

I want to spend more time strengthen Cong in Assam, says Jorhat MP Triumphant Gaurav eyes 2026 Assam polls

NEW DELHI, June 13: Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi, who fought and won a remarkable battle in Jorhat in the just-concluded Lok Sabha polls, has said his duty towards Assam is only half done and his immediate priority is to strengthen the party in the state for the 2026 assembly elections.

He also said that it was the responsibility of the Congress, not only in Assam but across India, to remove the "feeling of threat, insecurity, intimidation, oppression or suffocation prevailing now'

'We want the people of India to live freely, follow any religion, support any party and political ideology of their choice and create a sense of freedom. I have already made up my mind that irrespective of the results in Jorhat, even if it is a victory, there are many people in Assam feel that there is an atmosphere of fear and my

job is to make them free from fear," Gogoi told PTI editors in an interaction at the news agency's headquarters.

Asked whether he was ready for a leadership role in Assam, the three-time Lok Sabha member said he was not asking for in 2026 and do (CONTD. ON PAGE-9)

any position or role from the Congress leadership but time so that he can spend more time in Assam to strengthen the party and win the state assembly elections. "My immediate priority will be to

strengthen the Congress in Assam. I said my election is not over. My duty is half finished. My duty to my party is not to just win the seat of Jorhat but to win the state of Assam. And as I said, like in Jorhat, it was a people's campaign, it was a people's victory and that is going to be in 2026 (assembly polls)," he said.

Election to the 126-member Assam assembly is due in early 2026.

"I am looking for spending more time in Assam to strengthen the party. Because we have elections in two years from now. I think it is necessary that we look at the states going to election this year. in 2025.







কেশৱ মহন্ত মন্ত্ৰী, স্বাস্থ্য, পৰিয়াল কল্যাণ, চিকিৎসা শিক্ষা আৰু গৱেষণা, বিজ্ঞান-প্ৰযুক্তিবিদ্যা আৰু জলবায়ু পৰিৱৰ্তন আৰু তথ্য প্ৰযুক্তি বিভাগ, অসম চৰকাৰ

#### বিশ্ব ৰন্তদাতা দিৱস, ১৪ জুন ২০২৪

উপলক্ষে অসমৰ স্বাস্থ্য, পৰিয়াল কল্যাণ, চিকিৎসা শিক্ষা আৰু গৱেষণা, বিজ্ঞান-প্ৰযুক্তিবিদ্যা আৰু জলবায়ু পৰিৱৰ্তন আৰু তথ্য প্ৰযুক্তি বিভাগৰ মন্ত্ৰীৰ বাৰ্তা।

সমগ্ৰ বিশ্বৰ লগতে অসমতো প্ৰতি বছৰে ১৪ জুন তাৰিখে ''বিশ্ব ৰক্তদাতা দিৱস'' পালন কৰি অহা হৈছে। বিশ্ব স্বাস্থ্য সংস্থাই নোবেল বঁটা বিজয়ী অষ্ট্ৰিয়াৰ মহান চিকিৎসা বিজ্ঞানী কাৰ্ল লেণ্ডস্টেইনাৰলৈ সন্মান জনাই তেখেতৰ জন্ম দিনটো "বিশ্ব ৰক্তদাতা দিৱস" হিচাপে ঘোষণা কৰি ২০০৫ চনৰ পৰা এই দিৱস উদ্যাপনৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰে। এইগৰাকী চিকিৎসা বিজ্ঞানীয়ে ১৯০০ চনত প্ৰথমবাৰলৈ মানুহৰ তেজক A, B, AB, O গ্ৰুপত শ্ৰেণীকৰণৰ আধুনিক পদ্ধতি উদ্ভাৱন কৰিছিল।

এই দিৱস উদ্যাপনৰ মূল তাৎপৰ্য আৰু উদ্দেশ্য হৈছে বিশ্বৰ স্বেচ্ছামূলক ৰক্তদাতাসকলক তেওঁলোকৰ নিঃস্বাৰ্থ সেৱাৰ বাবে কৃতজ্ঞতা জনোৱাৰ লগতে সমাজত স্বেচ্ছামূলক ৰক্তদানৰ বাবে এক গণ আন্দোলন গঢাৰ দিশত উদগনি যোগোৱা। এই বছৰৰ বিশ্ব ৰক্তদাতা দিৱসৰ মল বিষয়বস্তু হৈছে-

> "২০ বছৰীয়া স্বেচ্ছামূলক ৰক্তদানৰ উদযাপন ঃ ৰক্তদাতাসকললৈ ধন্যবাদ।।"

অসমৰ স্বেচ্ছামূলক ৰক্তদাতাসকলে ৰাজ্যখনৰ স্বাস্থ্যখণ্ডত এক উল্লেখযোগ্য বৰঙণি আগবঢ়াই আহিছে। তেওঁলোকৰ নিঃস্বাৰ্থ সেৱাৰ বাবে আৰ্তজনে জৰুৰী সময়ত প্ৰয়োজনীয় ৰক্ত লাভ কৰিবলৈ সক্ষম হৈ আহিছে। ইয়াৰ বাবে প্ৰতিগৰাকী স্বেচ্ছামূলক ৰক্তদাতাৰ প্ৰতি ধন্যবাদ জ্ঞাপন কৰিছোঁ।

১৮ বছৰৰ পৰা ৬৫ বছৰ বয়সৰ সকলো সস্ত ব্যক্তিয়েই ৰক্তদান কৰিব পাৰে। ৰক্তদানে শৰীৰৰ একো ক্ষতিসাধন নকৰে, বৰঞ্চ প্ৰত্যেক তিনিমাহৰ মূৰে মূৰে ৰক্তদান কৰিও এগৰাকী ব্যক্তিয়ে নিৰাপদ, সুস্থ জীৱন - যাপন কৰিব পাৰে।

ৰক্তদানৰ দৰে মহৎ দান আন একো নাই। আপোনাৰ ৰক্তই আনৰ জীৱন বচাব পাৰে। সেয়েহে, আমি পুনৰবাৰ সকলোকে স্বেচ্ছামূলক ৰক্তদানৰ বাবে আগবাঢ়ি আহিবলৈ আহান জনাইছোঁ।

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🕓 অসম ৰাৰ্তা ছাবস্ক্ৰাইৰ কৰিবলৈ ৭৬৩৬৮৩৪৯৪৩ ত Assam লিখি ৱাটছএপ কৰক

Janasanyog /D/1545/ 24/14-Jun-24

#### Guwahati schools asked not to conduct any exams during Ambubachi Mela

HT Bureau GUWAHATI, June 13: In the wake of upcoming Ambubachi Mela, the Inspector of Schools in Kamrup (Metro) district has directed schools not to conduct any examinations during this period to avoid any inconveniences to the students that may arise due to the heavy flow of devotees to Guwahati .

In an official letter addressed to authorities at all schools in the district, the Inspector of Schools said, "Schools are requested not to schedule any examination during 22nd June to 26th June, 2024 on account of Ambubachi. Further, if any schools have already scheduled (CONTD. ON PAGE-9)



empower the farmers adding that it would also boost the rural economy. He said that boosting cattle population in the state, the government will provide ₹ 30,000 per adult cow to farmers within 7

years investing ₹ 384 crore. Moreover, with an aim to provide assistance to livestock farmers, ₹ 12.34 crore seed money for 144 dairy cooperatives will be provided that will benefit at least 4500 dairy farmers in Assam.

The state government has provisioned ₹ 25 cores in the State Budget for 2024-25. The chief minister said that the government



will provide assistance for egg production also

"281 entrepreneurs to be assisted to set up poultry farms to produce 50 lakh eggs. Among other initiatives, milk processing plants will be established at Bongaigaon and Patacharkuchi. (CONTD. ON PAGE-9)



অসম চৰকাৰ খাদ্য, ৰাজহুৱা বিতৰণ আৰু গ্ৰাহক পৰিক্ৰমা বিভাগ



মন কৰিব



ৰেচন কাৰ্ডৰ জৰিয়তে নিয়মীয়াকৈ বিনামূলীয়া চাউল লাভ কৰাৰ বাবে হিতাধিকাৰীৰ e-KYC পৰীক্ষণ বাধ্যতামূলক

হিতাধিকাৰীসকলে সংশ্লিষ্ট সুলভ মূল্যৰ দোকানত উপলব্ধ e-PoS মেচিনত আঙুলিৰ চাপ প্ৰদান কৰিব লাগিব

সকলো সুলভ মূল্যৰ দোকানীয়ে এই বিশেষ দিনকেইটাত তেওঁলোকৰ অধীনৰ সকলো হিতাধিকাৰীৰ আঙুলিৰ চাপ e-PoS মেচিনৰ দ্বাৰা সংগ্ৰহ নিশ্চিত কৰিব



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#### **2** THE HILLS TIMES

#### BUSINESS

#### Rammohan Naidu takes charge GST Council to meet on June 22 of Civil Aviation Ministry

#### Chances to take up review of online gaming taxation

NEW DELHI, June 13: The GST Council, chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, will meet after a gap of eight months on June 22, and is likely to review the implementation of 28 per cent GST on the online gaming sector.

"The 53rd meeting of the GST Council will be held on 22nd June, 2024 at New Delhi," the GST Council Secretariat said in a post on X. The 52nd meeting of the GST Council, which comprises finance ministers of all states and UTs, was held on October 7, 2023. The agenda for the 53rd meet-

ing is yet to be circulated amongst the Council members.

This would be the first Council meeting after Lok Sabha elections. Results of the elections were declared on June 4, and Sitharaman was sworn in as a Cabinet minister in the new Modi Government on June 9.

The GST Council is likely to review the decision to levy 28 per cent GST on full value of bets for online gaming companies which came into effect from October 1, 2023. In its meetings in July and August, the GST Council had approved amendments to the law to include online gaming, casinos and horse racing as taxable actionable claims, and clarified that such supplies would attract 28 per cent tax on full bet value.



At that time it was said that a review of the implementation would be carried out after six months, which is April 2024.

Since no GST Council meeting has taken place since April, the June 22 meeting of the Council is expected to review the taxation of the online gaming sector.

gest required rate rationalisation and correction of inverted duty Another key pending issue before the GST Council is rate ratiostructure with an objective of simnalisation and a panel under Uttar plifving the rate structure, reviewing the GST exemption list and Pradesh Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna has been manenhancing GST revenues. dated to suggest required rate ra-Currently, the GST regime has tionalisation five broad tax slabs of zero, 5, 12,

The GST Council in its June 22 18, and 28 per cent. A cess is meeting may decide to fasttrack levied over and above the highest the process and set a timeline for the panel to submit a final report. merit goods. The GoM on GST rate rational-

Jaising said the expected clarifications on critical matters such as related party free of cost transactions and ESOP taxation are also indicative of policymakers' efforts to engage with industry stakeholders and streamline procedures based on feedback. KPMG in India, Partner and Head (Indirect Tax) Abhishek Jain said multiple clarifications are

being looked after to including taxability for the online gaming sector before October, taxability of ESOPs, corporate guarantee taxability, and various rate-related clarifications are also anticipated due to recent litigations.

Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co Partner Rajat Bose said there is a need to address key industry issues like the taxation of online gaming and the promised review of the valuation rules introduced in October 2023.

Besides, inverted duty structure in textiles, fertilisers could also be discussed by the Council. Deloitte India Partner MS Mani said the Council will need to take up the keenly awaited rate ratio-

nalisation discussion. "In addition, a preliminary effort to include low impact petroleum products such as natural gas within the GST ambit would be

gains Thursday after the US Fed

struck a more hawkish tone on in-

terest rates and lowered its interest

European markets were trading

the market perspective, this is pos-

stocks," said VK Vijayakumar,

Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit

Federal Reserve officials said on

Financial Services.

Securities.

28 per cent rate on luxury and dehighly beneficial to business," Deloitte India Partner Mahesh Mani said. (PTI)

NEW DELHI, June 13: Telugu Desam Party MP Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu on Thursday assumed the charge of Civil Aviation Minister, succeeding Jyotiraditya Scindia in the new Narendra Modi-led NDA government.

The 36-year-old three-time MP is the youngest Cabinet Minister in the Modi 3.0 government.

"I am feeling extremely happy to be given this responsibility of leading a very important ministry, not only in the country but also in the entire world. First of all, I would like to thank TDP (Telugu Desam Party) chief and Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu for giving me the opportunity to join the Cabinet and PM Modi for assigning me this ministry," he said. Naidu further said that one of the most important priorities will be to create an "ease of flying" scenario in civil aviation as air travel is becoming more and more approachable to the common man, and that has always been the motto of this government.

...we will make civil aviation or the air travel in this country more approachable to the common man

#### Deeptech startup **Ethereal Machines** raises USD 13 mn

NEW DELHI, June 13: Deeptech startup Ethereal Machines on Thursday said it has raised USD 13 million (about ₹ 108.6 crore) in a funding round led by Peak XV Partners and Steadview Capital.

The company plans to deploy the capital for Research & Development and set up its facility in Bengaluru.

The Series A funding round also saw participation from existing investors Blume Ventures, Enam Investments, and Sandeep Singhal.

The homegrown startup builds proprietary multi-axis computer numerical control (CNC) machines in India and utilises them to manufacture precision parts for the aerospace, healthcare, and consumer electronics industries.

"The funds from this round will be utilised for research and development, building India's first multi-axis CNC controller and to commence construction of its second 'Smart Factory' within the next 12 months.

2,50,000 square feet on the outskirts of Bengaluru, adjacent to the upcoming Foxconn facility," the Bengaluru-based company said in a statement.

The company's first smart factory in Peenya, Bengaluru caters to customers from the US, Europe, Israel, and India. (PTI)

of this country, and more easily accessible...I'm stressing the word ease of flying, let it be, in the sense of the comfort, or the convenience or the safety, security, whatever aspects it comes regarding the passenger that is choosing air travel, we would make him the core of whatever planning or thought process we are going through today," the new minister said.

He also said he would like to prepare a 100-day action plan for the ministry, a "wonderful suggestion" from Prime Minister Modi.

On a question related to high air ticket prices, the minister said, "I am going to hold review meetings. Definitely, my intention would be to bring down the (ticket) prices because that is a challenge for the common man. Our intention is to take air travel to the common man, unless you make it affordable, it is not going to happen," the minister said".

The minister also emphasised that under the leadership of Modi, the NDA alliance is very stable, and all the alliance partners are very happy with their roles and responsibilities. (PTI)

## HPL signs 10-yr naphtha supply agreement with QatarEnergy



KOLKATA, June 13: City-based Petrochemical major Haldia Petrochemicals Limited (HPL) has entered into a strategic agreement with QatarEnergy, ensuring a steady supply of naphtha for the coming decade, an official said on Thursday.

The contract stipulates that QatarEnergy will provide up to two million tons of naphtha to HPL for 10 years through its Singapore-based subsidiary, HPL Global Pte Limited, commencing from the second quarter of 2024. This long-term agreement.

signed by HPL Global Pte Ltd and QatarEnergy on behalf of Qatar Petroleum for the Sale of Petroleum Products Company Ltd. (QPSPP), marks the most substantial commitment between the two entities to date, a company statement said without divulging the value of the deal.

like HPL to satisfy the region's growing energy needs. Purnendu Chatterjee, HPL chairman, said the agreement bolsters the longstanding partnership with QatarEnergy. He emphasized that the agreement aligns with HPL's ongoing

Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi, the

Minister of State for Energy Af-

fairs and the President and CEO of

QatarEnergy, expressing satisfac-

tion over the deal said, "It rein-

forces Qatar's dedication to

contributing to India's economic

He also highlighted Qatar's role

as a dependable energy provider to

India, noting the joint efforts with

strategic petrochemical end-users

expansion.

endeavors in business development and strategic investment, aimed at meeting global customer demands while maintaining product quality.

HPL stands as one of India's largest petrochemical companies, boasting an annual ethylene production capacity of 700,000 tons. The company has adopted process technologies from premier licensors to manufacture top-tier products, keeping safety and environmental sustainability at the forefront. (PTI)

#### Rupee falls 7 paise to close at 83.55 against US dollar

MUMBAI, June 13: The rupee consolidated in a narrow range and settled for the day lower by 7 paise at 83.55 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday even as both the domestic equity benchmark indices touched all-time high levels.

Forex traders said rupee was seen resilient against the dollar, even after volatility witnessed in the dollar index, due to CPI data and US Fed's policy decision.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the local unit opened at 83.52 and finally settled for the day lower by 7 paise at 83.55 (provisional) against the American currency. On Wednesday, the rupee appreciated 11 paise to close at 83.48 against the US dollar.

"Rupee traded sideways in a range of 83.52-83.57 with stability. Even after volatility witnessed in the dollar index, due to CPI data and Fed's policy decision, the rupee was seen resilient against the dollar. "Now the trend in rupee will remain range bound but underlying tone remains weak as rupee consolidation continues near

## Sensex, Nifty scale fresh peaks as inflation cools off "European stocks gave up some

2021 by the GST Council. The

panel had submitted an interim re-

port to the GST Council in June

2022, proposing changes in tax

rates for some goods and services

The GoM was mandated to sug-

to rationalise the levy.

580 BSE SENSEX +0.3%

MUMBAI, June 13: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty hit their fresh record levels on Thursday after lower inflation numbers raised hopes of an interest rate cut by the RBI.

Besides, heavy buying in capital goods, consumer durable and industrial stocks also helped the indices, traders said.

Retail inflation continued its downward slide to reach a oneyear low of 4.75 per cent in May due to a marginal decline of prices in the food basket and remained

Hong Kong settled higher, while Tokyo and Shanghai ended lower. that inflation is on a slow track of lower in mid-session trade. US decline. A similar trend is reported markets ended mostly with gains in the US CPI, which brought in the overnight trade on Wednesdown the market expectation from day. "There is good news on the in-2 rate cuts in 2024 to 1, which is flation front, both in the US and in having a mixed effect on the global India. The takeaway from the inmarkets.

"In the domestic broader market, the realty and consumer durable sectors took the lead owing to government initiatives to revive the affordable housing segment," said Vinod Nair, Head of

flation numbers is that the disinflation process is well on track. From itive news, particularly for banking

Research, Geojit Financial Services.

#### rate cut projections to just one this year. Asian shares were trading mixed on Thursday after the Federal Reserve opted to keep its benchmark interest rate unchanged," said Deepak Jasani, "This new facility will span Head of Retail Research at HDFC In Asian markets, Seoul and

## Gold slips ₹ 50; silver tumbles ₹ 550



of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said. In the global markets, spot gold at Comex was trad-

ing at USD 2,313 per ounce, down USD 2 from the previous close. The yellow metal gave up its gains and is trading

lower after the US Federal Reserve said that inflation has fallen further toward its target level in recent months. The US Fed officials also signalled to cut

all-time low. Major fall in dollar below USD 103 only will give strong rupee buying above 83.00 till then 83.20-83.75 approx range will be seen," said Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 104.81, higher by 0.17 per cent.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, declined 0.84 per cent to USD 81.91 per barrel.

On the domestic macroeconomic front. India's industrial production growth slipped to 3-month low of 5 per cent in April 2024, mainly due to poor show by the manufacturing sector, though mining and power segments performed well, according to official data. (PTI)

within the Reserve Bank's comfort zone of below 6 per cent, according to government data released on Wednesday

Rising for the second day in a row, the 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 538.89 points or 0.70 to hit its lifetime peak of 77,145.46. It ended at a fresh record high at 76,810.90, up 204.33 points or 0.27 per cent.

A total of 2,345 stocks advanced, 1,539 declined, and 100 remained unchanged on the BSE. The NSE Nifty rallied 75.95 points or 0.33 per cent to settle at a new closing high of 23,398.90.

During the day, it climbed 158.1 points or 0.67 per cent to its record peak of 23,481.05. "The domestic equity bench-

mark traded with a modest gain, with domestic CPI data indicating

Among the 30 Sensex companies, Mahindra & Mahindra, Titan, Larsen & Toubro, IndusInd Bank, Tech Mahindra, UltraTech Cement, Wipro, Tata Consultancy Services, Bajaj Finance and Nestle were the biggest gainers.

On the other hand, Hindustan Unilever, Power Grid, Axis Bank, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank and ITC were among the laggards.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.89 per cent, and midcap index rallied 0.79 per cent. Among the indices, realty jumped 2.15 per cent, capital goods (2.05 per cent), industrials (1.67 per cent), IT (1.08 per cent) and consumer discretionary (0.88 per cent).

In contrast, telecommunication, bankex and metal were the lag-

Wednesday that inflation has fallen further toward their target level in recent months, but signalled that they expect to cut their benchmark interest rate just once this year.

The policymakers' forecast for one rate cut was down from a previous forecast of three, likely because inflation, despite having cooled in the past two months, remains persistently elevated.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.71 per cent to USD 82.01 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 426.63 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

The BSE benchmark climbed 149.98 points or 0.20 per cent to settle at 76,606.57 on Wednesday. The Nifty ended at 23,322.95, up 58.10 points or 0.25 per cent. (PTI)

issue in April and preferential issue

"Additionally, in line with its

to promoters in May.

NEW DELHI, June 13: Gold prices slipped ₹ 50 to ₹ 72,150 per 10 grams in the local market on Thursday in line with weak trends globally, according to HDFC Securities.

The precious metal had closed at ₹ 72,200 per 10 grams on Wednesday.

Silver also tumbled ₹ 550 to ₹ 90,950 per kg. It had settled at ₹ 91,500 per kg in the previous session.

"In Delhi markets, spot gold prices (24 carats) are trading at ₹ 72,150 per 10 grams, down by ₹ 50 from the previous close," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst their interest rate just once this year, Gandhi said. Silver was marginally down at USD 29.30 per ounce against USD 29.35 per ounce in the previous session

"Gold and silver prices rallied post the US inflation data but failed to sustain above after hawkish comments from Fed Chair Jerome Powell in the Fed meet on Wednesday

"...traders will focus on the upcoming macroeconomic data, including US Producer Price Index (PPI) and jobless claims data," to be released on Thursday, Navneet Damani, Senior Group VP - Head Research Commodities & Currency at Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said. (PTI)

#### Contd. from Page 1...

### Triumphant Gaurav eyes 2026

the necessary work for laying necessary ground or preparing right from this year itself," Gogoi said. He said the Congress will take a decision about his future at an appropriate time, not before, not after and let him know at the appropriate time after deliberations.

"As far as my future is concerned, I will wait for the party to take a decision and abide by the party," he said. Asked whether he will accept the offer of chief ministership if the Congress forms the government in Assam after the next assembly polls, the 41-year-old parliamentarian said whatever he desired he never got and whatever he got, he had never thought of.

"I never thought that I would be the deputy leader (of Congress in Lok Sabha). I never thought of being AICC in-charge of a state like West Bengal so early. And I never thought that I would lead the debate of no confidence motion against the Modi government (in August 2023). So, in my experience it is better not to think too much. So I am not thinking of myself. I am only thinking of my state, people of my state and the country," he said. Gogoi also said important elections will be held this year in Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Haryana and early next year in Delhi.

"In 2026 we have elections in states like Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, Assam etc. So it is necessary for all of us to take the momentum, the positivity that has generated and take that across the country and be mindful of the states going for the elections," he said. (PTI)

### Robust livestock sector to boost

Along with three State-of-the-Art Veterinary Hospitals, 11,000 MT cold storage facilities is coming up in Assam," he mentioned.

Meanwhile, the state government has set a target of 20 lakh pig production annually

by providing aid to ₹ 2 lakh piggery farmers.

We are focused on our goal to create a robust livestock sector to empower our farmers and boost the rural economy. Since 2021, several steps have been taken in this direction, which has benefitted the sector immensely," Sarma wrote on micro-blogging site X.

#### Guwahati schools asked not

examination on the above mentioned dates are hereby asked to re-schedule the examination".

"It has been decided in order to avoid any inconveniences to the students which may arise due to heavy flow of devotees from all India to Guwahati Assam," the letter read further.

The four-day-long yearly Ambubachi Mela celebrated at the Kamakhya Temple in Guwahati will be held from June 22 to June 26.

The Ambubachi Mela marks the annual menstruation course of the goddess Kamakhya, who is considered an incarnation of Goddess Shakti. The festival typically takes place in the month of June, during the monsoon season

The festival celebrates the goddess Kamakhya's fertility, and during this period, the temple remains closed for three days to allow the goddess to rest. On the fourth day, the temple reopens with grand celebrations and rituals.

Thousands of devotees, including ascetics, sadhus, and pilgrims from various parts of India and abroad, visit the temple to seek blessings.

Nokia, Ericsson to get shares worth ₹ 2,458 crore in Vodafone Idea in lieu of dues

NEW DELHI, June 13: Debt-ridden telecom operator Vodafone Idea will allocate shares worth ₹ 2,458 crore to vendors Nokia India and Ericsson India to clear their partial dues, a regulatory filing said on Thursday.

The board of Vodafone Idea Ltd (VIL) has cleared allotment of shares on preferential basis at about 35 per cent higher price compared to the follow-on offer price of the company, and comes with a lock-in of 6 months.

"The Board of Directors of Vodafone Idea Limited today approved preferential allotment of about 166 crore equity shares of face value of ₹ 10 each, at an issue price of ₹ 14.80 per share, for an aggregate consideration of up to ₹ 2,458 crore, to two of its key vendors, Nokia Solutions and Networks India Private Limited and Ericsson India Private Limited," the filing said.

Nokia and Ericsson will participate for up to Rs 1,520 crore and Rs 938 crore respectively, subject to approval by VIL shareholders at the EGM to be held on July 10, 2024, the telco said in a release.



"Nokia and Ericsson both have a long-term partnership with VIL, as key suppliers of network equipment, and this preferential allotment will enable VIL to clear part of their outstanding dues," the filing said.

Post this preferential issuance, the shareholding of Nokia and Ericsson in the company will be 1.5 per cent and 0.9 per cent, respectively

The shareholding of VIL promoters -- Aditya Birla Group and Vodafone -- will stand at 37.3 per

cent while government's shareholding will come down to 23.2 per cent and the balance 37.1 per cent will be public shareholding. Earlier, VIL has issued ₹ 1,600 crore worth optionally convertible debentures (OCDs) to mobile tower vendor ATC, out of which the tower vendor has picked stake worth ₹ 1,440 crore in the debt-ridden telecom operator.

With this equity issuance, VIL

has raised around ₹ 24,000 crore of equity comprising OCDs issued to ATC India, ₹ 18,000 crore FPO (PTI)

ices," the filing said. VIL had 212.6 million subscribers as on March 31, 2024.

"VIL is all set to participate in the industry growth with right investments to expand its 4G coverage and offer 5G experience to its customers while remaining focused on its execution capabilities.

cluding expansion of its 4G coverage and launch of 5G serv-

"As VIL embarks on its growth journey, support from key stakeholders is critical and the agreement with Nokia and Ericsson reaffirms these vendors as long-term partners of the company, and sets the stage for the next phase of our growth," VIL CEO Akshaya Moondra said

#### stated fund-raising roadmap, the company is in active discussions with its lenders to raise debt funding to the tune of ₹ 25,000 crore. This comprehensive fund raise (equity and debt) will empower the company to work towards executing its well-defined strategy in-

FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2024

#### Region

## Sivasagar Girls' College to launch year-long diamond jubilee celebrations on July 8 Prakash Kotoky, the principal of Sibsagar College, Dr Prafulla



HT Correspondent SIVASAGAR, June 13: A premier women's educational institution, Sivasagar Girls' College (Est. 1964), will observe the year-long diamond jubilee from July 8, the foundation day of the college. Sivasagar Girls' College has a glorious tradition and has contributed substantially to the academic, cultural, and literary fields in the state. Biren Borkotoky, former president of Asam Sahitya Sabha, was one of its illustrious principals. The public meeting held for the purpose in the college auditorium was presided over by Dr Jogesh Bora, president of the college's governing body. Dr Protim Sharma, the principal, delivered his welcome address and urged all the stakeholders and well-wishers to extend their generous help and cooperation in observing the jubilee successfully. While welcoming the decision of the college to observe the jubilee, most of the participants in the meeting expressed their commitment to extend all possible help to the committee. Dr Hemanta Phukan, former principal, addressed the meeting and said that the observance committee must keep an eye on the residual effect and the pressure on the students in these days of hectic work schedules. Prof Anu Sarma, an alumnus

and also a retired principal of the college, said that the alumni association has been contributing and will continue to contribute to the development of the college.

Dr Jakir Hussain spoke on the objectives and spelled out the names of the persons included in the celebration committee. Punaram Mili, president of Sivasagar Sports Association, stressed permanent construction work during the year. Dr Rita Borkatoky said that as a former principal, she would be happy to cooperate with the committee for the development of the college. It was also addressed by the former principal of Sibsagar College, Dr

Asom Kobi Sanmilan, Prema Gogoi, and working president of Assam State Journalists Union, Manoj Kumar Borthakur. Dr Prakash Kotoky in his speech stressed fiscal discipline, while Manoj Kumar Borthakur suggested adopting a programme that involves women who are still deprived of education in our society. A Diamond Jubilee Celebration

Committee was formed in the meeting with Himanta Biswa Sarma, the chief minister, as the chief patron, Aditya Vikram Yadav, DC Sivasagar, as the chief adviser, Dr Jogesh Bora as the president, Prof Bhaskar Dutta as working president, Dr Protim Sharma as the secretary, and Prof Bidyut Baruah as the treasurer.

Baruah, retired subject teacher,

Dipali Saikia, former president of

#### Section 144 imposed in Morigaon to maintain public peace

HT Correspondent JAGIROAD, June 13: The Mori-

NFR general manager inaugurates renovated retiring rooms at Guwahati Railway Station swanky look as part of the renova-



GUWAHATI, June 13: In continuation of its endeavor to provide ence of other senior railway offimodern amenities with better cials.

The renovated retiring rooms consist of twelve fully air-conditioned rooms with well-designed interiors, wall paintings, and fully furnished attached washrooms. The interiors of the retiring rooms

Assam Rifles organises yoga camp & awareness lecture

HT Bureau

comfort and facilities to passen-

gers, Northeast Frontier Railway

has renovated twelve retiring

rooms at Guwahati Railway Sta-

tion. The newly renovated retiring

rooms were inaugurated on

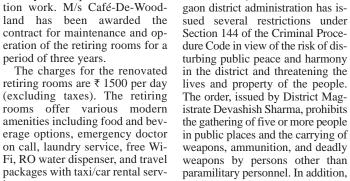
Wednesday by the general man-

ager of NF Railway, Chetan Kumar Shrivastava, in the pres-

ices. Passengers traveling from different parts can stay here with comfort. Passengers who want to stay in these accommodation

+91 6003497117 or at the retiring room reception counter available at Guwahati Railway Station, platform no 1, towards the Panbazar were given a facelift to sport a flyover in the west direction.

## **Banned Thailand mackerel seized**



holding meetings, gatherings, or processions in public places without permission, using loudspeakers, microphones, etc., without permission, and the use of loudspeakers, microphones, etc., from 10:00 pm to 6:00 am are prohibited. According to the directive, posters or banners condemning anyone and provocative slogans that could destroy communal and linguistic harmony are prohibited. It also prohibits the commission by any person in public places of unpleasant or hostile acts against any community, which are likely to hinder religious, linguistic,

## Four notorious temple thieves arrested in major police operation

#### HT Correspondent GOSSAIGAON, June 13: In a

major breakthrough, Fakiragram Police managed to nab four notorious thieves from Bilasipara in-Kalita, the former principal of Sibsagar Commerce College, Kartick volved in the theft at various Dutta, president of ATASU, Bastemples in the Assam-Bengal boranta Gogoi, assistant secretary of der area of lower Assam, including AASU, Samiran Phukan, cultural the Maa Mahamaya temple in Kachugaon under Kachugaon Poexponent, Makhan Bora, former president of Rangpur Sahitya lice Station recently. Sabha, Dipali Bhattacharjya

Based on a speedy investigation conducted by the police into case no 12/24 lodged at Kachugaon Police Station in connection with the theft at Maa Mahamaya temple on the intervening night of May 26, the Fakiragram Police raided a luxury vehicle and successfully

nabbed four notorious thieves involved in theft cases and recovered looted ornaments from their possession.

It was disclosed that a team of police personnel led by Hiren Kumar, in association with SP Kokrajhar, additional superintendent of police. Crime Branch. and Fakiragram, arrested five persons along with the stolen items from the temple on Wednesday night.

The four suspected thieves have been identified as Mandal Ali, Sharif Uddin, Hazrat Ali, and Ashraful Ali, hailing from Mayarchar under Bilasipara sub-division in Dhubri district. The police also nabbed Maqbool Hasan, who

bought the stolen items from the temples.

Police sources revealed that three silver crowns worn by the deity, a gold piece weighing around 15 grams, ornaments and silver weighing 900 grams were recovered from the gang of notorious thieves who had executed the insane act at the temples of various places, including the recently looted Maa Mahamaya temple in Kachugaon.

Police have also seized a copper bowl from the gang of thieves, a gas cutter and iron cutter used in the theft, five mobile phones, and a Swift Dzire vehicle used in the robbery

## Artificial floods wreak havoc in Margherita

Local residents also blamed un-

scientific and rampant illegal coal

mining at the historical Patkai Hills

"We are fed up with this artifi-

#### HT Correspondent MARGHERITA, June 13: Arti-

ficial floods have caused severe disruptions in various locations under the 83 No Margherita constituency of Tinsukia district. Areas such as Ledo Bazaar, Ledo College, Ledo Airstrip, Bargolai, Jagun Bazaar, and the Margherita Segubari area have been heavily impacted due to continuous torrential rain.

The situation has disrupted the daily lives of students, company employees, officegoers, businessmen, and traders. Local residents of the Ledo area attribute these artificial floods to an unscientific approach to drain construction, which causes rainwater to remain on the roads.

Residents of Ledo area said for severe damage, causing rainwater to flood the plains of Ledo, that Margherita MLA Bhaskar Sharma and the Margherita Subresulting in artificial floods when-Divisional Administration (Civil) ever there is rainfall. have never addressed the ongoing issue, leaving the people to cial flood, especially in Ledo, as struggle with the artificial floods this area resides in a low-lying land

## **Big potholes on under** construction NH four lane





and the water flows down heavily after a couple of spells of rain. Coal India could have solved the problem, but due to their ignorance, we the people are suffering now," said a frustrated local.

The locals also allege that these artificial floods have severely affected not just students, but also officegoers, who have to face the wrath of this artificial calamity.

## **ICFRE-RFRI** conducts bamboo charcoal & briquette making training in Jorhat

HT Correspondent JORHAT, June 13: The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE)-Rain Forest Research Institute (RFRI) at Sotai (Jorhat outskirts) organised a threeday training programme (June 10 to 12) on 'Skill Development on Bamboo Charcoal and Briquette Making' for the people of Charingia Gaon, Bhogamukh, Jorhat.

The training programme was held as part of the demo village project implemented by the institute at Charingia Village, Bhogamukh.

ICFRE-RFRI director Dr Nitin Kulkarni, in his inaugural address,

eration of the retiring rooms for a period of three years. The charges for the renovated retiring rooms are ₹ 1500 per day (excluding taxes). The retiring

rooms offer various modern amenities including food and beverage options, emergency doctor on call, laundry service, free Wi-Fi, RO water dispenser, and travel packages with taxi/car rental serv-

rooms can easily book by calling

<u> IT Correspondent</u> TEZPUR, June 13: A special yoga camp and awareness lecture for families and children was organised by Assam Rifles at Lokra, in Sonitpur district, on Wednesday.

The event aimed to promote physical fitness and mental wellbeing among participants. The yoga camp, led by certified instructors, included various asanas tailored for different age groups, ensuring engagement and enjoyment for all.

Alongside the yoga sessions, an informative lecture highlighted the benefits of regular yoga practice, such as improved concentration, stress relief, and enhanced family bonding. The event was attended by over 143 people (97 families and 46 children). Children were particularly engaged through interactive sessions that included fun yoga poses and breathing exercises. The awareness lecture emphasised the importance of integrating yoga into daily routines to foster healthier lifestyles.



#### HT Correspondent

JAGIROAD, June 13: The Jagiroad Police and Fisheries Department of Morigaon seized two quintals of banned Thailand mackerel in two four-wheelers (AS 01 QC 0628 and AS 21 AC 1715) from Chenimari under Jagiroad Police Station on Wednesday. The operation was led by district fisheries development officer Bhaskarjyoti Nath, Jagiroad Police Station in-charge Bhadreshwar Pegu, and fisheries development officer Shikhamani Shaikia. A fine of ₹ 6,000 was imposed on the two vehicles. It is worth mentioning that the production and rearing of Thai mackerel, Japanese carp/tilapia, and bighead carp fry is punishable by law.

Morigaon district information an public relations officer said. **Preparations underway** 

#### for Rabha Divas HT Correspondent

and ethnic harmony. The order was

issued with immediate effect, the

**DEMOW, June 13:** Preparations are in full swing for the upcoming Kalaguru Bishnu Prasad Rabha Divas, which will be organised on June 20 at Saragua Tinali Rangamancha near Demow. The event is being organised by the Assam Silpi Kanan Sivasagar District Committee in association with the people of Saragua.

Various programs and competitions will be held to commemorate the occasion. The competitions will include drawing, essay, rabha sangeet, and Rabha nritya.

Interested candidates with queries regarding the competitions can contact the organisers of the program for more information.

#### HT Correspondent

NAGAON, June 13: Due to the alleged misuse of construction materials, such as low-quality bitumen, by the construction agencies, the under-construction NH 37 four-lane road from Uriagaon Chariali, Nagaon, towards Sonitpur - Biswanath Chariali under NHIDCL, Tezpur office, has developed cracks and large potholes in various places within months of its completion. The section from Amoni to Kaliabor Tiniali has been particularly affected.

Significantly, the construction agencies repaired all those potholes flouting the rules of the National Highway and allegedly tried to release the payment by managing the authority concerned of NHIDCL, some locals alleged on Thursday.

The locals, however, claimed that as per the norms of the National Highway, if any part of an under-construction road cracks or gets damaged due to technical or other reasons, construction agencies should clear the entire damaged area and reconstruct it accordingly. Instead of clearing the damaged areas on the road, the construction agencies simply repaired all those potholes and are trying to clear their remaining dues from NHIDCL, the locals alleged.

Therefore, they urged the authority concerned of NHIDCL not to pay the dues until the damaged areas of the under-construction NH four-lane road are properly reconstructed. Besides, the locals also sought a high-level official probe into this matter.

appealed to the participants to make use of the skills acquired during the training period for livelihood generation

Dr RD Borthakur, chief technical officer (CTO) of the institute, imparted hands-on as well as theoretical sessions. During the training programme, demonstrations were conducted on different processes involved in bamboo charcoal and briquette making.

The trainees were taught about stacking bamboo inside the brick kiln, firing bamboo in anaerobic conditions, harvesting bamboo charcoal from the kiln, grinding raw bamboo charcoal, preparing adhesive agents for making briquettes, making briquettes, drying, etc.

Dr Borthakur also delivered a presentation on different applications of bamboo charcoal and sensitised the participants to take up this venture as a livelihood-earning option after the training programme.

### 12 notorious cyber criminals arrested in Morigaon police raid

HT Correspondent MORIGAON, June 13: Police arrested 12 notorious cyber criminals in Morigaon, which has become a hotspot of cybercrime. The criminals were apprehended by Morigaon Police on Wednesday night. Mirazul Islam, one of the masterminds, extorted lakhs of rupees from banks and financial institutions using PAN cards, Aadhaar cards, and photographs of local persons in various documents.

The other arrested cyber criminals were identified as Ichchadul Islam, Rezaul Haque, Nasim Uddin, Merajul Islam, Ashadul Haque, Ariful Islam, Dilwar Hussain, Aliullah, Mosaddiq Chamdan, Atabor Rahman, and Baharul Islam. Police seized 75 ATM cards from various banks, 10 expensive Android mobile phones, a laptop, an iPad, 95 debit cards, two fake PAN cards, three fake Aadhaar cards, 15 bank passbooks, and other documents.

HT Bureau GUWAHATI, June 13: Bal Raksha Bharat, a child rights organisation, has taken proactive steps towards children's wellbeing in Assam's tea industry.

About 20% of Assam's population (6.5 million) is directly associated with tea plantations. This World Day Against Child Labour 2024, Bal Raksha Bharat is highlighting the stark reality: the prevalence of working children in this vital sector of the state's economy. Till 2023, Bal Raksha Bharat has directly reached 21,054 children and adults (12,177 in 2022) and indirectly 30,522 children and adults (17,575 in 2022). Aligned with the global theme 'Let's act on our commitments: End Child Labour!', Bal Raksha Bharat has been at the forefront of addressing this issue, working tirelessly to ensure a brighter, safer future for children in tea-producing communities. Earlier, a MoU was signed between the All Assam Small Tea Growers Association and Bal Raksha Bharat to jointly address child rights issues.

Bal Raksha Bharat will support them by strengthening their business through the collectivisation of Small Tea Growers (STGs) and enhancing market linkages for their products. This pivotal partnership signifies a concerted effort to cultivate a nurturing environment for children within



the tea industry, laying the groundwork for sustainable change

In the past, Bal Raksha Bharat and the Tea Association of India have jointly organised a consultation on 'Business and Child Rights in Tea Supply Chain'. The objective was to create a platform for various stakeholders, including tea growers, producers, associations, marketing companies, NGOs, the UN, government, and academia, to deliberate on the current

scenario and agree on the way forward in realising the rights of children and the community.

Bal Raksha Bharat advocates for child welfare in tea gardens

Since 2021, Bal Raksha Bharat has demonstrated unwavering commitment and strategic engagement with various stakeholders, including Assam Police, government bodies, trade unions, educational institutions, and industry associations. Through collaborative efforts, Bal Raksha Bharat has advanced the child is renowned for producing more than 50%

rights agenda, fostering a joint approach towards safeguarding children from exploitation and promoting their holistic development.

Sudarshan Suchi, chief executive officer of Bal Raksha Bharat, shared, "This flagship project of Bal Raksha Bharat in the tea plantation areas of Assam, initiated in 2021 and extended till 2026, has achieved remarkable success. By reaching out to 10 major tea plantations, engaging 3,000 plantation workers, and collaborating with 2,000 small tea growers across Jorhat and Dibrugarh districts, we've made significant strides in our mission. Our efforts have yielded three pivotal outcomes: empowering adolescent groups and communities to safeguard children from harm and exploitation, fostering understanding and implementation of child rights and business principles within the tea supply chain, and enhancing the capacity and coordination of the government child protection workforce to address pertinent issues in the state. This ongoing initiative stands as a beacon of hope, demonstrating our unwavering commitment to ensuring a brighter future for the children of Assam.' 'About 20% of Assam's population (6.5 million) is directly associated with about 800 large tea plantations. While the region

of Indian tea, it's a paradox that the people in tea production, from plucking to withering to final packaging, are particularly alienated from the mainstream of development and record low progress on human development indicators, particularly in the areas of education, health and sanitation, housing conditions, nutrition, per capita income, etc., of the communities are significantly poor," adds Abhijeet Nirmal, deputy director, Child Protection, Bal Raksha Bharat.

Bal Raksha Bharat has also been championing knowledge sharing, capacitybuilding programs, and community-based research, fostering a culture of empowerment and enlightenment with esteemed institutions like Dibrugarh University and Assam Agricultural University. With Dibrugarh University, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed for a joint collaborative approach for holistic community development focusing on children and women. This initiative aims at knowledge sharing and the initiation of academic programs and curricula related to child rights, capacity-building training programs for students and relevant stakeholders on child rights and child protection, and documentation of best practices including community-based action research.

### 4

#### THE HILLS TIMES VOL. XXV, ISSUE 154, DIPHU, FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2024

QUOTE OF THE DAY I have never in my life learned anything from any man who agreed with me. -Dudley Field Malone

## Cong prepares for RS battle

he Indian National Congress (INC) is gearing up for a crit-ical political contest in the Rajya Sabha, following a narrow escape from losing the post of Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Upper House. With two members recently elected to the Lok Sabha, the INC's strength in the Rajya Sabha has dipped to 26, just one above the required number to hold the LoP position. Currently, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge holds the LoP position in the Rajya Sabha. In the Lok Sabha, the INC, having secured 99 seats in the 18th Lok Sabha, is set to reclaim the LoP post it lost in 2014. The party's previous attempts in 2014 and 2019 were thwarted by insufficient seats. With this crucial role in both Houses, Congress will significantly influence key decisions and proceedings, particularly as the leading party in the opposition INDIA bloc against the NDA led by the BJP. The upcoming Rajya Sabha elections, scheduled for July or August, will fill 10 vacant seats, with fierce contests expected in Haryana and Maharashtra. The stakes are high, as out of the 10 vacancies, two each are from Assam, Bihar, and Maharashtra, and one each from Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, and Tripura. Currently, seven of these seats are held by the BJP, two by the Congress, and one by the RJD. The BJP, with 90 members in the Rajya Sabha, aims to retain its seats and potentially capture those held by Congress and the RJD, especially as it faces reduced influence in the Lok Sabha after the recent elections.

The BJP's internal dynamics add complexity to the upcoming elections. Key leaders like Piyush Goyal, Biplab Kumar Deb, Jyotiraditya Scindia, Vivek Thakur, Sarbananda Sonowal, Kamakhya Prasad Tasa, and Udayanraje Bhonsale are exiting the Rajya Sabha, necessitating a new leader for the BJP in the House. The party's aggressive strategies, such as engineering defections and cross-voting, have previously disrupted Congress's plans, as seen in Himachal Pradesh where BJP's Harsh Mahajan won against Congress's Abhishek Manu Singhvi. In the upcoming elections, the BJP is well-positioned in Assam, Tripura, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan, barring any cross-voting in favor of INDIA bloc candidates. In Bihar, the BJP and RJD are expected to secure one seat each. However, Harvana and Maharashtra present significant challenges for the BJP. In Haryana's 90-member assembly, where three seats are vacant, the BJP holds 41 seats, supported by one independent and one HLP MLA, bringing their tally to 43. The opposition INDIA bloc has 44 MLAs, including Congress's 29 and JJP's 10. The Congress hopes to secure a win if there's no cross-voting, but internal dissent within the JJP, with six out of 19 MLAs disgruntled with Dushyant Choutala, complicates matters. In Maharashtra, the BJP's situation is precarious due to tensions with allies Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar-led NCP over cabinet allocations. This rift could impact BJP's electoral prospects.

In the 90-member Haryana assembly, 3 seats are vacant. Out of 87 current members, BJP has 41, Congress has 29, JJP has 10, INLD has 1, HLP has 1, and 5 are independent MLAs. One independent and one HLP MLA have declared their support for BJP and hence BJP's tally goes up to 43 while INDIA bloc has 44 MLAs. Congress hopes that their candidate would win if there would not be any cross-voting against their candidate. However, it would be difficult for the Congress since 6 out of 19 JJP MLAs are angry with Dushyant Choutala, and two of them have announced support for BJP. In Maharashtra, BJP's problem is likely to become serious on account of its angry allies, the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and the Ajit Pawar-led NCP, over perceived injustice done to them by PM Narendra Modi while allotting ministries in his cabinet. This may cast a shadow on the BJP's electoral fortunes. Opposition INDIA bloc parties - Congress, NCP(SP), and Shiv Sena (UBT) - are trying to fish in troubled waters. The Rajya Sabha elections are a litmus test for both the Congress and BJP. For Congress, maintaining its LoP position is crucial for asserting its influence in the Upper House. For the BJP, retaining or expanding its Rajya Sabha presence is vital for legislative strength amidst a reduced majority in the Lok Sabha. As both parties brace for this high-stakes battle, the political landscape promises intense and strategic manoeuvres in

# From customary law to constitutional rights: Eastern Naga people's unified pursuit of Frontier Nagaland Territory

n the annals of political theory, the agency of individual choice and collective conscience is often highlighted as a pivotal force in shaping the actions and orientations of larger social entities. This dynamic interplay is vividly illustrated in the decision of the Eastern Nagaland Peoples' Organisation (ENPO) to abstain from all centre and state elections. This decision reflects a profound embodiment of "bottom-up" decision-making that aligns with Eastern Naga customary traditions and is safeguarded under Article 371A of the Indian Constitution. This abstention underscores the importance of the voice of the local, grassroots populace, showcasing how genuine demands and aspirations of individuals, reflected in community conscience, can influence and steer political participation and collective action on a national stage.

The ENPO's move not only highlights the unique political landscape of Eastern Nagaland but also exemplifies the significance of their demand for constitutional autonomy and regional self-determination through the creation of "Frontier Nagaland Territory" in the state of Nagaland within the democratic fabric of India. This decision reflects the enduring strength of indigenous governance systems and their capacity to shape political outcomes in a way that respects and preserves local heritage, traditions and customs.

Article 371A grants special provisions to Nagaland, recognizing and protecting Naga customs, practices, and traditions. This constitutional safeguard underscores the significance of customary laws and practices in the governance of the Naga people, allowing their traditional decision-making processes to flourish within the broader Indian democratic framework. By affirming the autonomy of Naga customs, Article 371A ensures that the cultural identity of the Naga people is preserved and respected. The ENPO's abstention is a

quintessential example of how individual choices coalesce into a collective mandate for Frontier Nagaland Territory. Despite lacking a formal enforcement mechanism, the ENPO's call for abstention was met with unprecedented 100% (hundred percent) adherence during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Furthermore, this election can be seen as a pivotal moment akin to a "referendum" regarding the Frontier

voting in the election equated to litical power can stem from endorsing the concept of "Frontier Nagaland Territory." Hence, the complete absence of participation in the Lok Sabha election can be interpreted as resounding support for the Frontier Nagaland Territory.

This unique phenomenon, observed for the first time in the modern political history of Nagaland, can be understood through the political theories of participatory democracy and collective action, where the power of the collective emerges not from coercive structures but from the voluntary and conscious choices of individual citizens. The overwhelming re-

ENPO's call Dr. Aniruddha Babar indicates deep-seated resonance with the people's individual sentiments and aspirations, highlighting a collective conscience that transcends mere organisational directives

sponse to the

In addition to these significant cultural and political dimensions, the ENPO's abstention also brings to light critical socio-economic factors driving this movement. Eastern Nagaland has long faced developmental challenges, including inadequate infrastructure, limited access to quality education and healthcare, a lack of economic opportunities resulting from fractured governance and apathy of the Nagaland state government. By abstaining from elections, the ENPO underscores the region's frustration with the status quo and its demand for the creation of Frontier Nagaland Territory. This abstention highlights the Eastern Naga community's desire for a governance model that prioritises local needs and harnesses the region's unique potential

The creation of Frontier Nagaland Territory is not merely a political aspiration but a call for socio-economic justice, aiming to address historical neglect and ensure sustainable development tailored to the specific needs of the Eastern Naga people. This perspective adds another layer to the ENPO's movement, illustrating that their push for constitutional autonomy is intricately linked with aspirations for improved livelihoods and a better future for their communities.

from its alignment with the cul-The unity demonstrated by the tural and traditional values of the voters underscores a shared com-Eastern Naga people, ensuring mitment to a common cause, rethat its decisions reflect the comvealing the intrinsic power of munity's collective conscience. unified action in shaping political By deeply embedding itself landscapes. The ENPO's influwithin the cultural framework ence, therefore, lies not in hierarand ethos of Eastern Naga sociits ability The Eastern Naga community to tap into and amplify the colrecognized that abstaining from lective will, showing that true po-

people. This organic acceptance amplifies the ENPO's ability to grassroots mobilisation and the alignment of genuine individual act as an authentic representative. intentions and aspirations toward highlighting its effectiveness in a common purpose. embodying the people's collec-In examining this scenario, one tive aspirations and securing a

is reminded of the theories of social contract espoused by thinkers like Jean-Jacques Rousseau, who argued that legitimate political authority arises from the collective agreement of individuals (this specific statement needs to be examined and understood by interpreting the enabling provisions under Article 371A by applying all four rules of Interpretation of Statute- that is-The Golden rule, The Literal DEGREE OF THOUGHT Rule, The Mischief Rule

of

In this context, the ENPO's de-

philosophical underpinnings of

underscores the importance of

grassroots democracy, where the

voice of the populace is para-

highlights the enduring relevance

of his thoughts, suggesting that

contemporary political move-

ments continue to draw inspira-

tion from these foundational

principles. By adhering to the

collective will, the ENPO exem-

plifies a modern manifestation of

Rousseau's ideals, demonstrating

how historical philosophical con-

cepts can find application in

present-day political landscapes.

this context can be seen as one in

which leadership and authority

are established through ideologi-

cal and cultural consent rather

than through force or coercion.

The ENPO's influence stems

Moreover, the ENPO's role in

The resonance of

nious Construction ).

tive will.

mount.

scores the ENPO's position as a true representative of the people's will, seamlessly integrating traditional values with contemporary governance, particularly in the context of its stance re-

cle 371A.

garding the "Frontier Nagaland Movement". The Eastern Naga The people's decision, as articulated in historic "The Great Chenmoho and The Rule Resolution," to abstain from centre and state elections echoes Harmo-Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy The ENPO's abstention, non-violent resistance. driven by the people's will, Gandhi, advocating for collective echoes Rousseau's notion of the non-cooperation, highlighted the "General Will," where the collecpower of unified action in asserttive decision reflects the true will ing political and moral agency. of the people, both as a group and The Eastern Naga People's abas individuals. This alignment stention embodies non-violent between individual conscience resistance/protest under Article and collective action reinforces 19(1) (a), symbolising a unified the legitimacy and constitutional stance asserting autonomy and as well as legal validity of the dissent in response to perceived ENPO's stance, positioning it as injustices or political estrangement in fulfilling the demand for a genuine expression of the people's individual as well as collecthe creation of Frontier Nagaland

harmonious consensus within the

broader framework of the Consti-

tution of India, particularly Arti-

This form of leadership under-

Territory This strategic deployment of cision not only aligns with the "abstention" as a lawful political tool underscores the ENPO's social contract theory but also firm commitment to representing the collective conscience of the people through peaceful and democratic means, akin to Gandhi's principles. The absten-Rousseau's ideas in this situation tion of the Eastern Nagaland People's Organization (ENPO) finds resonance within the framework of deliberative democracy, underscoring the pivotal role of public reasoning and collective deliberation in democratic governance. This stance is not a haphazard one but emerges from extensive consultations and discussions within the ENPO community, embodying

participatory ethos fundamental to the principles of deliberative democracy. The unanimity of the abstention serves as evidence of a decision that has been carefully crafted through thorough and inclusive discourse, thereby reinforcing the democratic ethos deeply ingrained in Eastern Naga customary traditions.

It is also pertinent to note the impact of such collective actions on broader democratic principles and practices. The ENPO's abstention sends a powerful message about the importance of Faculty, Dept of Political Scigenuine representation and reof leadership that is organically sponsiveness to the people's He is also the Director, Project accepted by the Eastern Naga needs desires and aspirations. Constitutional Justice)

This bottom-up approach challenges the often top-down impositions of political decisions, advocating for a more inclusive and participatory form of governance that respects and integrates local customs and voices.

The international community, especially our Naga brothers and sisters across the Indo-Myanmar Border also watches closely, as the creation of Frontier Nagaland Territory will bound to have a constructive, positive economic impact over all the Naga communities living in "Naga Self-Administered Zone" located in the Sagaing region of Myanmar, amplifying the ENPO's inevitable influence beyond national boundaries

The ENPO's decision stands as a compelling demonstration of the potency of grassroots movements in shaping the contours of national political arenas. It is a poignant illustration of the remarkable influence wielded by collective action, steeped in tradition and driven by the deliberate choices of ordinary citizens. This act of 'unified' abstention not only reflects a deep-seated commitment to historical practices of Eastern Naga populace but also serves as a compelling reminder of the enduring force inherent in individual and collective agency to mould and redefine the fabric of political landscapes, shaping and transforming the trajectory of governance and societal evolution in the 'enabling' provisions under Article 371A within a strong, protective framework of the constitution of India.

In conclusion, the ENPO's decision to abstain from all centre and state elections exemplifies the strong influence and constructive impact of individual choice and collective conscience in political decision-making. Firmly rooted in Eastern Naga customary traditions and protected by Article 371A, this abstention reflects a bottom-up process where the will of the individual citizens drives collective action

The ENPO's role, devoid of coercive enforcement mechanisms, highlights the power of cultural hegemony, participatory democracy, and non-violent resistance in shaping political outcomes. Through this lens, the ENPO's abstention stands as a validation of the enduring strength of individual agency and collective conscience in the pursuit of political and cultural autonomy. (The author is a Senior

the coming months.

Nagaland Territe

, the ENPO can foster a form

ence. Tetso College. Nagaland

## Coalition dynamics adds new compulsion to Sitharaman's budget-making

#### By: K Raveendran

Taving been confirmed as the finance minister in the Modi 3:0 cabinet, Nirmala Sitharaman is more pressed for time compared to her other colleagues as the budget of the new government is hardly a month away. And her budget-making this time is more complex as she has to accommodate the compulsions of coalition politics as well. Overall, she faces a complex landscape of economic challenges.

After Prime Minister Narendra Modi failed to win a clear majority for the BJP, his government has been forced to secure the support of coalition partners - Chandrababu Naidu's TDP and Bihar strongman Nitish Kumar's JD-U, both prone to switching loyalties at the drop of a hat. The implications for Modi 3:0 need no elucidation. Nirmala Sitharaman has to navigate diverse interests, manage expectations and build consensus on economic policies, none of which is an easy task.

Coalition dynamics will constantly demand her attention. Satisfying alliance partners' demands without compromising economic stability is a delicate task, marked by intricate challenges. She must find common ground while safeguarding the nation's financial health and this will call for a rare ability to balance fiscal conservatism, coalition realities, and growth imperatives.

Nirmala Sitharaman has been at the helm of India's finance ministry for five years, presenting six consecutive budgets. Her appointment as the first woman to hold this position for a full term marked a significant personal milestone. During her tenure, she implemented key reforms, including reducing the base corporate tax rate from 30 percent to 22 percent and announcing a Rs 20 lakh crore special economic package to combat the pandemic-induced economic challenges.

Sitharaman is seen likely to adhere to her previous policies, aiming for fiscal consolidation. Her past efforts reduced the fiscal deficit from 5.8 percent to 5.6 percent and the commitment to prudent fiscal management will be crucial in the



current context. As the Indian economy operates in a dynamic global environment, she also has to steer it through geopolitical tensions, trade disruptions and economic shifts worldwide. Managing these uncertainties while safeguarding India's interests is no small feat.

The pandemic-induced economic slowdown continues to strain government finances. The finance minister has to, therefore, strike a delicate balance between stimulating growth and maintaining fiscal discipline. Ensuring prudent spending while addressing pressing needs will be a tightrope act. The middle class eagerly awaits relief from inflation, tax burdens, and rising costs and the budget decisions will directly impact their lives. Meeting their expectations while maintaining fiscal prudence is a formidable challenge.

The election results have given the ruling party a crude shock that the real issues that determine voter behaviour go beyond the routine rhetoric of identity politics, which Modi has been trying to exploit throughout the 2024 election campaign. He hopped from one divisive issue to another through the various phases of campaigning, little realising that people at the grassroots level were more worried about their daily lives than issues of faith or identities.

This has put an additional burden on the new government, which means adequate resources have to be found to pursue employment creation, a low priority for the Modi government ever since it came to power in 2014, despite tall

claims to the contrary from time to time. The government has been trying to counter the lapse through dubious attempts to re-interpret statistics and definitions of employment.

There has been talk about a national employment policy, which, however, remained at the academic level. With 90 percent of employment accounted for by the informal sector, the employment generation schemes of the government have largely bypassed this most important section of the army of unemployed. It has been proved beyond doubt that "pakora economics" does not work and rural vouth need real and paying jobs. This will mean Nirmala Sitharaman has to concentrate more on this vital section of the population.

Modi has been promising to double farmers' income, but the situation on the ground has been quite different. The farmers have been agitating against the policies of the central government and the ruling party has had to pay a heavy price for the approach of dismissal towards these problems. It is now time to atone and Nirmala Sitharaman has to allocate adequate resources for this in her budget. This has never been an overriding consideration for her previous budgets

Additionally, as the country aspires to become a \$5 trillion economy, the finance minister has to drive growth by encouraging investment and innovation alongside job creation. Balancing shortterm measures with long-term structural reforms is crucial. (IPA Service)

#### **By: Dipak Kurmi**

• ach generation enriches the new words. These additions reflect the generation's grasp of contemporary emotions and preferred ways of expressing sentiments, even though these sentiments are often timeless. This can encompass feelings of joy, delight, or simply indifference.

Sometimes significant sentiments are championed by influential figures, giving them heightened importance. A notable example is when the Department of Education in the Government of India was renamed the 'Department of HRD' during Rajiv Gandhi's tenure as Prime Minister. This change prompted numerous corporate personnel departments to rebrand themselves as departments of human resource development. Despite the new titles, neither the content nor the methods changed. It was merely a fashionable rebranding

Whenever a prominent figure introduces a new concept, many people tend to follow suit. This isn't inherently problematic; it simply reflects human nature and highlights the power of words in a given era. It's crucial to analyze these trends objectively, without passing judgment. For instance, today's focus on 'skill' in the national discourse has made it a central theme in education and training.

Efforts are being made to offer degrees in various skill-based disciplines. A few decades ago, the term 'skill' was not viewed positively. No university vice-chancellor would have considered offering a degree in 'skills'. Education was seen as a grand, lofty concept, which it still is. The concern was that focusing on skills might diminish the perceived grandeur of the educational process.

Delving into that debate may not

be productive at this point.

The ascendancy of skills in education

The reality is that times have changed, and skills are now regarded as a prestigious pursuit. As previously mentioned, there are initiatives to offer degrees specifically focused on skill development. This shift likely reflects a growing appreciation for practical learning. Skills that can be applied in realworld situations are increasingly being valued.

Whether this is positive or negative is debatable, but it does highlight a trend towards prioritizing practical application over theoretical understanding. Consequently, concepts and ideas may be neglected.

While the merits of this shift can be discussed separately, it is clear that this focus on skills prompts reflection. Skills are undeniably important, perhaps even more so than their everyday recognition suggests.

Skills form the foundation of all relationships. Attraction to another person is based on their abilities, whether it's singing, cooking, speaking, dancing, or countless other skills. The truth is, without skills, no one would be drawn to another. Even a parent is captivated by their child through the child's actions, such as a simple smile. This illustrates the importance of skills. Without a smile, a child wouldn't attract attention.

When adults interact with a child, they seek to establish communication, and the child's response becomes the focal point of this attention. This early interaction lays the groundwork for learning communication and other skills.

The crucial role of skill in human relationships is rarely acknowledged, whether through detailed analysis or poetic celebration. If it had been, we would better understand that even emotional bonds are built on a foundation of skills. Nevertheless, skills add depth to playfulness, friendship, and relationships, and from there, extend to earning a liv-

Today, skill development is being integrated into formal education, leading to degrees. For example, bricklaying in construction can now be recognized with a degree. Essentially, a degree benchmarks standards of proficiency. Similarly, there are proposals for degrees in fields like acting and beyond.

In simpler terms, just like any traditional degree, a skill-based degree opens doors to earning a livelihood. This is a relatively new development, offering more earning potential and avenues than ever before. It has broadened and enriched the concept of learning, commonly referred to as 'education' in everyday conversation.

The educational industry encompasses various components, although they are not always categorized in operational terms. Therefore, it may be time to classify different types of learning and skills. This aspect of education warrants deeper thought and analysis than it has received thus far, particularly in the context of earnng a degree.

It might be a valid proposition to suggest that to fully comprehend the role of 'skills' within the realm of learning, one must first reconsider the structure of traditional education degrees. This could entail starting with a review of the curriculum for B.Ed. and M.Ed. degrees. It's widely acknowledged that translating philosophical reflections into practical reality necessitates a focal point for intervention. In the preceding text, the philosophical contemplation on skills has been intertwined with practical action and research. This could serve as a significant starting point for future discussions and initiatives. (The writer can be reached dipakkurmiglpltd@gmail.com)

#### **FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2024**

#### OP-ED

## Why the militant attack on pilgrims is a India voted out worrying turn for the Jammu region

#### By: Safwat Zargar

n Sunday evening, as Narendra Modi was about to take oath as prime minister for his third term, a bus carrying pilgrims from a Hindu religious shrine was attacked by suspected militants in the Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir.

At least nine passengers were killed and more than 40 injured. The victims included the driver, the conductor of the bus as well as a two-yearold child.

This is the most lethal militant strike on civilians in Jammu and Kashmir this year. What is more concerning is that the attack has taken place in an area which is widely considered militancy-free, suggesting that the growing militancy activities in neighbouring Rajouri and Poonch districts have spilled over to Reasi.

Given its proximity to Jammu district, important religious shrines and hydroelectricity projects, Reasi is relatively better developed in terms of infrastructure and road connectivity than Rajouri and Poonch.

This is the second attack on pilgrims in Jammu's Reasi district since 2022. In May that year, four pilgrims were killed and 24-odd injured when a bus returning from the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine caught fire. While the incident was initially categorised as an accident, subsequent investigations found that militants had attached bombs to the bus.

The attack on Hindu pilgrims in Reasi is likely to put the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Union government in a spot, as the party has claimed that its decision to scrap Article 370 and downgrade Jammu and Kashmir into a Union territory has brought peace in the strife-torn region.

The party has also argued that the surge in the number of tourists to the Union territory

is more proof of normalcy since 2019. On Monday, the Congress slammed the Modi government for the worrying security situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

The attack has evoked widespread condemnations from local Opposition parties in Jammu and Kashmir too.

"It is unfortunate to see areas that had previously been cleared of all militants see a Act. return of militancy," former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister and National Confer-

ence vice president Omar Abdullah said in a post on social media platform X on Sunday. The attack Hub of religious tourism

When it comes to religious tourism in the Hindu-majority Jammu region, Reasi district tops the chart.

According to the 2011 census, Muslims comprise 50% of the population of the district, while Hindus are 49%. Every year, more than 1 crore pilgrims from across the country pay obeisance at the shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi in Katra. The entire Katra town is dotted with hundreds of hotels, dhabas and guest

It is common for pilgrims visiting Vaishno Devi to plan a trip to the Shiv Khori cave. The common base camp for sailants such pilgrims is usually Katra town. The annual footfall at the Shiv Khori shrine in Ransoo – where the victims of Sunday's attack had gone to

pray – is nearly 20 lakh. Popular legend has it that forces. The militants have

houses.

the cave which houses the shrine was discovered by a Muslim shepherd while he was looking for his lost goats.

While it is one of the most revered Shiva shrines in Jammu region, its management and functioning was institutionalised only in 2008 when the state government passed The Jammu & Kashmir Shri Shiv Khori Shrine

The act, meant for "better management, administration and governance of Shri Shiv Khori Shrine", came into force in April 2010.

According to the police, the bus came under attack around 6.10 pm on Sunday when it was returning from the Shiv Khori shrine to Katra town, some 72 km away.

Evewitnesses told Daily Excelsior that a group of two to three masked militants opened fire on the bus near Kanda village of Taryath area.

The road on which the attack took place connects Reasi with the neighbouring Rajouri district. Much like the rest of Pir Panjal region, the terrain of the area is mountainous and treacherous, with dense forest cover usually working in favour of the as-

Since 2021, Rajouri and Poonch districts of Jammu's Pir Panjal region have witnessed multiple precision strikes by militants resulting in huge losses to security

also resorted to targeted attacks on civilians.

> At least 50 people were on board when the incident took place. While the driver and the conductor of the bus were local residents of Jammu, all the passengers were from different states of the country including Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. Among the deceased pilgrims, four were from Rajasthan while three were from Uttar Pradesh.

Following the attack, pictures of empty bullet cartridges collected by the police provided some sense of the sophisticated weapons used by the militants.

So far, the police have not officially blamed any particular militant group. However, given the scale and nature of the attack, it is likely that foreign militants active in the Pir Panjal region are behind the

attack "The idea [behind the attack] is to instill fear among people, particularly pilgrims,' said a former police officer, who requested not to be identified. "But the larger message seems that terrorists operating in the belt are feeling a bit emboldened. Security agencies need to do more.

Last month, militants had targeted a convoy of the Indian Air Force in Surankote area of Poonch district, resulting in the death of one airman and injuries to four others. While the security forces had launched a massive search operation in the belt that contin-

ued for days, there was no trace of militants.

On May 31, a brief exchange of fire between militants and security forces had taken place in Poonch's Marha Buffliaz after security forces had launched a night search operation in the area. Once again, militants managed to give slip to security forces by taking advantage of darkness.

#### A new challenge

Sunday's attack has emerged as a fresh challenge for the security forces in the Pir Panjal region. The fact that militants have been able to strike in Reasi is worrying given the more than twodecade-long peace in the region

The last time Reasi had experienced the horrors of militancy were in the mid-1990s and early 2000s, when militants carried out several massacres of Hindus in the region. In that period, as security forces carried out a brutal and sweeping crackdown on militancy in Kashmir Valley, the armed insurgency spilled over to Jammu region of the erst-

A similar pattern has been evident since the scrapping of Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 and the end of its statehood.

With New Delhi cracking down on the support system of militancy and separatist politics in the region, the armed violence in Kashmir Valley has come down heavily. At the same time, there has been a resurgence of militant attacks in the mountainous Pir Panial belt of Jammu region.

On Monday, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said culprits behind the attack won't be speared. "The attack is part of a nefarious design to somehow spread turmoil to the Jammu region but we are determined to thwart such an attempt," Sinha told reporters in Jammu. (Courtesy: Scroll.in)





By: Anandbhaskar Rapolu

ndia voted out the perpetrators of hate and stood by har-L mony, but indecisively, since the electorate could not be satisfied on an alternative. India voted against arrogance. India voted against the mischievous washing machine. India voted against the Modi-only approach of the national ruling party. India voted against bulldozer, the primitive justice system, which was much against Vedic Sanatana Dharma. India voted for accommodativeness.

India voted against the brutal usage of constitutional bodies and Central agencies for the undue advantage of the ruling Party. India voted against the brutality of the ruling party and its supremo in depriving the level playing field to the opponents. India voted against the suppression and oppression of the ruling Party over the Opponents. India voted against excessive publicity and flamboyancy.

The failure of his all-pervading super personality in mustering the magic figure of 272 on his own, even after boasting 400plus as a mind game had greatly diminished his standing. His eagerness to repost with thanks to the messages of heads of several countries has shown his weakness and fall. Without a formal meeting of newly elected members of his own party and without the support letters from friendly parties, stake is not possible before the President of India.

The formalities are not only formal, traditional but also valid constitutional approaches. The hastiness of his managers on the formation of the new government was cold-shouldered by the now-powerful partners. The partners are now a vital lifeline for the survival of the new government. They are there to dictate terms. It's their round now.

India voted for equity and efforts to remove inequality. India voted for social defence, social security, social justice, and social empowerment, and stood against religious hatemongering. India voted, highlighting the existence of the Indian class system which is caste. India voted for an inclusive India, with datadriven, equanimity, for which the basis will be the caste census. India voted for consideration of southern states aspirations in the allocation of resources and funds. India voted for valuing the expectations of South India in having a justifiable number share on the floors. of the houses of the Indian parliament, in the coming delimitation process. India did not dread the terrifying tactics of warning bulldozers to run towards temples and words hinting that if you chant your lord's name, powers will jail you. India voted against half-truths, meagre deliveries, and abrupt lockdowns, ineffective and life-threatening vaccines. India voted against terror tactics of enlarging doubts of snatching Mangal Sutra and shown hope towards Nyay Sutra India knowingly gave a fractured mandate. India taught a terse lesson to the person, who thought as if, omnipresent and made him to kneel down and given legless body so as to depend on once ignored as Chatte-Bhatte, now valued partners. India steered clear that there is no wave in favour of or against. State by state throughout the length of north to south and breadth of east to west, India considered all its local indications while delivering the judgment. The beauty of the present general elections lies in the silence and tacit acceptance of EVM. Though, from several constituencies, hearing about discrepancies in final numbers, overall approval is with EVM and doubts of machine management are not looming large. However, the big delay in the announcement of the polled votes and expectations of careful handling of VVPAT slips

will enhance Election Commission integrity, constitutionality and reliability.

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The 2024 mandate teaches the leadership of all struggling and claiming political outfits, first to search their soul, idea, philosophy and correlate with Indian ethos, cultures, traditions, ideas and philosophies to give them, viable alternatives. 1950s, 1990s and even 2010s are no longer receivable since the demography of the Indian electorate is dynamic and crisply changes every 10 years. But, the bedrock of all approaches and mother of all traditions is just Sarva Dharma Samabhavana, which that is equality of all faiths.

The youngest of the Indian electorate, though much modern, swiggy swagging, uber traveling, upcountry employed or straight in the farm fields with no modern study or skills but a well-networked smartphone in hand, is not ready to forego his or her culture, tradition, faith and roots of parents and grandparents but, equally not interested to disturb others beliefs and living atmosphere. Though, the newer and younger generations are not throwing out the memories of the past, but they are not allowing such instances to think afresh and give a new way

Why did the Opposition fail so miserably even after having very many issues and instances against the incumbent government? Even though the sympathisers and pracharaks of RSS and Sangh Parivar were docile and mostly kept themselves outside the opinion building and campaign, major Opposition failed to create a win-win situation.

In several tens of constituencies, cadres of the ruling party were also disheartened and disgusted with the behaviours of their top; Opposition parties could not dislodge them. Falling of bastions like Chindwaras, trouncing in states like Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh and failure to refurbish in states like Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh are stark realities to highlight the incomprehensibleness of the Main Opposition Party



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The case for militarising the Quad just got nudged By: Vivek Mishra &

while state.

defense ministers of the United States. Japan, Australia, and the Philippines underscored a new Pacific deterrence imperative: the Squad. For some, the development projects the Ouad in a paler light, given its hitherto role as the pre-eminent regional minilateral initiative to balance China. The Quad is often perceived as an organisation with largely a public goods provision mandate. The Squad may have brought a security paradigm in the picture that the Quad lacks.

Sanjeet Kashyap

#### Strategic autonomy

The narratives around possible militarisation of the Quad have traditionally involved two frames: the first concerns China's growing influence in the Indo-Pacific and the second, India being its 'weakest link'. Both the persuasion and the critique seem to converge should the Quad, indeed, were to add a military purpose. From India's perspective, the desire to avoid a military alliance in the region is preeminent.

However, divergent interests within the group and threat perception of other Ouad members sometime overshadow that concern conceptually. Besides, the China question in India's national discourse continues to grow starker. India has not only increased footprints in the South China Sea but has openly backed the Philippines's rights to operate freely against Chinese harassment and counter-claims of sovereignty which is at odds with the 2016 decision of the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

India's reluctance to embrace a militarised Quad is rooted in its pursuit of strategic autonomy as the appropriate foreign policy approach. This deeprooted origins of the suspicion of alliance politics among India's strategic elites perhaps dates back to the nationalist opinion in interwar years which saw imperial competition, alliance chain-ganging, and arms race as responsible for the misery of World War I. The consequent pursuit of a nonaligned foreign policy paid reasonable dividends in the post-independence years as India mostly faced a relaxed geopolitical environment as a preponderant power in its immediate neighbourhood, safely tucked away from the frontlines of the Cold War superpower conflict.

Even so, in cases of urgent national security threats, Indian policymakers were prudent enough to quickly put to

rest the shibboleths of non-alignment, with Nehru asking Kennedy for military aid in the 1962 border war, Shastri's pursuit of extended nuclear umbrella from both superpowers in the mid-1960s, and Indira Gandhi's de facto mutual defence treaty with the Soviet Union in 1971. While security alignments do come with the risks of entrapment and might serve to generate spirals of mistrust with an adversary, the upsides of reliance on external powers to augment own capabilities in the face of a threatening polar power warrant a serious consideration on part of India to shed its inertia and hesitancy.

#### **Altered realities**

The locations of the Chinese incursion and its disengagement pattern in the Ladakh crisis point to its intent of asserting the maximalist 1959 claim lines. Based on its actions in Ladakh and elsewhere, China can reasonably be construed as a rational security-driven actor with revisionist intentions adopting a strategy of salami slicing to present its opponents with a fait accompli.

On Beijing's part, the use of fait accompli tactic relies on the hope of preventing the adversarial response in terms of a counterbalancing coalition or an escalation of dispute into an outright war- measures entailing too high a cost for China.

Further, for the most part, China has historically seen India through the prism of its relation with other great powers, refusing to treat New Delhi on equal terms. On its part, India sought a modus vivendi with China on the border in the post-Cold War years and later shifted to the strategy of evasive balancing which mixed India's pursuit of security partnerships and ramping up of own capabilities with a reassurance policy of sending signals of its benign intentions to China.

China's incursions in Ladakh in 2020 and its use of grey-zone coercion tactics with the Philippines, Australia,

and Taiwan, however, has warranted a shift in the Indo-Pacific countries' geopolitics. The rise of a criss-crossing web of minilaterals in the region stemmed from the need to respond to the Chinese aggression.

While the security-centric minilaterand the US military engage ment in region have deterred China from launchа maior militarised conflict, group and threat perception of other Quad the minilaterals and bilat-

including a resuscitated Quad in 2017, so far have failed to deter China from instigating territorial disputes in both the continental and maritime theatres. As a rational, revisionist actor that responds to external geopolitical conditions, China can be deterred by concerted efforts from the US, its allies, and like-minded partners. The Quad's failure in deterring the Chinese ingress in Ladakh in 2020 can precisely be attributed to Beijing's perception of India's unwillingness to impose intolerable costs in retaliation. To put it clearly, India's fear of stoking a spiral of mistrust with China led it to only reluctantly embrace the Quad and its Indo-Pacific partners which, in turn, emboldened China enough to launch the aggression in the hope that it won't face punishment from the US and other nations.

both bilateral and minilateral formats covering the maritime and continental theatres.

Thus, to deter China by sending

clear signals of resolve, the Quad

needs to up its game in the conven-

tional, hard power domain. To be sure,

India has strategically engaged with

other resident Indo-Pacific powers in

However, the logic of balancing efficacy of a concerted quadrilateral effort by leading regional economic powerhouses to shore up India's position-both in terms of sending clear signals of resolve and augmenting its military capability to deal with the Chinese aggression in case of deterrence failure-warrants a serious consideration of the securitisation of the Ouad.

As larger states of the region augment their offense and defence capabilities, a structural shift in the Indo-Pacific is imminent. The stakes

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The narratives around possible militarisa- dealtion of the Quad have traditionally involved <sup>i</sup> n<sup>g</sup> with a two frames; the first concerns China's revisionist growing influence in the Indo-Pacific and China the second, India being its 'weakest link'. com-Both the persuasion and the critique seem bined with to converge should the Quad, indeed, were its own to add a military purpose. From India's ambitions perspective, the desire to avoid a military are too alliance in the region is preeminent. high for However, divergent interests within the India to stick

members sometime overshadow that concern conceptually

> cently, India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar advised that India should adopt a national security filter to even business links with China. The case for adding a military dimension to the Quad, even if seemingly innocuous, vasn't more pressing

The 'Squad' could shine a brighter light on that aspect of regional capacity building. It is clear that there will always be perceptive and capacity gaps between the Pacific theatre and the Indian Ocean theatre that together form the Indo-Pacific, given the presence of US alliance system and China's immediate interests both located in the former. Yet, as India seeks a larger regional role in ensuring a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific, adding teeth to its capacities in a dispersed and subtle form may be in the order. (Courtesy: ORF)

#### Rahul Gandhi arrived but missed

The principal national opposition leader Rahul Gandhi got a large response from the national ruling party and its star campaigners. Rahul Gandhi's Nyay Sutra got into the enlightened psyche of the electorate. Rahul Gandhi was continuously on the offensive and at no point in time, defensive.

His opponents were mostly defensive and had to search for words and phrases to answer and counter. The protection of the constitution and continuation of reservations, as raised by Rahul Gandhi, for the first time resonated throughout the campaign. The electorate reasonably doubted the honesty of the national ruling party on these two things. It's not a mean achievement but, did not turn into a mandate.

Here lies the crux of shortcomings. For introspection, there is not much necessity for brainstorming. Just, a meticulous and scientific assessment of the shortcomings in strategies. state by state and failure in communicating through their own cadre and sympathiser channels will find the reason for the outcomes. The personal absence of Mamata Banerjee in the opposition group needs immediate correction. The message of waiting till the appropriate time to claim and stake further is shrewd and keeping open, the options for the future.

The amalgamation of oneness and safe chemistry among all in the opposition is direly needed with a complete understanding of the tastes and interests of individual newly elected members of all parties of the bloc. Longer the ignoring from the leadership of parties of this crucial point will prove more risky in the arithmetic. (Courtesy: The Wire)

#### World

#### One year later, migrants who survived wreck off Greece seek justice and struggle to cope with life them." he said.

Ali Elwan's arms, legs and neck, and screams misted his ears, as he spat out saltwater and fought for three hours to keep afloat in the night, dozens of miles from land.

6 THE HILLS TIMES

Although a poor swimmer, he lived - one of just 104 survivors from the wreck of a dilapidated old

ATHENS, June 13: Desperate hands clutched at metal fishing boat smuggling up to 750 migrants from North Africa to Europe. "I was so, so lucky," the 30-year-old Egyptian

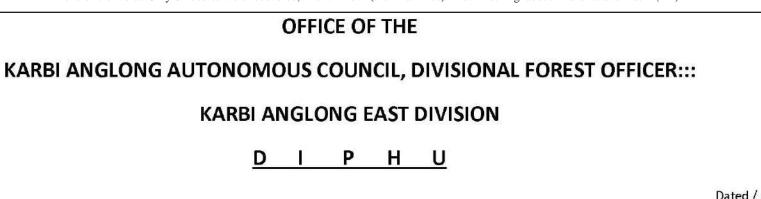
told The Associated Press in Athens, Greece, where he works odd jobs while he waits to hear the outcome of his asylum application. "I have two babies. Maybe I stay(ed) in this life for them.

Thousands have died in Mediterranean Sea shipwrecks in recent years as migrants from the Middle East, Asia and Africa seek a better life in the affluent European Union. But the sinking of the Adriana a year ago Friday in international waters 75 kilometres (45 miles) off Pylos in southern Greece was one of the worst. Only 82 bodies were recovered, so that hundreds of families still lack even the grim certitude that their relatives are dead. Elwan, a cook whose wife and children are in

Cairo, says he still gets phone calls from Egypt from mothers, brothers and wives of the missing. "We (left) home to get best life for family and until now (their families) know nothing about

And after a year there are only hazy answers as to why so many lives were lost, what caused the shipwreck and who can be held answerable.

Migrant charities and human rights groups have strongly criticised Greece's handling of the sinking and its aftermath. (AP)



Dated / /2024.

#### TENDER NOTICE FOR THE SALE OF NHIDCL FOUR LANE (Sec-5,6&7) TIMBER LOTS.

1. (a) Under the Provision made in the Assam sate of forest produce timber lots by tender system Rule 1977 (Amended upto date) sealed tenders in the prescribed form affixing Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council Money receipt worth of Rs 10/- (Rupees Ten) only, are inviting for the NHIDCL. Four Lane timber lots as Sec:-5,6 &7 as shown in the prescribed schedule.

(b) The tenderers are asked to deposit their tender papers in the tender box which will be kept opened in the Divisional Forest Office, Karbi Anglong East Division Diphu during the office working hours from the date of issue of this sale notice on 18/06/2024 and 19/06/2024 from 10.30 a.m. (I.S.T.) to 3.30 p.m. (I.S.T).

(c) The tender box will be opened on the 26/06/2024 in presence of the interested bidders. If the office does not function on the last date of receiving tender for any reason, the next working day will be considered as the last date of tender. No tender delivered by post or hand after this date shall be considered under any circumstance

(d) The successful tenderers shall have to deposit the bid value alongwith Dragging Cost. G S T etc as shown in the statement order by the undersigned. The settlement is liable to be cancelled and shall be forfeited if the highest bidder fails to deposit the tender value and the tender shall be settled with the second bidder subject to fulfilment of terms and condition of the sale value

2. (a) The tender must be accompanied by earnest money draft, "as call deposit pleased to Divisional Forest Officer. Karbi Anglong East Division, Diphu" of Rs 250/- for S T and General Class Rs 500/- for each timber lot Cash or money order will not be accepted as Earnest money under any circumstance.

(b) Upto date G.S.T., Caste Certificate. P.Tax and in case of non-Tribals Trading License & I.Tax must be enclosed alongwith the tender and without these documents no tender will be considered.

(c) The intending tenderer should inspect the timber lots at place shown in the attached schedule before submitting tender and no claim shall be considered after any circumstances afterwards.

(d) The intending tenderers are requested to contact the office of the undersigned or the office of the concerned range office during office hours on any working days for further details of the sale notice and collect the sale notice and tender form etc. on payment of Rs. 100/-Rupees One hundred) only per copy.

#### Enclosed - Statement

Lots Statement of Unclaimed seized Timber Lots under Karbi Anglong East Division, Diphu for the year 2024.

A Group of Seven summit has opened in Italy G7 summit opens with deal to use Russian assets for Ukraine



BORGO EGNAZIA, June 13: A Group of Seven summit opened on Thursday with agreement reached on a U.S. proposal to back a \$50 billion loan to Ukraine using frozen Russian assets as collateral. giving Kyiv a strong show of support even as Europe's political chessboard shifts to the right

Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni welcomed the G7 heads of state to the summit at a luxury resort in southern Italy, saying she wanted the message of this meeting to be one of dialogue with the global south and unity. She likened the G7 to the ancient olive trees that are a symbol of the Puglia region, "with their solid roots, and branches projected toward the future.'

Beyond the the war in Ukraine, Pope Francis will become the first pope to address a G7 summit, adding a dash of celebrity and moral authority to the annual gathering. He'll be speaking Friday about the promises and perils of artificial intelligence, but is expected to also renew his appeal for a peaceful end to Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine and the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza.

The G7 includes Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. Italy, which is hosting the summit, has invited several African leaders - Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, Kenyan President William Ruto and Tunisian President Kais Saied - to press Italy's development and migration initiatives on the continent.

Other guests include Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, fresh off his own election, and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan

With Biden, U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and now French President Emmanuel Macron facing elections in the coming months, pressure was on the G7 to get done what it can while the status quo lasts.

The U.S. proposal involves engineering a \$50 billion loan to help Ukraine in its fight against Russia that would use interest earned on profits from Russia's frozen central bank assets, most of them held in the European Union, as collateral.

A French official, briefing reporters Wednesday, said a political decision by the leaders had been reached but that technical and legal details of the mechanism to tap into the assets still had to be worked out. The issue is complicated because if the Russian assets one day are unfrozen — say if the war ends — then the windfall profits will no longer be able to be used to pay off the loan, requiring a burdensharing arrangement with other countries.

In addition to the deal, Sunak announced up to 242 million pounds (286 million euros or \$310 million) in nonmilitary aid to Ukraine for humanitarian, energy and stabilization needs. Washington also sent strong signals of support, with widened sanctions against Russia to target Chinese companies that are helping its war machine.

Meloni goes into the meeting fortified at home and abroad after

her far-right party had an even stronger showing in the Europea liament election than the national general election in 2022 that her Italy's first female premier. Known for its revolving-doc ernments, Italy is now in the unusual position of being the most power in the EU. (AP)

## NATO defense ministers thra out new security aid and training support plan for Ukraine

BRUSSELS, June 13: NATO Ukraine's Western backer defense ministers gathered on routinely met as part Thursday hoping to agree on a new plan to provide long-term security assistance and military training to Ukraine amid Russia's full-scale invasion, after Hungary promised not to veto the proposal as long as it's not forced to take part.

Kyiv. A fresh meeting was NATO headquarters on dav Canadian Defence M Bill Blair said that his c The ministers are meeting over would send Ukraine 2.300 two days at NATO headquarters motors, and that 80,000 n in Brussels in the last high-level the devices are being "Pending the results of

Ukraine since Russia launched its

full-fledged invasion in February

billion euros (\$43 billion) worth

of equipment each year.

to take part. (AP)

He estimates this at around 40

On Wednesday, Hungary an-

talks before a summit hosted by U.S. President Joe Biden in Washington on July 9-11, where the military organization's leaders are expected to announce financial support for Ukraine.

Ukraine's Western allies are trying to bolster their military support as Russian troops launch attacks along the more than 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) front line, taking advantage of a lengthy delay in U.S. military aid. European Union money was also held up by political infight-

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, who is chairing Thursday's meeting, said that Ukraine's beleaguered armed forces need longer-term predictability about the kinds of weapons, ammunition and funds they can expect to receive.

"The whole idea is to minimize the risk for gaps and delays as we saw earlier this year," 2022 Stoltenberg told reporters. The hold-up, he said, "is one of the reasons why the Russians are now able to push and to actually occupy more land in Ukraine."

Since Russia's full-fledged invasion in February 2022,

printing of home and abroad after									
prtified at home and abroad after ager showing in the European Par- general election in 2022 that made	SI. No.	Lots no. & Year	Species	No. of Logs	Volume	Royalty	Stacking	D/Cost	Remarks
nown for its revolving-door gov- l position of being the most stable	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
inisters thrash	1	LN/5 of 2023-24	Teak	178 Pieces	21.19 M3 <sup>0</sup>	151,110.42/-	Langmili Stock point	-	-
	2	LN/6 of 2023-24	Teak	161 pieces	18.14 M3 <sup>0</sup>	124,657.26	-do-	-	-
id and training	3	LN/7 of 2023-24	Teak	55 pieces	7.40 M3 <sup>0</sup>	49,069.02	-do-	-	
aid and training	4	LJ/03 of 2023-24	Teak	08 pieces	0.49 M3 <sup>0</sup>	2,943.00	Central Range Manja	FD-03	1700.00
or Ukraine	5	LJ/04 of 2023-24	Teak	08 pieces	0.589 M3 <sup>0</sup>	3,538.00	-do-	-do-	1400.00
kraine's Western backers have utinely met as part of the	6	LJ/05 of 2023-24	Teak	02 pieces	0.465 M3 <sup>0</sup>	4,276.00	-do-	-do-	700.00
kraine Defense Contact Group,	7	LJ/06 of 2023-24	Teak	06 pieces	0.48 M3 <sup>0</sup>	2,883.00	-do-	-do-	2000.00
n by the Pentagon, to drum up	8	LJ/07 of 2023-24	Teak	03 pieces	0.546 M3 <sup>0</sup>	4,354.00	-do-	-do-	600.00
eapons and ammunition for yiv. A fresh meeting was held at	9	LJ/08 of 2023-24	Teak	03 pieces	0.469 M3 <sup>0</sup>	3,878.00	-do-	-do-	1000.00
ATO headquarters on Thurs-	10	LJ/09 of 2023-24	Teak	06 pieces	0.418 M3 <sup>0</sup>	2,510.00	-do-	-do-	2000.00
ly.	11	LJ/10 of 2023-24	Teak	06 pieces	0.387 M3 <sup>0</sup>	2,324.00	-do-	-do-	1500.00
Canadian Defence Minister	12	LJ/01 of 2023-24	Teak	08 pieces	1.359 M3 <sup>o</sup>	2,048.00	-do-	-do-	2000.00
Il Blair said that his country ould send Ukraine 2,300 rocket	13	LJ/11 of 2023-24			0.625 M3 <sup>o</sup>	3,754.00		CHARTER CO.	1200.00
otors, and that 80,000 more of	13	LI/11 01 2025-24		08 pieces	0.025 1015	3,754.00	-do-	-do-	1200.00
e devices are being tested.									
Pending the results of those			Badam Teak						4500.00
sts, we intend to ship more ckages of these motors to our	14	Ll/12 of 2023-24	Teak	07 pieces	0.424 M3 <sup>0</sup>	2,546.00	-do-	-do-	1500.00
crainian partners in the future,"	15	LI/13 of 2023-24	Teak	07 pieces	0.536 M3 <sup>0</sup>	3,219.00	-do-	-do-	1500.00
told reporters.	16	LJ/14 of 2023-24	Teak	07 pieces	0.573 M3 <sup>0</sup>	3,441.00	-do-	-do-	1500.00
While the contact group meet-	17	LJ/15 of 2023-24	Teak	09 pieces	0.694 M3 <sup>0</sup>	4,168.00	-do-	-do-	800.00
gs have resulted in significant ttlefield support, they have	18	LJ/16 of 2023-24	Teak	07 pieces	0.592 M3 <sup>0</sup>	3,555.00	-do-	-do-	1400.00
een of an ad-hoc and unpre-	19	LJ/17 of 2023-24	Teak	150 pieces	14.822 M3 <sup>o</sup>	92.751.20	Dillai 12 <sup>th</sup> Mile	-do-	1010
ctable nature. Stoltenberg has			22072399999018422		2003/2004/2002/2014/2014/2014/2014/2014/2014	Control (2000) 11520 (1999) 1999 (1990)	timber/stock		
bearheaded an effort to have							depot		
ATO take up some of the slack. The idea is for the 32-nation	20	11/10 of 2022 24	Taak	150 piezes	11.329 M3 <sup>0</sup>	60 160 46	Dillai 12 <sup>th</sup> Mile	FD-03	1400.00
ilitary alliance to coordinate the	20	LJ/18 of 2023-24	Teak	150 pieces	11.223 1012	69,169.46	· 영상님님(2017) 및 · 의견에 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	10-03	1400.00
curity assistance and training			-	450	44.050.1400	70.000.00	timber stock		
ocess, partly by using NATO's	21	LJ/19 of 2023-24	Teak	150 pieces	11.358 M3 <sup>0</sup>	72,233.00	-do-	-do-	
mmand structure and drawing funds from its common	22	LJ/02 of 2023-24	Teak	28 pieces	6.51 M3 <sup>0</sup>	56,831.00	-do-	-do-	16,000.00
idget.			T. UK	Lo pieces		50,001100			10,000.00
Stoltenberg said he hopes	23	LI/20 of 2023-24	Teak	150 pieces	11. 969 M3 <sup>0</sup>	71,885.81	-do-	-do-	.H.
iden and his counterparts will	24	11/21 - (2022 24	<b>T</b>	150	10 700 1420	76 070 00	1.0		
gree in Washington to maintain he funding level for military	24	Ll/21 of 2023-24	Teak	150 pieces	12.799 M3 <sup>0</sup>	76,870.00	-do-	-do-	-
upport they have provided									
Ukraine since Russia launched its									

Sd/-

**Divisional Forest Officer**, Karbi Anglong East Division, Diphu.

Dated / 12/06/2024.

nounced that it would not veto Memo No. B/KAE/Unclaimed Seized Timber/2024-25/1578(A) the plan as long as it's not forced

#### **FRIDAY. JUNE 14. 2024**

#### Sikkim CM's wife Krishna Kumari Rai quits as MLA Day after taking oath

GANGTOK, June 13: Sikkim chief minister Prem Singh Tamang's wife Krishna Kumari Rai on Thursday quit as an MLA, a day after taking oath, according to an official notification.

The reason behind her sudden decision is not yet known.

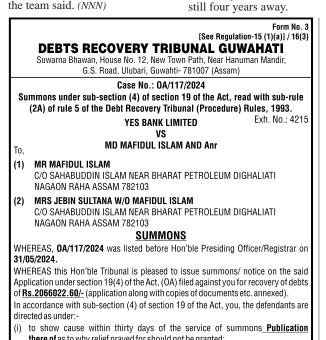
She had won from the Namchi-Singhithang seat in the recently concluded assembly polls, defeating Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) candidate Bimal Rai.

Speaker M N Sherpa has accepted Krishna Kumari Rai's res-Sikkim Legislative ignation, Assembly Secretary Lalit Kumar Gurung said.

Neither she nor the ruling Sikkim Krantikari Morcha leadership could be contacted for comments regarding the development. The chief minister is currently in Arunachal Pradesh to attend the swearing in ceremony of his coun-

terpart Pema Khandu. (PTI) Youths render help to people affected in flood in Manipur

IMPHAL, June 13: Around sixtyfive youth from Central Circle Adventist Youth Federation (CCYAF) of Manipur hailing from different communities rendered help to people adversely affected by the recent flood in Namdunlong and Kairang areas in Imphal recently. The youth dedicatedly engaged themselves cleaning up sediments in the houses and roads being left by the flood. "These young people took their hearts to the noble teaching of the Bible which teaches that whatever good one does to the needy is done to God himself," a leader of the team said. (NNN)



there of as to why relief prayed for should not be granted; tiated on June 7 to counter the ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application problem of plastic wastes accumulated at Doyang dam reseriii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, successfully voir, was pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties: completed on Wednesday, an ofv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinar ficial report said on Thursday. course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is create Doyang reservoir, located in and / or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number Doyang river in Wokha district 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal; of Nagaland, has a water spread ) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secure area of 2,258 hectares. The assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financia Doyang hydro electric project is institutions holding security interest over such assets. situated on the Doyang river, ou are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the the longest and biggest river in applicant and to appear before Registrar on 22/07/2024 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the state. It was commissioned he application shall be heard and decided in your absence in the year 2000 with a total iniven under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date: 03/06/2024 stalled capacity of 75 MW. Signature of the Officer Authorised to issue sum The Doyang hydro electric Registrar Seal project is the only major river Debts Recovery Tribu lote: Strike out whichever is not applicable dam in Nagaland. Guwahati A seven-member assessment team on prevention and mitiga-Form No. tion of environmental hazards [See Regulation-15 (1)(a)] / 16(3) **DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL GUWAHATI** caused by the irresponsible disawan, House No. 12, New Town Path, Near Hanı G.S. Road, Ulubari, Guwahti- 781007 (Assam) posal of solid waste in the upstream of Doyang dam reservoir Case No.: 0A/149/2024 was constituted by the district Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule administration for taking up (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993. task of cleaning and removal of Exh. No.: 4279 YES BANK LIMITED plastic waste. vs Wokha DC Ajit Kumar Ran-MR RINTU DAS & Anr jan, while commenting on the (1) MR RINTU DAS S/O SONESWAR DAS successful completion of the B/O SINGIMARI CHULIKATA GUIMARA BLIOYNAGAR KAMRUP ASSAM 781122 mission, said the mission was Also At: VILL GUIMARA P.O NOHIRA P,S PALASHBARI NEAR NOHIRA initiated in a mission mode with ANCHALIK HIGH SCHOOL KAMRUP ASSAM-781132 the constitution of an area task 2) MR BHABESH DAS S/O ARABINDA DAS force to assess the requirement R/O ARABINDA DAS NAHIRA-3 BIJOY NAGAR NAHIRA KAMRUP ASSAM-78113 of manpower, machinery, and SUMMONS other logistic arrangements. The WHEREAS, **0A/149/2024** was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar work officially started on June 30/05/2024. WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/ notice on the said The DC informed that segre-Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debt gation of waste was also done at of Rs.2604612.55/- (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed) the site before it was transported n accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants a irected as under:to various processing centres. ) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons Publication there of He said to prevent such occuras to why relief prayed for should not be granted; rence in the future, the district i) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and asset administration will be in touch specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application; with the state government and i) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such oth seek advice to counter such assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original applicatio issue. pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties; He requested the public and y) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinar neighbouring villages of the course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is create and / or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number Doyang area to come up with 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal; certain resolutions in managing ) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secure waste to keep the catchment assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and area plastic-free and make deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financia Doyang clean and beautiful. institutions holding security interest over such assets. The DC expressed his appreciaou are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to th applicant and to appear before Registrar on 22/07/2024 at 10:30 A.M. failing which tion to all those involved in the he application shall be heard and decided in your absen mission, including Pangti, vil-Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date: 01/06/2024 lage, Dhillong village and the Signature of the Officer Authorised to issue sum neighbouring villages around Registrar Doyang river, Englan Range Seal Debts Recovery Trib Student's Union and Lotha Stuote: Strike out whichever is not applicable Guwahati dents Union.

NORTHEAST 'Arunachal Pradesh with 26 major tribes and more than 100 sub-tribes is unique in nature'

## We will work to fulfil BJP's poll promises: Khandu

ITANAGAR, June 13: Arunachal Pradesh chief minister Pema Khandu on Thursday asserted that his government's focus would be to fulfil the promises made in the BJP's election manifesto

After taking oath as the chief minister for a third consecutive term, Khandu said the BJP returned to power in the state due to the development works undertaken by the Centre in the Northeast.

"We are committed to fulfiling all the promises. We will run the government in the next five years based on the electoral promises for the welfare and development of the people," he said.

The first cabinet meeting would chalk out a developmental roadmap for the first 100 days of the government, he added

Maintaining that Arunachal Pradesh with 26 major tribes and more than 100 sub-tribes is unique in nature, Khandu said the new government would work for the welfare of all and make efforts to make it a developed state

He appealed to the people "to join hands" with the



government as part of the "Team Arunachal" to speed up the development process.

'PM Narendra Modi has taken special care for the region and the state, and I hope that in the coming vears. Arunachal Pradesh will witness a massive spurt in developmental activities." he said.

Khandu said, "This time, we inducted one woman in the cabinet to send a message to the women to be ready to fight the 2029 polls." (PTI)

contested against Vincent H

Pala but Pala secured 4 lakh

slide victory for him. We

won only from Khliehriat

of MLA, MDC and MP are

totally different. It doesn't

mean that they (VPP) won

MP elections, they will get

the same vote share in the

other elections, it is defi-

nitely not like that," he said

adding, "Pala won in 2019

by a margin of over 2 lakh

"Therefore, the elections

constituency."

votes and it was also a land

## One killed, five missing as Sikkim hit by massive landslides

by the district administration to

send an SDRF team with ration to

Meanwhile, Mangan district

magistrate Hem Kumar Chettri

convened an urgent meeting with

all the heads of various departments

An earthmover was deployed

Sikkim chief minister Prem

Singh Tamang, who is in Arunachal

Pradesh to attend the swearing-in

ceremony of BJP leader Pema

Khandu, communicated with the

North district administration, police

near Mangshila Degree College to

clear the debris from the road.

Mangan, the officials said.

to mitigate the situation.

GANGTOK, June 13: At least one person was killed and five others went missing as massive landslides triggered by incessant rainfall caused devastation in Sikkim's Mangan district, officials said on Thursday

Landslides blocked stretches of roads and several houses were inundated or damaged, while electricity poles were swept away, they said. The body of a person was found in Pakshep area of Mangan, while three persons went missing from Ambithang near Rangrang and two others from Pakshep.

Three houses were damaged in Geythang, while several houses were damaged and roads blocked at Nampathang near Pentok, they said.

The Bringbong police outpost was shifted to another nearby location due to a landslide while the foundation of a bridge at Sankalan was damaged. Mobile network services were affected in North Sikkim even as a request was made



and officials of other departments to ensure a swift response to the devastation.

"Efforts are underway to provide every possible support to the victims and affected families, including recovery assistance, temporary settlement, and the provision of basic needs," Tamang said in a statement.

"The state government stands firmly with the victims of this unfortunate incident, pledging the utmost support to the bereaved families and all those affected and displaced by the landslides," he said. (PTI)

Date :- 11/06/2024

No:- KOK/Bldg/Tech-132/2018-19/994

#### SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER.

Sealed tenders affixing non-refundable court fee stamp of Rs.8.25 (Rupees eight and paise twenty five) only with a validity period of 180 (One hundred eighty) days, which will subsequently to be converted and drawn up in the printed F-2 Form are invited from the intending Registered contractors of Class -I (A,B,C), Class-II & Class-III Categories of the Assam, P.W.D.(Bldg) for submitting tenders for the work stated below. The tenders will be received by the undersigned up to 1:30 P.M on 25/06/2024 and will be opened on the same date and place at 2:00 P.M.

Name of Division	Name of Work	(Approx.) Estimated Value of work	Earnest money 1% for ST/SC/OBC/ MOBC & 2% for GNL	Cost of Tender Documents	Time of Completion
1	2	3	4	5	6
Dist. & Chirang	Repairing & Renovation of Jailor Quarter at Kokrajhar District Jail, Kokrajhar.	Rs.13,83,027.00	Rs.14,000.00 & Rs.28,000.00	Rs.500.00	6(Six) Month
Division	Repairing & Renovation of Superintendent Quarter at Kokrajhar District Jail, Kokrajhar.	Rs.11,45,490.00	Rs.11,500.00 & Rs.23,000.00	Rs.500.00	6(Six) Month

Detailed N.I.T. may be seen in all working hours in the office of the undersigned. Tender papers will be issued to the contractors or their authorized agent up to 1:30 P.M in all working days from 18/06/2024 to 25/06/2024 in the office of the undersigned on payment in the form Bankers Cheque./Demand Draft/Bank Draft. / C.D duly pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Kokrajhar District & Chirang District Territorial Building Division, Kokrajhar. The Contractors should submit attested copy of Registration Certificate for the year 2023-2024, latest clearance Certificate of Income Tax, GST, along with tenders. In case the office is remain closed / bandh for any reason on tender papers issuing/receiving/opening date, then the same will be issued/received/opened in the next working day.

IPR(BTC)-2024-25/14

Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Kokrajhar Dist. & Chirang Dist. Territorial Building Division, Kokrajhar

#### SHORT NOTICE INVITING QUOTATION

Sealed quotation affixing court fee of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees Eight and Twenty Five Paisa) only / Karbi angling Autonomous Council cash receipt of Rs. 10 (Rupees Ten) only are invited for Hiring of Vehicle for Field Visit, Sample collection & Transportation, IEC Activities and Monitoring of IDSP unit (DSU and DMCH), NRCP, NVHCP (SC and TC), NPPCL and SBPC Programme Activities in Karbi Anglong district (details annexed at Annexure A) from Tour operator/Vendor/ firm. The quotation will be received in the office of the District Surveillance Unit, IDSP, Karbi Anglong, Diphu upto 4:00 PM of 20th June '2024 and if the office is closed on this day due to Govt. holiday or any other Bandh, the next working day of the office will be the date of receiving and opening of quotation.



SHILLONG, June 13: "You cannot link it (2024 NPP national general secre-LS polls) with the 2028 Astary and deputy chief minissembly elections. Of course, there is scope for the VPP to Meghalaya, Sniawbhalang Dhar recently increase its seats but you said the opposition Voice of cannot also undermine the the People Party (VPP)'s fact that the NPP, UDP and landslide victory from Shilother parties will also work very hard since we have got long parliamentary seat in the just concluded Lok 3-4 years time," Dhar told Sabha polls cannot impact reporters the 2028 Meghalaya State VPP's Ricky AJ Syngkon Assembly election, which is

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unseated three-time Congress MP Vincent H Pala by a massive margin of over 3.7 lakh votes, one of the highest recorded in the state.

votes but in 2023, the Congress could win only 4 seats Stating that such a victory is not new to Meghalaya, (from Khasi-Jaintia region). Dhar said, "Let's go back to That's why people are wiser than you think. Therefore, history. In 2019, Meghalaya Democratic Alliance (candiyou should never underestidate Jemino Mawthoh) had mate our voters." (NNN)

Mission to *clear Doyang* 

dam reservoir of plastic waste

Doyang hydro electric project is the only major

river dam in Nagaland HT Correspondent

DIMAPUR, June 13: The sixday Clean Doyang Mission, iniTHE HILLS TIMES 7

The undersigned reserve the right to reject any of the quotation.

\*Quotation with any deviation in specification will be straight away rejected.

\*Incomplete and late quotation is liable to be rejected summarily.

#### Terms and Condition.

- 1. Each supplier shall submit only one quotation.
- 2. Evaluation of quotations.

- 3. The Hirer will evaluate and compare the quotations determined to be substantially responsive i.e. which
  - a. Are properly signed.
  - b. Confirm to the terms and conditions and specification
  - c. The quotation would be evaluated for all the items together on the basis of rate and delivery terms.
- 4. The Hirer will award the contract to be bidder whose quotation has been determined to be substantially responsive and who has offered the lowest evaluated quotation price
- 5. Notwithstanding the above the Hirer reserve the right to accept or reject any quotation and to cancel the bidding process and reject all quotations at any time prior to the award of contract.
- 6. The Bidder shall indicate the name of bank address and account information.
- 7. All legal dispute shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the court of Law of Karbi Anglong district only.
- 8. The bidding amount should be including Tool Plaza Tax.
- 9. Documents like Trade licence, GST Certificate, P. TAX, PAN Card, Cast Certificate and along with Annexure A of the quotation to be submitted.

#### Annexure-A

Specification with reference to Short Notice Inviting Quotation vide no. IDSP/ K-Ang/Genera1/2024-25/6133 Dated 12.06.2024

SI. No.	Vehicle Type	Rally Rent	Miiage per liter	Per KM Fuel Rate including Driver Charge (Per KM Fuel rate Rs. 8/- + Per KM Driver Charge Ra. 4/-)		
1	SUV	Rs. 2000/-	12 KM	Rs. 12/-		
2	Hatch Back	Rs. 1600/-	16 KM	Rs. 12/-		
3	Pickup Truck/Tempo	Rs. 1500/-	7 KM	Rs. 12/-		
4	Passenger Auto	Rs. 800/-	20 KM	Rs. 12/-		
10.00000	Sd/- strict Surveillance Officer SU, IDSP, Karbi Anglong			Sd/- Joint Director of Health Services Diphu, Karbi Anglong		

#### 8 THE HILLS TIMES

#### NATION

## Anger in country over NEET exam will 'reverberate inside Parliament': Cong

NEW DELHI, June 13: The Congress on Thursday again demanded a Supreme Court-monitored probe into the NEET exam issue, and asserted that the anger in the country over the matter will "reverberate inside Parliament as well". The opposition party also sought the removal of the National Testing Agency (NTA) Director General and claimed that the BJP government's attitude towards the ongoing demand for an inquiry into the NEET examination is "irresponsible and insensitive".

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said that in the last 10 years, the Modi government has ruined the future of crores of youth through paper leaks and rigging.

'Grace Marks was not the only problem in NEET exam. There has been rigging, papers have been leaked, corruption has taken place. The future of 24 lakh students appearing in the NEET examination is at stake due to the actions of the Modi government," the Congress president said. A nexus of exam centre and coaching centre has been formed, where

the game of "pay money, get paper" is being played, he alleged.

The Modi government cannot escape its responsibility by placing the responsibility of its actions on the shoulders of NTA. There should be a CBI investigation into the entire NEET scam. If the Modi government is not ready for a CBI inquiry then the Congress party demands a fair inquiry under the supervision of the Supreme Court," Kharge said in a post. After investigation, the culprits should be given the harshest punishment and lakhs of students should be given compensation to save their year from being wasted, he said.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh also hit out at the government, saying the "one-third padhan mantri's" government has tried to wriggle its way out of the simmering NEET controversy and scam.

"It has assured the Supreme Court that grace marks given to 1563 students will be cancelled. But why were the grace marks given in the first place? The primary reason appears to be one physics question in the paper which gave four options. According to the new NCERT Class 12 text book, one of the four was right. But on the basis of an older textbook, another option could also be considered right," he said.

The students who ticked the latter, in addition to students who lost time due to delays in paper distribution, etc. were given grace marks, Ramesh said. "It is a pathetic state of affairs, reflecting on both the National Testing Agency and the NCERT," he said.

Ramesh posed questions to Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Health Minister J P Nadda.

Was the NEET question paper leaked, as indicated by several media and social media reports and a FIR filed by a student in Patna, he asked. "Were the results of the NEET-UG paper released ten days earlier than anticipation, on June 4th instead of June 14th so that they would coincide with the Lok Sabha Election results and attract less media attention?" he

said. Since 2019, there haven't been more than three toppers in any year of NEET UG, which is the single gateway for admission to all MBBS programmes in the country, Ramesh pointed out.

"In 2019 and 2020, there was one topper each. There were three toppers in 2021, one in 2022, and two last year. How did not one or two, but 67 students achieve a perfect score of 720 in 2024? 44 of them benefitted from the grace marks - but that still leaves us with 23 toppers, eleven times higher than last year. What changed this year?" he said.

"How do multiple NEET-UG 2024 toppers, all belonging to the same state, have similar roll numbers? Were they from the same examination center?" Ramesh said. The fate of 24 lakh students is hanging in the balance, he added. Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters here, Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi also slammed the government over the issue. "We demand a Supreme Court monitored investigation into this entire scandal which has affected around 24 lakh students," he said.

"The Congress believes that the BJP government's attitude towards the ongoing demand for an inquiry into the NEET exam is irresponsible and insensitive...Ordinary families have been forced to cough up amounts close to Rs 30 lakh due to promises given to them by different coaching and examination centres," he said.

"We believe that no inquiry can be a just, fair and comprehensive if it is headed by the NTA itself. The NTA chairperson should be removed and Prime minister Narendra Modi, who likes giving exam advice to Class 10 students, should not forget the mental anxiety caused to these undergraduates," Gogoi said.

Instead of paying attention to the "NEET scam", he is busy attending oath-taking ceremonies and going abroad on foreign trips, he said. Rest assured, the INDIA bloc will take up the cause of these students

because that is our responsibility, Gogoi said. "Now the INDIA bloc has the sufficient strength to bring the govern-

#### KARBI ANGLONG AUTONOMOUS COUNCIL, OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER:::

#### **KARBI ANGLONG EAST DIVISION**

DI PHU

Dated / /2024.

#### TENDER NOTICE FOR THE SALE OF UNCLAIMED SEIZED TIMBER.

1. (a) Under the Provision made in the Assam sate of forest produce timber lots by tender system Rule 1977 (Amended upto date) sealed tenders in the prescribed form affixing Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council Money receipt worth of Rs 10/- (Rupees Ten) only, are inviting for the unclaimed seized timber lots as shown in the prescribed schedule.

(b) The tenderers are asked to deposit their tender papers in the tender box which will be kept opened in the Divisional Forest Office, Karbi Anglong East Division Diphu during the office working hours from the date of issue of this sale notice on 18/06/2024 and 19/06/2024 from 10.30 a.m. (I.S.T.) to 3.30 p.m. (I.S.T).

(c) The tender box will be opened on the 26/06/2024 in presence of the interested bidders. If the office does not function on the last date of receiving tender for any reason, the next working day will be considered as the last date of tender. No tender delivered by post or hand after this date shall be considered under any circumstance

(d) The successful tenderers shall have to deposit the bid value alongwith Dragging Cost. G S T etc as shown in the statement order by the undersigned. The settlement is liable to be cancelled and shall be forfeited if the highest bidder fails to deposit the tender value and the tender shall be settled with the second bidder subject to fulfilment of terms and condition of the sale value

2. (a) The tender must be accompanied by earnest money draft, "as call deposit pleased to Divisional Forest Officer. Karbi Anglong East Division, Diphu" of Rs 250/- for S T and General Class Rs 500/- for each timber lot Cash or money order will not be accepted as Earnest money under any circumstance.

(b) Upto date G.S.T., Caste Certificate. P.Tax and in case of non-Tribals Trading License & I.Tax must be enclosed alongwith the tender and without these documents no tender will be considered.

(c) The intending tenderer should inspect the timber lots at place shown in the attached schedule before submitting tender and no claim shall be considered after any circumstances afterwards.

(d) The intending tenderers are requested to contact the office of the undersigned or the office of the concerned range office during office hours on any working days for further details of the sale notice and collect the sale notice and tender form etc. on payment of Rs. 100/- ( Rupees One hundred) only per copy.

#### Enclosed - Statement

Lots Statement of Unclaimed seized Timber Lots under Karbi Anglong East Division, Diphu for the year 2024.

SI. No.	Lots no. & Year	Species	No. of Logs	Volume	Royalty	D/Cost	Stacking	Hummer Impression	Remark
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	BG/07 of 2023-24	M/Sal	33 Pieces	1.504 M <sup>3</sup>	9,019/-	3,000/-	Bogijan	FD-42	-
2	WR/04 of 2023-24	Non-sal (sawn timber)	355 pieces	5.523 M <sup>3</sup>	5,661.00		A/c Beat Western Range, Dokmoka	FD-51	
3	CR/01 of 2023-24	Non-Sal	54 pieces	5.832M <sup>3</sup>	17,746.00	2,000.00	Central Rag\nge, Manja	FD-03	
4	ER/11 of 2023-24	Teak	9 pieces	0.912M <sup>3</sup>	6,295.00		Eastern Range, Bokajan	FD-08	
5	ER/10 of 2023-24	Teak	9 pieces	1.15M <sup>3</sup>	8,680.00	723.00	Eastern Range, Bokajan	FD-08	
6	WR/05 of 2023-24	Teak	7 pieces	1.107 M <sup>3</sup>	7,653.82	142 142	Western Range, Dokmoka	FD-51	
7	ER/07 of 2023-24	Teak	25 pieces	0.275 M <sup>3</sup>	4,054.00	500.00	Eastern Range, Bokajan	FD-08	
8	ER/08 of 2023-24	Teak	25 pieces	0.441 M <sup>3</sup>	6,501.00	500.00	-do-	-do-	1
)	ER/09 of 2023-24	Misc	24 pieces	3.164 M <sup>3</sup>	4,227.00	500.00	-do-	-do-	1
10	ER/10 of 2023-24	Teak	09 pieces	1.155 M <sup>3</sup>	8,710.00	500.00	-do-	-do-	1
11	ER/11 of 2023-24	Teak	09 pieces	0.776 M <sup>3</sup>	5,135.00	500.00	-do-	-do-	1
12	ER/12 of 2023-24	Teak (Slab/Plank)	14 pieces	0.441 M <sup>3</sup>	6,501.00	500.00	-do-	-do-	
13	ER/12 of 2023-24	Teak (Slab/Plank)	14 pieces	0.441 M <sup>3</sup>	6,501.00	500.00	-do-	-do-	
14	ER/14 of 2023-24	Teak (Slab/Plank)	14 pieces	0.441 M <sup>3</sup>	6,501.00	500.00	-do-	-do-	
15	ER/15 of 2023-24	Mixed	24 pieces	3.164 M <sup>3</sup>	4,227.00	500.00	-do-	-do-	1
16	ER/16 of 2023-24	Teak (Slab/Plank)	30 pieces	0.33 M <sup>3</sup>	4,865.00	500.00	-do-	-do-	
17	ER/17 of 2023-24	Teak (Slab/Plank)	30 pieces	0.33 M <sup>3</sup>	4,865.00	500.00	-do-	-do-	
18	PSQ/01 of 2023-24	Teak	17 pieces	0.434 M <sup>3</sup>	4,268.00	300.00	PSQ/Range, Diphu	FD-35	
19	PSQ/02 of 2023-24	Teak	19 pieces	0.451 M <sup>3</sup>	4,432.00	300.00	-do-	-do-	
20	PSQ/03 of 2023-24	Teak	20 pieces	0.485 M <sup>3</sup>	4,767.00	300.00	-do-	-do-	
21	PSQ/04 of 2023-24	Teak	15 pieces	0.348 M <sup>3</sup>	3,420.00	300.00	-do-	-do-	
22	PSQ/05 of 2023-24	Teak	16 pieces	0.485 M <sup>3</sup>	4,767.00	300.00	-do-	-do-	
23	PSQ/06 of 2023-24	Teak	5 pieces	0.465 M <sup>3</sup>	4,570.00	300.00	-do-	-do-	
24	PSQ/07 of 2023-24	Teak	8 pieces	0.519 M <sup>3</sup>	4,174.00	300.00	-do-	-do-	
25	PSQ/08 of 2023-24	Teak	24 pieces	0.539 M <sup>3</sup>	3,148.00	300.00	-do-	-do-	
26	BG/08 of 2023-24	B Poma Khakan, M-Sal	17 pieces	0.798 M <sup>3</sup>	4,785.00	2,000.00	Bogijan Account Beat	FD-42	
27	BG/09 of 2023	B Poma Khakan, M-Sal	15 pieces	0.743 M <sup>3</sup>	4,456.00	2,000.00	Bogijan Account Beat	-do-	
28	BG/10 of 2023	B Poma Khakan, M-Sal	18 pieces	0.741 M <sup>3</sup>	4,444.00	2,000.00	Bogijan Account Beat	-do-	
29	BG/11 of 2023	B Poma Khakan, M-Sal	19 pieces	0.780 M <sup>3</sup>	4678.00	2,000.00	Bogijan Account Beat	-do-	
30	BG/12 of 2023	Bhelu	33 pieces	1.861 M <sup>3</sup>	5633.00	2,000.00	Bogijan Account Beat	-do-	
31	WR/16 of 2023	Non- Sal Sawn Timber	70 pieces	0.833 M <sup>3</sup>	8325.83	2,000.00	Western Rage, Dokmaka	FD-51	
32	WR/17 of 2023	Non- Sal Sawn Timber	85 pieces	3.715 M <sup>3</sup>	11,268.75	2,000.00	-do-	-do-	
33	WR/16 of 2023	Non- Sal Sawn Timber	69 pieces	1.233 M <sup>3</sup>	6220.47	2,000.00	-do-	-do-	

ment to its knees and make them accountable to the students," he said "We are waiting for the Parliament session, we will raise the voice of 24 lakh youth of the country inside Parliament. The anger over the NEET exam in the country will also reverberate inside Parliament," he said. (PTI)

## AI, energy, Africa to be in focus, says PM Modi as he leaves for Italy

NEW DELHI, June 13: As he embarks on a visit to Italy to attend an Outreach session at the G7 summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said its focus would be on artificial intelligence. energy, Africa, and the Mediterranean. Modi said this in a departure statement before leaving for the European nation in his first for-

eign trip after becoming prime minister for a third term. The prime minister said issues crucial for the Global South will also be deliberated upon at the Outreach session.

The G7 summit, to be held in the luxury resort of Borgo Egnazia in Italy's Apulia region from June 13 to 15, is expected to be dominated by the raging war in Ukraine and the conflict in Gaza.

"At the invitation of Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, I am travelling to Apulia region in Italy to participate in the G7 Outreach summit on June 14," Modi said. The prime minister said he was glad that his first visit in the third consecutive term is to Italy for the G-7 Summit.

"During the discussions at the Outreach session, the focus will be on artificial intelligence, energy, Africa, and the Mediterranean," Modi said.

"It will be an opportunity to bring greater synergy between the outcomes of the G20 Summit held under India's Presidency and the forthcoming G7 Summit, and deliberate on issues which are crucial for the Global South," he said. Modi will have a bilateral meeting with Italian Prime Minister Meloni. "Prime Minister Meloni's two visits to India last year were instrumental in infusing momentum and depth in our bilateral agenda," he

said. "We remain committed to consolidating the India-Italy strategic partnership, and bolstering cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and the Mediterranean regions," he said

The prime minister is likely to hold a number of bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the summit. "I am also looking forward to

meeting other leaders participating in the Summit,"

he said. The G7 comprises the US, the UK, France, Italy, Germany, Canada and Japan. Italy is holding the current presidency of the G7 (Group of Seven) and is hosting the summit in that capacity.

A key focus of the Italian presidency has been to defend the rulesbased international system.

According to Italy, Russia's war of aggression on Ukraine has undermined its principles and triggered growing instability, with multiple crises unfolding worldwide. The G7 will give equal importance to the conflict in the Middle East, with its consequences for the global agenda, it says.

The bloc expanded into the G8 between 1997 and 2013, with the inclusion of Russia. However, Russia's participation was suspended in 2014 following its annexation of Crimea.

In line with the grouping's tradition, representatives of a number of countries and international organisations are invited to the summit by the host nation that holds the chair.

Besides India, Italy has invited leaders from 11 developing countries in Africa, South America and the Indo-Pacific region to attend the summit. Though the European Union is not a member of the G7. it attends the annual summit. (PTI)

Sd/-**Divisional Forest Officer**, Karbi Anglong East Division, Diphu. Dated / 12/06/2024.

Memo No. B/KAE/Unclaimed Seized Timber/2024-25/1579(A)

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#### **FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2024**

#### NATION

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### Kuwait fire: IAF aircraft on standby to bring back mortal remains of Indians

**NEW DELHI, June 13:** Kuwaiti authorities are conducting DNA tests on the bodies of over 40 Indians killed in the devastating fire in Mangaf area and an IAF aircraft is on standby to bring back the mortal remains, officials said on Thursday.

Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh reached Kuwait to oversee assistance to Indians injured in the fire and to ensure early repatriation of mortal remains.

The total number of people killed in the fire incident in the southern Kuwait locality is 49 and 42 of them are learnt to be Indians, the officials said.

The IAF aircraft has been kept on stand-by to bring back the mortal remains, officials said. Hours after arriving in Kuwait, Singh met the Gulf nation's foreign minister Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya.

The Indian embassy in Kuwait said Al-Yahya assured of full support including for medical care, early repatriation of mortal remains and investigation into the incident.

"FM Yahya conveyed his condolences on the tragic incident. He assured full support including for medical care, early repatriation of mortal remains and investigation of the incident," the mission said on X.

"MoS conveyed his appreciation for the cooperation being extended by all concerned authorities of Kuwait," it said. Singh also visited Mubarak Al

Kabeer hospital where seven injured Indians are admitted.

"In an unfortunate and tragic fire incident earlier today in a Labour housing facility in Mangaf area of Kuwait, around 40 Indians are understood to have died and over 50 injured," the Ministry of External Affairs had said in a statement late on Wednesday night.

Last night, Prime Minister Modi reviewed the situation at a meeting with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, NSA Ajit

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Doval, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra and Principal Secretary to PM PK Mishra among others. Following the meeting, the prime minister announced exgratia relief of Rs 2 lakh to the families of the deceased Indian nationals from the PM's Relief

NO.CGT. (P) 196/2024-25/17

nationals from the PM's Relief Fund and directed that the government should extend all possible assistance. Jaishankar spoke to his

Kuwaiti counterpart Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya on phone and urged him for the early repatriation of the mortal remains of those killed.

"Spoke to Kuwaiti FM Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya on the fire tragedy in Kuwait. Apprised of the efforts made by Kuwaiti authorities in that regard. Was assured that the incident would be fully investigated and that responsibility will be fixed," Jaishankar said on X on Wednesday night.

"Urged the early repatriation of the mortal remains of those who lost their lives. He emphasized that those injured were getting the requisite medical attention," he said. The officials had said most of the Indian victims are from Kerala.

The fire in Al-Mangaf building was reported to authorities in Al-Ahmadi governorate at 4.30 am on Wednesday and most of the deaths were due to smoke inhalation, Kuwaiti media reported, adding the fire started in a kitchen.

Construction firm NBTC group rented the building for the stay of more than 195 workers, most of them Indians from Kerala, Tamil Nadu and northern states, the Kuwaiti media said. The NBTC group is partly owned by an Indian, officials said.

Interior Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousuf Al-Sabah ordered an investigation into the fire incident and issued directions to apprehend the owner and janitor of Al-Mangaf

## J&K: DGP talks tough on terror, warns locals supporting terrorism

**KATRA/JAMMU, June 13:** In the wake of four terror attacks in as many days, Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police R R Swain on Thursday accused Pakistan of trying to disturb peaceful atmosphere through its mercenaries, and asserted that the Indian forces were determined to give a befitting response to the enemy.

He warned the "enemy agents" that they would repent their decision of supporting terrorism and said "they have stakes including families, land and jobs unlike Pakistani terrorists who have nothing to lose." Terrorists struck at four places in Reasi, Kathua, and Doda districts over the past four days, killing nine people, including seven pilgrims returning from Shiv Khouri temple, and a CRPF jawan, and left seven security personnel and several others injured.

Two suspected Pakistani terrorists were killed in an encounter with

## GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

#### ADDITIONAL REGISTRAR OF COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES CUM CHD (HILLS)

#### DIPHU: 782460, KARBI ANGLONG

Email: Addlrcshillsdiphu@gmail.com

Dated: 12/06/2024

#### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

In Pursuance of the Letter No. KAAC/COOP-1/05, Dated 12/06/2024, sealed tender in plain paper affixing non-refundable money receipt of Rs. 10.00 only of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council, Diphu are hereby invited from intending Govt. registered contractor for the following works and will be received by this office up to 13.30 hours of 26/06/2024. The Tender will be opened on the same day at 14.00 hours in presence of tenderers or his authorized representatives.

If the date of opening of tender happens to be a Holiday/ Bandh or if it is not possible to receive the Tenders in stipulated date and time or any unforeseen reason, the next working day will be considered as the last date of receipt/ opening of the tenders.

SL. No	Name of Activity	Estimated Value (in Rs.)	EMD/BID Security (in Rs.)		Tender Fees (in Rs.)	Last Date & time of bid submission	Date & Time Bid Opening	
		1	ST/SC/ OBC	General			S.C. Spennig	
1	Construction of Inspection Bungalow (I.B.) at Phuloni Lamps Ltd.	Rs. 60.00 L	1%	2%	Rs. 10	26/06/2024 1:30 P.M.	26/6/2024 2:00P.M.	
2	Renovation/Repairing of Additional Registrar of Coop. Societies (H), Quarter at Diphu with Electrification	Rs. 15.00 L	1%	2%	Rs. 10	26/06/2024 1:30 P.M.	26/6/2024 2:00 P.M.	
3	Renovation/Repairing of Staff Quarter at Hamren, ARCS office West Karbi Anglong	Rs. 15.00 L	1%	2%	Rs. 10	26/06/2024 1:30 P.M.	26/6/2024 2:00P.M.	
4	Renovation/Repairing of Grade IV Quarter at Additional Registrar of Coop. Societies (H). 1 (One) No.	Rs. 10.00 L	1%	2%	Rs. 10	26/06/2024 1:30 P.M.	26/6/2024 2:00P.M.	
5	Construction of New Office Building with Computer Room at Menmeji Lamps Ltd, West Karbi Anglong	Rs. 15.00 L	1%	2%	Rs. 10	26/06/2024 1:30 P.M.	26/6/2024 2:00P.M.	
6	Earth Filling at Phuloni Lamps Ltd.	Rs. 25.00 L	1%	2%	Rs. 10	26/06/2024 1:30 P.M.	26/6/2024 2:00P.M.	
7	Construction of Septic Tank, repairing of Toilets with running water facilities at Centre I.B., Centre Lamps C.S. Ltd.	Rs. 15.00 L	1%	2%	Rs. 10	26/06/2024 1:30 P.M.	26/6/2024 2:00P.M.	
8	Construction of New Office Building at Lumbajong Lamps Ltd, Karbi Anglong	Rs. 15.00 L	1%	2%	Rs. 10	26/06/2024 1:30 P.M.	26/6/2024 2:00P.M.	
9	Beautification of Exhibition Stall at Taralangso	Rs. 10.00 L	1%	2%	Rs. 10	26/06/2024 1:30 P.M.	26/6/2024 2:00P.M.	
10	Construction of Tourist Lodge at Rongmongve Lamps Ltd, Kaziranga	Rs. 20.00 L	1%	2%	Rs. 10	26/06/2024 1:30 P.M.	26/6/2024 2:00P.M.	
11	Renovation/Repairing of Office Building at Hamren, ARCS Office, West Karbi Anglong	Rs. 15.00 L	1%	2%	Rs. 10	26/06/2024 1:30 P.M.	26/6/2024 2:00P.M.	
12	Construction of Market Shed at Paklongkam Lamps Ltd.	Rs. 15.00 L	1%	2%	Rs. 10	26/06/2024 1:30 P.M.	26/6/2024 2:00P.M.	
13	Construction of Market Shed at Inglongkiri Lamps Ltd.	Rs. 15.00 L	1%	2%	Rs. 10	26/06/2024 1:30 P.M.	26/6/2024 2:00P.M.	
14	Repairing of Toilet at D.R.C.S. office, Diphu and Construction of Septic Tank, repairing of Toilets at Addl. RCS (H), Diphu	Rs. 15.00 L	1%	2%	Rs. 10	26/06/2024 1:30 P.M.	26/6/2024 2:00P.M.	
	TOTAL	Rs.260.00 L						

security forces in Kathua and a large quantity of arms and ammun tion were recovered from them.

"The starting point (of terrorism in J&K) is across the border. The clear intent of the adversary is that if they cannot motivate locals for subversive activities to disturb the peaceful atmosphere in Kashmir, send their own people, Pakistanis, after recruiting them there and forcibly pushing them into this side," the DGP told reporters in Reasi district. The police chief was in Katra, the base camp for the pilgrims visiting the famous Mata Vaishno Devi shrine, and chaired a highlevel meeting to review security in the district, where terrorists attacked a bus Sunday evening, killing nine and injuring 41.

The meeting, among others, was attended by Reasi Deputy Commissioner, Vishesh Paul Mahajan, Udhampur-Reasi Range Deputy Inspector General of Police Rayees Mohammad Bhat, and Reasi Senior Superintendent of Police Mohita Sharma.

"The enemy agents are doing it (helping foreign terrorists) for money and narcotics. They will be identified and dealt with sternly. We want to warn them that while the (foreign) terrorists will get killed ... those who are supporting them will repent," the police chief said. He said the foreign terrorists have nobody to care about, whether they have children or not. "We don't know whom they are sending here after picking them from jails. Those who are supporting them have land, children and jobs here and they will suffer."

Swain said Pakistan seeks to use the tough terrain of Jammu and Kashmir by sending foreign terrorists into the forests and to disturb the peaceful atmosphere. "This is the truth." He, however, said the security forces are determined and promise-bound to maintain peace and eradicate terrorism from Jammu and Kashmir.

"What will be our response? We are ready for the small loss because when a war is thrust upon us and terrorists stand before us to kill or get killed, we utilize all our resources and our effort is to give a befitting response. Since they don't have anyone to care about, their power to inflict loss appears more," he said.

He said terrorism spread its tentacles to Jammu region especially Doda and Ramban in 1995 but it was completely wiped out by 2005.

"If we are face to face with the same type of challenge, rest assured that we are committed and promise-bound to give them a befitting response and kill them one by one to maintain a peaceful atmosphere," he said. (*PTI*)

## Follow govt guidelines for Eid sacrifice: Jamiat to Muslims

**NEW DELHI, June 13:** Prominent Muslim organisation Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind on Thursday urged Muslims to strictly follow government guidelines while offering sacrifice on Eid-ul-Azha and not share pictures of slaughtered animals on social media.

Eid ul-Azha, also called the festival of sacrifice, will be celebrated on Monday. In his message to Muslims on Eid-ul-Azha, Jamiat president Maulana Arshad Madani said there is no substitute for sacrifice in Islam and it is a religious duty which is obligatory on every Muslim for whom it is prescribed.

"It is important that Muslims take precautionary measures while offering sacrifice. Avoid advertising, especially sharing pictures of slaughtered animals on social media," Madani said.

He also urged Muslims to strictly follow government guidelines while performing 'Qurbani' and avoid sacrificing prohibited animals. "If mischievous elements, at any place, prevent the sacrifice of a buffalo also, some sensible and influential people should take the administration into confidence and then sacrifice should be offered," he said. (*PTI*) Tenderer should quote their rate in the tender form in Rupees both in words and figures. The Sealed Tender should be submitted to the "Additional Registrar of Cooperative Societies (Hills) Diphu, Lumding Road, Karbi Anglong". Tenderers has to super scribe clearly the name of work on the top of the envelope of the tender paper for which he/ she has submitted the tender.

#### Terms & condition :

- 1. Non refundable court stamp of Rs. 10.00 of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council must be affixed along with tender paper without which tender paper will not be accepted.
- 2. Rate should be quoted as per estimated amount.
- 3. Earnest money should he deposited in the form of Call Deposit pledged in favour of Additional Registrar of Cooperative Societies (Hills) Diphu.
- 4. Tender should be submitted on plain papers and the successful Tenderer have to execute an agreement in proper form no. F-2 before issue of the work order and the work should he completed within stipulated time frame.
- 5. Professional Tax, Income Tax, Sale Tax clearance certificate, GST Clearance certificate, copy of Pan Card, Bank Account, 2(two) copies of recent Passport Size Photographs must be attached along with the tender papers without of which tender papers will not be accepted.
- 6. Technical Supervision of the work will be executed by the Executive Engineer, KAAC, Diphu.
- 7. Tenders will be received by this office from 14/6/2024 to 26/06/2024.

Tender paper without earnest money and other documents as referred above, will summarily be rejected.

The undersigned reserved the right and shall have the discretion to accept or reject any or all the tenders or to cancel the entire process without assigning any reason thereof.

Memo No. CGT. (P) 196/2024-25/17- A

Sd/-Additional Registrar of Cooperative Societies (Hills) Diphu, Karbi Anglong. Dated: 12 /06/2024

### **10** THE HILLS TIMES

#### ENTERTAINMENT

## Karan Johar on rising star fee: **Every actor has** to review, many not in touch with reality

MUMBAI, June 13: The remuneration of movie stars need to be looked at again and many of them are not in touch with reality, filmmaker Karan Johar said on Wednesday as he weighed in on the debate around the rising star fee in Bollywood.

The lacklustre performance of many big ticket Hindi movies in the recent months has led to a debate around the money charged by some of the big stars whose entourage also adds to the film budget. At the trailer launch event of

his upcoming production "Kill", Johar said actors need to introspect what they are charging for a movie.

"The main remuneration of the actors has to be looked at again. It's very critical for all the actors to understand exactly how the times are, how the climate of our movies are, and how difficult it is to maneuver through making a massive motion picture or a

motion picture of any magnitude and size," the directorproducer told reporters.

"Every single movie star has to review what they are asking for because many a times there will be certain producers that will pay that money because they want to make that film, but it will eventually cause a lot of damage to the entire system and the ecosystem," he added.

According to Johar, the entourage of actors are not a big issue, even though it does add to the overall cost of making a movie. "The real issue is the cost.

So they have to look at that and say that there can be back end deals or there can be percentages of profit... all that is possible. But every actor has to really look within, because a lot of them are not really in touch with reality," he added. Recently, "Chandu Champion" actor Kartik Aaryan and director Kabir Khan shared

their thoughts on the debate around star fee. Aaryan, one of

the top stars in the industry today, said a film's mathematics should add up at the end of the day. "There are so many rights of a

film when it releases So you get an 'x' amount of money out of it. If your star value and the entire project's value gives profit to the entire team, I think then the math adds up. If it doesn't, then you have to, you should take a cut... It's a healthy discussion," Aaryan told PTI in an interview here

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Khan, known for directing big budget blockbusters such as "Ek Tha Tiger" and "Bairangi Bhaijaan", said the discussion around star fee has been prompted by the shift in industry dynamics after the pandemic. (PTI)

Antony Starr of 'The Boys' on Homelander's redeemability: It's like asking 'Jaws' shark to be vegan

NEW DELHI, June 13: Redemption for Homelander, the psychopathic superhero from "The Boys", is somewhat like the shark in "Jaws" becoming vegan and how many people would be in-terested in that, asks actor Antony Starr about the "narcissistic character" that has made him famous. Starr said he worked closely with creator Eric Kripke to develop the character in the superhero satire now in its fourth season.

"We have a great working relationship and I think we've parented this character into something that's three dimensional and is more multifaceted than your average moustache twitty villain. That's why people relate to it," Starr told PTI in a virtual interview.

In "The Boys", adapted from the comic book series of the same name by Garth Ennis and Darick Robertson, Homelander is the leader of The Seven, a group of superheroes managed by the powerful corporation Vought International.

The character presents himself as the quintessential superhero with all the likeable qualities he is charming, patriotic, and all-powerful. Beneath the facade, however, is a deeply flawed and malevolent individual, who is racist, neurotic, psychopathic, narcissist and much more. Can Homelander ever be redeemed?

"I mean, it's kind of like the shark in 'Jaws' becoming vegan. Like, who wants to see that?" he said referring to the killer shark from Steven Spielberg's 1974 cult classic film.

But never say never, he added. "Personally, I'm an optimist. So I'd love to say yes but in truth, I'm not sure What Eric said... one of the strong themes in the show is that if someone does the wrong thing, they get punished. In Homelander's case, he's racked up enough on the wrong things to make him pretty irredeemable, but I don't know." s been fun for the acto

Diljit Dosanjh says he was offered a blank cheque for first 'Jatt & Juliet' film

MUMBAI, June 13: Diljit Dosanjh has revealed producer Darshan Singh Grewal, who backed the first "Jatt & Juliet" film, had given the Punjabi star a blank cheque after he refused to sign the movie back in 2012.

One of the most successful film franchises in Punjabi cinema, "Jatt & Juliet" is returning with its third installment. "Jatt & Juliet 2" released in 2013.

Dosanjh recalled he had quoted a fee as high as Punjabi icon Gurdas Mann at the time to discourage Grewal from casting the actor in the first movie of the series.

"The producer, Darshan, called me to do a film. I had some issues with him so I went and said no to the film (saying) you did 'this' with me. But in a filmy style, he signed a blank cheque and asked me to 'fill

the amount and said we have to do a film'. I didn't foresee this. Then, I asked my manager to have a word with me outside. "And I asked him, 'Now, what to do?',

he said 'We can't say no to this'. We researched who used to charge the most in the industry. At the time, it was Gurdas

Maan sir. So, I decided to write the same amount with TDS and thought the producer would say no on his own. But he agreed to it and that's how I became part of these films," Dosanjh told reporters.

The "Amar Singh Chamkila" star was speaking at the trailer launch of "Jatt & Juliet 3". Also starring Neeru Bajwa, "Jatt & Juliet 3" is directed by Jagdeep Sidhu and co-produced by Grewal

Dosanjh credited Grewal for "raising" his standard in the Punjabi film industry. "After 'Jatt and Juliet' be-

came a hit, Darshan Grewal came to me with another blank cheque. I filled in the amount which no one demanded in the industry. My standard is due to Darshan paaji. I took double (amount) of what I got for the first film," he said.

Bajwa, who has also starred in the first two "Jatt & Juliet" movies

with Dosanjh, thanked her fans for her two decade career. The actor is another popular name in Punjabi cinema courtesy films such as "Beautiful Billo" and "Channo Kamli Yaar Di",

"My audience supported me when I broke some stereotypes like working in the industry after getting married and having children.

"Our Punjabi audience is very progressive. We used to underestimate them but today I continue to be an actress. It's a big deal for me too. I never thought my career would enjoy so much longevity but it's all thanks to my audience," she said. The event was also attended by Jasmin Bajwa, Sidhu, producers Manmord Singh Sidhu and Dinesh Auluck.

"Jatt & Juliet 3", produced by White Hill Studios & Speed Records, is set to release on June 27 worldwide. (PTI)

**Akshay Kumar's 'Khel Khel** Mein' to now release on **Independence** Day



#### **FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2024**

the show's fans all over the world to explore the depth of Homelander's insanity every season.

'Homelander is a bit spooky, there's a lot of narcissism. There's a lot of negative traits with the whole killing people thing. It could be very easy to stereotype and say narcissistic psychopath," the New Zealand-born actor said.



Starr believes there is another side too.

"There's a lot of vulnerability in there, regardless of how disgusting a lot of his behaviour is There are these little moments where he tries to be a good father, for example, and it's kind of endearing. You always hope that the bad guy might be able to turn good. But I'm not sure that he

can," the actor added. The other superhero figuring prominently is Deep. Chace Crawford, who plays the Aquaman-like superhero, said the show explores an entire gamut of gray instead of presenting the quintessential good versus bad story.

'I think the gray area and the spectrum of the show is not black and white. Humans aren't black and white. And I think we talked about it early on. They let us show what we want to show and explore the nuance there... It lends itself to sort of showing glimpses into their human nature," he said. Just like Homelander, Deep's redemption is also out of the question, especially after the sexual assault scene with Starlight, played by Erin Moriarty, in the first season, the actor said. "After the sexual assault stuff, it's kind of hard to have a full circle moment. Maybe if he had his own show. I'm teasing, we could go there ...

he's like a train wreck happening. You want to see it happen. We kind of want to see him get his comeuppance in some way and fail over. And it's kind of satisfying," Crawford said. (PTI)

MUMBAI, June 13: Akshay Kumar-starrer "Khel Khel Mein" will arrive almost a month early in theatres as the makers have now set the film for release on August 15.

Production house T-Series shared the new release date of the film on its official social media handles on Wednesday night. The comedy-drama was earlier scheduled to make its debut in theatres on September 6.

"This Independence Day, step into a mad world of laughter, drama & loads of fun! Mark your calendars for August 15, 2024 when #KhelKhelMein hits the theatres. #KhelKhelMein #August15." T-Series posted on Instagram.

Written and directed by Mudassar Aziz of "Happy Bhag Jayegi" and "Pati Patni Aur Woh" fame, "Khel Khel Mein' also features Taapsee Pannu, Vaani Kapoor, Fardeen Khan, Ammy Virk, Aditya Seal and Pragya Jaiswal.

On August 15, "Khel Khel Mein" will have a box office clash with two other big-ticket movies -- John Abraham's 'Vedaa" and Allu Arjun's "Pushpa 2: The Rule"

According to the makers, "Khel Khel Mein" aims to redefine the comedy-drama genre, offering a "rollercoaster ride of emotions that transcends the ordinary'

The film is produced by Bhushan Kumar, Krishan Kumar, Vipul D Shah, Ashwin Varde, Rajesh Bahl, Shashikant Sinha and Ajay Rai. (PTI)



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## Hashtags 'Boycott Netflix', 'Ban Maharaj Film' trend ahead of debut of Aamir Khan's son Junaid



NEW DELHI, June 13: A section of social media users have called for a ban on the period drama "Maharaj", which marks the debut of Bollywood star Aamir Khan's son Junaid Khan, a day before its premiere on Netflix.

Hashtags like 'Boycott Netflix', 'Ban Maharai Film' and 'Aamir Khan' started trending on X on Thursday morning and well into the afternoon ahead of the film's premiere on June 14.

According to the makers, "Maharaj' is set in pre-independent India and is based on the Maharaj Libel Case of 1862, which was ignited by "allegations of misconduct by a prominent figure". Directed by Siddharth P Malhotra and

produced by Aditya Chopra under YRF Entertainment, the movie also stars Jaideep Ahlawat.

In an unusual move, the movie is releasing on the streamer without any promotions. No teaser or trailers have been

put out by the makers for the film, barring a poster featuring Jaideep and Junaid.

They are standing side by side with Ahlawat's character sporting a 'tilak' on his forehead while Junaid's character, reportedly a journalist, is dressed in a waistcoat.

VHP leader Sadhvi Prachi was one of the many X users who called for a ban on "Maharaj". "Won't tolerate the disrespect of Sanatan Dharma (Sanatan Dharma ka apmaan sehen nahin karenge). Ban Maharaj Film. #BoycottNetflix," Prachi wrote on the microblogging site.

According to a press release issued by Netflix last month, "Maharaj" follows Karsandas Mulji, a journalist and social reformer, who was a pioneering advocate for women's rights and social reform.

A student at Elphinstone College in

Mumbai and a protege of the scholarleader Dadabhai Naoroji, Mulji wrote on widow remarriage, stood up for the oppressed, and sowed the seeds of reform in society.

"It all came to a head in the Maharaj Libel Case of 1862, which was ignited by allegations of misconduct by a prominent figure, the case garnered widespread attention and scrutiny, setting the stage for what many consider to be one of the most significant legal battles of all time," the streamer said. Until when "Hindu saints" will continue to be insulted in films, asked another X user.

Another alleged that Aamir was launching his son in a "Hindumisic movie creating a false image of Sadhus and the Vallabh Sampradaya, by quoting an incident during the British regime (sic)"

Such content could alienate the Hindu youth from Sanatan Dharma, he said

using '#BoycottNetflix' and asked people to demand a ban on "Maharai". One of the X users said there were double standards when it comes to movies on Hinduism and Islam.

"Since the film is 'Maharaj' ... it's on your gods and goddesses and religion, you are calling for a boycott. When it's about the other community, there is an attempt to sell as much hate as possible through films," the user said, referring to movies such as "72 Hoorain" and "Hamare Barah"

The Supreme Court on Thursday stayed the June 14 release of Annu Kapoor's movie "Hamare Baarah" after taking note of allegations that the film is derogatory to the Islamic faith and married Muslim women. The film also underwent a title change (earlier called 'Hum Do Humare Baraah') as per a directive by the Central Board of Film Certification. (PTI)

#### FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 2024

#### SPORTS

## It was special: Netravalkar on catching up with Surya, Rohit after more than 10 years

NEW YORK, June 13: He tormented them as long as the match was on but once the game was done and dusted, India-born American medium pacer Saurabh Netravalkar had a happy reunion with his former Mumbai teammates Rohit Sharma and Suryakumar Yaday.

The software engineer has been nothing short of sensational in the ongoing T20 World Cup and was in his elements on Wednesday too, dismissing both Rohit and Virat Kohli in the group stage match of the T20 World Cup here. But India won by seven wickets in a chase of 111 riding on Survakumar's unbeaten half century to enter the Super game.

Eight stage. Netravalkar has been close to Survakumar as the two played together for Mumbai. He was seen having a long chat with the swashbuckler and India captain Rohit after the match.

"I met them after more than a decade. It was special. We were remembering old times because we played since childhood in U-15, U-17. It felt like we carried on from where we left off. Jokes from those times, casual conversations, and dressing room banter," Netravalkar, who returned with brilliant figures of 2/18 on Wednesday night, revealed in a media interaction after the

"I did talk to Rohit Sharma, who was my senior in Mumbai. I've played with him there. I haven't played much with Virat, but he acknowledged our efforts after the game. It's good that they see potential in this team," he said.

The 32-year-old Oracle employee, who also happens to be a competent Ukelele player and a decent singer, represented India in the 2010 Under-19 World Cup before moving to the US on a scholarship to pursue higher studies in the prestigious Cornell University.

His cricketing journey restarted once here and he is now a key player for the US team, which is an amalgama-

India, Pakistan and the West Indies.

At the ongoing World Cup, Netravalkar is quite literally living a dream.

From scripting an incredible Super Over win over Pakistan to dismissing Virat for a Kohli USA golden duck, the late bloomer said he is still trying to process everything.

"I'm still digesting There was also assiswhat is happening right tance from the two-paced now. The last two games have drop-in pitch and Netravalkar been very high-profile. I'm said it all boiled down to hitglad we have done well as a ting the right areas. unit. Always happy being my-'The pitch plays a crucial

much, just hit the top of the tion," said the soft-spoken stumps and let the pitch create player, whose family is based in Mumbai.

night.

the variation rather than us doing it. Credit to the coaching "It was about being clear with our plans and exestaff for giving us this clarity,' cuting our processes he said. rather than thinking Asked how he effected about who we are

Kohli's dismissal, Netravalkar facing and what said: "That's my stock ball. I the result would don't want to give too much away. The first ball, I tried to be. I'm glad that first spell worked hit the top of off-stump, as for me," he added simple as that. I didn't try to do about his effort last anything special or get a wicket. It was a good ball and

seamed nicely." He loves cricket but at the same time, he also enjoys his job and would never give up on it.

"I love my job at Oracle, and

head coach Stuart Law refused to

game in which the Americans

being put in to bat. India chased

lier games, and it's something we

do talk about to get through faster

between the overs. It's just one

think that we're only a fledgling

team," Law said in the post-match

"There's plenty to learn. There's

not just the cricket aspect of the

game of cricket, but there's also

the other intricacies that need to

'We had a few warnings in ear-

the target in 18.2 overs.

tion of talent primarily from self, irrespective of the situa- role. Bowlers didn't have to do I enjoy entering the field and bowling every ball. I'm blessed that I get to do what I love the most. That's how it works.

Asked about his journey, he said it's hard to describe it in a few sentences.

"It's been a journey of almost a decade with ups and downs. I had to take a practical call when I wasn't making it big in India due to the strong competition there," he recalled.

"I got a good offer from one of the top universities, so I thought it was practical to pursue my other love and came here. I'm glad that God has given me another chance to

pursue cricket again." (PTI) Penalty didn't affect result against India, we should've responded

## U20 Asian Cup Qualifiers: India drawn alongside Iran, Mongolia and Laos

NEW DELHI, June 13: India were on Thursday drawn alongside Iran, Mongolia and hosts Laos in Group G for the 2025 AFC U20 Asian Cup 2025 Qualifiers, which will be held from September 21-29.

In the qualifiers for the continental U-17 competition, India drew Thailand, Brunei Darussalam and Turkmenistan in Group D, which will be hosted by Thailand between October 19-27.

The draws for both the qualifiers were held at the AFC House in Kuala Lumpur.

The main U20 tournament will be hosted by China from February 6-23, while Saudi Arabia will organise the U17 event from April 3-20.

For the U17 qualifiers, 43 teams were divided into 10 groups -- seven of four each and three of five.

The 10 group winners and five best second-placed teams among all groups will advance to the Finals.

India will aim to qualify for the AFC U17 Asian Cup for the fourth successive time.

In their last finals appearance from September 18-28. in 2023 in Thailand, the Blue Colts were eliminated in the group stage.

India have twice reached the each and five groups of five. quarter-finals at the AFC U17 Asian Cup -- in 2002 and 2018, five best second-placed teams



India will look to qualify for the AFC U20 Asian Cup for the ticipate in the SAFF U17 Championship, to be held in Bhutan first time since hosting the tournament in 2006.

For U20 Asian Cup qualifiers, Their best result at the tourna-45 teams were divided into 10 ment was joint champions alongside Iran in 1974. groups -- five groups of four

Before the AFC U20 Asian The 10 group winners and Cup 2025 Qualifiers, India will fiers 2025 Draw Group A: Iran, Jordan, Syria,

Hong Kong, China, North Korea B: Afghanistan, Group Bangladesh, Cambodia, Philippines, Macau

Group C: South Korea, participate in the SAFF U20 China, Bahrain, Bhutan, Mal-

Darussalam, Turk-Brunei menistan

Group E: Uzbekistan, Iraq, Chinese Taipei, Palestine Group F: Japan, Qatar, Mon-

golia, Nepal Group G: Australia, Indonesia, Kuwait, Northern Mariana Islands

Group H: Malaysia, Laos, United Arab Emirates, Lebanon

Group I: Yemen, Vietnam, Kyrgyz Republic, Myanmar Group J: Tajikistan, Oman,

Singapore, Guam. AFC U20 Asian Cup Quali-

fiers 2025 Draw: Group A: Vietnam, Syria,

Bangladesh, Bhutan, Guam Group B: Uzbekistan,

Bahrain, Chinese Taipei, Cambodia, Nepal Group C: South Korea,

Lebanon, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Northern Mariana Islands Group D: Australia, Saudi

Arabia, Afghanistan, Macau Group E: Tajikistan, Oman,

Malaysia, Sri Lanka, North Korea Group F: Indonesia, Yemen,

Timor-Leste, Maldives Group G: Iran, Mongolia, India, Laos

Group H: Iraq, Thailand, be embedded. It's a rule that's only Philippines, Brunei Darussalam just come in. Group I: Japan, Kyrgyz Republic, Myanmar, Turkmenistan

Group J: Jordan, Qatar, Sinearlier this

press conference.

warning

NEW YORK, June 13: USA events had no bearing on the final outcome of the match in which his team did fight hard against bonafide superstars of the game.

"Five runs wasn't going to affect the outcome of the game so I don't think it rattled them. No, I thought we stuck to our guns, we fought hard, we fought to the death. We showed some fantastic character against one of the best teams in the world," he said.

mer Australian batter said his players could have responded faster to the warnings.

something that if you haven't played with it for a long time, it's very difficult to have it embedded in your brain," he said.

"So, the information coming from the umpires was, they were given two clear warnings, then it's up to the players to respond. And we didn't respond fast enough, we didn't do it well enough, and that's something we can address." he asserted.

He also refused to criticise the "A lot of our players wouldn't rule, saving the pace of the game have heard about it before we needs to be maintained and if that played in the Bangladesh series or requires a level of strictness, he is

"If you're dragging games out

blame his team's narrow loss to India in a T20 World Cup match here on the five-run penalty it copped for not getting through its overs fast enough, admitting that his players did not respond quickly to the on-field umpires'

faster: US coach

The Indians prevailed by seven wickets in yet another low-scoring

However, the 55-year-old forwere restricted to 110 for 8 after

'...players know the rule, but it's thing that we can improve on. I

Championship, to be held in Nepal between August 16-28.

Group D: Thailand, India, (PTI)

Hong Kong,

## Vidhatri Urs fires 1-under, takes lead on her pro debut in WPGT

MYSURU, June 13: Promising Vidhatri Urs, playing her first round as a professional, shot a creditable 1-under 69 to take lead after the opening round of the seventh leg of the Hero Women's Pro-Golf Tour here on Thursday.

Vidhatri, who won on the Hero WPG Tour in the past as an amateur, had a steady start with 10 pars at the Jayachamaraja Wadiyar Golf Club in her hometown. She then had birdies on the Par-

4 11th and Par-3 15th with a son and one more this year, put a nightmarish start with four bobogey in between on the par-4 13th hole. She was the only player to shoot under-par during the day.

Vidhatri led by two shots over Jasmine Shekar and Ananya Garg, who are looking for their maiden win on the Tour.

Jasmine and Ananya shot 1-over 71 each to be tied for the second spot. Jasmine, who had as many as three runner-up finishes last sea-

herself in the picture with a steady 1-over that included a birdie on the 14th and bogeys on the 10th and 16th. Ananya seemed headed for a

solid round with one birdie and no bogeys over her first 10 holes before being hit by three bogeys in a space of four holes between the 11th and the 14th. A late birdie on the 18th was

some consolation as she ended at 1-over. Khushi Khanijau, who had

geys in the first six holes, did well to recover with three birdies in the next six.

A bogey on 17th meant a 72, but was within handshaking distance of those ahead of her.

Anvitha Narender, who like Vidhatri is making her pro debut, was tied eighth with Gauri Karhade and Astha Madan with a score of 74.

Gaurika Bishnoi, a multiple

winner, had a rough day with 73 and was tied fifth with Shweta Mansingh and Rhea Purvi Saravanan, while Sneha Singh, last year's Order of Merit topper, struggled to 75 with one birdie and six bogevs.

Former Indian Open runner-up Amandeep Drall had a bad day with six bogeys and a double before she got her only birdie of the day on the 18th. She shot 77 and was Tied-17th. (PTI)

year," he added.

The ICC had introduced the stop clock rule in December 2023, making it mandatory for the fielding side to start a new over within 60 seconds of the completion of the previous over.

An electronic clock, counting down from 60 to zero, is displayed on the ground, and the third umpire can determine the

start of the clock The failure of the fielding side to be ready to bowl the first ball of its next over within the stipulated 60 seconds attracts two warnings, and the subsequent breaches lead to a five-run penalty per incident. The Americans were penalised

when India needed 35 of 30 balls. The penalty wiped off the ball deficit for India.

that should last three and a half hours, they're going for four and a half hours, that's a bit much. The ICC are there to install rules and regulations," he said. 'I don't see it as a bad thing, I see it as a good thing. The game continues to move. When mo-

mentum is with you, you want to keep that momentum running quicker and put the opposition under pressure that way," he added. Law said he is proud of the way his team has performed, beating Pakistan and running India close. "But good teams and great teams, they find ways to win from adverse situations. And I think the Indian dugout would have been nervous at one stage as well. But great teams, they find a way to win." he pointed out. (PTI)

But Law was clear that turn of

## Quota belongs to country, not to athlete: Bindra backs NRAI's team selection for Olympics

MUMBAI, June 13: Olympics gold winner Abhinav Bindra on Thursday said promising shooter Rudrankksh Patil was unfortunate to miss the flight to Paris Games, but emphasised that the quota belongs to the country and not to one athlete.

Patil, who had bagged a 10m air rifle quota for the Paris Olympics, could not find a place in the 15-member Indian squad for the quadrennial extravaganza after finishing behind Sandeep Singh and Arjun Babuta in the selection trials organised by the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI).

As per the Olympic guidelines, a country can only send top two shooters in one event from trials to the Games.

"See, it's not a call. It's a matter of selection. There's a due process laid out and they followed the process," Bindra told the media here on the sidelines of the IISM Convocation Ceremony 2024.

in case the process was not followed. But a fair process was put out for everybody, and it was followed," Bindra added.

Bindra further explained his point

"Well, that is the process laid down for the country. Many countries follow that process. It's not just that India is following that process. The quota doesn't belong to an athlete per se. It belongs to the country and a process was put out well in advance," he said.

Bindra backed the method which NRAI followed and said a clear system should be followed.

"I think credit the Federation for following the process. I think, as athletes, what do we need? We need a clear system. We need a clear process and we need that clear system and policies followed," he said.

"That is what has been done, which I think is fair. You know, when you (an athlete) make (it "You'll ask the same question to the Olympics), when (an-



other) athlete doesn't make it, there will be a few who will be disappointed. It is natural. It is fair. It is a normal thing," he added.

Bindra said he was not aware if Patil had reached out to the Federation. The 2022 Asian

Games gold medallist has written to NRAI to take his past performances into consideration for selection

"I am not aware of all of this. I just saw a press release of the team being announced so I have no idea of who he's in talks

-🐼

with," he said.

"Of course, I feel bad for noted. Rudrankksh, who is a good athlete and who's been doing consistently well. But he's young and I'm sure that there will be many more opportunities for him in the future," Bindra said. Bindra admitted that hopes

will be high on the Indian shooting contingent in Paris after having notched up seven medals — India's best-ever tally — at the Tokyo Olympics.

"I think (it is) the largest ever (medal haul) in history and I think I'm very positive that we'll do well. Of course, I know very well what your next question is going to be, which is we didn't do too well in Tokyo, but I'm positive of a good performance by our athletes," he said.

"There are so many athletes who have qualified with strong performances. They've undergone a rigorous domestic selection process as well this time. So, I'm quite hopeful and positive that we'll come back with some good results in Paris," he

"We won seven (medals) in Tokyo without shooting, firing at all. So, if we come close, or if we, it is realistic to expect close to 10, which will put us in double digits so

I'm hopeful of that," he continued.

Bindra, however, did not pick any favourite to bring a medal. "I don't want to discuss any

particular athlete. but I think all of them who have made the team have the potential to go and do well," he said.

"Of course, Manu (Bhaker) has done well. She's experienced. She has experience of competing in Tokyo, and now I think she's competing in three odd events in Paris so I wish her

well. "I wish her all the best and hope for good results from her, but also from the rest," he said. Bindra did not read too much into theories like facing mental blocks on a big occasion. "Well, the event has not happened, so

where is the mental block? Let's give them a chance at least," he said.

The first Indian to have won an individual Olympics gold medal, Bindra offered a word of advice for star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, a gold winner from Tokyo.

"It's important and all athletes know, and Neeraj would know for sure, in sport yesterday never counts — you're only as good as what you're on the present day," he said.

"The only advice to him would be to focus on his process, to remain in the present and to keep all distractions at bay because obviously with the profile that he enjoys, there will be a lot of eyeballs on him," Bindra said.

"There will be a lot of expectations on him. But I think it is for him to put that aside and remain focused on doing what he does so well," said Bindra, adding that he would be travelling to Paris. (PTI)

## **12** THE HILLS TIMES SPORTS All-round Afghans eye win over PNG, Super 8 entry; USA look to go past Ireland

TAROUBA (TRINIDAD), June 13: Afghanistan will eye another all-round effort to crush an inexperienced Papua New Guinea here and enter the Super Eights of the T20 World Cup, and the result will have another underlying effect -knock out New Zealand.

The win will carry Rashid Khan's side to Super Eight from Group 'C' alongside the West Indies, who have qualified on Thursday with a win over New Zealand

It will also mean curtains for the 2021 finalists New Zealand who have lost two out of two.

That Rahamanullah Gurbaz (156 runs) and Fazalhaq Farooqi (9 wickets) are currently leading the chart of run-makers and wickettakers respectively is a just reflection of their fine run in this ICC showpiece.

Apart from Gurbaz, the experienced Ibrahim Zadran too has contributed well to Afghanistan's totals, making 114 runs with a highest of 70.

In bowling, pacer Farooqi has made a fine combination with Rashid, who has so far taken six wickets from two matches.

It has ensured that Afghanistan's opponents do not have any let-up either upfront or in the middle pas-

The PNG might be a spirited side, but it looks way beyond their abilities to overcome a formidable Afghanistan.

Teams: Afghanistan: Rashid Khan (c), Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Ibrahim

New Sports Minister Mandaviya meets IOA chief Usha; takes stock of Olympic preparations

NEW DELHI, June 13: Newly-appointed Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Thursday took stock of India's Olympic preparations during a meeting with IOA President P T Usha here.

Mandaviya took charge of the ministry on Tuesday after the new NDA government, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was sworn to office on June 9. Mandaviya replaced Anurag Thakur in the position.

During the over one hour long meeting, which was also attended by new Minister of State for Sports, Raksha Khadse, Sports Secretary Sujata Chaturvedi, and Sports Author-

Zadran, Azmatullah Omarzai, Na-Group A match at Lauderhill, jibullah Zadran, Mohammad Florida on Friday Ishaq, Mohammad Nabi, Gulbadin A win for USA, currently second in this group with four points, will Naib, Karim Janat, Nangyal put an end to the World Cup cam-Kharoti, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Noor

Ahmad, Naveen-ul-Haq, Fazalhaq Farooqi, Fareed Ahmad Malik. Papua New Guinea: Assadollah Vala (c), Alei Nao, Chad Soper,

CJ Amini, Hila Vare, Hiri Hiri, Jack Gardner, John Kariko, Kabua Vagi Morea, Kipling Doriga, Lega Siaka, Norman Vanua, Sema Kamea, Sese Bau, Tony Ura. Match starts at 6AM IST (Fri-

day) Pak worry over USA-Ireland clash

In a strange scenario, a nonplaying Pakistan will be more keen on the result of USA and Ireland

paign of Pakistan, who have two points from three matches.

Of course, it will also take the co-hosts into the Super Eight from this group along with India. Ireland are a competitive side with experienced players in their

ranks, but they look woefully out of sync here and the task might be heavier against the US, who are playing some very good T20 cricket at the moment. They will be keeping an eye on

the fitness of skipper Monank Patel, who missed the match against India on Wednesday with a

Kuldeep Yadav will be India's preferred

left-shoulder injury. Aaron Jones did the duty of skipper against Rohit Sharma's

men in New York. There is also a strong rain threat to the match as per weather predictions, and even a washout can end

the campaign of Pakistan. It will take the USA to five points and beyond the reach of Pakistan, who can now log a maximum of four points.

Teams: Ireland: Paul Stirling (c), Mark Adair, Ross Adair, Andrew Balbirnie, Curtis Campher, Gareth Delany, George Dockrell, Graham Hume, Josh Little, Barry Mc-Carthy, Neil Rock, Harry Tector, Lorcan Tucker, Ben White, Craig Young

USA: Monank Patel (c), Aaron Jones, Andries Gous, Corey Anderson, Ali Khan, Harmeet Singh, Jessy Singh, Milind Kumar, Nisarg Patel, Nitish Kumar, Noshtush Kenjige, Saurabh Nethralvakar, Shadley Van Schalkwyk, Steven Taylor, Shayan Jahangir. Reserve Players: Gajanand Singh, Juanoy Drysdale, Yasir Mohammad. Match starts at 8 PM IST (Fri-

day)

**England face Oman** England will look to resuscitate their fast-sinking title defence with a win over inexperienced but capable Oman in their T20 World Cup Group B match.

The situation is so grim that England need to win both their remaining matches by a good margin to equal Scotland on five points, and also hope that the latter lose badly against the Antipodeans. **Teams:** 

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

be "my last club."

view with ESPN.

champion.

club.

the last chapter of playing career.

be my last club. Today I think it is

going to be my last club," the Ar-

gentina captain said in an inter-

Messi is preparing with his na-

tional team to compete in the

Copa América in the United

States. Argentina is the defending

The former Barcelona star has

nothing left to prove in the game

and filled the only significant

unchecked box on his resume by

leading Argentina to the World

He has won a record eight Bal-

lon d'Or awards and left European

football last year to join the MLS

Messi's contract with Inter

"It was a difficult step to leave

Miami is set to expire at the end

Europe to come here," he said.

"Having become a world cham-

Cup title in Qatar in 2022.

of the 2025 season.

"I think Inter Miami is going to

Oman: Aqib Ilyas (c), Zeeshan Maqsood, Kashyap Prajapati, Pratik Athavale, Ayaan Khan, Shoaib Khan, Mohammad Nadeem, Naseem Khushi, Mehran Khan, Bilal Khan, Rafiullah, Kaleemullah, Fayyaz Butt, Shakeel Ahmad, Khalid Kail. Reserves: Jatinder Singh, Samay Shrivastava, Sufyan Mehmood, Jay Odedra. Match starts: 12.30 AM IST

(Friday). (PTI)

### Hitaashee set for **Singapore Ladies Masters**

SINGAPORE, June 13: After losing a major part of the 2023 season to a recurrent back injury, promising teenager Hitaashee Bakshi wants to make up for the lost time by playing as many tournaments as possible and her next stop would be Singapore Ladies Masters which will be her fifth event in under eight weeks.

The 19-year-old Hitaashee is one of the three Indians who will be seen in action this week. The others are Seher Atwal, a winner on her domestic Tour in India, and promising amateur Mahreen Bhatia, 16, but who has won the Faldo Series events in Dubai and Vietnam, and medals at the US Kids in European and World Championships. Hitaashee, who turns 20 next month, has won six times on her home Tour, the Hero Women's Pro-Golf Tour, where she also leads the 2024 Order of Merit.

Lionel Messi says Inter Miami will be 'my last club'

**FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2024** 



ATLANTA (USA), June 13: Lipion helped a lot, and also to see things differently. But I don't onel Messi says Inter Miami will think about it. I try to enjoy. The 36-year-old World Cup That's why I enjoy everything champion isn't thinking about much more, because I am aware joining an Argentine club to write that there is less and less to go and

I have a good time." Many Argentine fans hoped Messi would close his career with Newell's Old Boys, the club where he began his training as a child in his native city of Rosario.

The star said he's trying to enjoy the final stretch of his career to the fullest.

"I have a good time at the club, I am lucky enough to have teammates and friends (Luis Suárez, Sergio Busquets and Jordi Alba, all former Barcelona players) by my side," he said. "I had a good time in the national team, where I have teammates and friends too.

"I enjoy the little details that I know that when I don't play anymore, I'm going to miss," he added. "My whole life I did this. I love playing ball and I enjoy training, day-to-day life and match days. And yes, there is always the fear that everything will end." (AP)

## It felt like playing in Ranji Trophy: Shivam Dube on his batting woes on NY pitches

NEW YORK, June 13: Accustomed to batting on belters in India, bighitting all-rounder Shivam Dube conceded that the two-paced tracks for the T20 World Cup matches here left him bamboozled to such an extent that it almost felt like playing a Ranji Trophy game.

The Chennai Super Kings star regained some form with a 35-ball 31 in the seven-wicket win over a fighting USA team that propelled India into the event's Super Eight stage on Wednesday. The World Cup would move entirely to the West Indies with the Super Eight games.

"I was struggling with my form and focusing on my process," Dube



cricketer Piyush Chawla feels that wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav will be India's preferred specialist spinners when the Indian team competes in the Super Eight stage of

spinner in Super Eight stage: Piyush Chawla tough batting conditions at the Nassau County Stadium in New York against Ireland, Pakistan and USA and will now take on Canada in their last Group stage match at Lauderhill, Florida before the Super Eight stage.

Chawla said while the conditions in New York did not support spin bowling, the Indian spinners will now come into play in the tournament. India have four spin bowling options in Kuldeep, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel and Ravindra Jadeia

"The pitch in New York was very dicey and the way India performed on that pitch and won three out of three games, so there are very good chances going forward," Chawla told media on the sidelines

as much in New York but once you enter the second leg for the Super Eight, the spinners have had a big role in the West Indies. Our spinners will come into play now," he added. Chawla picked Kuldeep as his first choice even though Chahal finished the Indian Premier League (IPL) as one of the most successful bowlers. "To be very honest only one will play, and I think Kuldeep will be the first preference because of what he has done in the last one and a half years. You have Axar and Jadeja who can give you the batting depth so I feel Kuldeep will get the nod," he said.

Chawla said the 奏ricky' pitch in New York brought the best out of 組ood teams' such as India. "It was tricky, no doubt, but

good teams have done well. Like

ity of India Director General Sandip Pradhan among others, Mandaviya was briefed about country's preparations for Paris Games.

"I today visited the IOA officials for the first time where they briefed me about India's preparation for Paris Olympics. The government is committed to extend all possible support," Mandaviva said in a brief address to the media.

Usha said the interaction with the minister went well but did not divulge the details. (PTI)

the T20 the of IISM Convocation here on Thursday. Caribbean India won all three matches in

"The spinners were not needed

India defended 120 runs against Pakistan," he said. (PTI)

Bhowneesh finishes fourth in men's trap final

LONATO (ITALY), June 13: India's Bhowneesh Mendiratta could not emulate his excellent qualifying performance and settled for the fourth position in the final of the men's trap event at the ISSF World Cup for shotgun shooters here on Thursday.

Bhowneesh bowed out with 29 after the first 35 shots of the 50-shot six-man final.

Great Britain's Matthew John Coward-Holley won the gold medal with a score of 47, Daniele Resca of Italy claimed silver with 46, and China's Haicheng Yu

bagged bronze with 34.

Bhowneesh the first Indian shooter to win a quota for the Paris Olympics, shot 123 and finished third in qualifying after a excellent outing. He had shot rounds of 25 and 24 each in the final two rounds of qualification to take the third spot in the 142-strong field.

Bhowneesh missed three of the first 15 targets in the final and then went on a run of 11-hits in a row, before missing two consecutive targets which put the brakes on his bid. (PTI

"I lost a lot of time in 2023 due to injuries and now that I am fit and playing well, I want to try and play as much as I can," said Hitaashee.

"I got an invite here and before that played three events on the Thai LPGA, where I won the Q-School. I also played in a Taiwan LPGA event which was held in the Philippines."

Hitaashee, who has won twice Hero WPGT this year in India, has been in fine form. In six starts, she won twice, was second three times and was once fourth. In four international starts, she has been in top-20 each time. (PTI)

Nassau Stadium, home to tense T20

World Cup matches, set for demolition

said about his successive failures against Ireland and Pakistan at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium here.

"But here, there was no pressure. All the support staff and coaches backed me and told me, 'It's difficult, but you have the ability to hit sixes. so apply it.

"I've never doubted myself for what I've done in the past. I just think that these conditions do not demand what I've done at CSK. These conditions require a different approach, so I was batting differently today,' he added.

Dube still has a long way to go before truly justifying his selection ahead of another power-hitter Rinku Singh, who is in the reserves.

After being named in India's main World Cup squad, Dube managed just 36 runs from five innings in the IPL. His woes continued in the World Cup, where he scored 14 (practice match against Bangladesh), 0 not out, and 3 in three outings before finally delivering a composed knock on Wednesday, (PTI)

tently"

Wednesday

also copped body blows. It led to widespread criticism

and prompted the International

Cricket Council to issue a state-

ment acknowledging that the

"pitches have not played consis-

the venue was only 111 runs by

India in their win over USA on

was the highest total recorded,

while India successfully defended

a low total of 119 against Pakistan.

In a nail-biting match, South

Africa barely chased down 103

runs against the Netherlands losing

six wickets in the process, and later

defended 113 runs against

Bangladesh, winning by a narrow

The venue was finalised by the

"The playing field, with the rec-

ICC in 2023 and was built in just

tangular pitch in the middle, was

margin of four runs.

106 days.

The highest successful chase at

Canada's 137/7 against Ireland

### **PRANNOY, SAMEER VERMA ENTER AUSTRALIAN OPEN QUARTERS**

#### SYDNEY, June 13: Indian shuttlers HS Prannoy and Sameer Verma progressed to the men's singles quarterfinals of the Australian Open with contrasting victories over their respective opponents here on Thursday.

While fifth seed Prannoy, a former world No.1, took just 46 minutes to get the better of Misha Zilberman of Israel 21-17 21-15 in the round of 16. Verma had to toil hard for one hour two minutes to upset eighth seed Loh Kean Yew of Singapore 21-14 14-21 21-19. Prannoy will be up against second seed Kodai Naroaka of Japan in the next round, while



Verma will take on Chinese Taipei's Chun-Yi Lin on Fri-

However, it was curtains for Kiran George in the men's singles event as he lost 20-22 6-21 against seventh seed Kenta Nishimoto of

Among the Indian women shuttlers, eight seed Aakarshi Kashyap beat Australia's Kai Qi Bernice Teoh 21-16 21-13 to progress to the quarterfinals, where she will be playing third seed Yu Po Pai of Chinese Taipei.

But the tournament ended for Anupama Upadhyaya and Malvika Bansod in the women's singles second round.

While Anupama lost 11-21 18-21 against sixth seed Putri Kusuma Wardani of Indonesia, Malvika was shown the door by another Indonesian, eight seed Ester Nurumi Tri Wardoyo 17-21 21-23. It was also the end of the road for Panda sisters, Rutaparna and Swetaparna, in the women's doubles. The seventh seeded India pair were shocked 5-21 9-21 by Malaysian combination of Pei Jing Lai and Chiew Sien Lim.

The mixed doubles pair of B Sumeeth Reddy and N Sikki Reddy, however, continued to march ahead as the eighth seeded Indian duo defeated Australia's Kai Chen Teoh and Kai Qi Bernice Teoh 21-11 21-11 to enter the last-eight. But a tough contest awaits the mixed doubles duo in the quarterfinals. They will be up against top seeds Zhen Bang Jiang and Ya Xin Wei of China. (PTI)

NEW YORK, June 13: The makeshift Nassau County cricket ground, which was built specifically for the T20 World Cup, is all set to be demolished after the New York leg of the event came to an end with India's seven-wicket victory over co-hosts USA here.

Built in just over 100 days, the stadium became notorious for its challenging drop-in pitches, which were sourced from Adelaide. The massive structure sat on the edge of the 930-acre Eisenhower Park in Long Island here.

The stadium had 10 drop-in pitches, four for the main ground and six for the adjacent training facility in Cantiague Park. "After the last match is held at

East Meadow on June 12, the stadium will be dismantled, the parts shipped back to Las Vegas and another golf event, and Eisenhower Park will return to normal, but with a world-class cricket pitch left behind," a New York Times report had stated a few days ago.

The stadium that "almost popped up overnight" will be dismantled over a period of six weeks. It had a capacity of 34,000 and hosted a housefull crowd during India's marquee clash against Pak-



istan on June 9 with some tickets sold at an astronomical price of

USD 2500 to USD 10,000. India played four matches at the venue, including a warm-up game

ground was thrown open on June

ous

The drop-in pitches hosted eight matches and produced unpredictable and occasionally dangerbounce, resulting in

particularly low scores in the first two matches where no team

crossed 100 runs. In India's match against Ireland, who were bowled out for 96, Rishabh Pant and Rohit Sharma

fashioned from special grass grown in Florida. "The grandstands are borrowed materials most recently used at Las

Vegas's Formula 1 race and professional golf events," the NYT report added. (PTI)

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against Bangladesh after the