged "we will not walk away" from Ukraine, drawing a direct line from the fight to liberate Europe from Nazi domination to today's war against Russian aggression.

Ukraine depicts its fight against the Kremlin's forces as a clash between Western democratic freedom and Russian tyranny. Russia says it is defending itself against a menacing eastward expansion of the NATO military alliance. In a 20-minute speech Friday at the National Assembly, the lower house of the French parliament, Zelenskyy drew a parallel with the sacrifices made during World War II and his country's current fight.

"This battle is a crossroads," Zelenskyy said. "A moment where we can now write history the way we need it. Or we can become victims of history as it suits ... our enemy."

Zelenskyy, who spoke in Ukrainian, was frequently interrupted by lawmakers' applause and cheers. He prompted a standing ovation when he said in French: "Dear France, I thank you for standing by our side as we defend life."

French President Emmanuel Macron, meanwhile, announced late Thursday that France will provide Ukraine with its Mirage combat aircraft.

Macron has been a vocal supporter of Ukraine. He said in February that putting Western troops on the ground in Ukraine is not "ruled out."

Zelenskyy began a day of meetings in Paris with an official welcome ceremony at the golden-domed Invalides monument, site of Napoleon's tomb. During the day, Zelenskyy was due to visit the Nexter arms manufacturer in Versailles, which makes the Caesar self-propelled howitzers that are among the weapons provided by France to Kyiv's forces. (AP)

Israeli strikes kill at least 18 in central Gaza a day after attack on UN-run school

GAZA STRIP, June 7: Overnight Israeli airstrikes in central Gaza killed at least 18 people, including children, a day after 33 were killed at a United Nations-run school sheltering displaced Palestinian families, health officials said Friday.

Strikes hit the Nuseirat and Maghazi refugee camps and Deir al-Balah and Zawaiya towns, they said.

Four children and one woman were among those killed as well as the mayor of the Nuseirat refugee camp, according to hospital records.

Israel's army said on Friday it was continuing operations in parts of Central Gaza.

It said its troops had killed dozens of militants, located tunnel shafts and destroyed infrastructure in the area.

The strikes came a day after at least 33 people were killed at a U.N.-run school in the Nuseirat refugee camp which Israel said was being used as a Hamas compound, without providing evidence.

International pressure has been mounting on Israel to limit civilian

bloodshed in its war against Hamas. Spain's foreign minister has announced it would ask a United Nations court for permission to join South Africa's case accusing Israel of genocide in Gaza. Israel strongly denies the accusation.

More than 36,000 Palestinians have been killed by eight months of Israeli bombardments and ground offensives in Gaza, according to the Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between combatants and civilians. The war has largely cut

off the flow of food, medicine and other supplies to Palestinians who are facing widespread hunger. United Nations agencies say over 1 million in Gaza could experience the highest level of starvation by mid-July.

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. Around 80 hostages captured on Oct. 7 are believed to still be alive in Gaza, alongside the remains of 43 others. (AP)



Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu is set to address the US Congress on July 24

WASHINGTON, June 7: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is expected to address a joint meeting of Congress on July 24, setting the stage for what is expected to be a contentious speech at a crucial moment for the ongoing Israel-Hamas war.

Congressional leaders confirmed the date of the address late on Thursday after formally inviting Netanyahu to come speak before lawmakers last week. It is the most recent show of wartime support for the longtime ally despite mounting political divisions over Israel's military assault on Hamas in Gaza.

"The existential challenges we face, including the growing partnership between Iran, Russia, and China, threaten the security, peace, and prosperity of our countries and of free people around the world."

House Speaker Mike Johnson, a Republican, and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, a Democrat, along with Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell and House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries, said in the letter.

"To build on our enduring relationship and to highlight America's solidarity with Israel, we invite you to share the Israeli government's vision for defending democracy, combating terror, and establishing a just and lasting peace in the region."

Netanyahu's appearance before a growingly divided Congress is sure to be controversial and met with plenty of protests both inside the Capitol from lawmakers and outside by pro-Palestinian protesters.

And it will put on stark display the growing election-year divisions among Democrats over the prime minister's prosecution of the monthslong war against Hamas. (AP)

The Irish and the Czechs vote on Day 2 of EU elections as the far right seeks to gain more power

BRUSSELS, June 7: Voters in Ireland and the Czech Republic are going to the polls on Friday on the second day of the elections for the European Parliament, with a surge of the far-right across the 27-nation bloc seeming likely to emerge from the electoral marathon.

Final results will not be released until Sunday night, once every country has voted. However, an exit poll Thursday after the elections kicked off in the Netherlands confirmed that Geert Wilders' far-right PVV party should make big gains.

Although a coalition of pro-European parties pushed the PVV into second place amid a bigger turnout than at the previous EU elections, Wilders' party looked to have made the biggest gains of the night.

Since the last EU election in 2019, populist, far-right and extremist parties have taken over governments in three EU nations, are part of governing coalitions in several others and appear to have surging public support across the continent.

Far-right parties in France, Belgium, Austria and Italy are frontrunners in the EU elections.

In the Czech Republic, the oppo-

sition ANO (YES) movement led by former populist Prime Minister Andrej Babis is favored to win with an agenda critical of the European mainstream.

The country's prime minister, Petr Fiala, said Friday on X that his center-right alliance of parties will "strengthen Europe's security against threats from Russia and China."

Earlier this year, the leaders of Belgium and the Czech Republic warned their European Union partners to take urgent action to prevent Russian interference in the elections after the two countries' intelligence services uncovered evidence of attempts to bribe EU lawmakers.

Immigration has risen up Ireland's political agenda, with independent candidates calling for tighter controls expected to win many votes - although Ireland lacks a large far-right party capable of consolidating anti-immigrant sentiment.

The immigration issue is eroding support for left-of-center Sinn Fein, the party once linked to the Irish Republican Army, which had been on track to become Ireland's most popular party. (AP)

China & Pakistan vow to protect CPEC from 'detractors and adversaries'

ISLAMABAD/BEIJING, June 7: Pakistan and China on Friday vowed to protect the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) from its "detractors and adversaries", as Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met his Chinese counterpart Li Qiang and assured Beijing of providing complete security to Chinese personnel working on the USD 65 billion project.

Sharif is currently on a visit to China at the invitation of President Xi Jinping, seeking to upgrade cooperation under the multi-billion dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a key part of Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative.

In a statement, the Pakistan

Prime Minister's Office said during the meeting, the two sides discussed the significance of Gwadar as an important pillar of the CPEC and agreed to expedite the timely completion of all related infrastructure projects to transform Gwadar in Balochistan province into a regional economic hub. "They also expressed their firm commitment to protect CPEC from its detractors and adversaries and to upgrade CPEC in the form of enhanced cooperation," the statement said. The two leaders reaffirmed unwavering support for each other on core issues and expressed continued commitment and support for the high-quality development of the

CPEC, Geo News reported.

They also emphasised the timely completion of all ongoing projects with a special focus on industrial development, agriculture modernisation, Science & Technology and the development of Special Economic Zones for mutually beneficial and socio-economic development of Pakistan. Sharif also reaffirmed Pakistan's unflinching resolve to ensure the safety and security of Chinese personnel and projects in Pakistan.

Chinese investment and financial support since 2013 have been key for the South Asian nation's struggling economy, including the rolling over of loans so that Is-

lamabad can meet external financing needs at a time when foreign reserves are critically low.

China has also invested billions in various power projects and road networks in Pakistan under the USD 65 billion CPEC plan, but the implementation of various projects has slowed in recent months. The CPEC, which connects Gwadar Port in Pakistan's Balochistan with China's Xinjiang province, is the flagship project of China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The BRI is seen as an attempt by China to further its influence abroad with infrastructure projects funded by Chinese investments across the world. (PTI)

Swedish defense chief says actions against Philippines in South China Sea threaten global security

MANILA, June 7: Sweden's defense chief has expressed alarm over Beijing's repeated dangerous maneuvers against Philippine vessels in the South China Sea, saying such actions threaten security, undermine stability and underscore the need to invest "for our security and freedom."

Defense Minister Pål Jonson spoke Thursday night in a diplomatic reception in Manila for Sweden's national day after meeting his Philippine counterpart, Gilberto Teodoro Jr., on expanding defense relations.

Sweden is one of the possible sources of supersonic fighter jets that the Philippines plans to acquire as its



military shifts focus from decades of fighting communist and Muslim insurgencies to territorial defense.

"Let me express my deep concern on the repeated dangerous maneuvers against Philippines vessels that have been taking place in the West Philippine Sea and the South China Sea, Jonson said. He did not mention

China in his speech but drew applause from an audience that included top Philippine military and security officials and Western and Asian diplomats.

Jonson used the name the Philippines has adopted for the stretch of waters called the exclusive economic zone extending from its western coast to the South China Sea, which Beijing claims virtually in its entirety and guarded closely with its coast guard, navy and other ships.

Confrontations between Chinese and Philippine government ships over two disputed shoals have flared alarmingly since last year, causing collisions. (AP)

Four Indian medical students drown in Russia's St Petersburg

MOSCOW, June 7: Four Indian medical students drowned when they entered a fast-flowing river near St Petersburg in Russia, authorities said on Friday, in the worst tragedy to hit the Indian student community in the country.

The four students from Maharashtra - Harshal Anantpr Desale, Jishan Ashpak Pinjari, Jia Firoj Pinjari and Malik Gulamogus Mohammad Yakub, were studying at the Novgorod State University in Veliky Novgorod city.

A fifth student, Nisha Bhupesh Sonawane, was rescued. The Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi termed it an unfortunate incident.

"Four Indian students who were studying at the Yaroslav-the-Wise Novgorod State University located in Veliky Novgorod, Russia, drowned in an unfortunate incident in the Volkhov river. In the incident, a fifth Indian student was saved from drowning and is presently receiving medical attention," it said.

Local emergency services have so far recovered two dead bodies from the

Volkhov River. The search for the remaining two missing students continues. Jishan and Jia were siblings.

Local media reports said that the students drowned as they tried to save one of their female friends. They all were aged 18-20. Jishan and Jia hailed from Amalner in the Jalgaon district of Maharashtra. Harshal Desale belonged to Bhadgaon, also in the Jalgaon district. Jalgaon district collector Ayush Prasad said arrangements are being made to bring the bodies to India.

"We are working to send the bodies to the relatives as soon as possible. Proper treatment is also being provided to the student whose life has been saved," the Embassy of India in Moscow said on X.

The Consulate General of India in St Petersburg said these students were pursuing medical education at Veliky Novgorod State University.

"Sincere condolences to the bereaved families," it posted on X.

The Consulate General said it was working together with the local authorities of Veliky Novgorod to send the

mortal remains to the relatives as soon as possible.

"The bereaved families have been contacted and assured of all the possible help," it said.

A family member told local media: "When they entered the Volkhov River, Jishan made a video call to his family. His father and other family members were pleading with Jishan and others to come out of the river waters when a strong wave swept them away."

In a message to the Indian envoy to Russia, the administration of Yaroslav-the-Wise Novgorod State University has expressed condolences over the tragedy. "The students were taking a walk near the city's beach along the Volkhov River, in the evening, during their study-free time. The tragedy was accidental and unexpected. Nisha Bhupesh Sonawane survived. Now she is under the care of medical staff," a university official said.

The university's representatives are monitoring her state closely and doing everything possible to help her, he added. (PTI)

HOUSTON, June 7: NASA's Indian-origin astronaut Sunita Williams and her colleague Butch Wilmore have successfully docked Boeing's Starliner spacecraft to the International Space Station (ISS) after overcoming new issues that cropped up en route to the orbiting laboratory.

Williams, 58, flew to space for the third time on Wednesday along with Wilmore, scripting history as the first members aboard Boeing's Starliner spacecraft to the ISS. Williams is the pilot for the flight test while Wilmore, 61, is the commander of the mission.

Boeing Starliner spacecraft successfully docked at the International Space Station at 1:34 pm on Thursday, about 26 hours after launching from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, NASA said in a statement.

Williams shared her gratitude to the family and friends who have been with them during the

lead-up to the launch.

"We have another family up here, which is just awesome," Williams said. "And we're just happy as can be to be up in space, one in Starliner on an Atlas V, and then here at the International Space Station. It just doesn't get much better."

On the way to the ISS, the crew completed a series of tests including manually flying Starliner for the first time in space.

The two Starliner astronauts, who are joining seven others currently living on the station, will assist with various tests and conduct scientific experiments while in space.

"It is both amazing and humbling to join the fleet of commercial spacecraft capable of

conducting crewed transportation services to and from the space station for NASA. Our teams have done some great work to get us to this point," said Kay Sears, vice president and general manager of Space, Intelligence & Weapon Systems for Boeing Defense, Space & Security.

"The launch yesterday and docking today puts the Starliner on a path to certification to enabling continued exploration and science that benefits humanity," said Jim Free, NASA Associate Administrator, during a news conference on Thursday.

"For Butch and Sunita (Sunita), I want to thank them for the years they have spent to getting us to this point, the expertise they bring to their roles and their dedication

to the task of advancing human spaceflight," he added.

The two also completed a sleep period. Prior to crew sleep, mission teams identified three helium leaks in the spacecraft. One of these was previously discussed before flight along with a management plan, and the other two occurred when the spacecraft arrived in orbit.

To monitor and manage these leaks, the three helium manifolds were closed in flight during the crew's sleep period and were all reopened ahead of rendezvous and docking operations. After docking, all Starliner manifolds are closed per normal plans.

As Starliner began its approach to the space station, five reaction control system thrusters failed during flight. Mission teams performed a series of hot-fire tests which re-enabled four of the thrusters while the crew manually piloted the spacecraft at the station's 200-meter hold point. (PTI)



NPP to support Khandu government in Arunachal



ITANAGAR, June 7: The National People's Party (NPP) will extend support to the Pema Khandu government in Arunachal Pradesh, a senior party leader said here on Friday. NPP Arunachal Pradesh unit president Thangwang Wangham said the party has accepted the people's mandate in the recently held state Assembly elections.

Wangham, who won the Longding-Pumao assembly seat, said the party has a clear vision for the state, region and the country. "We have regional aspirations with a national outlook and will always work for the welfare of the people and development of the state," he said.

The NPP which contested in 20 seats in the April 19 state assembly elections won five seats. Wangham outlined the party's focus on development, youth employment, healthcare, education, and combating the drug menace. He emphasised the goal of creating a drug-free society by raising awareness among addicts about the consequences of narcotics. "We will work for a drug-free society and will reach the addicts to make them aware of the ill effects of narcotics. Addicts should be given a second chance to lead a normal life," he said. The ruling BJP had won 46 seats in the 60-member assembly, while the NPP bagged 5, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) won three, the People's Party of Arunachal (PPA) won in two seats, Congress one seat and independent candidates won in three seats. The BJP also won both the Lok Sabha seats in Arunachal Pradesh, elections for which were held simultaneously with assembly polls in the state on April 19. (PTI)

Curfew clamped in Manipur's Jiribam after protests over killing of man

Locals set ablaze abandoned structures on Thursday night following recovery of victim's body

IMPHAL, June 7: The Manipur government has imposed curfew in Jiribam district for an indefinite period after people staged protests over the killing of a 59-year-old man by suspected militants, an official said on Friday. The prohibitory orders were clamped on Thursday night after locals set a few abandoned structures on fire following the recovery of the body of Soibam Saratkumar Singh. The situation remained tense but calm on Friday morning after locals demonstrated over the killing of the man.



"There is the likelihood of widespread disturbance to peace and public tranquillity or riot or an affray...because of unlawful activities of anti-social elements," the official said, citing the orders issued by the Office of District Magistrate Jiribam. The local administration also prohibited "assembly of five persons or more, which is likely to turn unlawful, carrying of firearms, sticks... and

movement of any person outside their respective residences within the revenue jurisdiction of the district". Singh went missing after he had gone to his farm on Thursday morning and later, his body was found with wounds made by a sharp object, a police officer said. Locals had staged a protest in front of Jiribam Police Station, demanding

that their licenced firearms taken from them in the wake of elections be returned to them after the completion of the polls. The administration appealed to the people to maintain peace in the district. "Jiribam district is facing a difficult time in terms of law and order, public peace and tranquillity", a notice said, adding that "an appeal is made to all sections of society...to maintain peace and calm and not succumb to any false information". The district magistrate also requested the Jiribam superintendent of police to "identify vulnerable pockets and deploy security forces to avoid unwanted incidents". A joint control room comprising officials of Assam Rifles, Central Reserve Police Force, Manipur Police and Indian Reserve Battalion has also been set up for quick communication among security forces in the district. Jiribam, which has a diverse ethnic composition comprising Meiteis, Muslims, Nagas, Kukis and non-Manipuris, had so far remained unaffected by the ethnic strife which has been raging in Manipur since May last year. The ethnic conflict between Imphal Valley-based Meiteis and hills-based Kukis has led to the deaths of over 200 people and rendered thousands of people homeless. (PTI)

Nagaland gov calls on ENPO to participate in civic body polls

HT Correspondent

DIMAPUR, June 7: Nagaland Governor La Ganesan on Friday made a fervent appeal to the Eastern Nagaland People's Organisation (ENPO) and the citizens of eastern Nagaland to actively participate in the upcoming urban local body (ULB) elections, which are scheduled to be held on June 26. While acknowledging the concerns raised by the ENPO with utmost respect, the Governor in an appeal said it is imperative to address the essence of democratic participation. "It is with this optimistic background that I humbly request the ENPO and the people of eastern Nagaland to exercise their constitutional right and participate in the forthcoming ULB elections, thereby strengthening the democratic fabric of our state," he said. Ganesan said voting in any election is not merely a right, but a significant opportunity that ensures the representation of the people's voice in governance and the sustenance of democratic principles. "Constructive dialogue and continued participation in the democratic process should be encouraged by all the concerned stakeholders," he stressed. Ganesan reassured the ENPO and the people of eastern Nagaland that the concerns related to the creation of Frontier Nagaland Territory are being diligently

addressed by the central government. "Let us come together to uphold the democratic values that we cherish and work relentlessly towards a united and prosperous Nagaland," he added. Meanwhile, according to a report, the ENPO responded to the show cause notice by the State Election Commission as to why action should not be initiated against it as per sub-section (1) of Section 171 C of the Indian Penal Code for repeated public declaration of the organisation's stand of collective abstention from participation in the ULB elections. The ENPO said its stance on abstention from participation in the forthcoming ULB elections is an exercise of the people's democratic right to free speech and assembly, as guaranteed by the Constitution under Article 19. "...it is in no way intended to infringe upon or interfere with the individual rights of the electorate, nor to contravene any legal or constitutional provisions governing the conduct of elections," ENPO president R Tsapikui Sangtam said. Notably, the ENPO, the apex body of eastern Nagaland tribal organisations, also boycotted the recently held Lok Sabha elections to press for its demand to create Frontier Nagaland Territory, comprising of six districts of eastern Nagaland.

ANSAM to press for stringent implementation of ILP in Manipur

SENAPATI, June 7: The All Naga Students' Association, Manipur (ANSAM) while noting the inadequate enforcement of the inner line permit (ILP) in the state, has unanimously resolved to press for its stringent implementation in the state and remain vigilant regarding it. Nevertheless, the Naga student body has appreciated and acknowledged the state government's efforts in exercising the power conferred by section 2 and section 4 of the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1973 (Regulation 5 of 1873) as extended to the state of Manipur vide Order of President of India No. S.O. 4433(E) dated 11/12/2019 and the endeavours to execute the inner line permit, regulating the inward travel of an Indian citizens visiting the state for different purpose over the years by issuing travel documents for specific period of time. In a statement issued on Friday, the Naga student body said the inner line permit stands as the significant document in regulating and monitoring the inflow of tourists and controlling the influx of illegal immigrants to safeguard the interests of the indigenous inhabitants and protect the identity and culture. "However, in the existence of ILP regimes in the state, we have been witnessing the unauthorised extension of the specific period of timeframe and unabated influx of illegal immigrants in Manipur and Northeastern hills posing a grave threat to our identity, traditions and culture leading to societal destruction, which could potentially turn the indigenous people into refugees in our own state", the NSAM also said. (NNW)

NFR gears up for heavy rains during monsoon

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, June 7: The Northeast Frontier Railways (NFR) has been undertaking several monsoon preparatory works on a mission mode along with proper upkeep and maintenance of the civil, mechanical, signalling, electrical assets and equipment, etc. The mobilization of materials to cope with the rainy season was carried out in the last few months over the entire jurisdiction of N F Railway spreading over parts of West Bengal, Bihar and the eight North-Eastern states under the jurisdiction of NFR having more than 6400 km of railway tracks. NFR is committed to provide smooth travel for its commuters, to keep the wheels of trains running and ensure uninterrupted services, especially during the monsoons. Due to the sustained efforts and infrastructure up gradations, the train operations have become better in the past few years during the monsoons. It helped the train services to run smoothly and normally over all sections with minimum disruptions, despite heavy rainfall. The monsoon season is quite challenging for this railway. This railway serves a difficult terrain close to foothills of Lower Himalayan ranges, carved by turbulent streams, fed by heaviest rainfall reaching up to about 7000 mm in a year. The Southwest monsoon period normally starts from mid of May and continues till mid of October every year except in the Lumding division where the monsoon period starts from mid of April. Due to this heavy rainfall landslides, rain cuts in embankments, overflowing of bridges etc occur frequently. A detailed strategy is adopted to ensure that the tracks are protected and kept in good condition so that safety of passengers is

not compromised. For this, the NFR has formulated a detailed strategy for the safety of railway tracks. As part of preparations before the monsoon, collection of materials at sensitive places, cleaning drainage systems, cleaning of waterways of bridges, marking danger levels in bridges etc. have been completed. It has also deployed patrolling teams to continuously watch more than 6400 Km of tracks in its jurisdiction for any defect that may arise due to heavy rainfall. This team patrols the track on the basis of rainfall alert issued by the Meteorological Department. These patrolmen are equipped with the latest and state-of-the-art equipment i.e. GPS tracker, luminous jacket, raincoat, and separate waterproof trousers, safety helmet, safety shoe high, powerful search/flashlights etc. The team is on full track patrol round the clock. Mobile phones have been made available with each patrol team to provide information to the nearest station about any situation that may affect the normal movement of trains. In addition to patrols, stationary watchmen have also been appointed on sensitive areas i.e. sites prone to landslides, bridges where water is flowing near danger levels etc. Despite precautions, there are occasion when bridges are washed out, embankments are breached and landslides occur. To face such situation and to carry out restoration within minimum possible time, materials like boulders, sand, sandbags, various pre-fabricated components of bridges etc. are kept loaded in wagons and placed at strategic locations. Moreover, about 309909 cum of boulder, 17426 cum of quarry dust, 22000 cum of silt, 45000 sand filled bags and 289800 empty cement bags are kept as monsoon reserve stock on ground.

State Council on AIDS to provide policy direction for HIV programme in Nagaland

State to develop multi-sectoral response to HIV, AIDS in partnership with civil society organisations, industry, donors

HT Correspondent

DIMAPUR, June 7: The re-constituted State Council on AIDS at its first meeting decided to provide policy direction for the HIV and AIDS programme in Nagaland. The meeting, held under the chairmanship of health and family welfare minister P Paiwang Konyak in Kohima, also resolved to mainstream HIV and AIDS in all departments by considering it as a development challenge and not merely a public health problem, according to an official statement on Friday. It was also decided to have a multi-sectoral response to HIV and AIDS in the state in partnership with civil society organisations, industry and donors. The meeting was attended by representatives from the



health and family welfare, food and civil supplies, higher and technical education, rural development, transport, labour and employment, social welfare, law and justice and school education departments and SCERT. The first body of the State Council on AIDS was formed on June 11, 2008 and it was reconstituted on June 22 last year. During the meeting, minister Konyak emphasised

the critical need to address drug use and addiction in the state and proposed the inclusion of the state home department in the State Council on AIDS for better coordination and support. He stressed on the importance of early HIV testing and detection among pregnant mothers to initiate timely treatment and protect newborn babies from HIV. Konyak also underscored the need for leveraging social media platforms and influencers for widespread dissemination of messages on HIV awareness. He said the State Council on AIDS would have its regular meeting from time to time to provide political and administrative support at the highest level for HIV/AIDS response in the state.

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Dated Diphu, the

No. Addl./Est-2/Recruitment/(Pt-8)2024-25/84 Applications are invited from eligible candidates in Standard form as published in Assam Gazette in part IX form of India as defined in Article 5 to 8 of the constitution of India for filling up the following posts as mentioned below under Soil Conservation Department, Karbi Anglong District.

Sl. No.	Name of the post	No. of Vacancy	Requisite Qualification	Grade	Pay Band & Grade Pay
1	Soil Conservation Demonstrator (Junior)	04 (Four) Nos.	H.S. Passed	III	Pay band 2: Rs. 14000=49000 + Grade Pay Rs. 6200/- P.M.
2	Soil Conservation Field Worker	14(fourteen) Nos.	HSLC Passed	III	Pay band 2: Rs. 14000=49000 + Grade Pay Rs. 5600/- P.M.
3	Handyman	2 (two) Nos.	Class-VIII Passed	IV	Pay band 1: Rs. 12000=37500 + Grade Pay Rs. 3900/- P.M.
4	Dak Runner	1(One) No.	Class-VIII Passed	IV	Pay band 1: Rs. 12000=37500 + Grade Pay Rs. 3900/- P.M.

Terms and Conditions:

- Candidates must be a citizen of India as defined in Article 5 to 8 of the constitution of India and must be a local resident under the jurisdiction of KAAC, Diphu.
- The applicant should apply in standard form of application published in the Assam Gazette part-IX along with a set of self attested copies of certificates/documents relating to qualification, experience, age, caste certificate, identity proof with 2 (two) copies of passport size colored photograph.
- Up to date Employment Registration in local employment exchange of Karbi Anglong or West Karbi Anglong is mandatory for Grade-III posts and candidates must mention the valid Registration No. along with date in their application.
- Candidates must not be less than 18 years and not more than 43 years of age on 01.01.2014. Relaxation of upper age limit for the reserved category will be as per Govt. Rules in force.
- The last date of receipt of application is 20.06.2024 No application will be entertained after the last date fixed. Incomplete application will be rejected without giving any intimation to the candidate and the undersigned shall not be responsible for any postal delay.
- The date of interview will be published in the local Newspaper, and all the eligible Candidates are requested to collect their call letter from the office of the Additional Director, Soil Conservation (Hills), Matipung Tin-Ali, Karbi Anglong, Diphu. No. call letter will be issued to the candidates separately.
- There will be written Test covering 150 marks comprising of 3 (three) sections viz (I) English 50 marks, (II) G.K : 50 marks (III) Quantitative Aptitude: 50 marks and Viva- Voce Interview for 25 marks for Grade III post. Similarly, there will be only viva voice test for 50 marks for Grade IV post.
- Application should be submitted directly to the office of the Additional Director Soli Conservation (Hills), Diphu, Karbi Anglong,
- No TA/DA will be borne by the department for attending the Interview,
- The Competent authority reserves all the rights to enhance or reduce the poste and also to cancel/postpone the interview at any time without assigning any reason thereof and without any intimation to the Candidate.

Sd/-
Chairmen
Selection Committee
&

Secretary Soil Conservation Department KAAC, Diphu

Memo No. Addl./Est-2/Recruitment/(Pt-8)2024-25/84(A)

Dated: 07-06-2024

Achieving unanimity will be aim in all our decisions: PM Modi at NDA meet

NEW DELHI, June 7: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said he would strive to ensure unanimity in all decisions of his next government and asserted that the NDA is an organic alliance committed to the principle of 'nation first'.

Chosen by the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance as its leader to become prime minister for the third time, Modi also said the NDA government in the next 10 years will focus on good governance, development, quality of life and minimum interference in the lives of common citizens.

He said mutual trust was at the core of this alliance and they were committed to the principle of 'sarv pantha sambhava' (all sects are equal).

"If we look at it in terms of numbers in the history of coalitions, this is the strongest coalition government," Modi said, asserting the NDA knows it very well to digest victory.

"We have never lost. Our conduct following June 4 shows that we know how to digest victory," the prime minister said, and attacked opposition parties.

"There were efforts to not acknowledge this victory, to cast a 'shadow of defeat' on this victory. But all such efforts remained fruitless... Such things 'die very

Haryana reducing water flow to Delhi, conspiring against people: Atishi



NEW DELHI, June 7: Delhi minister Atishi on Friday said the city's water crisis will not be solved even if Himachal Pradesh releases water for it as Haryana has "reduced" its share.

Atishi inspected the Wazirabad barrage earlier in the day and accused the Haryana government of "conspiring" against the people of Delhi by continuously stopping the capital's share of water and releasing less water into the Yamuna, even as the Supreme Court is trying to solve the crisis.

During the inspection, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader said Haryana is not giving Delhi its rightful share of water and due to this, the water level has come down to 669.7 feet on June 7 as compared to 671.3 feet on June 2.

"The Supreme Court is trying to solve the water problem. The Supreme Court is continuously hearing this matter and has ordered a meeting of the Upper Yamuna River Board. It will hear the matter again on Monday. But for the last five days, when the hearing was on in the court, the Haryana government has been conspiring behind its back," she alleged.

Atishi's remarks came a day after the apex court directed the Himachal Pradesh government to release 137 cusecs of surplus water to Delhi and asked Haryana to facilitate its flow. The court also said there should be no politics over water.

The minister said Delhi is dependent on the Yamuna for its entire water supply. The water that comes into the river is the same that is released from Haryana.

"The water coming into the Yamuna is supplied to the Wazirabad, Chandrawal and Okhla water treatment plants. If the water supply reduces and consequently, the water in these plants reduces, when less water comes into the Yamuna from Haryana, then from where will these plants produce water? This will affect the supply and people will face problems," she said.

"Himachal Pradesh is telling the court that it is ready to help, but the Haryana government is now hatching a conspiracy that even if Himachal Pradesh gives water, the problem of Delhiites will not be solved and that is why Haryana is constantly stopping the water that it has to send to Wazirabad," the minister alleged.

She said the issue will be brought before the top court and hoped that the capital will get its share of water and the additional water from Himachal Pradesh without any obstruction.

Delhi has been grappling with a water crisis this summer. The city residents are facing daily struggles to secure enough water for their basic needs, relying heavily on tankers, which often leads to disputes over access to water. (PTI)



young', and it happened," Modi said at the meeting of the NDA Parliamentary Party.

NDA leaders including N Chandrababu Naidu (TDP), Nitish Kumar (JDU), Eknath Shinde (Shiv Sena), Chirag Paswan (LJP-RV), H D Kumaraswamy (JDS), Aji Pawar (NCP), Anupriya Patel (Apna Dal-S), Pawan Kalyan (Jana Sena) attended the meeting along with newly elected Lok Sabha members from the ruling alliance.

Modi congratulated the victorious NDA leaders and said he must salute the lakhs of ground workers who worked to ensure this victory.

"This is the most successful alliance in the history of our country. It has completed three successful

terms and is now entering its fourth.

"The NDA is not a grouping of parties that have come together to get power, it is committed to the principle of 'nation first'," he added.

Modi said "INDI alliance" parties have already started saying they came together

only for the Lok Sabha polls. Such an approach showed their character, hunger for power, he said.

"For me the NDA stands for New India, Developed India, Aspirational India," he said.

"Our 10 years were just a trailer. We will work much harder and faster for the development of our

country. People know that we will deliver," Modi said.

The prime minister said he had been missing parliamentary debates and hoped that the Opposition MPs also contribute to nation-building when they come to parliament.

Taking a dig at the Congress, he said the opposition party could not even touch the 100 seats mark, and that their total seats in the last three LS polls were fewer than the BJP's tally in this election alone.

"We are glad to note that for the first time, one of our representatives has emerged victorious in Kerala. We have been having a brilliant performance in Arunachal Pradesh. In Sikkim also, we have almost registered a 'clean sweep'. In Andhra Pradesh, it is a historic victory. The way NDA's vote share has increased in Tamil Nadu clearly shows what is in the offing," Modi said.

"In the last 10 years, we worked to make the country touch new heights of success. A common thing that exists amongst all the leadership pillars of NDA is Good Governance," Modi said.

"Whenever given the chance to serve, each and every leader of the NDA has ensured Good Governance across Bharat. The NDA has become synonymous with Good Governance," Modi said. (PTI)

Gandhi, Ambedkar, Shivaji statues relocated in Parliament to ensure Oppn can't hold protests: Cong

NEW DELHI, June 7: The Congress on Friday alleged that statues of Mahatma Gandhi, B R Ambedkar and Chhatrapati Shivaji among others have been relocated within Parliament premises to ensure that Opposition parties cannot hold democratic protests, and said such "stunts" cannot save Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "unstable government" from falling. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh termed the Lok Sabha secretariat's explanation for relocating the statues as "wholly bogus", and said there has been no discussion with any political party on the matter.

In a statement, the Lok Sabha Secretariat said Thursday that due to their location at different places in the Parliament premises, visitors were not able to see these statues conveniently.

"For this reason, all these statues are being respectfully installed in a grand

'Prerna Sthal' in Parliament House premises. This 'Prerna Sthal' is being developed in such a way that the visitors coming to visit the Parliament complex view the statues of these great persons conveniently and get inspired by their life experiences," the statement said.

The Lok Sabha Secretariat had asserted that the Parliament House complex comes under the jurisdiction of the Lok Sabha Speaker and earlier also, statues were shifted inside the complex with the permission of the Speaker. Slamming the shift of statues, Ramesh said, "Yesterday at 2:30 PM, I had highlighted how the Modi regime was shifting the statues of Chhatrapati Maharaj, Mahatma Gandhi, and Dr. Ambedkar away from prominent places they now occupy in front of Parliament House."

"Rattled by photographs of these shifts that were also put out, late last night, well

after 8PM, the Lok Sabha Secretariat was forced to issue a wholly bogus and clearly manufactured explanation for the shift. There has been NO discussion with any political party on these shifts," he said in a post on X. The real reason for the shifts can now be revealed, Ramesh said, adding that these statues were placed where for the past 10 years Opposition parties - including the TDP and JDU - would stage peaceful and democratic protests against the Modi Government.

"Clearly the incoming one-third PM wants no place next to where Parliament meets where protests, even in a Constitutional manner, against him and his government can take place. Such stunts can no longer save him and his unstable Government from falling," Ramesh said.

In its statement, the Lok Sabha secretariat said the arrangements are also being made to provide visitors with detailed in-

formation about the life and contribution of these great persons and freedom fighters through modern technology at this 'prerna sthal' so that the people visiting can get inspired by their life and thoughts. The Parliament premises will sport a new look when the 18th Lok Sabha convenes for its maiden session in June as work is underway to integrate the entire complex, comprising four different buildings.

As part of the redevelopment of external areas, the statues of national icons, including those of Gandhi, Shivaji and Jyotiba Phule, were to be moved to a lawn near Gate No 5 of the old Parliament building, which has been named as Samvidhan Sadan.

This would pave the way for the creation of a vast lawn in front of the Gaja Dwar, which is used by the President and the prime minister to enter into the new Parliament building. (PTI)

Congress did not reject EVMs, says P Chidambaram

CHENNAI, June 7: Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram on Friday said his party did not reject Electronic Voting Machines and the party is for improvement of VVPAT and asserted that he has never blamed the EVMs.

Answering a question at a press conference here, Chidambaram said that in the Congress party's manifesto for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, 'we did not reject EVMs.' Chidambaram was answering a question on PM Narendra Modi's comment on the silence of the opposition bloc on EVMs.

"Please read the manifesto, what we say is, the VVPAT slip, in order for us to read, displays for about 4-5 seconds and then the slip falls inside the box. What we say in the manifesto is that there should be



one more improvement," he told reporters.

Rather than the slip automatically falling inside the VVPAT box, the voter should be able to receive it, see that and then deposit it into the box and with this improvement, there will be no doubt for anyone as regards the EVM-VVPAT system.

Even now, if opinion is sought on EVMs, "four out of ten or three out of ten people doubt the EVMs and I am not saying if the suspicion is

just or not; as far as I am concerned, I have never blamed the EVMs."

The Congress party's stand is to further improve and reform the EVM system, he asserted. "I am not denying that one or two party leaders are opposing the EVM system, but that is not the party's stand."

Modi, addressing newly-elected MPs and leaders of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in Delhi, flayed the opposition INDIA bloc leaders for casting suspicions on EVMs and the Election Commission throughout the poll process, alleging that they wanted to stoke fire across the country if the results did not suit them. However, the EVMs silenced them by June 4 evening, the PM said in an apparent reference to the opposition's better-than-expected showing. (PTI)

CBI files final charge sheet against Lalu, family

NEW DELHI, June 7: The CBI filed its final charge sheet on Friday in connection with land for jobs scam allegedly involving former railway minister Lalu Prasad and his family members, the officials said.

The final report submitted by the CBI in the special court covers all the railway zones where the recruitment was made in return for lands allegedly taken by members of Lalu Prasad's family, they said.

The agency has also listed as accused Lalu Prasad's wife Rabri Devi, son Tej Pratap Yadav, daughter Hema Yadav, former aide Bhola Yadav and others in the charge sheet, they said.

The special court will consider the report on July 6, they said.

"During investigation, it has been found that the accused persons as 'substitutes' in lieu of land either in their name or in the name of their close relatives. This land was acquired at prices lower than the prevailing circle rate and much lower than the market rate," an official said. (PTI)

Alleging that roads were dug up during the YSRCP regime, Jyothsna observed that reconstruction of Amaravati has to be taken up from scratch in some areas except for the Secretariat and the Assembly buildings

Amaravati capital city project comes to fore in Andhra Pradesh

AMARAVATI, June 7: Following the stellar triumph of the TDP in Andhra Pradesh Assembly elections, the Amaravati capital city project, which was shelved by the outgoing YSRCP government, is now expected to be revived.

As the first chief minister of the bifurcated state between 2014 and 2019, TDP supremo N Chandrababu Naidu had floated Amaravati as the capital city.

The greenfield capital city was envisioned to be an environmentally sustainable one, located between Vijayawada and Guntur cities, covering up to 29 villages.

Naidu had acquired up to 30,000 acres of land from farmers for Amaravati capital city construction through land pooling. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had taken part in its foundation-laying ceremony on October 22, 2015, and former Telangana CM K Chandrasekhar Rao had also attended it.

However, this brainchild of Naidu suffered a setback in 2019 when the TDP lost power and Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy-led YSRCP won a landslide victory.

Naidu's successor poured cold water on the Amaravati capital city plans and propounded a new theory of three capitals, which could now become a dead concept now that he has suffered a humiliating defeat in the 2024 polls, whereas Naidu is expected to take over as the CM soon.



The massive victory of the NDA alliance of TDP, BJP and Janasena has injected new life into Amaravati, which is poised to see brisk activity.

While releasing the election manifesto on April 30 at his Andhra Pradesh residence in Undavalli, Naidu vowed that Amaravati will be developed as the capital city of the state.

Talking to reporters, TDP General Secretary Nara Lokesh, who won from the Mangalagiri assembly segment, said on June 4

that the incoming government was committed to developing Amaravati as the single capital of the state.

TDP Spokesperson Jyothsna Tirunagari said that building Amaravati would be the first priority of the new government.

"Amaravati reconstruction is our first priority, there is no doubt about that. We have done a lot of development during our regime (2014-2019). After Jagan Mohan Reddy took over, in fact he destroyed everything and demolished most of the every-

Tharoor bats for Rahul as LoP, says he was 'man of match' of LS polls

NEW DELHI, June 7: Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on Friday hailed Rahul Gandhi as "the man of the match" of the Lok Sabha polls and said it would only be fitting that he takes on the mantle of the Leader of Opposition in the house.

In an interview with PTI after his fourth-straight Lok Sabha polls victory, Tharoor said the message of the mandate was that the electorate have given a "comeuppance" to the BJP's "overweening arrogance" and its "my way or the high way attitude".

"It will be a challenge for Mr (Narendra) Modi and Amit Shah who have not been used to consulting very much in running their government and I think this is going to test their ability to change their way of functioning and be more accommodative and more conciliatory within the government and also I hope with the opposition," Tharoor said on the incoming coalition government of the NDA. The former Union minister said this time the Modi-led NDA government could prove to be a 'majboor sarkaar' (helpless government) on some issues because the parties that are part of the NDA will have to agree on everything.

"Already we have questions being raised by one party on the Agniveer scheme, saying that it needs to be reviewed and they have been supported by a second party namely the JD(U) and Chirag Paswan. Both in Andhra Pradesh and Bihar, there are leaders who have demanded special category status for their states which the BJP government had hitherto refused to grant, that will have to be re-examined," he said.

Tharoor said suddenly now there will have to be a more consensual model governance coming up.

He accused the Modi government of treating Parliament like a notice board in the last 10 years and expecting it to be a rubber stamp for all their decisions which, he said, was not viable now with a robust opposition of more than 230 MPs.

Batting for Rahul Gandhi to take on the mantle of the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Tharoor said the former Congress president was unquestionably the star

of this Lok Sabha performance.

"He and Congress president (Mallikarjun) Kharge campaigned extensively throughout the country, but Mr Kharge is in the Rajya Sabha where he leads the Opposition and it would only be fitting that Rahul Gandhi does the same in the Lok Sabha. I have certainly conveyed my view both publicly and privately in that regard," Tharoor said.

"I think we have a strong number now to stand up to the government and it (Leader of Opposition) should be a leader who is undoubtedly the most popular in the party," he said, referring to Gandhi.

Using cricketing analogies, Tharoor further said Gandhi was "unquestionably, indeed the man of the match" of the polls and in a number of places the Congress "hit the ball out of the park".

"In some places we had a tight finish. In my case there was a super over at the end of the T20 in my constituency. Lot of cricketing analogies all over the place but as we are seeing in the World T20, there are some concerns about the pitch we had to bat on and I would say that we had no choice but to play on the pitch we were given but it could certainly have been a far more level playing field than it was," he said.

In Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram, Tharoor beat Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar by over 16,077 votes.

Asked about the close fight and if the Left made it difficult for him, Tharoor said the CPI candidate Pannyan Raveendran took two and a half lakh votes.

"But the other is the three areas that are represented by the CPI(M), the CPI candidate came last and the BJP candidate came first. There are some legitimate questions being asked as to how exactly and why exactly that happened. But you know at the end of the day, a victory is a victory and we are savouring it as sweet," Tharoor told PTI.

Talking about the message of the 2024 mandate, Tharoor said the message is very clearly that the Indian voter will not allow democracy to be taken for granted in this way. (PTI)

Modi to take oath as PM for third time tomorrow: Joshi



NEW DELHI, June 7: Narendra Modi will take oath as Prime Minister for the third time on Sunday, senior BJP leader Pralhad Joshi said here at the NDA parliamentary party meeting.

The oath-taking ceremony will take place at 6 pm on June 9, Joshi told the NDA leaders assembled here at the Central Hall of the old Parliament Building to elect Modi as their leader.

Besides NDA MPs, senior leaders of the alliance, including chief ministers, were present for the meeting where BJP president J P Nadda is expected to propose a resolution in support of Modi's leadership, with allies and MPs likely to endorse it.

After Modi is elected the leader of NDA MPs, senior members of the alliance like TDP's N Chandrababu Naidu, JD(U)'s Nitish Kumar and Shiv Sena's Eknath Shinde will join the prime minister for a meeting with President Droupadi Murmu to present her the list of parliamentarians supporting him, some alliance members said.

Besides Naidu, Kumar and Shinde, Chirag Paswan, Jitan Ram Manjhi, Anupriya Patel, Pawan Kalyan were among the NDA leaders present on the main dais, alongside senior BJP leaders.

The NDA has 293 MPs, comfortably above the majority mark of 272 in the 543-member Lok Sabha.

Senior BJP leaders, including Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh and Nadda, have also been holding deliberations with allies to work out an amicable formula for their share of representation in the new government, which will critically depend on them for survival.

The BJP leadership has moved swiftly since the June 4 results for government formation to end any sense of uncertainty after the verdict, which was a setback to the ruling party as it lost majority for the first time since 2014 and needs allies' support to maintain its hold on power. (PTI)

Modi will become PM owing to 'borrowed benevolence,' says DMK

CHENNAI, June 7: Tamil Nadu's ruling DMK on Friday stated that the people did not vote for Narendra Modi to rule the nation but circumstances have allowed him to become prime minister on the basis of "borrowed benevolence" -- pointing to the support from NDA allies, including TDP and JD(U). The Dravidian party's Tamil mouthpiece 'Murasoli,' in an editorial said Modi sought votes in the name of god and when that campaign did not click, he claimed that "he was god himself" but eventually he would now become the prime minister only due to the support of Chandrababu Naidu and Nitish Kumar. "The people of India did not vote for Modi to govern. The circumstances have allowed him to be (become) prime minister on borrowed 'dayavu' (benevolence/compassion)," the DMK daily said.

"Enough of making tall claims, assuring that (you will) do this and that with 400 seats and 370 seats; fulfill everyday needs of the Indian people. Create an India that is without tears and worries. That is enough," the editorial on June 7 said. Furthermore, the daily said that although in the run up to the Lok Sabha polls Modi had said that his party alone would win in 370 seats, it did not happen, and the BJP could get only 240 seats. "We see with our eyes the saffron party falling into an abyss." (PTI)

Need to ensure arbitration institutions are not controlled by 'self-perpetrating clique': CJI

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

NEW DELHI, June 7: Mere creation of arbitration institutions is not sufficient and we have to ensure that these dispute resolution hubs are not controlled by a "self-perpetrating clique", Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud has said.

Speaking at the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom, Chandrachud said now is the time for countries such as India to step up to the occasion to create and promote a culture of commercial arbitration and the robust institutionalisation of arbitration will further the culture of arbitration in the Global South.

He said arbitration is an alternative method of dispute resolution and it no longer an "alternative" but the preferred method of seeking commercial justice.

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



CJI said. "But the mere creation of institutions is not sufficient. We have to ensure that these new institutions are not controlled by a self-perpetrating clique. These institutions must be based on the foundation of robust professionalism and the ability to generate consistent arbitral processes," he added.

The CJI said transparency and accountability, values by which the work of conventional courts is assessed and critiqued, cannot be alien to the world of ar-

bitration. "Arbitral institutions are uniquely placed to cooperate with other arbitral institutions around the world to adopt best international practices and procedures. This will create a global convergence of arbitral procedures, creating more uniform institutional rules and structures. I hope the Indian arbitral institutions emulate the success of their global counterparts in the years to come," he added.

Reiterating that substitution of courts should not result in the

creation of opaque structures, Chandrachud said the plea for bringing greater diversity in the world of arbitration is based on the firm belief that bringing a diversity of viewpoint to the world of arbitration whether in terms of gender or from the Global South will make for a broad-based process.

Stressing on the role of technology in arbitration process, the CJI said technology plays a major role in how the arbitration proceedings are being carried out and offers cost-effective

and time-effective solutions.

"You have instances where one party is based in Delhi, another in Bengaluru, while the arbitrators are in London, Mumbai and Singapore. Technology provides the digital environment allowing them to participate in arbitral proceedings virtually," the CJI said. "As in law courts, Covid-19 provided an impetus to modernising the arbitral process. Likewise, the world of arbitration impacted on the processes adopted by courts as well," he added.

Chandrachud said adoption of technology at all levels of arbitration proceedings will make the arbitration proceedings more efficient and, importantly, more accessible.

"Technology and artificial intelligence add value to the services provided by arbitral institutions in matters such as reviewing documents or transcribing the proceedings," he said. (PTI)

4 Indian students die in Russia's Veliky Novgorod



NEW DELHI, June 7: Four Indian students, who were studying at a university in Russia's Veliky Novgorod region, drowned in the Volkhov river, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Friday.

A fifth Indian student was saved from drowning and is currently receiving medical attention, it said, adding two students are missing and search for them continues.

Local emergency services have so far recovered two bodies from the Volkhov river.

"Four Indian students who were studying

at the Yaroslav-the-Wise Novgorod State University located in Veliky Novgorod, Russia, drowned in an unfortunate incident in the Volkhov river," the MEA said.

The four students were identified as Harshal Anant Rao Desale, Jishan Ashpak Pinjari, Jia Firoj Pinjari and Malik Gulamgous Mohammad Yakub from Maharashtra. The name of the student rescued is Nisha Bhupesh Sonawane. The MEA said the Indian consulate in St. Petersburg remained in contact with the university and local authorities and is provid-

ing all possible assistance.

"Local emergency services have so far recovered two dead bodies from the Volkhov river. We offer our condolences to the families," the MEA said in a statement.

It said the search for the remaining two missing students continues.

"The five students involved in the accident belong to the Jalgaon district of Maharashtra. Our Consulate in St. Petersburg is coordinating with local authorities for the repatriation of the mortal remains," the MEA said.

It said the Indian consulate continues to be in contact with the families and the district administration in Jalgaon, Maharashtra.

The Indian consulate in St. Petersburg said it is working together with the local authorities of Veliky Novgorod to send the mortal remains to the relatives as soon as possible.

"The bereaved families have been contacted and assured of all the possible help," it said on X. It said proper medical care including psychological treatment is being provided to the girl student who was saved.

"These students were pursuing medical education in Veliky Novgorod State University. Sincere condolences to the bereaved families," it said. (PTI)

11th fail becomes deputy collector in MP

INDORE, June 7: A farmer's daughter, who once failed in Class 11, has become a deputy collector by coming in sixth in the Madhya Pradesh Public Service Commission (MPPSC) examination. Priyal Yadav's story serves as an inspiration and is a testament to how hard work and perseverance can help one overcome hurdles.

"I was a class topper till Class 10. However, due to pressure from relatives, I opted for physics, chemistry and mathematics in Class 11 despite lack of interest in these subjects and failed physics," the 27-year-old told PTI on Friday.

However, this was the "first and last failure" in her academic life, she said. She wants to prepare for the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) exams while working as a deputy collector in the state, she said. According to an official, Priyal was among the top 10 candidates selected for the post of deputy collector in the MPPSC examination 2021. An advertisement was issued for recruitment to 290 posts under the MPPSC 2021. But due to the pending case in the Madhya Pradesh High Court over 27 per cent reservation to the Other Backward Classes (OBC) in government jobs, the selection result of 87 per cent of posts has been declared at present, he said. Selections for the remaining 13 per cent of posts will be announced after the court's verdict in the case, the official said. (PTI)

NAME CHANGE

I have change my father name from Mo-jibur Rahman to Md. Majibur Rahman by swearing a notarial affidavit at Morigaon. From today onwards he will be known as Md. Majibur Rahman for all purposes.

Vande Bharat average speed down from 84 kmph to 76 kmph in 3 years: RTI response



NEW DELHI, June 7: The average speed of Vande Bharat trains has decreased from 84.48 kmph in 2020-21 to 76.25 kmph in 2023-24, the railway ministry said in a response to an RTI query.

Railway officials said not only Vande Bharats but many other trains are also maintaining cautionary speed at places where "huge infrastructural work" is underway.

"Besides this, some Vande Bharat trains have been launched in difficult terrain areas where there are speed restrictions due to geographical reasons or extreme weather conditions," a railway official said.

Citing the example of the Vande Bharat train between Mumbai CSMT and Madgaon, an official of the Central Railway Zone said, "Most of the Konkan railway area is 'ghat' section where trains pass through low height mountain ranges. It is a difficult terrain area where increasing speed could compromise safety."

"Things become very challenging during the monsoon season when we have to keep the maximum speed for all trains at 75 kmph," he added.

The RTI applicant, Madhya Pradesh-based Chandra Shekhar Gaur, said, "The data, obtained through the RTI, shows that the average speed of Vande Bharat trains was 84.48 in 2020-21, which decreased to 81.38 kmph in 2022-23. It further deteriorated in 2023-24 to 76.25."

Launched on February 15, 2019, the Vande Bharat is a semi-high speed train which can run at a maximum speed of 160 kmph. However, it cannot go beyond 130 kmph anywhere in the country, except on the Delhi-Agra route,

due to unsuitable track conditions.

"There are certain segments of tracks between Delhi and Agra which were developed in 2016 for India's first semi-high speed train Gatiman Express to run at 160 kmph. Only on those segments, the Vande Bharat also runs at 160 kmph speed. Rest of the places, its maximum speed is either 130 or less than," another railway official said.

He said the railways has been upgrading tracks to meet the speed requirement of the Vande Bharat and "it is because of these reasons there are cautions at various places".

"Once these upgrades are over, we will have trains which will go up to 250 kmph," the official said. Some of the routes on which the Vande Bharat's speed is worse than its overall average speed are Dehradun-Anand Vihar (63.42 kmph), Patna-Ranchi (62.9 kmph) and Coimbatore-Bangalore Cantt (58.11 kmph).

An expert engaged in track construction said the first Vande Bharat was launched in February 2019 and it has been more than five years since then, but the railways is yet to replace tracks on any route so that the train can run at its maximum operating speed of 160 kmph.

"The railways' argument is that since infrastructure work is going on, it restricts the speed of Vande Bharat trains. But this is also true that in five years, it has failed to lay tracks suitable for running semi-high speed trains," the expert said requesting anonymity.

However, the railway ministry maintains that Vande Bharat trains are very popular and till March 31, more than 2.15 crore people have travelled by it.

The Vande Bharat lists a number of features such as Kavach protection, faster acceleration and semi-high speed operation up to 160 kmph, fully sealed gangway for free passenger movement, automatic plug doors, reclining ergonomic seats and comfortable seating with revolving seats in executive class, better ride comfort among others.

"A total of 284 districts across the country have been connected to the Vande Bharat Express and This number will continue to increase in the future. A total of 102 Vande Bharat trains are providing services on 100 routes of the railway network," a railway official said. (PTI)



অসম লোকসেৱা আয়োগ

ASSAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Jawaharnagar, Khanapara, Guwahati-781022.

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ADVT. NO. 12/2024

No. 53PSC/DR-21/1/2023-2024

Assam Public Service Commission invites application from Indian Citizens as defined in Articles 5 to 8 of the Constitution of India for the under-mentioned posts under Assam Government in the scale of pay as indicated below and carrying usual allowances as admissible under Rules of the Govt. of Assam.

- (1) **Name of the Post** :- Assistant Accounts Officer (AAO) (Class-III post) of Assam Electricity Grid Corporation Limited (AEGCL).
(2) **No of posts** :- 61 (Sixty-one) No.
(3) **Reservation of posts** :-

Name of the Service/Post	Open category		Reserved for OBC/MOBC		Reserved for TT & ADIVASI		Reserved for SC		Reserved For STP		Reserved For STH		Grand Total	Post reserved for PwBD & Type of Disability	Total Post reserved for Ex-servicemen
	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW			
Assistant Accounts Officer (AAO) (Class-III post) of Assam Electricity Grid Corporation Limited (AEGCL)	31	9	14	4	3	1	4	1	6	2	3	1	61	18	1
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*PwBD - Persons with Benchmark Disabilities; RFW - Reserved for Women.

*Reservation as per draft advertisement received from Government against total numbers of posts in the cadre.

NB: The Ex-Servicemen must upload Ex-Servicemen Identity Card issued by Zila Sainik Welfare Office of the state of Assam and Discharge Book while applying for the reserved post.

4. **Scale of Pay** :- Pay scale + Grade Pay + Other allowances as admissible to the Assam State Government employees from time to time (per month).

Pay scale	Grade Pay	Pay Band
Rs. 25,000/- to 92,000/-	Rs. 11,000/-	Pay Band - 3

BEFORE FILLING UP THE APPLICATION FORM, CANDIDATES MUST NOTE THAT THE REQUIRED CERTIFICATES RELATING TO AGE, CASTE AND MINIMUM EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION WILL BE FETCHED FROM THE OTR PROFILE. CANDIDATES ARE TO UPDATE THE OTR PROFILE IF ANY ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE UPLOADED IN SUPPORT OF THE ADVERTISED POST.

5. Eligibility Criteria :-

The candidate must be an Indian Citizen as defined in Article 5 to 8 of the Constitution of India and must be a permanent resident of Assam and should have proficiency in Assamese/Local language.

As a domicile proof of the candidate, he/she must upload a copy of the valid Permanent Resident Certificate issued in Assam for educational purpose/Employment Exchange Registration Certificate will be treated as proof of residency.

(Upload necessary documents)

6. Education Qualification :-

i. Bachelor Degree in Arts, Science or Commerce from a recognized University with minimum 55% marks or its equivalent in B.Com in aggregate or 55% marks in Honors/Major subject (B.Com) or minimum 55% aggregate marks or its equivalent for Arts or Science graduate having Mathematics or Statistics as one of the subject or 55% marks or its equivalent in Mathematics/Statistics as Honors (BA/B.Sc).

ii. For departmental candidates and those belonging to the Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe minimum qualification marks in a bachelor degree is 50%.

iii. Possess proficiency in computer application and having diploma certificate in computer application with minimum duration of 3 (three) months.

(Upload relevant all semester/year mark sheet reflecting the subjects and the final pass certificate)

7. Age:

The candidates should not be less than 21 years of age and not more than 38 years of age as on 01/01/2024. The upper age limit is relaxable:

- (i) By 5 years for SC/ST candidates, i.e. upto 43 years.
(ii) By 3 years for OBC/MOBC candidates i.e. upto 41 years as per Govt. Notification No. ABP. 6/2016/9 dated Dispur the 25th April 2018.
(iii) For Ex-Servicemen, the maximum age shall be 50 (Fifty) years as on 01/01/2024 for Unreserved category, relaxable further by 3 (Three) years for OBC/MOBC candidates and 5 (Five) years for SC/ST candidates as per Govt. Notification No. ABP. 48/2009/84 Dated 19th December, 2022.
(iv) Persons with benchmark disability (PwBD) 10 years irrespective of SC/ST/OBC and UR Category of candidates as per Govt. Memorandum No. ABP 180/2017/105 dated Dispur the 7th January, 2019.

The age limit of the candidates will be calculated on the basis of the Class-X/Class-XII Examination Admit Card/Pass Certificate/Marksheet issued by a recognized Central/State Board/Council where Age/Date of Birth (DOB) is clearly reflected.

No other document shall be accepted in lieu of the above mentioned documents for age proof.

8. For PwBD Category Candidate:

To be eligible for consideration under PwBD category, a candidate must possess Benchmark Disability and must produce necessary certificate issued by the competent authority.

(Upload relevant documents)

9. For Government Employees of the state of Assam:

Candidates, already in regular Government service, whether in permanent or temporary capacity other than casual/ad-hoc/daily wages/hourly paid/contract basis, in order to prove their employment, must upload a certificate against the applied post, issued by the competent authority under which he/she is working.

However, candidates, seeking pay protection, continuation in service etc., must upload 'NO OBJECTION CERTIFICATE (NOC)' against the applied post, issued by the competent authority under which he/she is working.

(Upload relevant documents)

10. The Small Family Norms :-

As per Govt.notification No. ABP.69/2019/17, dated Dispur, the 6th November/2019, candidate have to submit a declaration regarding "The Small Family Norms" in Form - A at the time of applying for the post.

(Upload necessary documents)

The advertisement has been issued as per draft advertisement furnished by the Government.

- (i) **STARTING DATE FOR ONLINE APPLICATION** :- 15-06-2024
(ii) **CLOSING DATE FOR ONLINE APPLICATION** :- 14-07-2024
(iii) **LAST DATE FOR PAYMENT OF APPLICATION FEE** :- 16-07-2024

NB: For detail advertisement please visit APSC's official website www.apsc.nic.in (Recruitment Advertisement link).

Putting yourself out there can be scary and fearful, says Ananya Panday

Lionsgate developing new 'Hunger Games' movie based on Suzanne Collins' latest novel



LOS ANGELES, June 7: Hollywood studios has announced that it is developing a new "Hunger Games" movie based on author Suzanne Collins' new novel.

Collins announced the fifth book in the dystopian franchise on Thursday. Titled "Sunrise on the Reaping", the novel will be released next year.

Hours later, Adam Fogelson, chair of the Lionsgate Motion Picture Group, revealed that the studio will be developing the screen adaptation of the latest chapter, setting it up for theatrical release on November 20, 2026.

Filmmaker Francis Lawrence, who directed four films in the franchise, is expected to helm the new movie as well. The project will be produced by Nina Jacobson and Brad Simpson's Color Force banner.

The "Hunger Games" franchise, which explores themes of survival, oppression, rebellion, and the consequences of power, started with Collins' first book "The Hunger Games", followed by sequels "Catching Fire" and "Mockingjay".

Lionsgate developed the films series with Jennifer Lawrence-starrer "The Hunger Games" in 2012 and its three sequels "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire" "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 1", "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 2".

The story is set in the dystopian country of Panem, comprising the wealthy Capitol and 13 districts in varying states of poverty. Every year, children from the first 12 districts are selected via lottery to participate in a compulsory televised battle royale death match called The Hunger Games. A prequel to the trilogy, titled "The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes" was written by Collins in 2020 and Lionsgate released its film version in 2023 with Tom Blyth and Rachel Zegler starring in lead roles.(PTI)



MUMBAI, June 7: Ananya Panday on Friday said when she was starting out, she realised that she would never be able to make fear go away. "As a young actor who started out when she was 18, there was fear and there always will be fear. Putting yourself out there can be scary and fearful. Someone once told me that by not being yourself you might get 100 people to like you but being yourself even if five people like you in the long run, then that is much more fulfilling. And that is what I try to go by as it will give me joy," Pandey said.

The "Kho Gaye Hum Kahan" star has lent her voice to the character of Riley in the Hindi dubbed version of the upcoming Disney Pixar's animated movie "Inside Out 2".

At the film's promotional event here, Panday said it is not easy to feel "toxic positive" all the time.

"It is one aspect that tied into really what I have been speaking about quite sometime. We can't just feel toxic positive all of a sudden. We have to feel all the emotions, there has to be sadness to balance out happiness," she told reporters here.

The 25-year-old actor said when she was starting out, she realised that she would never be able to make fear go away.

"As a young actor who started out when she was 18, there was fear and there always will be fear. Putting yourself out there can be scary and fearful. Someone once told me that by not being yourself you might get 100 people to like you but being yourself even if five people like you in the long run, then that is much more fulfilling. And that is what I try to go by as it will give me joy," Pandey said.

"Inside Out 2" is a sequel to the Oscar-winning 2015 animated movie "Inside Out", which depicted the inner workings of the mind of Riley, a young girl who adapts to her family's relocation as five personified emotions ad-

minister her thoughts and actions.

Panday, also known for movies such as "Gehraiyaan" and "Dream Girl 2", said the experience of dubbing for the Hindi version of "Inside Out 2" was quite liberating.

"When I dub for a character I'm playing, I usually do a lot of overthinking because I think about the back story and emotions during the shoot. When I dubbed for this, I realised I am a teenage girl and I just have to think how I was as a teenager. "I watched 'Inside Out' again to get the little back story of Riley. I enjoyed it a lot. I was very free and wasn't tied into doing something specific," she said.

Set to be released in theatres in English and Hindi on June 14, "Inside Out 2" returns to the mind of newly-minted

teenager Riley (originally voiced by Kensington Tallman) just as Headquarters is undergoing a sudden demolition to make room for something entirely unexpected: new Emotions."

"Joy, Sadness, Anger, Fear and Disgust, who've long been running a successful operation by all accounts, aren't sure how to feel when Anxiety, Envy, Ennui and Embarrassment show up," read the film's synopsis. "Inside Out 2" is directed by Kelsey Mann.

The English version of the film is voiced by Amy Poehler, Maya Hawke, Liza Lapira, Tony Hale, Lewis Black, Phyllis Smith, Ayo Edebiri, Lilimar, Grace Lu, Sumayyah Nuriddin-Green, Adele Exarchopoulos, Diane Lane, Kyle MacLachlan, Paul Walter Hauser and Yvette Nicole Brown. (PTI)

ACTION DRAMA SERIES 'BAD COP' SET FOR JUNE 21 DEBUT ON DISNEY+ HOTSTAR

MUMBAI, June 7: Action drama series "Bad Cop", featuring actor Gulshan Devaiah and filmmaker Anurag Kashyap, will make its debut on Disney+ Hotstar on June 21, the streaming service announced on Friday.

Described as a classic cop vs villain story with a lot of twists and turns, the show is the first fictional series from Fremantle India, known for producing reality shows such as "India's Got Talent" and "Indian Idol".

"Bad Cop" is directed by Aditya Datt and stars Devaiah as Karan, a fierce cop, trying to chase down Kazbe (Kashyap), a villain more powerful and deadly than him and simultaneously managing his personal relationships.

Devaiah also plays the role of Arjun, a witty thief, and all three find their fates intertwined in the most unexpected way, altering the course of their lives forever.

The actor said the show will present a thrilling story that doesn't "pretend to be anything else but entertaining." "What drew me the most to the script was the character's I had to play. Karan and Arjun are identical twins with very different personalities and moreover one is a cop and the other a crook.

"Karan and Arjun, although twin brothers, have a very different outlook towards life and are dealing with very different interpersonal problems. A huge twist intertwines their destiny and I think the most challenging aspect of playing the characters started from there because I had to do a lot of action scenes, which I'd admit wasn't easy at all," he said in a statement. (PTI)



Anyone who says we're saving you is lying: Eric Kripke on superhero genre bender 'The Boys'



NEW DELHI, June 7: "Authoritarians" are unfortunately a global phenomenon and perhaps why "The Boys" has appealed to audiences, says creator Eric Kripke whose show is set in a fantasy world but tackles real life issues such as corruption and the consequences of unchecked power.

Beware of authoritarians! The message comes through loud and clear in the show, where superheroes, known as "Supes", are popular and idolised but, unlike the traditional depiction of them as all good, are corrupt, selfish to the core and morally compromised.

"I think people really get the message of beware anyone

who says they're trying to save you because they're probably lying. I think the characters are dealing with really human universal things that I think just translate around the world," Kripke told PTI in a virtual interview.

The satire, which redefines the superhero genre with its over-the-top violence and nudity, returns with its fourth season on June 13 on Prime Video. "I find the reaction has been amazing and people, in India and everywhere, really get what we're trying to say. We're reacting a lot to US politics but I think the notion of authoritarians and 'Hey, maybe you shouldn't trust authoritarian so much' is sort of unfortunately a worldwide

phenomenon," the creator said.

Based on The New York Times bestselling comic by Garth Ennis and Darick Robertson, "The Boys" follows the eponymous team of vigilantes, led by Bill Butcher as they combat super-powered individuals, especially the unhinged, egotistical and sadistic leader Homelander, played by Antony Starr. Ever since its premiere on Prime Video in 2019, the show has received immense praise from critics and viewers for the way it tackles real world issues, including power, corruption, celebrity culture and the consequences of unchecked authority.

The fantasy genre, accord-

ing to Kripke, allows storytellers to comment on reality and hold a mirror up to it.

"People can view it just with a little bit of separation and think about it in a different way. In 'The Boys', we have a society that's completely fragmenting, but they're fragmenting in people who support Homelander and people who support Starlight. "We take a real world event, but we supify it. We add in people who can shoot lasers from their eyes and fly, but otherwise it's pretty much a real phenomenon," he said.

This way, the writers can talk about things in a "subversive way", Kripke said it comes from audiences' love for the vigilante genre. (PTI)

straight ahead drama, I wouldn't be able to get away with it because it would be too earnest." The characters in "The Boys" come in all shades of greys such as Urban's Butcher, whose aim is to vanquish superheroes at any cost. He is the counterfoil to Starr's Homelander, a kind of prejudice-fuelled public figure who is also the epitome of greed, narcissism and corruption.

Despite their negative traits, Butcher and Homelander are the two most popular characters from the show with fans rooting for them each season.

Decoding the popularity of Butcher, Kripke said it comes from audiences' love for the vigilante genre. (PTI)

Don't have time to feel sorry for ourselves, we're still alive: Stimac

KOLKATA, June 7: A defiant India football coach Igor Stimac said his team has no time "to feel sorry" for itself after the disappointing goalless draw against Kuwait in a crucial World Cup qualifying match here as it is "still alive" in the race to enter the third round.

India were thoroughly disappointing in the game that marked the end of talismanic skipper Sunil Chhetri's international career after a glorious run of 19 years in which he scored 94 goals in 151 games.

"We don't have time to feel sorry for ourselves as we are still alive. I need to do everything in the next five days to make the boys believe, make them create the environment of belief, which can take us into a challenge against Qatar who are a very different team," Stimac asserted in the post-match press conference.

"It's a small hope, but it's still there and we need to believe and trust in ourselves and give our best shot to win the game."

India will next face Asian heavyweights Qatar in an away fixture on June 11 and will also keep a close watch on Kuwait's home match against Afghanistan on the same day.

India need to avoid a defeat to have any chance of progressing to the next round, which would be a historic first for the side.

Stimac was critical of Sahal Abdul Samad and Anirudh Thapa who failed to impress.

"When you don't win the game



and aren't happy with the result, how can you say that some players impressed you. You could see that we couldn't start dominating the game in the middle even if we started with Sahal and Thapa. I expected much more from them in the first half.

"Sahal didn't play in the final stages. He was covering lots of ground, his defensive work was fantastic and he looked nice with

and aren't happy with the result,

Sunil. But I needed Sahal to be playmaker to dictate the game, create chances and also put in defensive work." Speaking about Thapa, Stimac said his performance was underwhelming considering that he is an experienced player. "Thapa has got enough experience to adapt to situations. I expect more from them as they have enough experience to do so," he added.

The coach further gave his thumbs up to the fans for turning up in huge numbers to make Chhetri's last match extra special. "Huge appreciation for the fans, for their support."

Chhetri stirred up emotions in his final outing but the Indian football team failed to convert the chances. "We are obviously disappointed with the result. The game was tough, as we expected.

The draw is realistic tonight, they opened the game much better and with more confidence -- in terms of passing, speed of passing and moving," Stimac said.

"It took us some time to gear up and start passing the ball into the danger zones.

"The general passing speed was our biggest problem tonight -- it wasn't good enough. Even in certain moments, when we put pressure on them, there was no quality in the delivery to help the forwards.

Stimac was, however, happy with goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu's performance.

"That's not the reason we didn't win, we weren't clinical in front of the goal and our best player tonight was Gurpreet, which isn't a good sign. It's fantastic to have such a goalkeeper here, who we never doubted."

The draw meant the long-serving Indian skipper had a tearful farewell, failing to add to his record tally of 94 goals.

"I feel really sad for Sunil, really sad that he didn't go with a win. In regards to everything, he was not thinking of his last minutes, not a single player or staff member," he said.

Sandhu said Chhetri's absence would be felt against Qatar but they need to cope and move forward. "Like any other team we prepare for, obviously this time around we won't have Sunil bhai with us, which is sad but as a nation we need to cope up with that and move forward. (PTI)

after wins over Canada and Pakistan.

"We are not worried about what people are saying (that their wins are fluke). We know what we have worked and what capability we have.

"We don't even want to think about the Ireland (match) right now. So, Super 8 is far ahead. We just focus on the particular game," he explained.

But for now, Patel said the team members are in a celebratory mood after their surprising victory. (PTI)

Norway Chess: Praggnanandhaa loses to Caruana, Carlsen beats Firouzja Alireza

STAVANGER (NORWAY) June 7: Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa went down fighting against Fabiano Caruana of United States while world number one Magnus Carlsen inflicted an Armageddon defeat on France's Firouzja Alireza in the penultimate round of Norway Chess tournament here.

With 16 points in his bag, Carlsen stretched his lead to 1.5 points over nearest rival Hikaru Nakamura, who was in for a shock as World Champion Ding Liren, for once, did not blow his position away.

Praggnanandhaa, despite the loss against Caruana in Armageddon, is still third on 13 points, a full point ahead of Alireza.

Caruana on 10.5 comes in next in standings ahead of Liren (6), who spoiled Nakamura's party.

In the women's section, R Vaishali succumbed to another loss at the hands of Tingjie Lei of China and was relegated to fourth spot while Koneru Humpy went down to tournament leader Wenju Ju of China.

Wenju Ju of China strengthened her claim for the title by moving to 16 points. Tingjie Lei and Anna Muzychuk of Ukraine follow her 1.5 points behind while Vaishali on 11.5 is a distant fourth ahead of Humpy who is on nine points. Veteran Swede Pia Cramling is last spot with 6.5 points in her kitty.

Vaishali was the only one to go down in the Classical game itself while all the other matches saw an Armageddon battle following a draw in normal games.

The English opening does not sound like a menacing choice but Tingjie took advantage of the slightly favourable colour early in the opening as Vaishali's pawn

structure became a bit dented.

Picking out a pawn on the queen side, the Chinese capitalised on her better placed rook to invade the seventh rank and it was soon curtains for the Indian in just 28 moves.

Humpy had her last chance but could not make most of it as white against Wenjun Ju. The Chinese equalised at ease in the early middle game as black in the Ragozine defense and drew comfortably in the ensuing rook and pawns endgame.

Humpy decided to go all-in in the Armageddon but the plan boomeranged as Wenjun found a tactical skirmish to win a rook in the middle game. The game lasted 41 moves.

In the men's section, Carlsen was not overjoyed that the Classical game ended in a draw but kept his nerves intact to win the Armageddon while Liren finally had something to smile about as he defeated Nakamura in fine fashion.

Praggnanandhaa did not have to sweat hard to hold Caruana under Classical but in the Armageddon the American was a transformed player as he took advantage of his white pieces.

The Indian has white pieces in the last round game against Nakamura and will hope to make the most of it.

Results round 9 men: Fabiano Caruana (USA, 10.5) beat R Praggnanandhaa (Ind, 13) 1.5-1; Firouzja Alireza (Fra, 12) lost to Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 16) 1-1.5; Hikaru Nakamura (USA, 14.5) lost to Ding Liren (Chn, 6.5) 1-1.5.

Women: Koneru Humpy (Ind, 9) lost to Wenjun Ju (Chn, 16) 1.5-1; Tingjie Lei (Chn, 14.5) beat R Vaishali (11.5) 3-0; Pia Cramling (Swe, 6.5) lost to Anna Muzychuk (Ukr, 14.5) 1-1.5. (PTI)



Keeping emotions in check, focus on India: USA skipper Monank after stunning Pakistan

DALLAS, June 7: United States skipper Monank Patel is certain that their epochal T20 World Cup win over Pakistan will open "many doors" for them, but wants to keep emotions in check and focus on the next assignment against India.

Co-hosts USA stunned former champions Pakistan via Super Over on Thursday, but are up against another daunting opponent in India on June 12.

"I am happy with the win, playing

against Pakistan for the first time in the World Cup and beating them was an unbelievable performance. Our focus would be on playing against India now," Patel said in the post-match press meet.

"But we don't want to keep our emotion too high or low. We'll make sure that we'll enjoy it (the win) and make sure that next day we come fresh," he added.

Patel, who made a crucial 50, asserted that the victory for the Asian giants would have far-reaching ramifications

for USA cricket as a whole

"Beating Pakistan in World Cup is going to open many doors for us. The World Cup itself (hosting) is a big achievement, and then performing here as a team, it helps us to grow the cricket in USA. "I would say it's a big day for Team USA and I would say not just for USA, for the USA cricket community too," said Patel. But they are not yet ready to think of a Super Eight entry, despite topping Group A with four points

after wins over Canada and Pakistan.

"We are not worried about what people are saying (that their wins are fluke). We know what we have worked and what capability we have.

"We don't even want to think about the Ireland (match) right now. So, Super 8 is far ahead. We just focus on the particular game," he explained.

But for now, Patel said the team members are in a celebratory mood after their surprising victory. (PTI)

'Black Day': Pakistan cricket community slams team after shock defeat to USA

KARACHI, June 7: The Pakistan cricket fraternity reacted with disbelief after the team's shock defeat at the hands of tournament debutants USA in the T20 World Cup, calling it a "black day".

Playing in their maiden World Cup, newcomers USA prevailed in the Super Over to stun former champions Pakistan after both the teams ended at the same score in normal play at Dallas' Grand Prairie Stadium.

Former captain Younis Khan said Pakistan had made some tactical blunders when it mattered the most. "I would have liked to see Fakhar Zaman take the strike in the super over against the left-arm seamer. But one can only learn from such a bad day and I hope Babar Azam and the other players now take every game as a do or die game," Younis said.

According to Younis, what was most disappointing was the fact that there is a huge Pakistani community in the USA, which supports the team wholeheartedly.

Pace legend Wasim Akram termed the team's performance as pathetic.

"It didn't seem like Pakistan was playing against a team that has limited exposure against top teams." He was also critical of the lack of effort in the field by some of the players. Former opener Mohsin Khan said he was concerned about the future of Pakistan cricket. "This is not just a defeat, it is a sorry statement on the mental strength of our players. I don't know what is going on but somewhere I got a feeling our players underestimated USA," he said.

Khan, who was head coach and chief selector from 2010 to 2012, said the upcoming match against India have become a do-or-die contest for the beleaguered side.

"We have to win that game at

all costs otherwise we are out of the super eight."

Pakistan and USA had scored 159 each in the regulation time before the latter successfully defended 18 runs in the Super Over to register a famous victory in Dallas on Thursday.

"It is a black day in Pakistan cricket history. I mean where is the pride and that fighting spirit that was synonymous with our players," said cricket analyst Omair Alavi. Before the reverse against USA, Pakistan have also lost to teams such as Afghanistan, Zimbabwe and Ireland in recent times.

Former captain Javed Miandad gave credit to the USA team for pulling off a huge upset despite playing for the first time at the game's highest level.

"I mean look at our experience and exposure compared to them but I give full credit to the USA for holding their nerves and playing with discipline. Look at the catches they took, it turned the match in their favour," he said.

The batting great said that it was absolutely necessary now for the players to bounce back in the remaining matches of the tournament. "I look at the psyche of our cricket fans and I think they can redeem themselves by trying to beat India on Sunday," he said.

The result has also led to speculations on social media that all is not well in the Pakistan dressing room. Pakistan's former captain and coach, Mohammad Hafeez, was also critical of the team's forgettable performance, saying that the decision to go back to Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan as openers meant the team management had not moved forward.

Natasha, an avid cricket lover and a Babar fan, said if Pakistan can't beat the USA how can one expect them to win against a strong side like India. (PTI)

New racing sensation, Atiqa to debut in FMSCI National Karting Championship

BENGALURU, June 7: India's latest racing sensation, 9-year-old Atiqa Mir, will make her much-awaited debut in the MECO-FMSCI National Karting Championship Rotax Max 2024 this weekend at the Mecro Kartopia in Bengaluru.

The highest-ranked female driver under-10 years as per FIA (International Automobile Federation) and the CIK (Commission Internationale de Karting) in any national championship got a feel of the competition in India in 2022, taking part in two races as a 7-year-old.

This is the first time she will compete in all five rounds of the Championship. She will turn out for Team MSport Racing in the Micro Max category (7 to 12 years).

"We have been waiting to show our mettle in the highly competitive Indian

National Championship. It's a homecoming for Atiqa," Atiqa's father, Asif Mir, India's first national karting champion and a former Formula Asia Racer, said.

Hailing from Kashmir, Atiqa is already a local star in the state. She now lives in Dubai where she trains with George Gibbons Motorsports. Atiqa juggles between European and UAE Karting Championships.

"We at MSport are happy to welcome Atiqa back to India. She's gained a lot of experience since her last stint in the country, which makes her a strong prospect to fight at the front in the Micro Max category this year. We hope to achieve a lot of success together," Armaan Ebrahim of MSport said.

Atiqa started karting when she was just 6 years of age. Her first competitive race

was in 2021.

Competing in the Micro Max and Mini X30 categories, Atiqa is the reigning Vice-Champion in the UAE IAME National Championship, Vice-Champion in the Mena Cup, 2nd Runner-up in the DAMC Cup among her various triumphs.

Atiqa is a race winner in the UAE IAME National Karting Championship (Mini R category) and has scored multiple Pole Positions, Fastest Laps and Lap Records too.

"I watched my father race when I was just 3. I discuss driving techniques and race data with him now," Atiqa explains proudly.

"I am looking forward to racing in India where I made my debut in Micro Max in 2022 and I have fond memories of the track," she added. (PTI)



Coding to cricket: Saurabh Netravalkar aces all pitches

MUMBAI, June 7: Day job of a software engineer in Oracle, developed his own cricket app, adept at playing Ukulele, a decent singer and yes, also a game-changing pacer for T20 World Cup debutants USA -- if winning in life had a face, it could well be Saurabh Netravalkar. The 32-year-old, who played for India in the 2010 U-19 World Cup, has shared the dressing room with the likes of KL Rahul and Mayank Agarwal, even played the Ranji Trophy for Mumbai, but without doubt his finest moment arrived on Thursday in Dallas, against Pakistan in the T20 World Cup. Saurabh and his unfancied but immensely talented USA side stunned the cricket fraternity when it took down the mighty and mercurial Pakistan in the Super Over after scores were tied at 159 in regulation play.

Defending 19 runs, Saurabh kept his composure to stop Pakistan at 13 and give his adopted side a win for the ages.

If Pakistan's perpetual trait of being fallible was at its peak on Thursday, it was USA and Saurabh's composure which helped them beat a giant. Interestingly, Saurabh and Pakistan captain Babar Azam had faced off in the 2010 U-19 World Cup too but it was the latter who walked away as the winner on that day.

Not on Thursday though. "He is always calm. One of his specialities is that he never comes under any kind of pressure," his father Naresh, who resides here with other family members, told PTI in an exclusive interview on Friday. "He has started doing yoga and that also has made a huge difference as he knows how to wade through any situation with ease," added Naresh when asked to describe his emotions during the Super Over which he watched with Saurabh's mother and wife.

Watching it all unfold on a TV sitting thousands of kilometres away, Naresh noticed that Saurabh didn't look bogged down despite the immense pressure of defending 19 runs in the Super



Over. "Back at home, we were feeling more pressure, but I did not see any of it on his face," Naresh said.

"He had a fixed plan and he was also putting in a lot of thoughts behind every delivery that he bowled. I can say he was trying to gauge what was going in the batter's mind and he bowled accordingly. We all felt looking at him that he was very calm," Naresh

added. "His focus is like that only, he will give his 100 per cent in whatever he takes up, be it studying or be it playing cricket. He is working at Oracle as a full-time employee. But he would always carry his laptop and work online if needed on tours," he added.

Indeed, spotlight will remain on this Indian player for a while but there was a time when a younger Saurabh took a hard but pragmatic

call of leaving the "instability" in cricket and shift to Plan B, which was academics. "He had quit the game to move to the US. When he completed his engineering, he expressed to me that he would take a maximum gap of two years for cricket and if it does not work out, he would move to the US for his MS (studies)," Naresh recalled.

"I thought, if he has worked so hard, he must get sometime and during that period he played one match in the Ranji Trophy but there was no stability -- he would be in and out (of the side)." So, Saurabh found himself at the prestigious Cornell University for his MS on a scholarship and did not carry anything related to cricket with him. This for a man who had developed a cricket app -- CricDeCode -- in 2014 to help players analyse their game.

"He did not even carry his kit (to the US) where he got admission in a good university, the Cornell University, which is among the top five universities and in the Ivy League." (PTI)

Nosthush Kenjige: From dwelling in Bengaluru PG to star performer against Pakistan

BENGALURU, June 7: Back in 2013, Nosthush Kenjige shackled up in his PG room close to the CBD here, sulking. Then a 22-year-old, Kenjige was nowhere near fulfilling his dream of becoming a professional cricketer.

A rigorous training at the Karnataka Institute of Cricket (KIOC) notwithstanding, Kenjige, one of the stars in USA's stunning win over Pakistan in the ongoing T20 World Cup, was not even close to breaking into the state cricketing eco-system.

Filled with disillusion, Kenjige, a US citizen by birth, returned to his mother nation armed with a degree in bio-technology from Dayanand Sagar College of Engineering. His passion for cricket was not extinct but remained dormant as Kenjige explored a career in medical equipment inspection in New York.

"It was a phase I was merely floating around without much aim. But a year or so later, I joined Columbia Cricket Club in NY, and that sort of reignited my desire to pursue cricket," said Kenjige, who was here on a personal visit a few months back.

Irfan Sait, his early coach at the KIOC, said Kenjige made a timely return to the USA.

"He was talented for sure. He used to put in a lot of hard work at nets and played in the state league too. But as it happens here, thousands of cricketers want to break into the Karnataka state cricket team. Some will make it, some won't and Nosh, unfortunately, could not make it but that was no reflection of his talent or work ethics."

"When he decided to go back to the USA, I thought it was a good move and thought he may get to



play at a higher level there," said Sait.

It was not a wrong assumption either. Kenjige rose through the

ranks quite quickly in the next few years, earning a central contract with the USA national team and signed up for MI New York in the

Major League Cricket.

In fact, the left-arm spinner was quite impressive for his side taking six wickets from as many matches at an outstanding economy rate of 5.76. His wickets included some top batters like Martin Gupthill.

"The experience really helped me because it improved my confidence of standing up to bigger players and occasions," said Kenjige.

But there was a stroke of luck for Kenjige as former West Indian player Dwayne Bravo took notice of him at the US Open T20 tournament, an annual cricket exhibition event in Florida where some top cricketers from around the world participate.

Ali Khan, the USA teammate of Kenjige, too was picked by Bravo, who has an excellent eye for talent, during that tournament at the Cricketplex resort.

Sometimes minute moments can irrevocably change the course of someone's career or life and Kenjige admitted this as his turning point.

"I never thought that would change the whole course. It was a good spell but never thought that it would propel me into a bigger league."

"I had to do 800 hours of community service to be eligible to play for the USA, including teaching young cricketers, but all that effort was worth it when I made my national debut," said Kenjige.

The big day came in 2019 when Kenjige stepped on to the field against UAE, and since then he has played 40 ODIs and seven T20Is, including the one against Pakistan in New York on Thursday.

Kenjige grabbed the wickets of Usman Khan, Azam Khan and Shadab Khan to break Pakistan's charge in the middle overs.

The 33-year-old might have foreseen his glory day when he spoke about the need to exploit the chances.

"Coming from an Associate team, we don't often get chances to play against big teams. So, we need to ensure to grab those chances with both hands once they come our way. It's a tight situation but that's the challenging part for players like us," noted Kenjige, who was the USA's highest wicket-taker in the ICC Qualifiers last year.

One more challenge will come Kenjige's way on June 12 when USA face India, the country of his parents Pradeep and Keerthi.

"During those years (in Karnataka), I was ready to move away from cricket. But destiny has taken me to a different route, but one that I always wanted to travel," he signed off. (PTI)

England eye improved bowling effort to halt formidable Aussies; SA face Netherlands

BRIDGETOWN (BARBADOS), Jun 7: Defending champions England will look to restitch their T20 World Cup campaign through an improved bowling effort when they face '双打' rival Australia in a Group B match here on Saturday.

England's opening game against Scotland was rained off after the latter made 90 for no loss in 10 overs, forcing the teams to take home a point each.

But even those 60 balls showed the need for England to buckle up in the bowling department, to begin with.

Scottish openers George Munsey and Michael Jones scored freely against all England bowlers, and Australia carry far more lethal guns in their line-up.

David Warner and Marcus Stoinis showed the extent of damage they can do while outclassing Oman in their tournament opener.

Once again, there will be a lot of focus on Jofra Archer, who gave away 12 runs in two overs against Scotland, as the pacer continues his comeback trail into top-flight cricket.

But bowling is just one part, as the English batters under skipper Jos Buttler, who had a good run in the IPL 2024, will have to fire in unison against the Aussie attack.

The Australian bowlers were potent against Oman even without Pat Cummins, who had a reasonable outing for Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL.

Nathan Ellis played ahead of Cummins in that game, but Australia might bring back the premier pacer against a much more formidable opponent.



While Australia's batting looks settled, the misfiring Glenn Maxwell remains a missing link.

After enduring a shipwreck of an IPL campaign with Royal Challengers Bengaluru recently, the 'IPL Show' got out for a first-ball duck against Oman.

The 2021 champions will be eager to see Maxwell return to his best at the earliest, and a match against England offers him a perfect occasion.

Teams:
Australia: Mitchell Marsh (c), Ashton Agar, Pat Cummins, Tim David, Nathan Ellis, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Glenn Maxwell, Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis, Matthew Wade, David Warner, Adam Zampa. Travelling Re-

serves: Jake Fraser-McGurk, Matt Short.

England: Jos Buttler (c), Moeen Ali, Jofra Archer, Jonathan Bairstow, Harry Brook, Sam Curran, Ben Duckett, Tom Hartley, Will Jacks, Chris Jordan, Liam Livingstone, Adil Rashid, Phil Salt, Reece Topley, Mark Wood.

Match starts at 10.30 PM IST. SA face courageous Dutch

South Africa might have trotted past Sri Lanka in their first match, but they have a tricky opponent in Netherlands in their second group D match in New York on Saturday.

The scars from their 38-run loss against the Dutch in last year's 50-over World Cup might still be fresh in the minds of the Proteas.

The Aiden Markram-led side would certainly want a reversal

this time around. The most encouraging signal from their win over Sri Lanka was the form of Anrich Nortje.

The pacer, who was a shadow of his intimidating self in the IPL, seemed to have regained his rhythm on a spicy New York pitch while grabbing four wickets against the Islanders.

Along with Kagiso Rabada, Nortje forms a strong combination upfront, and SA will require them in full flight against Netherlands, who started with a six-wicket win over Nepal.

They also ticked a few boxes in that match as frontline batter Max O'Dowd made a fifty while leading pacers Tim Pringle and Logan van Beek took three wickets apiece.

The Dutch side will be hoping for another clinical outing from their top players to further their fancied opponent once more.

Teams:
South Africa: Aiden Markram (c), Ottiel Baartman, Gerald Coetzee, Quinton de Kock, Bjorn Fortuin, Reeza Hendricks, Marco Jansen, Heinrich Klaasen, Keshav Maharaj, David Miller, Anrich Nortje, Kagiso Rabada, Ryan Rickelton, Tabraiz Shamsi, Tristan Stubbs.

Netherlands: Scott Edwards (c), Aryan Dutt, Bas de Leede, Kyle Klein, Logan van Beek, Max O'Dowd, Michael Levitt, Paul van Meekeren, Ryan Klein, Saqib Zulfiqar, Sybrand Engelbrecht, Teja Nidamanuru, Tim Pringle, Vikram Singh, Viv Kingma, Wesley Barresi. Travelling reserve: Ryan Klein.

Match starts at 8 PM IST. (PTI)

PROVIDENCE (GUYANA), Jun 7: New Zealand will have no room for complacency when they begin the T20 World Cup campaign against a gutsy Afghanistan side full of IPL stars in a Group C fixture here on Saturday.

New Zealand find themselves in the a difficult group with two-time champions West Indies and Afghanistan also vying for the top two spots.

With rain restricting their training sessions, New Zealand's preparation for the marquee event have been less than ideal.

Additionally, they take on Afghanistan and West Indies in their opening two games.

Come Saturday, Kane Williamson and Co. will have to get the better of a side that is not only warmed up but has also registered a morale-boosting win and know the conditions here well.

However, New Zealand's strength in ICC events has been their adaptability, they always manage to turn up, reaching the latter stages.

And with a wealth of experience as well as an exuberance of youth in the likes of Finn Allen and Rachin Ravindra in the side, they will be expected to get past the Afghans.

On paper, New Zealand have all bases covered, they have depth in batting and variety in bowling. Trent Boult will look dominate with the new ball, with Lockie Ferguson and Tim Southee complementing him.

Left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner has a phenomenal record in the Caribbean, averaging under 17 with the ball at an economy of 5.5 ad he will be look to outsmart the Afghans.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan secured a thumping victory over Uganda in their opener. If the opening duo of Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran provided the team a great start with the bat, pacers Fazalhaq Farooqi, Naveen-ul-Haq, and skipper Rashid Khan exhibited exceptional prowess with the ball.

But apart from Gurbaz and Zadran none of the other batters manage to stick around and against a formidable Kiwi side, they will need to do better.



Teams:

New Zealand: Kane Williamson (c), Finn Allen, Trent Boult, Michael Bracewell, Mark Chapman, Devon Conway, Lockie Ferguson, Matt Henry, Daryl Mitchell, Jimmy Neesham, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Mitchell Santner, Ish Sodhi, Tim Southee.

Afghanistan: Rashid Khan (c), Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Ibrahim Zadran, Azmatullah Omarzai, Najibullah Zadran, Mohammad Ishaq, Mohammad Nabi, Gulbadin Naib, Karim Janat, Nangeyal Kharoti, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Noor Ahmad, Naveen-ul-Haq, Fazalhaq Farooqi, Faeed Ahmad Malik. Reserves: Sediq Atal, Hazratullah Zazai, Saleem Safi.

Match starts 8 PM IST
Sri Lanka-Bangladesh renew rivalry

In Dallas, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh will renew their rivalry in a bid to improve their chances to reach the Super Eights.

Group D or the 'Group of Death' features three full members -- South Africa, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh -- the Netherlands, who are capable of pulling off upset wins and Nepal. And wins and margin of victories could play a vital role towards the end of the group stage.

Sri Lanka will have to bounce back from their crushing defeat to South Africa in their opener. Their

batters will be expected to show better shot selection and greater match awareness.

The bowlers did well while defending 77 against South Africa and the Islanders would fancy their chances against an out of form Bangladesh side.

Bangladesh have struggled in the shortest format this year. The have had series losses against Sri Lanka and USA. They were handed a comprehensive defeat by India in their warm up game as well.

Teams:
Sri Lanka: Wanindu Hasaranga (c), Charith Asalanka, Kusal Mendis, Pathum Nissanka, Kamindu Mendis, Sadeera Samarawickrama, Angelo Mathews, Dasun Shanaka, Dhananjaya De Silva, Maheesh Theekshana, Dunith Wellalage, Dushmantha Chameera, Nuwan Thushara, Matheesha Pathirana, Dilshan Madushanka. Travelling Reserves: Asitha Fernando, Vijayakanth Vijayakanth, Bhanuka Rajapaksa, Janith Liyanage.

Bangladesh: Najmul Hossain Shanto (c), Taskin Ahmed, Litton Das, Soumya Sarkar, Tanzid Hasan Tamim, Shakib Al Hasan, Tawhid Hridoy, Mahmud Ullah Riyad, Jaker Ali Anik, Tanvir Islam, Shak Mahedi Hasan, Rishad Hossain, Mustafizur Rahman, Shoriful Islam, Tanzim Hasan Sakib. Travelling reserves: Afif Hossain, Hasan Mahmud.

Match Starts 6am IST. (PTI)

USA cricketer Theron accuses Rauf of ball tampering

DALLAS, June 7: USA bowler Rusty Theron has accused Pakistan pacer Haris Rauf of ball tampering during the T20 World Cup match between the two sides.

Theron, who is not part of the USA squad, alleged that Rauf was running his thumbnails over the ball, which was two overs old, and hence it was reversing.

The 38-year-old seamer, who used to play for South Africa before, also slammed the ICC for turning a blind eye to the alleged incident.

"@ICC are we just going to pretend Pakistan

aren't scratching the hell out of this freshly changed ball? Reversing the ball that's just been changed 2 overs ago?"

"You can literally see Harris Rauf running his thumb nail over the ball at the top of his mark. @usacricet #PakvsUSA," Theron wrote on 'X'.

Co-hosts USA stunned Pakistan as they beat the former champions via a Super Over on Thursday to pull off the first upset of this edition's T20 World Cup.

Rauf was Pakistan's most expensive pacer, leading 37 runs in four overs. (PTI)

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T20 WC: Babar admits complacency after upset loss to USA

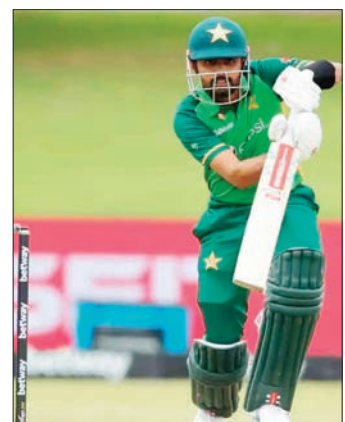
DALLAS, June 7: Left stunned by the Super Over defeat to USA in their T20 World Cup opener, an upset Pakistan captain Babar Azam conceded that his side was guilty of taking things "a little lightly" and failed to come good in any department of the game.

Co-hosts USA pulled off the first upset of the ongoing event, edging out former champions and last edition's finalists Pakistan in the Super Over here on Thursday.

The defeat was a stark reminder of Pakistan's unpredictability, which has often seen them lose to teams that may not seem strong on paper. Pakistan had lost to Zimbabwe in the last T20 World Cup in Australia and recently the 'Men In Green' were beaten by Ireland during a bilateral series.

"Whenever you come in any tournament, you do the best preparation always. You can say it's a kind of mindset. When you come up against a team like this (associate nations), you relax a little, you take things a little lightly," Babar said at the post-match press conference.

"See, if you don't execute your plan against any team, then what-



ever team it is, they will beat you. So, I believe that we are not up to the mark in executing. We are doing well in preparation but in the match, we are not executing our plans as a team," he added.

The skipper was critical of his side's performance as Pakistan were simply outplayed by the debutants.

"I am upset. We are not playing good in all three departments." Pakistan were reeling at 26/3 but Babar and Shadab Khan managed to score 63 in the next six overs. When it looked like Pakistan

had gained momentum, Nosthush Kenjige claimed the scalps of Shadab and Azam Khan off successive deliveries in the 13th over with Babar following them a couple of overs later

"For six overs, we did not capitalise properly, but later on, after the 10th over we got momentum, but again we lost too many wickets and then your momentum is gone," Babar pointed out.

"So, as a batting unit, we need to step it up in the middle and towards the end," he said.

Pakistan didn't excel with the ball either, an aspect which is considered their strong suit. Spinners Shadab and Iftikhar Ahmed conceded 37 runs in four overs.

"We are better than that in bowling, we were not able to take wickets in the first six overs. In the middle overs, your spinner is not taking wickets then pressure is on us."

"After 10 overs, we did come back but I think the way they finished game in the Super Over, the credit goes to the US team," Babar said.

Pakistan will take on arch-rivals India next on Sunday. (PTI)

Pathetic performance, Wasim Akram blasts Pakistan after defeat to USA



DALLAS, June 7: Legendary pacer Wasim Akram has lambasted Pakistan for their "pathetic performance" against the USA while going down in the Super Over and said it will be tough for Babar Azam's side to progress to the T20 World Cup knockouts.

Pakistan and USA had scored 159 each in the regulation time before the latter successfully defended 18 runs in the Super Over to register a famous victory here on Thursday.



"Pathetic performance. Winning and losing is a part of the game. But you need to fight till the last ball. It was a bad for Pakistan cricket," Akram told Star Sports.

"Pakistan will struggle from here onwards to qualify for the Super Eight because they have to play India (on June 9) and two more good teams (Ireland and Canada)," he added.

The lynchpin of Pakistan's 1992 World Cup triumph felt that the turning point of the game

was USA taking early wickets. Pakistan stuttered to 30 for three at the end of Power Play and from thereon they struggled for momentum despite skipper Babar and Shadab Khan adding 72 runs for the fourth wicket.

"The turning point of the game...the way USA got early wickets. Pakistan had a little partnership between Babar and Shadab and then nobody turned up. The fielding was below average, the overall cricket by Pakistan was average," he said.

Akram, a master of death bowling in his playing days, said conceding 18 runs in the Super Over dashed Pakistan's hopes.

"While playing against USA, I was confident, every Pakistan supporter was confident that they will win after the way they played in the first innings."

"In the second innings, they (USA) came out to chase...I mean getting 19 runs in the Super Over is like getting 36 runs in a Super Over. Well done USA," he said.

Akram heaped praise on USA captain Monank Patel for marshalling his bowling resources and making a match-winning fifty.

"The moment of the day for me was the innings of USA captain Monank Patel, the way he batted...carried his bat.

"The way he used his suit as in he led from the front. Their fielding was spot-on every time, and very impressive cricket from the USA," he added. (PTI)