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BUDGET 2024-25

Nirmala's 7th budget: Marginal tax relief to middle class

Centrepiece of ₹48 lakh crore budget - employment, internship and skilling schemes ● Angel tax abolished ● Poll-bound Bihar gets ₹ 60,000 cr for infrastructure devp • ₹ 2 lakh cr job scheme announced

general elections.

lakh crore outlay for job creation schemes over the next five years and a spending splurge for states run by parties that are needed to keep BJP in power as

growth. she unveiled Modi 3.0

and key parts to benefit firms like Apple, slashed customs duty on gold and silver to curb smuggling, and made significant changes in capital gains tax. She, however, raised the securities transaction tax (STT) on futures and options of securities, which disappointed the markets.

the shining exception (in a world that is gripped by policy uncertainties) and will remain so in the years ahead," she said. "In this budget, we particularly focus on employment, skilling, (CONTD. ON PAGES-2)

BIHAR GETS ₹ 11,500 CRORE, ASSAM 'ASSISTANCE': BHUPEN

Himanta hails Union budget as growth catalyst

<u>HT Bureau</u> GUWAHATI, July 23: Assam Congress president on Tuesday criticised the Union budget 2024, alleging that it "duped" Assam in the Union Budget. Borah opined that in the last five

years, the state has cumulatively demanded about ₹ 10,785 crore from the Centre but got only ₹ 250 crore.

"Now with reference to our state: for the last 5 years, Assam has cu-

mulatively demanded about ₹10,785 crore. But the Centre gave only ₹ 250 Cr. Today, Assam has got duped once again. This budget gave ₹11,500 crore to Bihar, but only assurances of help to Assam," Borah wrote on micro-blogging site X.

Borah further alleged that the Budget was great for "headline management", but not for reducing the misery of the people. "The biggest (CONTD. ON PAGES-2)

NEW DELHI, July 23: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday announced a marginal income tax re-

lief for the middle class, a $\gtrless 2$

With rural distress and unemployment being blamed for BJP losing its majority in Lok Sabha, forcing it to rely on partners to form government, Sitharaman in her seventh straight budget provided ₹ 2.66 lakh crore for rural development and maintained spending on long-term infrastructure projects at ₹11.11 lakh crore to boost economic

Mobile phones and chargers

Osimertinib and Durvalumab

Platinum

She scrapped the 'angel tax' that was imgovernment's first posed on investors pumping money into budget after the startups, cut import duty on mobile phones

Cancer drugs - Trastuzumab Deruxtecan,

Precious metals like Gold, Silver and

PCBA and Oxygen Free Copper for

Components for

Solar energy parts

Ferro-Nickel

Blister Copper and

manufacture of vessels

use in manufacture of Resistors

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

"India's economic growth continues to be

Arunachal CM hails Union budget ITANAGAR, July 23: Arunachal

Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Tuesday hailed the Union budget, saying it will help in achieving the dream of 'Viksit Bharat' (developed India). The Union budget for the 2024-

25 fiscal was presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Parliament

"The development of investment-ready 'plug and play' industrial parks in or near 100 cities along with the sanctioning of 12 industrial parks under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme will significantly boost industries and attract investments,' Khandu wrote on X.

'These initiatives are key to achieving the dream of #ViksitBharat, driving economic growth, and positioning India as a global industrial powerhouse," he added.

Talking to PTI, Deputy chief minister Chowna Mein hailed it as an inclusive budget, fulfilling the aspirations of all sections of society. "Be it businessmen, farmers, industrialists, women, youth or common people, all are happy," he

said. Arunachal Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI) president Tarh Nachung welcomed the Union government's decision to provide loans of up to Rs 10 lakh to students for higher education.

"It will help in overcoming a huge burden on the common people's shoulder, whose children want to pursue higher education," he said

Nachung also lauded the government for focusing on employment, skilling and the MSME sector, saying it will immensely benefit (CONTD. ON PAGES-2)

Budget lays roadmap for renewed, holistic growth towards 'Viksit Bharat': Union Minister Sonowal

HT Bureau GUWAHATI, July 23: Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal welcomed the Union Budget, 2024 laid before the Parliament on Tuesday.

Calling the Union Budget, 2024 as a 'visionary document', the Sonowal said, "The Union Budget, 2024 lays the roadmap for renewed and holistic growth towards Viksit Bharat. This visionary budget is aimed at empowering the 'Garib' (poor), 'Mahilayen' (women), 'Yuva' (youth) and 'Annadata' (farmers) so that the process of development reaches every citizen of the country.

"The uniquely crafted four themes along with nine priorities of this budget will benefit all sections of the society. I extend my gratitude to the Honourable (CONTD. ON PAGES-2)

APHLC organiser criticises KAAC delegation's priorities

HT Bureau DIPHU, July 23: Kursing Timung, organising Central government to pass clauses from Memsecretary of the All Party Hills Leaders Confer- orandum of Settlement (MoS) 1 and 2, and proence (APHLC), has criticised chief executive visions of the sixth schedule, under the

other BJP leaders, is focusing on persuading the

Nuclear energy is expected to form a very significant part of the energy mix for a Viksit Bharat' - **FM**

Defence - ₹4,54,773 crore Rural Development - ₹2,65,808 crore Agriculture - ₹1,51,851 crore Home Affairs - ₹1,50,983 crore

Education - 1,25,638 crore IT and Telecom - ₹1,16,342 crore Health - ₹89,287 crore Energy - ₹68,769 crore Social Welfare - ₹56,501 crore

Commerce & Industry - ₹47,559 crore

BUDGET EXPENDITURE:

lodi govt' budget: Kharge

NEW DELHI, July 23: The Congress on Tues-day termed the Union Budget a "copycat" and a kursi bachao" budget, and said the "copy-paste overnment" borrowed ideas generously from the party's manifesto but botched up the policy.



Medical products like orthopedic implants, artificial parts of the body Certain brood stock, shrimp and fish feed

budget is an important p towards building a eveloped and self-reliant India by empowering the youth and women as well as providing many opportunities for farmers"

- Home Minister Amit Shah



The opposition party also said unemployment the "biggest challenge facing the country" and he government's response is "too little" and will have little impact on the "grave situation".

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi dubbed the Union Budget a "kursi bachao budget" (save chair budget) and claimed it makes "hollow promises" to the BJP allies at the cost of other states.

In a post on X, Gandhi said, "'Kursi Bachao' Budget. Appease Allies: Hollow promises to them at the cost of other states. Appease Cronies: Benefits to AA with no relief for the common Indian. Copy and Paste: Congress manifesto and previous budgets.'

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge termed the Budget a "copycat" and alleged that it is not for the progress of the country but to save the Modi government.

In a post in Hindi on X, Kharge said, "The Modi government's 'copycat budget' could not even copy the Congress' Nyay Patra properly! The

Modi government's budget is distributing halfhearted 'rewadis (freebies)' to dupe its coalition partners so that the NDA survives. "This is not a budget for the 'progress of the

country'. It is a 'save Modi government' budget!" he said. Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh accused the government of indulging in "cut, copy, paste" from Congress's Nyay Patra.

'Cut, Copy, Paste from Congress's Nyay Patra is all very well. But Cut, Copy, and Paste in Haste is altogether another matter. The Union Budget borrows ideas generously from the Nyay Patra, but botches up the policy," he said.

"Pehli Naukri Pakki, a programme to guarantee year-long, well-paid apprenticeships to all college graduates and diploma holders, becomes a gimmicky and unworkable 1-crore internships plan. Employment-Linked Incentives, rather than incentivising firms to create jobs or incentivise women to join the labour force, compensates those who are lucky enough to find jobs," he said.

"There was a time when the Nyay Patra was defamed by the non-biological PM as a Muslim League agenda and as a conspiracy to steal mangalsutras. Today, it's the source of inspiration for his Government's Budget. The implications of the personal, political, and moral defeat that he suffered on June 4th, 2024, continue to surface,' Ramesh said. Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram said finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman has "virtually adopted" (CONTD. ON PAGES-2)

member (CEM) Tuliram Ronghang's delegation to Delhi, accusing them of prioritising the 125th constitutional amendment for enhancing the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council's (KAAC) powers over addressing the autonomous state issue.

In a press statement on Tuesday, Timung expressed concern that the delegation led by CEM Ronghang, along with MP Amarsing Tisso, MLA Darsing Ronghang, former MLA Dr Dharam Sing Teron, advisor Elwin Teron, and

forthcoming constitutional amendment

"The preference shown by CEM Ronghang and BJP leaders towards the 125th constitutional amendment rather than addressing the autonomous state issue indicates that national parties like BJP and Congress are not supportive of autonomous state aspirations. RSS and Bongo Sena are exploiting the weaknesses of BJP leaders in Karbi Anglong and KAAC for their own gains," Timung stated. He further criticised the RSS and (CONTD. ON PAGES-2)

Assam flood situation improves, 73,703 people affected in 10 districts

from 22 to 20, and affected

GUWAHATI, July 23: storms and lightnings remaining at 114, the Assam Assam's flood situation is gradually improving, with Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) said. the affected population decreasing to 73,703 across 10 Compared to Monday's districts, according to an offigures, the number of afficial bulletin on Tuesday. fected districts has reduced from 12 to 10, with a decline There was no loss of human lives reported during in affected revenue circles

the day with the death toll

due to floods, landslides,

to 195. The districts currently affected include Morigaon, Biswanath, Dhemaji, Hojai, Dibrugarh, Sivasagar, Nagaon, Golaghat, Goalpara, and Jorhat. Among these, Nagaon remains the most severely affected with a population of 61,034, followed by Golaghat with 4.874 and villages decreasing from 247 (CONTD. ON PAGES-2)

'Nuclear energy key in Viksit Bharat's energy mix' Nuclear energy and efficient thermal plants at centre of India's energy transition plan

NEW DELHI, July 23: India's energy transition plan will focus on developing small modular nuclear reactors, pumped-storage projects and more efficient thermal plants, the government announced on Tuesday.

Presenting the 2024-25 Budget in the Lok Sabha, Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the government will collaborate with private firms to develop small modular reactors (SMRs) and conduct research on advanced technologies to boost the share of nuclear power in India's energy mix.

Sitharaman also said a roadmap will be prepared to shift "hard to abate" industries, such as shipping, aviation, iron and steel and chemicals, from focusing on energy-efficiency targets to emission targets. To balance employment, growth



and environmental sustainability, the government will release a policy document outlining appropriate energy-transition pathways. A taxonomy for climate finance will be developed to enhance the availability of capital for climate adaptation

and mitigation, Sitharaman said. "Nuclear energy is expected to form a very significant part of the

energy mix for Viksit Bharat. Towards that pursuit, our government will partner with the private sector for setting up Bharat small reactors,

research and development of Bharat small modular reactors, and research and development of newer technologies for nuclear energy," she said. SMRs are smaller, compact nuclear power plants (300 MWe or less) compared to currentgeneration base load plants (1,000 MWe or higher). These factory-fabricated reactors can be transported by trucks or rail to a nuclear power site and their output can be scaled by combining several units to achieve larger capacities.

Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran noted in the economic survey that the combined deployment of factory-manufactured, made-in-India SMRs, along with standardised 700-MWe pressurised heavy water reactors (PHWRs), could be an effective strategy for (CONTD. ON PAGES-2)

Sri Lanka Navy arrests 9 Indian fishermen for alleged illegal fishing

COLOMBO, July 23: The Sri Lankan Navy on Tuesday arrested nine Indian fishermen and seized their trawlers for allegedly poaching in its territorial waters, officials here said, taking the number of Indian nationals apprehended this year by the island nation in such incidents to 261. The nine fishermen were arrested, and their two trawlers were seized off the coast of Delft islet in the northern Jaffna peninsula, the Navy said.

On July 11, the Navy said that 252 Indian fishermen were arrested and 35 trawlers seized this year for noaching

Earlier this month, Sri Lanka voiced its concern to India over the death of a naval sailor who was killed in an operation to seize an Indian trawler allegedly engaged in illegal fishing in the island nation's territorial waters

On June 25, off the coast of Point Pedro in the north, a senior sailor



from the Navy Special Boat Squadron sustained critical injuries due to "the aggressive manoeuvres of the Indian trawler, resisting its seizure," a statement issued by the Sri Lankan Navy said. The fishermen issue is a contentious one in the ties between India and Sri Lanka, with Lankan Navy personnel even firing at Indian fishermen in the Palk Strait and

seizing their boats in several alleged incidents of illegally entering Sri Lankan territorial waters.

The Palk Strait, a narrow strip of water separating Tamil Nadu from Sri Lanka, is a rich fishing ground for fishermen from both countries. Fishermen from both countries are arrested frequently for inadvertently trespassing into each other's waters. (PTI)

BUSINESS

Stock markets edge down on STT, LTCG hike FMCG, consumer durables cap losses

MUMBAI, July 23: Benchmark Sensex and Nifty settled marginally lower in volatile trade on Tuesday as the government proposed to hike securities transaction tax on futures & options in the budget for 2024-25.

Recovering most of its intra-day losses of over 1,200 points, the 30share BSE Sensex settled lower by 73.04 points or 0.09 per cent 80,429.04.

The index gyrated between highs and lows during the day as Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced budget proposals for 2024-25.

The barometer tanked 1,277.76 points or 1.58 per cent to hit a low of 79,224.32 as the minister announced a hike in STT on F&O trade and an increase in long-term capital gains tax on equities. However, tax exemptions and customs duty cuts helped boost consumer durables and FMCG shares, aiding stocks to recover from the day's lows.

The NSE Nifty dipped 30.20 points or 0.12 per cent to 24,479.05. Intra-day, it dropped 435.05 points or 1.77 per cent to 24,074.20. Among the Sensex pack, Titan jumped over 6 per cent, followed by ITC which surged more than 5 per cent.

Adani Ports, NTPC, Infosys, Hindustan Unilever, HCL Technologies and Sun Pharma were among the other big gainers.

However, Larsen & Toubro, Bajaj Finance, State Bank of India, Axis Bank and HDFC Bank were amonh the major laggards.

"From the markets perspective the raising of STCG (Short-Term Capital Gains Tax) to 20% and LTCG (Long Term Capital Gains Tax) to 12.5% is a body blow. We



and trading at a high premium,'

Geojit Financial Services, said.

dipped 0.18 per cent.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research,

In the broader market, the BSE

midcap gauge declined 0.74 per

cent while the smallcap index

Among the indices, consumer

durables rallied 2.45 per cent,

FMCG jumped 2.48 per cent, IT

(0.82 per cent), services (0.62 per

need to brace ourselves for a negative reaction in the short term,' Sanjay Sinha, Founder, Citrus Advisors, said.

"There was a knee-jerk reaction during the Budget speech as Sensex plunged more than 1,000 points after FM increased LTCG and STCG rates along with higher STT on F&O transactions, which had caught investors off guard.

"However, both key benchmark cent), healthcare (0.59 per cent) indices erased almost all of its and teck (0.56 per cent). Realty dropped 2.15 per cent, capital goods declined 2.03 per losses to end marginally lower as the government's focus on lower cent, industrials (1.48 per cent), fifiscal deficit, increased spend on infrastructure and focus on rural nancial services (1.27 per cent), spending helped calm the nerves of metal (1.02 per cent), commodities the traders," Prashanth Tapse, Sen-(0.51 per cent) and telecommunication (0.51 per cent). ior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Notably, stock markets had

Ltd, said. Analysts said domestic investors closed higher in the previous three budget days. In 2023, on the had high expectations from the budget to increasing revenue and Budget day, the BSE benchmark capital expenditure. However, the ended at 59,708.08, up by 158.18 narrative is mixed, by curtailing points, or 0.26 per cent. In 2022, the Sensex jumped expenditure while attaining fiscal 848.40 points or 1.46 per cent to prudence, which can limit further settle at 58,862.57 while in 2021,

growth "During the year, the market has it rallied 2,314.84 points or 5 per fairly factored in ongoing growth cent to 48,600.61 after the Budget announcements In 2020, the BSE benchmark fell

987.96 points or 2.48 per cent at 39.735.53 and in the preceding year, it clocked a gain of 212.74 points or 0.58 per cent at 36.469.43.

On February 1, 2023 the broader NSE Nifty declined 45.85 points or 0.26 per cent to 17,616.30. In 2022, the Nifty surged 237 points or 1.37 per cent to end at 17,576.85 on the Budget day.

On February 1, 2021 the Nifty soared 646.60 points or 4.74 per cent to finish at 14,281.20, while on the Budget day, in 2020 the 50share benchmark plunged 300.25 points or 2.51 per cent to 11,661.85.

On February 1, 2019 the 50share NSE Nifty jumped 62.70 points, or 0.58 per cent, to close at 10.893.65.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday announced income tax relief for the middle class, a ₹ 2 lakh crore outlay for job creation schemes over the next five years and a spending splurge for states run by her party's new coalition partners as she unveiled Modi 3.0 government's first budget after the general elections.

With rural distress and unemployment being blamed for BJP losing its majority, Sitharaman in her seventh straight budget provided ₹ 2.66 lakh crore for rural development and maintained spending on long-term infrastructure projects at ₹ 11.11 lakh crore to boost economic growth.

The finance minister said the government plans to raise the capital gains exemption limit on certain financial assets to ₹ 1.25 lakh per year for the middle and upper middle class.(PTI)

Nirmala's 7th budget: Marginal MSMEs, and the middle class." The centrepiece of the over ₹48 lakh crore budget are employment, internship

Contd. from Page 1...

and skilling schemes, aimed at creating job avenues for the largest youth population in the world. Besides ₹ 2 lakh crore provided over a five-year period for schemes and initiatives to facilitate employment,

skilling and other opportunities for 4.1 crore youth, "I have made a provision of ₹ 1.48 lakh crore for education, employment and skilling," she said.

For Bihar, where assembly elections are due next year, the finance minister announced spending of ₹ 60,000 crore on infrastructure projects like expressways, power plant, heritage corridors and new airports. The support to Bihar, whose ruling party and BJP's partner JD-U has been demanding an economic package and special category status for the state, is in the form of capital projects but not subsidy or cash dole.

Similarly, for Andhra Pradesh, whose ruling TDP recently joined BJP-led NDA, she allocated ₹ 15,000 crore in financial aid through multilateral agencies. A similar request for support to Bihar will be expedited, she said.(PTI)

Bihar gets ₹ 11,500 crore,

problem in India currently is joblessness. There is no mention in the budget about massive job-creating opportunities. Rather, the government has come up with a creative jumla called internship in 500 Top Companies. Now, please think: how many people are qualified enough to work in these Top 500 companies? Won't most of these companies find loopholes to get out of this diktat, by saying things like not finding enough competent people," he claimed. "Why is the government transferring its task of providing social/financial security to the industrial sector?" he added.

Meanwhile, chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma praised the Union budget, calling it a 'solid road map to maintain India's growth'. Further appreciating the budget, Sarma highlighted its aim to propel India's economy to the world's third-largest, as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "My compliments to Hon'ble Union Minister Smt @nsitharaman ji and her team for presenting a budget that lays down a solid road map to maintain India's growth momentum and seeks to propel our economy to the world's third-largest, as envisioned by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji," he wrote on the micro-blogging site X. Sarma noted that the Union budget 2024 stands out for its unprecedented push towards employment generation and support for small businesses.

"Schemes such as PM's Package for Employment & Skilling, 1 crore paid internship opportunities, and employment-linked incentives will be game-changers. We are extremely grateful for the special assistance Assam will receive under this Budget to help meet the challenges posed by floods," he added. He also mentioned that the reforms announced for land registration will complement the ongoing efforts for schemes like Mission Basundhara 3.0. The chief minister expressed that the increased allocation under PM Awas Yojana and schemes such as PM Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan, which aims to saturate schemes in all tribal-majority villages, will have a positive impact in Assam.

 \hat{x} #UnionBudget2024 infrastructure push via Rs 1.5 lakh cr. to states, focus on improving agricultural productivity, green energy initiatives, and generous allocation for rural development will also have a multiplier effect on Assam's growth," he stated.

Finally, Sarma highlighted several progressive measures in the budget including the review of the IT Act, withdrawal of Angel Tax, reduction of fiscal deficit, sustained capex, and other measures aimed at ensuring India remains the fastest-growing economy for years to come.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced on Tuesday that the central government will provide substantial support for flood management projects in Assam as part of the Union Budget for 2024-25.

Arunachal CM hails

the educated unemployed youths of the country. He said the allocation of over Rs 22,000 crore for the MSME sector will give a new thrust to all sectors of development. (PTI)

Budget lays roadmap for renewed,

Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi ji as well as to the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman ji for presenting this visionary document - placing a huge emphasis on employment, skill development, MSMEs, Agriculture & investment led economic development & inclusive growth," he added.

Sonowal further said that the budget will significantly enhance India's shipping, cruise, shipbuilding and ship repair industry, leading to huge job creation, boost to exports and contributing handsomely to the economic growth of the country. "Under the visionary leadership of PM Narendra Modi ji, we are moving full steam head to elevate India's stature as a global maritime powerhouse," he stated.

He said that the Budget 2024-25 aims to position India as a global leader in maritime innovation, sustainability and economic growth, adding, "Shipping reforms are expected to generate significant employment opportunities and strengthen India's maritime capabilities.'

"Ownership, leasing and flagging reforms will be implemented to improve the share of the Indian shipping industry and generate more employment. GST to be simplified and standardised to improve export competitiveness and reduce total logistics cost, lower production costs and enhance the competitiveness of India's shipbuilding and repair industry," he said.

APHLC organiser criticises

Bongo Sena for diverting attention from the autonomous state demand and emphasized that the sixth schedule and autonomous state are crucial for protecting the interests of hill tribes, not the constitutional amendment.

Timung also pointed out discrepancies regarding direct funding for KAAC under Article 280 of the Indian Constitution, clarifying that it pertains to Panchayati Raj in other districts, not direct funding for KAAC. He urged various social organisations to oppose the 125th constitutional amendment and maintain focus on the autonomous state demand.

'Save Modi govt' budget

the ideas underlying his party's proposals on Employment-linked Incentive (ELI) scheme, apprenticeship

FM clamps down on F&O trading

NEW DELHI, July 23: Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said securities transaction tax (STT) will be increased on futures and options (F&O) trade from October 1 to discourage retail investors from investing in the risky instrument. The measure was to allay concerns about hyperactive interest in the F&O segment.

"It is proposed to increase the rates of STT on the sale of an option in securities from 0.0625 per cent to 0.1 per cent of the option premium, and on sale of a futures in securities from 0.0125 per cent to 0.02 per cent of the price at which such futures are traded," she said while presenting the Union

Budget for 2024-25. The announcement led to benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty 50 tumbling 1.6 per cent and 1.77 per cent respectively in intrain STT came a day after the Economic Survey flagged concerns over rising retail investors' interest in derivative trading. The survey stated that speculative trade has no place in a developing country. It also pointed out that the sharp increase in retail in-

tering a strong growth of 40% YoY.

<u>HT Bureau</u>

GUWAHATI, July 23: IDBI Bank on Tuesday, an-

nounced its quarterly results for Q1 FY25. The Net

Profit stood at R₹ 1,719 crore for Q1 FY25, regis-

was recorded at 4.18% and net interest income stood

at ₹ 3,233 crore in Q1-2025 as against ₹ 3,998 crore

The operating profit stood at ₹ 2,076 crore. NIM

vestor participation in F&O trading is likely driven by humans' gambling instincts. "Derivatives trading holds the potential for outsized gains. Thus, it caters to humans' gambling instincts and can augment income if profitable. These considerations are likely driving active retail participation in derivatives trading," according to the Economic Survey 2023-24. Recently, Sebi chief Madhabi Puri Buch also cautioned investors against heavy bets on F&O. Before that, Sitharaman and chief economic adviser V Anantha Nageswaran flagged the growing risk of F&O trading for retail investors. F&O trading continues to grow in popularity, and market experts believe that this is driven by the potential for profit and the rising trading volumes. Experts said investors who lack understanding

uity cash segment was ₹ 1 lakh crore, while the F&O segment saw an average daily turnover of about ₹ 330 lakh crore. Futures and Options trading involves contracts that derive their value from an underlying asset, such as stocks or commodities. Futures contracts obligate the buyer and seller to transact at a predetermined future date and price, while options give the holder the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell the asset at a set price within a specific period. used for hedging risks, speculating

These financial instruments are on price movements, and arbitraging price differences. However, they come with significant risks, including leverage risk and market volatility, which can lead to substantial losses. Experts said that the hike in SST on F&O could moderate the frenzy in this space as it

vill increase the cost of trading

sociated issues like skill formation.

HDFC bank chief economist hails budget

HT Bureau GUWAHATI, July 23: The HDFC

Bank chief economist Abheek Barua said that the central focus of the Union budget tabled by FM on Tuesday has been on employment and as-

The government's efforts to reap India's demographic dividend is visible in its push towards labour intensive production, its skilling initiative, incentivising formal job creation and increasing participation of women in the workforce, he said. "The budget estimate that these measures will help create 8 million jobs per year -- which is line with the employment requirement that has been set out in the economic survey. The change in income tax slabs along with the direct benefit transfer to first time workers, is likely to spur consumption, particularly for small ticket items, by increasing dissable incomes. The budget's policy mix - including continued capex, job creation, support for manufacturing, agriculture, and rural development is likely to be positive for India's potential growth. The government made no compromise on its capex plans despite the increased allocation to some of its allies. The commitment towards fiscal consolidation with a reduction IDBI Bank reports 40% rise in profits on YoY basis in the fiscal deficit to 4.9% of GDP in FY25 is a positive for medium-term in Q1-2024. Cost of Deposit stood at 4.58% in Q1debt sustainability. Although markets 2025 as compared to 4.12% in Q1-2024. CRAR have been disappointed with the instood at 22.42% with YoY growth of 209 bps. Return crease in the capital gains tax, this is on Assets (ROA) at 1.83%, YoY growth of 34 bps line with the communication by difand Return on Equity (ROE) at 19.87%, YoY growth ferent branches of the government of 123 bps. Net NPA at 0.23% as against 0.44% as and regulators to be cautious and preon June 30, 2023 and Gross NPA at 3.87% as against vent any excess build-up of risk in the system," Barua said.

atives trading. The segment's popularity is evident from its massive growth, with the monthly turnover in the F&O segment reaching ₹ 8.740 lakh crore in March 2024 compared to ₹ 217 lakh crore in March 2019. At the same time, the average daily turnover in the eq-

or risk appetite should avoid der

In light of all the concerns raised about the hyperactive interest in the F&O segment it is not surprising that the STT on F&O has been raised 5 times from 0.02 per cent to 0.1 per cent Sanjay Sinha, founder of Citrus Advisors, said. (PTI)

scheme with an allowance to the apprentice, and on the abolition of Angel Tax. "I wish she had adopted man more ideas from the Congress' manifesto (for the Lok Sabha polls)," the former Union finance minister said at a press conference at the AICC headquarters on the Union Budget.

Chidambaram also took a swipe at the government over the financial incentives announced in the Budget for Andhra Pradesh and Bihar, claiming that if those announcements had not been made, TDP's N Chandrababu Naidu and JD(U)'s Nitish Kumar would have withdrawn support to the government. "These are lifelines. Mr Modi is saving the life of his government.

"Unless you want his government to come to an end, you will appreciate him. He (Modi) is now bending down to Mr Naidu and Mr Kumar and saying that 'you have saved my life, so take whatever you want'. If they make more demands, he will concede those demands," Chidambaram said. Unemployment is the "biggest challenge facing country" and the response of the government is "too little and will have only little impact on the grave situation", he said. Chidambaram also said nothing in the Budget speech "gives us the confidence that the government will seriously tackle the issue of inflation". (PTI)

Assam flood situation improves,

Dhemaji with 3,943. Floodwaters have submerged 4,230.42 hectares of crop area, down from 4,528.36 hectares previously

Currently, 3,483 people are taking shelter in 37 relief camps, while an additional 15,503 people receiving assistance through non-camp distribution centres. In terms of river levels, Brahmaputra's tributaries Dikhou and Disang are flowing above the danger mark at Sivasagar and Nanglamuraghat respectively. During the day, floodwaters damaged 52 houses, five roads, and affected an embankment.

Assam has experienced two waves of floods so far this year, affecting all 35 districts. The first wave took place from May 28 to June 13, while the ongoing second wave began on June 16. (PTI)

Govt cuts import duty on mobile phones

5.05% as on June 30, 2023.

Imported handsets to become up to 6 pc cheaper

NEW DELHI, July 23: Imported mobile phones will become cheaper by up to 6 per cent as the government in the FY25 budget has reduced customs duty on such shipments to 15 per cent from 20 per cent earlier.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, while presenting the Union Budget for fiscal year 2024-25 on Tuesday, proposed slashing import duty on mobile phones, chargers and some components that are used for manufacturing of handsets.

She said with a three-fold increase in domestic production and almost 100-fold jump in exports of mobile phones over the last six years, the Indian mobile phone industry has matured.

"In the interest of consumers, I now propose to reduce the BCD (basic customs duty) on mobile phone, mobile PCBA and mobile charger to 15 per cent," Sitharaman said

Earlier BCD on mobile phones, chargers and motherboards was 20 per cent. Mobile phone industry copper for use in manufacturing of body ICEA said that the move will enhance export competitiveness of India in the segment.

"On mobile phones there could be a 5-5.5 per cent reduction on the few models which are imported.



Charger duty reduction will impact 0.15 to 0.20 per cent on the final phone since domestic manufacturers will also reduce prices," ICEA chairman Pankaj Mohindroo said. Most of mobile phones sold in India are made within the country. The government has proposed to exempt specified goods for use in manufacturing of connectors in mobile phones and oxygen-free

resistors (an electronic component) from BCD levy. The BCD on specified goods for use in manufacturing of connectors was in the range of 5 to 7.5 per cent and oxygen-free copper for

use in manufacturing of resistors attracted 5 per cent BCD.

"We had recommended reducing BCD on mobile phones, its PCBA and charger/ adapter to 15 per cent, which has been accepted. The mobile and electronics industry is elated with the announcements and will go a long way to enhance manufacturing, exports and our competitiveness," Mohindroo said. The government has included rubber, glass and aluminium in the reduced BCD rate that are used for making mechanics and die cut parts in mobile phones. Mohindroo said that some of the duty exemptions that were

due to lapse in September have now been extended till March 2026. Xiaomi India President Muralikrishnan B said that his company manufactures nearly 100 per cent smartphones locally with a strong emphasis on sourcing components like PCBA, charging cables, camera modules, and mechanics, among others.

"Today's announcement will help further strengthen the domestic electronics manufacturing ecosystem. The proposal for a comprehensive review of the tariff rate structure is another positive step that will further strengthen the industry," Muralikrishnan said. He lauded the government's emphasis on increasing women's participation in the workforce and the employment-linked incentives for first-time employees. "With these progressive steps, we anticipate a surge in consumer spending, including increased demand for smartphones," Muralikrishnan said.

Mobile manufacturing company BlackZone Mobiles Managing Director Kannav Thukral said that the reduction of BCD will lower production costs, making Indianmade mobile devices more competitive and the reduced taxes will lead to higher profits and increased production." (PTI)

Nuclear energy and efficient

rapidly scaling up nuclear power capacity in India. Nuclear power does not need expensive carbon-capture technology or critical minerals. Its plant load factor (PLF) -- a measure of a power plant's capacity utilisation -- could be as high as 80-85 per cent, way above all other energy-mix options. Nuclear power's contribution to India's electricity capacity stood at a meagre 1.46 per cent in 2023. Developed nations, such as the United States, the European Union countries and the United Kingdom, generate 19 per cent, 25 per cent and 15 per cent of their electricity from nuclear power respectively. A policy promoting pumped-storage projects will be introduced to store electricity and facilitate the integration of the growing share of renewable energy with its variable and intermittent nature. Sitharaman said.

A pumped-storage project involves two reservoirs, one on top of a hill and another at the bottom. Excess electricity is used to pump water uphill to the upper reservoir. When electricity demand spikes, the water is released to the lower reservoir through a turbine, generating power. This system is particularly significant given the unpredictable nature of solar and wind energy. Sitharaman also announced that the development of indigenous technology for advanced ultra super critical (AUSC) thermal power plants, which offer much higher efficiency, has been completed. A joint venture between the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) will set up a full-scale 800-MW commercial plant using AUSC technology, with the government providing the necessary fiscal support.

Conventional coal-fired power plants heat the water to create steam, which is transferred at high pressure to turbines linked to a generator. They have an efficiency of about 32 per cent.

Supercritical (SC) and ultra-supercritical (USC) power plants operate at temperatures and pressures above the critical point of water -- at which point there is no difference between water gas and liquid water. SC and USC power plants require less coal per megawatt-hour, leading to lower emissions (including carbon dioxide and mercury), higher efficiency (above 45 per cent) and lower fuel costs per megawatt.

Sitharaman said the government will fully exempt customs duties on 25 critical minerals and reduce basic customs duty on two of those. "This will provide a major fillip to the processing and refining of such minerals and help secure their availability for these strategic and important sectors.'

To transition "hard to abate" industries from the current "Perform, Achieve and Trade" mode to the "Indian Carbon Market" mode, appropriate regulations will be established. Aarti Khosla, the director of independent think tank Climate Trends, said the focus on critical minerals, a policy for pumped-storage projects and the decision to develop a policy document on energy transition pathways is laudable.

"However, it remains to be seen how the role of nuclear power in India's energy mix takes shape. The budget lacks timelines for announcements on taxonomy, carbon-pricing mechanisms and detailed strategies for mobilising climate finance for adaptation and mitigation efforts." she said

Suranjali Tandon, associate professor, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, said the industry and investors have been demanding a taxonomy and a transition pathway as guidance for the flow of finance and reorientation of economic activity. The announcements of a carbon market, taxonomy and transition pathways mark significant progress in planning towards net zero in 2070, she said. (PTI)

NEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2024

BTR hosts awareness prog to empower cooperative societies

HT Bureau GUWAHATI, July 23: To empower Cooperative Societies in the Bodo Territorial Region (BTR), an informative training and awareness programme was organised at Gurufela Community Hall in Kokrajhar on Tuesday. The programme focused on the creation of Joint Liability Groups (JLGs), Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), and Pearl Cultivation.

This awareness programme is part of the 100-day action plan initiated by BTC chief Pramod Boro under the Vibrant BTR Mission. The initiative aims to provide training and financial linkage support from NABARD and APEX Bank to interested groups.

Participating in the awareness meeting, executive member of BTC for Cooperation, Ukil Muchahary, reiterated that the government of BTR is committed to supporting registered cooperative societies willing to engage in business ventures. He also announced that this comprehensive awareness campaign would be extended across the entire BTR district, incorporating mechanisms for capacity building, project preparation, and financial linkage. Around 100 members, representing 80 cooperative societies, attended the meeting. The programme was addressed by CHD Cooperation Jayanta Kherkatary, NABARD DDM Kuntal Purkayastha, and branch manager of Gossaigaon APEX Bank Robin Nath

Selection process for Bodofa UN Brahma Super 50 Mission underway

HT Bureau GUWAHATI, July 23: The selection process for the Bodofa UN Brahma Super 50 Mission (UPSC/APSC) is underway, with a counselling and personal interview session being conducted by BTC secretaries. This session targets the top 155 candidates who cleared the Mains examination for the 2024-25 batch of BTR's flagship program, the Bodofa UN Brahma Super 50 Mission.

Out of 1,781 students who appeared for the Prelims, and 300 who advanced to the Mains, the top 155 civil service aspirants were interviewed on July 22 and 23, with additional interviews scheduled for July 24 at the Bodoland Guest House in Kokrajhar. Following these interviews, 50 candidates will be chosen for BTR-sponsored free coaching under the Super 50 program, spearheaded by BTC chief Pramod Boro.

Two children drown

HT Correspondent JAGIROAD, July 23: Two chilREGION

Governor praises Bimal Borah's efforts & encourages students to dream big at the event in Dibrugarh's Rajgarh Tea Estate

Guv Kataria attends closing ceremony of 'Anweshan Workshop 2024'



positive atmosphere always en-HT Correspondent courages students to strive for their DIBRUGARH, July 23: Governor Gulab Chand Kataria attended goals, shaping them into the future the concluding ceremony of the leaders of the nation. As the up-'Anweshan Workshop 2024' in Dicoming generation, the empowered brugarh on Tuesday. The workstudents will define the future of India. He also hailed the trust for shop, organised from July 12 to 23, 2024, across the Tingkhong legislacreating an enabling environment tive assembly constituency and Charaideo district by 'Growth from full potential Grassroots', under the patronage of state cabinet minister Bimal Borah and supported by the MLA's Edu-

cational Advisory Committee, saw participation from around three thousand students from seven cen-It may be noted that 'Growth from Grassroots' is a trust which is

working towards providing educational support, fostering skill development, empowering women, and advancing employment and livelihood opportunities in the state.

While speaking on the occasion, Governor Kataria praised Industry & Commerce, etc., minister Bimal Bora for taking such a step to encourage the students, "If you want development, it starts from the grassroots. You should do work that will be remembered by everyone. Every MLA should undertake work that will be helpful for future generations."

tres in the constituency.

Governor Kataria said that the environment in which students learn is crucial to their success. A time, the Governor also said that

for human resources to attain their The Governor also said that life presents many challenges, and students must meet these challenges with resilience and determination. He lauded the organisation for making significant strides in skill development, women empowerment, and employment generation. He also appreciated the trust's role in addressing challenges of climate change; planta-

tions such as eri and muga are especially praiseworthy. Kataria also said, "The youth force, or Yuva Shakti, are the driving forces of our nation. I am happy that the trust is giving our students the right kind of opportunities to grow and realise their full potential, and contribute positively to societal development". The Governor said that the trust is making significant contributions to different areas which have the potential to bolster the state's and country's develop-

ment Outlining the importance of

Duck farming training camp held in Dengaon

<u>HT Bureau</u>

DIPHU, July 23: The Karbi Farmers Association (KFA), in partnership with the manager of Duck Farm, Phuloni, organised a one-day training camp on duck farming for local farmers. The event took place at the Ser-

Pijush Hazarika reviews flood damage in Nagaon

Minister directs expedited aid, embankment repairs & discusses recovery plans with local officials

HT Correspondent

NAGAON, July 23: The Water Resource minister of the state and the guidance minister for the district, Pijush Hazarika, visited Nagaon on Tuesday and participated in a special meeting with the administrative heads of various departments at the DC's conference hall to assess the damage caused by the recent floods in the district.

During the meeting, the minister thoroughly reviewed the damage caused by the floods and directed the concerned officials to complete all proceedings to release flood aid or monetary assistance to the affected people before August 15. He also reviewed the progress of various government schemes being implemented in the district.

Additionally, the minister instructed the officials of the Nagaon Water Resource Department to expedite the repair works at the breached portion of the Hatimura embankment in the Jitu Goswami, Raha MLA Sashi Kaliabor area. He assured that



over 6 kilometres of embankment at Changsuki under the Kampur revenue circle, which was ravaged by the recent floods, will be newly constructed soon. Following this, another 15 kilometres of new embankment will be constructed in the second phase from Garukhunda to Bakulguri under the same revenue circle. Local Nagaon-Batadroba MLA Rupak Sarma, Barhampur MLA

Kanta Das, DC Narendra Kr Shah, district development com-Nagaon Gunajit missioner Kashyap, chief executive officer Nagaon Zila Parishad Ananta Gogoi, and additional district commissioners Pranab Kr Dutta Goswami, Sudip Nath, Soubhik Bhuyan, Philish VLH Hangshal, along with other heads of various departments, participated in the meeting, according to an official press note

Agniveer Recruitment Rally commences at Jaswant Stadium



HT Correspondent

TEZPUR, July 23: The Agniveer Recruitment Rally for the four districts of Central Assam namely, Sonitpur, Biswanath, Nagaon and Morigaon got underway on Tuesday at the Jaswant Stadium, Missamari Military Station, Sonitpur. District commissioner Deba Kumar Mishra visited the military station on Tuesday and interacted with the candidates, wishing them luck for successful participation in the rally. The district commissioner was accompanied by additional district commissioner Pranjit Deb, circle officer of Thelamara Revenue Circle Himadri Bora, Army recruiting officers from Shillong and Jorhat offices and other concerned officials of both civil administration and army for the recruitment.

It is to be noted that Recruiting Office (Headquarters), Shillong will be conducting the Agniveer Army Recruitment Rally for Central Districts of Assam at Jaswant Stadium, Missamari Military Station from July 23 to July 27, 2024. The first phase of the recruitment rally involved an online common entrance exam that was conducted nationwide in April-May 2024. The results of the shortlisted candidates have been uploaded on the official website of the Indian Army, www.joinindianarmy.nic.in.

It is pertinent to mention that the second phase of the Agniveer Recruitment Rally for Biswanath district will be held on July 24, 2024, the third phase will be on July 25, 2024 for Nagaon district, the fourth phase Army Recruitment Rally for Agniveer (general duty) of Morigaon district and Agniveer tradesmen (10th pass) for all central districts of Assam i.e. Sonitpur, Biswanath, Nagaon and Morigaon will be on July 26, 2024 and the fifth phase Army Recruitment Rally for Agniveer tradesmen (8th pass), Agniveer technical and Agniveer (office assistant) for all central districts of Assam i.e. Sonitpur, Biswanath, Nagaon and Morigaon will be held on July 27, 2024.

The Army has made complete preparations for the rally, in which the district administration and police department have played an important role. This rally is organised only for the shortlisted candidates of the online common entrance exam that was conducted nationwide in April-May 2024. The recruitment rally is free, fair and transparent so all candidates are advised not to approach any type of touts.

Recruiting Office (Headquarters), Shillong had posted recruitment-related instructions and information sheets in all District HQs. Candidates will undergo physical tests in the rally ground and medical tests will be conducted for those who have completed both physical fitness test and physical measurement test. Medically unfit candidates will be sent to Military Hospital, Tezpur for review.

The civil administration has ensured necessary arrangements like accommodation, bio breaks, drinking water and provision for buses.

Information leaflets have been displayed at all prominent places for guiding the candidates to the rally venue. Additional measures have been taken for security and crowd control by Army and Police.

THE HILLS TIMES 3

dren tragically drowned in Saru Mati Parbat village, Neli, under Jagiroad Police Station on Tuesday afternoon. Mukesh Rajbhar and Vijay Rajbhar, both aged 7 and 8, lost their lives while swimming in the flooded waters of the Kiling river. They were promptly taken to Mahatma Gandhi Hospital, where doctors pronounced them dead.

Jorhat BJP general secretary resigns

HT Correspondent JORHAT, July 23: Ratul Bora, general secretary of the Krishak Morcha for the Jorhat district unit of BJP, has resigned from his position, citing personal reasons on Tuesday. He submitted his resignation in a letter addressed to the president of the Jorhat district unit of BJP.



the economic benefits of duck farming to the attendees. He noted that the current market price for ducks is approaching ₹ 1000 per bird, making it a potentially lucrative venture. Dr Borah also

emphasised the importance of preventive healthcare, advising farmers to vaccinate their ducks against seasonal diseases like Avian influenza and Avian Cholera.

KFA president Tingku Engti encouraged farmers to consider duck farming, describing it as a manageable enterprise that allows time for other activities. He stressed that this venture could provide significant support to farming families and assured that the KFA would offer ongoing guidance and support to interested farmers.

As part of the initiative, ducklings and necessary medicines were distributed to the participating farmers.

The program was chaired by Sunil Terang, president of the KFA Dengaon branch, while general secretary Tapon Killing handled introductions and felicitations. Other notable attendees included KFA vice president Robinson Teron, spokesperson Hemari Rongpi, and member Rajiv

(KSA), Asom Jatiyatabadi Chatra Parishad (AJYCP), and Anti Corruption Youth Power of Assam (ACYPA) jointly expressed their concerns over the proposed establishment of liquor outlets at Lahorijan Sunday Market and Khatkhati Gautam Basti.

respecting time is paramount for

students. Proper time management

is a cornerstone of achieving suc-

cess. The trust's efforts to nurture

students from the grassroots level

are commendable, offering them a

pathway to advancement. The

Governor also advised the students

to dream big and work tirelessly to

achieve those dreams. A capable

student uses his expertise, wisdom,

and knowledge for the betterment

Hrishikesh Goswami, secretary

'The enthusiasm and interest

of Assam Children's Literature

Trust, attended the program as the

shown by the students in this work-

shop, focused on educational and

skill development exploration,

have been encouraging for the or-

ganisers," said Jahnabi Borah,

chairperson, and Gauri Konwar

Borah, secretary, of the Volunteer

Industry & Commerce, etc., min-

ister Bimal Bora, MLA Lahowal

Binod Hazarika, MLA Moran

Chakradhar Gogoi, MLA Chabua

Punakan Baruah, MLA Duliajan

Teros Gowala, chairman of Assam

Tourism Development Corporation

Rituparna Barua, secretary of Chil-

dren's Literary Trust Hrishikesh

Goswami along with a host of other

dignitaries were present at the pro-

Student groups protest

new alcohol shops in KA

HT Correspondent

BOKAJAN, July 23: On Tuesday,

three student organisations in

Karbi Anglong, Assam, submitted

a memorandum to the deputy com-

missioner opposing the opening of

new alcohol shops in the region.

The Karbi Students Association

gramme

Trust, Growth from Grassroots.

of society

keynote speaker.

The groups argue that Bokajan legislative assembly constituency in Karbi Anglong is already saturated with alcohol vendors. They pointed out that areas such as Lahorijan, Khatkhati, Bokajan, Hanjanglangso, Silonijan, and Chowkihola are overcrowded with liquor shops and bars.

In their statement, the organisations emphasised that the proliferation of alcohol outlets in Bokajan sub-division has become a significant issue. They urged authorities to refrain from opening additional liquor shops, citing concerns for the community's well-being.

2 youths drown in village pond HT Correspondent KHERONI, July 23: A tragic in-cident occurred in Majiahadi vil-

lage, Kheroni, West Karbi Anglong, where two young men lost their lives due to drowning in a local pond. The victims have been identified as Anish Kumar Chouhan, 28, and Mahendra Chouhan, 25.

According to local residents, the two youths had gone to the pond for bathing. The villagers noted that this particular pond is known for its significant depth, which may have contributed to the unfortunate

Upon realising the situation, community members quickly mobilised to retrieve the bodies from the water. The victims were then rushed to the nearest hospital.

Nagaon launches 100-day Mission Shakti awareness & enrollment drive

HT Correspondent

NAGAON, July 23: The District Social Welfare Department of Nagaon, under SANKALP and DHEW, launched a 100-day special awareness cum enrollment drive for Mission Shakti with women-centric legislation at Dakshin Jewmari LP School located in Jewmari Bazar under the Rupahi ICDS project on Monday.

Over a hundred participants, including supervisors, GP members, AWWs, ASHA workers, adolescent girls, and their respective parents, attended the event. Rajlakshmi Sandilya, gender specialist, Surajit Borthakur, and Jaya Priya Kalita attended the event as resource persons, while Queen Borah, district programme coordinator cum district mission coordinator of SANKALP DHEW, mentored the programme. The event was initiated under the guidance of ADC Kaku Moni Saikia and district social welfare officer Nagaon Bholanath Pegu.

During the event, the ill effects of early marriage of girl children and teenage pregnancy, as well as the role of 1098 services and DHEW in this regard, were highlighted and screened. Additionally, the resource persons elaborated on various schemes like BBBP, Shakti Sadan, Sakhi Niwas, Palna, One Stop Centre, 181 women helpline, and PMMVY being active or implemented for the welfare of women and girls across the district, according to a press note.

'Stop Diarrhoea' campaign kicks off at Kathiatoli BPHC

HT Correspondent

NAGAON, July 23: Nagaon District Health Services ceremonially launched the district-level 'Stop Diarrhoea' campaign at Kathiatoli BPHC under Nagaon district on Saturday. The joint director of Health Services, additional CM & HO, CM & HOCD, district immunisation officer, DNO School Health, SDM & HO, DPMU, BPM unit of Kathiatoli BPHC, ANM workers, ASHA supervisors, ASHA workers, and the general public were present during the launch.

During the event, senior district officials from Health Services discussed in detail their duties to stop diarrhoea along with the use of zinc and ORS during diarrhoea. Amidst the discussions, an ASHA supervisor gave a demonstration on proper handwashing techniques. Additionally, an ANM explained the method of mixing ORS in water to the audience. At the end of the program, the joint director inaugurated the ORS distribution program for children under 5 years old, according to an official press note.

Athletics coaching camp concludes

<u>HT Bureau</u> DIPHU, July 23: The Diphu Athletics Academy (DAA), in collaboration with Langsoli-et Sports Association (LSA), successfully concluded a week-long athletics coaching camp aimed at promoting sports in rural areas. The camp, held from July 14 to 20 at Langsoliet playground, catered to children aged 10 and above.

The initiative saw participation from 70 young athletes, both boys and girls, hailing from nearby villages including Langsoli-et, Hojaipur, and Nilapur. The training was conducted by a team of experienced coaches, including national players Sangmir Teronpi, Kajir Teronpi, and Longmiji Bey, alongside DAA coaches Pokhila Englip and Sikari Enghi.

On the final day, July 20, an athletics competition was held, followed by a ceremony where medals and certificates were awarded to the winners and participants.

Aaranyak trains Karbi villagers in mushroom tivation CU

HT Bureau GUWAHATI, July 23: As part of Alternative Sustainable Livelihood (ASL) initiatives, the region's premier biodiversity conservation organisation, Aaranyak, in collaboration with Rabha Agrotech, recently organised a comprehensive summer mushroom cultivation training program for marginalised Karbi families in the Karbi Anglong district.

The training began on June 22 and ended on July 18 in two phases-preliminary and final-and was administered both centrally and at the village cluster level.

The training targeted interested persons from 10 villages in the Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong landscape, with the purpose of supporting alternative sustainable livelihood opportunities through summer mushroom cultivation for marginalised families.

Twenty women from 10 villages participated in the preliminary training and learned crucial processes such as paddy straw cutting, sterilisation through boiling, and mushroom cylinder preparation. These cylinders were then stored in a dark room for 20-25 days before proceeding to the further steps of summer mushroom cultivation.

After 25 days, the final phase of training was held in Chandrasing Rongpi Village with 19 participants. The event featured advanced steps like sand and vermicompost casting processes on the mushroom cylin-



ders. Specific requirements and sterilisation of sand and vermicompost by chemical and non-chemical processes were also taught by the trainer.

A key outcome of the training was that all central training participants agreed to organise similar training in their respective villages and train interested individuals. This approach aims to extend knowledge to those who couldn't attend the central training, ensuring wider dissemination of mushroom cultivation techniques.

The day's agenda included a welcome speech by Sarlongjon Teron, senior project officer at Aaranyak, and a practical session with hands-on training and discussions led by the mushroom trainer, Manoranjan Saikia, who guided the participants through the steps involved in summer mushroom cultivation and motivated them by highlight-

ing the potential for financial prosperity through mushroom cultivation.

Participants such as Jirhun Killingpi and Kareng Rongpipi shared their enthusiasm and gratitude for the training. "We are very enthusiastic and excited. We have already trained 57 interested women in our respective village in the preliminary phase of summer mushroom cultivation, and we are optimistic about the benefits it will bring," Jirhun Killingpi said.

Another participant, Kareng Rongpipi, thanked Aaranyak for their unwavering support and dedication towards the community, stating, "Now we have been able to participate in different livelihood training programs that were once a distant dream. We are immensely grateful for their commitment to our community and landscape."

This training program was an overall success, as all participants completed the course. The enthusiasm and active engagement of the attendees throughout both phases of the training demonstrated their keen interest in learning mushroom cultivation techniques. The whole initiative is supported by IUCN, Kfw.

The rest of the organising team of Aaranyak comprised project officer Joshna Terangpi, assistant project officer (trainee) Sarlongki Teron, field assistants Prokash Engti and Beauty Terangpi, and volunteer Stephan Tokbi

4

THE HILLS TIMES VOL. I, ISSUE 145, GUWAHATI, WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2024

QUOTE OF THE DAY The economy is a very sensitive organism. -Hjalmar Schacht

Strategic reforms in Union Budget 2024-25

n a tactical response to the outcome of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has strategi-Lcally embedded next-generation economic reforms within the Union Budget 2024-25. Despite being listed last among nine priority areas, these reforms are the budget's core focus. The prioritization of Agriculture, Employment, and Inclusive Development addresses the needs of key voter groups-farmers, the unemployed, and those feeling excluded from a decade of Modi's governance-who significantly curtailed the BJP's strength in the Lok Sabha to 240 seats. To gain the necessary popular support for these economic reforms, the budget emphasizes the top three priorities: Agriculture, Employment, and Inclusive Development. The remaining priorities-Manufacturing and Services, Urban Development, Energy, Infrastructure, Innovation, and R&D—are strategically positioned between them. The overarching theme rests on Employment, Skilling, MSMEs, and the Middle Class. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman highlighted the new Economic Policy Framework, aiming to delineate the approach to economic development and facilitate sustained high growth. Amid a severe job crisis, the budget emphasizes job creation. The Economic Survey 2023-24 had already cautioned about the evolving nature of work, impacting all skill levels. To boost employment, especially for women, the government has announced significant support for women-led units, hostels, and skilling programs.

A notable initiative is the scheme linking job creation in the manufacturing sector to first-time workers. This offers incentives for EPFO contributions for both employees and employers over four years, targeting the informal job sector, which comprises over 90% of India's workforce. Expected to benefit 3 million young people, the scheme provides a reimbursement of up to ₹3,000 per month for two years per additional employee. To address skill-job mismatches, a centrally sponsored scheme will skill 20 lakh youth over five years, upgrading around 1,000 ITIs to align with industry needs. Additionally, the Model Skill Loan Scheme revision aims to assist 25,000 students annually, providing e-vouchers for loans up to ₹ 10 lakh for higher education with an interest subvention of 3%. The Prime Minister's package includes five employment and skilling schemes, allocating ₹ 2 lakh crore over five years, benefitting 4.1 crore youths. The current year sees an allocation of ₹ 1.48 lakh crore. A comprehensive internship scheme will provide 1 crore youth with opportunities in top companies, offering ₹ 5,000 monthly and ₹ 6,000 one-time assistance, with companies covering training and 10% of internship costs through CSR funds. Despite the focus on job creation, Capex spending remains unchanged at ₹ 11.1 lakh crore, acknowledging the limitations of past Capex increases in generating desired employment levels due to technological deployment.

For farmers, the budget introduces 109 high-yielding climate-resilient seeds, digital agriculture infrastructure, and crop surveys to enhance credit risk assessment. An allocation of ₹ 1.52 lakh crore aims to boost rural employment and welfare, while ₹ 2.66 lakh crore is earmarked for rural development and infrastructure. Under Inclusive Human Resource Development and Social Justice, the budget extends the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana for five years, benefiting over 80 crore people. It emphasizes schemes supporting craftsmen, artisans, SHGs, and street vendors, boosting Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana with a ₹ 10 lakh crore budget, including ₹ 2 lakh crore in central aid. This Union Budget strategically blends immediate needs with long-term reforms, positioning the Modi government to gain popular support while steering the nation towards sustained economic growth.

Rahul Gandhi is making the right moves as the leader of the Opposition

<u>By: Harihar Swarup</u>

Gandhi as the answer. While this

Biden leaves the stage, now Kamala Harris to face the trumpet second term. More like President USA's sake. Sunday, he threw in camp is some democratic bigwigs haven't endorsed Kamala. For-

President Joe Biden has stood down and, in his stead; Vice President Kamala Harris will be Democrat candidate for the President's post. And if she beats Donald J. Trump in November, Kamala will be laughing all the way to the White House. Harris' defining tone is her trademark laugh and Kamala is a mix of African-American and Indian American. If elected President, Kamala Harris will be the first woman to break the glass ceiling And may the glass pieces land

on the 'Orange-man's' head. Donald J. Trump, with the bullet perforated ear, is refusing to debate Kamala Harris, unless it is on his own terms, which includes moving the second debate from 'ABC News' to 'Fox News', take it or leave it. Trump doesn't trust 'ABC' from doing an 'XYZ' on him. Trump escaped death by a centimetre and a half and has seen Satan from up-close!

Earlier on Sunday, President Joe Biden did not surprise when he announced he no longer seeks reelection. President Biden is down with Covid and could have forgotten he was running for a

Biden's family folded without a whimper. With that Kamala Harris was para-dropped in the eye of the cyclone.

The Vice President who can become President has just enough time to mount a winning campaign. Funds are not in short supply. Donors and Democrat leaders are queuing up behind Kamala Harris. Soon after Joe Biden "dropped out", Kamala met top Democrats and was on a roll. "She is ready to win in Wisconsin!!!" one

tivated

Democrat wrote DEGREE OF THOUGHT on 'X'. "Her team is fully ac-**By: Sushil Kutty** and phones are ring-

ing, emails are blowing up, this get tough for Donald Trump? thing is rolling. This has taken off Most polls put Harris even below like a rocket ship. Harris is looking to "tur-

bocharge her nascent presidential campaign". Joe Biden will remain President till the last day of his term. Biden endorsed Kamala Harris with no hesitation but after a slow hour and a half. The disastrous debate and then he was defiant. He refused to step aside for Democrats' sake, and for the

the towel. Too many Democrats wanted Joe Biden out of the mer Speaker Nancy Pelosi is one. White House. Ditto Senate Majority Leader

"My very first decision as the Chuck Schumer and House Miparty nominee in 2020 was to pick Kamala Harris as my Vice President. And it's been the best decision I've made," Biden posted on 'X'. "Today I want to offer my full support and endorsement for Kamala to be the nominee of our party this year." Harris couldn't be more pleased, "I am honoured to have the President's endorse-

nority Leader Hakeem Jeffries. Also, former President Barack Obama is holding himself back. All of them are showering praise on Joe Biden for stepping down but are not mentioning Kamala Harris as the "best bet". The path remains unclear for Kamala.

A big number of Democrats want a candidate who can defeat Donald Trump in November. Even if Kamala Harris has the "smarts, the experience, the accomplishments and the agenda to lead us to victory in November," So, does things said a democrat. "Just spoke to the Vice President to reiterate that I'm all in. Please join me and sup-Biden against Trump. Now that port Vice President Kamala Harshe's contesting for the Presiris with a contribution today!" dent's job, voters might see her in

Biden's faltering campaign since the June 27 debate made her presidential scrubs. Saturday, a case for "Hillary for President" sure Trump would win. The aswas floated. But it didn't float far. sassination bid and the Republi-So, Kamala it is, and Kamala it can convention in Milwaukee will be. Kamala Harris plans to placed Trump firmly in the wintravel all over the USA with hope ning saddle. JD Vance, Trump's choice for Vice President, made What's worrying the Harris sense to MAGA Americans. The

pressure on President Joe Biden made him nervous.

To think that Joe Biden will not be seen ever again wandering offstage is nostalgia in the making. "Everybody loves Joe" is heard a lot, but please get him off the stage. The same Democrats now say "we're all united behind Kamala Harris." But the air of uncertainty is just below the surface. Not every Democrat is dancing in the streets or in the aisles. There are rules to follow, Joe Biden's endorsement aside. Kamala Harris has so suddenly become top of the ticket, it is hard to stomach and vote for!

It is uphill. Trump will go all out after Kamala Harris. In the meantime, Kamala has to choose her VP pick. JD Vance was looking to pummel Kamala in the VP debate which was to follow the second Biden-Trump debate. Deep down, Kamala Harris will be happy Trump is setting debate conditions on ABC. Also, don't forget Kamala Harris was ousted from the 2020 Democratic primaries and wouldn't have been Vice President but for Joe Biden picking her up for his running mate. (IPA Service)



Regional languages should get attention in courts

that voters will pivot to her.

By: Alee Khan

t is noteworthy that while addressing the third convocation ceremony of Ram Manohar Lohia National Law University last Saturday, Chief Justice of India Justice DY Chandrachud said that local languages should be adopted for effective justice system. Recently, the Research Department of the Supreme Court conducted a survey of 81 universities and colleges and the analysis found that the general public feels hindered in understanding their rights and related schemes due to not knowing the English language. This means that in law universities, law is taught in English and many times students are not able to explain the legal process to the general public in legal aid centres.

Many times it happens that common citizens who bring their cases do not understand what is being debated in the court. Justice Chandrachud further said, here I am not blaming anyone, rather my emphasis is on the fact that regional languages should also be kept in mind in the process of studying law.

Laws related to regional issues should also be taught in our universities. He said, suppose a person from a neighboring village comes to the legal aid center of your university and tells about his land related problem. But if the student does not know the meaning of Khasra and Khatauni then how will the student help the Supreme Court, High Courts, Special Courts and Tribunals.

If we talk about the provisions related to language mentioned in the Indian Constitution, then Article 348 (1) of the Indian Constitution provides that all proceedings in the Supreme Court and every High Court shall be in the English language, unless Parliament by law otherwise provides.

Article 348(2) provides that the Governor of a State may, with the previous consent of the President, use the Hindi language or any other language used for the official purposes of that State in the proceedings of a High Court whose principal seat is in that State. Can authorize the use of.

Further, the decision of the Central Cabinet Committee dated 21 May 1965 provided that any proposal relating to the use of a language other than English in the High Court would require the consent of the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India. If we talk about those High Courts, where regional languages are used.

Let us tell you that the use of Hindi in the proceedings of the Rajasthan High Court was authorized in 1950 under clause (2) of Article 348 of the Constitution. The use of Hindi was authorized in the High Courts of Uttar Pradesh (1969), Madhya Pradesh (1971) and Bihar (1972) in consultation with the Chief Justice of India.

If we look at the historical perspective

made to start medical education in regional languages along with English. Therefore, now steps will have to be taken towards editing law studies in regional languages. In fact, all the developed countries of the world have given utmost importance to their mother tongue and local language.

For this reason, mother tongue and local language were made the medium of education of our country. This also includes those countries whose mother tongue is not English. Russia, China, Japan, Germany and France instead of giving importance to English language, made their mother tongue the medium of education. But due to the continuation of English language in India, the importance of local language started decreasing. As it is not unfair to learn English, but it is completely unfair to give it a place above the mother tongue.

However, an attempt has been made to overcome this shortcoming in the new Indian education policy. In this, importance has been given to mother tongue and local language. So that Indian languages will get protection. Indian languages can be given due importance from school education to higher education. Let us tell you that a national institute, Indian Institute of Translation and Interpretation. will be established for all Indian languages. This also includes engineering and medical studies.

Keeping this in mind, engineering an

percent of the total languages spoken across the world are on the verge of extinction. The crisis on their existence has deepened. In such a situation, the big question is how to maintain the existence of languages? For this, there is a need to give preference to local languages.

Also, there is a need to improve our mentality towards local languages. Today, a class is growing in the country and the world which takes pride in speaking the English language, this thinking has to be changed.

Along with this, the need is being felt in school education today to develop such curriculum which supports multiple languages simultaneously. There is also a need to include chapters promoting the use of ancient languages in the school curriculum. Without this, it will not be possible to reduce the threat looming on the existence of regional languages.

It is noteworthy that the Supreme Court of India has also taken steps to promote the use of regional languages. As the Supreme Court ruled in 2017, all high courts must use regional languages in their judgments. The Court also directed that translations of judgments should be made available in regional languages to promote better access to justice. But, we also have to understand that despite efforts to promote regional languages in the courts, many challenges exist.

If we throw light on the challenges, one of the biggest challenges is the lack of infrastructure and resources for translation and interpretation services. In fact, it becomes difficult to provide services in regional languages due to lack of trained translators and interpreters. Another challenge is the resistance of the legal community towards the use of regional languages in the courts. Some lawyers and judges consider English to be the language of the legal profession and oppose any attempts to change the status quo. This resistance may make it difficult to implement policies promoting regional languages in the courts. But to overcome all these challenges, we have to make a better action plan and strategy. So that regional languages not only get importance in the courts, but also ensure their usefulness. (The author is a freelance writer and serving as a teacher in the Elementary Education Department, Government of Rajasthan. He can be reached Aleekhanbhaiya@gmail.com)

uddenly Rahul Gandhi is the flavour of season. If you look at the hard data, the BJP lost only 1.2% of the popular vote share, and the Congress gained 1.49 %. It is not as if whopping numbers swayed from one side to the other. The BJP still has 240 seats despite being in power for ten years with majority, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pre-poll alliance of the NDA has moved into his third term in office.

This was not the case with Congress-led UPA after its tenyear stint in power (2004-14). This time Congress was lucky that the rise in its vote share translated into more seats, nearly doubling its numbers from 52 to 99. But the story goes beyond the data-and the situation has changed broadly in three ways.

First, Rahul Gandhi has taken on the Leader of Opposition (LOP) post and opted to lead the Congress from the front-unlike after earlier results. For 41 months, till Mallikarjun Kharge took over as the party chief in 2022, there was no full time President of India's grand old party.

It seemed to be waiting for Gandhi to make up his mind. After he stepped down as party President following the Congress's 2019 debacle, Sonia Gandhi stepped in as interim President. But behind the scenes, Rahul Gandhi continued to take all major decisions.

Today, as LOP, he will deal with the Prime Minister and Home Minister Amit Shah on committees to select to Central Vigilance Commissioner and the CBI director, for example, apart from engaging the government on a host of issues. He will also need to plan the nuts and bolts of the Congress's strategy in Parliament, ensuring that complaints against them about inaccessibility are not repeated. He has to open his doors to not just party colleagues but also leaders of INDIA parties.

The question is on Who against Modi? appears to have been settled for now. Many opposed to the NDA government now see

addressed by the INDIA bloc, it may not need to tackle this for some time to come. Barring possibly Mamata Baneriee of Trinamool Congress and Arvind Keiriwal of the Aam Aadmi Party. Gandhi appears to have settled into a good rapport with other chieftains, such as Akhilesh Yadav of the Samajwadi party, Teiashwi Yaday of the RJD. M K Stalin of the DMK and Uddhav Thackeray of his Shiv Sena. At the moment, most of them are occupied with retaining ground in

their own states. Gandhi is also the face of a robust Opposition in Parliament, as

was visible in the first short session with the Congress MPs enjoying new space that has opened up for them following BJP's shrunken numbers.

The recent release of INDIA partner and JMM leader Hemant Soren on bail and the possible early release of Arvind Kejriwal will act as a booster for the opposition ranks.

The third facet of the new Gandhi is his visibility on the ground, in some way an extension of his Bharat Jodo yatra. Since the Lok Sabha results came, he has paid visits to Gujarat (after some congress workers were injured in clash with the BJP), Manipur (to meet victims of the internal conflict in state), Hathras (to meet the victims of the recent stampede) Assam (to meet victims of recent floods), and Rae Bareli (his constituency, where he also visited the family of an army officer who died in Siachen): he has also met railway loco pilots to talk about their workers conditions, after recent accident. He is on the move and to the politically important places. He is acting as the shadow Prime Minister. That is what matters in his fight against the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Rahul is 20 years younger to the PM Modi. He is better placed to symbolize the aspirations of an emerging India. His political performance in the next few years will be crucial in determining the course of his political destiny. (IPA Service)

that person. Therefore, regional languages should be kept in mind while studying law.

Reiterating his point, the Chief Justice said that I am not saying that English should be removed from legal education, but regional languages should also be adopted along with English. Throwing light on diversity, he said, our country is full of diversity. Be it on the basis of language or region. It is known that in many countries of the world, legal education and legal proceedings are conducted in regional languages, which not only increases the access of all citizens to the legal system, but they also start aspiring to become lawyers and judges.

Today it is well known that English dominates the study of law. As the documents are also in English, English prevails in the hearing also. Generally the decisions are also written in English. There is some scope for local languages in the lower courts, but English is used in of Indian courts, we will find that before the arrival of the British in India, the courts used local languages for judicial proceedings. But, after the establishment of British rule, English became the language of the courts. English was the language of the rulers and the educated elite and was used to maintain control over the

people.

After independence, the Constituent Assembly of India recognized the importance of regional languages and adopted a policy of promoting them. This resulted in the inclusion of regional languages as official languages of the country. Today, 22 languages have been given the status of regional languages in the Indian Constitution. However, the language of the courts remained English, which became a symbol of elitism and a barrier to access to justice for many

It is noteworthy that along with starting engineering education in regional languages in the country, efforts are being

medical studies were started in regional languages. It can be said that this will facilitate the students at the state level in studying medical education, since it has been observed that students coming from rural areas face difficulty in studying medical education completely in English in the initial phase. This step will not only encourage regional languages but will also make it easier to get medical education

Today it is well known that regional languages are in greater danger of extinction. How deep the threat to languages has become at present can be gauged from the fact that according to a study conducted by the United Nations in 2008, about 6780 languages are spoken in the world. Of these, there are 6432 languages which are spoken by only 1.5 crore people. There are 585 crore people who use 268 languages. In such a situation, it is really very worrying.

In the current era of globalization, 90

India's workforce greatly suffered in 2023-24 due to centre's neglect

By: Dr. Gyan Pathak

ndia's workforce greatly suffered in 2023-24 due to Centre's neglect, as it is reflected in the recently re-Leased annual report data of the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment. Under the Social Security Schemes and Projects for Workers, Union Budget has provided ₹ 12434.82 crore, which was decreased to ₹ 11714.99 crore in the revised estimate, but actual expenditure was only ₹ 8333.34 crore upto December 31, 2023. This data does not support PM Modi's claim of employment generation referring the RBI data which showed 46.6 per cent increase from 596.7 million to 643.3 million. Had it been true, the expenditure on social security and welfare schemes for workers must have registered a significant increase rather than a sharp reduction from the allocated budgetary provision.

The neglect of workforce by Modi government is most pronounced under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan Yojna. Under this scheme the budget has provided ₹ 350 crore, which was reduced to ₹ 205.21 crore in the revised estimate, however, actual expenditure by the end of 2023 was only ₹46.34 crore.

Under the Labour Welfare Scheme the budget allocation was only ₹ 75 crore, which was shown increased to ₹ 102 crore, but actual expenditure was only ₹ 20.25 crore, the annual report of the ministry shows.

The Centre spent nothing under National Pension Scheme for Traders and Self-Employed Persons under erstwhile Pradhan Mantri Karma Yogi Maan-Dhan Yojna, though it had provided ₹ 3 crore in the budget and the revised estimate reduced it to ₹ 0.10.crore Even under Employees' Pension Scheme it spent only ₹ 6875.25

crore as against budget allocation of ₹ 9167 crore and revised estimate of ₹ 9760 crore.

Even under Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojna, the total allocation was ₹ 2272.82 crore, which reduced to ₹ 1350 crore in revised estimate but total expenditure by the end of 2023 was ₹ 1265 crore.

The National Data Base for Unorganised Workers seemed also suffered because the expenditure was only ₹ 18.63 crore as against budget allocation of ₹ 300 crore, and the revised estimate of ₹ 102.96 crore.

Modi government had launched the National Career Services with great fanfare but there seems to be little progress in this regard if actual expenditure of only ₹ 26.36 crore is of any indication against the allocated and revised fund of ₹ 52 crore.

Similar is the case with the expenditure of autonomous bodies under the ministry which spent only ₹ 94.39 crore as against the budget provision of ₹ 127 crore.

As for the wages, the annual report says that in a labour surplus country like India, it is difficult to have a uniform and comprehensive wage policy for all sectors of the economy. In this connection refers to the Code on Wages, 2019, which is yet to be implemented.

The report says that the social security schemes in India cover only a segment of the organized workforce. It admits that government has limited role. There are social security legislations but these provide for mandatory social security benefits either solely at the cost of the employers or on the basis of joint contribution of the employers and the employees. While protective entitlements accrue to the employees, the responsibilities for compliance largely rest with the employers.

The coverage under ESI Scheme as on March 31, 2023

was meagre. There were only 3.43 crore insured persons, and 13.31 crore beneficiaries. The performance of the scheme is also dismal. A sum of ₹ 5444.73 Crores is due as arrears as on 31.3.2023 on account of default / dues by the employers of covered factories/establishments. An amount of ₹ 2819.67 Crore was found not immediately recoverable due to various reasons, such as factories having gone into liquidation, BIFR/NCLT cases, whereabouts of employers not known, disputes in courts, etc.

The balance amounting to ₹ 2625.06 Crores, represents immediately recoverable arrears. The ESI Corporation has been taking necessary recovery action through recovery mechanism, legal and penal actions, and prosecution, under the provision of the Employee's State insurance Act-1948 and under the Indian Penal Code for recovery of ESI dues from the defaulting employers.

As for EPF is concerned, total number of establishments covered are only 2,71,731, which is only a fraction of the total enterprises in the country. As of January 2024, there were 26 lakh registered companies in the country, and out of those 16 lakh were active. It should also be noted that under the present law many companies are not required to give social security coverage under this scheme. Total contributing members under the scheme was only 6.5 crore.

Moreover, under the minimum pension provision, the members of the EPF under EPS are still getting ₹ 1000 per month minimum pension, which is ridiculous. Amount paid as per minimum pension upto December 2023 was only ₹ 2450.38 crore, while as per original pension was given ₹ 1471 crore. It means majority of retired workers out of 20.55 lakh got minimum pension. (IPA Service)

WOMEN

Why women's mental health must be a key consideration in abortion pleas

<u>By: Anima Anjuri &</u> <u>Harshda Bargal</u>

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2024

nwanted pregnancies can have a debilitateffect on ing women's physical and mental health. An objective assessment of this impact is somedifficult. times The preservation of mental health should be within women's rights to reproductive freedom. However, recent Indian court rulings on abortion have shown inconsistency on this front

Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 (MTP) The MTP Act permits abortion with a Registered Medical Practitioner's (RMP's) consent up to 20 weeks. From 20-24 weeks, a pregnancy can be terminated in exceptional circumstances with opinions from at least two RMPs. Beyond 24 weeks, abortions are to be decided by courts on the basis of a report by a medical board.

The law allows abortion on the grounds of injury to mental health in case of sexual assault or failure of contraception. However, this applies only where the pregnancy is within 24 weeks. This leaves women, reliant on the courts and medical boards past the limits specified in the Act, experiencing mental health threats due to an unwanted pregnancy.

Subsection 3(3) of the Act states that, "...in determining

whether the continuance of a pregnancy would involve assessing abortion requests. Notably, the court built such risk of injury to the upon the precedent set in A health, account may be taken (Mother of X) v State of Maharashtra (2024) where the of the pregnant woman's actual or reasonably foreseeable Supreme Court emphasised environment.' This provision the importance of considering has been of particular signifa pregnant person's physical icance in judicial decisions and mental health as well as on abortion as it has been agency, when forming a medused by courts to interpret the ical opinion. The court di-MTP Act expansively in alrected medical boards to take the petitioner's material cirlowing abortion beyond 24 weeks. cumstances into considera-

One of the main consideration while forming their tions in granting such reopinion of termination of quests has been the threat to pregnancy, not just the upper mental health of the woman. gestational limit set by the Act. In the landmark X v However, in many cases, courts have not weighed this Principal Secretary, NCT threat when deciding late-Delhi, (2022) the Supreme term requests, resulting in de-Court acknowledged societal nial of abortion and stigma surrounding unmarinconsistent jurisprudence. ried mothers and the financial Protecting reproductive strain they may experience, rights

recognising their potential In X.Y.Z. v The Dean of threat to mental health. B.J. Government Medical It further underscored the College (2024) the Bombay importance of considering a high court allowed a 19-yearwoman's "actual or reasonold woman to terminate her ably foreseeable environ-25-week pregnancy. The ment" while assessing mental court based its decision on a health risks and noted that woman's right to bodily auforcing a woman to carry an tonomy and mental wellunwanted pregnancy perpetbeing and observed that the uates trauma and harms her mental health. While this is a impact on a woman's mental health is not limited to pregwelcome step, this undernancy caused due to rape, standing has not been consisfailure of contraception or tently applied. foetal abnormality as stated

The discordance in the law. This implied that In January 2024, in R v even in situations other than Union of India, the Supreme these, the mental well-being Court denied an abortion to a of a woman has to be considrecently widowed woman ered by the medical board in who was severely depressed

and displayed suicidal ideation. The focus on foetal viability and the woman's "future pregnancies" reflected how the material circumstances of the woman, her mental health, and her reproductive rights were disregarded by the court and the medical board.

Similarly, in May 2024, in H v Union of India the Supreme Court, the abortion plea of an unmarried, 20year-old woman was rejected despite the harm it posed to her mental health. She was a young NEET aspirant whose career, physical health, and mental well-being were all jeopardised by the pregnancy, as highlighted in her petition, but the court ruled that abortion beyond 24 weeks was permissible only in cases of substantial foetal abnormal-

In an earlier case, X v Union of India, (2023) a 27vear-old woman, suffering from postpartum depression, was denied an abortion despite her plea that her material circumstances, financial situation and mental health did not allow her to raise another child.

Here, the issues framed for obtaining a report from the medical board were solely from the point of view of the health of the foetus; consideration for the pregnant woman's mental health and choice were essentially nonexistent or, at best, secondary.

Tellingly, the issues were framed around i) foetal abnormality ii) impact of the mother's postpartum depression drugs on the foetus and iii) if the alternated administration of medication consistent with the pregnancy would be available so as not to jeopardise the well-being of the foetus and the woman. This is in stark contrast to the Supreme Court's own decisions, where, on one hand, it granted abortion requests beyond the statutory limit based on the consideration of threats to mental health and the material circumstances of the pregnant woman. On the other hand, in cases

where the petitioner was demonstrably suffering from depression and other severe mental health issues, it failed to recognize this aspect and denied abortion.

Mental health and reproductive justice are inextricably linked, as denial of one fundamentally affects the other. Forcing a woman to carry an unwanted pregnancy puts her under undue mental stress and is antithetical to her right to reproductive justice as established in K.S. Puttaswamy v Union of India (2017). The irregular application of established legal principles, further hampered by narrow interpretation of the law, undermines the legitimacy of India's abortion law as 'liberal' or 'pro-choice'. (Courtesy: The Wire)

How the friendship between two women changed the way classical music is taught and staged in Delhi

<u>By: Malini Nair</u>

n Delhi of the late 1950s, two friends would often be seen at Pandit Brothers, a popular store in Connaught Place, confabulating excitedly over tall glasses of cold coffee in the afternoons. Theirs was an easy camaraderie, marked by chatter and laughter. The two came from different worlds of pre-independence India: Sumitra Charat Ram, the daughter of a progressive zamindar family, had married into the Shriram business clan, and Nirmala Joshi was an arts activist, the niece of the leftist PC Joshi and daughter of a medical practitioner.

They had different temperaments, abilities and personalities. But in a little over a decade, their close collaboration was to drive some big shifts in how classical music was learned, taught and staged in the capital city. The fruits of association stand in Delhi's art district, Mandi House.

On its main circle stands Sangeet Bharati, founded by Joshi in 1936, and on the Copernicus Marg radial you cannot miss the distinct, redbricked facade of the Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra set up by Charat Ram in 1952. On the parallel Bhagwandas Road, stands the Kathak Kendra, a dance school that revitalised Kathak. Now a government institution, its early avatar was the brainchild of the energetic duo.

How did they pull this off? To get a sense of that, it is important to rewind to the euphoric day India gained Independence. On August 15, 1947, the twin havelis of the Shriram family on Curzon Road, just off Connaught Place, were buzzing - Charat Ram had decided to host a soiree in celebration, egged on by the young sitarist Ravi Shankar.

Every musical genius of the time was at the concert - Allauddin Khan, Hafiz Ali Khan, Pannalal Ghosh, Mushtaq Hussain Khan, Faiyaz Khan and Ravi Shankar himself, among them. And what was to be a small unadvertised home baithak ended up drawing over 1,000 people and turned into an all-nighter. The event was the seed of what came to be known as the Jhankar Music Circle, a platform for concerts, some of which went on to make creative and personal history for the artistes, such as Ravi Shankar and Annapurna Devi and the Ali Akbar Khan-Ravi Shankar-Vilayat Khan trio.

Bolstering this music circle initiative was Joshi. "Mummy used to call Nirmalaji her 'energiser'," recalled Shobha Deepak Singh, vice chairperson of the Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra now.

By the time the music circle was set up in 1947, Joshi was already a pioneering arts entrepreneur, having set up the Delhi School of Hindustani Music and Dance in 1936. It was located in a small space next to Regal cinema in Connaught Place but her ambition was audacious - to create a new arena for India's classical arts that had by then lost their old moorings and patron circles. Three years later, the Gandharva Mahavidyala came up. The institutional template was one that Charat Ram was to adopt at the Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra as well, bringing in vocal greats like Hafiz Ali Khan, the Dagar brothers, Dililp Chandra Vedi, Amarnath, Vilayat Hussain Khan, Mushtaq Hussain Khan, Naina Devi and great dancers such as Shambhu Maharaj, Durga Lal, Gopinath, Mayadhar Raut and Narendra Sharma. In Charat Ram's reminiscences, Shriram Bharativa Kala Kendra: A History, coauthored with arts scholar Ashish Khokar, Joshi's contribution to the fledgling venture is acknowledged for "starting and shaping the Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra with Sumitra Charat Ram. Her long years of association with the kendra gave it direction, purpose, substance and strength.

me to think that so much could be done under such humble and modest circumstances," she says of her visit to the arts school in 1939. As a student of Benares Hindu University, Charat Ram had been riveted by its traditions of music and dance. The kendra for her in many ways was a realisation of an old dream.

It was set up in the basement of her Curzon Road home, but with the faculty and students growing, it was soon shifted to Pusa Road in west Delhi. Old timers have recollections of Hafiz Ali Khan's young son Amjad - soon to grow into sarod prodigy - running around the garden of the bunglow. The kendra then shifted briefly to Mata Sundari Lane in central Delhi before finally arriving at its destination, Mandi House.

Arts revival

There are not many among us who witnessed those stirring decades of change. Hindustani vocalist Shanno Khurana, 96, is among the few.

Just in her 20s and newly arrived from Lahore post-Partition, she and her husband, a medical practitioner, were looking to find their feet in Delhi. They had a home on Parliament Street, but how was he to set up practice and what was she to do with her khayal training?

"Nirmala Joshi's father was a doctor, and we visited their home in Karol Bagh for some ideas," Khurana recalled. "When she found out that I was a trained khayal singer she asked: 'Would you like to teach young women music?' Those days, 'bahu betis' were not supposed to learn music and certainly not to perform in public and she wanted to change that. I agreed and joined at a monthly fee of Rs 75."

The classes began in earnest on the terrace of a building near Regal cinema in Connaught Place. Joshi had invited Achhan Maharaj, the great Kathak maestro of the Lucknow gharana at the Rampur court, to join the faculty. His first student was Kapila Vatsyayayan, the indomitable arts scholar.

"This was the beginning of a nonhereditary and syncretic restoration of institutional Kathak in pre-Independence India," says research scholar Suman Bhagchandani in her essav Institutions of Change: Kathak dance from Courts to Classrooms.

Also at the new school was flautist and choreographer Vijay Raghav Rao teaching Bharatanatyam. And Sharan Rani, a very young sarod enthusiast who was already making waves as a student.

The government, then keen to promote the idea of an arts district representing traditional practices, offered land at discounted price to Joshi. "But she still had to pay Rs 5,000 and those days, who had that kind of money Khurana recalled. "So we would get on a bus and go to Old Delhi to seek donations with our jholi spread out from the seths who owned big shops. Sangeet Bharati's ownership went out of Joshi's hands under circumstances about which there is little clarity but she was not one to sit and mope. "She was a motivator, an organiser and activist," says Charat Ram of her friend in her reminiscences. Noticed by the Nehru government for her cultural interventions, Joshi was soon to be made the first secretary of the newly minted Sangeet Natak Akademi, which was set up as an autonomous arts body in 1953. There, she went on to host what is considered the most historic of dance seminars, bringing together for the first time multiple dance forms, styles and experts from across India. Among the biggest contributions the two made to the revival of the classical arts was in the field of Kathak, at the time in a state of churn about its identity. The Kathak Kendra actually began as the Kathak wing of the Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra in 1955, with Joshi as usual showing the way forward. The ecosystem created by the kendra became a pioneering force of floor-level work," said Kastuar. "It institutionalised traditional artistic systems and gave artistes the freedom to be creative. The kendra first brought in Shambhu Maharaj, the younger brother of Acchan Maharaj and known for his exquisite abhinaya skills, as a teacher. Maya Rao, the fabulous dancer, was to be his first student. Among the greats to emerge from these Kathak classes were Kumudini Lakhia, Uma Sharma and Shovana Narayan. In 1964, this section was placed under the Sangeet Natak Akademi by the government and five years later it moved to Bahawalpur House. In the meanwhile, a new collaborator and friend had widened the circle of solidarity between Charat Ram and Joshi. This was Naina Devi, the outstanding thumri singer, who joined the kendra as its director. "We were like a threesome: Nirmala Joshi gave the idea, Naina Devi helped in its implementation and I helped financially.' It clearly made for a magic formula. (Courtesy: Scroll.in)

Include tomatoes in your skincare routine tomato but on other hand it also pro-**By: Shahnaz Husain**

n eadily available in almost every kitchen and loved by all, tomatoes can be used in almost any form in skin care.

When it comes to preventing tanning, managing oil production, and enlivening a dull complexion, tomato for face is a game-changer. Tomatoes contain vitamin C, vitamin E, and beta carotene - all of which lighten, brighten, and reveal the skin's natural colour. Pectin and Flavonoids in tomatoes have cleansing and antioxidant ingredients that can lighten skin texture. Tomatoes are also a great option for your regular cleansing, toning, and moisturizing skincare routine. The best part about it is that is so easily available in every house

Slightly acidic in nature, tomatoes are exceptionally beneficial for people who want to lose weight and maintain their blood pressure levels.

tects skin from ultraviolet (UV) rays, thereby delaying skin ageing and protecting against skin cancer. Not only do tomatoes taste great but has immense cosmetic benefits which can also help you get flawless, radiant and attractive skin. The ordinary tomato is a treasure trove of beauty ingredients which can treat rashes, sunburn, dull skin, acne and large pores.

Tomato is particularly beneficial for the health of the skin, as it also helps to restore the pH balance of the skin, which can get disrupted by harsh soaps and make-up cosmetics. Tomato also contains lycopene, which is a powerful antioxidant and therefore, has anti-ageing benefits when applied on the skin. Tomato pulp or tomato juice also helps to reduce oiliness and lightens skin colour over a period of time.

Tomato is most beneficial for pre-

retain the moisture in body during summers. You don't need to spend your hard-earned money on expensive cosmetic treatments if you can use this common ingredient from vour kitchen to enhance vour beauty.

Apply tomato juice or tomato pulp on the face and wash off with plain water after 15 minutes. Tomato pulp can be applied on skin with acne and gradually helps to control and acne condition.

Mix tomato juice with baking powder (bicarbonate of soda) into a paste. Apply on oily and blackhead prone areas of the face. Wash off after 5 minutes. It helps to prevent blackheads.

Mix one teaspoon each tomato and cucumber juice and apply it on the face to control oiliness of the skin. Over a period of time it will also help to remove tan and lighten skin colour. For normal to oily and combination skin, mix 3 teaspoons oats with a little

For sun burnt skin, mix tomato juice with powdered milk into a paste and apply on the face. It will help to remove tan.

Take some tomato and grind it. Rub the pulp onto your scalp and hair gently. Or, you can directly use the tomato juice on to your hair also. Leave it on for 15 to 30 minutes and wash it off. Regular application improves hair texture and repairs the damage caused by sun and dust.

For dry skin, mix tomato juice with almond oil and apply on the face to remove tan and lighten skin colour. Olive oil can also be combined with tomato juice to lighten skin colour.

Take 1 teaspoon tomato juice mix few drops of aloe vera gel. Apply the mixture on the under eye area carefully. Let it dry for 15 minutes and then rinse it off. Apply this once daily for quick results. Tomato pulp possesses skin bleaching properties that will lighten the darkened skin under

It comes in numerous varieties that are grown in temperate climates in various parts of the world. Tomatoes, the beauty guru are grown in numerous colours such as yellow, green, orange, black, brown, pink, white, brown, and purple, but are available mostly in their distinctive red colour.

Tomatoes, a staple in every kitchen are a huge reservoir of beauty-enhancing properties. Everyone knows the health benefits of a juicy, sweet

venting acne, as it closes the pores and keeps it free from clogged oil. Preventing clogged pores is a way of preventing blackheads, which is the primary acne lesion.

They contain lycopene which is antioxidant and works as sunscreen from within and also help in fighting cellular damage and reddening of skin. Daily intake of 25 milligrams of lycopene reduces the number of free radicals in the body and also help to

egg white and 2 teaspoons tomato juice into a paste. It should be of a consistency that does not drip. Apply on the face, avoiding the lips and area around eves. Wash it off after 20 to 30 minutes, or when it dries.

You can also mix tomato juice with the pulp of avocado for normal to oily skin. While tomato reduces oiliness and has an astringent effect, avocado moisturizes the skin without making it oily

the eves. Aloe vera contains antioxidants and anti-inflammatory compounds that will rejuvenate the skin and also reduce the signs of aging. Tomato juice or pulp can also be

added to fruits to make a fruit mask. Mashed banana, ripe papaya and grated apple can be used with tomato juice for a nourishing and cleansing pack for all skin types. (The author is international fame beauty expert and is called herbal queen of India)

A dream realised

Across India in the 1930s and 1940s, arts institutions were burgeoning, led by renaissance men and women. There was Shantiniketan, Kerala Kalamandalam, Kalakshetra, and the Uday Shankar School at Almora, all spaces where traditional and cutting-edge work was happening in music, dance and theatre.

Jayant Kastuar, current director of the kendra and former secretary of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, says the work done by these new institutions was priceless.

"The most difficult work in arts institutions is the day-to-day management of the creative process, the training, the production, the performance," he said. "It takes sagacity, large heartedness and understanding of the arts. And it meant taking a traditional system, consolidating its scattered elements, retaining its foundations and fitting it into a modern, urban milieu." It was the work at Almora that inspired her, says Charat Ram in her memoir - the fact that artistes could live, practise and teach in a community was a revelation to her. "It excited

Alimony for Muslim women in India signifies a legal and social victory

By: Sharmina

The Supreme Court ruling of July 10 marked a significant decision that ensures the right of divorced Muslim women to receive alimony from their ex-husbands, aligning their rights with those of women from other communities in the country. In a deliberately executed judgment, the court overhauled the provisions of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986, passed by the Rajiv Gandhi government, which had absolved husbands of the responsibility to provide maintenance after divorce. But before reaching this overriding moment, the law and the provision had passed through many ridges and troughs.

It is the CrPC of 1898, Section 488, which provides women the right to demand maintenance from a person who is no longer their husband. This is a general law that does not exclude or include any religion and is equally applicable to all women. This provision has also been repeatedly validated and emphasized by several eminent judges of India in many judgments since the postindependence days.

In 1957, the Kerala High Court first recognized and affirmed the need for CrPC 488 to be applied to every woman without any religious consideration. While considering a similar dispute in 1970, Justice V. R. Krishna Iyer brought the CrPC 488 provision within the boundaries of all Indian women, stating, "I have no doubt that it behoves the courts in India to enforce Section 488 of the CrPC in favour of all Indian women, Hindu, Muslim or others." (Shahulameedu, 1970).

The next year, Iyer, as a member of the Law Commission of India, while drafting the new CrPC, recommended drafting the section to provide relief for married women and divorced wives as well. But when the government decided to back the move, it faced vehement opposition from Muslim religious circles and eventually incorporated it into the 1973 CrPC section 125 with some consideration to partly accommodate the rules of as a weapon. personal laws and customs. Later, as a Supreme Court Justice. Iver tried to diminish the concessional provisions by subjecting them to strict conditions while considering the Bai Tahera case in 1979.

In 1985, Justice Y.V. Chandrachud made a landmark judgment in the Shah Bano case, upholding the right of Muslim women to receive alimony from their husbands after divorce under Section 125 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC). While pronouncing the judgment, Justice Chandrachud emphasized that CrPC 125 was designed to empower and support underprivileged divorcees, and religion should not be a criterion for validating this support. However, the verdict led to massive outrage from Muslim fundamentalists and leaders, who alleged that the ruling was an assault on Sharia law. Protests erupted across the country, leading to significant discomfort within the Muslim community.

The then-ruling Rajiv Gandhi government, facing immense pressure, introduced a law overturning the court's verdict. Even with a prime minister holding a far-reaching majority of 414 seats in the house, Rajiv Gandhi could not resist the condemnation and enacted the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986, which limited the right to alimony to a period of three months, known as the iddat period. This period is the time a woman must observe after the death of her husband or after a divorce, during which she may not marry another man

This new law sparked further backlash, as it questioned the secular nature of the country that the government had been trying to uphold since independence. The Rajiv Gandhi government then faced allegations of Muslim appeasement from the Hindu majority, which pushed the Gandhi government to go the extra mile to bow to the needs of other communities as well, especially Hindus. Hindutva politicians used the Ram Temple issue, previously closed by Pandit Nehru,

They claimed that the Congress, in appeasing Muslims, was being cruel to Hindus and propa-gated the idea that "Hindus are in danger." This controversy significantly impacted the country's communal harmony.

Muslim women, however, lost their fundamental right to post-divorce financial aid, placing them in a precarious state without support. This provided an advantage to men who could unilaterally break the marital tie under the Muslim Marriage Act, leaving women without recourse.

Decades ago, the Indian judiciary system

The 1986 law persisted for a long 38 years without its unconstitutional element being questioned. Why? Because it is always sensitive when law intersects with politics. Because it is underlying the layers of minority-sensitive issues, no one wanted to challenge the erroneous. It is the sad reality of the Indian law and political system that Muslim women had to suffer in the name of secularism.

However, the recent Supreme Court ruling marks a pivotal change. It signifies not just a legal victory but a social one, recognizing the need for equality and justice for those who suffer irrespective of religious affiliations. This ruling not only reinstates the fundamental rights of Muslim women but also sets a precedent for the country to follow. It is a step towards a more inclusive and fair judicial system where the rights of all citizens are protected equally.

This decision serves as a reminder that the law must evolve with the times, ensuring justice for all, and not be swayed by political pressures or religious sensitivities. The judgment has brought hope and a sense of justice to many who have long awaited this moment. (Courtesy: Youth Ki Awaaz)

wanted to end the uncertainty by binding the provisions in the judicial system in the verdict of the Shah Bano case. But the government was not ferocious enough to enact that.

3

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6 THE HILLS TIMES

অসম লোকসেৱা আয়োগ

ASSAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Jawaharnagar, Khanapara, Guwahati-781022.

Apply Online: https://apscrecruitment.in Technical Support email: cceapsc@gmail.com Phone: 1800-572-23-43

ADVT. NO.15/2024

No.50PSC/DR-48/3/2023-2024

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

(FOR THE POSTS OF LECTURER IN D.I.E.T.S UNDER THE DIRECTORATE OF SCERT, ASSAM)

(A) NAME OF THE POST: LECTURER IN DIET UNDER DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION.

NO OF POSTS : 159 (One hundred fifty-nine) .

SCALE OF PAY : Pay scale + Grade Pay + Other allowances as admissible to the Assam State Government employees from time to time (per month).

Pay scale	Grade Pay	Pay Band
Rs. 30,000/- to 1,10,000/-	Rs. 13,300/-	Pay Band - 4

AGE:

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

- By 5 years for SC/ST candidates, i.e. upto 43 years.
- By 3 years for OBC/MOBC candidates i.e. upto 41 years as per Govt. Notification No. ABP. 6/2016/9 dated (ii) Dispur the 25th April 2018.
- (iii) Persons with benchmark disability (PwBD) 10 years irrespective of SC/ST/OBC and UR Category of candidates as per Govt. Memorandum No. ABP 180/2017/105 dated Dispur the 7th January, 2019.

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

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

FOR PwBD CATEGORY CANDIDATES :

To be eligible for consideration under PwBD category, a candidate must possess Benchmark Disability and must produced supporting necessary PwBD certificate issued by competent authority along with the application form.

(Upload relevant documents)

N.B: Since there is no post reserved for PwBD candidates, they will have to compete with other candidates without any PwBD reservation.

DISTRIBUTION OF POSTS:

(1) LECTURER, PRE-SERVICE TEACHER EDUCATION (PSTE)

Number of Posts : 55 (Fifty - five)

(a) Language: 11 (Eleven) Posts. (6 posts of English & 5 posts for Assamese)

(i) ENGLISH : 6 (Six) posts.

Op Cate		Reserv OBC/ I		Rese fc S	10000000	Rese fc ST	or	fo	erved or (H)	Gra To		Post reserved for PwBD
Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	&Type of Disability
5	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	2	0

* PwBD - Persons with Benchmark Disabilities; RFW - Reserved for Women.

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

- i. Master's Degree in English/ELT with minimum 55% marks or equivalent grade from any recognized University
- M.Ed. with minimum 55% marks or equivalent grade from any recognized University

iii. NET/SLET/Ph.D. from any recognized University.

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

At least 3 years experience of teaching in Elementary or Secondary School/TEI

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2024

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

- Master's Degree in Physics/Chemistry/Botany/Zoology/Life Science/Bio Science with minimum 55% marks or equivalent grade from any recognized University
- M.Ed. with minimum 55% marks or equivalent grade from any recognized University
- iii. NET/SLET/Ph.D. from any recognized University.

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

- At least 3 years experience of teaching in Elementary or Secondary School/TEI
- Proficiency in the use of ICT for educational purpose ii.

(Upload relevant documents/certificates reflecting the subjects as mentioned.)

(d) SOCIAL SCIENCE : 12 (Twelve) Posts

Op Cate		Reserv OBC/ I		Rese fc S	or	Rese fc ST	or	Rese fo ST		Gra To		Post reserved for PwBD
Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	&Type of Disability
9	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	12	3	0

* PwBD – Persons with Benchmark Disabilities; RFW – Reserved for Women.

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

Essential Qualification:

- Master's Degree in Geography/ History/Political Science/ Economics/Sociology with minimum 55% i. marks or equivalent grade from any recognized University
- M.Ed. with minimum 55% marks or equivalent grade from any recognized University ii.
- iii. NET/SLET/Ph.D. from any recognized University

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

- At least 3 years experience of teaching in Elementary/Secondary School/TEI i.
- ii. Proficiency in the use of ICT for educational purpose.
 - (Upload relevant documents/certificates reflecting the subjects as mentioned.)

(e) PHYSICAL EDUCATION: 5 (Five) Posts

Op Cate		Reserv OBC/ I		Rese fc S	or	Rese fc ST	r	fo	erved or (H)	r Grand		Post reserved for PwBD
Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	&Type of Disability
4	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	5	1	0

* PwBD - Persons with Benchmark Disabilities; RFW - Reserved for Women.

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

Master's Degree in Physical Education (M.P.Ed.) with minimum 55% marks or equivalent grade from any recognized University

NET/SLET/Ph.D. from any recognized University.

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

Desirable:

- At least 3 years experience of teaching in Elementary/ Secondary School/TEI i.
- M.Ed. with minimum 55% marks or equivalent grade from any recognized University ii.
- Training/Qualification in Yoga Education. iii.

(Upload relevant documents/certificates reflecting the subjects as mentioned.)

(f) FOUNDATION OF EDUCATION (F.E.) : 7 (Seven) Posts

Op Cate		Reserv OBC/ N	STORE FOR I	fo	erved or C	Rese fc ST	or	fo	erved or (H)		Grand Total PwBD	
Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	&Type of Disability
5	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	7	2	0

PwBD – Persons with Benchmark Disabilities: RFW – Reserved for Women.

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

Β.

- Master's Degree in Science/ Humanities/Social Science (Preferably in i. Psychology/Sociology/Economics) with minimum 55% marks or equivalent grade from any recognized University
- M.Ed. with minimum 55% or its equivalent grade from any recognized University ii.
- iii. NET/SLET/Ph.D. from any recognized University

- ii. Proficiency in the use of ICT for educational purpose.

(Upload relevant documents/certificates reflecting the subjects as mentioned.)

(ii) ASSAMESE : 5 (Five) posts.

Op Cate		Reserv OBC/ I	State of the second	Rese fo S	or	Rese fc ST	or	fe	erved or (H)	Gra To		Post reserved for PwBD
Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	&Type of Disability
3	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	5	1	0

* PwBD – Persons with Benchmark Disabilities; RFW – Reserved for Women.

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

- i. Master's Degree in Assamese with minimum 55% marks or equivalent grade from any recognized University
- ii. M.Ed. with minimum 55% marks or equivalent grade from any recognized University
- iii. NET/SLET/Ph.D. from any recognized University.

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

- i. At least 3 years experience of teaching in Elementary or Secondary School/TEI
- ii. Proficiency in the use of ICT for educational purpose

(Upload relevant documents/certificates reflecting the subjects as mentioned.)

(b) MATHEMATICS : 8 (Eight) Posts

Op Cate		Reserv OBC/ I		Rese fc S	or		rved or (P)	fo	erved or (H)	Gra To	and tal	Post reserved for PwBD
Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	&Type of Disability
6	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	8	2	0

* PwBD – Persons with Benchmark Disabilities; RFW – Reserved for Women.

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

- Master's Degree in Mathematics with minimum 55% marks or equivalent grade from any recognized i. University
- M.Ed. with minimum 55% marks or equivalent grade from any recognized University ii.
- iii. NET/SLET/Ph.D. from any recognized University.

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

- At least 3 years experience of teaching in Elementary or Secondary School/TEI i.
- Proficiency in the use of ICT for educational purpose. ii.

(Upload relevant documents/certificates reflecting the subjects as mentioned.)

(c) SCIENCE : 8 (Eight) Posts

Op Cate	Sector Street	Reserv OBC/ I	red for MOBC	Rese fc S	r	fc	erved or (P)	fo	erved or (H)	Gra To		Post reserved for PwBD
Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	&Type of Disability
4	1	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	8	2	0

i. M.A. in Education with minimum 55% marks or equivalent grade from any recognized University

OR

- ii. B.Ed. with minimum 55% marks or equivalent grade from any recognized University
- iii. NET/SLET/Ph.D. from any recognized University

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

- i. At least 3 years experience of teaching in Elementary or Secondary School/ Teacher Education Institute [Preferably Elementary and Secondary Teacher Education Institute (TEI)]
- Proficiency in the use of ICT for educational purpose. ii.

(Upload relevant documents/certificates reflecting the subjects as mentioned.)

(g) ART EDUCATION: 4 (Four) Posts

Op Cate	Contained of 1976	Reserv OBC/ I		Rese fc S		Rese fo ST		fo	erved or (H)	Gra To		Post reserved for PwBD
Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	&Type of Disability
2	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0

* PwBD – Persons with Benchmark Disabilities; RFW – Reserved for Women.

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

Essential Qualification:

- Post Graduate Degree in Fine Arts (MFA) or Visual Art (MVA) with minimum 55% marks or equivalent grade from any recognized University
- ii. NET/SLET/Ph.D. from any recognized University.

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

- At least 3 years experience of teaching in Art Education in Educational Institution (Preferably at Elementary & Secondary level/TEI)
- ii. M.Ed. with minimum 55% marks or equivalent grade from any recognized University
- iii. Proficiency in the use of ICT for educational purpose.

(Upload relevant documents/certificates reflecting the subjects as mentioned.)

LECTURER, IN-SERVICE EDUCATION, FIELD INTERACTION & INNOVATION COORDINATION (I F I C) (2) Number of Posts 16 (Sixteen) posts :

Op Cate	COLD SHALL	Reserved for OBC/ MOBC		Rese fc S		Rese fc ST	States and	fo	erved or (H)	Gra To		Post reserved for PwBD
Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	&Type of Disability
12	3	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	16	4	0

* PwBD – Persons with Benchmark Disabilities; RFW – Reserved for Women.

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

Contd. on Page-7

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2024

Contd. from P-6

- Essential Qualification:
 - Master's Degree in Humanities/ Social Science/Science with minimum 55% marks or equivalent grade from any recognized University
 - ii. M.Ed. with minimum 55% marks or equivalent grade from any recognized University
 - iii. NET/SLET/Ph.D. from any recognized University.
- (Upload relevant all semester/year mark sheet reflecting the subjects and the final pass certificate) Desirable: i. At least 3 years experience of teaching in Social Science (Preferably at Elementary or Secondary
- i. At least 3 years experience of teaching in Social Science (Preferably at Elementary or Secondary level of education/TEI (Elementary/Secondary)
- ii. Experience of active involvement in In-Service/Continuing/Distance Education of Teacher/ Educational Extension Work
- iii. Proficiency in the use of ICT for educational purpose
- (Upload relevant documents/certificates reflecting the subjects as mentioned.) LECTURER, DISTRICT RESOURCE UNIT (DRU)

(3) LECTURER, DISTRICT RESOURCE UNIT (DF Number of Posts : 50 (Fifty) posts

Op Cate		Reserv OBC/ I		fc	rved or C	E STORE MADE	rved or (P)	fo	erved or (H)	Gra To	And State of the state	Post reserved for PwBD	
Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	&Type of Disability	
39	12	2	1	2	0	2	1	5	1	50	15	0	

* PwBD – Persons with Benchmark Disabilities; RFW – Reserved for Women. *Reservation as per draft advertisement received from Government against total numbers of posts in the cadre.

Essential Qualification:

- i. Master's Degree in Humanities/ Social Science/Science with 55% marks or equivalent grade from any recognized University
- Degree/Diploma in Adult Education/Social Work/Community Development/ Rural Development/Women's Studies/ Communication/Journalism with minimum 55% marks or equivalent grade from any recognized institution
- iii. NET/SLET/Ph.D. from any recognized University
- (Upload relevant all semester/year mark sheet reflecting the subjects and the final pass certificate) Desirable:
- i. At least 3 years experience of teaching in extension/ management of Women's Development/Adult Education/Non-Formal Education Programmes /Providing technical support to such programmes.
- ii. Proficiency in the use of ICT for educational purpose
- iii. M.Ed. Degree from any recognized University
- (Upload relevant documents/certificates reflecting the subjects as mentioned.)
- LECTURER, PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT (P & M)

Number of Posts : 10 (Ten) posts

Op Cate		Reserv OBC/ I		Rese fc S		fc	erved or (P)	fo	erved or (H)	Grand		Post reserved for PwBD
Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	&Type of Disability
6	2	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	10	3	0

* PwBD – Persons with Benchmark Disabilities; RFW – Reserved for Women.

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

Essential Qualification:

(4)

- i. Master's Degree in Economics/ Statistics/Geography/Public Administration with 55% marks or equivalent grade from any recognized University
- ii. M.Ed. with minimum 55% marks or equivalent grade from any recognized University OR

a) MA (Education) with 55% marks or equivalent grade from any recognized University b) B.Ed. with 55% marks or equivalent grade from any recognized University

. NET/SLET/Ph.D. from any recognized University.

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

- At least 3 years experience of teaching in Schools/TEIs/Other Educational Institution in the area of Educational Planning & Administration.
- At least 3 years experience in Planning/ Administration preferably in State/District/Block level planning or Planning in social service sector
- iii. Proficiency in the use of ICT for educational purpose.

(Upload relevant documents/certificates reflecting the subjects as mentioned.)

LECTURER, CURRICULUM MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION (CMDE)

Number of Posts : 10 (Ten) posts.

Open Category		Reserved for OBC/ MOBC		Reserved for SC		Reserved for ST(P)		Reserved for ST(H)		Grand Total		Post reserved for PwBD
Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	&Type of Disability
7	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	10	3	0

* PwBD – Persons with Benchmark Disabilities; RFW – Reserved for Women.

No. GBM/WS/2023-24/41

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Intending registered organization and financially sound firms / NGO / Entrepreneurs having similar experience for executing a two day workshop works under Green Bodoland Mission (GBM) for 2023-24 may submit their bids to the Mission Director of Green Bodoland Mission (GBM), Office of the WPT, BTC, Kokrajhar on or before 3.30 PM on 6th August 2024.

Details of works can be obtained from the office of the Mission Director, Office of the WPT, BTC, Kokrajhar during office hours. The notification can be seen in the Notice Board of the Mission Director, Office of the WPT, BTC, Kokrajhar during the office hours on or before 3.00 PM on 6th August 2024.

Sl. No.	Particulars	Description	Estimated Budget (in R			
		Note pads & Pens				
1	Stationeries	Bags]			
		File Folders, Papers etc.				
		Mike sets & Sound system				
2	Publicity & Public Address	Flexes]			
2	System	Publicity	-			
	-5.0 	Gates	-			
		Pandal construction/venue management				
	D 110 C 4	Power Back up system, Wiring, Lighting systems	-			
3	Pandal & Conference Venue	Dias & Other Seating arrangements	-			
	Preparation etc.	LED Screen				
		Power Point system etc.	-			
		Hiring of LMVs for Invited Guests				
4	Transportation & Communication	POLs for Departmental Vehicles/Hired vehicles	-			
		Misc. allied expenses like- enroute refreshment, food, stay (if needed) etc.				
	T 0 T 1 C	Air tickets & Taxi fares	-			
5	Fares & Transportation costs of Invited Guests	En-route Accommodation & other allied costs				
	Invited Guests	Costs on personnel engaged	-			
		Drinking Water/Mineral Water	2000000			
		Breakfast				
6	Food & Refreshments	Lunch & Dinner				
		Tea & Snacks, Crockery etc.	_			
_		Purchase of Aronai	-			
7	Reception and Felicitation	Purchase of Gamocha	-			
		Other Mementos/ gifts				
		Govt. Guest House				
8	Accommodation for VIPs/Invited Guests etc.	Hotels				
	Guests etc.	Other allied exp.	7			
		Reception Counter				
	Construction of Reception	Exhibition cum sell stalls				
	counter, Stalls etc.	Drawing/ Rest Room for Invited Guests with Sofas/Chairs, Tables etc.				
		Video documentation	1			
10	Documentation	Professional photography				
		Cost of Rapporteur	-			
11	Misc. expenditure		-			

Green Bodoland Mission, BTC, Kokrajhar

Open Category		Reserved for OBC/ MOBC		Reserved for SC		Reserved for ST(P)		Reserved for ST(H)		Grand Total		Post reserved for PwBD
Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	Total	RFW	&Type of Disability
5	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	8	2	0

* PwBD – Persons with Benchmark Disabilities; RFW – Reserved for Women. *Reservation as per draft advertisement received from Government against total numbers of posts in the cadre.

Essential Qualification:

IPR(BTC)/C/2024-25/162

A.

iii.

В.

- Master's Degree in Humanities/ Social Science/Science/Information Technology with minimum 55% marks or equivalent grade from any recognized University.
- ii. M.Ed. with 55% marks or equivalent grade with a paper in Educational Technology/AV Education OR

B.Ed. degree with ET/AV Education as one of the papers with 55% marks or equivalent grade from any recognized University and successful completion of a training course on ET/AV Education of not less than 6 weeks duration from Govt. recognized institution

NET/SLET/Ph.D. from any recognized University

Master's Degree in Humanities/Social Science/Science/Information Technology with 55% marks or

Dt.23/07/2024

o

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

- i. Master's Degree in Humanities/ Social Science/Science with minimum 55% marks or equivalent grade from any recognized University
- ii. M.Ed. with minimum 55% marks or equivalent grade from any recognized University
 - NET/SLET/Ph.D. from any recognized University

В.

iii.

Α.

- i. Master's Degree with minimum 55% marks or equivalent grade in Psychology, Child Development or Education from any recognized University
- ii. B.Ed. degree with minimum 55% marks or equivalent grade from any recognized University
- iii. NET/SLET/Ph.D. from any recognized University

Ph.D. in Education/Psychology/Child Development/ Curriculum/Educational Measurement & Evaluation. (Upload relevant all semester/year mark sheet reflecting the subjects and the final pass certificate) Desirable:

- i. At least 3 years experience of teaching in a school/TEI (preferably Elementary/Secondary level)
- ii. At least 3 years experience in curriculum development/ preparation of textbooks/ Educational Testing and Evaluation, preferably in Elementary/ Secondary Education
- iii. Proficiency in the use of ICT for educational purpose. (Upload relevant documents/certificates reflecting the subjects as mentioned.)

(6) LECTURER, WORK EXPERIENCE (WE)

Number of Posts : 10 (Ten) Posts Post Reserved Reserved Reserved **Reserved** for Grand Open reserved for for for for **OBC/ MOBC** Total Category ST(H) PwBD SC ST(P) &Type of Total RFW RFW Total RFW Total RFW RFW Total Total RFW Total Disability 2 10 3 0 0 1 2 1 0 1 4 1 1

* PwBD – Persons with Benchmark Disabilities; RFW – Reserved for Women.

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

- i. Master's Degree in Humanities/Social Science/Science with 55% marks or equivalent grade from any recognized University
- ii. B.Ed. degree with minimum 55% marks or equivalent grade from any recognized University
- iii. Training on basic Education/Work Experience/ SUPW/Vocational Education/Craft Education from Govt. recognized institution.

OR

2 (two) years Diploma (recognized by the Director General of Employment & Training) in a technical trade with 55% marks or equivalent grade

iv. NET/SLET/Ph.D. from any recognized University.

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

Desirable:

- At least 3 years working experience as full time teacher of Craft/Work Experience/SUPW/ Vocational subject in a Bal Bhavan/School/TEI/ITI, etc.
- ii. Sound practical knowledge and skill in at least one Craft/SUPW area taught in Elementary/Secondary School
- iii. Proficiency in the use of ICT for educational purpose. (Upload relevant documents/certificates reflecting the subjects as mentioned.)

(7) Name of Post : LECTURER, EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY (ET) Number of Posts : 8 (Eight) posts equivalent grade from any recognized University.

OR

- ii. Degree in Communication/Mass Communication/Commercial Art/Films & TV Programme/ Engineering with 55% marks or equivalent grade from any recognized University
- iii. NET/SLET/Ph.D. from any recognized University.

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

- i. At least 3 years experience of teaching in a school preferably in Elementary/Secondary School/TEI
- ii. At least 2 years experience in development of educational aids in a TEI/ET Cell/SEBA/ AHSEC/ SCERT/SRC, etc.
- iii. At least 2 years experience in development/production/training in use of AV programme/ Educational aids for children/Mass Education.

(Upload relevant documents/certificates reflecting the subjects as mentioned.)

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

(B) Eligibility Criteria :-

The candidate must be an Indian Citizen as defined in Article 5 to 8 of the Constitution of India and must be a permanent resident of Assam.

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

(Upload necessary documents)

(C) For Government Employees of the state of Assam:

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

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

(Upload relevant documents)

(D) The Small Family Norms :-

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

(Upload necessary documents)

The advertisement has been issued as per Government Notification eCF No210471/723 dated 29th Dec., 2023.

(i) <u>STARTING DATE FOR ONLINE APPLICATION</u>: - 29-07-2024 (ii) <u>CLOSING DATE FOR ONLINE APPLICATION</u>: - 28-08-2024 (iii) <u>LAST DATE FOR PAYMENT OF APPLICATION FEE</u>: - 30-08-2024

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

Sd/-Deputy Secretary, Assam Public Service Commission Jawaharnagar, Khanapara, Guwahati-22

Janasanyog /D/2874/24/24-Jul-24

NATION

Present govt does not realise erasing diversity is anti-historical move: Sibal **Nothing for West Bengal**

NEW DELHI, July 23: In a sharp attack on the BJP-led government, Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal on Monday said the present establishment does not realise that erasing diversity is an "anti-historical" move and will lead to tensions.

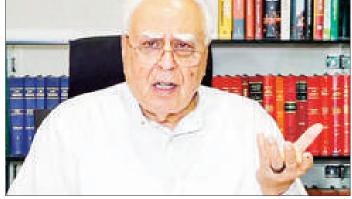
Delivering the 4th Memorial Lecture in honour of M P Veerendra Kumar, Sibal talked about the idea of India and its evolution at length.

"Why do we talk about the idea of India? It is because most of us do not understand the birth of this great nation. If you ask me, a nation is comprised of so many facets which are embedded in its history. Unless you understand the history of a nation and its genesis over centuries, you will never be able to understand what the nation is all about," Sibal said. "In order to understand what a country stands for you must understand how it evolved over centuries and once you understand that, you realize what India is all about," the former Congress leader said.

The idea of India has evolved over centuries, he asserted.

"Why is it that we are such a diverse nation? Why is it that diversity is embedded in our culture? Why is it we are what we are? For that we have to delve into thousands of years of our history," he said. Sibal talked about how the country's history evolved from the Gupta period to the invasion of the Khiljis, right through to the Sayyids and the Lodhis, the invasions of the Afghans and the Turks.

The flow of populations that came from the Khyber Pass, the as-



similation of cultures that took place over the years, the Independent Rajya Sabha MP said.

Then came the Mughal period and the conflicts and collaborations that took place between Muslims and Hindus, he said. Then came the British and they realised that they could not rule without collaboration with communities, Sibal said.

"So this process of collaboration and diversification made India what it is today. The India that we live in today is by its very nature and genesis, diverse. Its diversity is not something that is an idea, its diversity is a social evolution of historical reality. We cannot get away from it," the former Union minister

asserted. There is no other country in the world like India because there is no other country with the kind of history that India has, he said.

"We are not a monolithic culture.

we are not ruled by a class of people, there are thousands of dialects and languages that flourish here and the reality of India today is not because of us but because of certain historical facts. We have to deal with a place like Manipur because the British aggrandised right up to Burma. If you have the Rohingya problem, it is because of our association and the conquest of the British in far-flung areas," he said. "If you talk about the Afghans today, they assimilated into our culture, the Turks were assimilated into our culture. There was cross-fertilisation. It led to diverse processes of

thought. That is what we are today,' Sibal said "We are one because of our Constitution which reflects our diversity. Why is it that we have a Constitution like the one we have? It is because of that the Constitution is almost the replica of the 1935

Act. The whole concept of Parliament and the position of the Governor, these are all things we inherited from the British. So when you talk about the idea of India you must realise this is not something unique that we are thinking today but it is the evolution of hundreds and thousands of years that has led this country to be what it is today," he said. Having said that, the "challenge before us today is that do we embrace this diversity or erase it", he said, adding that is the conflict taking place in the present political system in our country.

"There is a political party in our country that seeks to erase diversity, but you cannot erase a historical fact. How can you erase diversity through a political diktat of a political party?" Sibal said.

The only political leitmotif that can take this country forward is the acceptance of our diversity and the assimilation of that diversity into what is called the idea of India that accepts that historical fact, Sibal said. "The present establishment does not realise that erasing diversity is an anti-historical move and will lead to tension at the scenes of the Indian polity," he said.

"That is why while the idea of one nation is attractive but we are not one nation in that sense. We are an assimilation of cross-fertilisation of millions of cultures. It is like a mosaic that falls into a pattern. It is that pattern that we have to embrace and that mosaic that makes that pattern, that we have to celebrate," Sibal said. (PTI)



NEW DELHI, July 23: Trinamool Congress (TMC) leaders on Tuesday said the budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Lok Sabha has nothing for West Bengal and called it a budget for the ruling NDA and not for India.

The MPs of the Mamata Banerjee-led party also staged a walkout from the Rajya Sabha opposing the budget. Senior TMC leader Kalyan Banerjee called it a "kursi bachao budget (budget to save the chair)".

'This budget is aimed at saving (Prime Minister) Narendra Modi's position. It is a budget for the NDA, not for India," he said.

"Last time they gave so many projects to Odisha. Now they (BJP) have won (the Assembly polls in the state), so there is nothing for Odisha. There is also nothing for Bengal," Kalyan Banerjee told reporters outside Parliament.

TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee said West Bengal has been deprived of funds.

"You have seen how West Bengal has been constantly deprived by this BJP government. Has there been a positive outcome of 12 BJP MPs who are elected from West Bengal? No. The net result is zero because West Bengal has been constantly tortured and deprived." he told reporters here.

'What (Leader of Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly) Suvendu Adhikari said a few days ago --'jo humare sath, hum unke sath' -- has been proved today. Just to save their government, they have allocated special packages to Bihar and Andhra Pradesh. We do not have any problem with any state getting

any allocation, but why should West Bengal be deprived?" the Lok Sabha MP from West Bengal's Diamond Harbour told reporters outside Parliament.

He said he will speak on the budget in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, adding that the people of West Bengal will give a "befitting reply" to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) again.

TMC's Rajya Sabha MP Sagarika Ghose spoke on similar lines and said they staged a walkout from the Upper House of Parliament in protest.

This is a failed budget. It is to bribe two of the alliance partners -- Bihar and Andhra Pradesh -- not a Union Budget. This budget is bribing coalition partners before this government implodes," she told reporters outside Parliament.

"We in the TMC have protested against this anti-Bengal budget. The TMC walked out of the Rajya Sabha. This is anti-federal. You cannot sacrifice the federal spirit at the alter of politics. It is ethically repugnant, constitutionally immoral and economically ruinous," Ghose said.

Rajya Sabha MP Saket Gokhale alleged that there is an "open and shameless" discrimination against West Bengal in the budget.

"Open and shameless discrimination yet again in this Union Budget. Union Govt excludes only Bengal from flood relief and reconstruction funds," he said in a post on X. "Giving funds to other states while intentionally ignoring and singling out the people of Bengal is yet another revenge for BJP's pathetic performance in elections," Gokhale added.

"West Bengal contributes significant revenues to the Union but faces pathetic targeting and exclusion vet again in the Union Budget," the TMC leader said. Another Rajya Sabha MP of the party, Sushmita Dev, said central funds amounting to ₹ 1.6 lakh crore are due to West Bengal and questioned how the budget exercise was being carried out without the census being held.

"You are calling the budget historic, but he is a king who does not know what the population is. There has been no census since 2011. If you do not know the exact numbers, how are you going to make the budget?" she asked. (PTI)

Ruckus in Odisha Assembly over J'khand CM inaugurates colony for leprosy-affected people in Ranchi oppn's demand for arrest of Guv's son

RANCHI, July 23: Jharkhand the standard of living of the lep-Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Tuesday inaugurated the newly constructed 'Nirmal Awas', a colony for leprosy-affected people in Ranchi's Mudma locality

As many as 256 beneficiaries are entitled to get flats in the colony.On the occasion, the CM handed over keys to 10 beneficiaries as a token gesture.

"The government is committed to taking the benefit of its schemes to needy people. We are constructing more such colonies in different districts," the CM said. The project, initially, was named 'Kusthashram' but the CM objected to the name while

speaking on the occasion. "The name of this project is so weird. I am hesitant to take that name. Its name should be beautiful and it should be taken with pride. So, I want the project to be

rosy-affected people and make their living comfortable.

by the beneficiaries.

lakh for each unit." he said.

Built under Pradhan Mantri after witnessing ruckus for Awas Yojana (PMAY), as many the second consecutive day over the demand of opposias 256 flats were constructed at a tion BJD and Congress for total cost of ₹ 35 crore. The cost of one flat is approxaction against Governor imately ₹ 13 lakh, which is being Raghubar Das's son for al-

given completely free of cost to legedly assaulting a government official earlier this the beneficiaries, an official said. The Urban Development Secmonth. retary, Arava Raikamal, said that

As soon as the House asunder PMAY the project, the sembled for Question Hour, Centre gives ₹ 1.50 lakh, while Opposition Chief Whip the state government ₹ 1 lakh. Pramila Mallik demanded a The rest of the money is afforded statement from Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on "But here, considering the fithe matter.

nancial burden on leprosy-af-Assistant Section Officer (ASO) Baikuntha Pradhan fected people, the state government decided to bear all fiwas allegedly assaulted by nancial burden and given ₹ 11 the governor's son Lalit Kumar at the Puri Raj Bhavan while he was performing

Each flat has a bedroom, living area, balcony and combined toilet his duty during President

While Mallik was speaking on the issue, BJD MLAs trooped into the well of the House and demanded Kumar's arrest for taking the law into his own hands.

"The state government has been shielding the governor's son. Where was the BJP's Odia 'asmita' (pride) when an official from Odisha was assaulted by a person from outside the state? Though an FIR was lodged at a police station on July 12, no action has been taken so far," Mallik told reporters outside the assembly after Speaker Surama Padhy adjourned the House for one

hour till 11.30 due to the din. When the House reassembled at 11.30 am, the Congress members joined the BJD lawmakers in trooping into the well and raising slo-

provide security to an official who is an Odia, Mallik said, "By shielding the governor's son, the state government has insulted Odia 'asmita', espousing which the BJP came to power in

the state. We demand a statement from the chief minister on the matter. She also dubbed Law

Prithiviraj Minister Harichandan's statement on Monday that the Puri collector was probing the matter as "unfortunate"

What will the SP, DSP and other police officials do when the Puri district collector has been asked to probe a criminal case?" Mallik said, seeking clarification from the CM, who is also in charge of the home department.

Ruling BJP members Jay-

Sponsorship (Non Institutional Care Services under Mission Vatsalya)

As per Section 2 (58) of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act. 2015, sponsorship is defined as the 'Provision of supplementary support, financial or otherwise, to the families to meet the medical, educational and developmental needs of the child'. Under Sponsorship programme, the Mission shall supplement the biological families or extended families of children in need of care or protection for adequate care of the child. It shall be a conditional assistance, to ensure that children get the opportunity to stay and grow within their social and cultural milieu in the community, without displacement. Criteria for sponsorship:

- Where mother is a widow or divorced or abandoned by family
- Where children are orphan and are living with the extended family; (2)
- Where parents are victims of life threatening/terminal disease
- (4) Where parents are incapacitated or unable to take care of children both financially and physically,
- Children in need of care and protection as per the JJ Act, 2015 namely without home, (5) victim of any natural calamity, child labour, victim of child marriage, trafficked child, HIV/AIDS affected child, child with disabilities, missing or runaway child, child beggars or living on the street, tortured or abused or exploited children who require support and rehabilitation.
- Children covered under the PM CARES For Children Scheme
- The Family income does not exceed: (7)
- (A) Rs. 72,000/- per annum for rural areas,

(B) Rs. 96,000/- per annum for others.

Financial Support :

A monthly grant of Rs. 4000/- per child shall be provided for Sponsorship. The sponsorship period may be minimum for one year or up to the period of the child attaining the age of 18

BHUBANESWAR, July 23: to the home department. The Odisha Assembly was adjourned twice on Tuesday

known as 'Nirmal Awas'," Soren said. Seven G+1 blocks were constructed on an area of 5.5 acres of land in the colony to raise

15 crore rural households have been

provided tap water connection till

Jal Shakti C R Paatil praised the

achievement, saying "this golden

milestone has not only given a gift of

pure water to countrymen but also

Mission's (JJM) launch in 2019.

(UTs) and development partners.

Under the JJM, all rural house-

The states and UTs that have

holds have to be provided with a

connection till the end of this year.

Goa, Telangana, Haryana, Gujarat,

Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Mizo-

ram, Arunachal Pradesh, Puducherry,

Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman

and Diu, and Andaman and Nicobar

Islands, according to the data.

now, according to official data.

and bathroom. Fans, tube lights, tap water, and other equipment have also been installed in each house. (PTI)

Droupadi Murmu's visit to

the coastal temple town on Pradhan. July 7. After the alleged incident, Pradhan was transferred

gans demanding justice for narayan Mishra Tankadhar Tripathy also Claiming that the state's sought to counter the BJD BJP government has failed to and Congress MLAs. (PTI)

and

Memo No.AMK-50/Const-10/2024-25/

Janasanyog /D/2862/24/24-Jul-24

Sd/-I/c District Child Protection Officer Hojai, Assam

GOVT OF ASSAM

OFFICE OF THE SENIOR AGRIL. DEV. OFFICER (MKT)

KARBI ANGLONG, DIPHU

Dated:- 23 /07/2024

TENDERD NOTICE

Sealed tenders are hereby invited affixing money deposit receipt of Rs.10.00(Rupees ten) only of KAAC, Diphu from intending Contractors for the following civil works to be taken up under 2nd half of fund release under the scheme for 'Development of Rural Market shed/Qtr. Repairing and Office building construction (phase-1) for the financial year 2024-25. Tender will be received from 24th July, 2024 and up to 2.00 PM of 31° July, 2024 and will be opened on the same date and hours in presence of the tenderers or their representatives. Further, if date fall on an unscheduled holy day the Tender will be opened on the next working day at same time & place as stated above

Name of work	Name of Location (weekly markets)	No. of units	Estimated Amount	Earnest money 1 % /2%	Time of Completion
R.C.C. Market	1. Construction of New Office building (phase-1)	1 units	98.00 L	1%,ST(Hills)	150 (one fifty)days
Shed with Iron	2. Construction of Market shed at Birla Gate	2 units	14.00 P.U	2%, Other	120 (one twenty)
truss and Dyane.	3. Construction of Market shed at Kolongna	5 units	5.00 "	10-00 86-00 VVV	days
Roofing size	4. Construction of Market shed at Organic market	5 units	5.00 "		60 (sixty) days
40"x12"x9"	5. Construction of Market shed at New market,	2 units	5.00 "		-do-
(Model) with	Hamren	1 units	5.00 "		30 (thirty) days
drain apron.	6. Construction of Market shed at Pachim Gojalipal	1 units	5.00 "		-do-
Tender must be	7. Construction of Market shed at shiva Bazar,	2 units	5.00 "		-do-
submitted for	Dighalpani	2 Nos.	5.50 "		-do-
unit wise only)	8. Construction of Market shed at Uttar Borbil market 9. Repairing of staff quarter	1.00.70.4041211500	n e zave dovašk		-do-

18 unit

TERMS AND CONDITION

- Rate of tender should be quoted clearly and distinctly both in figures and words in flat percentage basis i.e. Above/below/as per CPWD (DSR) Schedule rate for the year, 2021
- 2. The tender should be accompanied with up to date P. tax clearance certificate, GST Clearance certificate and Trading Licence from the authority of KAAC, Diphu with Bank draft of 2% for general and 1% for ST/SC as call deposit from any recognize Bank.
- Taxed as per ruled in force will be deducted from the bill at the time of payment.
- 4. The details of work may be seen in the office of the undersigned during the office working hours.
- No materials will be supplied by the department.
- The successful tendered will have to sign deed of agreement in P.W.D. F.2 form before going to start the works.
- 7. The undersigned is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender and reserved the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof
- 8. The Tender paper can be collected from office of the undersign during office working hours
- 9. The works should be completed within the stipulated time. The work should be started after signing necessary agreement in consultation with undersigned
- 10. Payment will be made subject to availability of fund released by the authority of KAAC, Diphu
- 11. The right of settlement & allotment of any work of above to the tenderer is reserve by the authority of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council, Diphu

Sd/-Senior Agril. Dev. Officer (Mkt) Karbi Anglong, Diphu

Memo No. AMK-50/Const- 10/2024-25/

per cent and Nagaland at 91.58 per In a statement, Union Minister for cent In total, 2.28 lakh villages and 190 districts have "attained" the 'Har Ghar Jal' status, with 100 districts and more than 1.25 lakh villages

at 95.02 per cent, Ladakh at 93.25

"certified" as 'Har Ghar Jal', the uniquely improved their quality of life". The data stated that 77.65 per statement said. The JJM has also established 5.24 cent or 15,00,27,135 rural households have been provided with tap lakh Village Water and Sanitation water connection since the Jal Jeevan Committees (VWSCs) and developed 5.12 lakh Village Action Plans The mission has significantly ad-(VAPs) to outline water supply vanced its objectives through collabneeds, cost estimates and implemenoration with states, Union Territories tation schedules.

Ensuring water quality is a critical component of JJM's success. The initiative has set up 2,163 laboratories for water sample testing and trained over 24.59 lakh women to use Field Testing Kits (FTKs), the achieved 100 per cent coverage are statement said.

Safe drinking water is now accessible in all arsenic and fluoride-affected habitations, with rigorous measures in place to maintain the reliability and sustainability of potable Several other states are nearing water supply. (PTI)

15 cr rural households provided SC rules out cancellation of NEET-UG, tap water connection: Govt says no data to indicate systemic breach NEW DELHI, July 23: More than this milestone, with coverage in Bihar at 96.08 per cent, Uttarakhand

NEW DELHI, July 23: In a major setback to unsuccessful aspirants of NEET-UG 2024, the Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed the pleas seeking cancellation and re-test of the controversy-ridden exam, holding that there was no evidence on record to conclude that it was "vitiated" on account of systemic breach" of its sanctity.

The interim verdict, to be followed by a detailed and reasoned order, came as a shot in the arm for the embattled NDA government and the National Testing Agency (NTA), which were facing strong criticism and protests, on streets and in Parliament, over alleged large-scale malpractices like question paper leak, fraud and impersonation in the prestigious test held on May 5. Over 23 lakh students took up the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) in 2024 for admissions to MBBS, BDS, AYUSH and other related courses.

A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra concluded the four day-long proceedings where they heard submissions from a battery of lawyers, including Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre and the NTA, and senior advocates Narender Hooda, Sanjay Hegde and Mathews Nedumapra. Instead of reserving the verdict, the bench re-assembled around 4:50 p.m. and started dictating the order, saying, "In a matter like this final conclusions of the court be recorded at the present stage since there is an urgent need to provide certainty and finality to the dispute which has occurred and affects the career of over 2 million students.'

Referring to its independent scrutiny of the data placed by the NTA and others, the CJI said, "At the present stage, there is absence of material on record to lead to conclusion that the result of the examination is vitiated or that there is systemic breach of the sanctity of the exam."

The data on record is "not indicative of a systemic leak of the question paper which would indicate a disruption of the sanctity of the examination", the bench said.

It said ordering the test afresh would be replete with serious consequences for over 24 lakh students who appeared in the examination. That, the court said, will cause "disruption of admission schedule, cascading effects on the course of medical education, impact on availability of qualified medical professionals in the future and be seriously disadvantageous for the marginalised groups for whom reservation was made in allocation of seats." The bench said ordering cancellation of the entire exam was not justified on application of "settled principles propounded by this court on the basis of material on record". For cancelling the exam, the wrongdoing should be widespread and systemic, breaching the sanctity of the entire test, it observed. The bench rejected the submission by the lawyers for petitioners that the leak was systemic in nature, and coupled with structural deficiencies, left the court with the only option of ordering a re-test. (PTI)

Date extension notice for farmers

FARMERS" published in local news papers namely 1) The Hills times and 2) The Arleng Daily on 19th July2024.

Anglong District and West Karbi Anglong that the last date of submission of application form has been extended up to 1st August/ 2024.

Sd/-

Executive Engineer (Agril.) Karbi Anglong, Divn::Diphu

Please refer to this office advertisement "NOTICE FOR

It is for general information to all the famers of Karbi

VEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2024

E-AUCTION FOR OPERATION

AND MANAGEMENT OF PAY & USE TOILETS

Use Toilets over Lumding Division. Details are as under. Auction Catalogue

No.: PNU-LMG-03-2024; Auction Start Date & Time (All Lots): 10:00

hrs. on 05-08-2024; Auction Close Date & Time: 10:50 hrs. on

05-08-2024; Rate Unit: Annual Licensing Fee; Trips/Days: AA/1, AA/2

Location

Operation and Management of

Pay & Use toilets contract at 2nd

Class Waiting Hall, Upper Class

Waiting Hall & Toilets Blocks

near Penal Room at Platform

No.1 of Lumding Railway station

of Lumding division Northeast

E- auction for awarding of rights

for operation and maintenance

of Pay & use toilet at

Operation and management of

clock room at Silchar railway

Mission (GBM), Office of the WPT, BTC, Kokrajhar on or before 3.30 PM on 6th August 2024.

Name of Scheme / work

Conservation and beautification activities in wetland in Tamulpur District.

*The amount includes GST as per applicable norms

Clearing and removal of invasive species and excessive vegetation.

Frontier Railway.

MANU station.

Divisional Railway Manager (C), Lumdin

Lot No./Category

PnU-LMG-LMG-Toi-53-24-1

(Pay and Use - Toilets)

AA/2 PnU-LMG-MANU-Toi-22-22-2

(Pay and Use - Toilets)

AB/1 (Pay and Use - Lounges /

No. GBM/WL/2023-24/

d.

IPR(BTC)/C/2024-25/163

SI. No.

۲

of IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in.

Wetland Conservation:

Earth work

Band Plantation

PnU-LMG-SCL-WRL-48-23-1

Waiting/Retiring/Cloak Rooms) station (PF/01)

Prospective bidders are requested to visit e-Auction leasing Modul

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

"SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE"

during the office hours on or before 3.00 PM on 6th August 2024.

Total area of the wetland: 1.5 Ha

Disposal of cleared biomass and debris

E-Auction for the contract for Operation and Management of Pay 8

NATION

THE HILLS TIMES 9

SC gives spilt verdict on pleas challenging environmental release of GM Mustard

NEW DELHI, July 23: The Supreme Court on Tuesday gave a split verdict on the validity of the Centre's 2022 decisions on the environmental release of mustard hybrid DMH-11 for seed production and testing. A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Sanjay Karol heard pleas challenging the October 18, 2022, decision of the GEAC -- the country's

1095 and AB/1 : 1826

No.

AA/1

chud for adjudication by the apregulator for genetically modified organisms -- recommendpropriate bench. ing environment release and the subsequent decision on October 25, approving the environmental release of transgenic mustard hybrid DMH-11. (GM) crops

After hearing the pleas, the bench gave a divergent opinion. The bench directed the issue dertake a consultation process to be placed before the Chief with all the stakeholders and ex-Justice of India D Y Chandraperts, preferably in four months

before formulating a national policy on GM crops.

bers were absent. (PTI)

However, both the judges On the environmental release were unanimous in directing the of GM crops, Justice Nagarthna Centre to formulate a national said the October 18 and 25, policy on Genetically Modified 2022, decisions of the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Commit-The bench directed that the tee (GEAC) were vitiated as there was no member from the environment ministry will unhealth department in the meet-

Surge in dengue cases in Bengal, health

dept says situation 'not alarming

KOLKATA, July 23: At least five districts in southern West

Bengal have witnessed a surge in dengue cases with each having

reported more than 100 vector-borne infections till July 20, an

Other districts in south Bengal where the number of dengue

"The dengue situation in West Bengal is not alarming. This

disease has a seasonal pattern that shows an increasing trend with

the onset of monsoon and peaks after the season. This year the

number of dengue cases is comparatively low," a senior official

The graph of dengue infection in Bengal was much lower than

"But in the last few weeks, primarily due to the rainwater ac-

cumulation in several areas, there has been a surge in dengue

cases. We have been active since the beginning of this year to

Since early this year, the civic bodies have been "proactive in

Dt. 23/07/2024

Estimated cost (in Lakh)

15.00*

Sd/- Mission Director

Green Bodoland Mission, BTC, Kokrajhar

removing garbage and stagnant water", he said, adding that at

the block level specific routines have been followed to control

topped the list of districts.

around 230 cases, he said.

last year, he claimed.

the disease. (PTI)

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

the following work under Green Bodoland Mission (GBM) for 2023-24 may submit to the Mission Director of Green Bodoland

office hours. The notification can be seen in the Notice Board of the Mission Director, Office of the WPT, BTC, Kokrajhar

Intending registered organization and financially sound firms / NGO / Entrepreneurs having experience for executing

Details of works can be obtained from the office of the Mission Director, Office of the WPT, BTC, Kokrajhar during

prevent the infection," he said.

of the state health department told PTI.

EMD

% for General &

% for reserved

Category

ED in money laundering case status of IAS probationer Puja Khedkar's parents LUCKNOW, July 23: YouTuber Siddharth Yadav alias Elvish Yadav appeared before the Enforcement Directorate here on Tuesday for questioning in a money laundering case linked to suspected use of snake venom as a recreational drug in parties he hosted and related financial transactions, official sources said.

The agency will record his statement at its zonal office located at Ashok Marg here. The central agency had registered ing and altogether eight mema case in May and pressed charges

under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) after taking cognisance of an FIR and charge sheet filed against him and linked persons by the Gautam Buddh Nagar (Noida) district police in Uttar Pradesh. Elvish Yadav was summoned by the agency in the second week of July but he sought defer-

official said on Tuesday. He, however, claimed that the situation scheduled foreign travel and profeswas not alarming. North 24 Parganas with 268 dengue cases sional commitment. Rahul Yadav alias Rahul Fazilpuriya, a singer from Haryana allegedly linked to cases is high are Murshidabad district (224) Hooghly (181) and Elvish Yadav, was questioned by the Kolkata (152). Malda district in north Bengal has also reported ED in the said case, they said. (PTI)

ment of the summons owing to his

ENGINEERING WORKS

Date: 19-07-2024. E-tenders are invite

by the undersigned for the following

works: Tender No.: <u>DENGHY-07-2024</u> Name of work & Location: At New

Guwahati- Special repairs to Railway Staf Quarters Type-III, Type-II & Type-I (190

inits) under the jurisdiction of SSE/W

New Guwahati. Tender Value ₹2,19,01,807.69; Earnest Money

2,59,500.00. Tender No.: DENGHY-08

2024. Name of work & Location: A

mingaon: Repairs and renovation of

Amingaon Water supply Assets including

other related ancillary works and

naintenance of the water supply a various colonies under the jurisdiction of SSE/W/BB/AMJ and Service buildings like Agthori Station, Power house

Railway Health Unit, Railway Institute

couts and Guide field, Gang huts at araighat Bridge etc. with 01 (one) No

Barge at Amingaon ghat for a period of

02 (two) years. Tender Value ₹2,84,18,090.60; Earnest Money

₹2,92,100.00. Tender No.: <u>DENGHY-11-</u> 2024. Name of work & Location: (A) At

Guwahati - Replacement of Non standard Double stories Type-I Quarters DS-67 (M

o P), DS-68 (A to B), Total 6 units by

Type-II Triple story (TS) 6 units Quarters

block. (B) At New Guwahati Replacement of old deplorable 08 unit

Type-I Quarter by new Type-II 08 units

DS) Quarters for staffs. Tender Value

₹3,59,39,483.45; Earnest Money

₹3,29,700.00. E-tender will be close at 13:00 hrs. on 12-08-2024 and will be

opened at 13:00 hrs. on 12-08-2024. For

tails please visit www.ireps.gov.in.

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 19 of 2024;

PUNE, July 23: The Centre has directed the Pune police to apprise it of the marital status of the parents of controversial IAS probationer Puja Khedkar amid allegations that she fraudulently availed of the OBC non-creamy layer benefit in the UPSC exam by claiming that they were separated, an official said

Khedkar is accused of misusing power and privileges by demanding perks and facilities she was not entitled for during her training in Pune district collectorate in Maharashtra recently. She was also acdivorced. cused of bullying everyone around and of placing a red-blue beacon (indicating high-ranking official) atop a private Audi (a luxury sedan) car used by her that also had 'Maharashtra Government' written on it during her stint.

tered against her in Delhi last week for "misrepresenting and falsifying facts". The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has also issued a show-cause notice regarding the cancellation of her candidature for the 2022 examination and is considering barring her from future exams.

Elvish Yadav appears before Centre asks Pune cops to give details about marital

Talking to PTI, a senior official of the Pune police confirmed that the central government has asked them to apprise it of whether the parents of Puja Khedkar - mother Manorama and father Dilip - were "We have been asked to find out and inform to the central gov-

ernment about whether Puja torate Khedkar's parents were divorced. In a nutshell, it has asked us to verify the actual status of their marriage/divorce," the official said. The UPSC last week took a se-

A criminal case has been regis-

ries of actions, including registration of a police case, against Puja Khedkar for fraudulently availing attempts in the civil services examination by faking her identity. The commission has also issued a show cause notice for cancellation of her candidature of the civil services examination-2022 and debarment from future examina-

tions and selections. Khedkar, a 2023 batch probationary Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, is accused of misusing power and privileges, by demanding perks and facilities she was not entitled for, during her training in Pune district collec-

Her probation period was put on hold and she was recalled to Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration in Uttarakhand's Mussoorie. (PTI)

OFFICE OF THE HEAD MASTER BORDEKA LANGMILI ENGLISH HIGH SCHOOL BORDEKA TIMUNG, KARBI ANGLONG

Estd:

VACANCY POST

Interested candidates are hereby invited for one subject teacher lying vacancy post at Bordeka Langmili English High School. The Walk-in-interview will be held on 03/08/2024 at 10:00 AM at school premises. The post is purely Adhoc basis. The application will be received from 24/07/2024 to 01/08/2024 till 1:00 PM at school premises.

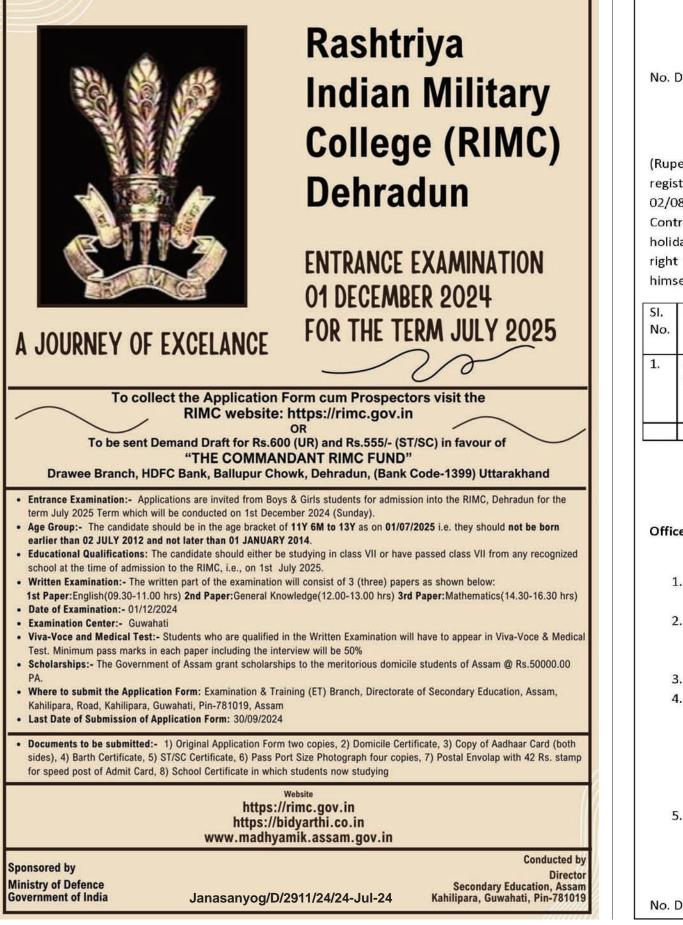
SI.No.	Name of Post Subject Teacher	Requisite Qualification	No. of Post	Fixed Pay @ per month
1.	Science	B.sc	01	

N.B.- The subject teacher's general requisite qualification is B.Sc with recognised university. The special preference will be given to local candidate. Complete biodata, scanned copies of the educational testimonials from HSLC onwards along with original documents and the latest passport-size photo should be submitted at the time of the interview. Further-Payment will be made after receiving GIA from Govt. from the financial year 2024-2025 onwards. No arrear salary can be claimed by the incumbents till then. Please note that no TA/DA is admissible for the purpose.

> Sd/-**Charlies Singnar**

Head Master Bordeka Langmili English High School M.No.: 6000576608 6002905246 9864808962

Divisional Engineer/Guwahat MORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT SPORTS OFFICER,

GOVT. OF ASSAM

KARBI ANGLONG: DIPHU.

SHORT TENDER NOTICE

No. DSO/Dev. 15(A)/2024-2025/295

Dated, Diphu the 22-07-2024

Sealed tender affixing non-refundable KAAC Court fee Stamp (Receipt) Rs. 10.00 (Rupees Ten) only eventual to be drawn up in form are hereby invited from KAAC/PWD/Society registered Contractor/Supplier and will be received by the undersigned up to 3.00 P.M. on 02/08/2024 and will be opened on the same date place and the hours in presence of the Contractor or their authorized agent if any. If the day or opening of tender happens to be any holiday, non-working day the tender will be opened in the next day. The undersigned has the right to accept/ reject tender without assigning any reason thereof and will not be bound himself to accept the lowest tender.

SI. No.	Name of Work/Goods	Tender amount (In laths)	Earnest Money	Time allowed for completion
1.	Supply of Sports Goods for the year of 2024-2025.	Rs. 70.00L	1% for SC, ST & 2% for Genl. (On tender value).	30 days
	All total	Rs. 70.00 L		

(Rupees Seventy lakh) only.

Details of tender documents may be obtained from the office of the District Sports Officer, Karbi Anglong District, Diphu from 25/07/2024 during working hours.

Terms and Conditions:-

- 1. The rate quoted as % (Percent) above/below/ as per schedule rate for works for all division under APWD.
- 2. Earnest money should be deposited in fovour of the undersigned in the form of call deposit/ Bank draft & should be attested with the tender, otherwise tender will not be accepted.
- 3. The works must be carried as directed by the Executive Engineer (Works), KAAC, Diphu.
- 4. The following documents should be enclosed with the tender:
 - a. Professional Tax Clearance Certificate.
 - b. Sale Tax & GST Clearance Certificate.
 - c. Council/ PWD Registration.
 - d. Call Deposit.
 - e. Caste Certificate.
- 5. Payment will be made subject to availability of Fund.

Sd/-

District Sports Officer,

Karbi Anglong, Diphu.

No. DSO/Dev. 15(A)/2024-2025/295(A)

Dated, Diphu the 22-07-2024

Entertainment

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2024

Action-director Sea-Young Oh In 'Kill': Wanted real hits and punches, not acting

MUMBAI, July 23: "Let's do it for real" was the only brief that South Korean action director Sea-Young Oh had for actors Lakshya and Raghav Juyal while working on "Kill", which has been hailed as one of the most unique action movies to come from India

The story, produced by Karan Johar's Dharma Productions and Guneet Monga's Sikhya Entertainment, is set on a moving train as one man and his friend take on a group of violent goon who board the train and start looting and killing passengers randomly.

Oh has emerged as Bollywood's favourite action director in recent years and has worked with stars like Shah Rukh Khan, Hrithik Roshan and Salman Khan on movies such as "Fan", "War" and "Tiger 3".

The action master, known for his work on Korean as well as international projects such as "Parasite", "Snowpiercer", "Avengers: Age of Ultron", "Ode to My Father" and "Sympathy for Mr Vengeance", said "Kill" director Nikhil Nagesh Bhat wanted action sequences to convey the vulnerabilities of an ordinary man bent on revenge.

"It really took months to design the action sequences... Lakshya and Raghav performed action so well that



I didn't have much briefs to give them. There was only one thing I had to request to them: 'Let's do it for real. Not acting like it is real, but do it literally with real hits and punches'," Oh told PTI in an interview.

The action in "Kill" makes excellent use of the train's narrow corridors, restricted spaces, berths, and toilet seats, and the South Korean action director said this presented a challenge and required meticulous planning and execution. "Doing action in such a

compact space is particularly dangerous because of the tight distance they have to fight in. Any misdirected punches or misuse of weapons could become a threat to their co-ac-

"The challenge was to design in a way that everybody could perform the action safely, and for that we had to go through rigorous training. Everybody got hurt almost everyday, but nobody was severely injured. It's always a challenge if the action space is too small, or too big. But that's the kind of challenge I enjoy,' he said.

The small budget thriller emerged as a favourite with critics when it premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival last year. It has earned over Rs 20 crore in three weeks and continues to enjoy a box office run.

Asked about similarities between "Snowpiercer" and "Kill", both set in a moving train, Oh said while some scenes could look similar because of the space, they all are unique stories designed with different sentiments.

"It's hard to word out the details, but the similarities would be that all the above-mentioned films are set inside a train, and the differences are the stories and the characters. And these differences are the factors that determine the action design.

"My past experience (on 'Snowpiercer') didn't help much for this film," he said. Production company, 87Eleven Entertainment, who are responsible for the groundbreaking "John Wick" series, will produce the Hollywood remake of "Kill".

Oh said he is proud that the film is getting a Hollywood remake but whether he will work in the Hollywood version is not in his hands.

"I can't be involved in that film just because I want to. They would want to hire me. It's rewarding to know that the John Wick producer is planning to produce a remake of 'Kill'. I'm so proud that 'Kill is receiving so much love and praise," he said.

Asked about any action film in Bollywood that he enjoyed recently, Oh had a surprising answer: Alia Bhatt-starrer "Gangubai Kathiawadi". (PTI)

Camila Mendes and Madelyn Cline in talks to star in 'I Know What You Did Last Summer' reboot

LOS ANGELES, July 23: "Riverdale" star Camila Mendes is in talks to lead Sony's upcoming reboot of popular slasher thriller "I



Sarah Pidgeon, who starred in the project directed by Jenin "Tiny Beautiful Things" nifer Kaytin Robinson and written by Sam Lansky and are also in discussion for the movie alongside "Goat" Kaytin Robinson from a draft actor Tyriq Withers and by Leah McKendrick.

The original film "I Know What You Did Last Summer' released in 1997 and starred Sarah Michelle Gellar, Freddie Prinze Jr., Jennifer Love Hewitt and Ryan Phillippe in the lead roles.

The horror-mystery was directed by Jim Gillespie and was adapted from Lois Duncan's novel "I Know What You Did Last Sun mer" which was published in 1973. Made on a reported budget of USD 17 million, the film went on to earn ₹125 million at the box office despite mixed reviews. It is considered a cult hit in the slasher

genre alongside "Scream" franchise. The story follows a group

of four friends bound by an accidental death during their holiday gone wrong. They reunite later and re-

alise they are being stalked by a hook-wielding maniac who may or may not know their secret. The film became an instant hit on its release and a sequel was made the following year, titled "I Still Know What You Did Last Summer."

A TV series v

Glen Powell on returning to 'Top Gun 3': I have a date



LOS ANGELES, July 23: Glen begin. Powell and Twisters co-

"Bad Newz" also stars Neha Dhupia in the pivotal role

said. Asked if he could provide more details, the actor said. "Absolutely not." Powell played

LT Jake "Hangman" Seresin in

Cruise's return as Captain Pete

"Maverick" Mitchell after over

played Maverick in Top Gun in

the movie, which marked

three decades. Cruise first

Know What You Did Last Summer". Actor Madelyn Cline of "Outer Banks" fame and

"World on Fire" star Jonah Haur-King. According to Variety, the actors, if finalised, will star

on the story in 2021. The upcoming remake is slated to release in theatres on July 18, 2025. Prinze Jr. and Hewitt, who starred in the original film are also in talks to star in the movie. (PTI)

Powell, who is riding high on the success of disaster drama Twisters, has shared that the sequel to Tom Cruise-headlined aviation drama, Top Gun: Maverick, is going ahead.

The actor said he has a date on which the pre-production work on the yet-untitled movie will

and has cameos by Ananya Panday

and Neha Sharma. The film

follows the story of a woman

(Dimri), who gets pregnant

(PTI)

with twins belonging to two different men, played by

Kaushal and

Virk.

star Daisy Edgar-Jones was asked if it was more likely to get a Normal People continuation or a third Top Gun film first, prompting Powell to offer an update during his appearance on the Happy Sad Confused podcast.

"I mean, I have a date," he

1986 Cruise has been cheering Powell on since they worked together on Top Gun: Maverick in 2022. The Mission Impossible star made a surprise appearance on the red carpet for Twisters and actor Anthony Ramos later confirmed that the superstar enjoyed the movie. Powell's stocks have risen in Hollywood in the last few months, starting with the success of the romantic drama Anyone But You and then Richard Linklater's Hit Man, about a professor who pretends to be a hitman for hire to get potential criminals implicated. (PTI)

Anand Tiwari's 'Bad Newz earns ₹34.37crore

MUMBAI, July 23:: Bollywood movie "Bad Newz", starring Vicky Kaushal, Tripti Dimri and Ammy Virk, has earned ₹ 34.37 crore at the box office since its release on July 19. Directed by Anand Tiwari of "Bandish Bandit" and "Love Per Square Feet" fame and produced by Amritpal Singh Bindra, Apoorva Mehta and Karan Johar, the film is performing well at the box office despite middling reviews. "Aapka pyaar sab toh vadda nikla ji," captioned the makers on their 'X' post as they shared a poster an-nouncing the film's theatrical performance so far. "Entertainment Ka Zabardast Package! 34.37

crore," the text on the poster read. It also mentioned per day collection of the film which has been ₹ 8.62 crore on the opening day with ₹ 10.55 crore on the following Saturday, \gtrless 11.45 crore on Sunday and \gtrless 3.75 crore on its fourth day.

'This is a true story': Ryan Reynolds reveals Hugh Jackman put on a show for his kids

WASHINGTON, July 23: Ryan Reynolds shared a heartwarming story about Hugh Jackman performing 'The Greatest Showman' for his children, reported People.

He revealed that he walked in on his fellow Deadpool & Wolverine costar, 55, performing hits from The Greatest Showman with his kids.

"I've come in, I've heard The Greatest Showman playing, and I come around the corner, and there is my kids watching the movie, singing along," he recalled. "And Hugh is acting it out with them, like, just this big kid."

Reynolds said that it is a true story and he is not

making this up. He told introduction of the X-Men how he had found Jackman to the Disney-owned Marmimicking the hit film vel Cinematic Universe with his children in his livafter the company puring room. chased 20th Century Fox, "This is a true story, I'm

under which the first two Deadpool films were disnot making this up," Reynolds said, before retributed. vealing he had walked into "Actually, you're not his house to find his 'Deadeven wrong. My kids pool' co-star acting out the watch 'Greatest Showman' hit film with his kids. all the time," said Reynolds, who shares Notably, the two frenemies have been making the daughters Betty, James and rounds in order to promote Inez, as well as a fourth baby, with wife Blake their new movie, the highly

anticipated Deadpool & Lively. Wolverine. Deadpool & Reynolds recalled the impromptu scene as one of Wolverine will see "the most heartbreaking, Reynolds and Jackman reunite as their respective beautiful things I'd ever characters since 2009's seen," adding that Jackman Wolverine: Origins. has outperformed him in

The movie will mark the both musicals and as a fa-

ther. He shared that after this incident he knew that nothing he would ever do could surpass what Hugh did for their children.

"I knew I would never be able to top it. So I've started a new life in a new country with a secret family." Confirming the story, Jackman chimed in, "By the way, we didn't rent it, we bought it on your account. Residuals." "Thank you, I've been avoiding that for years," the 'Proposal' star fired back, joking, "I live to line your pockets."

Earlier, Reynolds shared, "Shawn Levy told me something that stuck with me forever, that people

their wins. But I think it's really important for your kids in particular to know that you lose."

want all the time. Something you worked on really hard didn't work,' Reynolds continued. "You feel like you said something embarrassing today, you did something that didn't sit right with you. It's just so important that [your kids] see that and don't just hear, 'Oh, Dad nailed it.' Because you lose so much more than you win."

me," he added. 'Deadpool & Wolverine' is in theatres on July 26, according to People. (AGENCIES)

-🐼-

tend to only talk about

"You don't get what you "It's really stuck with



Page 11 July 24_Normal Pages 7/23/2024 9:03 PM Page 1

NEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2024

SPORTS

Athletes enjoying their first days at the giant Olympic village ahead of the Paris Games

PARIS, July 23: Australian beach volleyball player Taliqua Clancy got an unexpected surprise walking around the athletes' village at the Paris Olympics on Monday

Among the legions of other athletes from around the world, one figure stood out: French President Emmanuel Macron.

"We got to see him which was cool. I was hanging around hoping to get a selfie, but I had to come here" for a news conference, she told reporters, laughing. She probably wouldn't have got close enough, anyway, because Macron's security team ushered her away.

"But hopefully we can see a few more famous faces," said Clancy, who is one of 66 indigenous athletes on the Australian Olympic team in Paris - six more than in Tokyo.

"I'm a proud aboriginal and it is special to have the artwork and design" in the village, the 32-yearold Clancy said.

Clancy and her teammate Mariafe Artacho del Solar were silver medalists at the Tokyo Games three years ago.

Artacho del Solar gave her first impressions of the village, where more than 14,000 athletes and officials are staying and which is the size of 70 soccer pitches. "It has been amazing so far, it feels very safe," she said. "We had a walk around today, had some good old photo of the rings.

The village itself sits in the sub-



sports world as the home to the Stade de France where France's national soccer and rugby teams play. It is located in a formerly run-down area now transformed into a vibrant international hub for the July 26-Aug. 11 Paris Games, and for the Aug. 28-Sept. 8 Paralympics.

"It's great to see a whole ton of different countries here," United States rugby sevens center Lucas in Tokyo. "It's been pretty cool. Lacamp said Monday.

hall with different food stations catering for different tastes from around the world, a vast gym, training grounds for a number of sports, a polyclinic, prayer rooms and an anti-doping centre. "I was definitely looking forward to the food court, I won't lie about that," said New Zealand rugby sevens player Risaleanna Pouri-Lane. who won the women's gold medal

Asalanka to lead Sri Lanka in

T20I series against India

soak up the whole village and Olympic environment."

Andrew Knewstubb, a silver medalist in men's rugby in Tokyo, explained the marked difference between pandemic-marred Tokyo three years ago and Paris.

"The most noticeable thing is people are not wearing masks," Knewstubb said, adding that he likes how athletes can now say hello to each other or come up and swap pins "without the hesitation

Athletes lodge in five residential areas, each named after a wellknown area of Paris: Abbesses, Bastille, Dauphine, Étoile, Fêtes, With environment protection in mind, the eco-friendly village has electric cars ferrying athletes around. Pouri-Lane enjoyed riding one of the many bikes provided for athletes to use.

Former track cycling star Anna Meares is a four-time Olympian and two-time gold medalist. Meares is now the Australian team's Chef de Mission and said decisions were made regarding the team's residency in the village.

"There was a lot of learning to take out of Tokyo, that played in the decisions we have made in our set up," she said.

One of them was more important than it may sound.

"We have kept our barista," she said. "One big question I asked when I took on this role was Why was the barista so popular?' And that was because it created this social hub for the athletes."

Meanwhile, the American men's rugby sevens team are preparing for a huge game on Wednesday against host France - which boasts arguably the best player in the world in scrumhalf Antoine Dupont.

"Preparation has been good. They've taken really good care of us; fields were good, facilities were good," U.S. captain Kevon Williams said. "Things have been rolling smooth for us. We're ready for the moment." (AP)

Personal, national coaches pivotal in athlete's career; shooters' preps lacked planning: Vijay Kumar

NEW DELHI, July 23: Olympic medallist shooter Vijay Kumar feels both the personal and national coaches play an equal role in the growth of an athlete as the debate over the role of the two continues to intensify with the Paris Games around the corner. Several Indian athletes have opted for personal coaches in Paris and Vijay feels there is nothing wrong with it and that due weightage" should be give to them.

India's medal hopeful in pistol shooting Manu Bhaker has opted for pistol legend Jaspal Rana as her coach in Paris, while rifle marksman Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar trains with former Olympian Joydeep Karmakar, though the veteran hasn't accompanied his ward to the Games. Athletes in several other disciplines are also taking help of personal coaches as they eye Olympic dream.

Vijay, who was a surprise medal-winner in the 2012 London when he stepped out of the shadow of the likes of Abhinav Bindra and Gagan Narang to clinch silver in rapid-fire pistol,

said personal coaches should get due "weightage" as they have played a pivotal role in bringing up the athlete to this level.

Well, it's a complicated issue. Personal coaches should also get due weightage. Suppose I become a national coach some day, the shooter who comes to me, he would have been trained by someone to come up to that level by a personal coach," Vijay, an ex-serviceman now serving as DSP with Himachal Police, told PTI.

"So, the contribution of both the coaches is equal. The national coaches give that extra push... that 1-2 point bump in scores, how to handle pressure in international competition," said Vijay, who got enrolled in the Army early and was able to harness his talent in shooting to bring several accolades for the country. The 38-year-old, however, feels

that the shooting federation till April-end I suppose." (PTI)

should appoint coaches with good credentials and those who have faced challenging situations in some of the toughest competitions in the world.

"The federation should only appoint those coaches who have performed at the international level and won medals, so they can teach their wards how to handle those circumstances, what thoughts to keep in mind while shooting or relaxing, the techniques to follow," added Vijay.

He feels that the Indian shooting team's preparations have been far from ideal and that a clear roadmap should have been been in place for Paris-bound shooters six months before the mega event.

"Observing from the outside, I feel it is the planning of players in the last six months where we are lacking. The federation, I feel, should have had a crystal clear roadmap on what all competitions the shooters should take part in and the kind of training they should get and under whom.

"So the focus should have been on that. The last six months the focus should be on how to make the players more focused, how much to train them, how much foreign exposure needs to be given, all that needs to be worked to the 'T'," he added.

"This year also, I've heard that the team was announced three (two) months before the Olympics. The trials were very late and the team announcement too was late. This exercise should have been completed in January-February, to be very frank," he added.

"The federations policy to have Olympic Selection Trials was fair but the execution was a bit late. The process should have been completed 2-3 months before it actually happened. The last 5-6 months (before Olympics) are crucial. I must say, if the competition at the Olympics is in Julyend, then January or maximum February the trials should have ended. Here trials were going on

PALLEKELE, July 23: Charith Asalanka mer Sri Lankan U-19 captain, he also led was on Tuesday named captain of the Sri Lankan T20 team for the three-match series against India, starting here on July 27, replacing spin all-rounder Wanindu Hasaranga, who stepped down after the team's early exit from last month's T20 World Cup.

The 27-year-old comes with considerable captaincy experience. In the absence of Hasaranga, who was facing suspension due to ICC code of conduct violations. Asalanka had captained Sri Lanka in two T20Is on the tour of Bangladesh earlier this year. A for-

Jaffna Kings to the Lanka Premier League title last week.

Sri Lanka Cricket Selection Committee opted for several changes following the team's dismal show at the T20 World Cup, where the island nation managed to win only one game and made an early exit.

Overall, the 16-member squad is a good mix of experience and youth.

The seasoned pair of all-rounders Angelo Mathews and Dhananjaya de Silva, wicketkeeper Sadeera Samarawickrama and leftarm pacer Dilshan Madushanka have been left out of the squad. Returning to the squad are 34-year-old Dinesh Chandimal, who last played a T20I in February 2022, and Kusal Janith Perera. Uncapped all-rounder Chamindu Wickramasinghe has earned a maiden call up. Right-arm seamer, who had been training at the MRF Pace Academy in India, has been rewarded for his breakout LPL season. Pacers Binura Fernando and Avishka Fernando also find themselves back in the national fold.

Sri Lanka will play the first of the three T20Is on July 27 here, followed by games on July 28 and 30. The Indian team, which Chameera, Binura Fernando. (PTI)

will be led by a new captain in Suryakumar Yadav as well, landed here on Monday night for the series, which also features three ODIs scheduled next month.

Sri Lanka squad: Charith Asalanka (capt), Pathum Nissanka, Kusal Janith Perera (wk), Avishka

Fernando, Kusal Mendis (wk), Dinesh Chandimal, Kamindu Mendis, Dasun Shanaka, Wanindu Hasaranga, Dunith Maheesh Theekshana. Wellalage. Chamindu Wickramasinghe, Matheesha Pathirana, Nuwan Thushara, Dushmantha

Dravid screamed and cried, recalls Ashwin on India's T20 World *Cup celebrations*

Aguirre returns as Mexico's head coach for a third time

We've had a couple of days to of Covid.'



CHENNAI, July 23: Virat Kohli handing over the T20 Word Cup trophy to former coach Rahul Dravid after India's title triumph in Barbados and the much revered coach 'screaming and crying' in joy is something that will remain etched in his memory, Ravichandran Ashwin has expressed.

After India pipped South Africa in a tense final last month to win their second T20 World Cup, former coach Dravid was seen letting out his emotions in a rare show while holding the trophy aloft.

Åshwin admitted it was indeed a special moment for the 51-year-old Dravid, who could not win an ICC title as a player but finally redeemed it as a coach. "My moment was when Virat Kohli called Rahul Dravid and gave the cup... I saw him hug the cup and cry," he said in a video on his YouTube channel.

"Rahul Dravid screamed and cried. I saw him enjoy it. I felt that a lot.'

Ashwin also reckoned that Dravid was scared being at the helm of another campaign in the Caribbean, for the team under his captaincy had made a groupstage exit in the 2007 ODI on both occasions. (PTI)

World Cup. "I want to talk about a sacred person. (In) 2007, (the) 50-over World Cup. India gets knocked out. Rahul Dravid (was) the captain then. He does not captain the one-day side after that," he said.

"He has been with the Indian team. If something does not go well, if the Indian team goes out, or if they lose a match, immediately they ask what Dravid is doing.

Ashwin also acknowledged the hard work done by Dravid during his stint as India coach, saying he brought balance to the team and changed in approach. "I know what he has been

doing with this team for the past two to three years. I know how balanced he has been. I know how hard he has worked to change this approach," Ashwin

"I know what he has given each of his players. Even when he is just sitting at home, he has been planning how to do this and that," he added.

said.

Under Dravid, India reached the finals of the World Test Championship and the ODI World Cup but lost to Australia

NEW DELHI, July 23: Building trust was a key target area for India's men's hockey coach Craig Fulton when he took over last year and as the team lands in Paris, hoping to better the Olympic bronze achieved in Tokyo, the South African is confident that his efforts will yield the desired results.

Since taking over 14 months back, Fulton has stressed on the need to develop a strong team spirit, besides focussing more on defence strategically. "I don't know what was the

preparation ahead of Tokyo but since I took over 14 months back my main focus has been on

building trust among the group," Fulton told PTI in an exclusive interview from the Paris Games Village. To multiply his efforts, he roped in renowned mental conditioning coach and fellow South African Paddy Upton, who played a key role in the Indian cricket team's triumph in the 2011 ODI World Cup.

Upton is with the team in the Paris Olympics.

MEXICO CITY, July 23: Javier Aguirre has been appointed head coach of Mexico's national team for the third time and will replace Jaime Lozano, the Mexican soccer federation confirmed Monday.

Rafael Marquez, who played in five World Cups for Mexico and was the coach of Barcelona's reserve team, will be Aguirre's main assistant. The 65-year-old Aguirre led

Mexico to the Round of 16 at the 2002 and 2010 World Cups. Mexico was knocked out in that round at every World Cup between 1994 and 2018, then was eliminated in coaching career with an em-

the group stage in 2022. "(Aguirre) is without a doubt the Mexican coach with the longest and most recognized career abroad and he also has in-depth knowledge of the processes in national teams," said Duilio Davino,

director of national teams. Davino said Marquez will be Aguirre's assistant for two vears under a plan for him to take over as head coach for the

blematic team. We have offered him to be the assistant until 2026 so that he can contribute his knowledge and then assume the leadership," Davino said.

Lozano was hired last year to replace Diego Cocca and led Mexico to the 2023 Gold Cup title. He was fired two weeks after Mexico's groupstage exit at the Copa America.

2030 World Cup. "'Rafa' is one Aguirre is the only Mexican of the most important players who has coached at the elite level in Europe. He has led six in Mexican history with a teams in Spain, including great national and interna-Atlético de Madrid and Maltional career who began his lorca, with which he reached

the final of the Copa del Rey this past season.

He has also coached the national teams of Japan and Egypt.

Aguirre's first games back in charge will be in September when Mexico plays friendlies against New Zealand and Canada in the United States.

The 45-year-old Marquez played in his last World Cup in Russia in 2018. As a player, Marquez won four league titles and two Champions League titles with Barcelona. He had coached Barcelona's reserve team the last two years. (AP)

Trust, team spirit key to hockey team's success in Paris Olympics: Head Coach Fulton

rated India broke

As part of the build-up, he arranged a three-day camp for the side with Swiss explorer and adventurer Mike Horn in Switzerland before Harmanpreet Singh's men headed for the Games Village on July 20.

"I simply put in my plans which are short as well as long term and have worked according to

them," Fulton said. "We had a good preparation, we had nice three-day training camp with Mike Horn in

Switzerland. "We worked on trustbuilding, team spirit and unity there and then we headed for Netherlands for nine-day training, where we played a few practice matches,"

-🐼

he elabo-

a 41-year-old medal jinx at the thing (about podium finish) right Tokyo Olympics. The team was now because there is hardly any coached by Australian Graham Reid till the Tokyo Games. Reid resigned last year after India endured a disappointing campaign in the World Cup.

Fulton said he is well aware of the expectations that have gone up after the Tokyo perform-

> 'Yes, I know about the xpectations and we are fully prepared for that. India has a rich hockey legacy and my only endeavour is to continue the legacy," he said.

"I can't predict any-

gap between the 12 teams in Olympics. Our first three matches are very important and we are focussing on that now."

India's 16-member squad in Paris comprises 11 players who were in Tokyo, while five will be making their Olympic debut. But for Fulton what matters is getting the team combination right.

It would be the fourth Olympics for veteran goalkeeper P R Sreejesh, who will retire at the end of the Games.

"It doesn't matter there are 11 experienced and five new players, what matters for me is who is playing well in the company of whom," said the 49-year-old, who was assistant coach of Belgium's 2018 World Cup-winning team as well as the gold-medal winning Tokyo Olympics side. "Balance on the pitch is cru-

cial," he asserted. India are placed in a tough pool alongside mighty Australia, reigning gold medallists Belgium, Argentina, New

Zealand and Ireland. The team will begin its campaign on July 27 against New

Zealand, followed by matches against Argentina (July 29), Ireland (July 30), Belgium (August 1) and Australia (August 2).

"On any day, anyone can beat the other but we just want to take it match by match. So, now our main focus is on New Zealand and from there, we will take it forward," Fulton concluded.

Meanwhile, Hockey India on Tuesday named the core probable group for the men's national camp in SAI, Bengaluru for the forthcoming Asian Champions Trophy to be held in Hulunbuir City, China in September.

The core group includes players who didn't make the final cut for Paris Olympics and also features players from the development group and the junior team. After returning from Paris, the players from the Olympic squad will also join the national camp on August 24 after a brief break. The camp will conclude on September 4. (PTI)

Sports

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2024

United States favored to top overall medal table at Paris Games. China may challenge for most gold

PARIS, July 23: As the Paris Olympics are set to open this week, the United States goes in as the favorite to win the most medals. China is unlikely to overtake the U.S. in the overall medal haul, but has a chance to win more gold medals than the Americans.

Though the Games highlight great individual athletes, they are also a surrogate for geopolitcal influence and national pride.

The United States is projected to win 112 medals overall — 39 gold, 32 silver, and 41 bronze. China is forecast to win 86 overall - 34 gold, 27 silver, and 25 bronze.

This forecast is by Nielsen's Gracenot e Sports, which supplies statistical analysis for sports leagues around the world. It also tracks major competitions involving Olympic sports leading up to the Games

The United States and China finished 1-2 in both categories in 2021 in the pandemic-delayed Tokyo Olympics.

The International Olympic Committee does not compile medal rankings. Gracenote has calculated its standings on overall medals won, although others focus the rankings on gold totals.

PARIS, July 23: Three-time Tour de France

winner Tadej Pogacar withdrew from the road

race at the Paris Olympics late Monday, one day

after becoming the first rider to win the Tour

and the Giro d'Italia in the same season in

Pogacar had withdrawn from the Aug. 3 road

race due to fatigue. His professional team-

mate, Domen Novak, will replace him rather

than Primoz Roglic, the defending Olympic

time trial gold medalist, who was left off the

nation's provisional lineup and is likely still

recovering from the crash that took him out

"Unfortunately, Tadej Pogacar will not be among (the riders in Paris)," the Slovenian team

said in a statement. "He will be replaced by na-

tional team colleague Domen Novak. We wish

The Slovenian Olympic Team announced

nearly three decades.

of the Tour.



which the United States did not top The forecast for the Americans on top is no surprise. This would the gold-medal table was in 2008 be the eighth consecutive time the in Beijing. United States has won the most After the United States and overall medals at the Summer China, the next in line with overall Games. The Unified team topped totals and gold totals are: Britain (63-17), France (60-27), Australia the overall count in 1992 at

after it broke up as a sovereign (34-16), South Korea (26-9). The next places 11 to 20 are:

The last Summer Olympics in Canada (21-7), Hungary (20-7),

Barcelona, composed of athletes

from the former Soviet Union just

state

(17-3), Denmark (14-5), Turkey (14-4), New Zealand (14-4), Ukraine (13-2), Ethiopia (12-6). Countries always get a medal bump being the host nation, and France is expected to almost triple the number of gold medals it won in Tokvo. This time the medals will be in-

laid with a tiny piece of the Eiffel Tower.

Host nations spend more heavily for a home Olympics, and the home crowds also help with athletes competing in familiar surroundings

Conversely, Japan won a record 58 overall medals three years ago in Tokyo, and 27 gold. It is sure to slip this time.

The unknown factor is the presence of Russian and — to a lesser extent — Belarusian athletes. They have been absent from most international competitions over the last two years because of the war in Ukraine. And, by order of the IOC, any medals those athletes win are not to be included in any medal table

More than 300 Russian athletes competed three years ago in Tokyo. This time the total may be just a dozen or so. (AP)



Ahead of 2024 Paris Olympics,

IOC leaders tout games as multilateral unifier in divided world

PARIS, July 23: On the eve of the Paris Olympics, IOC president Thomas Bach touted the games Monday as a uniting force in a world of divisive and "deeply disturbing" trends.

"We are witnessing a new world order in the making," Bach told an audience that included French president Emmanuel Macron, organizers of the Paris Games that open Friday and officials from Olympic sports federations.

The IOC leader highlighted "narrow self-interests trumping the rule of law" among threats to the multilateralism that has shaped global affairs for almost 80 years.

"Historic disruptions are upending the system of international relations that has been in place since the second World War," Bach said. "The trends are unfortunately clear: decoupling of economies, beggarthy-neighbor, narrow self-interests trumping the rule of law, Global South' vs. Global North.'"

The Olympics is part of a global and multilateral world that Bach suggested "is on the back foot."

"In this new world order, cooperation' or compromise' are sadly considered disparaging terms," he said. "In this world of division, the athletes personify our shared hope for a better future. The athletes are showing us how to live peacefully together under one roof in the Olympic Village." Earlier Monday, Bach met with athletes from the Israeli and Palestinian teams now living in the Olympic residences in the Saint-Denis neighborhood north of central Paris.

> "In these dark times, our Olympic values matter more than ever," Bach

said in his speech. "It is only by living our Olympic values — the values of solidarity, equality, human dignity for all — that we can bring the entire world together in peace."

Bach spoke at a ceremonial opening — hosted by one of the Paris organizers' French sponsors, luxury goods firm LVMH — of the International Olympic Committee's annual meeting. It runs through Wednesday at a conference center near the Arc de Triomphe. On Tuesday, IOC members are set to confirm a 12-year deal agreed with Saudi Arabia to host Olympic Esports Games in video gaming that are meant to help the governing body bet-

ter engage with young people. Bach said the Olympics "must engage with this digitally native generation" to stay relevant with them, while supporting Saudi progress in "the popularization of sport and in particular the participation of girls and women in sport." Also Tuesday, future Summer

Games hosts Los Angeles and Brisbane will update the IOC on their plans for the 2028 and 2032 editions, respectively. On Wednesday, Salt Lake City should be confirmed as host of the 2034 Winter Games, bringing the event back to Utah after a 32-year gap.

The 2030 edition is heading for the French Alps project also centered on coastal city Nice. Final confirmation likely cannot be given this week because of uncertainty in the national government since recent snap elections for parliament called by Macron and which stalled momentum that was building for far-right parties. (AP)

Assam CM congratulates Abhinav Bindra for **Olympic Order**

GUWAHATI, July 23: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday congratulated eminent sportsperson Abhinav Bindra on being awarded the Olympic Order for his outstanding contributions to the Olympic movement

"Hoping he continues to inspire the coming generations to actively pursue sports", the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said in a post on 'X'.

The Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) informed Bindra that he has been awarded the Olympic Order and the award ceremony will take place during the 142nd IOC Session in Paris on August 10.

The Assam government has inked a Memorandum Of Understanding (MoU) with the Abhinav Bindra Foundation Trust to set up two high performance sports training and rehabilitation centers in Guwahati and Jorhat.

The state government has signed another MoU to roll out Olympic Values Education Programme (OVEP) in 250 government-run as well as private schools in and around Guwahati to address issues related to a sedentary lifestyle, dearth of concentration and dropping out of school by adolescents. (PTI)

WT20I Rankings: Mandhana maintains 5th position

DUBAI, July 23: Elegant Indian vice-captain Smriti Mandhana stayed put on fifth position while skipper Harmanpreet Kaur and the flamboyant Shafali Verma both reaped dividends for their impressive performances to be tied 11th in the latest ICC WT20I rankings, published on Tuesday.

Harmanpreet gained a place while Shafali jumped four slots in the batters' list with as many as four Indians in top-20. The fourth player is Jemimah Rodrigues at 19th position. The big-hitting Richa Ghosh is currently ranked 24th in the list. Beth Mooney still leading batting charts with 769 points. In the bowlers' list, off-spinner Deepti Sharma is static at third while seamer Renuka Singh leaped to ninth position. Left-arm spinner Radha Yadav is 20th in the list. (PTI)

India men's cricket team arrives in Sri Lanka for white-ball series

PALLEKELE (SRI LANKA), July 23: The Indian men's cricket team under new head coach Gautam Gambhir and captain Survakumar Yadav arrived here via Colombo to a warm welcome, with Domen all the best and success."

by Jan Tratnik, Matej Mohoric and Luka Mezgec.

"Once again," the Slovenia team said, "congratulations to the Tour de France winner for his third victory in the world's most prestigious cycling race, and we hope he rests well and prepares for his next races."

The 25-year-old Pogacar has already said he will not race in the Vuelta a Espana in August, the third of the three Grand Tours. Instead, he is expected to recuperate ahead of the world championships in September in Switzerland.

Pogacar was expected to battle two-time winner Jonas Vingegaard all the way to Nice, where the three-week Tour ended Sunday rather than with its customary finish on the Champs-Élysées because of the Paris Games. Instead, he pulled on the leader's yellow jersey after winning Stage 4 to Valloire and never let his biggest rivals get anywhere close to him the rest of the way

Pogacar capped his dominance by winning the time trial Sunday for his 17th career stage win. He finished more than six minutes ahead of Vingegaard overall and more than nine ahead of third-place Remco Evenepoel, one of the Olympic favorites.

It made Pogacar the first rider since Marco Pantani in 1998 to win the Giro and the Tour in the same year.

"To win both together is another level above," Pogacar said after the finish Sunday. "This is the first Grand Tour where I was totally confident every day. Even at the Giro I remember I had one bad day. This year, the Tour was just amazing. (AP)



Tour winner Tadej Pogacar withdraws from Paris Olympics road race due to fatigue Novak will be joined in the Slovenian lineup

(54-15), Japan (47-13), Italy (46-

11), Germany (35-11), Netherlands

the recently-crowned T20 world champions playfully mingling with fans and giving them some precious moments.

The 15-member India team along with the support staff had left Mumbai on Monday after a pre-departure press conference addressed by Gambhir, who took over Rahul Dravid as the national coach, and BCCI's chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar. They arrived the same same day in Pallekele after a short layover in Colombo.

India will play a three-match T20I series against the home side, who are yet to announce their squad. The Suryakumar-led side will play the first of the three T20Is on July 27, followed by matches on July 28 and 30. (PTI)

Sitharaman here, is $\gtrless 20$ crore more than the revised allocation of ₹ 880 crore during the previous financial year. With the Olympic cycle set to come to an

NEW DELHI, July 23: Khelo India, which

is the government's flagship project to promote sports at the grassroots level, was once

again the biggest beneficiary in the union

budget for the sports ministry as it was assigned ₹ 900 crore from the overall allocation

Kehlo India's share, announced in the

budget presented by finance minister Nirmala

of ₹ 3,442.32 crore on Tuesday.

end in Paris in August this year, and the Commonwealth Games and Asian Games still two years away, the budget for the Sports Ministry has seen only a marginal increase of ₹ 45.36 crore from the previous cycle.

The budget for the previous cycle was ₹ 3,396.96 crore for the previous financial year.

The government has invested heavily in Khelo India over the years as the programme continues to unearth talent from all parts of the country.

While Khelo India's actual allocation in 2022-23 stood at ₹ 596.39 crore, it was increased by more than ₹ 400 crore, to ₹ 1,000 crores, in the 2023-24 budget, before being revised to ₹ 880 crore.

The government has continued to add pro-

athletes with potential. Several Khelo India athletes are currently in India's Olympicbound contingent.

the Khelo India Para Games in 2023.

The government's assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs) has also seen an increase of ₹ 15 crore -- from ₹ 325 crore in 2023-24 to ₹ 340 crore in the latest budget.

The budget for Sports Authority of India, which apart from maintaining its stadia across the country also manages the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) to prepare athletes for the global sporting extravaganzas, has also been enhanced from ₹795.77 crore to ₹822.60 crore, which is a jump of ₹ 26.83 crore.

The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) and the National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL), which does all the testing, have received marginal increase in their budgets.

While NADA's budget has gone up from ₹ 21.73 crore last year to ₹ 22.30 crore, NDTL has got ₹ 22 crore, up from ₹ 19.50 last year. (PTI)

Olympic Diaries: Parisians' divided views on Games, half empty hotels and 'safe' Seine



PARIS, July 23: For the fortunate few out of the 45,000 volunteers supporting the Paris Olympics, a chance meeting with tennis star Carlos Alcaraz at the airport has already made their volunteering stint special.

Paris is hosting the Olympics after 100 long years and the volunteers, who are the heart and soul of the mega multi-sporting competition, see the Games starting July 26 as an event of their lives.

"I am already 60 and retired. Safe to say that Paris will not be hosting another Olympics in my lifetime and being part of it now makes it the event of my life," said an excited volunteer at the Paris Orly airport, who didn't wish to be named.

"And 20 minutes ago, Alcaraz landed here and I helped him get his accreditation. So for me the experienced has already become unforgettable," she added. Local transport fares double

However, not all locals are pleased about the impact that the Games has already had on their daily lives. The local transportation fares have gone up from 2.15 euros to 4 euros since Saturday and they will remain in effect till September 8. when the subsequent Paralympics conclude.

The movement too has been restricted close to the Olympic venues, impacting public life. What goes in favour of the Games that majority of the 32 disciplines will be staged in the city and with its existing infrastructure including the iconic sites like the Eiffel Tower.

"It is a proud moment for Parisians that the city is hosting the Olympics but that should not impact the daily life of the people. The local transport fares have doubled and that has not gone down well with me and the locals in the city. Increasing fares was not the best move by the authorities," said Victoire Delarue at Gare du Nord, the busiest train station in the city.

Benjamin Raucoule, who is working the Paris Games organizing committee, has been part of the mega project for the past two years and he is happy that it is all coming to fruition with the opening ceremony on Friday.

"I love sport and to be able to work on the biggest sporting event in the world is a dream come true. The experience has also prepared me for the future. I would also like to work on the Los Angeles edition in 2028," said Benjamin.

For volunteer Maud Thirouin, who aspires to be a successful architect, Paris staging the Games should be a matter of immense pride for all the residents of the city

"There are people who don't care much about the Games taking place in the city but a lot of them do. Volunteering has given me a lifetime opportunity and I hope to make the most of it," she said. Half-empty hotels

A massive demand for accommodation was projected for the entire duration of the Olympics. A sizable number of Parisians have gone on holidays, putting their properties on rent to make a quick buck but surprisingly hotels have not witnessed the surge that was expected. (PTI)

2024

July to August

Treatment for children with diarrhoea







ORS

Dissolve 1 big packet of Give ORS solution by ORS in 1 litre of clean drinking water in a clean vessel

spoon frequently, especially after every motion

Give one Zinc tablet dissolved in 1 spoon of water or mother's milk for 14 days even if diarrhoea stops

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Prevention of diarrhoea



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