

6 WORLD

8 NATION

- Nepali Congress & CPN-UML strike deal to oust PM 'Prachanda'
- Don't do something you regret, cautions UK PM Rishi Sunak
- Oppn upset as first time 'chai-wala' became PM for third term
- 'Selective expunction': Rahul seeks restoration of expunged remarks

State flood havoc on, 5 embankments breached

Death toll mounts to 38 ●CM inspects flood-affected areas in Golaghat, takes stock of KNP

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, July 2: The second wave of flood continues to wreak havoc in the state breaching embankments in four districts on Tuesday leading to the state government to deploy rescue teams in several districts.

In Golaghat, breach occurred at Bonkual River under Bokkhat R.C on Tuesday morning.

In Jorhat the left ring bundh of Mujoijan/ Puthinadi breached at Pirakata Habigaon under Teok Revenue Circle.

In Nagaon flood waters breached an embankment at Hatimura Jakhlabandha under Kaliabor revenue circle.

Raging flood waters breached an embankment at Jagunidhari village in Majuli damaging approximately 70-80m, ASDMA report stated.

Two persons have been rescued from the breached area at Jagunidhari village but one house fully washed away under Majuli Revenue Circle, a report issued by ASDMA stated.



Rescue operations carried out at Dergaon, Khumtai and Bokkhat Revenue Circle by SDRF.

Another team of NDRF and Indian Army from Jorhat has been also de-

ployed to affected sites of Dergaon, Khumtai and Bokkhat Revenue Circle for rescue operation

The SDRF and NDRF carried out rescue missions at Margherita Revenue

Circle in Tinsukia, Majuli and Ujani Majuli revenue circle.

As on Monday the ASDMA stated that as many as 6,71,165 people have been affected by flood in 2208 villages in 28 districts and 84 Revenue Circles have been affected by Flood. The flood affected districts are Biswanath, Cachar, Charaideo, Darrang, Chirang, Dhemaji, Dibrugarh, Golaghat, Jorhat, Kamrup, Lakhimpur, Sivasagar, Sonitpur, Morigaon, Nagaon, Majuli, Karimganj, Tamulpur, Tinsukia & Nalbari.

Altogether 38 persons lost their lives due to the flood including 3 casualties in the last 24 years, ASDMA stated.

Altogether 18459 persons are staying in 130 relief camps in the state.

The Brahmaputra at Neamatighat (Jorhat), Tezpur (Sonitpur) Guwahati (Kamrup), Dhubri (Dhubri); Subansiri at Badatighat (Lakhimpur); Burhidighat at Chenimari (Dibrugarh); Dikhou at Sivasagar; Disang at Nanglamuraghat (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

13 trapped fishermen rescued by IAF helicopter



HT Correspondent
DIBRUGARH, July 2: The Indian Air Force rescued 13 fishermen trapped in the middle of a sandbar in the Brahmaputra in Dibrugarh on Tuesday morning.

The Air Force team rescued them with a helicopter from the sandbar (locally known as chapori) in the Brahmaputra to the Mo-

hanbari Air Force camp.

According to reports, the fishing team had been stranded in the middle of the Brahmaputra sandbar near Majjan in Dibrugarh for the past three days.

Although State Disaster Response Team (SDRF) personnel from Dibrugarh attempted to rescue them on Monday, they could not proceed further due to the strong current of the water of the river.

An official said a medical check-up of all the stranded people has been done, who were rescued from Charkhulia Chapori and Hatiali Chapori this morning. All are said to be safe.

The rescued fishermen have been identified as Ranjit Das, Cheniram Das, Bubu Das, Deba Das, Raju Nanda Das, Lakhindar Haluwai, Alo Namasandra, Sera Tamuli, Moina Das, (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

HT BRIEFS

Wall collapses, 2 dead

SILCHAR: Two persons, including a six-month-old child, were killed and seven others injured on Tuesday when a wall of their house collapsed in Assam's Cachar district, police said. Nine members of the family were in the one-room room in Chalkakandi area in Udharbond police station area when the wall collapsed, killing the two on the spot and injuring the others. The injured were rescued by the neighbours and admitted to the Silchar Medical College and Hospital, police said. The earthen wall collapsed due to incessant rainfall in the area for the past few days. (PTI)

Drug peddlers apprehended

BISWANATH CHARIALI: The police have apprehended two drug peddlers and recovered a huge quantity of drugs from Itakhola in Sonitpur district. Acting on a tip off, a team of Sootea and Itakhola police headed by DSP Amit Kumar conducted a joint operation at Itakhola in the night on Monday and apprehended the drug peddlers and recovered three soap cases containing 34 grams of heroin from their possession. The police also seized a motor cycle bearing the registration number 'AS 12 AE 5937' from near the factory of Dekorai Tea Estate. The drug peddlers were identified as Mirajul Islam (19) and Rafikul Islam (18). Both of them hailed from Dipakosa Aahubari in Itakhola. Police investigation is on.

Man drowned

DIMAPUR: The body of a driver, who had been swept away by the flooding Nguhaiu River in Noklak district of Nagaland was found on Tuesday. Pushing Khianuanga, a private driver (30 years), son of Langpe from Kengkhaio Kusong village under Noklak district, was washed away by the flooding Nguhaiu River on Monday around 8 pm, while crossing the river towards Noklak. The body was recovered at around 1.30 am on Tuesday.

Four animals dead in flooded KNP, 24 rescued

GUWAHATI, July 2: Four hog deer drowned while 24 other animals were rescued from flood water following inundation of the Kaziranga National Park (KNP) on Tuesday, an official said.

Forest department officials moved the rescued animals, mostly deer, to a dry and safe area.

Out of the total 233 camps in the Eastern Assam Wildlife Division, 167 have been inundated so far by the gushing flood waters, the official said.

Forest department employees including security personnel stay in camps inside the national park to conduct patrolling for the protection of flora and fauna.

Altogether eight camps have been vacated by the forest personnel so far in various divisions.

Meanwhile, the Golaghat district administration has issued pro-

hibitory orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) restricting the speed of vehicular traffic on NH-37 (New NH-715) passing through the national park between 20 to 40 km/hour.

Experts point out that floods are essential for the preservation and rejuvenation of the ecosystem of the Park as the Brahmaputra river's overflowing water not only revitalises the grasslands but also flushes out the aquatic weeds and unwanted plants.

The excess water flow also adds mineral-rich alluvial soil essential for the growth of grass and shrubs essential for the feeding of the herbivores.

Kaziranga National Park, a world heritage site, is famous for the Great Indian one-horned rhinoceros. (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

KAAC CEM lays foundation stone of development schemes

HT Bureau

DIPHU, July 2: Chief Executive Member (CEM) of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC), Tuliram Ronghang on Tuesday inaugurated different development schemes and laid foundation stones for various development schemes to be executed in Langfer Member of Autonomous Council (MAC) Constituency in Karbi Anglong.

The CEM inaugurated the newly constructed building of the Village Development Committee Bhawan of Langfer Member of Autonomous Council (MAC) Constituency near Sankur Market in Bakaliaghat town. He said this Bhawan will provide a much needed space for the VDC members to conduct its meetings, plan initiatives and store important documents.

The CEM also laid the founda-



tion stone for constructing roads and drainage systems in Bakalia town and inaugurated a new building of Skill Development Training Centre of the Adult Education Department at Bahoni Adarsho.

He said, "This centre marks a significant step forward in our commitment to adult education and

empowering individuals to reach their full potential and create a conducive learning environment for adult learners."

The CEM also laid the foundation stone for the implementation of various development schemes worth Rs. 5 crores under Langfer MAC (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

PM Modi's 'balak budhhi' jibe at Rahul Gandhi

NEW DELHI, July 2: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the people have given his government a mandate for stability and continuity for the third consecutive term after seeing its work of 10 years and accused the Congress of trying to build a narrative that it has defeated the BJP-led NDA in the Lok Sabha polls.

Replying to a two-day debate on the President's address to both houses of Parliament, he also accused the Congress of working towards creating economic anarchy in the country.

Modi singled out Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, saying the House witnessed the wailing of a person with "balak buddhi (childish behaviour)" who tried to gain sympathy without disclosing the wrongs he had committed.

"This is the first time that the Congress has not crossed 100 seats for three consecutive times. In-

stead of conceding defeat, they are being arrogant. They are trying to build a narrative that they have beaten us," Modi said in the Lok Sabha amid vociferous protests by the opposition.

The prime minister said a new drama was played in the Lok Sabha to garner sympathy.

"They know the truth that they are out on bail for embezzlement of thousands of crores of rupees, have been convicted for calling OBC people thieves and they had to apologise for irresponsible comments on the country's top court," the prime minister said in an apparent reference to Gandhi.

Modi said an attempt was made to mislead Parliament on the Agri-nath scheme and minimum support price for farm produce.

"Lies were spoken regarding the scheme and MSP (minimum support price for crops). When seasoned leaders like him (Gandhi) choose this path of anarchy, it

shows that the nation is headed for trouble," the prime minister said.

"Speaker sir...you endure everything with a smile but something has to be done about what happened here on Monday, otherwise it will not be good for Parliament. Such attempts should not be ignored by calling them 'balak buddhi'. There is a deeper conspiracy," Modi said.

He said the people of the country had seen the dedication with which his government served them for 10 years.

"In our third term, we will work at triple the speed. Our third term means we will put in thrice the strength. In our third term, we will ensure three times the results," Modi said. Modi said the mandate for BJP's rivals was to sit in the opposition and keep shouting after running out of arguments.

"Try to understand the mandate of the people honestly and accept it. I would (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Govt to start 35 new centres for free dialysis: Himanta

GUWAHATI, July 2: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday said his government will launch 35 new centres for free dialysis sessions across the state within the next two months.

"In June 2019, during the pandemic, the first free kidney dialysis centre was opened in Nalbari. Since then, 41 centres have been established in 33 districts through public-private partnerships," Sarma said at a press conference.

He highlighted the significant increase in dialysis sessions, noting that while only 24,000 sessions were conducted in the first year, the number rose to 2,21,116 sessions during 2023-24, benefiting 5,347 patients.

"Our focus on expanding medical facilities has led us to decide on opening 35 additional centres in the next two months, aiming to cover all 126 constituencies in the state," Sarma added.

The annual budget allocated for

free kidney dialysis sessions is Rs 31 crore, with Rs 16 crore provided by the central government and the remaining by the state.

Addressing concerns regarding the formation of a three-member committee to evaluate the app and address issues faced by teachers in registering their attendance.

The committee will consist of Dean Parameshwar Iyer from IIT Guwahati, Director Sarat Kumar Patro from IIIT Guwahati, and Hiten Choudhury, Head of the Department of Computer Science and Information Technology at Cotton University. The Director of Elementary Education will serve as the member-secretary.

Regarding the recent marksheet scam in Gauhati University, Sarma said it was a serious issue as the software is weak and anybody can change the (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Silence on Manipur not normal: MP Akoijam

NEW DELHI, July 2: Lok Sabha member A Bimol Akoijam expressed his anguish over the absence of any reference to ethnic violence-hit Manipur in President Droupadi Murmu's address to the joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament.

In a fiery speech late Monday night, the first-time Congress member from Inner Manipur drew attention to the 60,000 people living in deplorable conditions in relief camps in the northeastern state for the past year.

Akoijam, a professor at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, was the last speaker in the Lok Sabha on Monday and spoke close to midnight.

"The hurt, the anger has thrown a nobody like me to be part of this temple of democracy, beating the BJP cabinet minister. Think about the pain. I will keep quiet the moment the Prime Minister opens his mouth and the nationalist party says that Manipur is a part of India and we care for the people of that state," said Akoijam, who defeated Union minister Rajkumar Ranjan Singh in the recent elections.

He said every inch of Manipur was covered by central armed forces, yet 60,000 people were rendered homeless, and thousands of villages were destroyed.

"Our prime minister remains silent, not even uttering a word, and the President's address failed to mention this. This silence is not normal," Akoijam said in his speech.

He said over 200 people have died, and a civil war-like situation has ensued, with armed individuals roaming around, fighting each other, and defending their villages, while the Indian state has remained a mute spectator to this tragedy for one year.

"Is this silence communicating to the people of the Northeast and particularly Manipur that you do not matter in the Indian State's scheme of things," Akoijam wondered. (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Project to be implemented under Centre's Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive

51-foot-statue of sage Parshuram to come up on holy river bank in Arunachal

ITANAGAR, July 2: A 51-foot-tall statue of Sage Parshuram, considered one of the incarnations of Lord Vishnu, will be erected at 'Parshuram Kund', a holy spot on the bank of the Lohit river in Arunachal Pradesh, an official said on Tuesday.

The state government is making efforts to develop 'Parshuram Kund' in Lohit district as a major pilgrimage centre in the Northeastern regions, the official said.

Under the central government's Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive scheme, a grant of ₹ 37.87 crore has been allocated to develop the site, he said.

The project includes installing a 51-foot statue of Sage Parshuram,



which will be donated by the VIPRA Foundation, an organisation dedicated to develop the

Kund. The official said that the statue will be erected on the bank of the

Lohit river at the holy site, which attracts lakhs of devotees who take holy dips during Makar Sankranti.

Parshuram Kund holds immense significance in Hindu mythology, and its development aims at enhancing accessibility and promoting spiritual tourism.

The legend has it that Parshuram killed his mother at the initiation of his father and the axe he used got stuck in his hand due to the sin. On the advice of some sages, he wandered all over the Himalayas to atone for it. The axe fell from his hand after he washed his hands in the water of the Lohit river.

State deputy chief minister Chowna Mein has been overseeing the project at Parshuram Kund, the official said. (PTI)

Rahul writes to PM, urges him to facilitate debate in LS on NEET issue

NEW DELHI, July 2: Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, requesting him to facilitate a debate on the NEET issue in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

He said the Opposition's request to discuss the issue related to the medical entrance exam NEET was denied in both Houses of Parliament on June 28 as well as on Monday, and added that the Lok Sabha speaker had assured the Opposition that he would discuss the matter with the government.

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha said the aim was to engage "constructively to find a way forward".

"I am writing to request for a debate in Parliament on NEET," Gandhi said in his letter to the prime minister on Tuesday.

"Our aim is to engage constructively to find a way forward. At this moment, our only concern is the welfare of nearly 24 lakh NEET aspirants across India," he said.

Referring to the government's move to postpone other examinations and replace the Director General of the National Testing Agency, he said these moves are to "cover up the systemic breakdown of our centralised testing system".



"The NEET examination deserves immediate attention because it has exposed the deep rot in our higher education system. The past seven years have seen over 70 paper leaks, affecting over two crore students," the Congress leader said.

He said lakhs of families have made tremendous personal sacrifices to support their children, and for many, the paper leak is a betrayal of a lifetime dream. Gandhi said those families are looking up to their public representatives to take "bold and decisive steps" to resolve the issue. "Our students deserve answers. A parliamentary debate (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Govt's projection for this year's peak power demand is 260 GW Country's peak power demand may cross 400 GW by FY32

NEW DELHI, July 2: India's peak power demand may surpass the projected 384 GW mark and even cross 400 GW by 2031-32, according to power secretary Panjaj Agarwal.

Speaking at the CII-Smart Metering Conference, the official on Tuesday said peak power demand had already reached 250 GW in May.

"The way power demand has grown in some states in the last two years, the demand will touch 384 GW and may easily cross 400 GW by 2031-32. For this we must have an installed (power generation) capacity of 900 GW," Agarwal said.

The government's projection for this year's peak power demand is 260 GW, which is expected by September, according to Agarwal.

With the onset of monsoon, peak power demand has been showing a downward trend. As per official



data, peak demand was around 209 GW on Monday.

He further said beneficiaries of PM Surya Ghar Yojana must be provided meters under the RDSS scheme.

"When AMISPs (Advanced Metering Infrastructure Service

vide meter under RDSS," he said.

He also said that financial viability of discoms and integration of renewable energy are two main challenges before the power sector which must be addressed and resolved to achieve Prime Minister's vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Arun Mahesh Babu, managing director, Gujarat Power Corp Ltd and UGVCL, said consumers must be convinced with the long-term benefits of transitioning to smart meters and the implementing agencies must work with them to build trust and resolve all queries of the consumers "who are at the helm of the smart meter transition in India."

The government launched the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) on July 20, 2021, under which deployment of 25 crore smart prepaid meters for all domestic consumers has been envisaged till March 2025. (PTI)

Provider) have orders of 11 crore smart meters, then why we are unable to give PM Surya Ghar beneficiaries RDSS meter. I have been working with the utilities and today I urge the industry to address this. Wherever we are implementing...PM Surya Ghar, we must pro-

vide meter under RDSS," he said. He also said that financial viability of discoms and integration of renewable energy are two main challenges before the power sector which must be addressed and resolved to achieve Prime Minister's vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047. Arun Mahesh Babu, managing director, Gujarat Power Corp Ltd and UGVCL, said consumers must be convinced with the long-term benefits of transitioning to smart meters and the implementing agencies must work with them to build trust and resolve all queries of the consumers "who are at the helm of the smart meter transition in India."

Realme Launches Realme C63

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, July 2: Realme, a leading smartphone brand popular among Indian youth, has launched the Realme C63, the newest addition to its Champion Series. Priced at ₹ 8,999, the Realme C63 stands out with its unique Vegan Leather Design, the only one in its segment, combining style and durability.

The Realme C63 is designed to cater to budget-conscious consumers without compromising on features. It includes a 45W fast charging capability, significantly reducing downtime with quick power-ups, and is powered by a robust 5000mAh battery that ensures long-lasting performance for even the heaviest users. Innovative features on the Realme C63 include flagship-level AI capabilities such as Air Gestures, Rainwater Smart Touch, and the highly acclaimed Mini Capsule 2.0, enhancing the user experience with advanced technology typically found in higher-end models.

A Realme spokesperson commented on the launch, stating, "We are thrilled to introduce the Realme C63, the latest addition to our Champion Series. At Realme, we are committed to providing innovative technology that meets the needs and aspirations of our young consumers. The Realme C63 is a testament to this commitment, offering an array of advanced features at an accessible price point. We believe that the Realme C63, with its unique blend of style, durability, and cutting-edge technology, will set a new benchmark in the budget smartphone segment."

HDFC Bank Set to Upgrade Core Banking System

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, July 2: HDFC Bank, India's leading private sector bank, announced an upcoming system upgrade aimed at enhancing the robustness and scalability of its Core Banking System (CBS). Scheduled for July 13, 2024, this significant migration will temporarily limit access to some banking services.

The upgrade is poised to improve customer experience for the bank's extensive customer base of 93 million individuals and businesses nationwide. By transitioning to the new engineered platform, HDFC Bank aims to increase performance speed, expand capacity to handle higher traffic volumes, and boost overall reliability and scalability.

This migration marks a significant milestone, positioning HDFC Bank among the largest banks in India to adopt a next-generation platform for its core banking operations. The bank's commitment to technological advancement underscores its strategy to support future growth and maintain its leadership in the competitive banking sector.

AFFIDAVIT

I, Rafiqul Islam, S/O Salim Uddin Ahmed, resident of village No.1 Dolabari, P.O. Kali-abhomora, P.S. Tezpur, Dist. Sonitpur, Assam, hereby declare via affidavit dated 26-06-2024 before Notary, Tezpur, Sonitpur, that my and my parents' actual and correct names are respectively RAFIQUIL ISLAM, SALIM UDDIN AHMED, and RAHELA KHATUN, which have been incorrectly written as MOHAMMED RAFIQUIL, MOHAMMED SALM AMSAR ALI, and RAKIA KHATOON in my passport, Republic of India, bearing number J4089857, dated 19/01/2012.

I further declare that both RAFIQUIL ISLAM and MOHAMMED RAFIQUIL refer to the same person, i.e., myself, and both SALIM UDDIN AHMED and MOHAMMED SALM AMSAR ALI refer to the same person, i.e., my father, and both RAHELA KHATUN and RAKIA KHATOON refer to the same person, i.e., my mother.

This is true and correct

Sensex, Nifty close flat after hitting fresh lifetime highs

MUMBAI, July 2: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty hit fresh lifetime high levels before closing flat due to profit-taking in select banking and telecom shares amid mixed global cues on Tuesday.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 34.74 points or 0.04 per cent to settle at 79,441.45 in a volatile trade. During the day, it jumped 379.68 points or 0.47 per cent to hit a record peak of 79,855.87.

The Nifty declined by 18.10 points or 0.07 per cent to 24,123.85. Intra-day, it climbed 94.44 points or 0.39 per cent to hit a lifetime high of 24,236.35.

Among the Sensex pack, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bharti Airtel, IndusInd Bank, Tata Motors, ICICI Bank, Bajaj Finance, State Bank of India and Titan were the biggest laggards.

Larsen & Toubro, Infosys, HDFC Bank, Tata Consultancy Services, HCL Technologies and Tata Steel were the biggest gainers.

"The domestic market took a breather, resonating with the mixed global trend, with the ECB showing caution regarding further rate cuts. Recent spikes in US Treasury yields and a gradual rise in crude oil prices are affecting market trends," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

Investors are closely monitoring the progress of monsoon, the forthcoming Union budget, alongside the US election, which can have potential global economic implications, Nair added. On Monday, the BSE benchmark settled

higher by 443.46 points or 0.56 per cent at an all-time peak of 79,476.19. The Nifty climbed 131.35 points or 0.55 per cent to settle at a fresh lifetime high of 24,141.95.

"Markets had touched fresh highs in early trade on fresh optimism but failed to capitalise on it and slipped into the red. Weak European cues coupled with a negative sentiment in Dow Futures fuelled profit-taking in banking, telecom and auto shares," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge declined 0.57 per cent while smallcap index went up marginally by 0.07 per cent.

Among indices, telecommunication declined 1.31 per cent, bankex (0.91 per cent), auto (0.74 per cent) and financial services (0.67 per cent) were among the major laggards.

IT, capital goods, realty and tech were the winners.

In Asian markets, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled in the positive territory on Tuesday, while Seoul ended lower.

European markets were trading down. US markets ended in the green on Monday.

India's gross GST collection increased 8 per cent to Rs 1.74 lakh crore in June, sources said on Monday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.66 per cent to USD 87.17 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) off-loaded equities worth ₹ 426.03 crore on Monday, according to exchange data. (PTI)

Tata Hitachi to invest ₹ 200cr in FY'25

KHARAGPUR (WB), July 2: Tata Hitachi Construction Machinery on Tuesday announced that it would invest ₹ 200 crore in its two manufacturing plants to stay ahead of the curve in quality, innovation and localisation.

The company, a 40:60 joint venture between Tata and Hitachi of Japan, aims at ramping up localisation levels to 70 per cent over the next 2-3 years, its Managing Director Sandeep Singh said.

The company plans to produce 60-tonne dump trucks in India, leveraging technology from Hitachi Canada, primarily used for the mining industry, he said.

Additionally, the company intends to introduce more models in India as part of the 'Atmanirbhar' (self-reliant) policy started long back, the official said.

"We will invest a total of Rs 200 crore in our two plants in West Bengal's Kharagpur and Dharwad in Karnataka. This will help us stay at the forefront of innovation and increase self-reliance (Atmanirbharta) to 70 per cent in 2-3 years from the current 65 per cent," Singh said.

The company is celebrating its 40th anniversary of the partnership between the Tata Group and Japan-based Hitachi.

Singh emphasised that localisation is an ongoing process and crucial for cost control.

He stated that the Kharagpur plant is the largest excavator plant in southeast Asia with an investment of ₹ 1,100 crore.

The total cumulative capital expenditure, including Dharwad, will be ₹ 2,000 crore, the company official said.

Singh expressed optimism about the upcoming Union budget, expecting a boost to infrastructure development, which will drive demand for equipment in the second half of the year. "We hope the budget maintains its focus on infrastructure. The growth is expected to remain flat this fiscal," Singh said.

The first half of the fiscal was down due to elections and monsoon.

The market size of excavators is approximately 1.25 lakh units, with Tata Hitachi commanding a 24 per cent share, he said. Despite pressure from Chinese imports, the company aims at 8 per cent revenue growth.

In FY'24, the company achieved a revenue of around ₹ 5,000 crore, with both plants operating at 75-80 per cent capacity. (PTI)

Kotak created offshore fund to help investor profit from Adani shares: Hindenburg

NEW DELHI, July 2: Billionaire banker Uday Kotak founded bank and brokerage created and oversaw an offshore fund used by an unnamed investor to profit from a plunge in Adani shares that followed a damning Hindenburg report, the US short-seller said.

Hindenburg Research, which had in a January 2023 report alleged stock market manipulations and accounting fraud at the Adani group, said it has received a show cause notice from the Indian markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India's (Sebi)

over gains made from betting on the conglomerate's shares.

The US short-seller said it had disclosed that it had bets against the group, adding that its gains were only over USD 4 million.

While Kotak Mahindra Investments Ltd (KMIL) -- the asset management company is said to have created the offshore fund -- stated that Hindenburg was "never" its client, Sebi's show cause notice cited chats between Kingdon Capital -- a client of the US short-seller who was privy to the report prior to its release -- and Kotak fund executives. Kingdon Capital subscribed to shares of KIOF Class F, an FPI of KMIL, Sebi said adding that KIOF built short positions on 8.5 lakh shares in futures of Adani Enterprises Ltd and squared off this post report release to make "a total profit of ₹ 183.24 crore (USD 22.25 million)".

"K-India Opportunities Fund Ltd (KIOF) is a Sebi-registered foreign portfolio investor (FPI) and is regulated by the Financial Services Commission of Mauritius," a KMIL spokesperson said.

"The Fund follows due KYC procedures while onboarding clients and all its investments are made in accordance with all applicable laws. We have cooperated with regulators in relation to our operations and continue to do so."

The spokesperson went on to state that "Hindenburg has never been a client" of KMIL or KIOF.

"The Fund was never aware that Hindenburg was a partner of any of its investors. KMIL has also received a confirmation and declaration from the Fund's investor that its investments were made as a principal and not on behalf of any other person."

Calling the Sebi show cause notice as attempted intimidation, Hindenburg asked why the market regulator did not name Kotak.

Sebi's notice "conspicuously failed to name the party that has an actual tie to India: Kotak Bank, one of India's largest banks and brokerage firms founded by Uday Kotak, which created and oversaw the offshore fund structure used by our investor partner to bet against Adani," Hindenburg said. (PTI)

CIEL HR to raise ₹ 82 cr this year: K Pandiarajan

CHENNAI, July 2: Human resources and staffing solutions firm CIEL Group has plans to raise about ₹ 82 crore during the current financial year to fuel its acquisition plans.

The city-based company's Executive Chairperson K Pandiarajan on Tuesday said it has reported more than the industry growth, to register revenues of ₹ 1,086 crore, breaching the ₹1,000 crore mark, during the financial year 2023-24. Citing a report by an independent brand valuation consultancy firm BrandFinance, he said it has valued the CIEL Group Brand for USD 30 million of about ₹ 250 crore.

"In its India 100 by Brand Value study (undertaken by BrandFinance), CIEL HR was recognised for its brand strength. The study assigns a brand strength rat-

ing of AA and a brand value of USD 30 million (about ₹ 250 crore)," Pandiarajan told reporters.

"CIEL is the fastest growing tech-led HR solutions company. We believe we are in unique position. CIEL HR growth rate was 54 per cent as against industry growth of 14 per cent," he said.

On revenues, he said, "we are very happy to announce that CIEL HR has achieved a significant milestone by surpassing ₹ 1000 crore revenue in just nine years of its journey (established in 2015). This acquisition underscores our sustained growth trajectory driven by a strategic mix of organic expansion and strategic acquisitions."

For the financial year 2022-23, CIEL HR Solutions registered a topline of ₹ 799 crore. (PTI)

Contd. from Page 1...

State flood havoc on, 5 embankments

(Sivasagar); Dhansiri at Numakigarh (Golaghat); Jia-Bharali at NT Road Crossing (Sonitpur); Kopili at Kampur (Nagaon); Puthimari at NH Road Crossing (Kamrup); Beki at Barpeta Road Bridge Dhaleswari at (Hailakandi); Kushiyara at Karimganj, Barak river at B.P Ghat flowing above danger level according to CWC report as on Tuesday. Meanwhile, Chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday visited the flood-affected Bankuwal at Bokakhat sub-division in Golaghat district and inspected the breach point of the area in Bokakhat subdivision.

Sarma took a boat journey to reach out to the area at Bankuwal where the current flood breached a point of an embankment. As a result of the breach around 72 villages got affected.

Sarma interacted with the flood-affected people taking shelter on the embankment and took note of the flood induced damage. Sarma also visited the temporary relief camp set up at Kamargaon Higher Secondary school and took stock of the relief materials including facilities being provided to the camp inmates. He also enquired about the medical facilities, safe drinking water and baby food being given to the inmates in the camp. While talking to the flood affected people, he assured them of all possible help from the government.

The Chief Minister also said that once the flood water recedes, the breach point will be repaired using latest technology and action will be taken to facilitate the flood victims' early return to their respective homes. He also said that Team Assam has been unrelenting in its endeavour to ensure relief and rehabilitation of the flood affected people. Sarma asked the district commissioner to ensure that the flood victims get adequate help from the administration. He asked the DC to ensure availability of adequate fodder for domestic animals sheltered in the relief camps. Agriculture minister Atul Bora, MLAs Biswajit Phukan, and senior officers of district administration and the line departments were present during Chief Minister's visit to the flood affected areas.

Sarma during his visit to Bokakhat also spent time in the Kaziranga National Park and took note of the animals affected by the surging flood water in the park. Upon sighting a rhino along with its cub apparently caught in the flood water, he also asked the park authority to rescue animals and put them in safer areas.

On Sunday, the Indian Air Force (IAF) had rescued eight State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) personnel and a revenue official from Jonai in Dhemaji district when they were stranded in another sandbar area during relief operations. Dibrugarh district has been severely affected in the current wave with the major town in Upper Assam inundated for the sixth consecutive day.

13 trapped fishermen rescued by IAF

Bukon Das, Swapan Namasudra and Papi Namasudra. In Hatibondha area of Tengakhat in Dibrugarh district, the embankment of the Burhi Dihing river has breached. In Bhagumari area under the Dibrugarh West revenue circle, the water of the river has been flowing over the embankment.

On the other hand, a major crack has developed on the Gammon Bridge over the Burhi Dihing river near Khowang in Dibrugarh. One end of the bridge towards Dibrugarh from the Sivasagar side has sunk, raising the possibility of a catastrophic accident at any time. The movement of heavy vehicles is likely to be disrupted at any moment. Dibrugarh MLA Prasanta Phukan informed that eight high powered pump were used to flush out rain water from Dibrugarh town. The town has still under water for the seventh day and the residents are having a harrowing time. In many areas electricity connection has been snapped for more than 36-hours. People in many affected areas are reeling under shortage of drinking water.

Restoration work has been going on, but the power department has failed to provide electricity.

"For the past 36-hours, we are without electricity. We are having a tough time because we have no drinking water. If the electricity department restores the power connection for a while, we can use the water pump and store water in our tank," said a resident. State panchayat and rural development minister, Ranjeet Kumar Dass visited Dibrugarh to assess the flood situation Monday. Chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma reviewed the flood situation in Dibrugarh over the phone. He has instructed the preparation of a road map by a high-level expert team for a permanent solution to the flood situation here. Dass inspected Thana Chariali and H.S. Road areas affected by the artificial floods caused by recent heavy rainfall. During his visit, the minister discussed the current flood situation and the steps being taken with the district administration and municipal corporation officials. Speaking to the media persons, he mentioned that the continuous heavy rainfall along with the filling up of natural water bodies has resulted in the unwanted artificial flood situation in the town.

He emphasised the urgent need for a comprehensive review to find a permanent solution to the artificial flood problem of the town. The minister also conveyed that the chief minister, after reviewing the flood situation in Dibrugarh, has instructed the preparation of a road map by a high-level expert team for a permanent solution to the issue. Dass urged the district commissioner and other officials to take all necessary measures.

Four animals dead in flooded

The landscape of Kaziranga is of sheer forest, tall elephant grass, rugged reeds, marshes & shallow pools. It was declared as a national park in 1974. (PTI)

KAAC CEM lays foundation stone

constituency. Diphu MLA Bidyasing Englang, executive members of KAAC Mangal Sing Timung and Madharam Lekthe, PWD Board chairman, Longsing Tokbi and chairman of Bakalia Town Committee, Hemsing Teron were present on the occasion.

PM Modi's 'balak budhhi'

urge the Congress to accept the mandate and not hide behind fake victory celebrations," Modi said. Before the prime minister's reply, opposition members wanted Speaker Om Birla to allow the MPs from Manipur to speak in the House but he said a member from the northeastern state had already spoken on Monday. They then trooped into the Well of the House, drawing a sharp rebuke from Birla. The prime minister said, "The people of the country have given us this mandate after testing us on every criterion. The people have seen our track record of 10 years." "The people have seen that we have worked with dedication for the welfare of the poor, fulfilling the mantra of 'public service is God's service'," he said. The prime minister said he can understand the pain of some, who despite spreading lies and misleading the people, had to face a massive defeat in the Lok Sabha elections.

"People have chosen us in this biggest election exercise. I can understand the pain of some people that despite running falsehoods, they were comprehensively defeated," he said, amid chants of "justice for Manipur" by opposition members. Modi said this was the first time in the history of the Congress that for three consecutive times it has not been able to cross 100 seats. "This is the third biggest defeat for the Congress. It would have been good if the Congress would have accepted its defeat and done some introspection. But it is busy in doing 'sirsasan' (headstand). The Congress and its system is trying to inculcate in people's minds that they have defeated us," he said. "When we had won in 2014, we had said our slogan was zero tolerance towards corruption. I am proud that the common people, who were reeling under corruption and the country had been hollowed out before 2014, have blessed us for our zero tolerance for corruption," Modi said.

The prime minister said India's prestige has increased and the country is being looked up to by the world. "The country has seen that our primary objective is 'nation first'. Every step and action of ours has been guided by 'nation first'. With this in mind, we have continued reforms. We do not believe in 'tushtikaran' (appeasement) but 'santushikaran' (satisfaction)," Modi said. He said the policy of appeasement had harmed the country. "People have supported us after seeing our work in the last 10 years and given us the opportunity to serve the 140 crore people (of the country). This election has shown the maturity of the people of this country," he said. Modi said before 2014, people had lost self confidence. "When there is a lack of confidence, it becomes difficult for the person and the country to stand up. The common people used to say this country cannot achieve anything. Only news of scams prevailed," the prime minister said. (PTI)

Govt to start 35 new centres

marks. "The CID is investigating the case and we will look into the system, identify the symptoms and ensure that it is rectified," he added. Nine persons have been arrested for allegedly taking money and increasing the marks in the computerised marksheet system. (PTI)

Silence on Manipur not normal

He said the absence of the Manipur crisis in the President's address to Parliament on Friday was a reminder of the 'rashtra chetana' (national consciousness) which excludes people.

"Today, we are observing a day where we implement new criminal laws, seemingly to discard colonial heritage... This continuity (of colonialism) is shown by neglecting the tragedy of a state which is the 19th state of the Union," the Congress MP said referring to the three criminal justice laws that came into force on July 1. Akojiam said it was "sad to see a nationalist party like the BJP being comfortable with the silence on Manipur's tragedy." "Keep your hands on your heart and think about the homeless, the mothers and the widows. Think of them and then talk about nationalism," he said. (PTI)

Rahul writes to PM, urges him

is the first step towards rebuilding and restoring their faith," he said. "Given the urgency of the matter, I request the government to facilitate a debate in the House tomorrow. I believe that it would be fitting if you were to lead this debate in the interest of the students," Gandhi added. Opposition INDIA bloc parties sought debate on the NEET issue in both Houses of Parliament on Friday. A number of adjournment notices were submitted in Lok Sabha, and under Rule 267 in Rajya Sabha to take up a debate on the issue immediately. It was, however, not allowed in either of the Houses. While Lok Sabha was adjourned little after noon amid opposition demand for NEET debate, the Rajya Sabha also witnessed protests but had proceeded with debate on Motion of Thanks to President's address. Later, opposition MPs had staged a walkout in the Upper House after a Congress MP fainted while protesting, and the Chair refused to adjourn the House. (PTI)

Flood ravages Tezpur LAC, MLA Prithiraj Rabha leads relief efforts



HT Correspondent
TEZPUR, July 2: The flood caused by the Brahmaputra river and its tributaries, following incessant rain over the last few days, has inundated many areas in Sonitpur district. The flood situation remains grim in several areas, particularly in Tezpur LAC such as Tol-Gereki, Bishnu Rabha Samadhi Kshetra, Hanuman Mandir, and Bhairabi Mandir areas. Many families in these areas have sought shelter at Lutharian School campus, while others have moved to higher ground along with their livestock.

Apart from Tezpur, numerous villages under Chariduar, Dhekiajuli, Thelamara, and Nadwar revenue circles in Sonitpur district have also been severely affected by

the floods. District commissioner Deba Kumar Mishra highlighted that areas including No 1 Kachari-gaon TE, Kholihamari, Dighali-gaon, parts of Dhekiajuli town, Bargain Chapori, Katonigaon, Kamarchuburi, Rubinibel, Khagorian under Dhekiajuli Revenue Circle, and others like Burhachapori, Bhumuraguri, Rajgarh, Rajharal, Bhoojkha, Tengabasti, Koroioni Nepali, Garsinga Bihigaon, Kolibarichuk, and more under Tezpur revenue circle have been flooded.

He stated, "4631 persons in Chariduar Circle, 237 persons in Dhekiajuli revenue circle, 863 persons in Thelamara revenue circle, and 123 persons in Nadwar revenue circle have been affected. To provide relief, a total of 8 relief camps

have been set up, offering essential supplies to those affected."

Accompanied by local MLA Prithiraj Rabha, district commissioner Deba Kumar Mishra has been visiting the affected areas to assess the situation firsthand. Mishra also reported that floodwaters have breached a significant portion of a PWD road in the Batomari Convention Center area, isolating local residents from the outside world.

In tragic incidents, two individuals, Singhbir Chetry (60) from Burhachapori and Nomal Das from Tezpur Tol-Kolibari area, drowned in the Brahmaputra floodwaters. Additionally, seven wild elephants were reported drowned while trying to cross from Burha Chapori to the northern bank of the Brahmaputra River, currently seeking shelter in the Tol Kolibari area.

After surveying the flood-affected areas, MLA Prithiraj Rabha briefed the media, stating that urgent measures have been initiated to relocate affected individuals to safe locations and provide necessary relief. "I have been closely monitoring the situation, and together with the district administration, we are taking every possible step to address this crisis," Rabha assured.

Brahmaputra overflow breaches Hatimura embankment

Multiple districts in Upper Assam face emergency evacuations amidst escalating crisis



HT Correspondent
NAGAON, July 2: Amidst the devastation caused by the mighty Brahmaputra in several districts of Upper Assam over the past couple of days, the overflowing water breached the Hatimura embankment near the under-construction sluice gate of the Kolong revival project on Tuesday morning, inundating larger areas of Kaliabor and Jakhlabandha here.

It is reported that the overflow from the mighty Brahmaputra is flowing swiftly through the Kolong river, raising fears of panic among the riverine people of the district in the coming hours.

The state government implemented a multi-crore pilot project under the SOPD scheme for the revival of the Kolong river and constructed a sluice gate at the Hatimura embankment. This project was intended to regulate additional water from the Brahmaputra through the Kolong river in a systematic and controlled manner during the monsoon season.

According to information received, floodwaters from the Brahmaputra have already submerged Jakhlabandha Bazar and are steadily encroaching upon NH

37. There are concerns that the floodwaters will spill over the road within the next few hours. Extensive areas including Dhekial, Kotiori Bhagawati Gaon, Dulal Madhav, Madhatari, Borbhakati, and other areas under Kaliabor subdivision have reportedly been submerged, prompting residents to relocate to nearby places.

During this fresh wave of flooding, more than 35 domestic animals have been washed away in the affected areas. Additionally, floodwa-

ters have swept away a footbridge near Gumuthagaon, near Kaliabor.

Meanwhile, district commissioner Narendra Kr Shah, along with Kaliabor sub divisional officer Leeza Talukder, rushed to the flood-affected areas of the subdivision to assess the situation. DC Shah instructed all concerned departments to expedite rescue operations and the distribution of food, water, and other essential supplies among the flood victims.

In response to the crisis, local

MLA and minister Keshab Mahanta also visited the flood-hit areas to assess the situation. Addressing the local media, Mahanta described the embankment breach as unfortunate and assured that an inquiry into the incident would be conducted soon. He further promised government support and assistance to all flood victims.

It is noteworthy that the Hatimura embankment was previously breached in 2017 and subsequently repaired by the Nagaon Water Resources Division, which also constructed a sluice gate at the same location for the pilot project. However, Tuesday's breach marks another instance of the embankment being breached at the same spot by floodwaters.

Meanwhile, due to the release of additional water from the Karbi Langpi hydro-electric power project, the Kapili river has been flowing above the danger level since Tuesday morning. The overflowing Kapili river has submerged extensive areas in Hojai and Kamrup areas of Nagaon district, marking the third instance within a month. Residents of riverside villages have already evacuated to nearby locations, according to sources.

Pratiksha NGO promotes regional artisans



HT Correspondent
NAGAON, July 2: Pratiksha, a leading NGO from Nagaon, organised a Gandhi Shilpa Bazar at Vintage Grand in Cherrapunjee, Meghalaya, on Monday. The event was sponsored by the Office of Development Commissioner, Ministry of Textiles, government of India.

The event was inaugurated by HM Kynta, representative of the village headman of Sohra, in the presence of Rima Sonar, AD, HSC, Shillong.

The vibrant Shilpa Bazar brought together over 50 skilled artisans from various crafts across North East India, showcasing the

rich and diverse cultural heritage of the region. The display included traditional handloom textiles, jute, embroidery, and intricate cane and bamboo products. The event provided a unique platform for artisans to display and sell their handcrafted goods.

While addressing the inaugural session, HM Kynta expressed pride in hosting such a significant event in Cherrapunjee. She emphasised the importance of preserving and promoting the traditional crafts of North East India. She appreciated the artisans for their exceptional craftsmanship and dedication to their work, according to a press note. The Gandhi Shilpa Bazar not only aimed to celebrate the artistic talents of the region but also to provide an opportunity for local artisans to connect with a wider audience and enhance their livelihoods.

During the event, visitors were fortunate to witness live demonstrations and interact directly with the artisans, the press note further asserted.

MP's meet Union minister Pradhan

HT Correspondent
KOKRAJHAR, July 2: The Members of Parliament from the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) met Union minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, government of India, Dharmendra Pradhan, on Monday to submit a memorandum seeking early solutions to issues related to the Bodo medium, including the introduction of the Bodo language in the Central Teachers Eligibility Test (CTET).

Rajya Sabha MP Rungwa Narzary and Lok Sabha MP from Kokrajhar constituency, Joyanta Basumatary, met with Union Cabinet minister Pradhan at his official residence in New Delhi. They discussed in detail the issues concerning the Bodo language and educational upliftment in the region and across the nation.

During their meeting, the MPs submitted a memorandum requesting the creation of sanctioned posts of professors and assistant professors in Bodo subjects in the department of MIL & LS, University of Delhi. They also

requested various posts in universities and colleges and the introduction of the Bodo language in CTET, among other issues.

The Union Cabinet minister listened patiently to the issues and concerns raised by the MPs from the Bodoland region and assured them that necessary steps would be taken to address these issues.

MP Narzary described the meeting as fruitful in addressing the issues of the Bodo language and the educational environment in the region. He mentioned that the Union Cabinet minister expressed his support for the welfare and upliftment of the Bodo language and education in the coming days.

"Today, we met Union Cabinet minister Pradhan and highlighted the issues of the Bodo language and education before the Union minister. We hope that the present NDA alliance government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi will take strong steps towards the welfare and developmental issues of the Bodoland region," Narzary added.

Demow flood

HT Correspondent
DEMOW, July 2: Due to incessant rains, approximately 27 villages under Demow revenue circle were affected by floods this time. When contacted on Tuesday, Demow circle officer Pritam Das provided an update on the flood situation, confirming the impact on these villages to this correspondent. Relief efforts have been underway, with distributions of rice, pulses, and salt to assist those affected. The areas of Dehing Kal Ghar and Barpathar under Demow revenue circle were particularly hard hit by the floods, necessitating the distribution of fodder for cattle as well.

Cachar DTO urges vehicle owners to benefit from Vehicle Scrapage Policy

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, July 2: The district transport officer (DTO) of Cachar district, Ramesh Shyam, has called on owners of old and unfit vehicles to take advantage of the state government's 'Vehicle Scrapage Policy, 2022'. This initiative aims to ease the burden on owners by providing significant financial relief.

Under the Vehicle Scrapage Policy, owners can have 75 percent of their total outstanding arrears, dues, or liabilities, including motor vehicle (MV) tax and fitness fines, waived if they choose to scrap their vehicles at a Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility (RVSF) in Assam. The DTO's letter, issued on Tuesday, aligns with the directives from the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, 2024. The extension of this one-time waiver is backed by the powers granted to the state government under Section 3 of the Assam Motor Vehicle Taxation Act, 1936, and Section 65(2)(h) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. The Governor of Assam has officially notified this extension.

The waiver scheme, which is voluntary, will remain in effect until March 31, 2025. Vehicle owners are encouraged to utilise this opportunity for significant financial savings.

This press release is issued from the Regional Office of Information & Public Relations, Barak Valley Zone, Silchar.

Severe flooding in Hojai

HT Correspondent
HOJAI, July 2: Incessant rain over the past few days has disrupted life in Hojai district, leading to a grim situation in several villages including Raikata, Kurnakata, Nabhanga, Dakhin Kenduguri, Theplaguri, Jugijaa, and others. The water level of the Kapili river has risen, causing many village roads to be submerged. The main road connecting Hojai and West Karbi Anglong at Tumpreng is also underwater due to flash floods. Additionally, the bridge connecting Warigading to Nepalikuthi was washed away on Tuesday. "People and animals alike are facing difficult times. This is the third flood within a month, and just when we were coping with the losses from the previous waves, continuous rain has once again created havoc," said a villager from Kurnakata. Local residents have urged the Hojai district administration to rescue those stranded by the deluge. Meanwhile, the district administration is actively engaged in rescue efforts and is providing shelter to affected individuals at relief camps.

Floods inundate 156 villages in Morigaon

HT Correspondent
MORIGAON, July 2: As heavy rains continue to swell the Brahmaputra River and its tributaries, water levels have surged above the danger mark, inundating a total of 156 villages across Bhuragaon, Mayang, and Laharighat Revenue Circles in Morigaon district. Of these, 53 villages in Bhuragaon RC, 75 villages in Mayang RC, and 28 villages in Laharighat RC are currently submerged, causing significant hardship to residents and livestock. The floods have affected approximately 50,000 people, including women and children.

The district administration has swiftly responded by

distributing relief items to the affected areas and has implemented necessary measures to manage the ongoing flood situation.

Additional district commissioners, circle officers, and other administrative officials visited the flood-affected regions to assess the extent of damage on Tuesday. Election officer Jagriti Kalwar inspected flood-hit areas in Kethni, Baglipara, and other parts of Laharighat Revenue Circle, assessing the impact of the floods on local communities. Additionally, Mayong circle officer Priyanka Gogoi conducted visits to several villages and markets, responding to complaints of price gouging on cooking

gas cylinders amid the flood crisis. She emphasised that cooking gas cylinders must not be sold above fixed prices under any circumstances.

While areas under Morigaon Revenue Circle have not yet been affected, circle officer Manika Bargohain monitored the situation in Raina Pathar. Similarly, Apritam Goswami, circle officer of Bhuragaon RC, assessed the flood-affected areas under his jurisdiction. Additional district commissioner Pallavi Kachari and Laharighat circle officer Bikash Chetry also conducted inspections in their respective areas to ensure adequate response to the flood situation.

NTPC Bongaigaon Salakati launches community projects

HT Correspondent
KOKRAJHAR, July 2: The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Bongaigaon Salakati has successfully inaugurated three vital community projects at Bashbari village as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives on Thursday in Kokrajhar district. The projects include a Digital Anganwadi Centre, a Smart Class at Bashbari High School, and the installation of solar panels and a waiting shed at the community library.

The inauguration ceremony was presided over by Pradeep Kumar Dwivedi, IAS, district commissioner, Kokrajhar, who was joined by Akhilesh Singh, head of Project, NTPC Bongaigaon Salakati, Kabita Deka, additional district commissioner, Kokrajhar, and Sangeeta Singh, president of Bardwi Shikha Ladies Club, NTPC Bongaigaon.

The Digital Anganwadi Centre, constructed at a cost of Rs 2.4 lakhs, is designed to benefit approximately 30 children in Bash-



bari village by providing early childhood education through modern digital tools. This facility aims to create a strong foundation for young minds, setting them on a path of continuous learning and development.

The Smart Class at Bashbari

High School, completed at a cost of ₹ 14.9 lakhs, is set to revolutionise the learning experience for around 400 students. This initiative integrates advanced educational resources and technology into the traditional classroom setting, thereby enhancing the overall

quality of education and making learning more engaging and effective.

Additionally, the installation of solar panels and a waiting shed at the community library, at a cost of Rs 2.48 lakhs, will benefit the community members. This project not only improves the infrastructure of the library but also promotes the use of clean energy, aligning with NTPC's commitment to sustainable development.

These projects, completed on February 27, 2024, reflect NTPC Bongaigaon's dedication to fostering sustainable development and improving educational facilities in the region. Pradeep Kumar Dwivedi praised NTPC Bongaigaon's efforts in supporting the local community through these valuable projects. He emphasised the importance of modern educational tools and sustainable energy solutions in driving socio-economic growth.

Akhilesh Singh echoed these sentiments, highlighting NTPC's commitment to ongoing CSR ac-

tivities that aim to create a lasting positive impact on the communities they serve. He expressed his gratitude to all stakeholders involved in the successful completion of these projects and reaffirmed NTPC Bongaigaon's commitment to similar initiatives in the future.

Kabita Deka and Sangeeta Singh also addressed the gathering, expressing their appreciation for the collaborative efforts that made these projects possible. They stressed the significance of such initiatives in empowering the local population and providing better opportunities for education and community development.

NTPC Bongaigaon's dedication to CSR and sustainable development continues to set a benchmark for corporate responsibility. The successful inauguration of these projects marks a new chapter in the company's ongoing mission to enhance the quality of life for the young minds of Bashbari village and surrounding areas.

Lahowal College student enrolls in JNU

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, July 2: A Lahowal College student with outstanding display of her merit enrolled in post graduate course in Jawaharlal Nehru University.

Jumi Milli, who passed the 2024 bachelor's degree in Economics from Lahowal College with 7.75 per cent marks. She passed the selection examination conducted by Jawaharlal Nehru University through Cuet Crak and enrolled in the postgraduate class in Economics. The college's principal, Dr Jyoti Prasad Dutta, congratulated Jumi Milli and said that she is the first resident of Lahowal College and Mamoni Roysom Goswami Hostel.

"We are really very pleased with the laurels that she has achieved through her intellectual strength since her studies at the college. I wish the student the best of luck in achieving her goals," Dutta said.

The news brought about excitement in the village of Pani Miri in Kalakhowa district of Dibrugarh. The villagers congratulated Jumi Milli along with her father Manikant Milli and mother Kunjalta Milli for her achievement.

Assam Rifles organises blood donation camp

HT Correspondent
BISWANATH CHARIALI, July 2: Assam Rifles organised a blood donation camp at Kanaklata Civil Hospital, Tezpur on Monday as part of its ongoing efforts to support healthcare services and commitment to save lives, stated a press release.

The event was conducted in accordance with necessary safety protocols and guidelines. Kanaklata Civil Hospital administration expressed gratitude to the Assam Rifles for their noble gesture, stating that such contributions are vital in maintaining a stable blood supply for emergency and routine medical procedures.

Godawan Artisanal Single Malt expands presence

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, July 2: Godawan Artisanal Single Malt, India's most awarded single malt in recent times, announced that it has entered Uttar Pradesh and Assam—a move that strengthens its national presence across 12 markets in India. The brainchild of The Good Craft Co. from Diageo India, Godawan is crafting a distinctive single malt that challenges perceptions and defies traditional whisky production norms.

This announcement comes on the heels of Godawan's continued success on the awards stage—earning 50+ national and international accolades for liquid innovation and design. The brand was recently declared 'Indian Whisky Producer of the Year' at the 2024 New York International Spirits Competition, and its expressions, 01 Rich & Rounded and 02 Fruit & Spice, were both awarded Gold Medals. Godawan's Collector's Edition, Godawan 100, has also captured significant international attention; most recently, it was awarded 'Best Single Malt' at the 2024 International Taste Institute Awards.

Shedding light on Godawan's national expansion, Vikram Damodaran, chief innovation officer, Diageo India, says, "We are thrilled to announce our strategic entry into Uttar Pradesh and Assam. With an increasingly discerning consumer base who seek high-quality whiskies, these markets are pivotal for us to showcase Indian craftsmanship to a broader audience and solidify our presence nationwide."

Dr Saurabhi Das wins Best Poster Award in Frankfurt

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, July 2: Renowned North East heart disease and paediatric interventional cardiologist Dr Saurabhi Das won the Best Poster (Oral Presentation) Award in Frankfurt, Germany.

The annual conference of the international body CSI (Congenital and Structural Interventions) is held every year in Frankfurt, Germany. This year, Dr Saurabhi Das, a specialist in congenital heart disease and paediatric interventional cardiology at Guwahati-based Health City Hospital, was selected to present on congenital heart disease in patients from North East India. Amongst 126 participating nations, she won the Best Poster (Oral Presentation) Award for her work in the VSD and PDA category. She is the first doctor from North East India to receive this prestigious honour.

Former teacher excels in AES results

HT Correspondent
JAGIROAD, July 2: Former teacher of Jagiroad Higher Secondary School and currently working at Rangadaria Higher Secondary School, Morigaon, Ranjan Kumar Deka has secured sixth position in the Assam Education Service Examination results announced by the Assam Public Service Commission (APSC) on Monday. Deka hails from Natun Bongaibori, Jagibhakatgaon, near here.

The AASU, AJYCP, AXX, Jagibhakatgaon unit congratulated him and called upon the upcoming generation to be inspired. He is the second from the district of Morigaon to pass the Assam Education Service (AES) examination conducted by the Assam Public Service Commission.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Nature, like man, sometimes weeps from gladness.
-Benjamin Disraeli

RaGa's resurgence as LoP

In a defining moment of parliamentary debate, Rahul Gandhi, now the Leader of Opposition (LoP), has emerged as a formidable adversary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the ruling BJP. His maiden speech as LoP set the Lok Sabha ablaze, marking a significant shift in the political landscape. Prime Minister Modi, slated to reply to the Motion of Thanks to the President's address, faced an uphill task after Gandhi's fiery oration. Modi, known for his oratorical prowess, found himself in a challenging position, compelled to address the incisive critiques levied by Gandhi. The Prime Minister's preparation was undoubtedly intense, reflecting the gravity of the situation created by Gandhi's unexpected vigor. Gandhi's address did more than just criticize the ruling party; it disrupted the usual decorum, forcing Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to react defensively. His speech, portions of which were expunged by Speaker Om Birla, included allegations concerning NEET, Agniveer, and pointed comments on Hinduism. These remarks elicited strong reactions from Modi and Shah, highlighting the potent impact of Gandhi's words.

The presence of Sonia Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in the visitor's gallery underscored the significance of this moment for the Congress party. Gandhi's speech was not merely an attack on Modi and the BJP but a broader commentary on the ideological battles shaping contemporary India. He distinguished between Hindus "who call themselves Hindu" and those who do not, framing the latter as harmless and the former as dangerous and vengeful. Modi's challenge was not only to rebut Gandhi's accusations but also to defend the BJP's ideological stance. Gandhi's speech, laden with religious references, including posters of Lord Shiva, Jesus Christ, and Guru Nanak, criticized the BJP's approach to Hindu-Muslim relations and praised Prophet Muhammad as the epitome of peace. By doing so, Gandhi attempted to position himself and the Congress party as inclusive and tolerant, in contrast to the BJP's divisive rhetoric. Gandhi's comparative analysis of religions and his assertion that the BJP lacks a genuine religious foundation struck at the core of the BJP's identity. His criticism of Modi's slogan 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' as hollow rhetoric resonated with many, casting doubt on the inclusive nature of the BJP's policies.

The debate escalated as Gandhi's narrative accused the BJP of undermining the Constitution and the fundamental idea of India. These allegations were difficult for Modi to refute convincingly, especially given the perception of growing authoritarianism under his leadership. Gandhi's ability to get under the skin of both Modi and Shah was evident, with Defense Minister Rajnath Singh also stepping in to counter Gandhi's claims. Rahul Gandhi's evolution from a seemingly disinterested parliamentarian to a fiery LoP is noteworthy. For a decade, he was underestimated, often ridiculed for his lack of engagement. However, his recent performance signals a strategic shift, leveraging his newfound leadership position to challenge the BJP with unprecedented intensity. The inclusion of religious imagery in his speech, while controversial, was a calculated move to highlight what he perceives as the BJP's misuse of religion for political gain. By bringing these symbols into the Lok Sabha, Gandhi aimed to contrast the inclusive ideals of various religions with the divisive practices he attributes to the BJP. Rahul Gandhi's resurgence marks a pivotal moment in Indian politics. His assertive stance and willingness to confront the BJP on ideological grounds suggest a reinvigorated opposition.

Challenges and consequences:

Assessing Modi 2.0's current innings

By: Dipak Kurmi

The performance of the Modi team in their new term can be likened to a cricket match. This team lacks depth on the bench and grapples with significant quality issues, including members who seem less committed and motivated. Despite these challenges, they've adopted a strategy reminiscent of the Australian cricket team, relying on aggressive play, hype, and unwavering self-belief. This approach has often put their opponents on the defensive, but as seen recently in the T-20 World Championships, it doesn't always prevail against determined and fearless opponents. Team Modi finds themselves on a precarious wicket, akin to the unpredictable pitches of the Caribbean, where uneven bounce and sudden turns are common. Already, they've lost three early wickets without much scoreboard impact. Amit Shah, taking the crease first, fell victim to a challenging delivery, caught LBW on just the second ball—an unexpected setback for the team.

Taking a more somber perspective, addressing terror attacks in Kashmir poses its challenges but appears more manageable compared to the situation in Manipur. Not since the turbulent times of the Punjab and Kashmir insurgencies, which brought grave consequences, has the Indian State faced such a significant shortfall in its response.

It's tragic that the responsibility for this situation squarely falls on Modi 2.0, which inexplicably chose not to intervene as conditions deteriorated, especially with the Chief Minister incapacitated. Manipur is now in dire need of urgent attention, having plummeted into crisis. The stability and well-being of the Northeast region hinge on immediate action. Reinstating the Army, long sidelined, is crucial to saving this critical situation. Another setback was the departure of Ashwini Vaishnav, a seasoned administrator, falling victim once again to unexpected challenges, much like in his previous role.

One can empathize with him given the immense pressure of his role, which can only be described as monumental. The same can be said for our railways, often likened to an entity in intensive care, urgently requiring intervention. Similar to the challenges faced by Air India, significant reforms seem improbable under the umbrella of a sprawling, govern-

ment-controlled public entity. Before 1950, India's railways were managed by approximately 55 separate companies, collectively overseeing over 55,000 kilometers of track, until they were consolidated into the Indian Railways system.

Managing operations of an extensive railway network, now more than double its size from before, under a single entity divided into six nominal divisions, presents an enormous challenge. This setup risks frequent system or human failures, with potentially severe outcomes. Change is unavoidable, and the urgency is clear if we prioritize human lives, as politicians often emphasize. Whether through complete privatization or a balanced blend of public and private collaboration, reform is essential to ensure effective railway management.

The dismissal of Dharmendra Pradhan, caught off guard by a fierce NEET bouncer, marks the third wicket down—a significant blow for both him and the team.

A severe blow to his helmet seems to have left him incapacitated, placing the team perilously close to disaster. His future in the playing eleven and the team's prospects hang in the balance, awaiting the verdict of time. Regardless of the outcome, the NEET scandal has dealt a significant blow to Team Modi, challenging its commitment to its core principles above all else.

The issue of leaked question papers has long been a persistent problem, accompanied by rumors of influential individuals securing unfair advantages for their children in centralized exams like CLAT. Initially, such incidents were considered isolated, with minimal impact. However, the situation shifted dramatically with the NTA's centralization of admissions, resulting in widespread cheating on an unprecedented scale.

The profound damage inflicted on our society, particularly on future generations, is hard to fully grasp. This divide isn't about ideology, ethnicity, or religion, but about wealth—those who have it and those who don't. In this unequal game, those without resources find themselves without any paths to advancement. The repercussions for the ruling coalition, which must accept accountability, are evident and could influence the upcoming state elections, potentially deepening Modi's challenges further. (The writer can be reached at dipakkurmipltd@gmail.com)

Opposition takes new task in hand to prevent India turning into police state

India's opposition has taken a new task in hand to restrain Prime Minister Narendra Modi led government from turning the country into a "police state", as the later "lays foundation" for it by implementing the three new criminal laws from July 1, 2024. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has threatened, "INDIA will no longer allow this Bulldozer Justice." Opposition has demanded a fresh and comprehensive review of the new criminal laws in the Parliament of India.

The new criminal laws under question are - Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) that have replaced the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), and the Indian Evidence Act.

The news criminal laws were passed on December 21, 2023 in the Lok Sabha after expulsion of the entire opposition, consequently without discussion.

President's assent was procured by the government on December 25, and finally Government notified these on February 2024 for implementation from July 1. The offences committed before mid-night July 1, and all the pending criminal cases would be judged according to the old laws.

The implementation of these parallel laws - the old and the new - is contributing to great confusions among the people,

and also the legal fraternity in the courts.

The government has claimed that the new laws would de-colonise the Indian legal system, modernise it, and focus on justice rather than on punishment.

However, the opposition and critics fear just the opposite. They allege that these laws will be stronger tools for suppression of the people than the old criminal laws which were originally brought by the British rulers against the Indians.

In the name of de-colonisation, Modi government lays the foundation of a "police state" in the country. The opposition parties allege that focus of the government is on punishment and not on justice only to suppress the people's voices against the government.

The allegation of the opposition can't be easily brushed aside, if the very first FIR registered under the new BNS in New Delhi is taken into consideration under which a vendor from Patna was booked for disturbing smooth passage of people from under a railway foot-bridge where he was selling potable water bottles and sachets of tobacco products.

As for widest meaning of justice is concerned, the vendor has obviously been a victim of economic injustice due to government policies and rules, and to earn his living he was compelled to sell water bottles and sachets where



people frequently pass by. If we take very narrow meaning of justice, the law enforcing police booked him as offender of many others. The news laws are stringent in nature. Political opposition to the draconian provisions of the new criminal laws is inevitable. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has said that the three new criminal laws were passed 'forcibly' after suspending 146 MPs in the last Lok Sabha, and asserted that the INDIA bloc will not allow such "bulldozer justice" to prevail in the country's parliamentary system.

Congress leader Manish Tewari has demanded that Parliament re-examine the new criminal laws, claiming they lay the foundation of turning the country into a "police state". "Their implementation must be stopped forthwith and Parliament must re-examine them," the former Union Minister has said.

It must be recalled that within a week of the passage of the three new criminal laws, truck drivers across the country had called for three days all India strike from January 1, 2024. On government's assurance that the news laws relating to transport would not be implemented without discussion with Transport Congress.

However, the government did not honour its own assurance, apart from other assurances on laws relating to sedition and

Minister and Congress leader Chidambaram has said, asserting that the initial impact of these new criminal laws will throw the administration of criminal justice into disarray....

"On the other hand, there are several retrograde provisions. Some changes are prima facie unconstitutional," he said. "Mamata Banerjee has already written to the Union government asking for deferment of the implementation of the laws. One of the major objections is that the power of the police to extend the policy custody of people, this goes against the basic principles of custodial jurisprudence.

There are other provisions in the law which are not yet fully implemented, the provision against false promises of marriage, gang rape of minors and mob lynching has not been finalised.

Sedition law has not been implemented. It is highly objectionable," said TMC MP Saugata Roy adding, "We think that these laws are anti-people." Trinamool Congress MP Sagarika Ghose said these new criminal laws are "vaguely worded" and leave "huge scope for the government to snatch away citizens' lives and liberty".

"Right from the beginning, AAP is of the opinion that it should be reviewed. It should be referred to JPC. It should not be implemented in haste. It will have far-reaching consequences," said AAP MP Raghav

Chaddha.

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi said these laws came to the Parliamentary Standing Committee, the experienced MPs who also practice law clearly gave their dissent note and stated the needed changes but these laws were passed after expelling 146 MPs without taking the objections in consideration.

NCP leader Supriya Sule said the new laws pose a significant threat to civil liberties and democratic freedoms. "By expanding police authority, extending remand periods, permitting solitary confinement, and diminishing judicial oversight, the NDA government is establishing a repressive police state. The soul of Indian Democracy is at stake and we cannot afford to be silent," Sule has said.

Former Union Minister Kapil Sibal has said that BNS allows for using draconian police powers for political ends, and the Modi government's agenda is to silence opponents.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK leader has also criticised the government decision to implement the new criminal laws and had earlier written the Centre urging to reconsider the rollout.

India is heading for a stiff political battle on new criminal laws, since the opposition has already been suppressed under special draconian criminal laws such as UAPA and PMLA, and several political leaders are already in jails. (IPA Service)

Bangladesh seeks Chinese backing for BRICS membership bid

By: Tajul Islam

On June 25, Liu Jianchao, the visiting Minister of the International Relations of the Communist Party of China (CPC)'s Central Committee reaffirmed China's commitment to fostering extensive cooperation with Bangladesh. During a courtesy call on Bangladesh President Mohammed Shahabuddin at the Bangabhaban, Liu emphasized China's dedication to bolstering development ties and assured that China would continue to support Bangladesh's growth in various sectors.

The relationship between Bangladesh and China is deeply rooted in history. President Shahabuddin expressed his hope for a stronger development partnership with China in the coming years. He also sought China's support for Bangladesh's bid to join the BRICS alliance, an inter-governmental organization comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, and the United Arab Emirates.

"China always attaches great importance to bolster the development ties with Bangladesh. It will always be beside Bangladesh's development," Liu stated, underscoring China's enthusiasm for a collaborative future. He praised Bangladesh's notable progress in infrastructure, information technology, communication, energy, and tourism. This recognition from a major global player like China highlights the significant strides Bangladesh has made in these fields.

President Shahabuddin recip-

rocated the sentiment, acknowledging China as one of Bangladesh's most crucial development partners. He highlighted China's instrumental role in implementing mega projects such as the Padma Bridge Rail Link, Karnaphuli Tunnel, and Elevated Expressway.

These projects have been pivotal in accelerating Bangladesh's economic development and enhancing its infrastructure.

Liu Jianchao informed Bangladesh that China is in favour of the expansion of BRICS and will strongly support Bangladesh in becoming a partner country. He also assured that China would positively consider allowing "Duty Free Quota Free" (DFQF) facilities to Bangladesh beyond 2026.

Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Hasan Mahmud reported that the Chinese minister also assured Bangladesh of continued Chinese support for the durable solution to the Rohingya crisis through repatriation.

The foreign minister expressed satisfaction with the increased party-level engagements between the Bangladesh Awami League and the Communist Party of China.

While thanking the Chinese government for allowing DFQF market access for 98% of Bangladeshi products into the Chinese market, Hasan requested China to continue the DFQF access beyond 2026, when Bangladesh will graduate from the LDC status. He also emphasized more exports from Bangladesh, especially pharmaceuticals, ceramics, leather, and agricultural products, to China

to reduce the trade imbalance.

Mentioning the last meeting between Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in Johannesburg in August 2023, Hasan requested Chinese support for Bangladesh to become a partner country of BRICS.

Bangladesh's interest in joining BRICS aligns with its strategic objectives of diversifying economic partnerships, enhancing its role in regional and global trade, and securing a stable and sustainable growth trajectory.

With robust economic growth, increasing industrialization, and a strategic geographic location, Bangladesh stands as a promising candidate for BRICS membership.

Over the past decade, Bangladesh has achieved remarkable economic progress, maintaining an average GDP growth rate of around 6-7%. The country has emerged as a key player in the global textile industry, being the second-largest apparel exporter after China. The government's Vision 2041 aims to transform Bangladesh into a high-income country by leveraging industrial growth, technological innovation, and human capital development.

Joining BRICS could open new avenues for investment in Bangladesh. The BRICS countries, with their significant economic resources, could provide substantial financial and technical assistance.

Enhanced access to the New Development Bank (NDB) would facilitate infrastructure development projects, crucial

for sustaining Bangladesh's growth momentum.

BRICS membership would enable Bangladesh to diversify its trade partnerships beyond its traditional markets in the West. Increased trade with BRICS nations could reduce dependency on any single economic bloc, mitigating risks associated with global market fluctuations.

Bangladesh could benefit from technological transfers and industrial collaborations with BRICS countries, particularly in areas such as information technology, renewable energy, and manufacturing. Such partnerships could enhance Bangladesh's industrial capabilities and foster innovation.

As a member of BRICS, Bangladesh would gain a stronger voice in international forums, contributing to shaping global economic policies. This enhanced geopolitical influence would support Bangladesh's aspirations to play a more prominent role in regional and global affairs.

Earlier in April 2024, Brazilian Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira visited Bangladesh and expressed his country's positive consideration of Bangladesh's interest in joining BRICS. "Bangladesh is a country we closely monitor, with shared principles and positions.

We will strongly and positively consider its inclusion in BRICS from our side," Vieira remarked during a joint media briefing with Bangladesh's Foreign Minister, Hasan Mahmud.

Foreign Minister Mahmud reiterated Bangladesh's interest in joining BRICS, emphasizing the country's strategic objectives

and economic potential. This support from Brazil, a key BRICS member, underscores the potential for Bangladesh to gain entry into this influential group of emerging economies.

The recent engagements between Bangladesh and China, along with Bangladesh's aspirations to join BRICS, reflect the country's proactive approach to enhancing its global economic partnerships and securing a sustainable growth trajectory. China's continued support and cooperation will play a vital role in Bangladesh's development journey.

As Bangladesh moves forward with its Vision 2041, the collaboration with China and potential BRICS membership could provide significant impetus for achieving its economic goals. The focus on infrastructure development, technological innovation, and diversified trade partnerships will be crucial in transforming Bangladesh into a high-income country and a key player in the global economy.

China's support for Bangladesh's bid to join BRICS is not just a diplomatic gesture but a strategic alignment of interests. The collaborative projects already in place between the two nations serve as a testament to what can be achieved through mutual cooperation.

The Padma Bridge Rail Link, Karnaphuli Tunnel, and Elevated Expressway are just a few examples of the infrastructural marvels that have not only enhanced connectivity within Bangladesh but also positioned it as a critical player in the regional economic landscape. (IPA Service)

POST BAG

IPL lessons were pivotal

Sir/Ma'am

The pressure of sport was starkly evident at Kensington Oval Stadium in Georgetown, Barbados, where South Africa crumbled despite a promising position. Managing IPL teams emphasizes unity, a goal achieved by current team management. Coach Rahul Dravid's persistence in staying until this World Cup and backing Rohit Sharma as captain, despite doubts about his selection, proved crucial. Dravid and Sharma effectively led a diverse group of stars, crucial for championship success, according to an IPL manager. IPL lessons were pivotal, teaching players to handle pressures in bowling, fielding, and critical moments like Suryakumar's catch, Arshdeep's final overs, and Pandya's crucial last over. Unlike football leagues like in the UK, India's success in the T20 World Cup owes much to these lessons. India became the first team to win the men's T20 World Cup unbeaten, with eight consecutive victories and one washout against Canada. This streak ties the record for the longest in the tournament's history.

Dr. Vijaykumar H K
Raichur, Karnataka
hkvkmech1@gmail.com

New Criminal Codes

Sir/Ma'am

India is set to witness a transformative shift in the criminal justice system by implementing the three groundbreaking laws from July 1st, 2024.

The biggest concern is the institutional readiness for these new laws requiring a nationwide audit. There has been no in-depth assessment of preparedness across different criminal justice institutions in various states of the country.

Not to mention the confusion that would arise while shifting from the old laws to the new laws.

The implementation of these laws should be postponed until a thorough and independent audit of the institutional readiness is conducted, or a phased wise implementation just to test the waters will be a more sensible step.

Noopur Baruah,
Tezpur, Assam
barooahnoopur@gmail.com

The hidden strain of women's uncompensated work

By: Jova Saikia

In the early 1960s, Alice Munro, the Canadian short story writer who recently passed away, achieved notable success despite initial dismissive attitudes. A newspaper once ran an article with a patronizing headline referring to her as the 'housewife who finds time to write short stories'.

However, Munro transcended such stereotypes, ultimately receiving the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2013. Claudia Goldin, the 2023 Nobel laureate in Economics, has explored how societal expectations often shape women's career paths, emphasizing a historical tendency to idealize their roles as unpaid caregivers, a phenomenon she terms the 'cult of domesticity'.

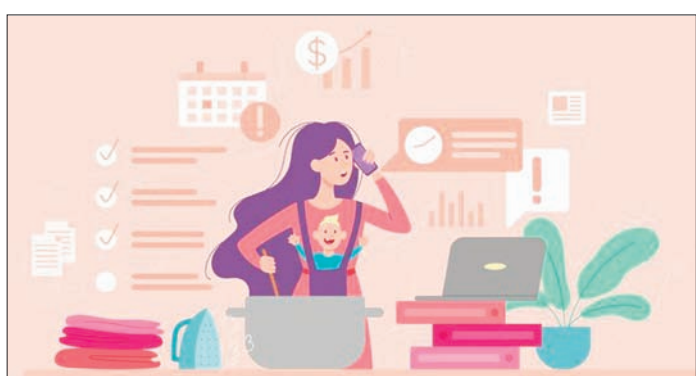
It's a stark reality that women dedicate a staggering 76.2% of their total hours to unpaid care work, a burden nearly three times greater than that shouldered by men, according to the International Labour Organization (ILO). The Pacific and Asia regions exhibit the most pronounced disparity, with men contributing just 1 hour and 4 minutes on average to unpaid care tasks.

In 2018, a striking 606 million women of working age globally expressed frustration at being unable to join the workforce due to the demands of unpaid care responsibilities, a stark contrast to the 41 million men facing similar challenges.

Women's unpaid work carries significant economic weight, with estimates suggesting it could represent over 40% of GDP in certain nations, as highlighted by the International Labour Organization (ILO). Social scientists argue that factors such as child-bearing, the age and number of children, rather than marriage itself, serve as primary barriers preventing women from entering the labor market.

Women aged 25-54 experience a significant disparity in labor force participation rates (LFPR), standing at 61.4%, whereas men's LFPR reaches 90.6%, according to the World Bank (2022). In households headed by lone women with at least one child under 6, economic necessity raises women's LFPR to approximately 65.8%.

However, this figure drops to 48.7% when mothers live with a partner and a young child, re-



fecting prevailing norms of the 'male breadwinner' syndrome, as noted by UN Women.

Despite being 'breadwinner moms' who often out-earn their husbands, they still shoulder a disproportionate burden at home, as highlighted by the Pew Research Center. The 'motherhood penalty' remains entrenched in the United States, according to Harvard (2023). Research from the Mom Project, a career-resource platform, reveals that mothers face significant hiring biases—being six times less likely to be recommended for hire compared to non-mothers and 3.35 times less than child-free men.

Moreover, they are 114% more likely than fathers to take career breaks. As noted by PNAS (2023), economic factors often compel women to take time off work when children are sick, reflecting lower pay and greater financial impact.

According to a report from the British trade union association TUC, fathers do not face any financial penalties for parenthood. On the contrary, full-time working fathers receive a wage bonus of 22% when they have children. This wage gap does not stem from mothers becoming less productive or fathers working harder after becoming parents.

Instead, it reflects entrenched cultural biases about gender roles in the workplace, as highlighted by Michelle Budig, a sociology professor at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Her research uncovered that, on average, men's earnings increased by over 6% when they lived with their children, whereas women's earnings decreased by 4% for each child they had, according to the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth in the US from 1979 to 2006.

In India, the impact of childbirth on women's participation

in the labor market differs significantly between urban and rural contexts. Research based on Life History Calendar (LHC) data from Karnataka and Rajasthan suggests that rural women may not face reduced labor market participation due to motherhood. This resilience is attributed to the prevalence of informal and flexible employment, which accommodates childcare responsibilities more effectively than formal urban settings (Gautham, 2021).

Conversely, analysis of Employment-Unemployment Schedule (EUS) data from the National Sample Survey (NSS) between 2004 and 2012 reveals that urban women experience a substantial wage penalty of approximately 18% following motherhood.

This penalty is particularly pronounced among highly educated women and those engaged in regular or salaried jobs compared to their less educated or casually employed counterparts (Wilde et al., 2010). Interestingly, first-time fathers, whether rural or urban, do not suffer negative wage effects after becoming parents.

The availability of childcare facilities stands out as a major barrier to achieving gender equality in job markets, according to UN Women. A macro-economic analysis of childcare policies across 18 OECD countries from 1980 to 2007 underscores the critical role of measures such as robust employment protections and extended paid leave in supporting working mothers' sustainability (Thévenon, 2013).

Additionally, a 2016 study by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) across seven high-income OECD countries highlighted that investing two percent of GDP in the care sector could generate significant employment opportunities.

Specifically, this investment could create approximately 13

million new jobs in the US, 3.5 million in Japan, nearly 2 million in Germany, 1.5 million in the UK, 1 million in Italy, 600,000 in Australia, and close to 120,000 in Denmark.

Moreover, such investments could potentially increase women's employment rates by 3.3 to 8.2 percentage points, surpassing men's gains of 1.4 to 4.0 percentage points.

Following this, research conducted by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) in emerging economies like Brazil, Costa Rica, China (People's Republic), India, Indonesia, and South Africa further supports the impact of investment in the health and care sector. This study indicated that a comparable two percent GDP investment could stimulate substantial job creation.

Specifically, it estimated approximately 24 million new jobs in China, 11 million in India, nearly 2.8 million in Indonesia, 4.2 million in Brazil, over 400,000 in South Africa, and 63,000 in Costa Rica. Such investments are seen as pivotal not only for economic growth but also for advancing employment opportunities, particularly benefiting women in these regions.

The ILO's recent global 'Care at Work' report emphasizes that reducing the gender gap in employment by 7 percentage points and narrowing the monthly earnings gap to 1.8% by 2035 requires a sustainable annual investment exceeding \$204 billion. This investment, averaging 5.8% of GDP per country, is crucial for establishing universal childcare and long-term care services.

Meanwhile, feminist economists such as Elson et al. and advocates of the Purple Economy, like Ilkkaracan, stress the importance of recognizing care as essential for human well-being. They advocate for a gender-equal economic and social framework that redistributes caregiving responsibilities between the State and households, as well as between women and men.

The world must urgently fulfill its commitments under the SDG 2030 agenda to achieve economic justice and equality for women. This requires implementing effective policies and allocating resources appropriately to address these critical goals. (The writer can be reached joyasaikia1990@gmail.com)

Which exercises are safe during early pregnancy?

By: Jennifer Huizen

Low impact exercises such as walking and swimming may be beneficial during early pregnancy or in the first trimester. Some gyms also offer workout classes for pregnant people.

This article will explore the benefits of exercising during pregnancy and describe some activities that are safe during the first trimester.

Also, learn about how to establish a good routine, how much exercise is healthy, and whether or not working out during early pregnancy can lead to miscarriage, or pregnancy loss.

Benefits of exercise during pregnancy

Regular exercise is linked to a wide range of health benefits for pregnant people, including:

- Improved sleep
- Improved mood
- Reduced stress and anxiety
- Faster childbirth
- Reduced risk of constipation and back pain
- reduced risk of gestational diabetes and pregnancy-induced hypertension
- improved ability to maintain a moderate weight during and after pregnancy

A person who exercises regularly during pregnancy may also decrease their chance of needing a cesarean delivery, according to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG).

Aerobic, or cardio, exercise tends to be the most beneficial. This type of exercise requires the heart to pump oxygenated blood to the muscles that are in use. It also involves the use of large muscle groups, such as the legs, for sustained periods of time.

The ACOG also says that 150 minutes of aerobic exercise per week is ideal.

People should aim to break this down into smaller time intervals per week. For example, they could do 30 minutes of exercise per day on 5 days each week.

If a person is just beginning an exercise program, they could start with 5 or 10 minutes per day and work their way up to more.

Some examples of cardio exercises include:

- walking
- cycling
- climbing stairs
- swimming
- using an elliptical
- dancing
- yoga

A person should aim to exercise vigorously enough so that their heart rate is 110–120 beats per minute. This recommendation will vary with age, however.

Any form of exercise may be harmful if it:

- places too much pressure on the uterus and fetus
- puts excessive strain on the joints, muscles, and bones
- leads to overheating
- causes dehydration

A person can avoid overexerting themselves during exercise by practicing the "talk test." This means that if they can still hold a conversation with ease while exercising, they are not overexerted.

Getting started

During the first trimester of pregnancy, people should aim to establish good exercise habits gradually. The right amount of exercise for an individual will depend on how active they were before becoming pregnant.

It is best to favor low impact exercises - especially walking, yoga, swimming, and water aerobics - during this time.

Some slightly more vigorous exercises may also be appropriate in the first trimester. Examples of these include running, jogging, and moderate weightlifting.

A person should speak with a doctor, if possible, before starting any new exercises or workout routines.

How much exercise to do

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggest that pregnant people do at least 150 minutes of moderate intensity, low impact exercise each week.

The CDC recommends that a person do five 30-minute workouts throughout the week. However, some pregnant people might prefer to exercise for 10–20 minutes throughout the day.

Best exercises during early pregnancy

The following exercises are recommended for people during early pregnancy:

Kegels

Kegel exercises, or pelvic floor exercises, work to strengthen the muscles that support the abdominal organs, including the uterus, vagina, bowel, and bladder.

These exercises also help maintain control of bladder function and can reduce the risk of hemorrhoids.

With an empty bladder, squeeze the Kegel muscles and hold the contraction for 5–10 seconds before relaxing. Try to avoid using any surrounding muscles, such as those of the buttocks, legs, or abs.

Walking and jogging

Walking on a flat, even surface is one of the most gentle, low impact forms of exercise, which makes it ideal for pregnant people.

Swinging the arms in wide, rhythmic movements while walking can result in a moderate increase in heart rate. Walking in a calm, natural setting can also help promote well-being and relaxation.

A person who is unaccustomed to taking walks could begin by taking a few 10-minute walks every week. During the first trimester, people can gradually build up to taking 30-minute walks three to five times per week, if they choose.

People who are accustomed to running can gradually transition from walking to jogging during the first trimester, as long as they use a flat, even surface.

Anyone who is taking prolonged walks or jogs should be sure to wear supportive footwear that fits correctly.

Swimming and water aerobics

Swimming and water aerobics are low impact exercises that can help keep the body toned and do not present a risk of falling.

If a person is accustomed to swimming or doing water aerobics, their usual routine will often be

safe during the first trimester of pregnancy.

If a person is new to swimming, they may want to start by taking two or three 30-minute classes each week. Once they become more confident, they could go for 30-minute sessions a few times per week or as often as feels comfortable for them.

Yoga

Doing yoga allows people to gently stretch and strengthen their body. It also encourages mindfulness skills that can be very helpful during labor, such as controlled breathing and meditation.

Many yoga studios offer classes for pregnant people. People who are new to yoga could try to attend one 30-minute session per week.

People who are accustomed to doing yoga can often continue with their usual routine during early pregnancy.

A person may want to ask a doctor if there are any specific movements, such as lying on the back, that they should avoid.

Pilates

Pilates can improve core strength and balance, which may reduce the risk of falling. It can also help ease lower back pain associated with weight gain, especially in the front of the body.

People who are new to Pilates could start gradually by doing a few sessions per week, each lasting 5–10 minutes. They can then work their way toward attending sessions lasting 30–60 minutes.

Pregnant people who are accustomed to Pilates can often maintain their usual routine during the first trimester.

Again, a person may want to ask a doctor if there are any specific movements that they should avoid. Many studios and gyms offer prenatal Pilates classes, and similar lessons are available online.

Low intensity weight training

During the first trimester of pregnancy, it is generally safe to do some moderate weightlifting.

Using free weights and weight machines can help a person manage their weight and improve their overall strength. Having a stronger core can also help improve stability and reduce the risk of falling.

People should be sure to keep the fetus safe by keeping weights in a safe position. They should also consult a doctor, if possible, to find out if there are any specific movements that they should avoid.

People who are new to weightlifting should start gradually and use light free weights.

Spin classes or cycling with a stationary bike

Off-road cycling, such as mountain biking, is not a good option for pregnant people due to the risk of falling and injury.

Stationary bikes spin classes, and safe, flat cycling paths are all alternatives with significantly fewer risks.

People who are new to the stationary bike could try cycling for 10–15 minutes at a time. They could then extend their sessions to 30–60 minutes, if comfortable.

If a person is used to spinning or using a stationary bike, they can often maintain their regular routine during the first trimester.

Do's

Pregnant people should aim to do low impact, moderate intensity exercises that lead to light sweating and slight increases in heart rate.

Some tips for exercising safely during the first trimester include the following:

- Stay hydrated.
- Stay cool, and wear loose-fitting clothing.
- Wear well-fitting, supportive, non-slip shoes.
- Recognize when to exercise less often or reduce the intensity.
- Set realistic goals and try to stick to them.
- Remember to breathe and be aware of heart rate during workouts.
- Whenever a person feels tired or weak, it is important for them to stop and rest.

Don'ts

To prevent complications, pregnant people should avoid:

- high impact exercises
- contact sports
- exercises with a high risk of falling, such as gymnastic or aerial sports
- high intensity exercises that raise heart and breathing rates to such an extent that it is difficult to speak
- exercises that place jarring pressure on the pelvis and torso, such as horseback riding
- exercises or environments that increase the risk of overheating

Can exercise during early pregnancy cause miscarriage?

Pregnant people who do high impact exercises or play contact sports may be putting too much pressure on the uterus. This can cause complications such as bleeding and preterm labor.

When the core temperature of a person in the first trimester exceeds 102°F (38.9°F) for longer than 10 minutes, they are overheating. Researchers have linked this with problems with fetal development.

As always, a person should stop exercising when they:

- experience nausea
- are dehydrated
- start to overheat
- feel dizzy or lightheaded
- have difficulty breathing
- have an uncomfortable or unsteady heart rate
- have a headache

Pregnant people who experience the following need emergency medical care:

- vaginal discharge or bleeding
- abdominal or pelvic pain
- loss of consciousness
- uncontrollable vomiting or diarrhea
- chest pains
- contractions or reduced fetal movements
- a rapid or slow pulse
- calf pain or swelling

Summary

Pregnant people can benefit from exercise. Active people can mostly stay active, while a doctor may encourage sedentary people to start a light exercise routine.

Exercises such as walking, swimming, yoga, cycling on a stationary bike, and Pilates can be suitable for pregnant people.

Pregnant people should always try to consult a doctor before starting or continuing an exercise routine. (Courtesy: *Medical News Today*)

Women in rural areas of India are suffering from high malnutrition

By: Krishna Jha

Most states and union territories in India are gripped by hunger deprived of food, the only source of any strength that can keep them alive. In fact most of the regions fall in the worrisome category and very few fall in the moderate. There is hardly space left for those who could be placed in the lower category, and yet those in the alarming category, lowest and awaiting the end have crowded over everywhere. They all know that "No Hunger" target is still unreachable... while succumbing to darkness eternally. Each day, more than 25,000 among the masses from the lower depths get perished, that includes little more than 10,000 babies.

It is an irony that India is among largest food producing states in the world. It is also true that our country is at the 102nd position among the 117 qualifying countries, scoring 30.3 in 2019, even lower in the ladder than the countries like Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan. In 2021, these countries performed better than us and that ranked them up. The fact was starvation was an ominous reality even before Covid for us. Our rank had fallen to 27.3. It is a fact that unemployment scenario was swallowing up all optimism and forcing to come down on Food Insecurity conditions.

This leads to malnutrition from early life that spreads over the entire life span, and destroys the youth, maturity and finally dwarfing the evolution of masses themselves. In our country around 80 percent suffer from micronutrient deficiencies. It is the symptom of hidden hunger. Those standing at the threshold of adulthood are not only those spending labour to create logistics for future life but they are also bearers of next generation. They all need to be fed properly to bring a generation with powerful cognitive capacity, strength to lead the society and country. The demographic advantage cannot be attained if the youth is facing acute malnourishment.

Hunger is a perilous cycle that passes from one generation to the next: Families who struggle with chronic hunger and malnutrition consistently go without the

nutrients their minds and bodies need, which then prevents them from being able to perform their best at work, attaining skills, or to improve their lives.

As labour is the resource that constitutes the main source of living for the vast majority of the population, the process of structural change also raises the incomes of workers by reallocating them to higher productivity sectors. If this mechanism is sustained long enough, poverty would automatically decrease, and per capita incomes would also become an order of magnitude higher. Yet most of the welfare steps remain shallow, tilting the advantages towards those who already have. Examples are aplenty. In Covid days, when unemployment and hunger along with the deadly ailment were ruling the roost, masses had not a thread to call their own, there were those like Ambani and Adani for whom the surplus was soaring higher than the normal days.

Most poor countries are characterized by low rates of urbanization and a relatively high weight of agriculture in domestic output (or GDP) and employment. There are the historians writing on these structural shifts associated with industrialization: a movement of the agrarian workforce into more productive opportunities for employment in the manufacturing or service sectors. The economy modernizes by producing goods in demand all over.

Informal work and self-employment slowly gets the major share of formal employment, though they still carry the identity of informal labour and output per worker rises. However in India, the entire process has been disrupted since last ten years.

Growth is certainly a necessary requirement for long-run poverty reduction. A

natural implication is low growth is less effective than high growth in terms of reducing poverty and this is borne out by India's experience in the post-liberalization era.

However, growth itself is not sufficient. Growth impulses need to transmit across different sectors of the economy, as opposed to being concentrated in urban enclaves where only the relatively well-off benefit. The long-term process of economic development involves not just growth, but is accompanied by structural transformation through which workers move to more productive sectors, specifically from agriculture to manufacturing and services.

Of course, public policy plays a role as well. Social safety-net policies can help reduce poverty directly, and expansion of infrastructure, better public services enable the poor to take better advantage of opportunities. But hardly does it happen. Many hungry people live in countries with food surplus, not food shortages. The fact is that the widest section of the masses do not have the access to food, or to the means to procure food, the source of life itself.

It may be underlined here that independent estimates from the Labour Bureau show that wages of rural male workers in agriculture, non-agriculture and construction have been very slow to increase over the entire span of 2014-2023, lagging per capita incomes by a significant margin. But the buck does not stop here. The living standards of women are not the same as men. Disparity is consciously nursed. Sixty percent of the world's hungry are women and girls. They have to go hungry quite often for days together. And there is no age bar for it; it could be beginning from as early as months. (IPA Service)



Nepali Congress President Sher Bahadur Deuba and former prime minister K.P. Sharma Oli reached an understanding on forming a new coalition

Nepali Congress & CPN-UML strike deal to oust PM 'Prachanda'; to form new alliance

KATHMANDU, July 2: In a dramatic political development, Nepal's two largest parties - Nepali Congress and CPN-UML - have inked a mid-night power-sharing deal to form a new 'national consensus government' to replace the coalition government led by Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda", who on Tuesday refused to resign.



Nepali Congress President Sher Bahadur Deuba and Communist Party of Nepal-United Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) chairman and former prime minister K P Sharma Oli reached an understanding on forming a new coalition on Monday midnight, according to former foreign minister Narayan Prakash Saud.

Deuba, 78 and Oli, 72, agreed to share the Prime Ministerial position on a rotation basis for the rest of the term of the Parliament, said Saud, who is also a Nepali Congress central member.

Nepali Congress, the largest party in the House of Representatives (HoR), has 89 seats at present, while CPN-UML has 78 seats. The combined strength of the two large parties is 167, which is sufficient for a majority of 138 seats in the 275-member HoR.

The two leaders also met on Saturday to lay the ground for a potential new political alliance between the two parties, following which Oli's CPN-UML ended its association with the Prachanda-led government barely four months after extending support to it.

Embattled Prime Minister Prachanda has decided not to resign from the post despite the agreement between the Nepali Congress and CPN-UML. In a meeting of the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre) office-bearers held in Baluwatar, Prachanda said he would rather face a vote of confidence in Parliament than resign from the post, the party Secretary Ganesh Shah told PTI.

Prachanda, 69, has won three votes of confidence in Parliament during his one-and-a-half-year term. Nepal has had 13 governments in the last 16 years, indicating the fragile nature of the Himalayan nation's political system. Under the agreement that is likely to be finalised on Tuesday, the CPN-UML chief Oli will lead the government in the first phase of the remaining term of Parliament.

The two leaders have agreed to share the premiership for one and a half years, turn by turn, Saud said. The two leaders tentatively agreed to form a new government, amend the Constitution, and work out a power-sharing formula, which they reportedly shared with a few confidants, media reports said, quoting multiple senior leaders from both parties.

The ministers belonging to the CPN-UML in the Prachanda-led Cabinet are likely to resign en-mass in the afternoon, sources close to the CPN-UML said.

The new government will be formed to maintain political stability in the country and make necessary amendments to the Constitution. Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister Ravi Lamichhane accused the Nepali Congress and CPN-UML of forming the new alliance after the Prachanda-led coalition government started opening the files of corruption cases involving political leaders.

"The new alliance is aimed at protecting corrupt leaders rather than protecting the Constitution and maintaining political stability, as claimed by some leaders," said Lamichhane, who is also the president of Rashtriya Swatantra Party (RSP), during a press meet in Kathmandu.

He said the RSP, a key ruling coalition partner of the Prachanda-led coalition, will not join the new alliance of the Nepali Congress and CPN-UML. "We will neither resign from the coalition government nor join the new alliance," Lamichhane said.

According to the agreement reached, during Oli's tenure, the CPN-UML will take control of ministries, including the Prime Minister's position and the Finance Ministry. Similarly, the Nepali Congress will oversee ten ministries, including the Home Ministry, MyRepublica news portal reported.

Pokharel has told media persons that an agreement was reached with the Nepali Congress to form a national government led by Oli, a former prime minister.

The new government will be formed to maintain political stability in the country and make necessary amendments to the Constitution.

Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister Ravi Lamichhane accused the Nepali Congress and CPN-UML of forming the new alliance after the Prachanda-led coalition government started opening the files of corruption cases involving political leaders.

"The new alliance is aimed at protecting corrupt leaders rather than protecting the Constitution and maintaining political stability, as claimed by some leaders," said Lamichhane, who is also the president of Rashtriya Swatantra Party (RSP), during a press meet in Kathmandu.

He said the RSP, a key ruling coalition partner of the Prachanda-led coalition, will not join the new alliance of the Nepali Congress and CPN-UML.

"We will neither resign from the coalition government nor join the new alliance," Lamichhane said.

According to the agreement reached, during Oli's tenure, the CPN-UML will take control of ministries, including the Prime Minister's position and the Finance Ministry. Similarly, the Nepali Congress will oversee ten ministries, including the Home Ministry, MyRepublica news portal reported.

According to the agreement, the CPN-UML will lead provincial governments in Koshi, Lumbini and Karnali provinces, and the Nepali Congress will lead the provincial governments of Bagmati, Gandaki and Sudurpaschim provinces.

Oli and Deuba have also agreed to involve Madhes-based parties in leading Madhesh Province and have committed to constitutional amendments. The draft agreement was prepared by a four-member task force, The Kathmandu Post newspaper reported.

It will detail the power-sharing arrangement, propose amendments to the Constitution, review the electoral system, including proportional representation, change national assembly arrangements, and discuss the size of provincial assemblies, according to a task force member.

Meanwhile, the talks between Prime Minister Prachanda and CPN-UML chief Oli to save the current coalition also failed, according to Maoist sources. (PTI)

Overnight strike kills 9 in Khan Younis, hours after Israel ordered a mass evacuation

GAZA CITY, July 2: An Israeli strike has killed at least nine people in the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis, Palestinian health officials said on Tuesday, within a day of Israel ordering parts of the city to evacuate ahead of a likely ground operation.

The overnight strike hit a home near the European Hospital, which is inside the zone that Israel said should be evacuated. After the initial evacuation orders, the military said the facility itself was not included, but its director says most patients and medics have already been relocated.

Sam Rose, the director of planning at the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees, known as UNRWA, said Tuesday that the agency believes some 250,000 people are in the evacuation zone - over 10% of Gaza's population of 2.3 million - including many who have fled earlier fighting. He says another 50,000 people living just outside the zone may also choose to leave because of their proximity to the fighting. Evacuees have been told to seek refuge in a sprawling tent camp along the coast that is already overcrowded and has few basic services.

Israel launched the war in Gaza after Hamas' Oct. 7 attack, in which militants stormed into southern Israel, killed some 1,200 people - mostly civilians - and abducted about 250. Since then, Israeli ground offensives and bombardments have killed more than 37,900 people in Gaza, according to the territory's Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between combatants and civilians in its count. The war has largely cut off the flow of food, medicine and basic goods to Gaza, and people there are now totally dependent on aid. The top U.N. court has concluded there is a "plausible risk of genocide" in Gaza - a charge Israel strongly denies. (AP)

Don't do something you regret, cautions UK PM in final push for votes

LONDON, July 2: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak kicked off his campaign with a distribution centre visit in eastern England in the early hours of Tuesday, the penultimate day of campaigning ahead of polling day on Thursday, urging voters to not "do something they regret".



All pre-election opinion polls indicate a strong majority for the Opposition Labour Party, forcing the incumbent Sunak-led Conservatives on the back foot to caution voters against handing a "supermajority" to the Keir Starmer-led Labour.

Both main party leaders will be using the final two days of campaigning to zigzag as many parts of the United Kingdom as possible, especially where they hope there are still some undecided voters to win over.

"Once you make that decision on Thursday, there's no going back. Don't do something you might regret," posted Sunak on X, driving home his central message that a Labour-led government would raise taxes for everyone in the country. "You have 48 hours to put the brakes on a Labour supermajority that will put up your taxes," he said.

Speaking to the BBC, he said: "My point is if the polls are to be believed and Labour win a big majority, they will be unchecked and unaccountable to people and that will give them licence to put up everyone's taxes and make us a soft touch on migration when it comes to the entire European continent."

"I don't want people to sleepwalk into that. So, I'm fighting very hard for every vote. I want to continue in this job so I can cut people's taxes, protect their pensions and secure our borders,"

the 44-year-old British Indian leader said. It came as the BBC's polling expert Sir John Curtice declared there is more chance of lightning striking twice in the same place than there is of Sunak remaining Prime Minister come Friday.

"That's his view, that's not going to stop me from working as hard as I can over these final few days. I'll be out until the last moment of this campaign," reacted a defiant Sunak.

Meanwhile, Starmer has been keen to highlight that "every single vote counts" to counter any chance of apathy among the voters who may feel the election was a done deal in favour of his party. "There's tough yards ahead in terms of the inheritance if we come in to serve the country, almost everything is broken, nothing is working, nothing is better than it was 14 years ago. We need a strong mandate for that," he said.

In an interview with 'The Times', the 61-year-old Labour leader sought to make a virtue out of Tory warnings of a "Labour supermajority" as he emphasised the need for a strong mandate to "seriously change" the country so that people would have "more money in their pockets".

Starmer, who hopes to be in 10 Downing Street by Friday evening, stressed that a bigger majority "means we can roll up our sleeves and get on with the change we need".

The Labour Party has set out its vision as being focused on creating more growth, driven by major planning reforms and skill overhauls and has denied plans to raise taxes across the board. "The most important thing is growing the economy and wealth creation. I do think that's been the Achilles' heel for 13 years now. You can talk about public services but if you haven't got your economy working then you can't do that. If you haven't settled the planning, the infrastructure challenges, then you can't get your economy going," stressed Starmer.

Both party leaders will use the last hours of campaigning to drive home their respective messages before polling booths open across the country at 7 am local time on Thursday. After they close at 10 pm local time, Sunak and Starmer will eagerly await results from the UK Parliament's 650 constituencies - needing 326 for a majority. Meanwhile, the traditional election night exit poll at 10 pm will give them and the country a snapshot of what to expect nationally.

If opinion polls are to be believed, the incumbent Tories are in line to win anywhere between 53 and 150 seats, with Labour projected to win a landslide. Some polls even suggest a greater victory margin than when Tony Blair beat John Major in 1997, achieving a 179-seat majority and a total of 418 seats which remains the highest ever won by Labour yet. (PTI)

France's far-right National Rally says it will lead a government only with an absolute majority

PARIS, July 2: The star president of France's National Rally will take the helm of government only if the party wins an absolute majority in Sunday's second round of legislative elections, the leading far-right figure Marine Le Pen said on Tuesday.

The National Rally, under party president Jordan Bardella, secured the most votes in the first round of the surprise legislative elections on June 30 but not enough to claim overall victory.

"We cannot accept going into government if we cannot act," Le Pen said in an interview with public broadcaster France Inter. "It would be the worst betrayal of our voters." Round one on



Sunday propelled the National Rally closer than ever to government but also left open the possibility that voters could yet block its path to power in the second and final round on July 7.

Le Pen's party and its opponents in the left-wing alliance of the New Popular Front as well as President Emmanuel Macron's weakened centrists are all seeking to deny the far right an absolute majority by rallying supporters in high-stakes campaigning this week. The National Rally and its allies could secure a working majority in parliament in the final round on Sunday. Or they could fall short, stymied at the last hurdle by opponents who still hope to prevent the formation of France's first far-right government since World War II. Both scenarios are fraught with uncertainty for France and its influence in Europe and beyond. With the stakes high and the time frame compressed, the election has overshadowed preparations for Paris to host the Olympic Games, which open in less than a month.

To block the far right's ascent to government, some leftist and centrist candidates who did not win outright in round one but qualified for round two have stepped aside. Candidates have until 6 pm Tuesday to decide whether to stay in the race or withdraw. By pulling out, opponents of the National Rally might divert votes to other candidates better positioned to beat the far right on Sunday.

"We have one objective today (and that) to deny an absolute majority to the National Rally," said Francois Ruffin of the hard-left France Unbowed party that is part of the new National Front alliance along with French greens, Socialists and Communists.

Macron dissolved the National Assembly and called the snap election on June 9, after a stinging defeat at the hands of the National Rally in French voting for the European Parliament. The deeply unpopular and weakened president gambled that the far right would not repeat that success when the country's own fate was in the balance. But Macron's plan backfired. He is now accused, even by members of his own camp, of having opened a door for the National Rally by calling voters back to the ballot box, especially when so many are angry over inflation, the cost of living, immigration and at Macron himself. (AP)

Orban's press chief, Bertalan Havasi, who confirmed the visit early Tuesday to Hungarian news agency MTI, said the meeting will be an opportunity for building peace as Ukraine fights off Russia's invasion.

A photo issued by Orban's press office showed the two men by themselves, facing each other across a small round table with their national flags and an EU flag against a wall. Signaling frosty relations, Kyiv is yet to confirm Orban's arrival, a usual protocol with VIP visits.

This comes a day after Hungary took over the six-month rotating presidency of the European Union, a position that has little real power but can be used to set the tone of the bloc's agenda. Hungarian officials have indicated that they will act as "honest brokers" in the role despite worries from some EU lawmakers that Hungary's democratic track record makes it unfit to lead the bloc. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov played down the importance of the visit, saying Hungary "must fulfill (the) functions" of its EU presidency and adding that Moscow had no particular expectations for its outcome.

Orban has previously accused Kyiv of mistreating an ethnic Hungarian minority in Ukraine's western region of Zakarpattia, a community he has used to justify his refusal to provide weapons to Ukraine or allow their transfer across the two countries' shared border. The self-described "illiberal" leader has long been accused by his European partners of dismantling democratic institutions at home and acting as an obstinate spoiler of key EU policy priorities. (AP)

North Korea brags of new missile with 'super-large warhead.' Outsiders doubt the North's claim



SEOUL, July 2: North Korea said on Tuesday it had test-fired a new tactical ballistic missile capable of carrying "a super-large warhead," a claim quickly disputed by South Korean officials and experts who speculate the North likely fabricated a successful test to conceal a botched launch.

It's the second time that South Korea has questioned North Korea's claim on the development of new weapons in recent days, as

the rivals are locked in heightened animosities over the North's testing activities. The North's official Korean Central News Agency said that Monday's test involved the Hwasongpho-11 Da-4.5 missile, which can carry a 4.5-ton-class warhead. It said the test was meant to verify the weapon's flight stability and hit accuracy at the maximum range of 500 kilometres and the minimum range of 90 kilometres.

The test apparently refers to the two ballistic missile launches that South Korea said North Korea performed on Monday.

Joint Chiefs of Staff spokesperson Lee Sung Joon said at a briefing later Tuesday that the second North Korean missile was found to have fallen on an uninhabited area near Pyongyang, the North's capi-

tal. He said he could find few previous test-launches by North Korea that have aimed at ground target sites. "Regarding the North Korean assessment, we're weighing a possibility of deception," Lee said.

The South Korean military has said the second North Korean missile possibly travelled abnormally during the initial stage of its flight. It said if the missile exploded, its debris would likely have scattered on the ground.

The KCNA dispatch didn't say from where it launched the new missile and where it landed. Unlike previous weapons tests, North Korea also didn't publicise any photos of Monday's test. The fact that it tested both the missile's maximum and minimum ranges suggested North Korea performed two launches.

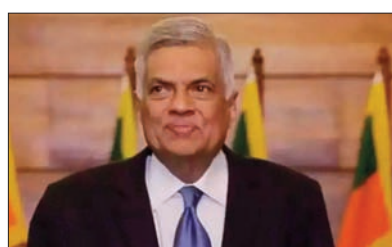
KCNA, citing North Korea's Missile Administration, reported that North Korea will test-fire the missile again later in July to verify the performances of its simulated warhead at the medium range of 250 kilometres.

Some experts say test-firing missiles at ground targets could be related to efforts to test how powerful warheads are to destroy underground bunkers and structures.

But Shin Jongwoo, a Seoul-based military expert, said the fact that North Korea hasn't disclosed any photos on the launches means that it's highly likely the North is trying to deceive the outsiders to cover up Monday's failed launches. He said North Korea likely launched an existing missile on Monday, not the new missile it claimed. (AP)

Debt restructuring deal gives breathing space for Sri Lanka's economic revival: President Wickremesinghe

COLOMBO, July 2: President Ranil Wickremesinghe on Tuesday said "substantial progress" has been achieved in Sri Lanka's debt restructuring, which he said provided the much-needed breathing space for the cash-strapped country to transform its bankrupt economy into a resilient and stable one.



Briefing Parliament on the country's resulting benefits of the correct course of action, President Wickremesinghe also countered the Opposition's criticism of the debt restructuring agreement with major bilateral creditors and promised to table all agreements and documents related to it to a Parliamentary panel.

In April 2022, the island nation declared its first-ever sovereign default since gaining Independence from Britain in 1948.

The unprecedented financial crisis led President Ranil Wickremesinghe's predecessor Gotabaya Rajapaksa to quit office in 2022 amid civil unrest.

Earlier last week, President Wickremesinghe announced that debt restruc-

turing agreements were finalised with bilateral lenders, including India and China, in Paris on June 26 and described it as a "significant milestone" for bolstering international trust in the debt-ridden economy.

On Tuesday, while making a special statement in Parliament, Wickremesinghe said: "Sri Lanka's external debt now totals USD 37 billion, which includes USD 10.6 billion in bilateral credit and USD 11.7 billion in multilateral credit. The commercial debt is USD 14.7 billion, of which USD 12.5 billion is in sovereign bonds."

The debt restructuring aims at making

the debt sustainable, freeing up funds for public services, Wickremesinghe, who also holds the portfolio as the finance minister, said.

"This pivotal moment, however, must not be squandered. This breathing space should not be wasted," news portal NewsFirst.lk quoted him as saying.

In the past, Sri Lanka's economic growth was dominated by the non-tradable sector. During this period, particularly post-war, the economy expanded but tax revenue and exports as a share of GDP declined. The capacity to service debt continued to diminish.

"To reverse the trend, we must transform Sri Lanka into an economy, where growth is driven by non-debt creating foreign exchange inflows," the portal quoted him as saying.

The President said that Sri Lanka must now pursue a high growth trajectory of at least seven per cent GDP per annum, and though ambitious, this target is achievable, as demonstrated by nations like Vietnam. (PTI)

Dutch king swears in a new government 7 months after far-right party won elections

THE HAGUE, July 2: The Netherlands has a different prime minister for the first time in 14 years as Dutch King Willem-Alexander swore in the country's new government on Tuesday, more than seven months after elections dominated by a far-right, anti-Islam party.

Dick Schoof, former head of the Dutch intelligence agency and counterterrorism office, signed the official royal decree at Huis Ten Bosch Palace, saying he "declared and promised" to uphold his duties as the country's prime minister.

The 67-year-old was formally installed alongside 15 other ministers who make up the country's right-leaning coalition. The anti-immigration party of firebrand Geert Wilders won the largest share of seats in elections last year but it took 223 days to form a government. The four parties in the coalition are Wilders' Party for Freedom, outgoing Prime Minister Mark Rutte's center-right People's Party for Freedom and Democracy, the populist Farmer Citizen Movement and the centrist New Social Contract party.

The formal agree-



ment creating the new coalition, titled "Hope, courage and pride," introduces strict measures on asylum-seekers, scraps family reunification for refugees and seeks to reduce the number of international students studying in the country.

Opposition from other coalition partners prevented the controversial Wilders from taking the prime

minister's job. During the monthslong negotiations, he backpedaled on several of his most extreme views, including withdrawing draft legislation that would have banned mosques, Islamic schools and the Quran.

For the first time since World War II, the Netherlands is now led by a prime minister who is not aligned with a political party.

During the lengthy talks, his name had not been circulated as a possible prime minister and national newspaper the Telegraaf reported that Schoof was the fifth choice for the top spot. Wilders' first pick, Ronald Plasterk, was forced to withdraw from consideration after allegations of his involvement in a medical patent fraud came to light. (AP)

Order also advised the general public to stay indoors

Incessant rain in Manipur inundates several districts

IMPHAL, July 2: Incessant rains over the last few days have caused overflow of the rivers in Manipur inundating several places in Imphal West district, Imphal East district, Kangpokpi district, Senapati district, Thoubal district and Bishnupur district, an official statement said today. As such, the state government of Manipur has declared holiday for July 3.



"In view of the above, the Governor of Manipur is pleased to declare July 3, 2024 (Wednesday) as a public holiday for all government offices including public sector undertakings /corporations /autonomous bodies/societies under the Government of Manipur. Further, in exercise of the powers conferred by the ex-

planation under Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 (XXVI of 1881), for all banks, financial institutions and LIC, etc, located in the state shall also remain closed on July 3, 2024," an order from the government said.

The order also advised the general public to stay indoors except in case of emergency so that the authorities can carry out the rescue and relief operations and evacuation of the stranded individuals smoothly. With respect to schools and

Two-day holiday declared in schools in rain-affected Manipur

IMPHAL, July 2: The Manipur government has declared a two-day holiday in all schools in the state from July 3, in view of the rising water levels in rivers and flooding of several areas due to incessant rain since Monday, officials said.

A notification issued by the directorate of education on Tuesday read, "In view of the rising river level and subsequent flooding of many areas and inconveniences caused to many households and installations across the state due to incessant rain and in anticipation of flood like condition for some more days to come...all schools of the state, govt, private, aided and central schools will remain closed on July 3 and July 4.

Meanwhile, Imphal, Nambal and Iril rivers continued to flow at dangerous levels, causing panic among nearby residents.

Several areas in the Imphal East district were also flooded on Tuesday evening after the Imphal River, the largest river in Manipur valley, overflowed, causing flood at New Checkon, Mahabali Road, Palace Compound, parts of Khurai and Yumnam Khunou area in Imphal East district.

Locals and officials worked to strengthen river banks and retaining walls at Singjamei, Bamon Leikai, and Yaikul in the Imphal West district after cracks developed along the river banks. (PTI)

AKAF suggestion to expert committee on State Reservation Policy



SHILLONG, July 2: The All Khasi Hills Achik Federation (AKAF) on Tuesday submitted its suggestion to the Expert Committee on State Reservation Policy asserting the need to ensure status quo is maintained on the issue.

"We request the Expert Committee to maintain status quo without disturbing the job reservation for Garo whatsoever, for the interest of the three tribes of Garo, Khasi and Jaintia and also for the interest of the other scheduled tribes and other bonafide citizen of the state of Meghalaya," AKAF president Clivestor Ch Marak said in a letter to the Expert Committee.

He, however, said that the organization suggested the need to modify or alter the remaining 20 per cent of the job reservation policy if the committee is to recommend any changes to reservation policy dated January 12, 1972.

"The organization suggests that if the committee is concentrating on revisiting/altering or changing the reservation policy in our views we humbly suggest modifying or to alter the remaining 20 per cent of the job reservation policy which is meant for other schedule tribes and for general category by increasing 8 per cent for United Khasi and Jaintia tribes and to reserve 12 per cent for general category and for other Schedule Tribes," Marak said.

"That while requesting to increase 8 per cent in total 48 per cent of reserve the job reservation policy for united Khasi and Jaintia the organization also humbly request to include the Garo tribe residing in different part of Khasi Hills and Jaintia Hills who were inhabitant and permanent residents of Khasi and Jaintia Hills," he added.

Further, Marak said that the reason and ground for inclusion of Garo inhabitants of Khasi Hills are - "due to political division however Garo tribes fall under Khasi Hills, that thought there is separate 40 per cent reservation for Garo ST that is meant for the Garo tribe residing in different part of Garo hills and not for the Garo inhabitants of Khasi Hills, the Achik or Garo tribes residing in Khasi Hills are still in backward in every aspect of life, Achik tribe in Garo Hills remain far behind in the field of education, living standard and still remain far behind in the field of economy."

"That in case the committee desired to change the reservation policy, we humbly suggest reducing or to take it from the remaining 20 per cent reservation policy and added to Khasi and Jaintia category without disturbing the 40 per cent job reservation for Garos," he opined. (NNN)

Tripura govt to ban three-wheeler vehicle registration in Agartala

AGARTALA, July 2: The Tripura government has decided to impose a ban on registration of all types of three-wheeler passenger and goods vehicles in Agartala Municipal Corporation (AMC) from July 10, an official said. The move is aimed at reducing traffic congestion and promoting alternative transportation systems in the civic body areas, the official said.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 115 of the MV Act 1988 and for the interest of promoting sustainable urban mobility, the Transport Department, Government of Tripura hereby imposes ban on registration of all types of three-wheeler passenger and goods vehicles on and from 10th July 2024 in Agartala Municipal Corporation area of West Tripura District," the notification issued on Monday said.

It clarified that all the three-wheeler passenger and goods vehicles include e-rickshaws, e-carts, e-autos, petrol autos, diesel autos, CNG autos and vehicles driven on bio-fuel (methanol & ethanol).

In West Tripura district, as many as 23,474 three-wheelers and 4259 e-rickshaws were registered with the transport department and 70 of these vehicles are operating in the capital town.

"In a recently held meeting with Chief Minister Manik Saha and senior officials on traffic management in Agartala, we highlighted the problem of a steep increase in three-wheeler movement leading to traffic problems," the Superintendent of Police (SP), Traffic, Manik Das, said on Tuesday.

"The government might have acted on our concern," the SP said. (PTI)

Undeclared president's rule in Manipur: MPCC president

N Biren Singh govt a paper tiger

IMPHAL, July 2: Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) president Keisham Meghachandra alleged that the N Biren Singh government is a "paper tiger" and there is an undeclared "president's rule" in the state.

Keisham told reporters on Monday that the N Biren Singh government is the "weakest" government in the history of the state.

"When the advanced security convoy of CM was am-

bushed last month, the state government was not able to take control of it. We are witnessing a system of undeclared president's rule. This is 99.9 per cent correct. The only thing is the Central government has not formally declared imposition of article 355," Keisham said.

"N Biren Singh government is a paper tiger. The government is the weakest government in the political history of Manipur... the system and administration is to-

tally paralysed. Not just the law and order but other departments are also total failures. Earlier we waited for two-three months so that the government could be in a position to deal with the prevailing situation and take control. Now it's been fourteen months and we are wondering how many months do we have to wait," he said.

He thanked Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for raising the Manipur issue in Parliament on Monday. (PTI)

New horned frog species discovered in Arunachal Pradesh



frog (*Xenophrys maosonensis*) in India, which was reported by ZSI researchers in Shillong in 2019," said Bhaskar Saikia, one of the scientists, to PTI.

He explained that the revised conclusion regarding the species' identity came after further analysis revealed substantial genetic disparities between the Indian specimen and *X. maosonensis* from Vietnam and China, prompting a reevaluation.

Saikia, along with his colleague Bikramjit Sinha, also from ZSI Shillong, led the research. The team included KP Dinesh and A. Shabnam from ZSI Pune, and Ilona Jacinta Kharkongor from ZSI Itanagar. (PTI)

SHILLONG, July 2: Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have discovered a new frog species in Arunachal Pradesh's Tale Wildlife Sanctuary, marking a significant addition to India's herpetofaunal diversity, officials said on Tuesday. The new

species is a forest-dwelling horned frog discovered by a team of ZSI scientists from Shillong, Itanagar, and Pune.

"The research, published in the current edition of the Zoological Survey of India, overturns an earlier erroneous report of the Maoson horned

ENGAGEMENT UNDER SAMAGRA SHIKSHA AXOM

No. SSA/Esstt/Engagement/SMO/151/2023/1016

The Samagra Shiksha, Axom invites online applications from Indian Citizens (as defined in Articles 5 to 8 of the Constitution of India) for the under mentioned positions under Samagra Shiksha, Axom on contractual basis. The online applications will be received from 02.07.2024 to 16.07.2024. The posts are temporary in nature and the selected candidates will be initially engaged for a period of 11 (eleven) months only. The contractual engagement will neither be regularized under Samagra Shiksha, Axom nor will be absorbed under any job/programme of Government of Assam in future and no person (s) so engaged shall have any right (s) to claim for permanent absorption in any post (s) in the government or in the Samagra Shiksha, Assam.

Age for categories of post : The candidate should not be less than 18 years of age and not more than 62 years of age as on 01-01-2024.

The age limit of the candidates will be calculated on the basis of the Matriculation/HSLC Admit Card or Pass Certificate issued by a recognized Board/ Council and no other document shall be accepted in lieu of the mentioned documents.

Sl No	Name of the Post	Essential Qualification and Experience	Pay in Pay Band in Rs.	Grade Pay in Rs.	No. of Post	Place
1	Expert (Consultant CWSN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post Graduate Degree with 5 years of relevant experience at District and State level position in any Govt. Deptt., Society, University, College, Reputed Research Organization and with minimum one year working experience with an organization dealing with education of children with disabilities. <p>Desirable :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Registered certificate from Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI), (ii) Degree/ Diploma in Special Education (iii) M.A. in Psychology 	30,000/- to 1,10,000/-	13300/-	01	State Mission Office
2	Expert (Consultant Planning)	<p>Essential Qualification & Experience:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Master Degree in any discipline/MBA with minimum 55% marks (50% in case of ST/SC Candidates) from a UGC recognized University Minimum 4-years relevant experience at District or State Level Position in any Government Department, Society, University, College, reputed Research Organization. Complete proficiency in MS-OFFICE, especially in MS-Excel & PowerPoint. <p>Desirable qualification:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum 3-years' experience as Educational Consultant in any reputed Organization/Society. Experience in preparing project proposals related to Education, such as establishment of educational institutions, proposals for creating amenities/facilities towards students, teacher and educational institutions and proposals for fund raising etc. 	30,000/- to 1,10,000/-	13300/-	01	State Mission Office
3	Project Engineer	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> BE (Electrical) Engineering from Institutions recognized by AICTE and recognized university. Having experience in electrical with minimum 03 years of working experience in Govt. Deptt / Organization /Pvt. Reputed Agencies/Firm etc. in the relevant field. Candidate having experience in Auto Cad will be an added qualification. Must be Computer Literate with proficiency in MS Office. 	30000/- 110000/-	12700/-	01	State Mission Office
4	Associate Officer (P&M)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master Degree in English/Master with Social Science / Master in Business Administration from any recognized university Candidate must have proficiency in MS Office (Well versed in MS Excel & MS Word. At least 3 years of working experiences in Research Institutions, Organizations Experience of working in the area of Research, Evaluation, Programme Implementation, Community Participation and Monitoring in Govt. Institution, Govt. recognized Society, Govt. Recognized Higher Education Institution, Reputed Research Organization 	22000-87000/-	11500/-	01	State Mission Office
5	District Project Engineer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BE (Civil) in Engineering /equivalent qualification having 10 years experience in the Government department/ Govt. Undertaking as Assistant Engineer. Must be Computer Literate 	30000/- 110000/-	12700/-	02	District Mission Offices (Hojai and Biswanath)
6	Finance & Accounts Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate in Commerce with minimum 05 years of relevant experience under Government/ Semi Government/ Government Bodies/ PSUs/ Large Private Institute/ organization. 	22000-87000/-	11500/-	02	District Mission Offices (Hojai and South Salmara-Mankachar)

N.B-

- The link of the recruitment portal will be available in the Samagra Shiksha website <https://ssa.assam.gov.in>
- Read the User Guidelines carefully which is available on the recruitment portal on how to submit the online application form.
- Claims for any correction will not be entertained after submitting the online registration and online application.
- Before filling the on-line application, applicant has to go through the User Guidelines for online registration and online application.
- Candidate must upload the supporting document of educational qualification, experience and others through portal.
- Only eligible candidates will have to appear in test/interview, the exact date of which will be communicated separately.
- A candidate must be in good mental and bodily health and free from any physical defect likely to interfere with the efficient discharge of his/ her duties as an Officer of the service.
- The exact date & time of the Test/ Interview will be communicated to the shortlisted candidates separately.
- Marking pattern will be on General Awareness, Personality & Aptitude, Subject matter in relevant field, Relevant Experience, etc. for the post. The applicant has to obtain minimum 50% of the total marks on the above in the interview and only then the candidates will be short-listed.
- The office will not be responsible for any non submission of online application due to any error or other problem.
- The decision of the Selection Committee in all aspects and all respects pertaining to the application and its acceptance or rejection as the case may be, conduct of test and at all consequent stages concluding in the selection or otherwise of any candidate shall be final in all respects and binding on all concerned. The Mission also reserves its right to alter and modify time and conditions laid down in the notification for conducting the various stages up to selection or withdraw the Notification at any time, duly intimating details thereof to all concerned, as warranted by any unforeseen circumstances arising during the course of this process, or as deemed necessary by the Mission at any stage.

Janasanyog /DF/455/24/3-Jul-24



Sd/- Mission Director
Samagra Shiksha Axom Kahilpara, Guwahati-19

No. RA/AIWT/55/2024/803,
Expression of interest for empanelment of the Ship Surveyor

The Assam Inland Water Transport Regulatory Authority (AIWTRA) invites expressions of interest from eligible surveyors who wish to be empanelled as Ship Surveyors. AIWTRA is a Regulatory Authority for inland vessels of Assam, and its objective is to promote safety and efficiency in the Water Transport Sector in the State.

Qualified surveyors with significant experience in the field of surveying and inspecting of vessels are encouraged to apply.

Applicants must fulfil any of the following qualifications:

- Marine or Mechanical or Electrical Engineer or Naval Architect in possession of minimum First or Second class Motor/Steam Ministry of Transport (MOT) Certificate issued by Director General of Shipping, Government of India or equivalent certificate recognized by the Government of India and 5 years of experience after first certificate of competency either in sea going regular vessels or Classification Societies or Ship Building yards or reputed International Shipping Companies or State Port Department or State Maritime Board or Directorate General of Shipping or Mercantile Marine Department;
- Master Mariner (Foreign Going) with 2 years of sailing experience or experience in maritime training or marine survey after having obtained master's certificate issued by Director General of Shipping, Government of India or equivalent international certificate; or
- Marine Engineer Operator Class III [Near Coastal Voyage Vessel (NCV) - Chief Engineer Officer] Certificate or Master (Near Coastal Voyage Vessel) certificate issued by the Director General of Shipping with minimum 10 years of sailing experience of which at least 5 years experience in the capacity of Master or Chief Engineer; or
- Inland Vessel Master Class I or Inland Engineer Certificate with a minimum of 15 years of service onboard inland vessels of which at least 5 years shall be in the capacity of a Master or Chief Engineer ;or
- A basic degree in Naval Architecture with 7 years experience in sea going regular vessels or Classification Societies or Ship Building yards or reputed International Shipping Corporations or State Port Department; or
- Diploma in ship building with 15 years experience in sea going regular vessels or Classification Societies or Ship Building yards or reputed International Shipping Corporations or State Port Department.

The selected surveyors will be responsible for inspecting vessels to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements, evaluating the vessel's condition, and assessing its safety. They will also be responsible for providing advice and assistance to ship owners and operators to ensure the vessels meet the latest safety and environmental standards.

The empanelled surveyors will receive competitive compensation as notice by AIWTRA an opportunity to work with a regulatory institution that values safety, efficiency, and innovation.

To apply, please submit your resume and expression of interest to the Assam Inland Water Transport Regulatory Authority (AIWTRA), at office of the Chairperson, Assam IWT Regulatory Authority, Ulubari, Guwahati-7 in SEALED COVER.

The last date of submission of application is the 20th of July 2024.

Sd/-
Secretary
Assam IWT Regulatory Authority
Ulubari, Guwahati-7.

Janasanyog /CF/ 519 / 24/ 3-Jul-24

Oppn upset as first time non-Congress leader, a 'chai-wala' became PM for third term: Modi

NEW DELHI, July 2: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday asked NDA MPs to follow parliamentary rules and conduct, and learn from senior members about the best practices, comments that came a day after the ruling alliance accused Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi of making a "most irresponsible" speech.

Addressing a meeting of NDA MPs, Modi said the opposition is upset as for the first time a non-Congress leader, that too a "chai-wala", has become prime minister for a third straight term, sources said.

Highlighting his humble origins, he took an apparent jibe at the Nehru-Gandhi family saying that its members used to be prime minister and gave little recognition to those from outside their fold, the sources said.

Briefing reporters, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said Modi asked MPs to study parliamentary issues, attend Parliament regularly and raise the matters



related to their constituency effectively.

Asked if Modi referred to Gandhi's Monday speech in Lok Sabha, Rijiju said he made no such mention but added that when the country's prime minister speaks, the message is for everyone.

Union minister and Lok Janshakti Party leader Chirag Paswan told reporters that NDA members were concerned over Gandhi's "personal attacks" on Modi and Speaker Om Birla and his remarks which hurt the feelings

of the followers of different religions.

"In this context, the prime minister guided the newly-elected MPs on how to conduct themselves. He brings vast experiences and inspires us," Paswan said.

Gandhi had launched a fierce attack on the BJP in Lok Sabha on Monday, accusing it of practising violence and spreading hate, drawing massive protests from the treasury benches, including Modi.

The Congress leader had

cited religious tenets to attack the BJP. However, many of his comments were later expunged by the Chair.

At the alliance meeting, Modi was felicitated by NDA leaders for his "historic" third term, Rijiju added.

Sources said the prime minister asked MPs to study any issue before making comments on it before the media, and said they should stay in touch with their constituencies and thank voters for supporting them.

Modi also asked MPs to visit the Prime Ministers Museum, noting that it documents the life journey of all prime ministers, something which was not done by earlier governments.

The contribution of prime ministers who came from outside the Congress's most prominent family used to be neglected, he said, adding that he, as prime minister, ensured that all of them are recognised as each one made contribution to the country in one way or another. (PTI)

'Selective expunction': Rahul writes to LS Speaker, seeks restoration of expunged remarks

NEW DELHI, July 2: Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday wrote to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla over portions of his speech in the House having been expunged, saying that removing his considered remarks from records goes against the very tenets of parliamentary democracy and that they should be restored.

In his letter to Birla, Gandhi also cited BJP MP Anurag Thakur's speech, saying that it was full of allegations but surprisingly only one word was expunged from it. He said "this selective expunction defies logic".

In his first speech as the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Gandhi had launched a no-holds-barred attack on the BJP, accusing the leaders of the ruling party of dividing people on communal lines. Certain remarks he made during the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address in the Lok Sabha on Monday were later expunged.

In his letter to Birla, Gandhi said while the Chair derives



powers to expunge certain remarks from the proceedings of the House but the stipulation is only those kinds of words, the nature of which have been specified in Rule 380 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

"I am, however, shocked to note the manner in which considerable portions of my speech have been simply taken off from the proceedings under the garb of expunction," the former Congress chief said.

"I am constrained to state that the portions expunged do not come under the ambit of Rule 380. What I sought to

convey in the House is the ground reality and the factual position. Every member of the House who personifies the collective voice of people whom he or she represents has the freedom of speech as enshrined in Article 105(1) of the Constitution of India," Gandhi said. He asserted that it is every member's right to raise people's concerns on the floor of the House.

"It is that right and in exercise of my obligations to the people of the country, that I was exercising yesterday," he said.

Taking off from records my

considered remarks goes against the very tenets of parliamentary democracy, Gandhi said in his letter to Birla.

"In this context, I also wish to draw attention to the speech of Shri Anurag Thakur, whose speech was full of allegations, however, surprisingly only one word has been expunged," Gandhi said.

"With due respect to your good self, this selective expunction defies logic. I request that the remarks expunged from the proceedings be restored," he said.

Speaking with reporters outside Parliament complex, Gandhi said truth can be expunged in the world of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, but not in reality.

"Whatever I had to say, I have said and that is the truth. They can expunge as much as they want, but the truth will prevail," Gandhi said.

Asked about the expunction issue, Congress general secretary K C Venugopal said the matter was with the Speaker and the party was hopeful that he would act. (PTI)

Punjab bypoll: Days after SAD withdrew support to Jalandhar West candidate, Surjit Kaur joins AAP



CHANDIGARH, July 2: Days after the Shiromani Akali Dal withdrew support and disowned its candidate Surjit Kaur who was fielded for Jalandhar West bypoll, she joined the ruling AAP in the presence of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Tuesday.

Sukhbir Singh Badal-led SAD had last week said the party will support the BSP nominee for the July 10 bypoll to the Jalandhar West assembly seat instead of the officially fielded candidate who was picked by a panel, two of whose members have now rebelled against the party chief.

The SAD, last week, was unable to change its authorised candidate Kaur as the last day for withdrawal of nominations had already passed.

Kaur along with some of her family members joined the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Jalandhar.

She said she will now support AAP candidate Mohinderpal Bhagat for the bypolls.

Speaking after she joined the AAP, Mann hit out at the SAD, saying first they gave the ticket to Surjit Kaur, but later they humiliated her.

They (SAD) said they will support the candidate of some other party (BSP), said Mann.

The chief minister said Kaur and her family are known to have dedicated their lives in the service of people.

"As Punjab chief minister and as the

party's state unit president, I welcome her," said Mann.

Kaur later told reporters that it was on Tuesday morning that she decided to join the AAP.

"We did not speak to anyone. We decided in the morning about our move," she said, when asked if she had spoken to any of the rebel SAD leaders.

About her step to join the AAP, Kaur said she and her family thought it was the best thing to do in the interests of people of the area after the SAD withdrew support to her.

AAP leader Pawan Kumar Tinu said the ruling party's candidate is going to win Jalandhar West seat by a big margin. Kaur's joining is going to strengthen the AAP, he said.

The SAD now does not have its own authorised candidate for the July 10 bypoll, senior party leader Daljit Singh Cheema had told reporters on Thursday.

On Wednesday, the SAD's Jalandhar district unit chief had announced that the party has withdrawn support to Kaur, who is a two-time municipal councillor.

Kaur was selected for the seat by a SAD panel comprising Bibi Jagir Kaur, Gurpartap Singh Wadala, MLA Sukhwinder Sukhi and Mohinder Singh Kaypee.

However, Jagir Kaur and Wadala are now among the rebel party leaders who revolted against Badal, demanding that he should step down as the party chief.

The last date of withdrawal of the nomination for the bypoll was July 26.

Surjit Kaur had already been allotted the SAD symbol and she was among the 15 candidates who were left in the fray for the bypoll, which was necessitated following the resignation of Sheetal Angural as the AAP legislator.

Notably, a section of SAD's senior party leaders have revolted against party chief Badal, demanding that he should step down from his post following its debacle in Punjab in the recently held Lok Sabha elections. (PTI)

Rahul Gandhi should apologise for insulting Hindus, uttering lies in LS speech: Haryana CM

CHANDIGARH, July 2: Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Tuesday accused Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of insulting Hindus during his speech in the Lok Sabha and demanded he and the Congress apologise to the people of the country. Saini also said several Congress leaders are trying to justify Gandhi's speech when they should help him enhance his knowledge and advice him not to lower parliamentary dignity.

"He has insulted Hindus. He has spoken lies... He always defames Hindus... I strongly condemn it," Saini said during a press conference, slamming Gandhi.

In his first speech as the Leader of Op-

position in the Lok Sabha on Monday, Gandhi had launched a no-holds-barred attack on the BJP, accusing the leaders of the ruling party of dividing people on communal lines. Saini said Gandhi called Hindus violent and hatemongers in the Parliament and this allegation is "unfortunate".

Attacking the senior Congress leader, he said, "It is his frustration which is coming out from inside. The kind of words he has used, he and the Congress should apologise to the people of the country."

"He did not speak a word on the President's address. He only spoke lies and nothing else," claimed Saini.

"In his speech, he insulted Hindus, call-

ing them violent, hateful and liars," the chief minister pointed out, adding that the Congress is trying to justify what he has said. Congress leaders should instead help Gandhi enhance his knowledge and make him understand that he should not lower parliamentary dignity, he added.

He said Congress has repeatedly launched Gandhi, but he has been rejected as a leader by the public.

The way he repeatedly showed Lord Shiva's picture in the Parliament is strongly objectionable, Saini said.

Slamming Gandhi and the Congress on the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, Saini asked, "What the Congress did in 1984? Have

they forgotten the hate which they spread?"

He also raised the issue of violence against Kashmiri Pandits in the Kashmir valley during Congress regime, adding, "Was the Congress blindfolded at that time as well as in 1984?"

He also asked why Gandhi maintained silence on several incidents in West Bengal and accused him of spreading lies by saying that no compensation is given to Agniveers who are martyred.

Saini further claimed that the Congress tried to mislead the people on various matters, such as the farmers' issues, during the recent Lok Sabha elections. (PTI)

No tangible effort by BJP-led Centre to retrieve Katchatheevu: Stalin

CHENNAI, July 2: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Tuesday said that despite the BJP leading a third term at the Centre, "no tangible" effort has been taken to retrieve Katchatheevu, an islet ceded by India to Sri Lanka in 1974.

In a letter to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Stalin flagged the "unprecedented" increase in instances of apprehension of Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu by the Sri Lankan navy in the recent weeks and called for concrete steps to find a lasting solution to uphold the traditional rights of the fishermen from the state.

He pointed out that the Sri Lankan Navy had apprehended 25 fishermen along with two motorised country crafts and two unregistered fishing boats on July 1.

"In the letter dated 27.06.2024, you have mentioned that the genesis of this issue goes back to 1974 following an understanding between the then Union Government and the State Government," he said in an apparent reference to the ceding of Katchatheevu. (PTI)

CM's wife 'illegally' allotted alternative land in Mysuru, alleges BJP; Siddaramaiah denies charge

BENGALURU, July 2: The opposition BJP in Karnataka on Tuesday alleged that Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) has "illegally" allotted an alternative land in a posh area to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's wife Parvathi against the 'acquisition' of close to four acres owned by her.

The chief minister rejected the charge saying that his wife was entitled for an alternative land under the "50:50 ratio" scheme, introduced by the previous BJP government, after the MUDA formed a layout on her land without even acquiring it. Under the scheme, a land loser gets a quarter acre of developed land against the acquisition of one acre of undeveloped land. Siddaramaiah, who hails from Mysuru, also claimed that an alternative land was given to his wife during the previous BJP government and not during his tenure as the Chief Minister.

In a post on 'X', Leader of Opposition in the Karnataka Assembly R Ashoka

sought to know how Siddaramaiah will justify the "illegal transfer of land."

He also alleged that when the matter came to light, the concerned officers were transferred, instead of suspending them. Ashoka said that the Central Bureau of Investigation or a retired high court judge should have probed the matter but the government assigned two IAS officers to investigate it "only to cover up the scam."

"Who gave permission for allotment of land under 50:50 ratio? Who recommended allotment of land in posh areas? Who gave permission for the exchange of land in the posh area without cabinet approval?" the BJP leader sought to know. Siddaramaiah said his brother-in-law Mallikarjuna had purchased three acres and 36 guntas of land in 1996 and gifted it to his sister, who is Siddaramaiah's wife. (one acre is 40 guntas).

It was the BJP government which introduced the 50:50 ratio scheme, he said.

"MUDA did not acquire three acres and

36 guntas of land but created plots and sold them out. It is not that my wife's property was acquired but plots were made and sold out. I don't know whether MUDA did it knowingly or unknowingly," the Chief Minister explained.

He added that after plots were made on his wife's land and sold out by MUDA, she was deprived of her property.

"Should we lose our property? Shouldn't MUDA give us our land legally? When we asked MUDA about it, they said they will give us land as per 50:50 ratio. We agreed to it. Then MUDA gave us equal measurement of sites in different places. What is wrong with that?" Siddaramaiah asked.

Meanwhile, following a report in a vernacular daily about an alleged large-scale scam pertaining to allotment of alternative sites (plots) by MUDA, the Karnataka government ordered an inquiry by a panel headed by Commissioner of Urban Authorities Venkatchalapathy R. (PTI)

Climate change cannot be ignored, says CJI, bats for incorporating green lifestyle



NEW DELHI, July 2: Flagging recent heatwaves followed by heavy rainfall in Delhi, Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud on Tuesday said climate change cannot be ignored and stressed the need to adopt a "green lifestyle" to reduce carbon emissions.

The CJI was speaking at a foundation stone-laying ceremony at Karkardooma, Shastri Park and Rohini here for trial court buildings in the capital.

"This year, Delhi experienced the hottest-recorded weather. We have experienced two heatwaves followed by record-breaking rain in a single day. Our infrastructure must reflect the reality we live in -- climate change can no longer be ignored.

"One crucial step is to incorporate a green lifestyle into our daily lives, which includes reducing carbon emissions. I was delighted to know that the

new buildings will focus on heat-island mitigation and reduce environmental footprint," he said.

The CJI referred to an 18th-century case, in which one Rama Kamati's servant was subjected to custodial torture to confess his employer's criminality. Even Kamati was convicted in the case and he later died in prison.

"Our legal and constitutional system is fundamentally premised on the virtues of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. Courts are the guardian of these foundational virtues. We uphold them by enforcing rights-based substantive laws and fairness-based procedural laws," Justice Chandrachud said, adding that in that case, it later came to light that the evidence against the convict was fabricated.

"The story of Rama Kamati is a reminder that rough, ready and handy jus-

tice is an anathema to the rule of law and procedural guarantees, which we have all come to cherish. The foundation of a court must be sound -- both in its structural and philosophical capacity. It must subserve no might but the Constitution and be in service of no one but the litigants," he said.

The CJI said courts are not merely sights of sovereign power but are also essential public service providers.

Laying down the foundation stone, he said, "Court premises, like all buildings, are not just made of bricks and concrete. They are made up of hope. Courts are made to realise the virtues of justice and the rule of law. Every case that is being filed before us is with that hope for justice. When we invest in the safety, accessibility and comfort of our judges, lawyers and litigants, we build more than just an efficient system -- we make a just and inclusive system."

He said new complexes will enhance the efficiency of the courts and reduce the pendency of cases.

"Courts are a repository of precedents and an accumulation of social histories. Judges apply the present law, drawing upon the past law to shape the future law. Through their rulings, they bridge historical legal principles with contemporary issues, crafting the legal landscape for tomorrow," Justice Chandrachud added.

Besides the CJI, Supreme Court judges Sanjiv Khanna and Hima Kohli, Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena, Acting Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court Manmohan and Delhi minister Atishi were present at the function. (PTI)

No. GDB/RD/BTC/15 th FC/174/2020-21/434		Date 27/06/2024			
As per instruction of the Director, P&RD, BTC, Kokrajhar, Vide order No. DPRD/BTC/15 th FC T -IV/Bak-27/2023/89/1084, Dtd Kokrajhar the 18 th June 2024 after getting Administrative approval of 15 th Finance Commission fund from BTC Vide Administrative Order No. BTC/FC-Cell(15 th FC-Tied)-81/2023/Baksa-05/17, Dtd. Kokrajhar the 7 th Feb 2024 for the year 2023-24 the office of the BDO, Gobardhana Dev. Block, invites bids and take steps for initiating in short notice in inviting tender process only from Govt. registered Contractors/Farm of appropriate class with sound financial background fulfilling the eligibility criteria for execution of different work/scheme as details shown particulars in the office notice board also. Details may be seen at the office notice board/office of the undersigned during office hours.					
SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER					
Sealed tender affixing a non refundable court fee stamp of 8.25 (Rupees Eight & paise twenty five) only eventually to be drawn in APWD, F-2 Form are invited from Govt, registered contractor/Farm of appropriate class with sound financial background fulfilling the eligibility criteria for execution of the different works as details shown in scheme list. Particulars, term & conditions and tender paper may be obtained from the office of the undersigned on any period mention working day on payment of non refundable Rs. 500.00(Rupees Five hundred) only in cash for each act of tender paper and non refundable 0.03% only in cash for each act of tender paper Demand Draft to be drawn in favour of the Principal Secretary, BTC, Kokrajhar payable at Kokrajhar.					
Period of Collection of Tender documents	To be obtain from the office of the BDO Gobardhana Dev. Block on any working days/hours upto 5.00 PM from 10/07/2024 to 20/07/2024				
Last date and time for Submission of tender	Sealed tenders in prescribed format for every individual work will be received by the office up to 2.00 Noon on 20/07/2024				
Date & time of opening of tender	The Sealed tenders will be opened at 2.30PM on 20/07/2024				
Name of Works	Sl. No.	Name of Schemes	Approx Value of work(Rs.)	Earnest Money(1% for ST/SC and 2% for Gen /Farm and	Time of Completion
	1	Const. Of Community toilet with running water provision at Matanga Bathou Thansali under 15 th Finance Commission fund (Tied Grant) for the year 2022-23 during 2023-24	Rs.15,00,000.00	(1%)Rs.150000/- (2%)Rs.30000/-	180 days
Approx(Estimated) Value of the work	Shown in the scheme list				
Earnest Money	The contractors /Farms have to enclosed 2% Earnest money (1% for ST /SC) with the tender paper as details shown in the scheme list				
Time of completion	Shown in the scheme list				
Eligibility criteria (Minimum) years.	The contractors should have the experience of having successfully completed similar works during the last 5 years.				
The tender /tenders must be submitted with the requisite Earnest Money Deposit(EMD) in the form of deposit at call/Demand Draft to be drawn in favour of the BDO, Gobardhana Dev. Block payable at Barpeta Road .Tender not accompanied by the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) is liable to be rejected .					
Sealed tender in the prescribed tender form shall be addressed to the Block Development Officer Cum Chairman , Tender Committee, Gobardhana Dev. Block, Barpeta Road, Dist.-Baksa, P.S.- Barpeta Road, Pin-781315, Assam. Tenders received after above date & time will not be accepted. The undersigned reserve the right to issue the tender papers to the tenderers and to accept or reject /cancel any or all the tenders if the situation compel to do so without assigning any reason thereof and DOES NOT BIND HIMSELF TO ACCEPT THE LOWEST QUOTED RATE OF TENDER.					
UNSEALED TENDER WILL SUMMARILY BE REJECTED.					
Sd/- Block Dev.Officer cum Chairman Tender Committee Gobardhana Dev. Block Barpeta Road.					
IPR(BTC)/C/2024-25/93					

GOVT. OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS::
KARBI ANGLONG DISTRICT CIRCLE
DIPHU
NOTICE

No. E-1/Grade-IV/Apptt./Ele./2024/13-22

Dtd. Diphu the 02/07/2024.

This is for general information to all concerned that the Advertisement no. E-1/Grade-IV/Apptt./Ele./2024/01 Dated Diphu the 18/06/2024 for the posts of Grade-IV under Elementary (M.E.) School which appeared in Local Dailies like Hills Time and Samphri Kimi had shown the last date for submission of application form as 28/06/2024. But after taking into consideration that most of the candidates could not submit the applications timely due to bad weather like Heavy rainfall, thunderstorm, flood etc. The undersigned after meticulously considering all the pros and cons do hereby extend the date for submission of applications in response to the advertisement is fixed on 10/07/2024.

In the light of above all aspiring candidates are requested to visit Office of the Inspector of Schools, Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council, Diphu, Lumding Road and submit the application forms till 3.00 PM of 10/07/2024.

Sd/-
Inspector of Schools,
Karbi Anglong District Circle,
Diphu.

GOVT. OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS: :
KARBI ANGLONG DISTRICT CIRCLE
DIPHU
NOTICE

No. E-1/Grade-III/Apptt./Sec./2024/11

Dtd. Diphu the 02/07/2024.

This is for general information to all concerned that the Advertisement no. E-1/Grade-III/Apptt./Sec./2024/02-10 Dated Diphu the 18/06/2024 for the posts of Grade-III and Grade-IV under Secondary School which appeared in Local Dailies like Thekar and Hills Time had shown the last date for submission of application form as 28/06/2024. But after taking into consideration that most of the candidates could not submit the applications timely due to bad weather like Heavy rainfall, thunderstorm, flood etc. The undersigned after meticulously considering all the pros and cons do hereby extend the date for submission of applications in response to the advertisement is fixed on 10/07/2024.

In the light of above all aspiring candidates are requested to visit Office of the Inspector of Schools, Karbi Anglong District Circle, Diphu, Lumding Road and submit the application forms till 3.00 PM of 10/07/2024.

Sd/-
Inspector of Schools,
Karbi Anglong District Circle,
Diphu.

Govt. of Assam
Office of the District Adult Education Officer.
Karbi Anglong, Diphu.

No.:DAE/KA/Advertisement/2024-25/68

Dated, Diphu the 02nd July, 2024**ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE**

In pursuance of the Principal Secretary, Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council, Diphu letter No. KAAC/Edn.-5/ Adult/Pt-II/2019-20/71 Dated the 24th June, 2024, application are invited from the eligible candidates who are citizens of India defined under Article 5-8 of the India and permanent residents of the administrative jurisdiction of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council in the prescribed Standard Form of application published in Part-IX of Assam Gazette along with copies of Education Qualification certificates, Mark Sheets and all other testimonials and 2 (two) copies of recent passport size photographs duly self-attested for filling up the following sanctioned vacant posts of Grade-III under Adult Education Department, Karbi Anglong, Diphu.

Sl. No.	Name of Post	Scale of Pay (Pay Band)	Grade Pay	No. of vacancies	Post	Minimum Educational Qualification
1	Supervisor	Rs. 14000 to Rs. 49000/-	Rs. 6800/- pm	02 (two)		Graduate in any discipline

Terms and Condition

- Age- Candidates should not be less than 18 years and not more than 40 years for General, 43 years for OBC/MOBC and 45 years for ST/SC Candidates, 42 years for Ex-Servicemen and 50 years for person with disabilities as on 01/01/2024.
- The ST/SC/OBC and MOBC candidates should submit Caste Certificate alongwith the application.
- Incomplete application shall be summarily rejected on the spot.
- The last date of receipt of application is 18-07-2024 up to 4.00 pm. If the last date of submission of application is holiday, then the next working day will be considered as the last date.
- Application received either by post or by hand after the last date of submission, the application will not be accepted under any circumstances.
- The candidate of General/OBC/MOBC/ST/SC must submit Voter ID for residential proof.
- Upto date Employment Exchange Registration Certificate should be enclosed alongwith the application.
- The actual determination of posts shall be made final at the time of giving appointment letter etc.

The posts may decrease or increased as the case may be due to reason like promotion, Superannuation, resignation and appointment on compassionate ground.

Sd/-
I/C., District Adult Education Officer,
Karbi Anglong, Diphu.

Memo No.:DAE/KA/Advertisement/2024-25/68- A

Dated, Diphu the 02nd July, 2024

Uttarakhand: Alaknanda's fury gives scare to Badrinath devotees

GOPESHWAR, July 2: The ongoing excavation work along the banks of the Alaknanda River created a flood-like situation late Monday with the water briefly submerging the Brahmakapal and reaching up to the boundary of the Taptkund close to the Badrinath temple causing a scare among the devotees.

The Alaknanda River flows just a few metres below the Himalayan temple.

Located between the Alaknanda River and the temple, the Taptkund is a group of hot sulphur springs rich in medicinal qualities in which devotees take a bath before paying obeisance at the temple. Brahmakapal is on the banks of the Alaknanda River where devotees make offerings in the memory of their ancestors.

From 4 pm on Monday till late evening, the Alaknanda River was in spate in this area. The furious currents of the river terrified the devotees, eyewitnesses said.

The sudden rise in the water level of the Alaknanda washed away the debris deposited along its banks as a result of the

ongoing excavation under the Badrinath masterplan, the priests at the temple said.

"For a long time we have been requesting the local administration about the possible danger to the Badrinath temple and especially Taptkund due to the construction work being carried out under the master plan," president of the teerth-purohit association Praveen Dhyani told PTI on phone. "I have personally requested the district magistrate twice to do something about this danger, but no attention was ever paid to it," Dhyani said.

Dhyani, who has been associated with the organisation for the last 40 years, said it was for the first time that he saw the water level of Alaknanda rise like this. The water level started rising at 4 pm and continued till about 8 pm.

The debris resulting from the excavation is being dumped into the Alaknanda which has narrowed down the flow area of the river, he said.

The four rocks of Brahmakapal considered sacred were also submerged in the

Alaknanda for some time as its water level rose on Monday evening, Dhyani said, adding it happened for the first time.

The water of Alaknanda reaching Brahmakapal and Taptkund, just a few metres below the Badrinath temple signals danger for the temple, he said.

For the last three years, bulldozers have been running all over the area under the Badrinath Adhyaatmik Nagar Master Plan program which is Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream project, he said.

Excavation is going on on the banks of Alaknanda due to which heaps of debris are accumulated on the river banks, according to Dhyani.

Renowned environmentalist Chandi Prasad Bhatt, who had written a letter to the prime minister two years ago regarding the possible dangers of "thoughtless" construction being done under the master plan at Badrinath Dham, said the Alaknanda is a river fed by glaciers and the activities taking place in the high Himalayas have a direct impact on it. (PTI)

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT MUSEUM OFFICER
KARBI ANGLONG: DIPHU

No. DMD.35/SOPD-G/2024-25/22,

Dated the 2nd July, 2024.**SHORT TENDER NOTICE**

In inviting a reference to the KAAC's Administrative Approval No. KAAC/Museum/Part - (1)/2020-21/2022-23/24/ 76-(A). Dated Diphu, the 13/06/2024, sealed Tenders in plain paper, addressing to the undersigned, affixing non-refundable KAAC cash receipt of Rs. 10/- (Rupees Ten) only are hereby invited from Govt. Registered Contractors/ Firms having background of fulfilling the eligibility criteria of execution of the following works under AAP 2024-25 (SOPD-G Schemes). The Tenders will be received by the undersigned upto **1 P.M. (IST) on 10th July, 2024** and will be opened on the same day at **2 P.M. (IST)** in the presence of the Tenderers/Bidders or their authorized representative. If the fixed day falls on any holiday or any unprecedented bandh, the next working day will be the opening day. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Group No.	Name & Location of the Works/ Schemes	Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)	Completion Time of (Days)	Rate of Earnest Money
1	Construction of Entrance Gate at Sub-Divisional Museum, Hamren.	25.00	60	@ 1% for ST/SC/OBC/MOBC category & @ 2% for General Category
2	Construction of 40 meter boundary wall at Sub-Divisional Museum, Hamren.	14.00	60	
3	Supply, fitting and Installation of Vitrified tiles at Departmental Library cum Visitor Centre in District Museum, Diphu.	5.00	45	
4	Earth cutting and levelling at the back side of Departmental stall, KPH, Taralango, Diphu.	5.00	45	
5	Construction of retaining wall at Departmental Exhibition Hall, Taralango, Diphu.	15.00	45	
6	Extension of room along with Shower room and pantry area at Deptt. stall, KPH, Taralango, Diphu with water staging on iron stand.	15.00	45	
7	Supply, fitting and installation of tiles, falls ceilings, interior board works, painting, Block tiles, etc. at Departmental Exhibition Hall, Taralango, Diphu.	10.00	45	
8	Iron fencing and Garden beautification at District Museum, Diphu.	3.00	30	

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- The works are to be implemented and completed within the estimated amount and provided time frame (from the date of issue of formal Work Order).
- Up-to-date copies of GST Clearance document, Professional Tax Clearance Certificate and Works Registration Certificate to be attached with tender papers.
- Copies of 1st page of Bank Pass Book (Preferably SBI A/c.), Caste Certificate, Pan Card, Trading License (In case of General Category) and Contact No. to be provided along with the Tender.
- Earnest Money should be deposited in the form of Bank Draft from any Nationalized Bank, in favour of the District Museum Officer, District Museum, Diphu, Karbi Anglong District and it is to be attached with the Tender, without which no Tender will be accepted.
- No advance payment and construction materials will be provided by the department. Payment will be made in single installment after the completion of the work and on the availability of fund.
- Successful Tenderers/ Bidders will have to execute an agreement in Form No. F-2, when the Formal Work Order is issued.
- Incomplete Tenders will be summarily he rejected.
- Technical supervision of the works will be executed by the Works Department, KAAC, Diphu.
- Rates should be clearly mentioned i.e. Above/Below/ As per schedule Rate.
- The successful contractor(s) shall repair/ re-construct if the works executed is not satisfactory or is of inferior quality. The contractor(s) will be liable for legal action if he/she/they refuse(s) to repair/re-construct the work(s) in case of unsatisfactory and inferior quality work.

Sd/-
District Museum Officer
Karbi Anglong, Diphu.

Memo No. DMD.35/SOPD-G/2024-25/ 22-A,

Dated the 2nd July, 2024.

Richa Chadha, Ali Fazal's production 'Girls Will Be Girls' wins Grand Jury Prize at IFFLA



MUMBAI, July 2: Girls Will Be Girls, the debut production of actor couple Richa Chadha and Ali Fazal, has won the Grand Jury Prize at the Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles (IFFLA).

Directed by Shuchi Talati, the coming-of-age movie has been backed by Chadha and Fazal, both 37, via their

production house Pushing Buttons Studios. It stars Kani Kusruti and Preeti Panigrahi in the lead.

It's the latest feather in the team's cap as Girls Will Be Girls won the World Cinema Dramatic (Audience) at the 2024 Sundance Film Festival. It also received grand prizes at the Transylvania International Film Festival in Romania and the Biarritz Fi...

Winning the Grand Jury Prize at IFFLA is an incredible honour, said Chadha.

"It's gratifying to see the hard work and dedication of our entire team being recognized on such a prestigious platform. 'Girls Will Be Girls' is a story close to our hearts, and we are thrilled that it continues to resonate with audiences globally.

"This is a third win for the film this month which is huge. The response has been overwhelming and the love the film is getting is truly exceptional. We couldn't be more happy with a better debut as produc-

ers," the actor-producer said in a statement.

"This journey has been nothing short of magical. From Sunburn to Cannes and now IFFLA, each accolade reaffirms our belief in the power of authentic storytelling. We are grateful for the support and love we've received, and we're excited to see where 'Girls Will Be Girls' will go next," added Fazal, who is awaiting the season three premiere of his popular series Mirzapur.

Girls Will Be Girls is produced under Pushing Buttons Studios alongside Crawling Angel Films, Blink Digital and France's Dolce Vita Films.

The film follows the story of 16-year-old Mira (Panigrahi), who has a tense relationship with her mother (Kusruti). She is later sent to the boarding school in Himalayas and explores the journey of teenage love through the lens of societal judgement of female desire, the makers said in the release. (PTI)

People recognised 'Kill' and its actors after screening at TIFF: Lakshya

NEW DELHI, July 2: Actor Lakshya, who is making his debut in the upcoming action thriller "Kill", said people started recognising him and other actors in the film after its screening at the Toronto International Film Festival.

Lakshya, 28, also thanked producers Karan Johar and Guneet Monga and director Nikhil Nagesh Bhat for giving "outsiders" a chance in the movie.

The newcomer attended the press screening of the film here on Monday alongside co-stars Raghav Juyal and Tanya Maniktala and recalled the moment when they knew the film had connected with viewers.

"Initially, no one knew us there. People knew Karan Johar, Raghav had fans but not us," the actor said. "But after the screening of the film we were called by its name 'Kill', so what could be the bigger victory than that?" The action thriller is slated to release on July 5 and also stars Ashish Vidyarthi and Harsh Chhaya. It is the latest collaboration of Johar's Dharma Productions and Monga's Sikhya Entertainment.

The film had its initial premiere at TIFF last year where it received positive reviews from the audience and was the first runner-up in the 'People's Choice Award: Midnight Madness' category. The actor recalled how "Dostana 2", which was supposed to be his debut film, got shelved before "Kill" came his way. The actor also said he would surely want to be a part of a sequel to "Kill" if it's ever made.

Lakshya said all three of them have put in a lot of hard work into the film and expressed his gratitude to the makers for the opportunity.

"We all are from the outside of the industry. I would thank Karan Johar, Nikhil sir and Guneet that they give this chance to the three of us, who judged us by our talents and got us in this film," he said. (PTI)



Shatrughan Sinha shares pics from hospital: Away from controversy created by social media



MUMBAI, July 2: Veteran actor and MP Shatrughan Sinha, who is admitted to a hospital here, says he is away from the "controversy and confusion" created by a section of social media influencers and spending time with family and friends as he is nursed back to health.

After developing a strong fever last week, the 77-year-old was taken to a hospital, where he is also undergoing an annual health check-up. While he didn't share his health status, Sinha posted a couple of pictures from his hospital room where he could be seen watching Sunday's T20 World Cup final, in which India emerged victorious, with family and

friends. "Away from the 'controversy & confusion' created by some of our good friends from the social media/YouTubers. The fact is enjoying with best of our family members, brothers & dear friends," the actor-TMC MP wrote in an X post on Monday. Some on social media had speculated about the actor's ill health just days after daughter Sonakshi Sinha's marriage to Zaheer Iqbal. The veteran actor's son, Luv Sinha, previously thanked well-wishers for their concern over his father's health, reiterating he was admitted to the hospital after he developed a "strong fever" and not because he underwent a surgery. (PTI)

SHAH RUKH KHAN TO RECEIVE CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD AT LOCARNO FILM FESTIVAL



MUMBAI, July 2: Superstar Shah Rukh Khan will be feted with the career achievement honour, at the 77th edition of the Locarno Film Festival, the organisers announced on Tuesday.

He is also the first Indian personality to be honoured with the 'Pardo alla Carriera Ascona-Locarno Tourism'. Italian filmmaker Francesco Rosi, American singer-actor Harry Belafonte, and Malaysian director Tsai Ming-liang are the previous recipients.

The 58-year-old actor will receive the award on August 10 at the Piazza Grande, located in Locarno, Switzerland.

His 2002 film "Devdas", directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali, will also be screened during the gala, set to commence on August 7.

Shah Rukh, who completed 32 years in cinema last week, will also appear at the Forum @Spazio Cinema for a conversation open to the public on August 11.

"At the 77th edition of the Locarno Film Festival, Indian superstar and global icon, Shah Rukh Khan will be awarded with the Festival's career achievement award, the prestigious Pardo alla Carriera Ascona-Locarno Tourism.

"The award will pay tribute to his remarkable career in Indian cinema consisting of more than 100 films in a breathtaking multitude of genres," the organisers said in a statement.

Shah Rukh returned to the big screen after a five-year gap in 2023 with "Pathaan". He followed up the blockbuster actioner with back-to-back two releases: another action hit "Jawan", and "Dunki", a social drama.

Giona A Nazzaro, Artistic Director of the Locarno Film Festival, said it is a dream come true for the gala to welcome the "living legend".

"The wealth and breadth of his contribution to Indian cinema is unprecedented. Khan is a king who has never lost touch with the audience that crowned him.

"This brave and daring artist has always been willing to challenge himself while remaining true to what his fans all over the world eagerly expect from his films. A true 'people's hero', sophisticated and down to earth, Shah Rukh Khan is a legend of our times," Nazzaro said in a statement.

According to the festival's website, the Pardo alla Carriera Ascona-Locarno Tourism pays tribute to one or more personalities whose artistic contributions have redefined cinema and the collective imagination. In addition to the awards ceremony on the Piazza Grande, the tribute also comprises a conversation with the audience and a small retrospective.

A Padma Shri recipient, Shah Rukh has appeared in over 100 feature films and the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres and Légion d'honneur conferred by the Government of France. The Locarno Film Festival will conclude on August 17. (PTI)

'Mirzapur' star Ali Fazal on Guddu Pandit's journey: There is another scary transition in season 3

NEW DELHI, July 2: From a rebellious college guy with the dream of winning a bodybuilding competition to becoming a man of unyielding vengeance, Guddu Pandit has undergone a certain deterioration, says "Mirzapur" star Ali Fazal, teasing that the character will witness another "scary" transition in the third season.

In the show's first season, Guddu Pandit started out as a budding bodybuilder with a certain naivety to the character, which quickly vanished when he became entangled with the Tripathi family, led by crime boss Kaleen Bhaiya, played by Pankaj Tripathi.

The show's second chapter charted his journey from a wounded man, mourning the loss of his loved ones, to a completely hardened criminal who finally

manages to take his revenge.

What comes after revenge? The actor said it is actually a very lonely place to be and the highly-anticipated third season will explore it deeply.

"Season three is not one moment. It's an entire season of an arc where this person, in one instance, is saying "Violence is my USP," and in another instance, he is a very lonely man, shouting, 'Maza aa raha hai na?' (Are you having fun?). You'll see another transition of its own kind and it's really scary," the actor told PTI in an interview. Fazal said he hopes people take note of the evolution in the character from season one to two and now the third season.

"I would love to hear from audiences, hopefully it has evolved. Hopefully, there is a graph that you

can look back at and see how that has changed. And that's how human life changes. We get affected. "These are people who are living in a very violent world, fictional but that's the story, and there are consequences in their lives. And that is the deterioration that I'm portraying. I wouldn't say it is systematic but periodic deterioration of this man, this innocence of a college kid," he said.

The sad truth of a violent society is that "young college kids will get deteriorated and education will go out the window", Fazal added.

In the third season of the Prime Video series, which drops on July 5, Guddu Pandit will seek to defend the throne of Mirzapur that he took from Kaleen Bhaiya, who is also preparing a comeback.

One of the reasons for the over-

whelming popularity of "Mirzapur" is its graphic violence and gore, which is thoroughly enjoyed by viewers who love the show.

The portrayal of violence is raw and unflinching, making it an important element of the series and the actor said the viewers enjoy the violence of the show because it is unlike anything they've seen before.

"It's pure schematics, it's great rhythm. It's landing on an off where it hits you and pumps up your adrenaline as a viewer. And you end up liking it because you've not seen such a visual before because of the conditioning that we've had.

"It's the same thing with the Red Wedding from 'Game of Thrones'. In that famous scene, the entire lead cast is totally obliterated at the end of that episode. And you're

like, 'wow, what the hell? We've never seen that.' Fazal believes that every show has to explain its relevance, something "Mirzapur" does well and quite unabashedly.

"I suppose that is the fight for relevance, where you're like 'Oh, I have something that you don't, I have a screenplay that you don't. I have a story that I'm going to tell a certain way that you haven't seen and that sticks," he added.

He said people take certain scenes out of the series for their fun but they often miss the context.

"If you go deep, you understand that this character is a very impulsive human being. A fictional human being who is impulsive and he's just been given the gun," he added. What is the first thing Fazal does when he gets the script of a new season? The actor said he

checks whether his character has survived till the end or not.

"Some very famous actors have said that already. But actually we have to, with Mirzapur characters, you don't know what's going to happen — mid season, first episode, last episode — you could be taken out anytime.

"Also, the transition is very important. I feel my character graph has to make total sense. And that for me is very important." The show enjoys a huge fan base in India and that puts extra pressure on the team to do well each season, Fazal said.

"I admire the persistence that they've all just kept us alive with lots of energy, all these years. That really speaks volumes that there's just the quality of the show that brings people back. (PTI)

Osaka wins at Wimbledon for the first time in 6 years, and Coco Gauff moves on, too



WIMBLEDON, July 2: Naomi Osaka had not won a match at Wimbledon in six years. Hadn't even played there in five. Grass courts never were her favorite surface.

Twelve months ago at this time, Osaka was off the tour while becoming a mother — her daughter, Shai, turns 1 on Tuesday — and recalls flipping on the TV in the hospital and seeing a certain

Grand Slam event on the screen. "I'm just really excited to be here," Osaka said Monday after pulling out a 6-1, 1-6, 6-4 victory over Diane Parry in the first round at the All England Club by taking the last two games from 4-all in the third set. "It's funny, because Wimbledon was the first tournament I watched after pregnancy."

On a day when there was

plenty of focus away from the courts and instead on the health and status of various players who have been ranked No. 1 and won multiple major championships — tournament favorite Aryna Sabalenka and Victoria Azarenka, each a two-time Australian Open winner dealing with a bum shoulder, withdrew hours before they were due on court; Andy Murray, twice a titlist at Wimbledon, was

trying to decide whether to compete less than 10 days after surgery to remove a cyst from his spinal cord — another person fitting that description, Osaka, was making a happy return. She's won the U.S. Open and Australian Open twice apiece on hard courts, but never has been past the third round on either Wimbledon's grass or the French Open's clay. Osaka had not entered Wimble-

don since a first-round loss in 2019, and while she's topped the WTA in the past, she is now No. 113 in the rankings after being off the tour for 15 months until returning in January.

Before facing the 53rd-ranked Parry, Osaka said, she was sifting through pictures on her phone. "They have that feature, 'This time last year.' I was looking at that. I was looking at photos of myself in the hospital. It's really cool to be here now," Osaka said. "My mindset last year was just trying to survive. Honestly, I didn't really know what was going on after I gave birth; just trying to piece myself back together."

Other big names who won on Day 1 at Wimbledon included reigning U.S. Open champion Coco Gauff, 2021 U.S. Open winner Emma Raducanu and three-time major champion Carlos Alcaraz, all on Centre Court. Alcaraz began his title defense feeling a bit jittery, he said afterward, but came through with a 7-6 (3), 7-5, 6-2 victory over Estonian qualifier Mark Lajal.

"I still get nerves when I am playing here," said Alcaraz, who won the French Open last month to become, at 21, the youngest man with a major trophy on three surfaces. "I practiced 45 minutes on Thursday, and it's the first time that I was nervous in a practice — just because I'm playing here."

Lajal (pronounced la-YAHL), who's a week younger, was making his Grand Slam debut and felt it to his core, too. (AP)

Mbappé and France into Euro 2024 quarterfinals after Kolo Muani's late goal beats Belgium 1-0

DUESSELDORF (GERMANY), July 2: Another frustrating match for Kylian Mbappé. Another underwhelming performance by France at the European Championship.

Didier Deschamps isn't concerned — his team is into the quarterfinals. "It's beautiful," the France coach said after Les Bleus relied on the ninth own-goal scored at Euro 2024 to squeeze past Belgium 1-0 in the round of 16 on Monday.

A heavyweight match between neighbors and teams ranked No. 2 (France) and No. 3 (Belgium) failed to live up to its billing, and the nature of the only goal proved to be fitting.

Randal Kolo Muani, on as a second-half substitute, turned in the area and sent in a shot in the 85th minute that deflected off Belgium defender Jan Vertonghen and looped over stranded goalkeeper Koen Casteels.

"I was lucky enough to get my shot on target," he said of his decisive intervention. "It was blocked but it went in. We're very, very happy and very, very proud."

UEFA thought differently about the destination of Kolo Muani's shot and put it down as an own-goal, the latest in a tournament full of them.

It's the second own-goal earned by France while there has also been a penalty by Mbappé. It means a France player has yet to score from open play.

"Even if today that goal was enough to get us to the quarterfinals, we have the capability to score more," Deschamps said.

France will play Portugal or Slovenia in the last eight on Friday. Mbappé, again wearing a mask to protect his broken nose sustained against Austria in France's opening match, had five of France's 20 shots but none were on target. He played mostly on the left wing and was well-marshalled by a Belgian defensive set-up that included Kevin De Bruyne — the team's most creative player — de-

played as a deep-lying midfielder.

De Bruyne had more clearing headers than incisive passes before being pushed further forward for the final half-hour of the game. Back in his favored position, he created Belgium's best chance when he played through Yannick Carrasco, who took too long over a shot that was blocked by France left back Theo Hernandez.

The match-winner, instead, was Kolo Muani, whose last big moment at a major tournament came when he bore down on goal in the last seconds of extra time in the 2022 World Cup final against Argentina. His shot was saved by Emi Martinez, when a goal would surely have won the title for France.

France's overall display will do little to stop the growing dissent among many of its fans who feel more can come from a talented bunch of players headlined by Mbappé, playing on the day he officially became a Real Madrid player.

Deschamps, however, was happy with his pragmatic tactics, saying: "We were intelligent, playing the waiting game and not falling into their trap."

Mbappé will be playing in his first ever quarterfinal at the European Championship, with France having lost on a penalty shootout to Switzerland in the last 16 at the last tournament in 2021.

As for the Belgians, they head home after a fairly miserable Euro 2024, during which the players were jeered loudly by their own fans following a 0-0 draw with Ukraine at the end of the group stage.

Against France, they were intent on not leaving the game too open for the quick French attackers and the deployment of De Bruyne in a deeper role helped in that regard, even if it limited the team's attacking options.

The tactic would have been a masterstroke had Belgium won. Unfortunately for coach Domenico Tedesco, it didn't. (AP)

Praggnanandhaa to take on Bogdan-Daniel; Gukesh up against Vachier-Lagrave

BUCHAREST (ROMANIA), July 2: Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa will look to sharpen his game after squandering winning opportunities when he takes on last-placed Deac Bogdan-Daniel of Romania in the sixth round of the Superbet Classic Chess tournament.

While Praggnanandhaa has not been at his best in better positions, World Championship challenger D Gukesh has survived pretty well despite living dangerously in a couple of games in the

tournament, which is a part of the Grand chess tour.

With five rounds gone and just four more to come, the two Indians with three points apiece, are within striking distance of the tournament leader Fabiano Caruana of United States who is on 3.5 points. Alireza Firouzja and Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France, Russian Ian Nepomniachtchi and American Wesley So share the fourth spot on 2.5 points each, a half point ahead of Dutchman

Anish Giri and Uzbek Nodirbek Abdusattorov. Bogdan-Daniel is at the bottom of the table with 1.5 points.

Gukesh will have black pieces against Maxime Vachier-Lagrave and it should not be a tall order for the Indian who has been trying various set ups against the King pawn opening.

Vachier-Lagrave, on the other hand, will be hoping for a complicated struggle but the fact that he is not very adventurous when it comes to opening choices

makes his task a little more difficult.

Praggnanandhaa will not only be favourite but will also be under pressure. In the previous round, the Indian missed out on a straightforward winning manoeuvre against Wesley So while earlier on, Gukesh survived what was a technically difficult but theoretically lost endgame against him.

With the white pieces to back him the ball will be in Praggnanandhaa's court to deliver the goods. (PTI)

Epic penalties drama for Ronaldo ends with Portugal beating Slovenia in a Euro 2024 shootout

FRANKFURT (GERMANY), July 2: No one does high drama in international soccer to such an operatic extent as Cristiano Ronaldo.

Portugal is heading to a blockbuster quarterfinal with France at the European Championship after its star captain generated compelling viewing on center stage of the victory over Slovenia on Monday. Winning a penalty shootout 3-0 after a 0-0 game against the 57th-ranked team in world soccer might not sound much.

But there were tears, lots of them, from Ronaldo; an apology in prayer-form to his fans, who responded with adulation; extravagant arm gestures of anger, frustration and exasperation; chances wasted and denied to make more tournament history; a

renewed duel with an old rival goalkeeper; and ultimately redemption and victory.

Ronaldo's mother was in the stadium and TV pictures showed her crying, too, after he missed his penalty.

"Sometimes it's hard and difficult to score penalties," Ronaldo told Portuguese broadcaster RTP after the match, getting emotional again. "I've scored more than 200 penalties in my career. Sometimes it's a mess."

Still, the last act of Monday's show gave Portugal what it needed. "We showed the enthusiasm that we still have to play, to have fun, to give joy to the fans and that's it, this is our life," he said after it was all over, close to midnight in Frankfurt. (AP)

Andy Murray playing only doubles at his last Wimbledon after back surgery

LONDON, July 2: Two-time Wimbledon champion Andy Murray will play only doubles at his last appearance at the All England Club following his withdrawal from singles on Tuesday, just over a week after back surgery.

The 37-year-old Murray pulled out of the singles competition hours before he was supposed to play Tomas Machac on Centre Court.

"Unfortunately, despite working incredibly hard on his recovery since his operation just over a week ago, Andy has taken the very difficult decision not to play the singles this year," his management team said in a statement.



"As you can imagine, he is extremely disappointed but has confirmed that he will be playing in the doubles with Jamie and looks forward to competing at Wimbledon for the last time."

Murray had surgery on June 22 to remove a cyst from his spinal cord.

Murray has said he wants to retire after the Paris Olympics, which start later this month.

He has dealt with injuries in recent years, including a bad hip that required two procedures.

Murray stopped playing during a second-round match at the grass-court tournament at Queen's Club in London last month because he was having

trouble walking. He later explained that the cyst was compressing a nerve in his back and leaving his right leg numb.

Murray owns three major championships: The U.S. Open in 2012 and Wimbledon in 2013 and 2016. His 2013 title made him the first British man to win the Wimbledon singles in 77 years.

He reached No. 1 in the ATP rankings and is the only player with two consecutive tennis gold medals in Olympic singles. He won at London in 2012 — when the Summer Games matches were at the All England Club — and at Rio de Janeiro in 2016.

Murray underwent hip operations in 2018 and 2019. While he thought he would need to retire after the second surgery, in which he received a metal hip implant, Murray eventually returned to action.

He has since been hampered by various issues, including tearing ligaments in his left ankle at the Miami Open in March.

Murray lost in the first round of the French Open in May.

He had been practicing in recent days at the All England Club and undergoing medical tests to see whether he would be able to compete at what was expected to be his farewell to Wimbledon. (AP)

De Bruyne has little time for talk after another early exit by Belgium golden generation

DUESSELDORF (GERMANY), July 2: Kevin De Bruyne stood, hands on hips, and tried to take it all in.

Belgium has flunked another major international tournament after a losing to France 1-0 in the round of 16 at the European Championship on Monday.

It was an all-too familiar feeling for one of the remaining members of his country's so-called golden generation. Not that De Bruyne appreciates the tag.

"What is the golden generation?" he asked when it was pointed out to him that a collection of Belgium's greatest players including Eden Hazard, Vincent Kompany, Thibaut Courtois and Romelu Lukaku has never managed to reach the final of a major tournament, let alone win a trophy.

"You say that France and England and Spain and Germany is not a golden generation? OK."

If De Bruyne was touchy, it

was understandable at the end of a tournament in which Belgium slumped to a shock loss to 45th-ranked Slovakia and was booed by its own fans after drawing with Ukraine 0-0. Those results sent Belgium into the knockout match with back-to-back World Cup finalist France.

It feels like time is running out for De Bruyne, who celebrated his 33rd birthday on Friday. He couldn't help his team to a title when it featured greats such as Hazard, Kompany and Courtois. With those players no longer around, Belgium exited Euro 2024 with a whimper. All-time leading scorer Lukaku failed to get a goal in four matches.

"I tried to do everything I could," De Bruyne said. "This is not what we wanted, but although we were not one of the favorites, we let ourselves down in the match against Slovakia."

De Bruyne said he hadn't considered his international future,



but he will turn 35 during the next World Cup in 2026 in Canada, Mexico and the United States. He missed much of last season through injury.

Belgium's best achievement with the golden generation was to reach the 2018 World Cup semifinals — beaten by eventual champion France — and a climb to the top of the FIFA rankings.

It was eliminated from the group stage at the last World Cup, after which Hazard retired.

Under coach Domenico Tedesco, who replaced Roberto Martinez at the end of the Qatar World Cup, Belgium qualified for the Euros top of its group, while Lukaku was the leading scorer.

But it hasn't managed to reproduce that form in Germany.

"An hour after the final whistle and conceding a late own goal, it's hard to go into an analysis," Tedesco said. But he may face questions over his tactics against a France side that has hardly convinced at these Euros.

The No. 3-ranked Belgians showed limited ambition against a team ranked one place above them. De Bruyne — one of the best attacking players in the world — was deployed in a more defensive role and France dominated the chances.

That pressure finally told when substitute Randal Kolo Muani's shot deflected off Jan Vertonghen in the 85th minute at Dueseldorf Arena for the winning goal.

"The game plan that we had, we stuck to it pretty well," De Bruyne said.

"They had obviously the possession. They had more shots on goal. It's a shame that that's the way the gold comes, but we have to take it." (AP)

KASA beat Tripura 5-2



HT Bureau
DIPHU, July 2: Karbi Anglong Sports Association (KASA) Girls Football Team is camping at Tezpur, representing Assam in the Assam Rifles Sentinels of North East Women Football Championship. The KASA team in their first match defeated Tripura with a score of 5-2 at Tezpur.

For Assam the first goal was scored by Sonia with an assist by Megha. The second goal was also scored by Sonia. The third goal was scored by Semirika through an assist by Sonia, while the fourth goal was scored by Serbirika with an assist by Arti Munda and the fifth goal was scored by Sonali Basumatary through an assist by Sonia. The next match for Assam is on July 8.

High time govt gives equal importance to sports than 'commercialisation mantra': Bombay HC

MUMBAI, July 2: Sports play a significant role in the development of people and nation and it is high time the government gives it equal importance than the "commercialisation and concretisation mantra", the Bombay High Court has said.

A progressive state can never be oblivious of such needs of the society, a division bench of Justices G S Kulkarni and Jitendra Jain on Monday.

It quashed the Maharashtra government's 2021 decision to relinquish 20 acre land in Navi Mumbai for a "Government Sports Complex" and shifting it to a remote place at Mangaon in Raigad district, 115 km from the existing site.

In 2003, the land was earmarked for the sports complex. In 2016, the planning authority allotted a portion of it to a private developer for residential and commercial purposes. The HC said the authorities are required to be alive to not only the present but the future rights of citizens for open places, playgrounds and sports complexes.

"We may observe that considering the present plight of metro cities as Mumbai, Navi Mumbai or the adjoining areas have developed further concretization and commercial exploitation on lands earmarked for such public facilities certainly needs to be curtailed," it said. The bench said the Government Sports Complex was of paramount importance to children and youth, who form a large mass of population in urban areas, and it was wholly against the public interest to deprive them of best sporting facilities.

"Sports play a significant role in the development of citizens and the nation and it is high time the government also becomes conscious of this fact. It is high time that these issues are also considered to be of equal importance than the commercialisation and concretisation mantra," the HC said.

The order was passed in a public interest litigation filed by the Indian Institute of Architects, Navi Mumbai Centre, challenging the state govern-



ment's decision to shift the sports complex from Ghansoli in Navi Mumbai to Mangaon.

The plea also challenged the decision taken by the City and Industrial Development Corporation Ltd (CIDCO) allotting part of the land

to a private developer for residential and commercial development.

The court quashed the government's decision to shift the proposed sports complex and directed the CIDCO to hand over the land to the government forthwith.

The bench, however, stayed its order for four weeks after the CIDCO sought time to file an appeal against it in the Supreme Court. The HC said the entire approach of the government and other authorities has been nebulous to the importance which sports have achieved in modern times.

"A progressive state can never be oblivious of such needs of the society and more particularly, from the international perception. It ought to be the solemn obligation of a welfare state to encourage youth and children towards sports. This also contributes in creating a robust and healthy society," it said.

The Maharashtra government's decision to relinquish the land in Ghansoli and shift the proposed sports complex to a remote area in Mangaon was against the "public interest", it added.

It was a decision to promote commercial utilisation of the said land by making it available for allotment to developers whose appetite for development of lands and

converting cities into "urban jungles" would remain unparalleled, the court said.

"It is for the government and the planners to ponder to the extent such concretisation can be stretched, more particularly, in the absence of supporting infrastructure and by sacrificing public amenities of utmost necessity being made available for the future generation, like gardens, playgrounds, recreation parks and sports complexes," it said.

The court also wondered whether the existing concretisation is not enough and to what extent public bodies would continue to exploit government lands for the purpose of revenue.

There would be gross failure on part of the government and other public bodies if such vital issues are overlooked and/or intentionally sought to be buried in creating urban jungles, it said.

If these issues are not taken seriously then it would result in grave injustice and taking away of the

fundamental rights of citizens not only in the present but also for the future, the court said.

"If we do not have a foresight, concern and care for the future rights of the citizens, and from all possible perspectives, we are abdicating the constitutional principles which recognise the overall development of an individual," it said.

The bench said it was "unthinkable" that the land which was reserved for the facility in 2003 can remain unutilised for 18 years.

"We are of the clear opinion that the decision of the state government, purportedly, relinquishing the CIDCO's land at Ghansoli, to be not utilised for the Government Sports Complex, is brazenly illegal and arbitrary, looked at from any angle," HC said.

The court wondered if the authorities, who are in control of planning and development of cities and towns, are at all conscious that the rights of the future generation also need to be protected and accounted for. (PTI)

Dravid reveals call from Rohit after ODI World Cup heartbreak urged him to continue



BRIDGETOWN (BARBADOS), July 2: Had he not received a phone call from India skipper Rohit Sharma, requesting him to continue after the ODI World Cup final defeat, Rahul Dravid wouldn't have been a part of history, outgoing head coach revealed in his farewell speech post T20 trophy win.

Dravid's tenure had ended with the ODI World Cup after India lost to Australia in the final despite a 10-match winning run, but the coaching staff got an extension till the end of the T20 World Cup.

While Dravid has not reapplied for the role after India's second T20 World Cup win, he mentioned Rohit's role in urging him to continue as the coach during his speech in the

Kensington Oval dressing room after the team's win on Saturday. "Ro, thank you very much for making that call to me November and asking to continue," Dravid said in a video shared by BCCI on Tuesday.

"I think it's been such a privilege and a pleasure to work with each and everyone of you, but Ro, also thanks for the time... there is a lot of time we have to chat, we have to discuss, we have to agree, we have to disagree at times, but thank you so very much," Dravid said as Rohit laughed shyly. Dravid said he was short of words but praised the team for putting up a collective show and celebrate the achievement of winning the World Cup.

"I'm really short of words but all I just want to say is thank you to everyone for making me a part of what is an incredible memory," he said.

"All of you will remember these moments. We always say, it is not about the runs, it is not about the wickets, you never remember your career but you remember moments like this, so let's really enjoy," Dravid said.

The former India skipper praised the squad for playing as a team and crossing the line and

showing "resilience" despite falling short of the goal a few times in the past.

"I could not be more proud of you guys, to come back the way you did, the way you fought, the way we worked as a team... the resilience. There has been some disappointment over the years where we have come close, we have never been able to cross the line," he said.

"But what this bunch of boys has done, what all of you have done, what everyone in the support staff has done, the hard work that we put in, the sacrifices that we made... the whole country is really really proud of each and everyone of you and what you have achieved, and all of you should be," Dravid added. With BCCI secretary Jay Shah in attendance, Dravid also spoke about the sacrifices that people close to each and every player make in order to see allow them hog the spotlight.

"So many sacrifices that each and everyone of you make, to see your families here today enjoying it, so many of your families back home, just think about all the sacrifices, each and everyone of them has made since the time you were kids, for you to be here in the dress-

ing room," Dravid said.

"Today, your parents, your wives, your children, your brother, your coaches, so many people have made so many sacrifices and worked so hard with you for you to enjoy this memory in this moment... really, really proud to have being a part of this memory with you guys," he continued. Usually articulate, Dravid admitted he was falling short of words but praised the team for their respect towards the outgoing coaching staff.

"I'm not usually short of words but on a day like today, for me to be part of this, I could not be more grateful for the respect, for the kindness, for the effort that each and everyone of you are shown to me, to my coaching staff to my support staff," he said.

Dravid also praised the BCCI officials and others for their work behind the scenes.

"Behind a great team, there is also a successful organisation and we have to acknowledge the work of BCCI and people behind the scenes for the work they have done. Each one of us comes through a system that gives us the opportunity to go and play, thank you very much," he added. (PTI)

Laxman-coached India team leave for Zimbabwe, Gill to link up from US

MUMBAI, July 2: A young-Indian cricket team under National Cricket Academy head VVS Laxman left for Zimbabwe to play a five-match T20I series starting in Harare on July 6. The team will be led by Shubman Gill while the likes of youngsters Riyan Parag and Abhishek Sharma have been rewarded for their exploits in the last IPL with maiden India call-ups. Skipper Gill, the reserve opener for the T20 World Cup was on a break and will link up with the Zimbabwe-bound squad directly in Harare on the US.

The BCCI took to X to post pictures of those who boarded the flight, which includes Sharma, Parag, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Avesh Khan, Ravi Bishnoi, Washington Sundar, Tushar Deshpande and NCA head Laxman.

Five members of the squad -- Shivam Dube, Sanju Samson, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rinku Singh and Khaleel Ahmed were either part of the T20 World Cup-winning team or were travelling reserves are stranded in Barbados due to hurricane Beryl. They will join the squad later.

With Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja retiring from the shortest format of the game, the T20 series against Zimbabwe will provide the youngsters with the perfect opportunity to cement their places in the team for future series.

India's squad for T20I series against Zimbabwe: Shubman Gill (Captain), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Abhishek Sharma, Rinku Singh, Sanju Samson (WK), Dhruv Jurel (WK), Shivam Dube, Riyan Parag, Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Avesh Khan, Khaleel Ahmed, Mukesh Kumar, Tushar Deshpande. (PTI)

Sudharsan, Jitesh and Rana added to India's squad for first two T20Is vs Zimbabwe

NEW DELHI, July 2: The trio of Sai Sudharsan, Jitesh Sharma and Harshit Rana was on Tuesday named as replacements for Sanju Samson, Shivam Dube and Yashasvi Jaiswal in the Indian squad for the first two matches of the T20I series against Zimbabwe.

India will play five T20 Internationals in Zimbabwe from July 6.

Dube, Samson and Jaiswal, all part of the T20 World Cup-winning squad, were slated to join the Zimbabwe-bound group but are stranded in Barbados due to hurricane Beryl.

The trio is set to fly back home, along with the other players, aboard a charter flight on Tuesday evening and arrive in India on Wednesday at 7.45pm (IST). The players will later be felicitated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi here. The unforeseen circumstances has forced BCCI to name replacements for the three players. Pacer Khaleel Ahmed and batter Rinku Singh, travelling reserves for the T20 World Cup, are also currently in Barbados. The BCCI has not named replacements for the duo even though they are in the squad for Zimbabwe series. (PTI)

Gutted, tough pill to swallow: Miller on T20 World Cup final loss

JOHANNESBURG, July 2: A "gutted" David Miller said the T20 World Cup final loss to India was a tough blow, but the swash-buckling batter expressed confidence that despite enduring pain the resilient South African team would continue pushing boundaries.

Shedding the unwanted tag of perennial "chokers", the Proteas had marched into their maiden T20 World Cup final unbeaten.

However, they faltered in the summit clash, losing to India by seven runs.

"I am gutted!! Really tough pill to swallow after what transpired 2 days ago. Words don't explain how I am feeling. One thing I do know is how proud I am of this unit," Miller posted an Instagram story late on Monday.

Before the final, the Proteas enjoyed a sensational run, eking out wins in the pressure situations to become favourites for the title.

"This journey was an incredible one, with highs and lows throughout the entire month. We have endured pain, but I know this team has the resilience and will keep raising the bar," he wrote.

South Africa had looked on course to a memorable win needing 30 runs in as many balls. However, Indian bowlers, led by Jasprit Bumrah, fashioned a remarkable turnaround picking the key wicket of Heinrich Klaasen



followed by Marco Jansen.

With Miller at the crease and 16 needed off the last over, the Proteas still remained hopeful.

But a spectacular catch by Suryakumar Yadav at the boundary ended Miller's innings while deflating hopes of a South African win.

It was the closest South Africa had come to winning a title, having made seven semifinal exits in ICC global events. (PTI)

Lot of time for me to sleep, for now I want to live every second of this win: Rohit

BRIDGETOWN (BARBADOS), July 2: Rohit Sharma held the T20 World Cup trophy like a new-born baby as he walked towards the beach here for the triumphant captain's post-tournament photo shoot, a serene smile refusing to leave his face and the feeling of being a world champion yet to fully sink in.

He couldn't be faulted for being a bit dazed. After all, a jinx that lasted over a decade had been broken.

"It's surreal. It feels like a dream. It feels like it hasn't happened. Although it has happened but it feels like it hasn't happened," Rohit laughed trying to process his thoughts after 24 hours while talking to BCCI.TV.

The coastal city of Bridgetown is battling a hurricane. The same could also be said about the Indian captain, only that his is a battle to control a gamut of emotions threatening to overwhelm him like a huge sea wave every now and then.

"Last night we had a good time, we had a blast with the teammates till the early morning," he couldn't stop grinning before becoming a touch emotional. I would say I didn't sleep properly but that's absolutely fine by me. There is a lot of time for me to go back and sleep.



"I want to live this moment, each minute, each second that is passing by and will try to make the most of it," he said describing how it felt to lead an Indian team to its first ICC title in 11 years.

"It's been a great moment right from the time the game got over to till now. That's the emotions and feelings you have," said the skipper.

His marauding run at the top, especially in the knockouts, fetched Rohit a place in

the team of the tournament but all he can think about for now is a sense of joyous relief.

"We have dreamt about this for such a long period of time, we worked hard as a unit for such a long period of time and to see this (the trophy) with us, it feels quite relieved as well.

"When you have worked hard for something and eventually at the end you get it, feels really, really nice," the skipper reiterated. People were amazed and amused to see Rohit walk to the 22-yard strip at Kensington Oval and put a tiny speck of soil in his mouth, just like Novak Djokovic does after winning the Wimbledon.

The 37-year-old said it was a spur of the moment act.

"Nothing was scripted. It was all coming instinctively. I was feeling the moment," Rohit said about his ode to the turf that gave him the best moment of his life.

"When I went to the pitch, that pitch gave us this trophy. I will remember that ground forever in my life and that pitch as well. I wanted to have a piece of it with me.

"Those moments are very special, the place where all our dreams come true and I wanted something of it," he concluded. (PTI)

Unleash Your Potential, Unlock Your Future With Indian Navy

ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

INDIAN NAVY INVITES ONLINE APPLICATIONS FROM UNMARRIED MALE AND UNMARRIED FEMALE CANDIDATES (who fulfil eligibility conditions as laid down by the Government of India) FOR AGNIVEER {MR (Musician)} - 02/2024 BATCH

Entry	Educational Qualification	Born Between (Both Dates Inclusive)
AGNIVEER {MR(Musician)}	Passed Matriculation Examination from the Boards of School Education recognised by Ministry of Education, Govt. of India.	01 Nov 2003 to 30 Apr 2007 (Both dates inclusive)

Musical Ability. The candidate should be able to: -

- 1 Sing and match pitch with notes played on the keyboard by the examiner.
- 2 Clap and imitate a short Rhythm sounded by the examiner.
- 3 Sing any well-known song in tune.
- 4 Perform a prepared piece of music on his/ her instrument.
- 5 Sight-read Indian/ western classical notation.
- 6 Possess theoretical knowledge of Taal/ Raag/ Scales.

LAST DATE OF ONLINE APPLICATION - 11 JULY 2024

- Online Application window open from 01 July 2024 to 11 July 2024.
- For eligibility criteria and details, visit www.joinindiannavy.gov.in

JOIN INDIAN NAVY

cbc (070113)00072/25