World leaders denounce political violence after assassination bid against Trump

Israeli strike targets the Hamas military commander and kills at least 90

PM's 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' apt reply to climate change: Shah

● 25 yrs of Kargil war: IAF recalls

'Op Safed Sagar', pays homage



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GUWAHATI, MONDAY, JULY 15, 2024

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Gaurav Gogoi Cong's deputy leader in LS



NEW DELHI, July 14: Congress' Gaurav Gogoi will be the party's deputy leader in the Lok Sabha and a letter about the decision has been sent to Speaker Om Birla.

Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi has written to Lok Sabha Speaker Birla informing him about the appointment of the deputy leader, chief whip, and two whips for the Congress party in the Lok Sabha, AICC general secretary organization K C Venugopal said on X.

Kodikunnil Suresh will be the party's chief whip, he said. Virudhunagar MP Manickam Tagore and Kishangani MP Mohammad Jawed will be the (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Trump survives assassination attempt at campaign rally

Gunman Thomas Matthew Crooks killed • Rally-goer dead

Modi, Himanta condemn attack on Trump

NEW DELHI/GUWAHATI, July 14: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday expressed deep concern over the attack on former US president Donald Trump, and said violence has no place in politics and democracies.

Modi said on X, "Deeply concerned by the attack on my friend, former President Donald Trump. Strongly condemn the incident. Violence has no place in politics and democracies. Wish him a speedy recovery." Meanwhile, (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)



CHICAGO/WASHINGTON, July 14: Former US president Donald Trump survived an attempt on his life on Saturday when a young shooter fired multiple shots at him at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania, injuring his right ear, days before he was to accept the Republican Party's nomination for

the presidential election in Novem-

Trump, 78, was speaking at the packed outdoor election rally in Butler town when bullets started flying. Video footage showed him grabbing his ear as shots were fired. The incident left the gunman

The crowd started screaming behind him and then someone yelled "Get down, get down, get down, get down!" as Secret Service agents piled on top of Trump to shield him. The shooting created chaos with people in the back of the venue immediately running to

As blood gushed from his ear, Trump was then rushed off stage. He boldly pumped his fist into the air and told the crowd to "fight!" He was then whisked away in a car to a Pittsburgh-area hospital.

"Let me get my shoes," Trump said as he was escorted to the safe place. The shooting, which left one spectator dead and two others critically injured, is being investigated as an attempted assassination. The male attacker was also shot and killed by a member of the Secret

A spokesperson for the Trump

Campaign said the former president is "fine" after the "heinous act." The gunman was identified by the FBI as 20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks of Bethel Park. He was registered to vote as a Republican.

In a post on his Truth Social media account, Trump elaborated on what happened and described his injuries:

"It is incredible that such an act can take place in our Country. Nothing is known at this time about the shooter, who is now dead. I was shot with a bullet that pierced the upper part of my right ear. I knew immediately that something was wrong in that I heard a whizzing sound, shots, and immediately felt the bullet ripping through the skin. Much bleeding took place, so I realised then what was happening. GOD BLESS AMER-ICA!" (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

HTBRIEFS

ILP issue

DIMAPUR: The Konyak Students' Union (KSU) asked all immigrants without a valid inner line permit (ILP) to leave Mon district immediately. In a statement, the KSU said non-compliance with the directive will invite necessary actions against those violating ILP regulations. It said the presence of unauthorised individuals poses a significant threat to the social and cultural fabric of "our community" while affirming its resolution to uphold the rule of law and protect the interests of the Konyak people.

Child trafficking

ITANAGAR: Police have busted an interstate child trafficking and prostitution racket targeting girls from the northeastern region, especially Arunachal Pradesh, an official said on Sunday. Two minor girls were rescued and five individuals were arrested from Arunachal Pradesh and Delhi, Capital Superintendent of Police Rohit Rajbir Singh said. He said the case came to light on June 10, when the Itanagar Women police station received information about two missing girls aged 15 and 16 years. The victims were rescued from a house in Chimpu in Papum Pare district. The 15-year-old, a resident of East Kameng district, was lured to Delhi in September 2023 and forced into prostitution. The other girl who was from Kurung Kumey district, was about to be trafficked to Delhi when she was rescued.

New Nepal PM

KATHMANDU: K P Sharma Oli was appointed Nepal's Prime Minister for the third time on Sunday to lead the new coalition government that faces the daunting challenge of providing political stability in the country. Oli, 72, succeeds Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda who lost the vote of confidence in the House of Representatives on Friday, leading to the formation of the new government process as per Article 76 (2) of the Constitution.

While Gogoi will be the party's deputy leader in the Lower House, eight-time MP from Kerala

IIT Guwahati working on projects worth ₹ 389 crore

GUWAHATI, July 14: The Indian Institute of Technology-Guwahati on Sunday said it is carrying out 698 research and consultancy projects on varied topics worth ₹ 389 crore. A total of 2,150 students of the premier institute received their degrees in various disciplines at the 26th convocation ceremony during the day.

This includes 277 PhD scholars, 941 post-graduate students and 932 graduation degree holders.

The Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma Gold Medal for the academic year 2023-24 was awarded to Rethyam Gupta (Engineering Physics), while Vedant Gaurang Shah (Computer Science and Engineering) won the President of India Gold

Also, Arpita Ray, MTech in Geotechnical Engineering, was

GUWAHATI, July 14: A senior of-

ficial of a leading PSU bank has

been arrested for siphoning off ₹ 26

lakh from the account of a retired

DIG of Assam Police, an official

Guwahati police commissioner

Diganta Barah said 84-year-old

Bhabadhar Dutta, a former DIG,

had lodged a complaint at Dispur

police station last month stating that

an amount of ₹ 26 lakh was unau-

thorisedly transferred from his ac-

count at Barbari branch of the bank

on several dates to numerous other

bank accounts without his consent

the transactions were made mainly

to three persons. On examination of

those persons, they disclosed that

one particular person, who was the

"Initial investigation revealed that

said on Sunday.

or knowledge.

awarded the Governor of Assam PG Gold Medal, while Pranshu Kandoi, BTech in Computer Science and Engineering, was awarded the Governor of Assam UG Gold Medal.

"The institute currently has 698 research and consultancy projects in progress, with a total sanctioned value of approximately ₹ 389 crore," IIT-Guwahati said in a statement. In the last academic year, 473 new research and consultancy projects worth ₹ 145 crore have been initiated, it added.

Presenting the convocation report, IIT Guwahati director Devendra Jalihal said, "Our institute's achievements in tech transfer, patent filings and high-quality research publications highlight the innovative spirit of our graduates." IIT Guwahati draws talented stu-

tion Branch at Dispur and he al-

legedly made those transactions

"Based on their statements, the

accused has been apprehended. He

revealed during interrogation that he

had been, for a long time, targeting

inoperative accounts for fraudulent

and unauthorised use," Barah said.

In this case, he found that there

was no registered mobile number

linked with the bank account of the

victim and the account was not in

the assistance of another person,

who has also been arrested, to

arrange a SIM card and a used mo-

bile phone. They got the number

registered with the bank account of

the victim, and created a user ID and

password without the knowledge of

bank passbook, he came to know

about the unauthorised transac-

"In furtherance of that, he took

use for the last three years.

through internet banking.

dents from all over the country for its undergraduate, post-graduate and doctoral programmes with an increasing number of international students. Over its 30-year history, it has seen over 22,600 graduates,

Delivering the convocation address, founder and CEO of Zoho Corporation, Sridhar Vembu, said indigenising technology starts with proactively addressing immediate challenges and seeing them as fertile ground for innovation.

"It requires a steadfast commitment to investing in research and development, fostering a culture of creativity and resilience. Embrace challenges as they arise. They not only test and refine your strengths but also spark breakthroughs that drive significant progress and lasting impact," he added. (PTI)

Heroin worth ₹ 17.5 crore seized in Assam



HT Bureau GUWAHATI, July 14: Heroin worth nearly ₹ 17.5 crore has been seized from different parts of Assam and four peddlers have been arrested, police said on Sunday. Assam Police Chief Public Rela-

tions Officer Pranabjyoti Goswami, in a statement, said that 1.732 kg of heroin has been seized from two different places in Golaghat district. Acting on a tip-off, a Special Task

Force team conducted a raid at a

house in (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)



AJP President Lurinjyoti Gogoi busy in a paddy field at Laipuli Morankari Gaon village in Tinsukia on Sunday. UB Photos

Nearly 6 lakh hit: Assam flood situation improves

GUWAHATI, July 14: The flood situation in Assam continued to improve on Sunday, even as two more persons died and nearly six lakh people were affected across 17 districts, an official bulletin said.

According to the daily flood report of the Assam State Disaster (ASDMA), one person died at Karimganj and another at Nilambazar revenue circles of Karimganj district. With the latest fatalities, the toll in this year's flood, landslide, storm and lightning mounted

The report said more than 5,97,600 people are impacted due to flooding in Cachar, Chirang, Darrang, Dhemaji, Dhubri, Dibrugarh, Goalpara, Golaghat, Jorhat, Kamrup, Kamrup Metropolitan, Karimganj, Majuli, Morigaon, Nagaon, Nalbari and Sivasagar districts. Cachar is the worst hit with nearly 1.16 lakh people suffering, followed by Dhubri (almost 81,500 lakh) and Nagaon (over 76,000).

Till Saturday, over 8.4 lakh people were hit by the flood waters across 20 districts.

The administration has been operating 172 relief camps and relief distribution centres in 13 districts, taking care of 58,816 displaced people. At present, 1,342 villages are under water and 25,367.61 hectares of crop area has been damaged across Assam, the ASDMA said.

Embankments, roads, bridges and other infrastructure have also been damaged by flood waters in Dhemaji, Golaghat, Nagaon, Tamulpur, Cachar, Chirang, Darrang, Dhubri, Goalpara and Karimganj, it said. The Brahmaputra is flowing above the danger mark at Nimatighat, Tezpur and Dhubri. Its tributaries Burhidihing at Cheni-Disang and Nanglamuraghat are also flowing above the danger level.

On account of widespread flooding, over 2,83,700 domestic animals and poultry were affected, the

the account holder. "It was only then branch manager, made those transactions," he added. when the complainant updated the

The accused was currently posted

as a deputy manager of the bank's

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) also inspected the condition of the inner chamber

Specialised Currency Administrations," (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

PSU bank staffer nabbed

for siphoning off money

Ratna Bhandar of Puri's Jagannath temple reopened after 46 years

revered treasury of the 12th-century Jagannath temple in Puri, was reopened on Sunday after 46 years for an inventory of valuables and the repair of its structure, officials said.

The members of a committee set up by the state government for the purpose entered the temple around 12 pm, and after performing rituals, the treasury was reopened at 1.28 pm, the auspicious moment which was decided at a meeting in the morning, they said.

The reopening of the Ratna Bhandar became a major political issue during the recently held assembly elections in the state. Targetting the then-ruling BJD over its missing keys, the BJP had promised that it would make efforts to reopen the treasury if it won the polls.



"On the wish of Lord Jagannath, the Odia community, with the identity of 'Odia Asmita', has started making efforts to move forward," the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said in a post on X in Odia

"On your wish, the four gates of the Jagannath temples were earlier opened. Today, on your wish, the Ratna Bhandar was opened after 46 years for a greater purpose," it said in the post.

when the treasury was reopened were former Orissa HC judge Biswanath Rath, Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) chief administrator Arabinda Padhee, ASI Superintendent DB Gadanayak and a representative of Puri's titular king 'Gajapati Maharaja', officials said.

Also among them were four servitors, Patjoshi Mohapatra, Bhandar Mekap, Chadhaukarana and Deulikaran, who took care of the rituals They came out of the Ratna

Bhandar, which has an inner and an outer chamber, around 5.20 pm.

"We carried out all the works as per SOP. We first opened the outer chamber of the Ratna Bhandar and shifted all (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Meghalaya revises state climate action plan

NEW DELHI, July 14: With its ample green cover threatened by climate change, Meghalaya is focusing on its dedicated climate budget and an ambitious forest conservation scheme as it revises the state action plan to combat global warming, Chief Minister Conrad Sangma has said.

Meghalaya is among a few states in India to earmark as much as 16 per cent – ₹ 4,501 crore – of the total state budget for sustainability and conservation initiatives in 2024-25; up from ₹ 2,456 crore in 2022-23 and ₹ 3,412 crore in 2023-24.

"We feel that climate change affects every aspect of life and governance. And hence it is important for not just my government but also for all governments to focus on climate change for a better future," Sangma, who is here on a visit, told PTI.

That approach is helping shape the revision of the State Action Plan for Climate Change (SAPCC) with new climate adaptation targets and sectoral climate risk mitigation strategies.

According to the India State of Forest Report report of 2021, Meghalaya has 76 per cent of its land under total forest cover. Harping on both "legacy and futuristic aspect to environmental conservation", the chief minister said Meghalaya is home to a multitude of indigenous communities who have for generations shared an



intimate bond with nature.

"This relationship is enshrined in the 10,000 hectares of traditionally protected forests across the state," he said, adding, "Our focus is to involve local communities

in protecting the forested areas around their habitation." About two years ago, Meghalaya introduced 'Payment for Ecosystem Services' programme called 'Green Meghalaya,' where the communities are paid an annual

grant for conserving forested areas. "This is India's biggest such programme. In less than two years, ₹ 44 crore has been released to 3,403 individuals and community beneficiaries to bring over 54,000 hectares of forests (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

THE HILLS TIMES

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NEW DELHI, July 14: The government will pay the bond dues of ailing Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd (MTNL), a DoT source said assuring that there will be no default, and that the amount will be paid before the due date of July 20.

The move assumes significance as it would avert a looming crisis for the telecom corporation which is being seen teetering on the brink with regard to its debt obligations that are becoming due. All eyes are on MTNL, ever since the debtladen firm last week expressed its inability to make interest payments to certain bondholders due to paucity of funds.

Telecom Department sources said that the government will step in and pay the said dues, and asserted that there won't be any default on the same

In this particular case, where the second semi-annual interest (7.59 per cent) on certain bonds is falling due on July 20, 2024, DoT sources said that "the dues will be paid before the date".

Amid mounting financial woes, MTNL last week informed in a statutory filing that it is unable to make interest payments to certain bondholders "due to insufficient

"The second semi annual inter-

Industry body urges FM Sitharaman to continue 45-day **MSME** payment rule

NEW DELHI, July 14: Industry body SME Chamber of India has urged Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to continue the 45-day MSME payment rule for corporates and other buyers.

According to Section 43B(h) of the Income Tax Act, introduced through the Finance Act 2023, if a larger company does not pay an MSME on time -- within 45 days in case of written agreements -- it cannot deduct that expense from its taxable income, leading to potentially higher taxes. The government in last year's Budget added a new clause under Section 43B of the Income Tax Act to address the challenge of delayed payments faced by MSMEs in the country.

"We are pursuing not to change the 45-day MSME payment rules imposed by the Department under the pressure of corporates or multinational companies to save the life span of the MSME sector. Section 43B(h) of the Income Tax Act reinforces the importance of timely payments by mandating that companies settle payments to MSME vendors within 45 days to qualify for deductions," SME Chamber said in a statement addressed to Sitharaman.

The industry body argued that this provision serves as a powerful incentive for companies to adhere to payment timelines, thereby supporting the financial health of MSMEs.

"Many MSMEs are NPA victims of corporates, who are buying from them and not dealing through the TReDs platform. Most of the corporates and multinational companies are forcefully insisting to deregister from the Udyam Portal and insisting not to deal through the TReDs platform," SME Chamber stated. The industry body also urged the finance minister to consider providing ₹ 5 cr loans under the "Differential Rate of Interest" scheme for micro and small enterprises. It suggested changing the NPA definition from 90 days to 180 days for the MSME sector. (PTI)



est with regard to 7.59 per cent MTNL's bond series...is due on July 20, 2024. As per the structured payment mechanism of Tripartite agreement (TPA) signed among MTNL, Department of Telecom and Beacon Trusteeship Ltd, MTNL has to fund the semiannual interest into the Escrow account with adequate amount 10 days before the due date," it said.

MTNL informed that in the wake of provisions of TPA, and due to insufficient funds, it could not fund the escrow account with an adequate amount.

MTNL, which offers telecom services in Delhi and Mumbai, has seen a steady erosion in its subscriber base over the past years. MTNL's losses mounted to ₹ 3,267.5 cr for FY24, from ₹ 2,915.1 cr in FY23. The revenue from operations for the year ended March 2024 fell to ₹ 798.56 cr, down 14.6 per cent from a year ago. In an update on MTNL on July 12, India Ratings and Research said it "received an intimation from the trustee dated 11 July 2024, confirming that the escrow

account is not funded by T-10 days

from the due date of payment of

the interest which is due on 20 July

"This breach of condition of the

ered as event of default, as per the intimation received by the agency. Ind-Ra has also received confirmation from the trustee that as per the structured payment mechanism, if the designated trust and retention account is not funded to the requisite extent by (T-8)th day that is by end of day 12 July 2024, the trustees shall forthwith invoke the government of India guarantee by sending a notice of invocation to the Government of India by 12 July 2024 end of day," Ind-Ra said.

The term 'T' here refers to the due date for interest or principal

"Ind-Ra has an outstanding rating of 'IND AAA(CE)'/Stable on these bonds, based on the presence of a pre-default guarantee from the parent, GoI, along with a structured payment mechanism monitored by a third-party trustee. As per the payment structure mechanism, the GoI shall deposit requisite funds in the designated trust and retention account as per the notice of invocation served by the trustees latest by T-3rd day," Ind-Ra said. Further, Ind-Ra said it will keep on monitoring the developments on the same and take the appropriate rating

Exports positive in April-June quarter despite challenges: Piyush Goyal

NEW DELHI, July 14: India's exports have recorded healthy growth in May and remained in the positive zone in June and the first quarter of the current fiscal despite global challenges, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal

He also said that growth in the services sector is helping the country's outbound shipments to register positive growth rates.

"In May, exports were positive, the figure for June is also positive. The first quarter is also in the positive territory," Goyal told PTI.

India's merchandise exports rose 9.1 per cent to \$ 38.13 billion in May. During April-May this fiscal, the outbound shipments grew by 5.1 per cent to \$ 73.12 billion.

The commerce ministry will officially release the export data for June on July 15.

"Despite the ongoing two wars (Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Hamas), the Red Sea crisis, and container shortage issues, our exports are in a positive zone. One countries have high interest rates,

more advantage that we have is the fast pace growth in the services exports," the minister said.

He added that the services sector has received a boost from the government's Digital India mission.

"The roll-out of 4G and 5G in the country too is helping the services exports of India," Goyal noted. Last month, the minister stated that India's goods and services exports are expected to cross \$ 800 billion this fiscal despite global challenges. In 2023-24, the shipments stood at \$ 778.2 billion (goods \$ 437.1 billion and services

When asked about foreign direct investments (FDI) into the country, he said the inflows would increase once the international recessionary conditions start improving and interest rates in the US and Europe start coming down.

\$ 341 billion).

Irrespective of this situation, India is continuously receiving FDI, he added.

The US and other developed

and because of that, those markets are profitable to invest in.

The commerce minister added that a healthy infusion of funds by foreign portfolio investments (FPIs) in India reflects greater confidence of investors in India despite high interest rates in developed economies.

FPIs in June infused ₹ 26,565 crore in Indian equities, driven by political stability and a sharp rebound in markets.

FDI equity inflows in India declined 3.49 per cent to \$44.42 billion in 2023-24. Inflows during January-March FY24, however, rose by 33.4 per cent to \$ 12.38 billion against \$ 9.28 billion in the year-ago period.

The total FDI -- which includes equity inflows, reinvested earnings and other capital -- declined marginally by one per cent to \$ 70.95 billion during 2023-24 from \$ 71.35 billion in 2022-23, data from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) showed. (PTI)

Softbank nominee likely to join Oyo

NEW DELHI, July 14: IPObound unicorn Oyo's parent firm Oravel Stays Ltd is set to appoint Sumer Juneja, Managing Partner and Head of EMEA & India Investing at SoftBank Vision Fund, as a non-executive director on its

board, sources said. The appointment is subject to shareholders' approval to be sought at an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM), according to information accessed by PTI.

Sumer will join Oravel Stays' Board as a nominee director of

Sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the move signals SoftBank's bullish stance on Oyo, in light of the company turning profitable.

Travel tech platform Oyo reported financial year 2023-24 as the maiden profitable fiscal year crore, founder Ritesh Agarwal said in a post on microblogging site X,

"SoftBank is actively supporting Oyo and showing renewed interest in its prospects. They want to provide impetus to the company's growth in international markets," said a person familiar with the development.

after the departure of Munish Varma, SoftBank's previous nominee on Oyo's board, who stepped down in September 2021.

Since then Softbank did not Oyo's Board.

Exec & Co-Founder Akasa Air -

comment on the matter. Sumer Juneja joined SoftBank

panding his role to oversee investment activities in EMEA. Prior to SoftBank, Juneja was a Partner at Norwest Venture Partners, focusing on growth equity and venture investments in Indian companies across various sectors. He was also a founding member of Goldman Sachs' Asian Special

COO of Starbucks & W Steve Albrecht former president of the American Accounting Association. When contacted, Oyo refused to

in 2018 to establish its local investing presence in India before ex-

Juneja holds a Bachelor of Science degree in politics and economics from the London School of

party's whips in the Lok Sabha, he said. Earlier, the party had named Rahul Gandhi as the Leader of Opposition who was subsequently appointed to the post. "Guided by LoP Rahul Gandhi ji, the Congress and INDIA parties will energetically champion the people's causes in the Lok Sabha," Venugopal said. (PTI)

Contd. from Page 1...

Gaurav Gogoi Cong's deputy

Modi, Himanta condemn

expressing his support to Trump, the Assam Chief Minister said right-wing leaders across the globe were being targeted by the radical left. "My best wishes to Donald Trump as he stands strong, #StandWithTrump #NationFirst," the CM said. (PTI)

Trump survives assassination

Trump wrote. The incident happened two days before the start of the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee, where Trump will formally become the party's nominee for the November 5 presidential election. In a news conference, Kevin Rojek, FBI special agent in charge of the Pittsburgh office, said it was "surprising" the gunman was able to fire multiple shots.

"This evening, we had what we're calling an assassination attempt against our former President Donald Trump," said Rojek. "We're still working through the security apparatus that the Secret Service had in place, what potentially happened," he added.

"There's going to be a long investigation into exactly what took place and how the individual was able to get access to the location, what type of weapon he had. All that is really days, weeks, and months of investi-Bomb-clearing assets were deployed at the scene of the shooting out of an "abundance of caution," said the

FBI. When asked whether authorities knew what kind of gun was used or how many shots were fired, George Bivens of the Pennsylvania State Police followed up by saying that officials had "a good idea of what the weapon was" but that it was still part of the investigation. Bivens said that they plan to release information on what caused delays in identifying the shooter. Rojek added that the FBI has not yet identified the shooter's

The FBI has deployed investigative agents, evidence response teams, and other personnel from across the country. The suspect fired from between 200ft and 300ft away on an elevated shed with an AR-style rifle, multiple law enforcement officers told CBS News. "As was communicated earlier this evening, President Trump is doing well and grateful to law enforcement and first responders for their fast action," his campaign said.

US President Joe Biden spoke to Trump, his November election opponent, a White House official said. The White House official did not say what the two spoke about. Addressing the nation about two hours after the shooting, he said "We cannot allow this to be happening," Biden said. "The idea that there's violence in America like this is just unheard of." Republican and Democratic leaders have condemned the attack on Trump.

Heroin worth ₹ 17.5

Rajaphukuri area under the jurisdiction of Uriamghat police station on Sunday, he said. A soap box containing 13 gm of heroin was seized and two persons were arrested from the house, Goswami said. "During spot interrogation, the two apprehended persons revealed that more heroin was concealed in their sister's house nearby, following which that house was also raided and 140 soap boxes containing 1.72 kg of heroin were seized," he said.

Further, during spot interrogation, the two apprehended persons admitted about Heroin being kept concealed in their sister's house nearby and being led by the two apprehended persons to the house of their sister --Jahida Khatoon, D/o: Kuddush Ali of 3 no Rajaphukuri, PS: Uriamghat, Dist: Golaghat, Assam and recovered another 140 no's of soap boxes of Heroin which were kept in concealed condition in their sister house prem-

The total weight of the heroin seized in the operation was around 1.73 kg, valued at around ₹ 15 crore, he said. In another incident, an STF team conducted a raid in Katahbari area of Guwahati and nabbed two peddlers on Saturday night, seizing around 308 gm of heroin from their possession, Goswami said, adding necessary legal measures are being initiated. Another senior official said that the total value of the seized drugs in Guwahati will be around ₹ 2.46 crore as per Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) estimates. (With inputs

PSU bank staffer nabbed

Barah said. He said that the accused confessed to targeting bank accounts that had not been operative for a long time and had huge amounts deposited. "In this case, the complainant was 84 years old and was not using the particular bank account for the last three years. It made the accused presume that the user of the account might have passed away. Accordingly, he hatched the entire conspiracy," the police commissioner said.

The accused has revealed that from the account of the victim, he cleared all his liabilities, which he owed to others, through internet banking. Barah said the bank employee also invested some amount in trading in the stock market and purchased cryptocurrency.

"In this manner, he misappropriated a total of around Rs 26 lakh from the account of the complainant. It has also been revealed that the accused, in a similar manner, targeted several victims, for which investigation is underway to gather more information," he added. (PTI)

Ratna Bhandar of Puri's

ornaments and valuables kept there to the temporary strong room inside the temple. We have sealed the strong room," Padhee told reporters. "Then, the authorised persons entered the inner chamber of the treasury. Three locks were there. No lock could be opened with the key available with the district administration. So, as per the SOP, we broke the three locks in the presence of a magistrate, and then, we entered the inner chamber. We inspected the valuables kept in the almirahs and the chests," he said. Padhee said the committee decided not to shift the valuables in the inner chamber immediately as it would take time.

"The process of shifting the valuables has to be done at once. It was not possible today," he said. "We will fix a date to shift the ornaments of the inner chamber after the completion of the Bahuda Yatra and 'Suna Vesha' rituals," he said. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) also inspected the condition of the inner chamber, officials said, adding that the entire process was videographed.

The idols of the sibling deities of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Goddess Subhadra are at present in the Gundicha temple where they were taken during Rath Yatra on July 7. They would be brought back to the 12thcentury shrine during the Bahuda Yatra on Monday.

Before entering the temple, Padhee said the priority was to ensure the safety of the structure of the treasury. which is located in the basement of the temple. "The inventory work will not start today. It will be done after getting approval of the government on the engagement of valuers, goldsmiths and other experts. After the completion of the repair works, the valuables will be brought back and then, the process for inventory will be carried

Six wooden chests with brass interiors were brought to the temple for moving the valuables. The chests, made of teak, were 4.5 feet in length, 2.5 feet in height and 2.5 feet in breadth, an official said. "The temple authority on July 12 had asked us to build 15 such chests. After working for 48 hours, we have completed six chests," said one of the workers who made them.

The treasury was last opened in 1978, and at that time, it took 70 days to prepare the inventory of the valuables, which have been donated to the temple by devotees over centuries, officials said. An attempt was made in 2018 as well to reopen the Ratna Bhandar on the direction of the high court but the original keys could not be found, and eventually, the plan was abandoned.

Padhee said Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have been formulated for the entire process. "Three SOPs have been formulated. One is related to the reopening of the Ratna Bhandar, the second one is for the management of the temporary Ratna Bhandar, and the third one is related to inventory of the valuables," he said. The government has decided to prepare a digital catalogue of the valuables in the Ratna Bhandar that will have

details such as their weight and make, another official said. As it was apprehended that inside the treasury there were snakes, believed by devotees to be guarding the valu-

ables, snake catchers were called. However, no snake was found there, officials said. (PTI)

Meghalaya revises

under conservation," he said. The state now envisions conservation of 1 lakh hectares of forest under the scheme in the next five years. An additional 6,000 hectares of forest has been conserved in a participatory approach involving communities under the 'Community Led Landscape Management Project,' while yet another 22,500 hectares are being brought under afforestation under the MeghARISE project.

Speaking about linkage with the international carbon market, Sangma, the 46-year-old entrepreneur-turnedpolitician, said his state has made strides in connecting farmers to the international carbon market, which pays for carbon sequestration in new plantations.

"Through this initiative, we expect to conserve another 1 lakh hectares of agro-forestry areas," he added. But it is not just the forest that gets priority when the state's action plan to combat climate change is being upgraded. Water is going to be a major focus area with the state facing a unique problem: on the one hand, there are areas with the highest rainfall in the country and, on the other, many areas suffer from lack of water. Meghalaya gets 63 billion cubic metres of rainfall annually, but it flows away into Assam and Bangladesh.

"The geography of Meghalaya is characterized by an elevated and sloping, inhospitable terrain, the sparse population poses challenges of water retention. Hence, it is not the quantity of water or rain that we get but it is about the management," Sangma said in an interview with PTI. Meghalaya is currently mapping its different springs and forests using technology. For example, the government

has identified 90 locations upstream of Shillong, where the catchment area for the city's water supply is situated. "With a minimum investment of creating check dams in different strategic locations can actually help us store a large quantity of water, which will, in turn, reduce water stress on Shillong," he said.

"When the Jal Jeevan Mission started five years ago, we were in the bottom in the country, at 0.75 per cent. Today, we are almost at 80 per cent now," he said and added that in the hilly terrain, "if the source is not managed, then there is no use.

Therefore, we are working to ensure future water supply too under the Climate Adaptive Community Based Water Harvesting Project." The state is also looking at further getting hefty funding for externally aided projects for its climate adaptation measures. As of today, of the ₹ 7,500 crore worth projects going under the externally funded projects, almost 50 per cent are related to climate change and natural resource management.

The Meghalaya State Organic Mission 2024-28 was launched on February 15, 2024 with the stated goal of converting and sustaining 1,00,000 hectares of land under organic cultivation. Sangma was here to visit the 2nd Meghalaya Pineapple Festival underway at Dilli Haat here. The state government has tied up with Safal, a retail chain by Mother Dairy to sell Meghalaya's organically grown pineapples at its outlets across Delhi. (PTI)

board as non-executive director Aditya Ghosh, Paralympian Dr with net earnings of nearly ₹ 100 Deepa Malik, Troy Alstead former

formerly Twitter, recently,

Juneja's appointment comes

choose to have a nominee on The current board of Oyo in-

cludes founder Ritesh Agarwal, Beiul Somaia from Lightspeed Venture Partners, Former Indigo Situations Group in India.

Economics. (PTI) Dabur expects consumption uptick in FY25, power brands to drive growth

NEW DELHI, July 14: FMCG maker Dabur India is optimistic of a gradual uptick in consumption this fiscal and expects its power brands to drive growth as it expands deeper into the hinterland, its chairman Mohit Burman has said.

Dabur expects an improvement in rural consumption, where it will continue to expand its footprint, while for urban markets, it will increase play by adding more premium offerings and entering into adjacent categories, according to the latest annual report of the company. "We are optimistic of a gradual uptick in consumption trends over the course of the next year, considering predictions of a normal monsoon, improving macroeconomic indicators, continued government spending on infrastructure building, and lower inflation," Burman said while addressing the shareholders of the company.

The company is "confident" about the resilience of its business strategy. It expects its power brands to continue to drive growth



as it expands its reach deeper, increasing its total addressable market. The 2023-24 fiscal saw a slowdown in consumption led by rural demand, which was impacted by high food inflation and erratic rainfall. Dabur's portfolio currently includes nine distinct power brands eight in India and one in the overseas markets, which together account for around 70 per cent of its total sales. As part of its growth strategy, Dabur is also focusing on new-age channels like Quick Commerce, besides traditional channels. "There has also been the emergence

of Quick Commerce as a robust channel, which has seen exponential growth. We foresee Q-Commerce to become more significant going forward and are putting in place strategies to capture the opportunities thrown up by this channel," said Dabur India CEO Mohit Malhotra. government on infrastructure development, support to rural incomes and expectation of a normal monsoon bode well for a recovery. "We are optimistic that rural consumption will improve during the current year, although this may

be more visible in the second half

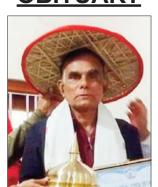
Over the rural market, Malhotra said

the continued focus of the current

of the year," he noted. Currently, Dabur's 75 per cent business comes from the domestic business. Its domestic business is concentrated in eight power brands - Dabur Chyawanprash, Dabur Honey, Dabur Honitus, Dabur PudinHara, Dabur Lal Tail, Dabur

Amla, Dabur Red Paste, Real. Vatika is Dabur's International Power Brand offering a range of Personal Care products for the global audience. Four of its Power Brands -- Dabur Chyawanprash, Dabur Honey, Dabur Red Toothpaste and Real juices -- account for 50 per cent of its consolidated revenue and 58 per cent of total production.(PTI)

OBITUARY



Akhil Ch Das, breathed his last on Sunday afternoon at his residence near Nagaon Gaushala due to unbalanced blood sugar levels. He was

Das was the former vice president and adviser to the Nagaon Press Club and also served as the district president of the All Assam Working Journalists' Union.

As the news of his demise spread, members of the Nagaon Press Club and other local organisations rushed to

his residence to pay tributes.

Das leaves behind his wife, only son, and a host of relatives. His demise has cast a pall of gloom over the greater Nagaon Gaushala

AAP forms state council with representatives from 21 districts



HT Correspondent

DEMOW, July 14: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) organised a Press Meet at Demow Kamami Bhawan on Sunday. Addressing the media, Chandan Jyoti Phukan, AAP leader, announced the formation of the AAP Assam New State Council, comprising representatives from 21 districts. He highlighted that, with the participation of representatives from 21 districts and online support from 3 additional districts, the AAP Assam New State Council was estab-

Phukan emphasised that the newly formed AAP State Council will adhere to the party constitution and undertake various initiatives in the coming days. He mentioned the possibility of forming an executive committee for Assam AAP if needed. The first formal meeting of the AAP State Council is scheduled to be held in Hojai next Sunday. Present at the press meet were

AAP women leaders Anurupa Boro, along with AAP leaders Ballab Patra, Himangshu Gogoi, Ajmal Hussain, and other prominent AAP members. Previously, under the presidency of Narayan Dutta Bhuyan, senior advocate of Guwahati High Court, a constitutional meeting was convened at Demow Kamami Bhawan on Sunday to formally establish the AAP State Council, with participation from various district representa-

Haflong interactive session deliberates on 125th Amendment Bill 2019

NCHAC engages stakeholders to gather feedback on proposed amendments to Sixth Schedule

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, July 14: An interactive session on the Sixth Schedule and the proposed 125th Amendment Bill 2019 of the Constitution was held at the District Library Auditorium Hall in Haflong on Sunday. The meeting aimed to gather suggestions and views regarding the clauses and points to be amended.

Chief executive member Debolal Gorlosa was present, along with other executive members and MACs of the North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council (NCHAC). Members from various apex bodies, student organisations, conscious citizens, and social organisations also attended.

This meeting addressed the speculations and doubts among the citizens of Dima Hasao about the potential abatement of power and functions of the Council Autonomy. The proposed 125th Amendment Bill of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India is derived from the MoS signed between the



surrendered militant group, central, and state government in 2012.

Welcoming all attendees, MAC Dhriti Thaosen briefed them about the proposed bill before the preparation of the final report. Chairman of NCHAC Mohit Hojai discussed in detail the points and clauses proposed for amendment in parliament, considering the terms signed in the MoS. He informed that the passing of the bill would empower suggestions and queries from con-

the attendees that the council has constituted a sub-committee to handle matters related to the bill. Opinions and queries were wel-

the council, but emphasised that cerned people are essential before the amendment. He also informed comed from the attendees, including bureaucrats, retired officers, NGOs, apex bodies, mauzadars, gaonburhas, and others. Some raised speculations on the conduct of elections through the amendment points suggested, while others recommended that traditional village councils be imparted rather than just village councils. Discussions were made regarding points raised at the meeting about changes in Article 280 during the session. Speculations on land rights, traditional practices, and customs of the hill tribes were also discussed.

The meeting concluded with a speech from chief executive member Debolal Gorlosa, stressing the crucial phase for the people of Dima Hasao and the need for unity for the good of the district. He requested that people not take this matter for their own vested interests as it would affect the district as a whole. A suggestion form was handed over to all attendees, which may be filled and submitted to the council within the next two days

Langhin Public Library hosts career counseling session

HT Correspondent
HOWRAGHAT, July 14: Langhin Public Library organised a career counseling session for students at Langhin in Karbi Anglong on Sunday morning at 10:00 am. The event saw participation of over 400 students and representatives from various Boro organisations across the greater Langhin

The career counseling session was presided over by Jhaturaj Basumatary, president of Langhin Public Library. The inauguration was conducted by Bilimohan Khakhlari, executive member of Karbi Anglong District Autonomous Council.

During the event, executive member Bilimohan Khakhlari also launched two Bodo plays, namely 'Jouhaulao Langlawdau' and 'Gobon Gobon Thunfauthai', written by Sahitya Akademi Award winner Jhaturai Basumatari.

Several dignitaries graced the occasion, including Taren Boro, former president of Boro Sahitya Sabha and convener of Sahitya Academy Advisory Board; Jaymati Narzary, radio artist and musician; Arvind Uzir, Sahitya Academy Award winner; Bishweshwar Basumatari, former vice president of Boro Sahitya Sabha; Dr Premanand Mosahari, Sahitya Academy Award winner; Dr Kunal Kanti Boro; and Thaneswar, among others.

Students felicitated for academic Literary enthusiasts converge for monthly readers circle excellence in Mangaldai



HT Correspondent

MANGALDAI, July 14: A day-long ceremony was held on Sunday at Chilarai Bhavan in Mangaldai to honour the successful students who achieved 80 percent and above in the HSLC and HS examinations held in 2024. The event was organised by All Darrang Koch Rajbongshi Sanmilani in partnership with Jatiya Nyas Samiti. Mukut Baruah, president of Jatiya Nyas Samiti, presided over the meeting, and Rajat Chandra Deka, president of All Darrang Koch Rajbongshi Sanmilani, gave the welcome address.

Bijoy Kumar Baruah, head of the Economics department at Deomornoi Degree College, addressed the students as the meeting's chief speaker and urged them to develop into real men in addition to pursuing their careers. Most of the students wanted to be doctors, engineers, professors, and other professionals, but a small percentage also wanted to be real people, which is the need of the hour, he said. He went on, "In the unhealthy competition to get the highest marks, we often stray from the track instead of knowing the basics of life."

In addition to other esteemed attendees, Dr Paramananda Rajbongshi, a legislator from Sipajhar LAC, addressed the assembly and emphasised the importance of remembering our roots. He counseled the deserving students to pursue careers as teachers rather than other professions if at all possible. In a brief speech, Dhiren Deka, the former president of Darrang Zila Parishad, urged the students and their guardians to overcome all obstacles in order to integrate into society. On this occasion, Khanindra Rajbongshi, vice-president of AASU, also extended greetings to the successful students and their

In the presence of Jintu Deka, chairman, OBC, Anti Ram Deka, former president, All Darrang Koch Rajbongshi Sanmilani, Mihir Kakati, Tapan Chandra Rajbongshi, Dimbeswar Baruah, Hiranya Rajbongshi, and Sanjay Bora, and other office bearers of All Darrang Koch Rajbongshi, a total of 102 students— 27 HS students and the remaining HSLC students were felicitated with a memento and a special Koch Rajbongshi gamosa. Dineswar Deka offered a vote

HT Correspondent
BISWANATH CHARIALI, July 14: The monthly

readers circle of Nagsankar branch of Natun Sahitya Parishad was held on Sunday at Bishnupur, Nagsankar, with Dulu Gogoi, president of the Nagsankar branch of Natun Sahitya Parishad in the chair. The meeting was attended by Dr Surendra Mohan Mahanta, retired professor of Cotton College and an eminent couplet writer, as the distinguished

guest. A total of seven writers including Mayurakhi Mahanta Saikia, Ashrumani Bora, Niranjan Gogoi, Manoj Bhuyan, Anjan Baskota, Dulu Gogoi, and Bhaskar Saikia read out their self-composed poems, short stories, essays, etc. Dharanidhar Das, former secretary of the state committee of Natun Sahitya Parishad, and Nagen Bora, president of the Jamuguri regional committee of Natun Sahitya Parishad, provided reviews of the literary creations.

No. SLRC-G-III/91/Advertisement/2023/11

NOTICE

continuation to the Advertisement III/91/Advertisement/2023/2, dated 30-10-2023, the State Level Recruitment Commission for Class-III Posts hereby notifies the following details regarding syllabus/question pattern of the written examinations for Class-III posts:

A. For Bachelor's Degree level posts:

Pattern of questions for written test:

SI. No.	Topic/Subject Questions	No. of Question (approx.)	Marks per
1.	Social Studies	30	1
2.	General Knowledge	35	1
3.	Logical Reasoning And Mental Ability	20	1
4.	General Mathematics	30	1
5.	General English	10	1
6.	Reading Comprehension and English Language	25	2

Duration: 3 Hours; Total Questions= 150; Total Marks= 175

B. For HSSLC level posts:

Pattern of questions for written test

SI. No.	Topic/Subject	No. of Questions (approx.)	Marks per Question
1.	Social Studies	30	1
2.	General Knowledge	30	1
3.	Logical Reasoning And Mental Ability	20	1
4.	General English	35	1
5.	General Mathematics	35	1

Duration: 3 Hours; Total Questions= 150; Total Marks= 150 C. For HSLC level posts(Driver): Pattern of questions for written test:

SI. No.	Topic/Subject	No. of Questions (approx.)	Marks per Question
1.	Social Studies	20	1
2.	General Knowledge	30	1
3.	Logical Reasoning And Mental Ability	20	1
4.	General English	30	1
5.	General Mathematics	30	1
6.	Road Transport	20	1

Duration: 3 Hours; Total Questions= 150; Total Marks= 150

Janasanyog/D/2535/24/15-Jul-24

- 1. The Question paper in each level will consist of Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) only and for every question, there will be only one correct answer to be chosen from the given options .
- The number of questions mentioned in the above tables for different subjects or topics are indicative and approximate. The actual number of questions in the question paper may vary slightly, but the total number of questions will remain 150 only.
- There will be negative marking for wrong answers. The negative marking to be awarded for each wrong answer will be equivalent to 114th of the mark(s) allotted for that question . For example, negative marking for the wrong answer of a question carrying 1 mark will be 0.25 and similarly negative marking for the wrong answer of a question carrying 2 marks will be
- Selecting more than one option of a question will be treated as wrong answer and will be awarded negative marking.
- English, Bodo and Hindi.
- The date and time of the examinations will be notified in due course of

State Level Recruitment Commission for

Class-III Posts, Assam Administrative Staff College,

Jawahar Nagar, Khanapara, Guwahati -22

Question papers will be in the following languages -Assamese, Bengali,

Sadou Asom Moina Parijat hosts Health camp organised for flood-affected villagers meeting & workshop in Sivasagar

HT Correspondent SIVASAGAR, July 14: As part of its platinum jubilee celebrations, the Sadou Asom Moina Parijat (SAMP) held its upper Assam zone organisational meeting and a workshop on Sunday in Sivasagar Girls' College, which was inaugurated by Manoj Kumar Borthakur, working president, Assam State Journalists' Union. Borthakur urged the SAMP organisers to expand their branches to the tea garden areas so that every child in

its fold, where they can nourish their dreams to fly high in life. He also said that over 64 crore children are faced with extreme challenges to survive due to the scourge of war, conflicts, and disasters, and we need to think of them as well. Dr Hemanta Phukan, former principal, Sivasagar Girls' College, said that we need to develop a scientific bent of mind in every child. Distinguished donor member and vice president of SAMP, Prafulla Bora, unfurled the flag in the morn-

The meeting, presided over by Prafulla Bora, was also addressed by Dr Hemanta Phukan, former principal, Sivasagar Girls' College, Biren Kalita, secretary, SAMP, Mohan Chandra Dutta, secretary of Sivasagar District Moina Parijat, and representatives from various districts. Gobin Chandra Bora, president of the district committee, lit the ceremonial lamp. 'Sishu Bhaskar' Hemantaraj Moran of Tinsukia taught chorus singing to all the members and

HT Correspondent

TEZPUR, July 14: Despite gradual improvements in the flood situation in parts of Sonitpur district, over 15 villages in the Gutlung area under Tezpur Sadar Police Station and Tezpur revenue circle continue to grapple with post-flood issues. Common health problems such as gastrointestinal, skin, eye, and respiratory infections are prevalent among the affected population. Recognising the urgent need, the social organisation Gutlung Adarsha Yuba Sangha organised a free health camp at Gutlung Riverside Primary School on Saturday. Medical officer Dr Jibo Dutta, along with Zabed Sufian Bhuyan, Murjiana Munnaf from Gutlung Ayusman Arugya Mandir, ANM Anjana Devi, health workers Lili Borah, Rajashree Das, Nilima Devi, Abu Bakkar Siddique, Moinul Haque, and other medical professionals conducted health check-ups and distributed free medicines to those in need.

Alongside the health camp, an awareness meeting was held to educate the community on health precautions during and after floods. The meeting was led by organisation president Mirzanur Hussain, and as a token of gratitude to the medical team, Secretary Sahidul Islam presented them with phulam gamosas.

The Miracle Millets campaign of All & Sundry makes market debut

Brand mascot 'Pustimaan' unveiled by distinguished guests

HT Bureau GUWAHATI, July 14: The Miracle

Millets campaign of All & Sundry, a non-profit organisation of Golaghat, launched millet products for all age groups in a ceremonial event held at the Gauhati Press Club on Sunday.

The products have been grown and processed under the technical guidance of Kanakapura Organics and Jaivik Sattva Organics, supporting The Miracle Millets campaign of All & Sundry NGO to promote millets as a more sustainable food option in

Through this event, All & Sundry NGO has given a clarion call to all for choosing millet-themed food items for all-around health benefits and promised to reach out to the maxi-

mum in due course. Additional district commissioner of Barpeta Khanindra Das, news reader and translator of All India Radio Indrajit Das, additional district commissioner of Tamulpur Lakhimi Dutta, assistant professor of the department of Assamese, Cotton University Dr Kakoli Gogoi, Dr Banashri Bordoloi of Dispur Polyclinic and Hospitals



Pvt Ltd., inspector of taxes, Guwahati Rita Saikia, Assamese writer Dr Nanju Dutta, cultural activist Bismita Dutta, retired general manager of Oil India Limited, Noonmati, Guwahati Bimal Das, retired engineer of PWD (Roads) Chand Kumar Chaudhury, executive member of All & Sundry NGO Jinee Chaudhury, and coordinator of The Miracle Millets startup

Bhaskarjyoti Sarmah unveiled the brand mascot of The Miracle Millets startup, christened 'Pustimaan', during the event.

Abhishek Singha, the founder of All & Sundry NGO and the conceptualiser of The Miracle Millets startup, stated, "The name for the brand mascot Pustimaan was christened by the additional district commissioner of

Tamulpur Lakhimi Dutta." He further said that the slogan 'Millets: superfood with high fiber, great nutritive value, and low glycemic

The game changer in food science', in connection with The Miracle Millets startup, was contributed by Dr Ni-Deka, MD, DM (Endocrinology), Apollo Hospitals, Guwahati.

Commenting on the launch, Abhishek said, "The Miracle Millets campaign was officially launched on February 12, 2023. The chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, state agriculture minister Atul Bora, state chief secretary Dr Ravi Kota, and Indian culinary maestro Sanjeev Kapoor have widely appreciated The Miracle Millets startup of All & Sundry NGO. We are excited to introduce Little Millets and Kodo Millets for the people of Assam. This launch is in line with The Miracle Millets campaign's commitment to providing consumers with diverse options by recalibrating innovations. We are confident that our millet products will be received by our consumers with love and



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QUOTE OF THE DAY

People are trapped in history and history is trapped in them.

Modi's Moscow misstep

rime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Russia has left India-US relations at a critical juncture. His decision to prioritize a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin over mending ties with the United States has raised eyebrows and concerns. Modi's penchant for high-profile hugs, especially with controversial leaders, is perceived as undermining India's strategic interests. The strain in relations became evident when National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval had a telephonic conversation with his US counterpart Jake Sullivan on July 12. The discussion, which covered various strategic issues, highlighted the tension exacerbated by Modi's overtures to Russia. Foreign policy experts suggest that high-level engagements under the Quad framework could be adversely impacted. Since the abrupt end of Modi's third bid for the prime ministership due to a resurgent opposition, his foreign policy maneuvers have come under scrutiny. The sterile readout from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) emphasized a commitment to advancing India-US relations based on shared values and common strategic interests. However, the diplomatic language masks the deepening fissures caused

Modi's attempts to navigate a triangular relationship among India, the US, and Russia appear misguided. Despite the world being unipolar, with the US as the predominant superpower, Modi seems to have underestimated the implications of his diplomatic choices. His vision of India as a global guru ("Vishwaguru") striving for peace between Russia and Ukraine is ambitious but arguably unrealistic. The Biden administration's patience is waning. NSA Sullivan hinted at this when he remarked that China, not Russia, should be India's focus. Modi's cryptic rhetoric and the controversial Russia visit have fueled concerns that India's foreign policy under his leadership is veering off course. The obtuse angle Modi has taken vis-à-vis the United States could be detrimental to India's strategic interests. Following Modi's return from Russia, the realization has dawned on New Delhi that his foreign policy approach may be flawed. The strain on India-US relations is becoming a significant talking point in diplomatic circles. By any measure, Modi's visit to Moscow has been a setback for bilateral ties.

There is a growing consensus that Modi might not receive another invitation to address the US Congress unless a change in US leadership, such as a potential return of Donald Trump, alters the current dynamics. Sullivan and Doval face the daunting task of repairing the strained bilateral relations, but Modi's quest for the Nobel Peace Prize and his fixation on Russia complicate their efforts. Despite agreements to work closely on advancing bilateral ties and addressing Quad-related matters, the upcoming Quad meetings will be crucial in determining the future of India-US relations. The Quad's disintegration could have severe repercussions for Modi's foreign policy legacy. The United States, despite diplomatic pleasantries, is frustrated with Modi's Russia-centric approach. India's historical ties with Russia, dating back to the Soviet era, are being taken to new heights under Modi's leadership, much to the dismay of the US administration. Warnings from US officials, including Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell and Ambassador Eric Garcetti, have gone unheeded. Sullivan's remarks about India's "bad bet" on Russia underscore the growing rift. The global diplomatic community is beginning to question Modi's credentials as a 'Vishwaguru'. Effective global diplomacy requires inclusivity and confidence-building with all stakeholders, a lesson Modi seems to be overlooking in his current foreign policy strategy.

Collapse of bridges, flyovers in Bihar has become a routine affair

ome twenty years back a division bench of Patna High Court had bemoaned the absence of work culture in Bihar. The officials who have the authority to enforce the work ethics are reluctant to improve the governance and ensure that the subordinates perform. Division bench of Justice V N Sinha and Justice Prabhat Kumar Jha had directed the government to furnish a list of the officials who held the posts of chief secretary, principal secretary (health) and directorin-chief (health services) since 2002. It had also sought the information why its order to provide 500 beds at the mental asylum at Koelwar in Arrah was not complied with.

An aggrieved Division bench had observed "This shows there is no work culture in the government. Once the commitment was made by the then chief secretary but he could not fulfil it during his tenure, it was the responsibility of the officers succeeding him to fulfil the promise" Judges anger and their rebuke nevertheless failed to move the thick-skinned bureaucracy. What was most disgraceful was senior bureaucrats of health department approaching the bench for reducing the target to 250 beds from 500

Annoyed with bureaucratic trickery judges finally decided to seek an undertaking that they would at least provide 250 beds in the asylum by October 10, 2014, which is observed every year as the World Mental Day. This manifests boorish audacity and lack of concern of the state administration towards the people. The officials instead of furnishing any undertaking requested the court to reduce it to 150 as the government needed more time to build infrastructure.

Strange was the argument. The bureaucrats can bring moon for their polit-

less in carrying out the order of the High Court but tragically were trying to hide behind the façade of the inability of the government in the case of providing beds. This one small incident is sufficient to illustrate why Bihar is languishing and corruption rules the roost. With a subservient and corrupt bureaucracy, it would be naïve to construe that state administration will be responsible to the people and act in a fair manner.

In 2009 while on tour to Siwan in North Bihar, this correspondent happened to meet a young upper caste entrepreneur. He had started his furniture making business only a couple of years back. He was too

happy with the DEGREE OF THOUGHT governance of

Kumar. He said "we are feeling relieved. Now we have a government which means business and is committed to carry out all round development. People have rightly named him Nitish Kumar as Sushasan Babu. The roads which had earlier earned the nickname of "Garbhpa" (miscarriage) roads have now acquired a new shape. Travelling time has been substantially reduced". He was however non-

committal in replying whether it would survive for some time. When asked is it like a white chalk dot on a big blackboard, he quipped "we will have to wait". While Lalu Yadav as chief minister did not spend the government fund for development and most of it was returned to Centre, Nitish used the funds. A new class of contractors from upper as well OBC sprang. Most of these lacked technical expertise and knowhow but they undertook projects which included bridges, flyovers and roads.

Incidentally three bridges collapsed in the

three bridges in Saran, two on the Gandak River, barely a kilometre apart, collapsed within two hours. A senior engineer of PWD confided that the technocrats prepared an inflated project as the contractor has to reach the money to every person who matters; right from minister to lower division clerk, even peons. The contractor in pure terms is left with 40 per cent of the real fund to do the job. This includes his own profit. In fact not more than 20 per cent of the fund is spent on the project. They minimize the cost and material consumption. If not checked by higher authorities, they will not do any work accurately. In

By: Arun Srivastava sand more than cement as stipulated. Their main objective has been to

most of

the cases

they use

The main reasons for bridges, irrigation structures collapsing or showing signs of distress are flawed designs, poor tendering system, allotting

contracts to the favoured persons those who are close to politicians, and absolute shortage of skilled engineers. These contractors primarily depend on the masons for completing the projects. The technical authorities seldom visit the project sites. The contractors usually send the money bill and the officials clear them sitting in their offices.

Proper execution of project is the responsibility of the engineers and officials. They are supposed to carry out regular monitoring. But seldom they undertake this task. Nitish Kumar or his ministers are reluctant to take action against these intractable officials. There is a very interesting but bizarre aspect of the entire operation. It is usually presumed that Nitish has a strong support

he enjoys their support, but he is primarily dependent on Kurmis and Koiris, the agricultural castes. Nitish

himself is from Kurmi. It is interesting to watch that most of the technical staff the engineers are from Koiri and Kurmi castes. They had graduated from the private engineering colleges in Karnataka and Maharashtra. The contractors are from upper castes, but again a sizeable number of them are from Kori and Kurmi communities. A sort of engineer-contractor nexus has developed. Never in the past such a

large number of bridges had collapsed in the state as has happened during last 17 days. Notable incidents include the June 2020 bridge collapse incidents in Bhagalpur and Sattarghat, the latter just 29 days after inauguration. The officials often cite "God's hand" behind the collapse and site desilting of the rivers or some intangible reason. About 14 months ago, parts of under-construction Sultanganhi Aguwani bridge collapsed in the Bhagalpur district due to lose cable. The same fourlane bridge caved in again in June this year.

In July 2020, just after 29 days of inauguration, the Sattarghat bridge over the Gandak river in Gopalganj district collapsed due to heavy rain and strong currents. On November 18. 2022, an under-construction road bridge in Nalanda district collapsed claiming one life. Yet another underconstruction bridge in Purnia collapsed four hours after concretisation on May 16, 2024. The locals accused the contractor and the engineers of using lowquality material. Two bridges collapsed back to back in Kisanganj between June 27 and June 30.

Another bridge was damaged on the Maria river in Kisanganj. This bridge was built in 2011.On June 23, an under-construction bridge

lapsed Siwan district on July 3. Another under-construction bridge on river Bakra in Arari collapsed on June 18. Out of the 13 bridges three were old and the rest were under-construction. Obviously, it unravels the quality and nature of the work and the manpower used.

Collapse of the old bridges, one even hundredyear-old, underlines that the officials are not all concerned of repair and maintenance of these bridges. Nitish government has taken action by suspending 15 engineers holding them responsible for the collapse of the bridges. But this is simply an eye wash. The Bihar government officials are not worried of suspensions. The government has no answer to the peoples' query why they are not outright sacked.

Collapse of under-construction bridges raises serious concerns about the quality of construction practices, oversight and lack of accountability within the state's infrastructure projects. The situation has attained such an alarming proportion that even BJP leader Dr. Nikhil Anand was forced to say; "I am afraid of crossing through any flyover or bridge in Bihar. Surprised that in last 10 days half a dozen bridges have collapsed. A serious probe & auditing is needed. The responsibility be fixed on the construction blacklist them. The engi-

neers must be booked". Poor quality of repair and maintenance has been primarily responsible for collapse of Cyclopean Wall a heritage site in Rajgir. Two sections of the wall, including a 20-foot long and 12-foot wide portion, crumbled near Banganga last Friday following heavy rain, raising a question mark on the upkeep of the 2,600-year-old structure that was being considered for inclusion in UNESCO's World Herfessing their failure, the ASI officials put the blame on rain: "The Cyclopean Wall has subsided at two places. There has been incessant rain in the area. People living in the villages there also pointed to a lightning strike in the vicinity'

The 45km wall with height varying from 3ft to 15ft and width between 12ft and 14ft in the midst of hills encircles Rajgir, the capital of the ancient Magadh Empire. It was repaired in 1944 under the supervision of the then ASI director-general, Mortimer Wheeler. The Wall is similar to the "Frontiers of the Roman Empire" or the "Roman Limes", which was built in the 2nd century AD and ran across present-day Germany, the UK and Northern Ireland.

It is strange that how could Nitish who has been showing his extreme concern for Nalanda University, bother to ignore this wall. In fact the people assert that the condition of wall has been deteriorating for many years. It has been broken and vandalised in several places. Though it is in home district of chief minister Nitish Kumar and he frequently visits Nalanda, he never took the pain to see the wall.

Like the health department officials wailing that the department was facing the crunch of resources, the ASI officials blame shortage of resource. A senior official said; "There are several issues pertaining to the conservation of the Rajgir Cyclopean Wall. We are facing a resource and manpower crunch. It maintains the easily visible portions of the wall but neglects the sections that are located out of sight or in forested areas. Bushes and trees have grown at several places on the massive wall, weakening its structure". It appears the government officials have a xerox copy of the readymade replies for concealing their failures. (IPA

By-polls in ten assembly constituencies in Uttar Pradesh are crucial for BJP

By: Pradeep Kapoor

hief Minister Yogi Adityanath and BJP leadership are facing biggest challenge to retain seats won by the party in the 2022 assembly polls during the coming by-elections to 10 assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh. Ten assembly seats going for by-elections are Karhal, Milkipur, Sishamau, Kaktheri, Majawan, Kundarki, Khair, Phulpur, Ghaziabad and Meerapur.

It would be worth mentioning here that by-elections will for nine assembly seats as MLAs got elected to Lok Sabha while one seat was lying vacant due to conviction of SP MLA in a criminal case. After the poor performance of BJP in the recent Lok Sabha polls in UP, party high command has taken these by-elections very

dozen ministers have been assigned duties in various constituencies to look after the mobilisation of voters and campaign for party candidates. BJP leadership has employed various wings of the Sangh Parivar to work for

the party candidates. The selection of candidates and identification of local issues is being carried out.

In order to counter the social engineering of INDIA alliance in general and Samajwadi Party in particular BJP is also wooing backward communities in a big way. It may be noted that Samajwadi Party surprised everybody with successfully implementation of PDA (backwards, dalits and minorities) in ticket distribution as per the requirement of the con-

stituency. Out of 10 seats going for by-elections, BJP had won only three while one was NDA alliance partners Nishad Party and one by RLD. It may be noted during 2022 assembly polls, RLD was in alliance with Samajwadi Party.

The morale of Samajwadi Party, which had won five out 10 assembly seats going for by-polls, is very high after spectacular victory in Lok Sabha polls. Akhilesh Yadav and Rahul Gandhi have great understanding which was visible during Lok Sabha polls. Now both the leaders have announced that the alliance will contest the by-polls and later on assembly poll in

Congress Party has already asked Party leaders to start campaign in all the 10 assembly seats. Congress Party is keen to contest in at least three seats. UPCC president Ajay Rai said that party leaders would discuss the issue of seats with alliance partner Samajwadi Party this week. Stakes are high in Karhal assembly seat

in Mainpuri vacated by Samaiwadi Party national president Akhilesh Yadav who defeated BJP's SP Singh Baghel who later on got elected to

Lok Sabha and is minister in NDA government. Akhilesh Yadav is likely field his nephew Yadav Pratap from this constituency.

Another important election is going to be in Milkipur assembly seat vacated

by sitting MLA Awadesh Pasi who surprised the nation with spectacular victory in Ayodhya Lok Sabha seat by defeating two term sitting MP Lalloo Singh. BJP would like to wrest this seat from SP to avenge defeat in Ayodhya

BJP is under pressure from NDA partners for more seats in the by-elections. Nishad party has already announced its claim on two seats. Similarly RLD is also mounting pressure for more seats.

It is for chief minister Yogi Adityanath and BJP high Command to deal with alliance partners in ticket distribution to prevent internal sabotage. The entire country is watching the by-elections for 10 assembly seats in UP as the results will set the mood for 2027 assembly polls. (IPA Service)

French voters have given a firm mandate for anti-far right government

By: P. Sudhir

eople of France have voted against the farright in the parliamentary elections. Contrary to many opinion polls, the National Rally of Le Pen could win only 143 seats and stood third. The newly formed Left coalition, New Popular Front achieved a victory by emerging as the largest bloc with 182 seats, while President Macron's group Ensemble won 163 seats.

As a result of this fractured mandate, no single party or Front secured an outright majority. For a majority, one needs to win 289 in the 577-seat National Assembly. The New Popular Front fell short of majority by over 100 seats. These elections were called by President Macron, after his Party received a setback in the elections to the European Union parliament held

Fearing the growth of farright, immediately after the elections to the EU parliament, people of France marched in huge numbers across the country. They clearly expressed their opposition to the divisive and reactionary politics of the far-right. Many parties on the Left correctly assessed the peoples' mood and formed a coalition - the New Popular Front.

This Front comprised France Unbowed of Jean Luc Melenchon, the Socialist Party, the Greens and the Communist Party of France. They had announced their 150-point agenda for action if voted to power. Though this Front was formed only a few days before the elections, they put up a strong performance and emerged as a force that could halt the

In the first phase, Le Pen's party emerged as a front runner after securing 33.1 per cent of the polled votes. They were followed by the New Popular Front, with 28 per cent and Macron's group, which got 21 per

cent. As no Front was able to win an outright majority, a second round was held, where only those who secured more than 12.5 per cent of the votes were allowed to contest. This narrowed the field of candidates to only three candidates from the above three Fronts.

People's antipathy towards the far-right made all the opposing parties to work out tactics for their defeat. Accordingly, more than 200 candidates who stood third in the first round, withdrew their candidatures.

The New Popular Front immediately withdrew its candidates. However, all the candidates from Macron's group did not reciprocate this gesture. Many of them refused to withdraw as they equated Melenchon's Leftwing France Unbowed with Le Pen's far-right National Rally.

In spite of such hurdles, results show that the farright is pushed to the third position and once again prevented by the people from assuming the seat of power. People's antipathy towards the policies of the far-right, together with the availability of trustworthy options to defeat these forces contributed a lot to their defeat.

Macron, commanding a majority in the National Assembly, had implemented austerity measures, dictated by neoliberal policies. The government refused to tax the wealthy, but imposed all sorts of taxes on the working



people. Retirement age of workers was increased. Pension reforms were carried out. Workers and farmers protested against these moves and organised huge demonstrations and sustained struggles. The months long struggle of the workers and the 'Yellow Vests' movement of the farmers and people were two big reflections of popular anger against Macron's government.

The far-right fed on this discontent generated by the government's policies. They blamed the influx of migrants for all these problems. They injected racial and religious hatred among the people and divided the society. The failure of all the tradi-

tional establishment parties like the Conservatives and Socialists, together with the weaknesses of the Communist party and environmental groups like the Greens, aided the growth of the farright. Le Pen or her party never opposed pension reforms or increase in retirement age. Many big corporates representing sections of the ruling classes openly supported Le Pen and her party. They wanted to ensure that the Left does not benefit from people's discontent at any cost.

Le Pen's adherence to neoliberal philosophy, combined with her divisive politics made people apprehensive. They realised that once elected to power, such a party would not solve any of their basic issues, but would create new problems by breaking the social fabric. People did not forget the horrors of fascism and Nazism and were not ready for an encore.

The New Popular Front, won people's acceptance policies and Melenchon is due to their economic agenda and also their willingness to confront the growth of far-right. They promised restoration of certain social welfare measures, reversal of certain neoliberal policies, particularly 'austerity' measures. They promised to decrease the retirement age, undo pension reforms and tax the wealthy.

The elections in France shows how divided the society is. Though Le Pen's National Rally was not able to win a majority, it was able to nearly double its numbers in the Assembly. This is a chilling reminder of how deep the far-right ideology has penetrated into society.

These divisions will now play in the formation of the new government Macron is not ready to forego his hold on governmental power, even though his gamble in calling snap elections has failed. He might not have foreseen the formation of a Left coalition and its strong electoral performance.

For him, the far-right is not a big threat as many of his policies have led to the normalisation of the farright ideology. French ruling classes too prefer an alliance between the Conservative right and the far-right to prevent the Left from assuming power. Such a coalition would enable them to continue with neoliberal poli-

In the New Popular Front, there is no unanimity on how to share power. The Socialist Party and the Greens are not ready to accept Melenchon as the leader, though his party won the highest seats in the Front. There exist some serious differences on economic considered to be 'extreme Left' and an anti-capitalist. There are attempts to utilise these differences and wean them away to form a centreleft government.

All such attempts are a disrespect to the people's mandate. People have voted both against Macron and Le Pen. They have voted against the far-right and also neoliberal economic poli-

Any government formed, should respect the peoples' verdict by considering this reality. Only then would they be able to meet people's aspirations. Any other step would be disastrous and only lead to further strengthening of the far-right. The portent threat of far-right is not completely warded off, it is only halted for now. (IPA Service)

Carbs vs. fat vs. protein: Which one triggers more insulin release?



By: Kelsey Costa

groundbreaking study published in Cell Metabolism has shed new light on how different macronutrients-carbohydrates, proteins, and fats—might affect insulin secretion.

The study examined insulin responses in pancreatic islets from deceased human donors with and without type 2 diabetes, as well as stem cell-derived pancreatic

Pancreatic islets are small clusters of pancreatic cells, including beta cells, crucial in regulating blood sugar levels by producing hormones like insulin and glucagon in response to nutrient intake.

It has long been understood that carbohydrates significantly contribute to blood sugar levels, prompting insulin release, while proteins have a moderate effect,

and fats have minimal immediate impact. However, this study suggests that insulin secretion in response to nutrients may actually be more complex and individualized than previously believed.

For the first time, researchers identified subsets of human pancreatic islets exhibiting larger insulin responses to proteins or fats than carbohydrates.

Although lab studies on pancreatic islets might not directly translate to living humans, the findings could greatly influence future personalized nutrition strategies for better blood sugar management, ultimately improving overall health outcomes.

The effects of each macronutrient on insulin responses

Researchers at the University of British Columbia studied how human pancreatic islets secrete insulin in response to different nutrients.

Between 2016 and 2022, the researchers examined pancreatic islets from 140 deceased donors of various ages, including those with and without type 2 diabetes.

They exposed the islets to glucose (carbohydrates), amino acids (proteins), and fatty acids (fats) while monitoring insulin secretion.

The researchers also analyzed gene expression changes in pancreas cells from donors with and without type 2 diabetes to understand their impact on insulin pro-

Using ribonucleic acid (RNA) sequencing and proteomics analysis, they measured over 20,000 messenger RNAs (mRNAs) and around 8,000 proteins. This helped them to evaluate the link between insulin production and changes in gene expression in the pancreatic islet

Macronutrients produce unique insulin responses in pancreatic cells

Aligned with current understanding, most donors' islets showed the strongest insulin response to glucose, a moderate response to amino acids, and little response to fatty acids.

As expected, compared to islets from donors without diabetes, islets from donors with type 2 diabetes had fewer insulin-producing beta cells, a delay in their peak insulin time in response to high glucose, and a lower insulin response to glucose overall.

While much of the findings were anticipated, there were some surprising re-

About 9% of donors' pancreatic islets responded more strongly to proteins than carbohydrates, and 8% responded more strongly to fats.

Islets that reacted more to proteins often came from donors with type 2 diabetes but had similar long-term blood sugar levels (measured by HbA1c) as others. However, this heightened protein response was linked to longer lab culture

On the other hand, islets that reacted more to fats were usually from donors with worse HbA1c levels but were otherwise similar to other donors. The researchers suggest this reaction to fat might be due to beta cell immaturity, as observed in immature stem cell-derived

In exploring the source of the variations, they compared donor characteristics and found no differences based on body mass index (BMI) or age. However, they did observe sex differences in insulin responses

Specifically, compared to males, female donor islets secreted less insulin in response to moderate glucose exposure, meaning their cells were not as efficient

in producing insulin. This might be due to known sex differences in diabetes, but the underlying rea-

sons have yet to be determined. Overall, the results suggest that insulin responses to different nutrients may vary among individuals. However, the authors note that it's unclear if this variability is actually due to natural differences in pancreatic islet cell responses or if adapta-

tions to lab conditions were behind the

Notably, they did not observe the same level of varied responses to different macronutrients in male and female mouse pancreatic islets of various ages. This potentially lends support to the idea that lab conditions may have influenced the responses of human islets.

How might the findings apply to living humans?

Medical News Today spoke with Jason Fung, MD, a physician and New York Times bestselling author of The Obesity Code and The Diabetes Code, who was not involved in the study.

Discussing the potential relevance to living humans, Fung remarked, "Deceased donors are presumed to be reflective of the general population. It's a reasonable assumption, but not necessarily true.'

Thomas M. Holland, MD, MS, a physician-scientist and assistant professor at the RUSH Institute for Healthy Aging, RUSH University, College of Health Sciences, who was also not involved in the study, provided further de-

"[T]he study's findings from pancreatic islets of deceased donors offer sincerely valuable insights into insulin production in response to different macronutrients [but] there are limitations when translating these findings directly to living humans," he told MNT.

The environment in living bodies, including factors like blood flow, hormone levels for signaling, and nervous system interactions, can affect insulin response and might differ from the "isolated" betaislet cell environment. While the study highlights the variability among individuals, living humans experience additional influences such as lifestyle factors like diet, stress, and physical activity that can further modulate our insulin responses — Thomas M. Holland, MD,

"Additionally, deceased donors may not perfectly represent the healthy population, especially if they had underlying health conditions that might have influenced pancreatic function," he pointed

The study authors, too, acknowledged limitations in applying their findings, such as the lack of confirmed type 2 diabetes diagnoses in organ donors and the absence of any human clinical trials to support their findings.

They hope their research will inspire clinical studies involving larger and more diverse groups, enhancing the applicability of their results to real-world settings. What are the implications for practi-

tioners and the public? "The findings from this research open

the door for the possibility of a more customized dietary care plan for diabetes treatment," said Sheri Gaw, RDN, CDCES, a registered dietitian, certified diabetes care and education specialist, and owner of The Plant Strong Dietitian, who was not involved in the study.

Fung also emphasized that this study's findings could hold significant importance for dietary choices.

"Insulin can cause weight gain, and for most people, cutting refined carbs is a very good method of reducing insulin and provoking weight loss. But for some people, a low fat diet may be more effective," he explained.

The study authors, on the other hand, proposed that protein-rich diets could benefit individuals with type 2 diabetes based on their findings. However, they emphasized the need for further research.

Ultimately, "traditional diabetes diets focus on controlling carbs, based on the well-established link between glucose and insulin secretion, specifically refined grains and sugar," but this study suggests the need for personalized approaches based on individual insulin responses to different macronutrients, said Holland.

"The difference is largely genetically determined, as pointed out by the study,' Fung agreed.

To this point, Gaw said, "In the future, there may be genetic tests that a practitioner can use to determine a macronutrient ratio that is best for an individual's insulin response."

In the meantime, Holland advises individuals to follow current dietary guidelines with a willingness to make adjustments. Work closely with your primary care physician or registered dietitian to identify the dietary patterns and lifestyle changes that best support your unique needs for maintaining healthy blood sugar levels and optimal health. (Courtesy: Medical News Today)

Understanding heart failure and identifying its symptoms

By: Dr Deepankar <u>Vatsa</u>

eart failure, also known as congestive heart failure, is a chronic and progressive condition where the heart is unable to pump blood efficiently to meet the body's needs. This inefficiency can lead to a cascade of health issues, as organs and tissues do not receive the oxygen and nutrients they require. Recognizing the symptoms of heart failure early is crucial for managing the condition and preventing serious complications.

Heart failure doesn't mean that the heart has stopped working entirely. Instead, it indicates that the heart's pumping capacity is weaker than normal. This weakness can result from various conditions, including coronary artery disease, high blood pressure, previous heart attacks, or cardiomyopathy (disease of the heart mus-

When the heart's ability

to pump is compromised, blood may back up into the lungs and other parts of the body, leading to congestion and other symptoms.

Identifying Symptoms of Heart Failure

The symptoms of heart failure can be broadly categorized into those related to fluid accumulation (congestive symptoms) and those related to reduced blood flow (lowoutput symptoms). **Congestive Symptoms:**

(Dyspnoea): One of the most common symptoms of heart failure is shortness of breath. This can occur during physical activity, while lying down, or even at rest. Patients may experience difficulty breathing while lying flat or episodes of breathlessness at night. Swelling (Edema):

Shortness of Breath

Fluid retention often leads to swelling in the legs, ankles, feet, and sometimes in the abdomen. This swelling is typically more noticeable at the end of the day or after prolonged periods of standing or sitting.

Weight Gain: Rapid, unexplained weight gain over a short period can indicate fluid buildup. Patients with heart failure may notice their clothes or shoes fitting more tightly.

Persistent Cough or Wheezing: A chronic cough or wheezing, particularly with frothy or blood-tinged sputum, can result from fluid accumulation in the lungs.

Low-Output Symp-

Fatigue and Weakness: Reduced blood flow to muscles and tissues can cause significant fatigue and weakness, making it difficult to perform everyday activities.

Confusion and Memory Problems: Insufficient blood flow to the brain can lead to cognitive issues, including confusion, memory problems, and difficulty concentrat-

Decreased Exercise Capacity: Patients may find themselves unable to engage in physical activities they previously could, due to shortness of breath and

Rapid or Irregular Heartbeat (Palpitations): As the heart struggles to pump blood effectively, it may beat faster or irregularly to compensate.

Other Symptoms:

Nausea and Lack of Appetite: Reduced blood flow to the digestive system can cause nausea, bloating, and a loss of ap-

Cold Extremities: Poor circulation can result in cold hands and feet.

When to Seek Medical

Attention It is crucial to seek medical attention if you or someone you know experiences these symptoms, especially if they develop

suddenly or worsen rap-Early diagnosis and treatment can significantly improve quality of life and outcomes for individuals

with heart failure. A healthcare provider can perform a physical exam, order tests such as ECG or blood tests, and recommend treatments that may include lifestyle changes, medications, or interventions. (The author is a Consult-Cardiology, Yatharth Hospital, Greater Noida)

Life changing Knee Replacement surgery brings new hope to patients

By: Dr. Rakesh Mattoo

otal knee replacement or Arthroplasty is one of the most successful & gratifying surgeries in the world. In an ever-evolving world of medical advancements, TKR surgery stands out as a beacon of hope for millions suffering from debilitating knee pain and immobility. This transformative procedure now more refined and accessible than ever, offers a new lease of life for those whose activities of daily living are compromised by arthritic knee joint. This surgery is typically recommended for patients with chronic knee pain and disability due to conditions like osteoarthritis, Rheumatoid arthritis, traumatic injury.

Understating total knee Replacement

TKR is a surgical procedure where damaged Cartilage and bone from surface of the knee joint are removed and after proper alignment, replaced with artificial Components. These prosthetics typically made of metal and high grade plastics are designed to mimic the natural movement of knee joint providing patients with restored functionality and significant pain re-

Types of knee Replacement!

1) Total knee replacement (TKR) - The entire knee joint is resurfaced with prosthetic

components. 2) Partial or Unicondylar Knee Replacement (UKR) - This is suitable for patients with arthritic damage confined to only one compartment of the joint which is replaced.

Innovations

Knee replacement surgery continues to evolve with advancements such as improved metallargy, minimally invasive techniques, computer assisted surgery, customized prosthetics and now new kid on the block is Robot assisted knee replacement. These continuous innovations aim to reduce recovery time, increase longevity of the implants and enhance the overall quality of life and enjoy an active life style.

Benefits & outcomes-

1) Pain relief - The most significant benefit of TKR is alleviation of chronic knee pain. There is a marked reduction in dependence on pain medications

2) Improved Mobility & function- TKR allows patients to regain a greater range of motion and use their knees daily more effectively for daily activities like walking, climbing stairs and even engaging in some low impact sports. 3) Better quality of life

4) High Success rate & long-lasting results Modern knee implants are designed to last 20-25 yrs with a success rate of over 95%.

5) Correction of Deformities - Like varus/valgus/ fixed flexion deformities are corrected during knee replacement surgery thereby improving overall limb alignment, balance &

6) Enhanced Physical activity - With a more stable and pain free knee, patients can engage in physical activities that were previously too painful or impossible to perform.

7) Improved sleep and its quality.

8) Economic Benefits - TKR is cost effective in the long run by reducing the need for ongoing medical treatments, pain medication or other interventions.

Knee Replacement surgery is a highly effective treatment for end stage knee arthritis. Through careful patient selection, meticulous surgical technique and comprehensive post operative care and rehab, most patients achieve excellent outcomes, pain relief and significant improvement in their quality of life. (The author is the Director, Orthopaedics & Joint Replacement, Max Smart Super Speciality Hospital, Saket)

Talking Points: A sound sleep boosts immunity and energy

By: Narvijay Yadav

s the balanced and nutritious diet is necessary for increasing the immunity level of the body, equally important is sound and adequate sleep. During sleep, the body repairs the damaged and weak cells, so that on waking up, the person feels fit and full of energy. If there is a lack of sleep due to any reason, then the next day is spent in lethargy and the person feels exhausted all the time. That is why a healthy person must get enough sound sleep to

maintain his energy level. A simple formula for how many hours of sleep a healthy person should get every day is that if you feel tired after waking up, it means that you should sleep a little more. According to the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention

(USCDCP), a grown up person needs at least 7 hours or maximum 9 hours of sleep every day.

If after sleeping for 7 hours at a stretch, your body remains active throughout the day, then that much sleep is enough for you. But if you feel tired and lethargic during the day, it means you should sleep a little longer.

Getting less sleep can increase blood pressure (BP). Such people are 20 per cent more likely to have a heart attack or similar problems. They can also be affected by obesity and weakness. Actually, sleep keeps the hormones in balance, due to which the development of the body takes place and the mind remains agile.

Getting good and sound sleep increases the efficiency of the person. Due to this, the immunity of the body increases manifold, and the

body weight remains under control and in a balance. Getting enough sleep keeps diseases like heart problems and diabetes away. Taking 10 to 15 minutes of power nap is also a great way to maintain the energy level of the body during the

By sleeping for a few minutes, the body becomes refreshed especially after having lunch. Power naps have special significance in summers. Sleeping for a few minutes in the middle of the day is called a power nap, because it provides power or energy to the person. It is a fact about Portugal's famous football player Cristiano Ronaldo that he never gets eight hours of sleep like common people. On the contrary, he sleeps five times a day for one and a half hours. This amazing routine of this international football player has been going on since he used to play for Manchester United.

A 40 minute power nap after lunch is also a part of his routine. Comfortable bedding, neat and clean bedsheet, a comfortable and cosy type of clean soft pillow and a quiet low-light environment – is an ideal setting for sound and deep sleep. It is good to go to sleep by 11 o'clock in the night, so that by 6 am or 7 am in the morning you can wake up. Before sleeping, remember all the good and positive things that have happened during the day and thank everyone in your mind. Keeping any kind of worry in mind interferes with sleep. The best habit to follow is to feel gratitude about everybody and be thankful toward all living beings, things and God, before sleeping. (The author can reached narvijayindia@gmail.com)

Road traffic accidents attribute a major share in head injury & brain damage

By: Dr. Aditya Gupta

ertaining to the increasing cases of traumatic head injury that leaves most of the patients severely morbid for lifetime, there is a dire need to raise awareness among the masses to safely evacuate any such patient to the hospital within the golden pe-

While road traffic injuries contribute to the majority of cases with head injury, people need to follow all the road safety rules, which remains the only preventive option. In view of the same, Artemis Agrim Institute of Neurosciences, Gurugram organised an awareness session aiming to educate young riders and pillions on the correct use of safety devices like helmets, seat belts which play a crucial role in preventing damage to the brain during accidents.

According to the statistics from the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) India has one

of the worst road safety records in speech, deafness, mild to severe the world. Around 400 people die in road accidents every day, where over 1317 accidents occur each day with 60% patients of sustained head injury. The factors vary from speeding, drinking under the influence (DIU), reckless or rash driv-

jumping red lights and unsafe lane changes. This indithat cates hospitals are packed with lowrisk as well

tremely critical road accident victims every day.

Head injuries, be it due to road accidents, trauma, or for any reason, is the major cause of permanent disability and other serious consequences including cognitive disabilities, loss of vision &

paralysis, neurological & neuropsychiatric issues and in severe cases can also cause fatality. Just like the golden hour in heart attack and brain attack, wider awareness needed for the golden hour period in head injury as well. With ad-

> vancements in the field of treatment polyfor trauma and critical care services, serious accident victims sustaining head injuries can not only

be saved but also lead a better quality of life post treatment, provided they arrive within the golden period. Also need for a dedicated integrated neurointensive care unit which is well integrated with Neurosurgery services. This has been a key differentiator for Agrim Institute of Neurosciences at Artemis Hospital, Gurugram.

According to the WHO data. road deaths are the biggest cause of unnatural deaths in India and they include pedestrians, who constitute a significant share of these fatalities. In the last decade, 1.2 million accidental deaths, 5 million serious injuries & disabilities happened on the Indian Roads. And it's needless to say that this is just the tip of the iceberg.

This indicates that hospitals are packed with low-risk as well as extremely critical road accident victims every day. It is seen that in most of the cases delay in detecting and providing care for patients with head injuries has been responsible for the increase in severity and morbidity. More than 50% of such cases end up with permanent disability if not treated timely or efficiently. (The author is the Director, Neurosurgery, Agrim institute of neuro sciences, Artemis Hospital)



6 THE HILLS TIMES

20-year-old suspected shooter was shot and killed by a member of the Secret Service

Macron called the assassination attempt

"This is a tragedy for our democracies.

France shares the shock and indignation

of the American people," Macron said on

banese said: "This was an inexcusable at-

tack under the democratic values that

Australians and Americans share and the

freedom that we treasure. These values

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni

She expressed her hope that "in the fol-

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky

"Such violence has no justification and

no place anywhere in the world. Never

should violence prevail. I am relieved to

learn that Donald Trump is now safe and

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos

"Together with all democracy-loving

peoples around the world, we condemn all

forms of political violence. The voice of

the people must always remain supreme,"

Jr said his thoughts and prayers are with

wish him a speedy recovery," he said.

said he was appalled to learn about the

shooting of Trump at his rally in Pennsyl-

lowing months of the electoral campaign,

dialogue and responsibility can prevail

said she was "following with apprehen-

sion" updates from Pennsylvania and

are ones that unite our two countries."

wished Trump a speedy recovery.

over hate and violence.

Trump and his family.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Al-



"a tragedy"

social media platform X.

WASHINGTON, July 14: World leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, French President Emmanuel Macron and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, on Sunday denounced the appalling assassination bid on former US president Donald Trump and asserted that violence has no place in politics and democracies.

Trump, 78, survived an attempt on his life on Saturday when a young shooter fired multiple shots at him at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania, injuring his right ear. The shooting left one person attending the rally dead and two others in serious condition.

The 20-year-old suspected shooter was shot and killed by a member of the Secret Service.

Prime Minister Modi expressed deep concern over the attack and said violence has no place in politics and democracies.

Modi said on X, "Deeply concerned by the attack on my friend, former President Donald Trump. Strongly condemn the incident. Violence has no place in politics and democracies. Wish him a speedy re-

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of the deceased, those injured and the American people," he added.

Starmer said he was "appalled by the shocking scenes" at the rally. "Political violence in any form has no place in our societies and my thoughts are with all the victims of this attack," he said.

New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon expressed shock over the incident and said the "no country should encounter such political violence.'

Taiwan President Lai Ching-te wished him a swift recovery.

"Political violence of any form is never acceptable in our democracies. I offer my sincere condolences to the victims affected by the attack," he said.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said that the world must stand firm against any form of violence that challenges democracy.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said it left him "sickened"

"It cannot be overstated — political violence is never acceptable. My thoughts are with former President Trump, those at the event, and all Americans," he said.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he and his wife were praying for Trump.

"Sara and I were shocked by the apparent attack on President Trump," he said in a post on X, formerly Twitter. "We pray for his safety and speedy recovery.'

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban was also quick to offer his support to the former president, who he met with only a few days prior at Trump's Mar-a-Lago residence in Florida. "My thoughts and prayers are with President @realDonaldTrump in

these dark hours," Orban wrote in a post. Brazilian president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva called the shooting unacceptable while also urging others to condemn it.

"The attack against former president Donald Trump must be vehemently repudiated by all defenders of democracy and dialogue in politics. What we saw today is

Chilean President Gabriel Boric said violence is a threat to democracy.

"From Chile, I express our unqualified condemnation of what happened today in the United States," Boric wrote on X.

"We hope for the speedy recovery of former President Donald Trump, the facts are clarified and justice is served."

Earlier, US President Joe Biden, Trump's opponent in the November election, said everyone must condemn politi-

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM OFFICE OF THE ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER, PWD (R&B), HILLS, ASSAM, DIPHU.

NO.ACEH/E(G)/30/2023-24/29,

Dated Diphu, the 12 th July'2024.

::::Notice::::

It is hereby informed to all concerned candidates that the written examination's result of different category of Grade-III posts of PWD under KAAC, Diphu which was conducted on 10/03/2024 and 11/03/2024 against the advertisement Vide No. ACEH/E(G)/30/2023-24/5, Dated 20/10/2023 for filling up of Grade-III and Grade-IV Posts is hereby declared. Consequently, the Viva-Voce interview and Computer test shall be held at the Office of the Additional Chief Engineer ,PWD(R&B),Hills, Assam, Diphu as per schedule given below:-

NAME OF POST: LOWER DIVISION ASSISTANT.

TABLE	No.1			pos		Dat	e: 22/0	7/2024.	Time	:10:00	AM to 5	:00 PM	
003	004	008	019	021	025	027	029	030	034	035	036	038	040
043	047	048	051	053	054	055	060	066	067	074	081	082	084
086	089	090	091	099	106	109	111	113	115	116	119	120	122
125	126	130	134	137	138	139	141	145	147	148	149	150	151
152	157	161	163	164	165	169	177	178	180	181	182	185	186

TABLE	No.2					Dat	e: 22/07	7/2024.	Time	:10:00 /	AM to 5	:00 PM	
187	189	190	191	193	194	195	196	199	200	201	202	207	212
217	221	229	238	239	240	241	251	258	266	267	269	274	277
279	280	281	282	287	295	297	300	301	302	306	313	315	318
319	331	333	342	346	349	352	358	360	362	366	377	383	387
389	392	394	399	406	407	408	410	412	416	419	423	443	

TABL	E No.3					Dat	te: 22/0	7/2024.	Tim	e:10:00	AM to	5:00 PM	l
444	448	451	454	455	456	459	461	465	471	477	479	481	482
483	490	491	492	500	504	505	506	509	510	514	517	521	522
530	532	534	541	544	550	558	569	581	585	589	599	600	602
603	604	607	619	622	623	624	631	636	640	642	650	654	656
660	665	671	677	678	684	687	689	699	700	703	708	716	

TABL	E No.4					Dat	te: 22/0	7/2024	Time	:10:00	AM to 5	:00 PM	
722	724	726	727	738	744	745	749	750	752	754	757	767	773
778	781	792	793	794	810	811	812	813	815	818	823	827	828
835	836	838	839	840	841	842	845	852	854	861	863	864	868
872	887	890	894	896	901	903	905	906	907	908	910	918	921
922	923	924	927	933	946	949	963	968	971	972	973	974	975
976					102								_

2 Indian nationals arrested in Italy

ROME, July 14: Two Indian nationals have been arrested for allegedly enslaving 33 farm labourers, all from India, in Italy's Verona province, according to a media report, weeks after the country was shocked by the tragic death of a Sikh farm worker who bled to death.

Finance police also seized assets worth 475,000 euros from the suspects, who own two agricultural sector companies with no employees on the books and are allegedly total tax evaders, ANSA news agency reported on Saturday. The two alleged gangmasters were arrested on Satand are under investigation for crimes, including enslavement and labour exploitation, the Italian news agency said.

The issue of modern forms of slavery in Italy recently came to the fore of media attention following the case of 31-year- for Singh's death. old Sikh farm labourer Satnam Singh,



who bled to death after being abandoned by his employer after a strawberry wrapping machine severed his arm in Lazio, near Rome, last month.

due to "copious bleeding", the ANSA news agency earlier reported.

On June 26, India asked Italy to take prompt action against those responsible

said last month that Singh, one of thousands of Indian immigrants who work the fields in the country, was the victim of 'inhuman acts"

"These are inhumane acts that do not belong to the Italian people. I hope that this barbarity will be punished harshly,"

she said following a Cabinet meeting. Gangmastering and the often violent exploitation of migrant farm labourers is a chronic problem in Italy, especially in the south of the country.

Latina hosts thousands of immigrant labourers, many of them Sikhs, working picking fruit and vegetables for the loc 'agro-mafia', according to Italian media reports. Workplace accident insurance agency INAIL said recently that fatal accidents in Italy had risen by four to 268 in the first four months of this year. There

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni were about 100 last year, it said. (PTI) France's Bastille Day parade meets the Olympic torch relay in an exceptional year

PARIS, July 14: Paris hosted an extra-special guest for France's national holiday on Sunday — the Olympic flame lighting up the city's grandiose military parade for Bastille Day.

Just 12 days before the French capital hosts exceptionally ambitious and high-security Summer Games, the torch relay joined up with thousands of soldiers, sailors, rescuers and medics marching in Paris beneath roaring fighter jets.

While people around France mark the day with concerts, parties and fireworks, here's a look at what the holiday's about, and what's different this year: On July 14, 1789, revolution-

aries stormed the Bastille fortress and prison in Paris, heralding the start of the French Revolution and the end of the monarchy. The holiday is central to the

French calendar, with events across the country. It aims to embody the national motto of 'liberty, equality and fraternity'. though not everyone in France feels the country lives up to that

The Paris parade is the holiday's highlight. This year, it paid tribute to those who freed France from Nazi occupation 80 years ago, with a re-enactment of the D-Day landings of June 6, 1944, and a presentation by service members from the 31 countries whose troops contributed to the liberation. About half are African nations that were under French colonial rule during World War II.

Some 4,000 people and 162 horses marched in the tightly



choreographed show, among them units that served in NATO missions in eastern Europe, against Islamic extremists in the Sahel, protecting French territories in the South Pacific and global shipping corridors. They were joined this year by three German officers from a crossborder brigade.

The ornamental uniforms are rich in symbolism — most notably those of the French Foreign Legion sappers, with long beards, leather aprons and axes from their original role as routeclearers for advancing armies.

Overhead, 65 aircraft flew in formations, including a British Typhoon fighter alongside French Mirages and Rafales, rescue helicopters and aircraft used in missions from Afghanistan to Mali or international drug busts.

President Emmanuel Macron kicked Sunday's events off with a review of the troops

Military bands and choirs

played an important role, performing a medley of French military songs, American jazz tunes, a Scottish bagpipe ballad and the Marseillaise. The numbers are scaled back compared with previous years,

measures. Around 130,000 police are deployed around France for the holiday weekend. This year's Bastille Day offered Macron a moment of distraction from the political turmoil he unleashed with snap

elections that weakened his pro-

because of Olympics security

business centrist party and his presidency. The result left a deadlocked parliament with no one clearly in charge. The prime minister could leave office within days. while the left-wing alliance that won the most seats is struggling to agree on a proposed replace-

Meanwhile, Russia's war in

Ukraine is threatening Europe's security. At a meeting with military leaders on Saturday, Macron said France will keep up support for Ukraine and called for higher defence spending next year because of 'approaching threats'

The Olympic torch relay reached Paris just in time.

The parade wrapped up with the arrival of the flame, escorted by riders on horseback, 25 torchbearers, and cadets dressed in the five Olympic colours forming the shapes of the five interlocking Olympic rings.

The first torchbearer was Col. Thibault Vallette, equestrian gold medalist in the 2016 Rio Olympics, who passed it on to a group of young athletes smiling broadly as they passed it handto-hand in front of the presidential tribune. Usually, the parade travels from the Napoleon-era Arc de Triomphe to the Concorde plaza, where France's last king and queen were beheaded.

This year, Concorde has been transformed into a huge Olympic venue for breakdancing, skateboarding and BMX. So the parade route headed to the Bois de Boulogne park on the city's edge instead.

Olympic venue construction around the Eiffel Tower means spectators can't gather beneath the monument to watch its annual fireworks show, either.

After its Bastille Day appearance, the torch relay will swing by Notre Dame Cathedral, the historic Sorbonne university and the Louvre Museum before heading to other Paris landmarks on Monday. (AP)

NAME OF POST: SECTION ASSISTANT.

TABLE	No.1					Dat	te: 23/0	7/2024	Time	:10:00	AM to 5	:00 PM	
002	003	006	010	012	017	020	022	023	026	027	028	031	033
035	036	037	040	045	048	050	052	053	054	056	057	058	062
068	069	075	079	082	083	085	087	089	093	094	096	097	098
103	105	111	124	125	126	129	131	132	135	145	151	153	155
157	158	160	169	175	177	181	184	185	189	196	197	204	207
208	215		202		570	7					*		

TABLI	E No.2					Dat	e: 23/0	7/2024	Time	:10:00	AM to 5	:00 PM	
217	218	221	223	226	227	229	232	237	241	242	244	245	247
248	250	251	253	254	255	257	259	260	261	263	264	265	281
284	285	290	291	295	296	297	304	309	313	314	317	323	327
330	340	344	352	353	356	358	359	360	362	370	377	381	388
393	394	397	398	401	402	405	409	411	413	414	419	426	438
440	442												

NAME OF POST: SECTION ASSISTANT.

TABL	E No.3					Da	te: 23/0	7/2024	Time	e:10:00	AM to 5	:00 PM	
445	447	449	451	452	458	476	482	485	486	499	501	503	505
508	510	511	512	513	517	520	521	530	534	540	549	550	555
559	561	565	571	578	579	585	586	590	614	618	625	627	636
639	644	651	657	660	666	672	677	680	682	683	685	688	692
693	694	697	698	704	711	715	716	719	723	724	728	742	745
747	748												

IARL	E No.4					Da	te: 23/U	7/2024	Time	9:10:00	AM to 5	:00 PW	
750	753	755	757	759	762	766	767	770	774	777	782	783	784
785	786	788	789	791	794	795	796	797	800	801	805	808	812
813	818	819	823	826	830	837	848	857	864	874	875	878	879
880	888	891	900	901	903	905	906	907	908	912	926	932	933
935	945	946	957	961	963	966	969	971	973	974	975	977	980

NAME OF POST: COMPUTER OPERATOR

TABL	E No.1			Date: 24/07/2024 Time:10:00 AM to 5:00 PM									
009	011	013	030	035	037	038	041	043	047	050	051	057	059
061	068	070	073	084	089	090	092	098	0103	0109	0111		

TABLE No.2				Date: 24/07/2024		Time:10:00 AM to 5:00 PM		
001	008	010	013	015	016	022	025	027

NAME OF POST: PLU TABLE No.3	JIVIBEK.	Date: 24/07/2024	Time:10:00 AM to 5:00 PM	
004	008	009	010	013

Further, the Viva-Voce interview for Grade-IV Peon post shall be held on 25/07/2024 and 26/07/2024 and the post of Chowkidar will be held on 29/07/ 2024 from 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM at the office of the Additional Chief Engineer PWD (R&B)Hills, Assam, Diphu. All Eligible candidates may collect their Admit cards / Calling letter from the office of the undersigned from 18/07/2024 to 24/07/2024 during office hours.

No separate calling letter will be sent to the candidates. Also candidates are directed to bring original testimonial /Certificates etc. for appearing the interview.

Addl. Chief Engineer, PWD(R&B), Hills, Assam, Diphu.

Memo No.ACEH/E(G)/30/2023-24/ 29 -A,

Dated Diphu, the 12 th July 2024.

Cong slams govt on NRA, asks why agency did not conduct single exam in 4 years

NEW DELHI, July 14: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday alleged that the BJP-RSS has taken up the task of "destroying the education system" and asked why has the National Recruitment Agency (NRA) not conducted a single exam in the last four years. Kharge's reaction came on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks in Mumbai on Saturday emphasising that creation of eight crore new jobs in the last three to four years has "silenced" those spreading fake narratives about unemployment.

In a post in Hindi on X, Kharge said, "Narendra Modi ji, yesterday you were weaving a web of lies about providing jobs in Mumbai. I want to remind you again what you said while announcing NRA - National Recruitment Agency.

"In August 2020 you said - 'NRA will prove to be a boon for crores of youths. Through the Common Eligibility Test, it will eliminate multiple examinations and save precious time as well as resources. This will also give a big boost to transparency'," he

"We have 3 questions - Why has the NRA not conducted a single exam in the last 4 years? Why despite providing a fund of ₹ 1,517.57 crore to NRA, only ₹ 58 crore has been spent so far in 4 years? NRA was formed for recruitment to government jobs. Was the NRA deliberately kept inactive so that SC, ST, OBC and EWS youth could be deprived of their reservation rights?" Kharge said. The Congress president alleged that the National Testing Agency (NTA) was used for "fraud, paper leak and scam", and the NRA not even allowed to conduct any exam. The NTA is in the eye of a storm over allegations of irregularities in national competitive exams such as

NEW DELHI, July 14: The IAF on Sunday recalled the force's contribution in the Kargil war 25 years ago during which it flew thousands of strike missions and helicopters sorties to bolster the Army's efforts in fighting against the adversary.

To commemorate the silver jubilee of the victory in the 1999 Kargil war, the Indian Air Force is celebrating 'Kargil Vijay Diwas Rajat Jayanti' at Air Force Station Sarsawa from July 12-26, honouring the bravehearts who made the supreme sacrifice for the nation, the ministry of defence said in a statement. On Saturday, IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari laid a wreath at the Station War Memorial as a tribute to all air warriors who laid down their lives in service of the nation. He felicitated and interacted with many next of kin during the event.

A spectacular air show was organised that included display by the Akash Ganga Team and aerial displays by Jaguar, Su-30 MKI and Rafale fighter

A 'Missing Man' formation was flown by Mi-17 V5 in memory of the fallen heroes. A static display of IAF helicopters such as Mi-17 V5, Cheetah, Chinook was also organised along with performances by the Air Warrior Drill Team and the Air Force Band, it said. The event was witnessed by over 5.000 spectators, including school children, local residents of Saharanpur area, veterans, civil dignitaries and personnel of defence forces establishments from Roorkee, Dehradun and

Ambala. The IAF has a proud legacy of courage and sacrifice by its gallant air warriors who fought valiantly in the Kargil War 1999, which was indeed a milestone in the history of military aviation, the statement said.

"IAF operations in Kargil War ('Op Safed Sagar') are a testament to IAF's

ability to overcome insurmountable challenges posed by the steep gradient and dizzying altitudes of above 16,000 ft, that posed unique operational difficulties in targeting the enemy," it said.

The swift technical modifications and on the-job-training held IAF in good stead in its employment of air power to win this war fought at the highest battlefield of the world.

"Overall, IAF flew around 5.000 strike missions, 350 reconnaissance/ ELINT missions, and around 800 escort flights. The IAF also flew over 2,000 helicopter sorties towards casualty evacuations and air transport operations," the ministry said.

Also, the 152 Helicopter Unit, 'The Mighty Armour', of Air Force Station Sarsawa played a key role during 'Op Safed Sagar'. On May 28, 1999, Sqn Ldr R Pundir, Flt Lt S Muhilan, Sgt PVNR Prasad and Sgt R K Sahu of 152 HU were tasked to fly as 'Nubra' formation for a live strike against enemy positions at Tololing. After successfully pressing home the attack, their helicopter was hit by an enemy Stinger Missile during the break away, leading to the loss of four precious lives, it said.

For this act of exceptional courage, they were awarded Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry), posthumously. Their supreme sacrifice ensured that their names forever remain etched in the annals of history of IAF forever.

The Spokesperson of the Ministry of Defence also posted on X a video marking 25th year of the victory of the Indian armed forces in the Kargil war.

"On this day, 25 years ago, #OperationVijay was declared a resounding success. Our soldiers stood tall amidst the Kargil heights, their extraordinary bravery and heroism a source of immense national pride and honour. #25YearsofKargilVijay," it posted. (PTI)

25 yrs of Kargil war: IAF recalls 'Op Safed Sagar', pays homage to fallen heroes PM'S 'Ek Ped Naa Ke Naam' apt reply to climate change: Shah

'Decades-long unrest in Kashmir has witnessed the rise of several political parties and fronts'

INDORE, July 14: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday joined a drive in Indore that aims to create a world record of planting 11 lakh saplings in a single day and asserted that the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi was an apt reply to challenges of climate change.

The 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign was launched by Modi on June 5 to mark World Environment Day, under which some 140 crore trees will be planted across the country, including 5.5 crore in Madhya Pradesh, which Shah described as "lungs of Bharat".

"Development is taking place and we are enhancing facilities. Modiji has asked us to reflect on the past and also work for the coming generation. The concern for the environment has become important not just for the country. Carbon dioxide and monoxide have reduced the level of ozone and created holes in its layer," Shah said.

"This has caused a rise in temperatures. Climate change is being experienced. The drive launched by Modiji is a suitable reply to this," he asserted, adding that Indore, the country's cleanest city for several years as per the Swachh Survekshan, will see 51 lakh saplings being planted.

Shah said no one had imagined that PM Modi's appeal for tree nlantation would become a movement and all would want to plant saplings in the name of their moth-

He said Indore is known for its cleanliness, taste, good governance and helping nature of its residents, and it will be known as a green city



after the plantation record.

Stressing that no programme can succeed due to the government alone, Shah said he was told by state minister Kailash Vijayvargiya that they had sought the help of all sections of society to make this drive a success.

Various sections of society have been roped in and separate forest segments dedicated to their respective icons were created, he said.

Shah said three ponds were also created for watering these saplings. "I always term Madhya Pradesh the lungs of Bharat for providing oxygen to the entire country," he

Shah said 31 per cent of MP's total area, which is 12 per cent of India, has forest cover. Only a few states have such a

vast forest cover, he said. He said MP's green tracts have boosted tourism in the state, which has six tiger reserves, 11 national

parks, and 24 sanctuaries. Now.

cheetahs have also been added to Kuno National Park under the reintroduction programme.

The Union minister said PM Modi took many initiatives like the global biofuel alliance for environment protection during the G20 summit, following which the UN decided to confer him with the 'Champion of Earth' award.

He said Modi proposed the green credit programme at COP 28 (a UN climate change conference) besides taking several initiatives at the national level.

Shah said that the Centre has taken several measures, including giving its nod to 20 per cent ethanol blending in petrol and diesel and this work will be completed by 2025.

He said Gujarat was the first state in the country which started an environment department when Modi was its chief minister.

Shah said the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) started a procrore saplings and will plant one crore more saplings this year.

ished the work a year back. The CAPF has planted 5.21

gramme to plant 5 crore saplings in

the country by May 2024 but fin-

Shah thanked the people of MP for ensuring the BJP's victory on all 29 Lok Sabha seats in the state in recent general elections.

"Modi ji has become the prime minister for the third time. We all know that the country will become safe and number one in every field in the entire world," he said.

He urged the people to take care of the saplings being planted like

"These plants will take care of you like a mother," he said.

In a post on X in the morning, Shah said, "Today is a special day, when the people of Indore are going to create a world record by planting 11 lakh saplings.

As part of the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign started by the PM, Shah added that he too would plant saplings at the BSF campus in Revati Range here.

Protection of the environment has been one of the biggest priorities of the Modi government, which has made tree plantation a matter of public awareness, Shah

Since Saturday evening, pits were dug up at the Border Security Force (BSF) Academy's Revati Range and planting of saplings started in the morning after state minister Vijayvargiya performed 'bhoomi pujan', an official said.

Seven lakhs of the 11 lakh saplings had been planted by afternoon, Indore Mayor Pushyamitra Bhargava said. (PTI)

Climate change disrupting education outcomes, increasing learning loss: **UNESCO** report

'Climate change related impacts are already disrupting education systems and outcomes'

NEW DELHI, July 14: Climate related stressors like heat, wildfires, floods, droughts, diseases and rising sea levels affect education outcomes and threaten to undo educational gains of recent decade, according to the Global Education Monitoring Report (GEM). The global report compiled by UNESCO, Monitoring and Evaluating Climate Communication and Education (MECCE) project and University of Saskatchewan in Canada has pointed out that most low and middle-income countries are experiencing climate-related school closures every year, increasing chances of learning loss and

"Climate change related impacts are already disrupting education systems and outcomes. Direct effects include the destruction of education infrastructure as well as injuries and loss of life among students, parents and school staff. Climate change has a negative impact on education indirectly through its displacement of people and the effects on people's livelihoods and health," the report said.

"Over the past 20 years, schools were closed in at least 75 per cent of the extreme weather events, impacting five million people or more. Increasingly frequent natural disasters, including floods and cyclones, have led to the deaths of students and teachers and have damaged and destroyed schools.

"Exposure to heat has significant detrimental effects on children's educational outcomes. An analysis linking census and climate data in 29 countries between 1969 and 2012 showed that exposure to higher than average temperatures during the prenatal and early life period is associated with fewer years of schooling, especially in Southeast Asia," it added. The GEM report noted that a child experiencing temperatures that are two standard deviations above average is predicted to attain 1.5 fewer years of schooling than children experiencing average temperatures.

"High temperatures reduced high-stakes test performance in China and led to reductions in both high school graduation and college entrance rates. In the United States, without air conditioning, a school year hotter by 1 degree Celsius, reduced test

scores by 1 per cent. "Very hot school days disproportionately impacted African American and Hispanic students, due to poor infrastructure conditions, accounting for roughly five per cent of the racial achievement

gap. In the most disadvantaged municipalities in Brazil, which were also amongst those most exposed to heat risk, students lost about one per cent of learning per vear due to rising temperatures," it said. Elaborating about impact of climate change on education in India, the crucial report pointed out that a study of rainfall shocks over the first 15 years of life in India found that they negatively affected vocabulary at age five and mathematics and non-cognitive skills at age 15. "The effects were more severe for boys and children of parents with a lower educational attainment. An analysis of disasters experienced early in life by over 140,000 children in seven Asian countries found a negative association with school enrolment. especially for boys, and with mathematics performance, especially for girls, by the time they reach 13 to 14 years," it said.

Climate-induced education vulnerability is found to be worse for marginalized populations. Of the 10 countries most affected by extreme weather events in 2019, eight were low or lower-middleincome countries. Of the 33 countries identified as bearing extremely high climate risks for children, where nearly one billion people live, 29 are also considered to be fragile states.

"Climate change increases the likelihood of displacement and is one of the reasons why internal displacement has reached the highest levels on record. During 2022, 32.6 million were internally displaced due to disasters. Analysis of five countries -Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Tuvalu and Vietnam – finds five displacement patterns: temporary displacement, permanent migration to urban settlements, government-planned relocation. cross-border migration and trapped populations.

"These displacement scenarios lead to different barriers to education, related to a lack of financial resources, documentation or residency requirements," it said.

The report noted that dealing with direct and indirect effects of climate change-induced disruptions requires a comprehensive focus on climate adaptation, including multi-sectoral planning, curriculum reform, teacher training and community awareness and engagement.

Noting that there are increasing calls to improve the ability of school infrastructure to absorb shocks and adapt to stresses and changes brought about by climate change impacts, the crucial report claimed that the efforts remain insufficient. (PTI)

'Hidden terrorism' trend emerges in J&K, security agencies on high alert

SRINAGAR, July 14: Security agencies in Jammu and Kashmir are grappling with what they call the "hidden threat" of "conservation and consolidation" tactics employed by infiltrating terrorists, which was evident in the recent ambushes and encounters in North Kashmir and Kathua district.

Analysing the ambushes and encounters with terrorists, officials in the know of the matter said while security agencies are on high alert, the lack of ground-level intelligence -- human intelligence (HUMINT) -- hampers operations.

Reliance on technical intelligence (TECHINT) has not been fruitful as terrorists use online activity to mislead authorities. Officials feel that there is an urgent need for heightened surveillance to counter foreign terrorists, especially in the Jammu region.

The region, previously known for its peaceful atmosphere, has recently seen a surge in terror incidents, particularly in border districts such as Poonch, Rajouri, Doda and Reasi, Attacks on an IAF convoy, a pilgrim bus and the recent killing of soldiers in Kathua highlight the evolving threat.

Under the "conservation and consolidation" tactics, terrorists infiltrate into Jammu and Kashmir but remain quiet initially, blend in with the local population and wait for instructions from handlers in Pakistan before carrying out attacks, the officials said. Though security agencies are on high alert in Jammu and Kashmir after uncovering the "conservation and consolidation" tactic of the infiltrating terrorists, the absence of on-ground intelligence is playing a spoilsport for operations.

One official explained that technical intelligence has not been that fruitful as the terrorists leave signatures on the Internet only to confuse the security

Posts/categories of Posts of Class-IV:

Assam approved institute.

Assam approved institute

(b) Social Studies

(d) General Knowledge

(e) Mental Ability and Logical Reasoning

be attempted in 2 hours 30 minutes (150 minutes).

6. Only one answer will be correct answer for each question.

7. Negative marks of 0.25 will be awarded for each incorrect answer.

(c) Mathematics

(a) English

Describing this as a significant shift in terrorist activities, officials emphasise the urgent need for heightened surveillance to prevent foreign mercenaries from carrying out their malicious intentions.

The April 26 encounter in Sopore, in which the foreign terrorists involved had been hiding for 18 months, serves as a stark reminder of the "conservation and consolidation" tactic. Evidence showed their connections with terror groups across Kashmir and their use of sophisticated weaponry.

Similar operations in June further dismantled hidden networks, exposed terrorists' plans and capabilities, and also threw light on a previously unseen high level of infiltration from across the border. While two terrorists belonging to Rawalakot in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir were killed on April 26, dreaded Pakistani terrorist Usman Langda is said to have been killed in the June 19 encounter at Hadipora of Sopore

The decline in HUMINT, coupled with the use of encrypted communication tools like "Ultra Set" phones by terrorists, makes tracking them difficult. Security agencies are urging heightened surveillance and public vigilance to counter this hidden threat. While the terrorists' capabilities may have diminished, their intent remains a constant threat, a senior police official said.

Officials have highlighted the challenge posed by the use of encrypted messaging apps for radicalising and recruiting youths, and planning attacks. They have emphasised public vigilance in monitoring suspicious communication, especially among the youths, to safeguard the community. (PTI)

NOTICE

Analogous Posts-IV/2023-24/01/14 dated 27.10.2023, the State Level Recruitment Commission

for Class-IV Posts notifies following details regarding written examinations for the

along-with ITI pass certificate in

In continuation to this office Advertisement No.SLRC-G-IV/ASSAM/Advertisement for

1. There shall be two separate categories of written examinations -(i) for

Posts/categories of Posts for Read upto Class VIII category and (ii) for

Posts/categories of Posts for HSLC (Class Ten) passed or equivalent examination

passed category including HSLC (Class Ten) passed or equivalent examination

Wireman/Electrician/Fitter/Welder/Machinist/Electronics mechanic from Govt. of

be in consonance with the Elementary School Pass Level examination of SCERT for

Read upto Class VIII category and High School Level Certificate Examination of

Board of Secondary Education, Assam for HSLC (Class Ten) passed or equivalent

examination passed category including HSLC (Class Ten) passed or equivalent

examination passed along-with ITI pass certificate in the trade of

Wireman/Electrician/Fitter/Welder/Machinist/Electronics mechanic from Govt. of

3. The subjects for both the categories of written examinations will be as listed below:

4. The medium of language in Question papers will be Assamese, Bengali, English,

5. There will be a total of 135 multiple choice questions, carrying 1 (one mark) each, to

8. The date and time of written examination will be intimated in due course of time.

2. The syllabus of the written examinations for recruitment to the Class-IV Posts shall

Jaishankar's meeting with Thai counterpart contributed to strengthening of bilateral ties: MEA

NEW DELHI, July 14: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Thai counterpart Maris Sangiampongsa have reviewed progress bilateral cooperation in areas of trade, connectivity and investment.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said this on Sunday, two days after the two foreign ministers held talks on the sidelines of a meeting of the BIMSTEC grouping.

"The two ministers reviewed progress across various areas of partnership covering political exchanges, defence and security ties, trade and investment opportunities, connectivity, science and technology collaboration, health cooperation, culture and people-to-people in-

teraction," the MEA said. A key member of the 10-nation ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) grouping, Thailand is seen by India as a

crucial strategic partner in the Southeast Asian re-"The two ministers also

exchanged views on issues of mutual interest and reiterated commitment to closer cooperation in subregional, regional and multilateral fora," it said. On 12 July, Jaishankar held a meeting with the

lunch in his honour. The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), brings together seven countries of South and Southeast Asia for multi-

Thai minister and hosted a

faceted cooperation. In accordance with the vision of the two prime ministers, Jaishankar and Sangiampongsa firmed the mutual desire for a stronger India-Thailand partnership, the MEA

It said Thailand is a key partner of India in the ASEAN. (PTI)

Anyone trying to disturb peace in Reasi will be dealt with iron hand: SSF

JAMMU, July 14: Anyone attempting to disturb peace and tranquillity in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi will be dealt with an iron hand, a senior police officer said on Sunday, as she visited the remote Chassana area of the district to review the security situation there.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Reasi, Mohita Sharma also said police are committed to providing a safe and secure atmosphere across the district that witnessed a major terror attack on June 9. Nine people, including seven pilgrims, were killed and 41 injured when terrorists opened fire on a bus returning from the Shiv Khori temple near Teryath village in

"Police are committed to ensuring peace and security in the region. Anyone attempting to disturb the peace and tranquillity will be dealt with an iron hand,' the SSP said, talking to officers and jawans during her visit to the Chasana police station and Malikote and Tulli Banna police posts.

She reviewed the security situation in the area, preparations to deal with antinational elements and devise robust strategies to counter emerging challenges amid attempts by Pakistanbased handlers to revive terrorism in the district. (PTI)

DR. BHUPEN HAZARIKA REGIONAL GOVERNMENT FILM AND TELEVISION INSTITUTE



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EXTENSION OF LAST DATE

The last date of submission of Application Form for Admissions in the following professional courses of audio-visual media for the session 2024 - 2025 has been extended upto 18- 07- 2024 (3.00 PM)

SL. NO. 1.	3 Years Diploma in Audiography and Sound Engineering
SL. NO. 2.	3 Years Diploma in Cinematography
SL. NO. 3.	3 Years Diploma in Film and Video Editing
SL. NO. 4.	2 Years Diploma in Applied Acting (Film & TV)

ELIGIBILITY

A. Passed 10+2 in Science subject for SL. NO. 1

B. Passed 10+2 in any discipline for SL. NO. 2, 3 and 4 AGE LIMIT: Maximum 24 years on 1st July 2024 (SC/ST/OBC - 27 yrs. on 1st July 2024)

Application Form along with Prospectus of the Institute are available at https://dbhrgfti.assam.gov.in. Interested candidates may apply through the link available at https://dbhrgfti.assam.gov.in on or before 18th July, 2024 (3.00 PM). Other details about the Institute is available in the Prospectus of the Institute which may be downloaded from the said website.

However, the applicants may call the Help Line No. 99573-60672 for any assistance

Dr. Bhupen Hazarika Regional Government Film and Television Institute

Examination Center: 1. Guwahati 2. Dibrugarh (Applicants has to select any one of the Center and write in the Application Form to

Janasanyog/D/2442/24/15-Jul-24 Sd/- Director,

appear the Written Test)

Janasanyog /D/ 2520 / 24/ 15-Jul-24

Secretary, State Level Recruitment Commission for Class-IV Posts

Samson, Mukesh fire India to 42-run win over Zimbabwe in 5th T201, bag series 4-1

But such shots were few and far between

Marumani went for a sweep shot against

Washington but missed the line altogether as the

ball crashed on to his upper torso to get ad-

delivery onto his body, and the Zimbabwe bat-

ter merely chipped the ball to Abhishek Sharma

Dube tailed a shuffling Myers with a quicker

The final nail on their hope was the run out

of skipper Sikandar Raza (8), which came in a

Mukesh, who bagged his career-best T20 fig-

Earlier, Samson (1x4, 4x6) and Riyan Parag

ure, fittingly ended Zimbabwe innings going

(22, 24b) added 65 runs for the fourth wicket as

cartwheel of four wickets for nine runs.

through the gate of Richard Ngarava.

judged as leg-before.

at short third man.



HARARE, July 14: Sanju Samson's well-Ravi Bishnoi, who went for a few runs in this crafted fifty and Mukesh Kumar's disciplined match, was quite stunning in its execution. spell helped India wind up their Zimbabwe tour with a comprehensive 42-run victory in the fifth from the Zimbabwe batters. and final T20I here on Sunday.

With this win, India clinched the series 4-1. Samson's (58, 45b) was central to India's healthy 167 for six along with Shivam Dube's flashy 26 (12b).

Then the India bowlers led by Mukesh (4/22), Shivam Dube (2/25) and Washington Sundar (1/7) did their job, bundling out Zimbabwe for 125 in 18.3 overs.

After the early dismissal of Wessly Madhevere, who dragged the third ball of the first over by pacer Mukesh onto his stumps, and Brian Bennett, the pair of Tadiwanashe Marumani (27) and Dion Myers (34) added 44 runs for the third wicket to keep the hosts in the hunt.

Marumani's switch-hit four off leg-spinner

which they scored 44 for three. Yashasvi Jaiswal (12), who made an un-

beaten 93 in the fourth T20I, started the proceedings with two sixes in the first two balls of the innings bowled by Raza.

India recovered from a middling Power Play in

But in the fourth ball of the same over, Jaiswal played the wrong line to a delivery on the middle and leg stump to get bowled.

Abhishek, who was dropped on 10 by Bennett off Blessing Muzarabani, did not last long, edging the pacer two balls later to Clive Madande behind the wicket.

Skipper Shubman Gill, who received a reprieve on 11, was never in his fluent self and smashed left-arm seamer Ngarava straight into the hands of Raza in the deep.

At 44 for three, India needed a partnership to steady the innings. Samson and Parag provided just that. Their alliance was all about prudence than theatrics, choosing the correct delivery to

It was the right approach too considering the pitch was not precisely a belter as it was in the previous two matches, offering a hint of turn. However, Samson showed his aggressive

side when the opportunity presented itself. He biffed leg-spinner Brandon Mavuto for two sixes in a row and the second shot was a little marvel. Mavuto angled the ball into Samson's leg-stump, but the right-hander gave himself enough space to carve that over extra cover for a maximum.

Samson brought up his fifty in 39 balls, his second in T20Is, but Parag departed as India

were looking for some late acceleration. The right-hander perished to Mavuto while looking to clear the fence, and Samson too could not carry on till the end of the innings.

He took on Muzarabani, the most impressive among home side bowlers, but ended up giving a catch to tumbling Marumani.

However, the tourists found some late steam through Dube's fireworks. (PTI)

Lionel Messi looks to lead Argentina to record 16th Copa America title



MIAMI GARDENS (US), July 14: Lionel Messi is one win from leading Argentina to a record 16th Copa America title. Colombia will do everything in its power to make sure that doesn't happen in a matchup that pits the juggernaut against the surging force in the final.

It'll happen Sunday night at Hard Rock Stadium, which hosted two group stage matches and will be the site of seven games during the 2026 World Cup.

Ahead of the match, both sides expressed safety concerns after Uruguay's Darwin Núñez and a handful of his teammates went into the stands amid a physical brawl between fans at Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte, North Carolina, after Uruguay's semifinal win over Colombia. Uruguay captain José Giménez said players went in the crowd to protect their families, and coach Marcelo Bielsa passionately criticized tournament organizers for not doing enough to safeguard families of players seated in the stands behind the Uruguay bench.

"I'm concerned about what could happen tomorrow," Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni said through an interpreter. Goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez added it would be great if we could reinforce security."

CONMEBOL said in a news release that "any action that tarnishes a global football celebration will not be tolerated.'

Argentina, winner of the Copa America in 2021 and World Cup in 2022, can join Spain from 2008-12 as the only countries to win three consecutive major championships. The Albiceleste made it to Sunday's final without a dominant performance from the 37year-old Messi, who has battled a leg injury.

The eight-time Ballon d'Or winner zipped through defenders and created scoring opportunities for his teammates but he did not get a goal until deflecting Enzo Fernández's shot past Canada goalkeeper Maxime Crépeau to help seal Argentina's 2-0 win in the semifinal

Ahead of the final, Messi said he's battled discom-

fort at times throughout the tournament but assured it won't slow him down on Sunday.

"In the final I'm going to feel better," he said in an interview with DSports.

Colombia will play in its first Copa America championship in 23 years after extending its unbeaten streak to a team-record 28 games, one more than from 1992-94 and the longest current streak in men's international soccer.

James Rodríguez has been its best player and arguably the best in the tournament. He leads the tournament with six assists, the most in a single Copa America since data started being tracked in 2011 and surpassing Messi's five in 2021.

"James has had a great Copa America," Colombia coach Néstor Lorenzo said through an interpreter. "We are lucky enough to have him at a very good level. The team has supported him. ... I can only hope that tomorrow his performance will be great.'

Lorenzo praised his team's collective work in getting to this point, which included an emotional win over 15-time champion Uruguay, and thanked Colombian fans for their support — Colombia's matches, along with Argentina's, have been among the most attended.

But Lorenzo also stressed that this should be the norm for the resurgent team that won its only Copa America title at home in 2001.

"We'd love it if it wouldn't be such a surprise to get to a final, so unexpected," he said. "We'd like to be always on top. It's not easy. ... Let's hope this can last. Let's hope we can keep on going.

The sides faced each other in the 2021 semifinal, won by Argentina 3-2 on penalty kicks after a 1-1 draw. Colombia last beat Argentina in the Copa America group stage in 2019.

"We are going to play our game," Scaloni said. "You always have a plan, but the final is always a stressful game, and the one who is under the least

Saneeth, Tasnim clinch men and women singles titles in VV Natu Memorial badminton tournament

PUNE, July 14: Karnataka's Saneeth DS and Gujarat's Tasnim Mir notched up comfortable wins over their respective opponents to secure the men's and women's singles titles in the Yonex-Sunrise VV Natu Memorial All India Senior Ranking badminton tournament

Third seed Saneeth ended the dream run of qualifier Tushar Suveer 21-15, 21-12 in a 44-minute clash between two Karnataka players in the men's final, while Tasnim got the better of Devika, who won the last ranking meet in Bengaluru, 21-16, 21-13.

While the youngsters ruled the singles categories, the experienced Aarthi Sara Sunil showed that she is still a force to reckon with, clinching the women's doubles crown in the company of VS Varshini.

The top seeds came from a game down to beat Karnataka's former national champions Shikha Gautam and Ashwini Bhat K 17-21, 22-20, 21-18 in 53 minutes. Shikha, however, stood atop the mixed doubles podium as she and Nitin Kumar, seeded second, defeated Dhruv Rawat and Radhika Sharma 15-21, 21-14, 21-17 in the final. (PTI)

Want to change the colour of Indian boxing medal at the Olympics: Nishant Dev

NEW DELHI, July 14: A confident Nishant Dev has set his sights on bettering the shade of India's boxing medals from bronze to gold at this month's Paris

Three Indian boxers -- Vijender Singh (2008), MC Mary Kom (2012) and Lovlina Borgohain (2021) -have stood on the podium at the Olympics, all winning bronze medals. But Dev is confident he has the skillset to not only reach the light middle-weight (71kg) final but win the elusive gold medal.

"My target is to change the colour of the medal in boxing. Our country's boxers have won bronze medals but not gold or silver till now," Dev said during an interaction facilitated by JSW Sports. (PTI)

Smith scores and US women's soccer gets 1-0 revenge win over Mexico ahead of the Olympics

minute and the United States got revenge to Smith for her 20th career goal. Smith with the national team. She earned for a loss to Mexico earlier this year with a 1-0 victory in the rematch on Saturday.

The friendly match at Red Bull Arena was the first of two tune-up games for the United States ahead of the 2024 Olympics. The Americans will play Costa Rica on Tuesday at Audi Field in Washington before departing for France.

Mexico beat the United States for just the second time ever at the CONCACAF Women's Gold Cup in late February. Lizbeth Ovalle and Mayra Pelayo scored in a 2-0 Mexico victory.

The United States had the best chances of the first half but was unable to break through. Smith, Lindsey Horan and Sam Coffey all had attempts in the scramble in front of Mexico's goal before the half

ended, but couldn't score. But in the second half, Trinity Rodman

HARRISON (NEW JERSEY), July passed to Mallory Swanson, who appeared ready to shoot but instead dished the ball fore the game for her 100th appearance nearly got a second goal in the 73rd but her attempt hit the near post.

"We have such dynamic players up front, I think we can create in so many ways. I should have put away a few more to begin with, and I hold myself to a higher standard than that," Smith said. "I think myself and us want more, we can definitely put more away, but it shows the different ways we are creating and working together.

The United States has not conceded a goal in three matches under new coach Emma Hayes.

The game celebrated the 25th anniversary of the "The 99ers," the team that won the 1999 Women's World Cup at the Rose Bowl. It was the first time all 20 players of the team were reunited.

Alyssa Naeher, the U.S. captain for the

back in March. "It just means a lot to me," Naeher said.

"I've been on this scene for a long time and I think even seeing this weekend with the 99ers here, and having played with some of those guys and now getting the opportunity to play with the next generation, is something really cool and special to me.'

Lynn Williams came into the match in the 75th minute. Williams was originally one of four alternates to the 18-player U.S. Olympic roster, but forward Catarina Macario is unable to play in France because of knee irritation. Hayes announced the change on Friday.

Croix Bethune made her first appearance for the United States in the 81st minute. (AP)

Anshuman Gaikwad, who is battling blood cancer at a medical facility in London BCCI's decision has come folport from former captain Kapil

BCCI to releases ₹1 cr

for treatment of cancer-

stricken Gaekwad

gesture, the BCCI on Sunday de-

cided to release ₹one crore for the

treatment of former India coach

lowing emotional appeals for sup-Dev and Sandip Patil, who had enjoined the cricket board to help Gaikwad. "Mr. Jay Shah has instructed the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to release ₹ 1 crore with immediate effect to provide financial assistance to India's veteran cricketer Mr Anshuman Gaekwad, who is battling cancer," BCCI apex council said in

a statement. (PTI)

Anirban Lahiri takes 4-shot lead in Spain They have a four-shot advantage over

SOTOGRANDE, (SPAIN), July 14: Indian golfer Anirban Lahiri inched closer to a maiden win on the LIV golf series as he take a four-shot lead at the LIV Golf An-

Lahiri, who plays on the Crushers team, put himself in position for his first win after the second round that included six birdies and no bogevs in his last 13 holes.

The 37-year-old, who opened with a 2under 69, is 7-under with 18 holes to go. New Zealand's Danny Lee his closest pursuer at 3-under. Lahiri is seeking to end his nine-year victory drought. His last win came in his home country in the Hero Indian Open on the DP World Tour.

"It (the lead) doesn't really matter on this golf course. Every day you have to battle it out ... [but] it is a difficult golf course to catch up," Lahiri said.

Thanks to Lahiri, captain Bryson DeChambeau's 67 and Paul Casey's 69, the league-leading Crushers shot a counting score of 11-under to move atop the team leaderboard at 7-under.

home favourites Fireballs GC and are seeking a third team trophy this year. While carded a 5-under 66 in the second round to Lahiri has experienced plenty of team success with the Crushers, the most recent of his 18 individual pro wins came in February 2015 in India. Since joining LIV Golf in 2022, he's had a few close calls, including his debut start in Boston when he was part of a three-man playoff won by Dustin Johnson. Last year, he had three podium finishes, including a runner-up to DeChambeau in Chicago. "The win would mean a lot. I've been chasing it for a while," said Lahiri, whose family arrived in town and will be cheering him on the final day.

While the Valderrama course was not as difficult in the second round as the day before, only about a third of the field managed to break par, with Lahiri and Ripper GC's Marc Leishman sharing low round scores. First-round leader Dean Burmester shot a 4-over 75 to drop into a tie for sixth. Lee maintained solo second with a 1-over 72 that included four birdies and five bo-

Suárez gets stoppage-time goal, Uruguay beats Canada 4-3 in shootout for 3rd place in Copa America

CHARLOTTE (US), July 14: Luis Suárez still 69th international goal on a quick attack following has a knack for big plays. The 37-year-old Suárez, Uruguay's career scoring leader, tied the score two minutes into second-half stoppage time, and Uruguay beat Canada 4-3 on penalty kicks after a 2-2 draw on Saturday night to finish third in the Copa America.

Uruguay goalkeeper Sergio Rochet saved Ismaël Koné's weak penalty kick after the shooter's stutter step on Canada's third attempt, and Alphonso Davies put Canada's fifth and final kick off the crossbar.

Federico Valverde, Rodrigo Bentancur, Giorgian de Arrascaeta and Suárez converted Uruguay's attempts past goalkeeper Dayne St. Clair while Jonathan David, Moïse Bombito and Mathieu Choinière made their kicks for Canada, which went first in the shootout.

"Uruguay is one of the three best teams of this tournament and taking into consideration that the tournament included Central, North and South America, and we finished third, allows us to be optimistic," Uruguay coach Marcelo Bielsa said through an interpreter. But Bielsa clearly wasn't happy with his team's effort, and added that he may have misjudged how tired his team was after playing on just two days rest.

The draw was barely deserved," Bielsa said. Bielsa praised Suárez's "physical skills and mental aptitude" after the match following his a centering pass from José María Giménez.

"It is very well known what he has done throughout his career and having shared this time with him, I believe he is a top-notch player and a great teammate," Bielsa said of Suárez.

Canada, which hired American Jesse Marsch as coach in May, will consider the tournament one of its best performances since winning the 2000 CONCACAF Gold Cup. The Canadians reached the World Cup for the second time in 2022, the first since 1986. Canada made six changes for its starting semi-

final lineup and Uruguay made two. Davies, Canada's top player, entered in the 62nd minute after leaving the semifinal with a leg injury. Marsch said his players made a "statement" and

are well ahead of where he thought they'd be at

"The players are disappointed in the way that we gave the match away," Marsch said. "But I was very positive with them. We have been together for about six weeks and to play against one of the best teams in the world and dominate the match - we were too much for them for most of the match — is pretty good."

He said his team simply gave the ball away too often in the final minutes.

"We should have be able to shut that game down," Marsch said. "But that savviness of how



to handle those situations, we need to develop that — and we will.'

Bentancur put Uruguay ahead in the eighth minute but Canada built a 2-1 lead on goals by Koné in the 22nd and David in the 80th.

St. Clair was given an unusual yellow card as Rochet was preparing for Bombito's penalty kick, possibly for trying to distract the goalkeeper.

The game was played on the same field where Uruguay players entered the stands and fought with Colombia fans following a 1-0 semifinal loss on Wednesday night.

This game was much more subdued than the heated semifinal, with an announced attendance of 24.386, compared to more than 70.000 — the overwhelming majority rooting for Colombia on Wednesday night.

Defending champion Argentina and Lionel Messi play Colombia for the title on Sunday night at Miami Gardens, Florida. Argentina and Uruguay are tied for the most Copa titles with 15

Uruguay took the lead when Sebastián Cáceres headed a corner kick to Bentancur, who took a touch and spun as Luc de Fougerolles reacted slowly, then kicked the ball over St. Clair for his third international goal and his second of the tour-

Canada tied the score 14 minutes later when Bombito won a header duel with Giménez and the ball popped up toward goal, and Konés bicycle kick went over Rochet for his third international goal.

Facundo Pellistri slid the ball past St. Clair in the 23rd minute but was ruled offside.

Canada went ahead when Rochet parried Koné's initial shot and the rebound went to David, who tucked a right-foot shot shot just inside a post for his 28th international goal. David had entered in the 67th minute. (AP)

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