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GUWAHATI, THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2024

p5 'Nari Adalat', 'Palna' schemes launched

p8 Tihu College diamond jubilee celebration from February 1

p15 Cummins takes 5 wickets but Pakistan rally on Day 1

NEWS Capsule

Quake toll
 SUZU, Jan 3: Japanese rescue workers and canine units searched urgently through rubble on Wednesday ahead of predicted bitter cold and heavy rain in what the Prime Minister called a race against time after powerful earthquakes killed at least 73 people in western Japan. - AP

Covid cases
 NEW DELHI, Jan 3: A total of 511 cases of Covid-19 sub-variant JN.1 have been reported in the country so far with the maximum recorded in Karnataka, official sources said on Wednesday. - PTI

Jaishankar
 NEW DELHI, Jan 3: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday held a "useful" conversation with his Ukrainian counterpart Dmytro Kuleba focusing on the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. - PTI

Surveillance
 MUMBAI, Jan 3: Regulator DGCA carried out 5,745 surveillance activities with respect to airlines, airports and approved organisations in 2023 as part of its efforts to ensure compliance and enhance safety standards in the aviation space. - PTI

The Assam Tribune
PLANET YOUNG
 January 4, 2024

- Being empathetic by Yugabrata Mahanta
- Traillblazers Dr. Pranaviyoti Deka
- Andrea's dream by Rawnag Tasneem
- Know your world: Braille Neelotpal Deka
- Book Nook, Picture Crossword.
- Plus Quiz, Poems, My Viewpoint, Little Hearts, Comics and other features.

JOCOSERIOUS



The catch is to convert issues into emotions.

12 killed, 30 hurt in bus-truck collision at Dergaon



The mangled remains of the bus being towed away by a crane at Baliyan in Golaghat district on Wednesday. - UB

CORRESPONDENT/PTI

DERGAON, Jan 3: As many as 12 people, including women and children, were killed and 30 others injured when a bus collided head-on with a truck on National Highway 37 at Baliyan under Dergaon Police Station in Golaghat district at around 3.30 am on Wednesday.

Ten of the deceased died on the spot while two others succumbed to their injuries at the Jorhat Medical College and Hospital (JMCH). Seven of the injured, including two women, were later shifted to the Gauhati Medical College and Hospital for advanced treatment.

The ill-fated bus was carrying a group of picnickers from Bosabharalua village in Golaghat district to Tinsukia, and the coal-laden truck was on its way to Bongaigaon from Margherita.

The deceased have been identified as Anima Saikia (60),

Subhankar Saikia (13), Niharika Saikia (10), Dipali Saikia (37), Nabajit Saikia (48), Pinki Saikia (40), Rinki Bora (16), Mridul Bora (30), Nityananda Bora alias Nitul (48), Princhipriya Bora (7), Someswar Saikia (37), and truck driver Nur Alam Hoque (34). Four of the deceased belonged to one family.

President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the loss of lives in the accident, and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured.

"The news of the death of many people in a road accident in Golaghat, Assam is extremely sad. I express my deepest condolences to the bereaved families and pray for the speedy recovery of those injured," Murmu said in a post in Hindi on X.

Modi announced an ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased, and Rs 50,000 each for the injured.

"Pained by the loss of lives

due to a road mishap in Golaghat, Assam. Condolences to the bereaved families. May the injured recover at the earliest. The local administration is providing all possible assistance to those affected," the Prime Minister's Office said on X.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Transport Minister Parimal Suklabaidya also expressed deep anguish over the incident.

Suklabaidya ordered an inquiry into the accident, and asked top officials of his department to reach the accident spot in Golaghat district to extend all possible assistance.

"A probe will reveal whether there was proper signage on the road... We will take necessary steps and if needed, an FIR will be filed against the responsible persons," he said.

District Commissioner of Golaghat P Uday Praveen, Special DGP Harmeet Singh, IGP (Law and order) PK

Bhuyan, Golaghat SP Rajen Singh and NHIDCL officers visited the spot and took stock of the situation.

The Golaghat DC, who also visited the JMCH to enquire about the condition of the injured, said that a magisterial inquiry into the incident has already begun.

The impact of the collision was so powerful that the bus landed a few metres away and its right portion was badly damaged. Immediately after the incident, villagers reached the site and pulled out many injured persons from the bus. They also arranged for ambulances and sent them to hospital.

Locals blamed the alleged negligence of the NHIDCL authorities and thick fog for the accident.

They claimed that the NHIDCL blocked one lane for carrying out some construction work without putting up any cautionary signage, which may be one of the reasons for the mishap.

Assam Police guidelines for picnics

GUWAHATI, Jan 3: Hours after 12 people lost their lives in an accident while en route for a picnic, the Assam Police on Wednesday issued guidelines for such trips, prohibiting movement in the dark and asking picnickers not to play loud music inside vehicles.

Sharing the 'SOP on Picnic' on X, the Assam Police said there should not be overcrowding in vehicles.

"No loud music on the vehicles to be allowed... There should not be any movement of picnic parties before sunrise and after sunset," it said.

Besides, the picnickers should ensure that no movement takes place during

the fog, it said. It also asked them to inform the local police station about their plans. Police will also deploy surveillance groups, assisted by VDP (Village Defence Party), to detect illicit or illegal activities in and around the picnic spots.

The police will also conduct continuous raids on the dhabas, where illicit liquors are sold, the SOP said.

"Sufficient lighting facilities should be provided in and around the vulnerable picnic spots... Sufficient parking area should be earmarked in every spot," it added.

Stating that people usually go for picnics from November to March, the doc-

ument also mentioned that these guidelines are suggestive in nature and "not exhaustive".

"In this atmosphere of pomp and gaiety, sadness struck because of road traffic accidents during the vehicular movement of these picnic parties. Hence, it is felt imperative that a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) be in place to regulate the movement of these picnic parties," it added.

The police in assistance with the District Transport Office and other enforcement agencies should ensure that no accident takes place and valuable human life is lost, the SOP said. - PTI

At least 103 killed, 141 injured in Iran blasts

DUBAI, Jan 3: Two explosions minutes apart on Wednesday in Iran targeted a commemoration for a prominent general slain in a US drone strike in 2020, killing at least 103 people and wounding at least 141 others as the Middle East remains on edge over Israel's war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for what Iranian state media called a "terrorist" attack shortly after the blasts in Kerman, about 820 km southeast of the capital, Tehran.

While Israel has carried out attacks in Iran over its nuclear programme, it has conducted targeted assassinations, not mass-casualty bombings. Sunni extremist groups including the Islamic State group have conducted large-scale attacks in the past that killed civilians in Shiite-majority Iran, though not in relatively peaceful Kerman.

Iran also has seen mass protests in recent years, including those over the death of 22-

year-old Mahsa Amini in 2022. The country also has been targeted by exile groups in attacks dating back to the turmoil surrounding its 1979 Islamic Revolution.

The blasts struck an event marking the fourth anniversary of the killing of Gen. Qassem Soleimani, the head of the Revolutionary Guard's elite Quds Force who died in a US drone strike in Iraq in January 2020. The explosions occurred near his gravesite in Kerman.

Iranian state television quoted Babak Yek-taparast, a spokesman for the country's emergency services, for the casualty figure. Authorities said some people were injured while fleeing.

Footage suggested that the second blast occurred some 15 minutes after the first. A delayed second explosion is often used by militants to target emergency personnel responding to the scene and inflict more casualties. - AP

SC says no to more probes against Adani

NEW DELHI, Jan 3: In a big relief to the embattled Adani Group, the Supreme Court on Wednesday ruled that the fraud allegations against the apples-to-airport conglomerate do not need more probes either by a special investigation team or CBI, as it gave capital market regulator SEBI three more months to conclude its over two-year-old investigation.

Disposing of pleas seeking a third-party investigation into allegations of accounting fraud and stock manipulation levelled by US short seller Hindenburg Research, a three-judge bench of the top court comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, said SEBI was conducting a "comprehensive investigation" and its conduct "inspires confidence".

The apex court had originally on May 17 directed SEBI to complete a probe into two dozen cases against the Adani group by August 14, 2023. In August that year, SEBI had sought 15 more days to complete the investigation into seven of the 24 issues that remained pending.

In November last year, SEBI told the court it will not seek any extension and that its investigation into 22 issues was complete.



On Wednesday, the Supreme Court asked the market regulator to wrap up the two pending investigations

SEBI asked to finish ongoing investigation in 3 months

expeditiously, preferably within three months.

Rejecting the pleas brought by public interest litigants, it said, the facts of this case "do not warrant" ordering an investigation by an SIT or CBI even though the court had the powers to transfer the probe.

Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani, who was the world's second-richest man at the start of 2023 and saw almost USD 60 billion of his personal wealth erased after the damning Hindenburg

report, cheered the verdict, saying "truth" has prevailed.

Stocks of his group companies surged 4.4 per cent in trade or about Rs 64,000 crore following the judgment, taking market capitalisation of the 10 listed firms to Rs 15.1 lakh crore. But the market cap is below the previous record of Rs 19.23 lakh crore, reached before the Hindenburg Research report was published on January 24, 2023.

Opposition Congress, which has been leading the attack on Adani, said the Supreme Court has been "extraordinarily generous" to SEBI and asserted that the party's fight against crony capitalism will continue.

In its 46-page verdict, the apex court said reliance placed by the petitioners on newspaper articles or reports by third-party organisations like Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) to question a comprehensive investigation by a specialised regulator does not inspire confidence.

The bench said, "The facts of this case do not warrant a transfer of investigation from SEBI. In an appropriate case, this court does have the power to transfer an investigation being carried out by the authorized agency to an SIT or CBI." - PTI

Focus on bonds of unity through cultural exchanges

R DUTTA CHOUDHURY

GUWAHATI, Jan 3: Cultural exchange is one of the best tools for strengthening the bond of unity among different sections of people and keeping this in mind, the Srimanta Foundation is organizing an event called "Xako" (bridge) where people from different ethnic groups of Assam will be performing each others' songs and dances.

Talking to *The Assam Tribune*, the managing trustee of Srimanta Foundation and former Director General of Assam Police, BJ Mahanta said that cultural exchange events have helped in building trust among different ethnic groups of Assam.

Giving an account of the efforts of the Foundation to strengthen the bond of unity among all sections of people of Assam, Mahanta said that to



File photo

the efforts started in 2003 and the State's cultural icon, Dr Bhupen Hazarika was also involved in the process with his valuable suggestions. The first step was to teach people belonging to different communities like Bodo, Mising, Karbi, etc, to perform Bhaona and they performed admirably. Dr Hazarika also wrote a song on the event.

Mahanta said that to

strengthen the bond of unity among the ethnic groups of the State, efforts were made to go for cultural exchange programmes between different communities of people and the results were found to be very encouraging. This also helped the communities to have a better understanding of the lives of others.

» SEE PAGE 4

DGPs, IGPs meet in Jaipur from Jan 5-7

NEW DELHI, Jan 3: Terror threats in Jammu and Kashmir, cyber frauds and activities of pro-Khalistani groups are among the key issues to be discussed at the three-day conference of DGPs and IGPs in Jaipur, beginning January 5, officials said on Wednesday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will interact with the country's top police officers before addressing them at a formal session. Union Home Minister Amit Shah will be present throughout the conference that will span several sessions.

Implementation of the recently enacted three criminal laws, the Maoist problem, inter-state police coordination and issues to be handled during the general elections are some of the other major issues expected to be discussed during the meeting, a Union Home Ministry official said.

About 250 officers in the rank of Directors General of Police (DGPs) and Inspectors General of Police (IGPs) will physically attend the conference while more than 200 others are likely to attend virtually.

Many officers have been tasked with delivering presentations on specific subjects such as counter-terrorism, online fraud, cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, activities of pro-Khalistani groups and Left Wing Extremism, among others, the official said.

There will be detailed deliberations on how to face all these emerging internal security challenges.

Till 2013, the annual meet had been held in New Delhi.

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'Over Rs 10,300 cr siphoned off by cyber frauds since 2021'

NEW DELHI, Jan 3: Over Rs 10,300 crore were siphoned off from the country by cyber criminals since April 1, 2021, of which agencies managed to successfully block around Rs 1,127 crore in the country, Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) said Wednesday.

Over 4.52 lakh cyber crime cases were reported on the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP) in 2021, which rose by 113.7 per cent in 2022, with 9.66 lakh cases being reported on the portal, Director of I4C Rajesh Kumar told reporters in an interaction here.

I4C is a body established by the Ministry of Home Affairs to provide a framework and ecosystem for law enforcement agencies for dealing with cyber crime in a coordinated and comprehensive manner.

Kumar said over 15.56 lakh cases were reported on NCRP in 2023, translating into 129 cyber crime cases reported per lakh population, which shows a "deceleration" of growth rate to 60.9 per cent as compared to 2022.

"Rs 10,319 crore has been reportedly lost in India from April 1, 2021 to December 31, 2023... We have managed to block Rs 1127

crore, of which 9-10 per cent has been restored in the accounts of the victims," Kumar said.

Giving details of cyber criminals, officials said around 50 per cent of cyber attacks are being committed by "gangs" operating from Cambodia, Vietnam, China and other countries.

Citing difficulties in restoring amounts to the accounts of victims, Kumar said the government is framing new Standard Operating Procedures which are likely to come out soon to make it easier for victims to claim their money.

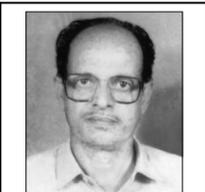
Right now, a victim has to get a court order to get their money back with states like Gujarat and Karnataka leading the way where people are approaching Lok Adalats and magistrates to get their money.

Highlighting trends of cyber criminals, Kumar said regions near Delhi are using sextortion, online booking, OLX related crimes to trick the victims.

Gangs operating from Jharkhand, etc., are using KYC expiry, Android banking malware-type online scams to siphon off money from gullible individuals.

» SEE PAGE 4

IN MEMORIAM



B. P. Chakraborty
APS (Retd.)
 The daily sundown Always makes me from Cause is the time When the bell did chime To make me weep And not let me sleep Time is fast, But you are not past. Usual, you are in heart; Of my life, a key part. With tearful and respectful homage to you on your Death Anniversary, on 04.01.2024.
 Abhijit (Babu) Basista Nagar, Guwahati
 CD/InMemo/NL001887/1

IN MEMORIAM



LATE NOGEN CHANDRA BORDOLOI
 Born : 30.10.1935
 Expired : 04.01.2022
 We remember you with tearful eyes on your 22nd Death Anniversary.
 May your soul rest in eternal Peace.
 Mrs. Amiya Bordoloi and Family Members Dibrugarh
 CD/In Memo/..1



Late Dhiren Sharma
DOD 4th January, 1972
 On this very day you left us for heavenly abode. Ma and Raja also left us. Remembering you all with tears.
 - Family members.
 CD/InMemo/PH004943/1



Pallab Saikia
 On your 4th Death Anniversary, with heavy hearts and teary eyes, we remember you and pray to the Almighty for your eternal peace. Your smiling face and pleasant personality will keep inspiring us. And you will forever dwell in our hearts.
 Bhupen Saikia (Father)
 Rijumon Hazarika (Mother)
 Priyam Saikia (Sister)
 Bamparbatia, Tezpur.
 CD/In Memo/NL001906/1

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OBITUARY



LATE REENA DAS
 Born : 21st December, 1944
 Death : 23rd December, 2023
 Today, 04.01.2024 on the auspicious occasion of your adya shradha, we fondly remember you with grief and heartfelt sadness. We pray to Almighty for salvation and eternal peace of your noble soul in the Lotus feet of Lord Krishna, Om Shanti.
 Bereaved Family Members
 Lachit Nagar, Dibrugarh.
 CD/Obituary/..1

SITUATION VACANT

Wanted DTP and Xerox shop in Guwahati. WhatsApp biodata 9577385851.
 SV/PZC013287/3

Wanted for Physiotherapy Centre in Guwahati Physiotherapist (M/F) Exp. necessary. WhatsApp biodata 9577385851.
 SV/PZC013288/3

SIJOU College, Mushalpur, Baksa (Assam), 781372. Urgent Required- Principal-01 (Open): Eligible Criteria- Master Degree in any discipline with minimum 50% from any UGC recognised institution + NET/SLET+Ph.D. Teaching Experience, Research Publication or Administration experience is mandatory. Eligible candidate are instructed to send their CV at E-mail: Sijouacademy@gmail.com on and before 12.01.2024. Salary Negotiable.
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Recruiting in-house Manager Retired person, Housewife, contractor, businessman for part time/full time with fixed income. Contact: 6000434814. Anisha Parbin.
 SV/PZC013196/8

Looking for 2 Nos. Graduate Civil Engineer and 3 Supervisors for Executing various civil contract work under Government Organisation within the state. Contact: savioriconsortium@gmail.com SV/HP004932/2

SITUATION VACANT

In pursuance of DHE's letter no. DHE/CE/Misc/49/2021/184 dated, 12th June, 2023 applications are invited in the format prescribed by the DHE Assam, with all testimonial from HSLC onwards and other relevant documents attached along with a bank draft of Rs. 1500/- (Rupees One thousand five hundred) only drawn in favour of the Principal, Bahona College, Jorhat, payable at SBI Borpool Branch, Jorhat from eligible candidates for the following sanctioned posts of Assistant Professor (1) Economics : 1 UR (PwD), RP-34 & (2) English: 1 UR, RP-29. Educational Qualifications and Selection procedure as per Govt. O.M. No. AHE. 239/2021/68 dated 24-01-2022. The candidates must have PRC and proficiency in local language. In service candidates must apply through proper channel. Application must reach the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of this advertisement. The age limit and relaxation as per Govt. rules. Details are available in college website : www.bahonacollege.edu.in
 Sd/- Dr. Sumbit Chaliha Principal & Secretary, Bahona College, P.O. Bahona, Jorhat-785101.
 CD/SV/NL001912/1

Required Receptionist Experience in Diagnostics Centre of 2 yrs. Immediate joining
 WhatsApp biodata 8011302475.
 SV/PZC013289/3

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 SV/PP003418/4

Ashadeep, Guwahati required 2 special educators Diploma/B.Ed in Special Education (Mental Retardation). Minimum 2 years experience. Send CV- societyashadeep@yahoo.com. Contact: 8134846562.
 SV/PL002066/1

CORRIGENDUM

With reference to this office advertisement published on 03/01/2024, the maximum age limit for the post of Laboratory Bearer may be read as 43 years instead of 40 years.
 Sd/- Principal Lakhimpur Girls' College
 CD/SV/Corri/..1

Bethany Hospital Shillong urgently requires Medical Officer with MBBS degree. Salary as per experience. For further details send your resume at bethanyhospital.hr@gmail.com before the 31st January 2024.
 SV/NL001917/4

Vacancy available for retired persons and housewives with fixed income & no sales. Ph. 7002187521.
 SV/PZC013309/8

Reengagement Opportunity available in Guwahati for Retired persons & homemakers. Please contact- 8638155116.
 SV/PZC013297/8

Urgently required for following vacant post with minimum 1 years experience: for Authorised TVS Dealer Changsari, near UCO Bank. 1. One Manager, 2. One Sales Executive. Please send your resume at joyneeltvs.ac@gmail.com
 SV/PZC013298/2

Required Retired Persons & Entrepreneurs for MNC. Earning- Rs. 45,000/-. Work from home. Contact- 9101665304.
 SV/PZC013299/4

Looking for a smart and energetic candidate for an Event Management Company for Marketing and office assistance. Job location Guwahati. Interested candidates can drop their resume +91-9681795438, 9875579630.
 SV/PZC013301/1

Required Software Faculty at Deesha Computer Education, Narengi, Call: 9864064989/9706215369.
 SV/PZC013303/1

Required MSW male graduate as outreach worker for NGO run Government project. Send resume to- contact@cosohda.org.in
 SV/PZC013304/1

Required experienced manager/technical person from food industry experienced in Pickles, jams and sauces. Please share your CV at thesavoreda@gmail.com.
 SV/.....1

LAND & PROPERTY

1 katha 10 lecha myadi land with 2 storey building for sale at Mangaldoi Town, M. B. Road, Ward No. 4, Near Gold Cinema Hall. Contact: 9435087295.
 L&P/HP004933/5

2 katha 15 lecha myadi land at Lankeswar, Jalukbari, Guwahati (1.5 km from N. Highway), 18 Lakhs/katha 6001825795.
 L&P/HP004865/13

1 katha 5 lessa Myadi patta land with RCC G+1 Building for sale at Luitpath, Jyotinagar, Bamunimaidam, Ghy-21. Ph: 9864030856 (No broker please).
 L&P/PZC013307/1

COMMERCIAL SPACE

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 CS/PZC013306/1

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 CS/RP001928/3

ACHIEVEMENT



Mrs. Trishnakhee Baruah has been awarded the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) by the University of Science and Technology Meghalaya (USTM) for her thesis titled, 'LOCATING WOMEN IN MASCULINE PROFESSIONAL SPACE : A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF WOMEN POLICE IN THE CITIES OF GUWAHATI AND SHILLONG', under the supervision of Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Department of Sociology, USTM. She is the daughter of Mr. Champak Baruah and Mrs. Nandita Baruah of Beltola, Guwahati-28. Trishnakhee is the wife of Dr. Manash Kalita and daughter-in-law of Dr. Phatik Chandra Kalita and Mrs. Manju Kalita of Sarumotria, Guwahati-6. She expresses her heartfelt gratitude to Almighty God and all near and dear ones for her achievement.
 CD/Achieve/HL002174/1



Mr. Bikash Paul has been awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) by Gauhati University for his thesis entitled "Financial Inclusion among Urban and Rural Workers in Informal Employment in Assam: A Gender based study with special reference to Kamrup (Metro) and Kamrup" under the guidance of Prof. Aparajeta Borkakoty, Department of Commerce, Gauhati University. He is the only son of Lt. Badal Paul and Mrs. Shikha Nandi Paul of Govindapally, Hojai, Assam, Husband of Sonia Das Paul and Father of Saravika Paul. He is presently working as an Accounts Officer in APDCL, Diphu.
 CD/Achieve/NL001911/1



Himashree Baruah has been awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in Sociology from Assam University, Silchar for her thesis work entitled "A Sociological study on Skill Development among Women in Jorhat District of Assam". She carried out her research work under the guidance and supervision of Dr. Bijaya Kumar Behera, Professor, Department of Sociology, Assam University, Silchar. Dr. Himashree Baruah is the daughter of Mr. Ghanakanta Baruah (Retired Indian Army Subedar) and Mrs. Bijaya Baruah of Patharua Changmai Gaon, Tamulichiga, Jorhat, Assam.
 Achieve/NL001910/1

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 TL/HL002178/1

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 TL/PP003433/1

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 TL/RP001927/2

EDUCATIONAL

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 Edu/PH004811/8

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 Godown/PZC013300/1

PACKERS & MOVERS

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LEGAL NOTICE

Station: Jorhat
 Dated : 02.01.2024.
 No.DEQ/JOR/TREES/14W/VOL-IV
Sd/- Defence Estate Officer Jorhat Circle.
 CD/AN/HL002175/1

E-AUCTION NOTICE

1. It is hereby notified for general information of the public that 08 Nos of Standing trees on defence land at 14 Wing Air Force Station, Chabua, Distt.-Dibrugarh, Assam will be disposed off through **E-Auction on 29.01.2024 at 1100 hrs.**
 2. Auction is strictly subject to the terms & conditions given in the Notice Inviting Auction (NIA). Notice Inviting Auction document can be downloaded from www.eauction.gov.in which is available from **03.01.2024**. Interested parties are advised to do registration prior to EMD (Earnest Money Deposit) submission on website.
 3. The trees to be cut/removed can be seen from **04.01.2024 to 20.01.2024 (except holidays)** during, office hours with the help of the representative of 14 Wing Air Force Station, Chabua, Distt.-Dibrugarh, Assam.
 4. Last date of submission of required documents on the website is **24.01.2024 till 1700 hrs.**
 Station: Jorhat
 Dated : 02.01.2024.
 No.DEQ/JOR/TREES/14W/VOL-IV
Sd/- Defence Estate Officer Jorhat Circle.
 CD/AN/NL001915/1

E-AUCTION NOTICE

1. It is hereby notified for general information of the public that 77 Nos of Standing trees on defence land at 14 Wing Air Force Station, Chabua, Distt.-Dibrugarh, Assam will be disposed off through **E-Auction on 30.01.2024 at 1400 hrs.**
 2. Auction is strictly subject to the terms & conditions given in the Notice Inviting Auction (NIA). Notice Inviting Auction document can be downloaded from www.eauction.gov.in which is available from **03.01.2024**. Interested parties are advised to do registration prior to EMD (Earnest Money Deposit) submission on website.
 3. The trees to be cut/removed can be seen from **04.01.2024 to 20.01.2024 (except holidays)** during, office hours with the help of the representative of 14 Wing Air Force Station, Chabua, Distt.-Dibrugarh, Assam.
 4. Last date of submission of required documents on the website is **24.01.2024 till 1700 hrs.**
 Station: Jorhat
 Dated : 02.01.2024.
 No.DEQ/JOR/TREES/14W/VOL-IV
Sd/- Defence Estate Officer Jorhat Circle.
 CD/AN/HL002176/1

E-AUCTION NOTICE

1. It is hereby notified for general information of the public that 185 Nos of Standing trees on defence land at 14 Wing Air Force Station, Chabua, Distt.-Dibrugarh, Assam will be disposed off through **E-Auction on 31.01.2024 at 1100 hrs.**
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 CD/AN/NL001916/1

E-AUCTION NOTICE

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Sd/- Defence Estate Officer Jorhat Circle.
 CD/AN/HL002177/1

E-AUCTION NOTICE

1. It is hereby notified for general information of the public that 45 Nos of Standing trees on defence land at 14 Wing Air Force Station, Chabua, Distt.-Dibrugarh, Assam will be disposed off through **E-Auction on 30.01.2024 at 1100 hrs.**
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Sd/- Defence Estate Officer Jorhat Circle.
 CD/AN/HL002175/1

E-AUCTION NOTICE

1. It is hereby notified for general information of the public that 548 Nos of Standing trees on defence land at 14 Wing Air Force Station, Chabua, Distt.-Dibrugarh, Assam will be disposed off through **E-Auction on 31.01.2024 at 1400 hrs.**
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 CD/AN/NL001914/1

E-AUCTION NOTICE

1. It is hereby notified for general information of the public that 77 Nos of Standing trees on defence land at 14 Wing Air Force Station, Chabua, Distt.-Dibrugarh, Assam will be disposed off through **E-Auction on 30.01.2024 at 1400 hrs.**
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E-AUCTION NOTICE

1. It is hereby notified for general information of the public that 548 Nos of Standing trees on defence land at 1



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SC seeks LS Secretary General's reply on Moitra's expulsion

NEW DELHI, Jan 3: The Supreme Court today sought a reply from the Lok Sabha Secretary General on Trinamool Congress leader Mahua Moitra's plea challenging her expulsion from the Lower House.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta also refused to pass an order on her interim prayer that she be permitted to attend the Lok Sabha proceedings, saying that allowing it will amount to granting her the main relief.

"We will consider your plea for interim relief in March," Justice Khanna told Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, who appeared for Moitra.

The current Lok Sabha will have one more session – the Budget Session – before the general elections are held.

The top court also refused to issue notice to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and the Committee on Ethics of the House. Both were made respondents

by Moitra in her plea.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Lok Sabha Secretary General, urged the bench not to issue a formal notice and said he will file a reply to Moitra's petition.

Mehta said the court should not venture into the internal matter of discipline in another sovereign organ of the state.

He said Parliament can internally manage disciplinary issues involving its members through its in-house procedures which are not amenable to judicial review and so Moitra's plea is not maintainable.

"Any interference by one organ (judiciary) into the functioning of another organ (Parliament) of the state will violate the separation of powers enshrined under the Constitution," he said.

Justice Khanna said he is not going

into these questions at present. The bench, he said, is leaving all issues open to be adjudicated at a later stage.

"A number of issues have been raised. We would not like to comment on any issue at this stage. One of the issues is with regard to jurisdiction of this court and the power of judicial review... Solicitor General appears for Secretary General, Lok Sabha secretariat.

Let reply be filed within a period of three weeks. Rejoinder, if any, be filed thereafter within three weeks," the bench ordered.

It listed the matter for resumed hearing in the week commencing March 11. Singhvi said contrary to things floating around, Moitra has been expelled for sharing her parliamentary login details.

"First, there is only one ground on

which she is expelled, which is sharing her login credentials. Second, login access to the portal does not amount to its use since there is an additional step for authentication in the form of One Time Password (OTP). Third, there is no existing code of conduct and rules regulating the sharing of password or access to the portal," he submitted.

Moitra, he said, was expelled under a rule for hacking.

"Can an MP, who is a busy person, not delegate his work? Imagine Hiranandani (businessman Darshan Hiranandani) to be her secretary for a minute... Almost every parliamentary delegates their work to their secretaries..." Singhvi said.

He added the ethics committee acted on a complaint by two private individuals without following the principle of natural justice as Moitra was not allowed to cross-examine them. – PTI

PM cites women empowerment steps to highlight 'Modi's guarantee'

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, Jan 3: Sounding the bugle for the Lok Sabha polls in Opposition-dominated Kerala today, Prime Minister Narendra Modi underlined his government's women empowerment measures, particularly the Women's Reservation Bill, stressing that these initiatives were a part of "Modi's guarantee".

In a fiery speech at a massive women-only event organised by the BJP in this central Kerala city, Modi reiterated "Modiyude guarantee" (Modi's guarantee) in Malayalam as many as 17 times. The Prime Minister highlighted the achievements of his government in empowering women, citing various initiatives such as Ujjwala, tap water connections, toilets, Mudra loans, and more.

Modi also said he guaranteed freedom for Muslim women from triple talaq and fulfilled it honestly. Asserting that the progress of the poor, women, youth and farmers will ensure national growth, he also said there is a buzz around "Modi's guarantee".

"A buzz has swept across the entire country, centred on Modi's guarantee. Over the past decade, numerous schemes have been implemented to enhance the qual-

ity of women's lives," the Prime Minister said.

The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam has now become law, the PM said, stating that he has fulfilled his commitment to the cause of women empowerment. He also lashed out at the Congress and Left parties, alleging that they had delayed the Women's Reservation Bill.



"Regrettably, after independence, the Leftist, Congress governments undermined the strength of our women," Modi alleged. "The Congress and other parties delayed the reservation Bill in the Lok Sabha. However, the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam has now become law. Modi has fulfilled his commitment," he said.

Speaking about the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, Modi said that Kerala recognises the BJP as the party capable of amplifying its development, dismissing the support that the

Left parties and Congress-led alliances could garner. He accused the INDIA alliance of hindering the State's growth. "BJP will defeat the INDIA alliance in Kerala," Modi said, underscoring the party's commitment to overcoming the perceived obstacles posed by the bloc.

Targeting the CPI(M) and the Congress, he said that even though they are two parties in name, they are essentially one, standing together whether it involves violence or corruption. "Now, they have formed the INDIA alliance and declared that their ideologies are the same. People have now understood this and realised that the development of Kerala is only possible through the BJP," Modi said.

Addressing the massive gathering titled 'Woman Power with Modi', the PM expressed optimism that the winds of change from Thrissur would sweep across Kerala, bringing about a transformation.

In Thrissur, deemed a hopeful constituency for the BJP in Kerala, actor-MP Suresh Gopi is a leading candidate for the BJP, given the significant Christian voter base of over 30 per cent, which the party has been wooing in recent times. – PTI

Top Cong leaders to meet today to discuss LS polls strategy

NEW DELHI, Jan 3: Top Congress leaders will meet here on Thursday to discuss the party's strategy for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections and preparations for the Manipur-to-Maharashtra Bharat Nyay Yatra, beginning January 14.

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge has convened the meeting of party General Secretaries, State in-charges, State unit chiefs and Congress Legislature Party leaders at the party headquarters here.

This will be the first meeting of newly-appointed General Secretaries and State in-charges after Kharge carried out a reshuffle in December.

Sources said the preparations for the ensuing Lok Sabha elections and the Bharat Nyay Yatra are on the agenda of the meeting.

The Congress leadership has held separate meetings with State leaders and discussed the poll preparedness in their respective States in the past few months.

The Bharat Nyay Yatra, the second version of the Bharat Jodo Yatra that was held between September 2022 and January 2023, will be held from Imphal to Mumbai between January 14 and March 20.

The yatra from east to west of India is an attempt by the Congress to reach out to people and connect with them ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, due in April-May. – PTI



Sikh devotees display martial arts skills during a religious procession ahead of the birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Sikh Guru, in Jammu on Wednesday. – PTI

Kejriwal skips ED summons for 3rd time

NEW DELHI, Jan 3: The BJP today accused Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal of not having faith in the country's administrative and judicial system after the AAP leader skipped a third ED summons in connection with an excise policy-linked money laundering case.

Kejriwal today skipped for the third time the summons issued by the Enforcement Directorate in the Delhi excise policy case. The AAP alleged that the repeated notices were part of a conspira-

cy to arrest him and stop him from campaigning in the Lok Sabha polls.

Manish Sisodia and Sanjay Singh – like Kejriwal – also used to call ED notices wrong but had to appear before the agency. Today, despite efforts, let alone getting bail, they are getting reprimanded in every court, said Virendra Sachdeva, the BJP's Delhi unit chief.

"The way Kejriwal is avoiding the ED summons clearly shows that he does not have faith in the adminis-

trative and judicial system of the country and, after that, the question arises whether he has any moral ground left to remain the Chief Minister," he alleged.

If Kejriwal finds the ED notices wrong, he should go to the courts but he will not do that, the BJP leader claimed. "He knows that his case is a clear case of corruption and it is almost impossible to get relief from the courts," Sachdeva said.

The BJP leader said Kejriwal should explain how the

notice served to him in the same case on the basis of which Sisodia and Singh are in jail can be legally wrong.

Kejriwal earlier skipped the ED's summonses for November 2 and December 21, calling those "illegal" and "politically motivated". Today, he sent a written reply to the agency, calling the notice illegal.

The AAP asserted that Kejriwal was ready to cooperate with the agency but claimed that the summons was sent with the intention of arresting him. – PTI

BCI welcomes new criminal-justice laws

NEW DELHI, Jan 3: The Bar Council of India (BCI) today appreciated the introduction of new criminal-justice laws to replace outdated colonial-era statutes, and appealed to the government to encourage continuous discussion for addressing various ambiguities.

In a statement, the top lawyers' body said it acknowledges the positive features embedded in the three new laws – Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam.

"These criminal laws aim to replace the existing body of criminal laws in India... The BCI appreciates removing colonial and outdated criminal laws, such as the (Section on) sedition, which fosters a more inclusive and democratic legal environment by respecting freedom of expression," it said.

It said the issues of "effective implementation" and "victim support" would be critical in the introduction of provisions addressing contempo-

rary challenges, including the categorisation of mob lynching as a separate offence.

Underlining that the offence of mob lynching encompassed hate crimes based on race, caste, community, sex, language, or place of birth, the BCI said, "Sensitivity training for police and judiciary could help ensure unbiased and trauma-informed handling of such cases."

"The BCI notes and appreciates the government's decision to refrain from reintroducing adultery as a gender-neutral offence, aligning with the principles of equality and non-discrimination," it said.

Acknowledging the "improvements regarding the registration of FIRs" by police officers regardless of the location of the offences, the BCI commended the "emphasis on utilising forensic methods in investigations and incorporating videography in

searches and seizures."

It, however, cautioned against over-reliance on forensic evidence and stressed the need for investigative skills and victim protection.

The BCI further appreciated the Parliamentary Standing Committee's "thorough examination" of the new criminal laws.

"However, recognising the importance of ongoing dialogue and refinement in legal procedures, the Bar Council of India encourages continuous discussions to address any ambiguities, such as the clarification on the permissible duration of police custody beyond the 15-day limit," it said.

Underlining that the legislative process is an ongoing endeavour, the BCI urged the Central government to "remain open to constructive feedback and amendments that further strengthen the legal framework." It also appreciated the leadership

of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah for ushering in a progressive era of criminal-justice reform.

Their commitment to removing colonial and outdated laws, fostering inclusivity, addressing contemporary challenges, and engaging in thorough legislative scrutiny reflects a dedication to justice and a resilient legal framework for India's future, the BCI said.

"It is hereby resolved that the BCI, in its commitment to justice, supports the enactment of the three Acts, understanding their positive contributions, while advocating for a continual dialogue to refine and improve the criminal-justice system in India," it said.

These new laws – Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam – will replace the Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act, respectively. – PTI



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Ukraine targeting Russian border regions seeking to disrupt life

KYIV, Jan 3: Russia said on Wednesday it shot down 12 missiles fired at one of its southern regions bordering Ukraine, as Kyiv's forces seek to embarrass the Kremlin and puncture President Vladimir Putin's argument that life is going on as normal despite the 22-month war.

The situation in the border city of Belgorod, which came under two rounds of shelling on Wednesday morning, "remains tense", said regional Governor Vyacheslav Gladkov, writing on Telegram.

"Air defence systems worked," he said, promising more details about possible damage after inspecting the area later in the day, part of a New Year's holiday week in Russia.

Ukraine fired two *Tochka-U* missiles and seven rockets at the region late on Tuesday, followed by six *Tochka-U* missiles and six *Vilkh*a rockets on Wednesday, the Russian De-

fence Ministry said.

The Soviet-built *Tochka-U* missile system has a range of up to 120 kilometres (75 miles) and a warhead that can carry cluster munitions. Ukraine has received some cluster munitions from the United States but the *Tochka-U* and *Vilkh*a can use their own cluster munitions.

The Russian side of the frontier has come under increasingly frequent attack in recent days. Throughout the war, border villages have sporadically been targeted by Ukrainian artillery fire, rockets, mortar shells and drones launched from thick forests where they are hard to detect.

Lately, as Russia fired missiles and drones at Ukrainian cities, Kyiv's troops have aimed at Belgorod's regional capital, which is about 100 kilometres (60 miles) north of Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city.

Belgorod, with a popula-

tion of about 3,40,000, is the biggest Russian city near the border. It can be reached by relatively simple and movable weapons such as multiple rocket launchers.

On Saturday, shelling of Belgorod killed 25 people, including five children, in one of the deadliest strikes on Russian soil since Moscow's full-scale invasion. Another civilian was killed on Tuesday in a new salvo.

Hitting Belgorod and disrupting city life is a dramatic way for Ukraine to show it can strike back against Russia, whose military outnumbers and outguns Kyiv's forces.

The tactic appeared to be having some success, with signs the attacks are unsettling the public, political leaders and military observers.

On Monday, Putin lashed out against the Belgorod attacks by Ukraine. "They want to intimidate us and create uncertainty within our

country," he said, promising to step up retaliation.

Answering a question from a soldier who asked him about civilian casualties in Belgorod, Putin said: "I also feel a simmering anger."

Many Russian military bloggers have expressed regret about Moscow's withdrawal from the border area in September 2022 amid a swift counteroffensive by Kyiv, and they have argued that more territory must be seized to secure Belgorod and other border areas.

Russia describes Ukrainians as "terrorists" who indiscriminately target residential areas while insisting Moscow only aims at depots, arms factories and other military facilities - even though there is ample evidence that Russia is hitting Ukrainian civilian targets. Ukrainian officials rarely acknowledge responsibility for strikes on Russian territory. - AP

Race against time in search for survivors of Japan quakes

SUZU, Jan 3: Japanese rescue workers and canine units searched urgently through rubble on Wednesday ahead of predicted bitter cold and heavy rain in what the Prime Minister called a race against time after powerful earthquakes killed at least 73 people in western Japan.

Ishikawa prefecture and nearby areas were shaken by a 4.9 magnitude aftershock on Wednesday - one of dozens that have followed Monday's magnitude 7.6 temblor centred near Noto, about 300 kilometres from Tokyo on the opposite coast. The quake set off tsunami warnings, followed by waves measuring more than 1 metre in some places.

The first 72 hours are especially critical for rescues, experts say, because the prospects for survival greatly diminish after that.

"More than 40 hours have passed. This is a race against time, and I feel that we are at a critical moment," Prime Minister Fumio Kishida told reporters. "We have received reports many people are still waiting for rescue under collapsed buildings."

The narrow Noto Peninsula has added to the challenges in reaching some communities. Water, power and cell-

phone service were still down in some areas.

Naomi Gonno says she and her children got out of their house just as it came crashing down. But her children were screaming "Granma," and Gonno saw that her mother was trapped under the smashed house, with only her hand visible. She was able to squeeze her way out through a tiny space, Gonno said. - AP

No.-GVT/F-14/2023-24/
PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public residing within Guwahati Municipal Corporation limits that GMC Act Section 301, provides for Registration and Control of dogs and :

(a) Require the registration by the registration authority appointed by the Commissioner in this behalf of all dogs, kept within the City.

(d) Require that any dog which has not been registered or which is not wearing such token shall, if found in any public place, be detained at a place set apart for the purpose.

Hence, all dog owners residing within Guwahati Municipal Corporation limits are requested to register their dog on Sewasetu Portal (<https://sewasetu.assam.gov.in/>).

Sd/- Commissioner,
Guwahati Municipal Corporation,
Janasanyog/DF/2298/23/4-Jan-24
Guwahati

Suicide bomber among 4 ultras killed in Pak

PESHAWAR, Jan 3: Pakistani security forces killed four wanted terrorists, including a suicide bomber, in an intelligence-based operation in the country's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, the military said on Wednesday.

The operation was carried out on Tuesday in the North Waziristan tribal district bordering Afghanistan, according to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) - the military's media cell.

After an intense exchange of fire, four terrorists, including a suicide bomber, were killed by the security forces, it said.

Those killed were wanted by law enforcement agencies for various terrorist activities and were also planning a major terror attack in the district. - PTI

Fujian gears up for sea trials

BEIJING, Jan 3: China's third aircraft carrier *Fujian*, the heaviest and most advanced compared to its two previous warships, is gearing up for sea trials, official media reported on Wednesday.

State-run China Central Television displayed the latest footage of the domesti-

cally built aircraft carrier on its news programme which showed the three electromagnetic catapult tracks uncovered on the ship.

The People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) will push forward with the mooring trials of CNS *Fujian*, China's second domestically-made aircraft carrier, as

scheduled in the new year, said Yin Hongxin, an officer aboard the vessel, official *China Daily* reported.

China's official media often creates buzz about the progress of new defence equipment like new ships, fighter jets and missiles, displaying their photos to generate public interest. - PTI

No. MC/147/2022/221
INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (TENDER)

Principal-cum-Chief Superintendent, GMCH, on behalf of the Department of Microbiology, Gauhati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH), invites bids from the intending manufacturer/accredited dealers in two bid system for SUPPLY OF VARIOUS EQUIPMENT REQUIRED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MICROBIOLOGY, GMCH for the NCDC programme 'National One Health Programme For Prevention And Control Of Zoonoses, NOHPPCZ'.

The bidders shall have to affix Court Fee Stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees Eight and Twenty Five Paise only) for local bidders or IPO of Rs.10 (Rupees Ten only) in case of bidders from outside the state of Assam in favor of "Principal-cum-Chief Superintendent, Gauhati Medical College".

1. Important particulars are given below. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

Brief Description of Equipment	EMD (Bid Security)	Cost of Bidding Document Fee
1. Centrifuge	10000/-	1000/-

Key Dates:

Sl. No.	Schedule	Start Date	Time
1.	Pre-bid meeting	08/01/2024	11.00 AM
2.	Last Date and Time of Bid Submission	12/01/2024	3.00 PM

All other relevant information and the detailed Bid Document are available on website <http://gmchassam.gov.in> and can be viewed after the publication of tender advertisement. Bidders may also download the bid documents from the dedicated website and submit the hard copy to the Department of Microbiology, Gauhati Medical College, Guwahati-32.

Sd/- Principal-cum Chief Superintendent
Gauhati Medical College and Hospital
Guwahati-32
Janasanyog/C/14424/23/4-Jan-24

DGPs ...

(Contd from page 1)

The following year, after the Modi government came to power, it was decided to hold the event, organised by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs and the Intelligence Bureau, outside the national capital.

Accordingly, it was first held in Guwahati in 2014, Rann of Kutch in 2015, the National Police Academy in Hyderabad in 2016, the BSF Academy at Tekanpur in 2017, Pune in 2019.

Focus ...

(Contd from page 1)

There were lots of misgivings among Bodo and Koch Rajbongshi communities in the lower Assam districts. However, the cultural exchange events helped a great deal in bridging the gap. Several Bodo youths learnt and performed Rajbongshi songs and dances, while, Rajbongshi youths performed Bodo songs and dances. In the process, they also learnt each others' languages, which helped

Over ...

(Contd from page 1)

He said other major cyber crimes are duping people of their money using investment applications and websites offering part-time jobs and Ponzi schemes, illegal lending applications and customer care centres.

There were also vases of Android malware fraud by seeking OTPs to take control of victims' systems, impersonation by taking over social media accounts and sextortion.

Listing recent successes against cyber criminals, Kumar said the Indian agency

SHORT NOTICE INVITING BIDS

O.O. No. 14

Sealed Bids(tenders) are invited for technical and financial bids, in prescribed formats, affixing nonrefundable court fee stamp of Rs. 10.00 (Rupees ten) only from the intending Govt. Registered Contractors/ Firms of APWD, WPR, IRR, etc. for implementation of the following schemes which will be received up to 2.00 PM on 12.01.2024 and opened on the same date at 2.30 PM on 12.01.2024 in presence of the Bidders or their authorized agents. **Separate sealed and superscribed envelopes** are to be used for both technical and financial bids and put them together in a single envelope. If due to certain unavoidable circumstances, the Bids cannot be opened on the aforesaid date, the same will be opened on the next working day. The qualified parties, only in respect of the technical bids, will be eligible for competing in the financial bids. Bid documents can be obtained from the office of the undersigned from 03.01.2024 up to 2.00 PM on 12.01.2024 on working days by depositing Rupees 300.00 (Three Hundred) Only as Tender processing fee for the work in the form of FD/ DD.

Detailed terms and conditions, plan and estimates and Bid documents may be obtained from the office of the undersigned on or before 12.01.2024 during office hours.

Sl No.	Name of Scheme	Estimated Amount (Rs. In Lakhs)	Location	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time of Completion (Days)
1	Concrete Paver Block Dagaon Village Road to D.O. Quarter under SOPD-G,2023-24	08.00	Vill: Kalibari Dagaon G.P.: Ushapur Block : Gabharu Dist : Sonitpur LAC-Tezpur	Rs. 16,000.00 (General) 2% Rs. 8,000.00 (for SC/ST/OBC/MOBC) 1 % (amount to be mentioned)	60 Days
2	Agri. Bund with Hume Pipe Culvert at Arimora Paddy Field (Pt-B) under SOPD-G, 2023-24	16.00	Vill: Arimora G.P.: Besseria Block : Gabharu Dist : Sonitpur LAC-Tezpur	Rs. 32,000.00 (General) 2% Rs. 16,000.00 (for SC/ST/OBC/MOBC) 1 % (amount to be mentioned)	60 Days
3	Erosion Protection at Mona Centre (Batashipur near Lakh Mandir) under SOPD-G, 2023-24	15.00	Vill: Mona Centre (Batashipur) G.P.: Batashipur Block : Dhakiajuli Dist : Sonitpur LAC-Dhekiajuli	Rs. 30,000.00 (General) 2% Rs. 15,000.00 (for SC/ST/OBC/MOBC) 1 % (amount to be mentioned)	60 Days

Major terms of References:-

- The work order will be served as per the decision of the competent authority
- A bidder is eligible for 2 (two) nos. of works during one financial year.
- The bidders are requested to go thoroughly in the bid documents and follow accordingly.
- The bidders are instructed to submit details in prescribed formats as required.
- Payment will be made subject to availability of fund in the budget.

Sd/- Divisional Officer
Sonitpur Soil Conservation Division
Tezpur
Janasanyog/C/14489/23/4-Jan-24

ENGINEERING WORKS IN LUMDING DIVISION

Tender Notice No.: LMG/Engg/127 of 2023, dtd. 19-12-2023: E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work: **Brief Description of Item:** Provision of flooring, drop wall & curtain walls in 132 Nos Hume pipe culverts in between Kumarghat-Agartala & 68 Nos Minor bridges in between Agartala-Sabroom Section under the jurisdiction of DENVI/Lumding. **Tender Value:** ₹ 11,07,79,948.30; **Earnest Money:** ₹ 7,03,900/-; **Date & time of Closing of above tender at 15:00 hrs. on 30-01-2024 and opening at 15:00 hrs. on 31-01-2024.** The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 15:00 hrs. on 30-01-2024 in website <http://www.treps.gov.in>.

DRM (W), Lumding
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

PROJECTS & DEVELOPMENT INDIA LIMITED
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
PDIL Bhawan, A-14, Sector-1, Noida 201301
CIN NO. U74140UP1978GOI028629
Website: www.pdil.in

PDIL, A Mini Ratna Category-I PSU, is a leading Design Engineering & Consultancy Organization in the field of Fertilizers & Allied Chemical, Refinery, Oil & Gas, Power, Petrochemical, Infrastructure etc., invites applications for the following posts for posting at any of PDIL offices located at Noida and Vadodara and at Project Sites all over India as per requirement:

Advt.no. HR/71/24/01 (ContractLTFL)
Engagement of personnel for various posts on contract basis in Mechanical, Process, Civil, Electrical, Instrumentation, Planning, Human Resources, Safety disciplines for a period up to three years.

For further details w.r.t. Qualification, Age, Experience, Remuneration, Online submission of application details & Number of Posts & Discipline etc., please log on to Careers section of our Website: www.pdil.in.
Last date of submission of online application : 17.01.2024 cbc 02105/12/0005/2324

SHORT TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tender in F-2 form affixing Court Fee Stamp of Rs.8.25 (Rupees Eight and twenty five Paise) only with validity period of 180 (one hundred eighty) days are invited from Registered APWD (Building) contractors for the work as detailed in the table below-

Sl. No.	Name of work	Estimated Value of work (Approx Rs.)	Bid Security (In Rs)	Cost of tender Paper (In Rs.)	Date of Application	Date of issue of tender paper	Time & date of receiving/ opening of Tender	Time of Completion	Eligibility of Contractor.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Construction of cubicles office room at the offices of Judicial Courts, Nagaon, Assam.	13,83,684.00	2% for Gnl. and 1% for Reserved category	500.00	05.01.2024 to 06.01.2024	08.01.2024	Receiving up to 2.00 PM and opening at 2.30PM of 10-01-2024	45 (Forty Five) days	Registered APWD(Bldg.) Class-I A,B,C, and Class-II & III Contractor with an experience similar nature of work)

Detailed particulars may be seen during office hours or any working days in the office of the undersigned. Contractors will have to submit application for Tender paper along with attested copy of current Registration Certificate, Pan Card, GST, Up-to date Labour Licence, EPF Registration, Financial Turn Over last 3(three) years and cost of tender paper as detailed above in the form of Bank Draft/Banker Cheque in any Nationalized Bank in favour of Executive Engineer, PWD Nagaon, Raha, Dhing & Batadrava Territorial Building Division. Tender paper will be issued to the contractors or to their authorized agents up-to 4.00PM In working day as mentioned above from the office of the undersigned. Bid Security in the form of FDR/CTDR duly pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer, PWD Nagaon,Raha, Dhing & Batadrava Territorial Building Division, to be submitted along with the tender paper.

Performance Security/Security Deposit Money as per norms and additional performance security as per Chief Engineer, PWD (Building)'s letter No.BN/12/82/Pt-1/84, dt. 15.02.2011, if required is to be furnished by the successful bidder when notified.

If for any reason, the last date of receiving and opening of tender is declared as holiday, the same will be received and opened on the next working day.

The undersigned will be the sole authority to cancel any tender without showing any reason.

N.B:-

- Prospective bidders are suggested to visit the proposed work site before submission of bids.
- The Short NIT will form a part of the tender agreement
- If required, the bidder should possess valid Electrical licence for executing Electrical works of the project. In case the bidder is not in possession of such licence, the bidder must enter into collaboration/tie-up arrangement with such Licence holder having requisite experience. Such tie-up must be registered in court carrying out Electrical works. Necessary documents should be furnished along with the bid.
- Site visit certificate from the concern authority is required at the time dropping of tender.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD
Nagaon, Raha, Dhing & Batadrava
Territorial Building Division
Janasanyog/C/14485/23/4-Jan-24

Assam State Disaster Management Authority
Vacancy Announcement

Application in online mode along with copies of all certificates, recent passport size photo, experience certificates, etc. are invited from intending candidates, who are Indian Citizens, for engagement on contract basis under ASDMA for the following positions:

Sl.No.	Name of the Post	No. of posts
1	Land Taxation Modelling Specialist	1 (one) No.
2	Land Management Systems Specialist	1 (one) No.
3	Geo - spatial Specialist	1 (one) No.
4	Data Analytics Specialist	1 (one) No.
5	Legal Drafting Specialist	1 (one) No.
6	Legal Systems Analytics Specialist	1 (one) No.

Last date for submission of application is 24-01-2024 / 5.00 PM

Detailed Terms of Reference (ToR) may be seen at ASDMA website <http://asdma.gov.in/> or <https://asdma.assam.gov.in>. Applicants can apply online at <https://niyukti.assam.gov.in/asdma/index.php/home/instruction>.

Sd/- Deputy Secretary & State Project Coordinator,
Janasanyog/DF/2296/23/4-Jan-24
Assam State Disaster Management Authority.

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Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD
Nagaon, Raha, Dhing & Batadrava
Territorial Building Division
Janasanyog/C/14485/23/4-Jan-24

WEATHER GUWAHATI

Fog or mist would occur in early morning. Maximum and Minimum temperatures are most likely to be 27°C & 12°C respectively.

TEMPERATURE:
Max 26.6°C
Min 12.4°C

'Nari Adalat', 'Palna' schemes launched



State Minister for Finance and Women and Child Development Ajanta Neog, Queen Oja, MP along with other dignitaries at the State-level launching ceremony of Nari Adalat and Palna schemes, at the Srimanta Sankaradeva International Auditorium, in Guwahati on Wednesday. - UB Photos

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Jan 3: 'Nari Adalat' and 'Palna' schemes will go a long way in serving the cause of women empowerment as it will provide women with a strong shield against all kinds of exploitation and violence and give wings to their dreams, State Women and Child Development Minister Ajanta Neog said today.

She was speaking at the 'Nari Adalat' and 'Palna' schemes launched in Assam by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, on a pilot basis,

at a function in the Srimanta Sankaradeva International Auditorium. The minister urged all women to take advantage of these initiatives to protect themselves and make their dreams a reality.

Assam is going to create 50 Nari Adalats in nine districts as part of this initiative, Neog said and hoped that these Nari Adalats or Women Courts, an important component under Mission Shakti, will be helpful in giving justice to the women of rural areas.

The minister disclosed that Anganwadi cum Crèche under Palna will be implemented in a

phased manner in the State. These Palnas will help working women by ensuring proper care for their children.

Nari Adalats are likely to be headed by 'Mukhya Nyaya Sakhi' and assisted by 'Nyaya Sakhis'. They will be either nominated or selected by gram panchayats. Apart from increasing awareness about rights, these Nari Adalats are supposed to act as a serious detriment to domestic violence. They are expected to bring mechanisms of justice closer to women in rural areas. A video on Nari Adalat was also released on the occasion.

Two books by ex-MLA Hiranya Bora released

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Jan 3: *Bharatiya Jatiya Congressar Itihas Aru Aitiyya* and *Madhukar*, two books penned by senior politician and former MLA Hiranya Bora were released at the Assam Book Fair here today.

Academician Dr Amarjyoti Choudhury, Dr Dayananda Pathak, former bureaucrat Swapnil Barua and former minister Nilamani Sen Deka released the two books in the presence of other dignitaries.

Both the books are published by Badya Prakashan.

Bharatiya Jatiya Congressar Itihas Aru Aitiyya is a book on the Indian independence movement and gives a brief history of the Indian National Congress. On the other hand, *Madhukar* is the Assamese translation of the book *The Honey Bee* written by G Ram-anujam.

Addressing the event, Dr Amarjyoti Choudhury said, "As a leader, Hiranya Bora has always been attached to the la-

bour class and has been concerned about their rights. *Madhukar* is a good translation work of the writer. Every person involved with the trade union movement must read the book. In the other book, he writes about the rise of the Congress in Assam and contributions of different personalities to the party."

Dr Dayananda Pathak in his speech observed that Hiranya Bora has accomplished a tremendous job by penning the history of Congress in Assam.

Bharat Nyay Yatra of Rahul Gandhi to enter Assam on Jan 17

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Jan 3: The Manipur to Mumbai Bharat Nyay Yatra of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will enter Assam on January 17 and cover a number of districts in the State.

Gandhi will commence his 6,200-kilometre yatra from Manipur on January 14. It will be flagged off by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge at Imphal.

"The yatra will traverse through Manipur and Nagaland before entering Assam at Amguri on January 17. The Assam leg of the Bharat Nyay Yatra will cover several districts. From Amguri, Gandhi is expected to pass through Sivasagar, Jorhat, Majuli, Dhemajai, and Lakhimpur districts, before proceeding to Arunachal Pradesh. After covering Arunachal, the yatra will again enter Assam and cover the districts of Sonitpur, Biswanath, Nagaon, and Morigaon before arriving at Guwahati. Gandhi will then go to Meghalaya to cover that State, before again entering Assam. The yatra will then proceed via Kamrup, Nalbari, Barpeta, Bongaigaon, and Kokrajhar, before exiting Assam," a senior leader of the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) said.

Hit-and-run law

NE transport workers' meet today to decide on strike

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Jan 3: At least 10 organizations of transport workers will meet here on Thursday to take a call on the proposed two-day strike from January 5 protesting the 'harsh provisions' of the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita in hit-and-run cases.

All India Trade Union Congress State general secretary Ramen Das said there has been no statement from the Union Home Minister regarding the concerns of the transport workers.

"They are saying that the new law will not be implemented. But in reality, the President has given her consent to the law and it has been sent for notification. The government intends to buy time till the elections after which it will be enforced. We want withdrawal of the law," Das said.

Protests by transport workers in some parts of the country toned down after representatives of the All India Motor Transport Congress met Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla, who assured that consultations would be held before imple-

menting the law.

However, Das said other worker unions were not invited by the government and no agreement was signed on withdrawal of the law.

"It is just double standards on the part of the government. We will discuss the issue tomorrow and chalk out our future course of action," Das said.

Representatives of oil tanker workers, day-night bus service workers, line bus workers, city bus workers, workers of cab operators are expected to participate in tomorrow's meeting.

The transporters' associations across the country have been protesting for the past few days against provisions under the new code, as per which any driver who causes the death of a person by rash and negligent driving and flees from the spot will be jailed for up to 10 years and fined up to Rs 7 lakh.

There was no specific provision for hit-and-run cases in the Indian Penal Code and action was taken under sections for causing death due to negligence, with a maximum jail term of two years.

Job seekers asked to re-register in Employment Exchange

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Jan 3: Job seekers of the State will have to re-register their names in the State Employment Exchange.

Addressing a press meet here on Tuesday, State Minister of Public Health Engineering, Skill Employment and Entrepreneurship Department and Tourism Jayanta Malla Baruah urged job seekers to update their profiles within February 29 this year.

"The step has been taken to get proper knowledge about the employment scenario in the State. The job seekers can re-register their names through the Sewa Setu portal of the Assam Government. Aadhaar-based registration will be available," he said.

Facility for re-registration without Aadhaar cards will also be provided. The re-registration will enable registered job seekers to update their profile in restricted section or fields. This will also enable registered job seekers to update their employment status.

"Last year, the government had launched the Assam Job Portal (job.assam.gov.in) integrating the prominent job site of India Naukri.com with a vision to increase employability, placement assistance and facilitating job search and opportunities for the job seekers registered in Employment Exchange of Assam," he said.

State's 70 per cent households provided tap water connections

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Jan 3: Around 70 per cent households of the State have been provided with tap water connections till date, said PHED Minister Jayanta Malla Baruah on Tuesday.

As many as 48, 60,749 households have received tap water connection under the Jal Jeevan Mission. The minister said that they are targeting to cover another 10 per cent households within March this year.

He added that altogether 7,600 e-bills amounting to Rs 2674.5 crore have been approved through the e-billing system across 46 PHE divisions of Assam.

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PRESENTS

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2024 BRAIN Jam OPEN QUIZ

Celebrating 16 Years of Brain Jam Quiz

DATE
7TH JANUARY 2024

VENUE
PRAGJYOTI ITA,
MACHKHOWA, GUWAHATI

TOTAL PRIZE MONEY
4 LACS

Prelims : 3pm
Finals : 5 pm

VISIT LINK FOR TERMS AND CONDITIONS
<https://www.facebook.com/brainjamquiz>
[brainjamquizguwahati](https://brainjamquizguwahati.com)

Participants: 3 team members

Contact Us: 70029 93827

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Restoring Vision, Transforming Lives

Intensified Cataract Surgery Campaign Programme Begins in Assam

(21 December, 2023 to 20 January, 2024)

- In Financial Year 2022-23, National Programme for Control of Blindness & Visual Impairment (NPCB & VI), Assam completed 1,54,713 cataract surgeries across various Health Institutions.
- Financial Year 2023-24 sets a more ambitious target: 2,03,100 cataract surgeries for Assam, set by the Government of India.
- The ongoing intensified Cataract Surgery Campaign aims to achieve this target.
- The campaign aims to tackle the cataract surgery backlog, reducing the adverse impact on individuals' quality of life and lessening the socio-economic burden on families and the nation.

Be a part of this impactful initiative as we strive to bring back the gift of clear vision and improve lives across Assam. Join us in restoring hope, one surgery at a time.

Call 104 for health related information
Call 108 for Ambulance service

NHM/D/2023-24/1731 For more details contact District NPCB & VI Cell

MESSAGE FOR TODAY

Believe in people, but believe in yourself a hundred times more.

— OSAMU TEZUKA

The Assam Tribune

Disaster-prone

Japan, indubitably, is one of the safest nations in the world, as also technically the most advanced. Yet, ironically, with two disasters striking the country at the very commencement of the new year, it has turned out to be prone to disasters, both natural and man-made. On the very first day of January a disastrous earthquake hit the Ishikawa prefecture off the Noto Peninsula, flattening houses in Suzu on its northern coast and triggering fires that ravaged parts of nearby Wajima City. The US Geological Survey measured the quake at a magnitude of 7.5, while the Japanese authorities put it at 7.6 on the Richter scale. Since tremors in Japan are often accompanied by tsunamis, a major tsunami warning was issued, which was later lifted after, mercifully, none occurred. The regional government has stated that 62 people had been confirmed dead and more than 300 injured, 20 of them seriously. Heavy rain, landslides and repeated aftershocks have hampered the relief efforts, which means that the final casualty count could be higher. The surprising aspect of this earthquake is the damage caused to buildings. It may be noted that four of the world's tectonic plates meet in Japan, making the country particularly prone to earthquakes, and it experiences hundreds every year, but most cause little to no damage. This is because Japan has near perfected the art of constructing earthquake-proof architecture.

Perhaps the fact that houses and roads were extensively damaged was due to the Ishikawa prefecture lying somewhat away from the main urban areas such as Tokyo, where implementation of strict earthquake-proof construction rules is loosely followed. In an equally tragic coincidence, the very next day a passenger plane, an Airbus A-350 of the Japan Airlines, crashed against a Bombardier Dash-8 light plane of the Japanese Coast Guard at Tokyo's Haneda Airport. Though, almost miraculously, all 379 occupants of the Japan Airlines flight got out safely before the plane was entirely engulfed in flames, only the pilot could escape from the smaller aircraft and the entire crew of five were killed. Both the above incidents were interlinked; the Coast Guard plane had been due to head to Niigata to deliver relief goods to residents affected by the earthquake when it was hit. Haneda is one of the busiest airports in Japan, and many people travel over the New Year holidays, yet it has an impeccable record for safety, and the miscommunication which led to the disaster was an aberration. Yet, simultaneously, it testifies to the innate discipline of the Japanese people, given the fact that a huge number of the 379 people could be led by the cabin crew to disembark down an inflatable emergency slide from the side of the passenger plane even while flames shot out from the rear of the aircraft, a rare feat in aviation history!

Sustainable tourism

The State government's move to bring in a piece of legislation on sustainable tourism is welcome. Assam which is gradually adding more footfalls to its few well-known destinations, needs to be on guard against unbridled and unregulated tourism. Many popular tourist spots across the world are now suffering irreversible damage because of unrestrained and unscientifically managed tourism activities. It is, therefore, always better to put in place a mechanism that can ensure sustainable tourism rather than reaching a point of no-return stemming from unregulated tourism. This is all the more imperative for a State like Assam or a region like the North East which is a global biodiversity hotspot and also harbours mind-blowing ethnic diversity. Both the natural environment and the local lifestyles and cultures can be inalterably changed for the worse by unbridled tourism. Many countries including our neighbour Bhutan have come up with judicial curbs on tourism precisely because they have realised the dangers emanating from unchecked tourism. Managing wastes generated by the tourism industry alone is a tough task, more so because a large majority of tourist places happen to be pristine locations marked by forests, rivers and streams. Unless tourist activities are streamlined and managed scientifically, the fragile environment in these destinations is bound to suffer severely. Indeed, the correlation between sustainable tourism and preservation of the sanctity of the natural environment is quite obvious.

To ensure promotion of sustainable tourism in the North East, the authorities as also the other stakeholders need to put the well-being of the region's natural bequest – which is also the biggest tourist attraction – at the core of not just its tourism policy but also its overall development policy. Sustainable tourism also calls for empowering local communities through gainful engagement in the sector rather than opening the floodgates for profiteering corporate entities to get a stranglehold over tourism activities. This again is more imperative for the north-eastern region where close-knit ethnic communities live in harmony with the natural environment. As a catalyst to develop tourism, the State government needs to ensure active involvement of the locals in tourism and the many projects and schemes aimed at tourism promotion should be mindful about this. Unfortunately, the Assam government till today does not have a policy that emphasises training up the local communities in hospitality management. Given that we have so many wildlife and Nature destinations, the government can do a good job of facilitating homestays which will directly benefit the locals. All they need is a little bit of guidance and financial assistance. It is only through a blending with the local ethos and the social and cultural values that tourism can become meaningful and empower communities. Another focus area of the authorities should be promotion of the other potential spheres like cultural, rural and religious tourism, adventure tourism, etc., before a global audience. From Goalpara to Dima Hasao to Dibrugarh-Tinsukia, Assam has many destinations that await adequate exposure to transform those into tourist hubs.

Ukraine crisis: Affecting global development

■ Nikunj Bhuyan

As of now, the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which were signed in 2015, appear to be poorly implemented. The progress that was made, even prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, was not at the rate required for genuinely revolutionary change. The full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022 contributed, either directly or indirectly, to rise in energy and food prices, inflation, financing costs, unmanageable debt and pressure on government budgets. Now that all these crises are coming together, Agenda 2030 is moving more slowly and may even reverse some of its goals, like the elimination of extreme poverty.

There are growing calls to "rescue" the SDGs. In order to promote economic growth, public expenditure and investment must be financed; development cooperation alone will not ensure sustainable growth and development. However, in the light of the growing demands of low and middle income nations, development partners will have to make more difficult decisions in the upcoming years regarding distribution of their scarce public finances and their conflicting foreign policy goals. With Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the G7 and multilateral organisations demonstrated their ability to respond swiftly and decisively to emergencies by stepping up development cooperation and humanitarian aid initiatives, either in Ukraine or in support of displaced Ukrainian nationals living abroad.

In terms of bilateral assistance, the Kiel Institute for the World Economy has monitored the \$143 billion in military, financial and humanitarian aid pledges made for Ukraine dur-

ing the conflict by 40 governments and European Union (EU) organisations between January 2022 and January 2023. In contrast, over the same period, Official Development Assistance (ODA) from all nations and sectors totalled 200 billion US dollars. With half of the commitments made, the United States is by far the largest bilateral supporter of Ukraine in terms of volume, followed by the EU institutions, Germany and the United Kingdom. As multilateral partners, a sizeable portion of their portfolios, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the European Investment Bank (EIB) were rapidly and dramatically pushed up in their assistance to Ukraine. Shortly after the war began, the IMF approved a new programme for Ukraine. The World Bank raised over 23 billion US dollars in funding for Ukraine as of April 2023. This is a significant amount because the total obligations of the World Bank Group as a whole make roughly 105 billion US dollars annually. The EBRD, which typically invests roughly 10 billion US dollars annually, committed to investing up to 3 billion US dollars between 2022 and 2023. Ever since the invasion began, the European Investment Bank has raised and disbursed 1.7 billion euros. In 2022, rapid global response to the Ukrainian conflict led to a 13.6 per cent increase in Official Development Assistance, marking one of the highest annual growth

rates since 2005. However, this swift action had consequences, diverting resources from lower income nations and ongoing development commitments.

A closer analysis reveals that excluding donor refugee costs and ODA to Ukraine, the overall ODA increase for members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Development Assistance Committee in 2023 would be a modest 4.6 per cent. Some donors, like the UK, stopped non-essential

The full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022 contributed, either directly or indirectly, to rise in energy and food prices, inflation, financing costs, unmanageable debt and pressure on government budgets.

ODA funding, while others, such as Denmark and Sweden, reduced ODA budgets. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development postponed its expansion into sub-Saharan Africa. This shifting trend in development spending had political costs, diminishing African leaders' confidence in western nations. Despite the rapid response to the Ukrainian conflict, there was criticism for the sluggish support to other crises, leading to feelings of neglect and abandonment among African leaders.

During the same period, discussions on development financing – Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) – were at the forefront. European donors grappled with cover-

ing refugee costs amid tight budgets, strained by the pandemic. The Covid-19 impact and climate change urgency emphasised global cooperation. MDBs, due to their broad reach, were deemed effective in addressing these challenges. The rapid response to the Ukraine war showcased their ability to implement crisis interventions swiftly using their balance sheets, contrasting with the slower pace of individual governments. The discussions underscored the vital role MDBs play in navigating global issues and crises.

Nonetheless, current developments put MDBs' capacity to increase development financing in jeopardy. The preliminary ODA figures for 2022 show that bilateral donors are increasingly delivering their projects and programmes directly rather than through multilateral channels. Simultaneously, the MDB management is facing mounting pressure from these donors to establish and carry out a far more ambitious agenda while maintaining the same level of funding. A number of concurrent policy processes, including the World Bank Group's evolution roadmap, the Leaders' Declaration of India's G20 presidency and the June 'Summit for a New Global Financing Pact' in Paris, would ensure that the MDB reform agenda remains high in 2023 and beyond. Development cooperation's future paths will be influenced by a number of variables and players. Due to their direct or indirect effects on the amount, availability and distribution of development funding, four of them stand out. The rate at which western economies will break free from the high-inflation/low-

growth trap, China's involvement in development cooperation, the ability to access non-ODA funding sources for development cooperation and the age-old issue of who will foot the bill for climate adaptation and the low-carbon transition are the four factors.

Even though the global Official Development Assistance surpassed 200 billion USD annually, yet it fell significantly short of the estimated 1 trillion USD financing needed for low and middle income countries. Balancing this shortfall without compromising defence or climate finance priorities poses a challenge. Proposed solutions involve reallocating funds from carbon taxes, donor-country carbon markets, or implementing carbon border adjustment mechanisms.

Enhancing the utilisation of existing MDB capital, raising MDB capital and mobilising private capital, especially in low income nations, are avenues for improvement. Development cooperation, originally focused on poverty alleviation, is evolving into a tool for commercial and foreign policy objectives amid geopolitical tensions. The 'age of choice' in development finance may be fading, influenced by decreasing Chinese lending and tougher access to capital markets. The conflict in Ukraine prompts resource mobilisation for the crisis but strains the budgets of low and middle income nations grappling with rising costs and post-Covid-19 recovery.

Despite these challenges, optimising current budgets and enhancing distribution efficiency can be strategies for development partners. But limitations on spending more in global development cooperation programmes persist due to political and financial constraints, hindering the realisation of Agenda 2030 and global climate finance commitments.

Freebies and their impact on the economy

■ Dr Deluwar Hoque, Chandrani Thakuria

Freebies are those things that are provided or given free of charge. Many a time, firms offer freebies to potential and prospective customers to create markets for their products. This can be one of the sales promotion strategies of business firms. Once the customers get attracted and become regular consumers of the products – those provided as freebies initially – the business firms usually start charging prices of these products.

The policy of freebies has become popular in Indian politics. In fact, the culture of offering free goods and services, i.e., freebies as political promises mostly during election time has been on the rise in India for the past few decades. Different political parties make reckless promises during their election campaigns and meetings to get support and votes of the voters in elections at various levels from the panchayat or municipal level to the parliamentary level. While making promises of freebies to the voters, they do not consider the economic implications of such freebies.

Political parties like the Indian National Congress (INC), All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazh-

am (AIADMK), Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Telugu Desam Party (TDP), Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and Samajwadi Party (SP) have made promises of providing free electricity, laptops, water, transportation and other benefits to gain electoral support. An elected government of a state or country guided by welfare motive has many responsibilities towards its residents or people. Among the many responsibilities, the most important one is to improve the standard of living and welfare of the people residing in a state or a country. It becomes much more important, especially for those people who are economically poor and deprived of the basic needs of life. There is a need to provide freebies to economically poor people in society so that it can help in improving their standard of living as freebies are considered among the surest and fastest means of providing assistance and support in times of hardship and distress of the needy poor.

Based on the latest National Family Health Survey [NFHS-5 (2019-21)], the second edition of the National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) represents India's progress in reducing multidimensional poverty between

the two surveys, namely, NFHS-4 (2015-16) and NFHS-5 (2019-21). It builds on the Baseline Report of India's National MPI launched in November 2021. According to the report, 135 million people escaped multidimensional poverty between 2015-16 and 2019-21. The country registered a significant decline of 9.89 percentage points in India's multidimensionally poor from 24.85 per cent in 2015-16 to 14.96 per cent in 2019-2021. The rural areas witnessed the fastest decline in poverty, from 32.59 per cent to 19.28 per cent. Though there is a decline of multidimensionally poor people in the country, still a significant section of society needs some essential services such as health care facilities and education facilities as social welfare programmes, not as freebies of the government for improvement of their living standard.

But the promises of offering freebies by political parties during elections to get support from potential voters create problems later when the party comes to power. Once the party or parties come to power, the promises of offering freebies made during election campaign need to be fulfilled. Effectuating these short-term commitments could lead to high opportu-

nity costs because freebies come at a heavy cost to the government exchequer as precious economic resources have to be diverted from the developmental activities, schemes, programmes and projects, especially those linked to infrastructure development projects. It creates a burden on the government's finances and also affects adversely the development of other welfare programmes that could be more effective for the overall well-being of the population. There should be proper cost benefit analyses because freebies entail huge expenditures which may lead to fiscal deficit and increase in the public debt. For example, cash transfers to women can improve their bargaining power within households. However, implementing such large-scale cash transfer schemes can also increase the revenue expenditure of the government. For instance, according to a report, the state of Karnataka spends Rs 17,500 crore (6 per cent of the budget) under the Gruha Lakshmi Scheme. The report also highlights that several states hold to budget revenue deficit, consequently constraining capital outlay. A developing country like India has a lower tax-to-GDP ratio, resulting in inadequate receipts generated from taxation. The budget be-

comes deficit and government relies on borrowing from various sources within and outside the country. This results in increased debt burdens when governments fulfil their freebie promises and thus affects the economy adversely. To avoid such adverse impacts of freebies on the economy, an elected government should go for implementing need-based social welfare programmes rather than freebies for political gains.

The statement "Party is taking care of the need and not the greed" by the BJP president makes amply clear that freebies will never allow the common masses to be productive, skilful in the long run. They will always bet bottom dollar on these freebies that will fulfil their short-term expectations. As envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in making India "self-reliant" (atmanirbhar Bharat), political parties much put all their attention in providing skills to the citizens because this will lead to overall economic development of our country. This will make citizens of India independent and allow them to make rational decisions in life.

A panoramic evaluation is required to surveil the impacts of freebies so that early signs of serious strains in the finances of states can be prognosticated.

Letters to the EDITOR

Sir, – Assamese is one of the national languages of India as per the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution and is the state language of Assam. However, we observe that the name boards, signboards, etc., of commercial establishments, and even schools and educational institutions are not written in Assamese in Assam itself. This is more prominent in shopping malls, etc. This is contrary to the practices in many other states.

In Maharashtra, especially in Mumbai, the commercial capital of the country, it is mandatory for establishments to have the name boards, signboards in Marathi, apart from English, etc. The BEST bus numbers, bus stops, bus tickets, etc., are written only in Marathi. In Karnataka, and in Bengaluru in particular, it is mandatory that the name boards, signboards, etc., in shops and commercial properties should be in Kannada and displayed more

Need to promote use of Assamese language

prominently than those in other languages, as per Rule 24 A of the Karnataka Shops and Establishments Act. The rule stipulates a penalty for non-compliance.

We urge the authorities to enact similar measures in Assam so that Assamese language gains prominence. At the same time, we feel that the Asam Sahitya Sabha, AASU, AJYCP, other socio-cultural organisations and political parties (especially regional) need to be proactive and be vocal about the promotion of Assamese language in the name boards, signage, etc., amongst other steps. The situation in Guwahati needs more urgent attention. Yours etc., **D Bhutia**, RG Baruah Road.

Momai Kota Garh

Sir, – This is in reference to the report on the above in your esteemed daily on January 2. The Battle of Sarighat is the pride of each and every Assamese. However, we are saddened to go through the report on the negligence and decaying state of the most important part of the historic battle, the Momai Kota Garh.

This is happening right under the nose of the government.

Surprisingly, the AASU and numerous other organisations of Assam too are mysteriously silent on this issue of national importance. Yours etc., **Manin Hazarika**.

Proactive approach

Sir, – The steps taken by the Chief Minister to promote sustainable and eco-friendly transportation in Guwahati are commendable. The launch of 200 air conditioned electric buses and the National Common Mobility Card is a big leap towards reducing carbon emissions and improving air quality in the city. The commitment to phase out diesel buses by 2025 and the encouragement for private vehicle operators to switch to electric cars are bold and forward-thinking moves. It is heartening to see the government's proactive approach towards promoting clean, green mobility for the future. This initiative sets a positive example for other cities to

follow. Yours etc., **Shashanka Das**, Downtown, Guwahati.

Poor service

Sir, – I would like to highlight the poor condition of the primary health centres in the State. A primary health centre is a facility where first aid or preliminary medical treatment is given to a person in case of sudden injury, accident, emergency physical condition, etc., to prevent his condition from worsening. But most such centres across the State have failed to cater to the medical needs of the people.

The Sissiborgaon Primary Health Centre is one such facility that has utterly failed to deliver. This centre remains open and functional only for a few days in the entire year, leaving the poor people of the area in the lurch.

Are these medical facilities meant only for administering polio vaccine? Aren't they mandated to offer proper medical service to the needy? I am drawing attention of the Chief Minister and the Health Minister with the hope that

they would look into the matter with all seriousness. Yours etc., **Samujjal Saikia**, Sissiborgaon, Dhemajji.

Bihu distortion

Sir, – Magh Bihu is the feasting festival of Assam when people enjoy community feasts, burn *mejis* and relish delicacies like *pittha*, *laru*, *akhoi*, *cheera* and so on. But sadly, of late a trend is emerging among many people to celebrate Magh Bihu or Bhogali Bihu like Rongali Bihu or Bohag Bihu. Many Assamese news portals and also many cultural organisations hold cultural functions during Magh Bihu in the manner it is done during Bohag Bihu. This distortion is harming the traditional rituals carried out during Magh Bihu.

I request all concerned to give the three Bihus – Bohag Bihu, Kati Bihu and Magh Bihu – their due recognition and not celebrate them in distorted forms. Yours etc., **Prastuti Phukon**.

Articles (within 1000-1100 words) and Letters to the Editor for publication in the editorial page may be sent to the email ID: editor@assamtribune.com.



Students from RG Baruah College, Guwahati presenting a dance performance at the Assam Book Fair premises, on Wednesday evening. - AT photo

Two books by Niti Sharma released

GUWAHATI, Jan 3: A *String of Pearls*, a collection of poems, and *A Bouquet of Flowers*, a collection of short-stories, penned by Niti Sharma were released at the Assam Book Fair here today. Writer Kishore Mohan Pathak and Manalisha Sharma released the two books, published by B&M Publishers and Printers. Releasing the two books, both the guests appreciated the author for her endeavour to write such wonderful poems and short stories. - Staff Reporter

Fake gold dealers nabbed

JORABAT, Jan 3: The Special Task Force (STF), Assam conducted a raid at 8th mile, Jorabat under Basistha PS jurisdiction this evening and arrested three persons involved in alleged fake gold dealings. The persons have been identified as Monsur Ali (23) from Lakhimpur, Rajib Ali (24), and Jahidul Islam (21) from Barpeta. A Maruti Alto vehicle and one boat-shaped fake gold weighing 1.627 kg were also seized. - Correspondent

Hike in electricity tariffs, power sector privatization opposed

STAFF REPORTER
GUWAHATI, Jan 3: The All Assam Electricity Consumers Association held a convention at Lakhidhar Bora Kshetra, Guwahati recently against the increase in electricity tariffs and privatization of the power sector, and demanding the withdrawal of prepaid smart meters. The consumers' body has been collecting signatures from electricity consumers in villages, towns and remote areas of the State for the past three months, simultaneously raising awareness among the people. The campaign collected signatures of more than 3,00,000 electricity customers. A five-member delegation of the association submitted a memorandum of demands containing the 3,00,000 signatures to the Chief Minister's office today. All India Electricity Consumers Association executive president Samar Singha delivered the keynote address at

the electricity consumers' meeting today. The protest meet was conducted by Ajit Acharya, a prominent leader of the electricity consumers' movement in State. Retired Deputy General Manager of APDCL Bimal Das delivered the inaugural address. The meeting unanimously passed a resolution demanding an end to frequent increases in electricity tariffs, withdrawal of prepaid smart

meters and stopping the privatization of the power sector. In his speech, Samar Singha said that the government was conspiring to hand over the power sector, including the huge power infrastructure - which is considered an essential service and built with public funds - to the private owners. He called on all electricity consumers to stand firm in this struggle.

City school principal conducts workshop at Abu Dhabi

GUWAHATI, Jan 3: Jonali Das, the principal of Modern English School, Kahilpara conducted a workshop on experiential learning at Abu Dhabi Indian School, Abu Dhabi recently. According to a press release, Das was appointed as the resource person on behalf of the CBSE to conduct the workshop. Das said that she engaged with principals and faculties from diverse schools nationwide. "Grateful for the enriching exchange of ideas on the evolving landscape of education. I extend my heartfelt thanks to the CBSE for this invaluable opportunity," she stated. - Staff Reporter

Book on Assam's war against Covid released

STAFF REPORTER
GUWAHATI, Jan 3: *Assam's War On Covid - How Team Himanta Beat The Pandemic*, a coffee table book written by senior journalist Wasbir Hussain, chronicling the events and initiatives taken by then Health Minister and now Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma during the Covid pandemic was released here today. Eminent cardiac surgeon of the country, Dr Devi Prasad Shetty released the book along with Health Minister Keshab Mahanta, in presence of a host of dignitaries. The book gives an account of the measures that Assam government had taken under the leadership of Himanta Biswa Sarma to check and combat the Covid virus. Published by Wordweaves India, the book puts together all the details on how Sarma and his team took steps to prepare Assam to check and combat Covid-19 that soon turned into a global pandemic. Addressing the gathering, Dr Shetty stated that hundreds years down the line when historians will write the history of the world there will be distinct difference between pre and post-Covid period. "The pandemic has changed the world in a dramatic way. During the pandemic period, India emerged as a leader in the world. Despite facing criticism from the western media, we did our best in saving precious lives," Dr Shetty said. The senior cardiac surgeon noted that only because of the timely lockdown, India was able to manage the Covid situation in an efficient way.

He urged the writer of the coffee table book to convert it into a business book on leadership. "This is truly a leadership book for young emerging leaders. The main task of a leader is to save his team. In the early part of the war against Covid, Himanta Biswa Sarma understood the fact that all the doctors and nurses have to be protected to win the battle. Accordingly, he took step by procuring PPE kits in advance," he stated. Dr Shetty further noted that India will become the first country in the world to dissociate the healthcare from wealth. "India will prove the world that the wealth of the nation has nothing to do with the quality of healthcare its citizen will enjoy. It is going to happen with the next five years. In India, everyone is going to have health insurance at a price what they can afford," he added. In his speech, Health Minister Keshab Mahanta conveyed his gratitude to all the Covid warriors for their hard work during the time of pandemic. "Covid was a challenge faced by every part of the globe. In Assam, the then Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma managed the situation very efficiently. As part of the strategy to win the war against the deadly virus, he motivated the frontline workers. Conversion of different infrastructures into Covid care centres was also an intelligent and timely step," Mahanta said. He also outlined the steps taken by Assam under the leadership of Himanta Biswa Sarma in producing oxygen for the treatment of Covid patients. He noted that Sarma had played a crucial role in creating mass awareness about Covid vaccination too. In his speech, writer of the book Wasbir Hussain said, "The then Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his team worked efficiently during the pandemic. They had taken a number of timely steps during the critical period. As a result, Assam was able to handle the situation." Senior bureaucrat Samir Kumar Sinha also spoke on the occasion and recalled different events of the pandemic period.



Well-known cardiac surgeon and chairman & executive director of Narayana Health, Dr Devi Prasad Shetty, State Health Minister Keshab Mahanta, among other dignitaries, releasing a coffee-table book titled, Assam's War on Covid - How Team Himanta Beat the Pandemic, in Guwahati on Wednesday. - UB Photos

Symposium on love poetry in eastern Indian languages held

GUWAHATI, Jan 3: "Love poetry spans into different categories in the Indian literature of eastern languages," said K Sreenivasarao, secretary, Sahitya Akademi, in a symposium on 'Growth and Development of Love Poetry in Eastern Regional Languages' held at Pandu College here recently. The symposium was organized by Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with the Pandu College. Dr K Sreenivasarao, secretary, Sahitya Akademi, in his welcome address, emphasized on the larger concept and grand vision of love in Indian culture and referred to various stages and types of love poetry in eastern regional languages, a press release stated. Diganta Biswa Sarma, convener, Assamese Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, in his deliberations referred to Sri Aurobindo's philosophy and focused on three primary powers

namely - Inspiration, Beauty, and Delight available in the poetic realm. Eminent Assamese poet Anis Uz Zaman, Taren Boro, convener, Bodo Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi and Dr Sanchay Jyoti Bora, Principal, Pandu College spoke on various facets of poetry and eastern regional languages. Poets, authors, other dignitaries, paper presenters, learned gathering and students participated in the symposium in large numbers.

The inaugural session concluded with the vote of thanks delivered by Pallabi Konwar, Assistant Professor, Pandu College. As many as six papers on different regional literature viz., Assamese, Bengali, Manipuri, Bodo, Maitihili, and Nepali, were presented in two technical sessions. *Charcha*, a bimonthly magazine as well as a new initiative of the 'Pandu College Publication Cell' was also released on the occasion.

National Council of Science Museums
(Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India)
33, Block-GN, Sector-V, Bidhan Nagar, Kolkata-700 091

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For details, please log on to www.ncsm.gov.in. Completed applications in the prescribed form should reach the Deputy Controller (Admin), National Council of Science Museums latest by 28.01.2024.

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For details of qualification, experience, prescribed format of application, and terms & conditions, please visit AIIA's website <https://aiaa.gov.in> and <https://aiaarecruitment.org>. Last date of receipt of applications is 31st January, 2024.

Director

IITG encourages students to pursue STEM subjects

STAFF REPORTER
GUWAHATI, Jan 3: Aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati, in collaboration with the Assam government's flagship Arohan scheme, is working on motivating meritorious students to pursue STEM (Science, Engineering, Technology and Mathematics) subjects in their higher education. To date, the institute has successfully hosted 3,311 students (2,009 girls and 1,302 boys) and a few hundred mentee teachers to encourage them to explore the vast opportunities and interests in STEM education, said a press release issued by IIT Guwahati. "Notably, the number of female students was around 65 per cent of the total participants, highlighting the importance of encouraging and promoting women in STEM education. Arohan, conceived as a mentor-mentee programme for secondary class students in government schools, is an initiative championed by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. Operating under the umbrella of Samagra Shiksha Assam, this flagship programme encompasses diverse activities, including mentoring, exposure trips, competitions, and interactions tailored for the career progression of government school students in Classes 9 to 12," it said. Within the framework of the Arohan scheme, IIT Guwahati has hosted meritorious students along with their guide teachers and officers in a total of 12 batches. During their visits to IIT

IIT Guwahati Dean (Outreach Education Programme) Prof. AS Achakumar said. Speaking about the institute's involvement in STEM education promotion and the Arohan scheme, Prof. Parameswar K Iyer, Dean, Public Relations Branding and Ranking of IIT Guwahati, said, "We have been working very closely with the Education department of Assam and initiated several important STEM initiatives, including the Arohan programme. We hope to contribute to imbuing quality STEM education and amenities to students and teachers including making them aware of the best opportunities available at IIT Guwahati and other institutes." Students from 29 districts of Assam have benefitted from the programme, added the press release.

Book released at RGU

GUWAHATI, Jan 3: The Royal School of Commerce (RSC) launched an ISBN edited book, *Harmonizing Progress-Navigating Sustainable Development Through Education, Innovation, Industry, and Consumption* recently. This book is the outcome of the proceedings of the first national conference organized by the Royal School of Commerce in June this year. A total of 43 papers were received and after a review by a set of esteemed invited panellists of the conference, 38 papers were selected for publication. The Vice-Chancellor of Royal Global University (RGU), Guwahati, Prof Dr SP Singh launched the book in the presence of other senior members of the RGU fraternity. The book delves into chapters from authors of multiple disciplines like Commerce, Management, Economics, Public Administration, Fine Arts, English. All the chapters are related to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations. The SDGs covered in the book are SDG 4, 8, 9 and 12. Further, it aims to benefit students, research scholars, academicians and corporate houses who want to know about the upcoming trends and mindset of their prospects. This was stated in a press release. - Staff Reporter

Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati
Guwahati-781039, Assam
Office of Industrial Interactions and Special Initiatives

Call for various project positions purely on contractual basis in the Project No. CET-P-E&ICT-HQA-01-GIA384 for 11 months in the Dept. of E&ICT Academy, IIT Guwahati. For detailed advertisements please visit Project Positions in IIS&I at https://www.iitg.ac.in/iitg_recruitment
Advt. No. IITG/IS&I/Project Staff Rec-2024/01 Asstt. Registrar (IIS&I)

ASSAM ELECTRICITY GRID CORPORATION LIMITED
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
1. BID Identification No. AEGCL/MD/TL-50/P1-0/2019/BID
2. Name of Work: 'Division of 132KV S/C Dibrugarh-Behating (Khanaikar) line for facilitating the construction of Khanikar Multipurpose Sports Complex between Loc. No. 14 to 17'
3. Tender Fee: Rs. 3,000.00 (Rupees Three Thousand Only).
4. Tender start date and time: 12:00 hrs. of 03.01.2024
Interested bidders may download the bidding documents from AEGCL's website - www.aegcl.co.in and <https://assamenders.gov.in>
Sd/- Chief General Manager (O&M) UAR
AEGCL, 1st Floor, Bijulee Bhawan, Guwahati-01

ASSAM ELECTRICITY GRID CORPORATION LIMITED
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
1. NIT No. AEGCL/DGM/UA/TTC/O&M/Civil work/T-31/2023/1981, Dated: 01/01/2024.
2. Name of Work: Repairing/renovation of CRB at 132KV GSS, AEGCL, Nazira (Gargaon)
3. Tender Fee: Rs. 1,000.00
4. Tender start date: 12:00 hrs. of 04.01.2024
Interested bidders may kindly refer the following websites for detailed documents - www.aegcl.co.in
Sd/- Dy. General Manager, UAT&T Circle, AEGCL, Garmur, Jorhat

ASSAM ELECTRICITY GRID CORPORATION LIMITED
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
1. NIT No. AEGCL/DGM/UA/TTC/O&M/Civil work/T-31/2023/1980, Dated: 01/01/2024.
2. Name of Work: Construction of RCC slow sand filter (36Kl) along with all necessary fittings and external distribution piping system in the residential colony and office of 132kv GSS, AEGCL, Golaghat.
3. Tender fee: Rs. 1,000.00
4. Tender start date: 12:00 hrs. of 04.01.2024
Interested bidders may kindly refer the following websites for detailed documents - www.aegcl.co.in
Sd/- Dy. General Manager, UAT&T Circle, AEGCL, Garmur, Jorhat

ASSAM POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Govt. of Assam Public Limited Company)
NOTICE
This is for general information to public that the newly constructed 33KV Bahbari OH transmission line (CKT length 10.5 KM) passing through Burigaon, Mandalpara, Baropara, Kamarpura, 1 No. Kuwaripukhuri and 2 No. Kuwaripukhuri will be charged at the rated voltage of 33KV on 6th Jan' 2024 or at any time thereafter. It is hereby caution to public not to come in proximity of the line, not to climb at any electric poles, carrying bamboo or long objects which may touch the line or touching live conductor etc. APDCL authority will not be held responsible for any type of accident or any mishandling etc.
Sd/- Assistant General Manager, Mangaldai Electrical Division, APDCL, LAR
CA/Adv/23-24/72
Please pay your energy bill on time and help us to serve you better!

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Oil India Limited
P.O. Duliagan - 786002, Assam, India. CIN: L11101AS1959GOI001148
ADVERTISEMENT NO. HRAQ/REC-EX-B/2024-021 DATED 04/01/2024
Oil India Limited (OIL), a Maharashtra Public Sector Undertaking invites applications from eligible Indian Nationals to fill up the position of General Manager (Legal) in 'Grade G' in the pay scale of ₹1,20,000 to 2,90,000, as per details given in the advertisement mentioned hereunder. All details for the recruitment process are included in the detailed advertisement no. HRAQ/REC-EX-B/2024-021 dated 04-01-2024 which will be available in the website of Oil India Limited (OIL) i.e. www.oil-india.com under careers menu > current openings section from 07:00 am onwards on 04-01-2024. The last date of receipt of Application is 23:59 Hours on 25-01-2024.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sivasagar girl sets record

SIVASAGAR, Jan 3: Dhyani Dristi Kashyap, an eighth standard student of DPS Nazira, has made it to the Indian Book of Records by drawing 838 *swastikas* on a lotus leaf. Earlier also, Dhyani had received an appreciation letter from the Indian Book of Records by writing names and insignia of all religions on a peepal tree leaf. Daughter of Manoj Hazarika and Mayuri Sarma Hazarika of Sivasagar town, she was felicitated on Monday for the latest feat by Dikhowporia Sanmilita Yuva Sangha, Binapani Sangeet Vidyalay, SC Students' Union and Muslim Kalyan Parishad. — Correspondent

New superintendent of LMCH

NORTH LAKHIMPUR, Jan 3: Dr Dambaru Dhar Mili, senior medical and health officer, Lakhimpur, has assumed charge as superintendent of Lakhimpur Medical College and Hospital following the retirement of Dr Nikhil Kakaty on January 1. Dr Mili, who had earlier served as registrar of AIIMS, New Delhi, was earlier posted on various posts in the health department of Lakhimpur district. — Correspondent

One drowns in Subansiri

NORTH LAKHIMPUR, Jan 3: One Seemanta Saikia, a CRPF jawan, drowned in the Subansiri river at Bonpuroi, Jamuguri in Lakhimpur district, after picnicking in the riverine area on the New Year's Day. The tragic incident occurred when Saikia, from Borigaon, Dhalpur in Lakhimpur district, lost control of the vehicle he was driving and it fell into the Subansiri river. His wife and daughter, who were in the car, could come out by breaking the glass of the vehicle, but Saikia died inside it. Saikia, who was posted in New Delhi, was on leave. — Correspondent

ABSU founder gen secy remembered

KOKRAJHAR, Jan 3: The 81st birth anniversary of Kanakeswar Narzary, founder general secretary of the All Bodo Students' Union (ABSU), was observed on Tuesday at Tengaigaon village playground in Kokrajhar district with a day-long programme organised by the ABSU. The programme started with hoisting of the organisation's flag by the ABSU president Dipen Boro, and was followed by paying of floral tributes by Narzary's widow Hirabai Narzary. In this connection, a discussion on the life and contribution of Kanakeswar Narzary was also held. — Correspondent

Youth killed in Gossaigaon

GOSSAIGAON, Jan 3: Tension gripped the entire Gossaigaon subdivision after a youth was killed at No-2 Hudumkhata village by miscreants on the first day of the New Year. The deceased was identified as Khokon Sarkar, 26. His body was recovered by his family members from an area behind their house. They suspected that Khokon was killed by a gang of dacoits at night. Investigation is on. — ANN Service



Bad condition of the road opposite Silchar Civil Hospital giving people a tough time. — Photo: Staff Correspondent

Book fair underway at Gauripur

GAURIPUR, Jan 3: Synchronising with the 110th birth anniversary of former Chief Minister Sarat Chandra Singha, a seven-day book fair-cum-exhibition got underway at the Lalji Bhawan here on Monday. Prabir Coomar Barua, social activist, inaugurated the book fair organised under the auspices of Mandal Book Centre, Bongaigaon, in association with the Gauripur Sakha Sahitya Sabha. The ceremony was attended by Kshitish Chandra Roy, president of the branch Sahitya Sabha, Dr Jyotirmoy Pradhan, professor of NEHU, Shillong, besides Azad Ali, Jyotish Chandra Roy and a host of book lovers. — Correspondent

Jatiya Vidyalaya foundation day

DOOMDOOMA, Jan 3: The 24th foundation day of Doomdooma Jatiya Vidyalaya was celebrated on Monday. At the outset, the school flag was hoisted by the president of the school managing committee, Arjun Baruah. The students and teachers of the school performed the school anthem, while the principal of the school, Surabhi Moran, lit a ceremonial lamp to give the programme an auspicious start. The event was attended by the assistant secretary of the managing committee of the school, Abhijit Khatanari, and others. — Correspondent

Demand to withdraw Govt order

HAILAKANDI, Jan 3: The Hailakandi district unit of the Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist) demanded abolition of the system of paying fees for organising meetings, cultural programmes, etc, which was imposed recently by the State government. In a memorandum sent to the Chief Minister through the district commissioner, the party said the people have already been overburdened due to imposition of various taxes and this new order has piled on their agony. A team of the district unit comprising Mayukh Bhattacharjee, Probhas Sarkar and Afjal Hussain Mazumdar met the district commissioner Nisarg Hivare and handed over the memorandum urging the government to rescind the order. — Correspondent

Kishan to launch e-NIDHI app tomorrow

SILCHAR, Jan 3: State Minister of Labour Welfare Sanjoy Kishan, who is also the chairman of the Board of Trustees, Assam Tea Employees Provident Fund Organisation, will launch the e-NIDHI app here on January 5. A letter from the office of the assistant provident fund commissioner, Silchar zonal office, stated that the minister will launch the app during a public meeting at the Bonga Bhawan here. Sources in the zonal office further informed that B Kalyan Chakraborty, principal secretary, Department of Labour Welfare, Doomdooma MLA Terash Gowala, and Cachar district commissioner Rohan Kumar Jha will also attend the event. — Staff Correspondent

Rural library inaugurated

NALBARI, Jan 3: In order to encourage the new generation to inculcate the habit of book reading, a rural library named 'Ulbari Pragati Gramya Puthibharal' was inaugurated on the first day of New Year. It was inaugurated by Prithi Bhushan Deka, chairman of Gramya Vikash Mancha. In his speech, Deka lauded the initiative and said that only the habit of book reading can replace the addiction to mobile phones among the new generation. Speaking in the meeting, senior journalist Ramen Kalita said that every village should have a library where the students can get facilities to study books. He added that it is the responsibility of seniors to show the right path to the young generation. The inaugural meeting, presided over by Atul Kalita, president of Ulbari Pragati Silpi Sangha, was also addressed by Bhupendra Kalita, Bhavesh Das, Pratap Baishya and Madan Baishya. Dipul Baishya offered a vote of thanks. Earlier, rich tributes were paid to Dhireswar Kalita, a founder of the Sangha, who passed away recently. — Correspondent



Deodhani dance being performed during the foundation day celebration of Kashinath Krishnapriya Institute of Performing Arts, at Kalabumi in Tezpur on Tuesday. — UB

Kalaigaon students shine in Physics Olympiad

CORRESPONDENT

KALAIGAON, Jan 3: Jebnur Rahman and Arina Rahman, students of Class X of Lokapriya Bordoloi Public School, Kalaigaon, secured top positions in the 5th Physics Olympiad, 2023 for Class IX and X organised by the Assam Physical Science Society at Tangla College under the supervision of the Physics department of the college on October 5 last year.

Jebnur secured the top position in Udalguri district along with Lokapriya Deka of TEMHS, Tangla, each scoring 72 percent marks. On the other hand, Arina secured the second position along with Mayush Jyoti Nath of TEMHS, Tangla, scoring 68 percent marks each.

In the senior category meant for the students of Class XI and XII, Muskan Agarwalla and Kiran Khaklary of Arunodoi Senior Secondary School, Tangla, secured the first two positions. This was informed by Atif Allaudin, assistant professor of the Physics department.

Publicity drive on weights and measures

CORRESPONDENT

MANGALDAI, Jan 3: A weeklong all-India publicity campaign on correct weightment while selling and buying goods is underway in Darrang district along with the rest of the State since December 28. In connection with the campaign, the office of the assistant controller and inspector, legal metrology department, Darrang, has been carrying out awareness drives among the buyers and sellers in most of the major weekly and daily markets, petrol depots, etc, by holding brief meetings, distributing leaflets, miking etc, with the help of the district public relations department.

Talking to this correspondent, Nirmali Bora, incharge assistant controller of the legal metrology department, Darrang, said the aim of this special publicity drive is to sensitise both the sellers and buyers so that only the correct form of weightment in the metric system is followed and nobody has to suffer any loss. The buyers should be aware about the official verification norms for all the weighing instruments.

Training programme underway for Govt school teachers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DIBRUGARH, Jan 3: In a bid to make teaching and learning more effective, the State's education department has undertaken an exhaustive exercise to update and train up the teachers of government schools in the State.

As part of the exercise, at least 418 Science and Mathematics teachers of secondary schools of Majuli, Dhemaji, Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts have been undergoing a one-week residential training programme at Dibrugarh University.

The training programme, launched on Tuesday, was inaugurated by State Education Minister Dr Ranaj Pegu at the Rangghar auditorium of the university. The training, which will conclude on January 7, is being organised by Dibrugarh University in collaboration with the Samagra Shiksha, Assam. The second phase of the training programme, with an expected participation of around 433 teachers of Upper Assam schools, is scheduled from January 17 next.

Input dealers' training concludes

CORRESPONDENT

NAGAON, Jan 3: A fortnight-long 'Self-Financed Input Dealers (Fertiliser) Training Programme' organised by KVK Nagaon for the primary agricultural credit societies, ended here on Tuesday.

On December 14, the programme was inaugurated by Guanjit Kashyap, DDC, Nagaon in the presence of Dr H C Bhat-tacharya, dean, Daffodil College of Horticulture. Dr Manu Ranjan Neog, DEE, AAU, also participated virtually in the inaugural session.

During the closing session of the training programme, Dr Niranjan Deka, principal scientist and head of KVK Nagaon, welcomed the participants, while Bakul Ch Bora, DRCS, Nagaon, spoke on the ethics of business and urged the participants to work for the betterment of the farmers. In the closing session, a certificate of participation was presented to each of the participants.

Chandan Mishra, assistant registrar, DRCS, Nagaon; senior agriculture development officer Dilip Kumar Bora, and Paban Kr Bordoloi, BDO of Khagarijan development block, also attended the closing session of the programme, stated a press release received here.



Devotees offering prayers at a temple in Dhemaji on Wednesday. — UB Photos

Dr Pegu, while stressing the need to enhance the competence of serving government teachers, said that getting updated with the modern teaching tools is essential to keep pace with the fast-changing global education system. "Highly skilled institutes of higher education like the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati; National Institute of Technology, Silchar; Dibrugarh University and Tezpur University have been engaged for providing the required training to the teachers. Altogether 4,000 teachers will be trained in the current financial year," said Dr Pegu.

"Altogether 1,600 teachers will undergo training in IIT Guwahati; 1,200 in Tezpur University; 853 in Dibrugarh University and 350 in NIT Silchar," he informed. According to the Education Minister, the main objective of the training is to facilitate holistic education for the students through the teachers. In the next financial year, the State education department is contemplating to organise such training in English and Assamese subjects, stated Dr Pegu.

The vice chancellor (incharge) of Dibrugarh University Prof Jahnabi Nath also attended the inaugural programme and addressed the gathering. She appealed to the participating teachers to make the most of the training programme by interacting and discussing with the resource persons. Registrar Dr Paramananda Sonowal and senior professors of the university also attended the programme.

Earlier, Prof Diganta Sarma, president of the organising committee, who is also a professor in the Department of Chemistry, Dibrugarh University, delivered a welcome address, while Dr Niranjan Bora, assistant professor of Dibrugarh University Institute of Engineering and Technology (DUIET), stated the purpose of the programme.

Tihu College diamond jubilee celebration

ANN SERVICE

TIHU, Jan 3: Preparations are going on in full swing to celebrate the diamond jubilee of Tihu College, a premier educational institution of west Nalbari area, with a three-day long programme from February 1 to 3.

To celebrate the occasion in a befitting manner, a public meeting was held on the college premises recently with Dr Narayan Sarma, president of the college development management committee, in the chair. A large number of ex-students, retired professors, college staff and locals, including Cabinet minister Ranjeet Kr Dass, were present in the meeting.

In the meeting, a celebration committee was constituted with Ranjeet Kr Dass as president, Dr Narayan Sarma as working president and Dr Kishore Kr Talukdar, principal of the college, as secretary, along with a few sub-committees. A publicity sub-committee and a souvenir sub-committee were also formed.

Dass also installed the *laikhuta* to mark the beginning of the ceremony on Wednesday in the presence of a large gathering.

Meanwhile, the college playground has been named 'Amal Khetra' in memory of the college founders Dr Akshaya Thakuria, Madhu Pathak and Lalit Talukdar.

Movement of e-rickshaws restricted in N Lakhimpur

CORRESPONDENT

NORTH LAKHIMPUR, Jan 3: The North Lakhimpur municipal authority has imposed restrictions in the movements of e-rickshaws in the areas under its jurisdiction with effect from today.

According to the order signed by Casio Karan Pegu, SDO (Sadar) and executive officer of NLMB, the increase in the number of e-rickshaws in North Lakhimpur has been causing a lot of traffic chaos, accidents and public nuisance. The order observed that the plying of e-rickshaws on the road, lanes and by-lanes in the municipality areas is also a safety hazard to pedestrians, students and street vendors.

The restrictions have been imposed under Section 153 of the Assam Municipal Act, 1956, prohibiting the use of the road by e-rickshaws between 7 am to 8 pm (except on Sundays) on several areas within the limits of the municipal authority.

The routes on which the restrictions have been made are - Clock Tower to Sani Mandir (NH-15), Eveready Petrol Pump Chariali to ASTC Chariali, Circuit House to DC office and Kristi Bhawan Chariali, SK Agency Tiniali (KB Road) to Malpani Chariali.

Woman found murdered in Golakganj

CORRESPONDENT

DHUBRI, Jan 3: A woman was found brutally murdered in her bedroom with her neck slit at Chaparbalajan village in Golakganj area of Dhubri district on Wednesday morning.

Family members of the victim informed the police after discovering her body. The deceased woman was identified as Argina Bibi, wife of Kashem Ali, a resident of Chaparbalajan. The motive behind the murder is yet to be ascertained. However, police have not ruled out any possibilities, including robbery, personal enmity or domestic violence.

The incident has sent shockwaves across the area. The villagers demanded a swift and thorough investigation to nab the guilty.

Meanwhile, police have collected evidence from the crime scene and questioned the family members and neighbours of the victim. A case has been registered.

Drugs worth Rs 27 crore destroyed

CORRESPONDENT

DIPHU, Jan 3: Karbi Anglong police has destroyed various types of banned drugs worth around Rs 27 crore over the couple of days, stated a delayed report.

Drugs, including 12.55 kg heroin, 189.35 kg ganja, 2.8 kg morphine and 2098 contraband tablets, valued Rs 27,55,16,500, were set on fire in a fringe area of the town.

Karbi Anglong SP Sanjib Kumar Saikia, additional deputy commissioner Chandan Buragohain, commandant of 20 Bn CRPF Swarn Singh, additional superintendent of police (crime) Nayanmoni Barman, and other senior police and civil officers supervised the programme.

The drugs were destroyed after receiving permission from the legal authority and the State Pollution Control Board.

Discussion on origin and evolution of Brajavali language

AJIT PATOWARY

Brajavali, as the Brajavali language is known in Bengal and Odisha, is a poetic language that was used by the mediaeval Vaishnavite poets of the Indian eastern and northeastern regions to portray the mystic deeds of Lord Krishna, Lord Rama and Lord Jagannath.

In Bengal and Odisha, it came into use in the 15th century AD, while in Assam, scholars say, it was had been in use since the 13th century. Till the 19th century, its use was there in Bengal, and even Rabindranath Tagore, under the pseudonym of Bhanu Singha, used to write in Brajavali till the second half of the 19th century.

These were the observations made by Prof Arun Hota of West Bengal State University, while speaking at a webinar on the topic 'Brajavali: a special literary language,' organised by the NE zonal chapter of the ICOMOS India recently.

Prof Hota, who is known to be well-versed in the origin and use of Brajavali language in Bengal and Odisha, maintained that according to some scholars this language has a link with Lord Krishna and there are reasons to believe that the name has been derived from Braja, the place of Lord Krishna's amorous activities with the *Gopis*.

But, this language evolved with the fusion of Maithili with the stuff of Hindi and Bengali in West Bengal and Hindi and Odia in Odisha, and became a unique vehicle for the propagation of the Vaishnavite literature. However, it was not confined to any particular region.

Taking part in the discussion, noted Sankaradeva researcher Dr Sanjib Kumar Borkakoti described Brajavali as a refined form of a colloquial dialect, which was in vogue in both the Brahmaputra and the Ganga valleys. Sankaradeva gave it a sophisticated form and used it in his literary works. He was the first person to use this language in literature. The tradition of

using Brajavali for literary purposes is still alive in Assam, although in a limited form, he said.

In an effort to broaden the global perspective of the Brajavali language, the organisers invited Israeli Hebrew linguist and researcher Oren Jonder, who enriched the discourse with his illuminating lecture titled - 'The revival of Hebrew language.' The international dimension of the webinar was further enhanced by the informative reviews provided by Dr Shelley Palag from the University of Haifa, Israel, and Dr M Satish Kumar from Queens University, Ireland. Their insights added a valuable cross-cultural perspective to the discussion.

Acknowledging the potential for ancient yet dormant languages like Brajavali to find a place in UNESCO's 'Intangible Cultural Heritage,' ICICH president Mumish Pandit expressed his commitment to advancing the cause. The promise to advocate for the inclusion of these linguistic treasures in the UNESCO's intangible heritage list reflects the organisation's dedi-

cation to safeguarding diverse cultural expressions, he said.

The webinar was conducted by renowned percussionist Dilip Changkakoty, who is a national executive member of ICOMOS India.

Besides the discussion on Brajavali language, the ICOMOS India, NE zone chapter, also held five other webinars last year to highlight the cultural heritage of the NE people. The topics included - Nocte tribe and Assamese society; Dikhou Steel Bridge-A treasure of history and engineering marvels; Nongkrem Dance Festival of Meghalaya; Jinkiang Jri, the living root bridge of Meghalaya, and Connecting the dots: Season 2.

Changkakoty, who is also the coordinator of ICOMOS India's NE zone chapter, said that the webinars were a product of the ICOMOS India NE zone chapter's attempt to create an environment required for uplifting the status of NE people's cultural heritage to that of the UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage.

Jongal Balahu Divas observed

ANN Service

RAHA, Jan 3 : All Tiwa Students' Union (ATSU), All Tiwa Women's Union (ATWU) and Tiwa Cultural Society (TCS) in association with Tiwa Autonomous Council (TAC) observed Jongal Balahu Divas at historic Jongal Balahu Garh here today.

The Divas was observed with a day-long colourful programme.

The event began with a ceremonial function by the Tiwa people in memory of the King Jongal Balahu, followed by cultural programmes.

The open meeting held on the occasion was attended by Jayanta Mallabarua, Minister for Public Health Engineering and Tourism. In his speech, the minister recalled



Artistes performing traditional dance during the celebration of Jongal Balahu Divas, on Wednesday. - UB Photos

the contribution of Jongal Balahu. "The BJP government has been working for an all-round development and

protect the rights of the ethnic people of the State," he claimed during the programme. Noted education-

ists, leaders of different Tiwa organisations and local people took part in the celebrations.

'Day of Simplicity' observed

GUWAHATI, Jan 3: The birthday of Dr Upen Rabha Hakasam, senior professor of Assamese, Gauhati University, was observed as the Day of Simplicity on January 2 under the auspices of Dogo Rangsang Research Committee, Guwahati at Lakhipur College, Goalpara, said a press release.

On the occasion, a popular speech on the topic 'Heritage and culture of Goalpara district' was delivered by journalist and literary pensioner Dilip Kumar Sarma. The open meeting held on the occasion was presided over by Dr Lalit Chandra Rabha, president, Dogo Rangsang Research Committee.

Welcoming the participants, Dr Kashyap Biswas, principal, Lakhipur College thanked the Dogo Rangsang Research Committee for organising the Day of Simplicity in his college. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Angshuman Das, professor, Moirabari College, dwelt at length about the literary works of Dogo Rangsang Research Committee in the last decade.

OBITUARY

Hemanta Kr Bordoloi

JORHAT, Jan 3: Hemanta Kumar Bordoloi, one of the founders of the leading organizations for children 'Sadou Asom Moina Parijat', and a known writer, journalist and a columnist, breathed his last at his Tarajan Sonarigaon residence here on Tuesday due to old-age ailments. He was 95.

Bordoloi is survived by two sons, three daughters and a large number of relatives. His wrote in several magazines and newspapers of the State and was deeply associated with the *Dainik Janambhumi* and the *Saptahik Janambhumi*.

He was honoured with the 'Jorhat Ratna' title by the Jorhat Zila Sahitya Sabha in 2017. Bordoloi's death was widely mourned. - Staff Correspondent

Two sentenced to 10 years imprisonment

CORRESPONDENT

DHUBRI, Jan 3: The Additional District and Sessions Judge of Dhubri, sentenced two brothers to 10 years of imprisonment and a fine of Rs 1 lakh each in a case related to drug trafficking.

The accused - Goljar Uddin

Ahmed alias Raju and Gafur Uddin Ahmed alias Rakesh - both residents of Ward No. 13, IG Road, Dhubri, were found guilty under section 22 (C) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985. The Additional District and Sessions Judge of Dhubri, Syed Burhanur Rah-

man also ordered that in case of default in payment of fine, they will have to undergo another one-year imprisonment.

The case was registered at the Dhubri Police Station, based on a First Information Report (FIR) lodged on July 13, 2022 by Sub-Inspector Chandan Rout.

Training programme for forest officers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

JORHAT, Jan 3: A three-day national-level training workshop for a group of Indian Forest Service (IFS) officers began today at the ICFRE-Rain Forest Research Institute (RFRI) here.

An RFRI official informed that the training programme, organised by the institute on 'Role of Forestry for Sustainable Development of People, has been participated by 13 IFS officers from nine States of the country. The participants were welcomed by the organizers with a *gamosa*.

The training programme, sponsored by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, was inaugurated by ICFRE-RFRI Director, Dr Nitin Kulkarni. Dr Kulkarni, in his address, briefed about purpose of the training programme and high-

lighted various forestry research and development activities conducted by ICFRE-RFRI. He emphasized on diversity and importance of forestry resources particularly bamboo and agarwood in the north-eastern region.

The Director encouraged the participants to explore the possibilities for the utilization of these forestry resources for livelihood opportunities and sustainable development of native communities.

In his first technical presentation, Dr RK Borah, Scientist-G, ICFRE-RFRI, addressed the participants with the different research, development and extension activities on forestry being undertaken by the institute. Dr Borah sensitized the participants about the importance of *aquilaria malaccensis*, an important medicinal and aromatic tree species of north-eastern

India for livelihood generation in the region.

RK Kalita, Scientist-F as well as Course Director of the training workshop, presented overview of bamboo sector and its role towards livelihood generation in the north-eastern region. Kalita spoke about the species diversity of bamboos, trade value of bamboo commodities, significance of bamboo as resource in wood industries sector, paper and pulp industries, food and beverage industries, bio-energy industries, housing sector and farming industries in India.

The training programme will also include other forest-related issues like Vanya silk, medicinal and aromatic plants, edible insects, agroforestry etc. which will be delivered by eminent resource persons, apart from field visits to Kaziranga National Park and Kaziranga National Park.

Exposure visit for students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DIBRUGARH, Jan 3: Fifty-five students of five different schools of the district designated as Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) School by NITI Aayog, Government of India took an exposure visit to Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) located at Kordoibam in Lahoal development block to have a first-hand exposure to KVK ecosystem, innovations in the field of agriculture and allied science, improved and suitable tools, techniques, skills, breeds and improved cultivation practices etc.

The exposure visit to Krishi Vigyan Kendra Dibrugarh was organised under the aegis of Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog, Government of India in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare along with Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and ICAR New Delhi, a release stated.

While welcoming the students of ATL Schools at KVK campus, Dr Diganta Sharma, Senior Scientist and Head of the Kendra stated the objectives of Atal Tinkering Labs

initiated by Government of India and stressed that this intervention will help to identify the potential talents, skills and innovative idea of students for its use for developmental purpose of our nation.

District Agricultural Officer Ganesh Lahon expressed his satisfaction for selecting five schools of the district as only ATL Schools of Assam. Deputy Project Director of Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) of the district Dimple Boruah highlighted the activities of ATMA in the district.

Dhubri Excise dept garners highest revenue

CORRESPONDENT

DHUBRI, Jan 3: The Dhubri Excise department has garnered Rs 12.39-crore revenue in the month of December, 2023.

The department has been able to maintain a consistent growth in its revenue collection throughout the financial year 2023-24. According to the Dhubri Excise department Superintendent Raju Kumar Mahanta, the department collected Rs 9.56 crore in April, Rs 9.53 crore in May, Rs 8.12 crore in June, Rs 9.17 crore in July, Rs 9.41 crore in August, Rs 10 crore in September, Rs 11.31 crore in October, and Rs 11.37 crore in November.

Foundation stone of office laid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SILCHAR, Jan 3: Silchar MLA Dipayan Chakraborty laid the foundation stone for the construction of the new District Drug Control Office in Cachar district on Wednesday.

The new building will come up in the premises of the bungalow of Joint Director of Health Services Cachar at Trunk Road. Expressing happiness on the major development, Dipayan Chakraborty said: "The State government led by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma is giving special thrust on developing health infrastructure and as such permanent buildings of important segments like the District Drug Control offices have been allocated to Cachar and Dibrugarh districts. I firmly believe that the new building will ease the official activities of the department."

Khaleda Sultana Ahmed, the ADC (Health) expressed her happiness saying that for now the building will be a single-story establishment which will help the officials significantly. Over 1000 licences are being issued from the office and the new building will help the process effectively, she hoped. Dr Ashutosh Barman, the Joint Director of Health Services Cachar informed that the new building will be constructed as an estimated cost of Rs 50,48,692 under National Health Mission, Assam on Turnkey basis and it is likely to be completed within next two months. Pulak Das, Silchar MP Dr Rajdeep Roy, Senior Drug Inspector Sushen Majumder and other officials attended the ceremony.

AABP members stage stir

CORRESPONDENT

HAILAKANDI, Jan 3: The members of All Assam Bengali Parishad (AABP) today staged two hours sit-in strike in Hailakandi for the fulfilment of their three-point charter of demands. They also sent a memorandum to the Prime Minister of India through the District Commissioner of Hailakandi enlisting their demands.

Their major demands include provide *pattas* to landless Bengali Hindus and include them in Mission Basundhara III and provide Aadhaar cards to those Bengali Hindus whose biometric data couldn't be collected for some technical problems.

The memorandum was signed by the president and secretary of the Hailakandi unit of Parishad, Ashutosh Nath and Mithun Debroy respectively. The vice-president of the state committee of the Parishad Jaharal Nath informed that their phase wise agitation will continue till the fulfilment of their demands.

No. TECH.II/241/2023/5

PRESS NOTICE (RE-TENDER)

In continuation to the cancellation notice vide this office No. Tech-II/223/2023/3 Dated Guwahati the 02.01.2024 the Spl. Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Buildings), (Health & Education), Assam on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites fresh bids from eligible contractors having experience in similar nature of work, for the following works.

Details of the bid may be seen at e-procurement portal website i.e. www.assamtenders.gov.in. The bidders must be enrolled in www.assamtenders.gov.in

SL No	Package No	Name of Work	Tender Value (Rs. in Lakh)	Bid Security	Time of completion	Tender cost
1	TGR-92	Construction of Model Secondary Schools in the Tea Garden Areas, Assam at Mijika High School, Dist: Sonitpur.	288.24	(2% for General and 1% for reserved category)	12 (Twelve) months	Rs. 5800.00
2	TGR-88	Construction of Model Secondary Schools in the Tea Garden Areas, Assam at Hem Barua High Secondary School, Dist: Sonitpur.	288.24	(2% for General and 1% for reserved category)	12 (Twelve) months	Rs. 5800.00
3	TGR-77	Construction of Model Secondary Schools in the Tea Garden Areas, Assam at Hati Ali H.S. School, Dist: Dibrugarh	288.24	(2% for General and 1% for reserved category)	12 (Twelve) months	Rs. 5800.00

Sd/- Spl. Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Bldg.) Assam (Health & Education), Chandmari, Guwahati-3

Janasanyog/C/14453/23/4-Jan-24

No. DSY/S/NSG/117/2023/PI

NOTICE

This is for information of all concerned that the Selection Trial for the preparation of Assam Team for participation in the 67th National School Games, 2023-24, in the sports discipline of Skating U-11, 14, 17 & 19 Boys & Girls will be conducted as per following schedule.

- Date of Trial : 07-01-2024
- Venue : Skating Rink, Amrit Udyan, Hengerabari (Near DC Office)
- Time of Trial : 08.00 AM onwards
- Name of Selection Co-ordinator : Dhrubajit Sarma (9435100257)
- Name of In-Charge : Lambit Dutta (7002758123)

The interested players should submit the following documents to the Selector / Officer In-Charge at the selection venue.

- 4 copies of Eligibility Certificates.
- Birth Certificate.
- Mark Sheet of last year's Annual Examination.

The players are requested to report at the venue of trial alongwith relevant documents 30 minutes before the selection trial. The participants have to attend the selection trial at their own cost.

Age:

- U-11 Boys & Girls - Players should be born on or after 01.01.2013 (Class 3 to 5)
- U-14 Boys & Girls - Players should be born on or after 01.01.2010
- U-17 Boys & Girls - Players should be born on or after 01.01.2007
- U-19 Boys & Girls - Players should be born on or after 01.01.2005

The participating players should be studying in 12th or below class but not below 6th standard.

Sd/- Director, Sports & Youth Welfare, Assam

Janasanyog/D/15750/23/4-Jan-24

No. KAC-/Scheme-153/2022-23/7/

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed Tender affixing Non Judicial Stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees, Eight and twenty five paise) only are hereby invited from intending capable Govt. Registered Contractor/Firm for below mentioned Construction Works under Kamatapour Autonomous Council, North Salmara.

Sl. No.	Name of Works	Work Value
1	Construction of GSB Road from NH-17 to Pachim Thakuranipara Dakhin Kendra Padmalochan Barman House under Kakijana GP in the District Bongaigaon under KAC for the year 2022-23.	Rs. 5,00,000/- (Rupees, Five Lakh only)

The terms and condition indicate below-

- The Firm/Contractor should have Govt. registration and GST registration certificate.
- The tenderer must be enclosed PAN Card and up to date IT & GST Clearance.
- The rate should be quoted inclusive of all Taxes.
- The work should be done as per the Plan & Estimate with in the period 3 (three) month and consul with the JE/Executive Engineer of KAC.
- The tender paper will be collect from the office of the undersigned on or before 31.12.2023 and submit (Drop) 7.1.2024 at 2 PM will be open on the same day at 3 pm. Intending Tenderer or their representative may remain present in the time of opening the Tender Box.
- The undersigned received the right to accept or reject any or all tender without assigned any reason there of and is not bound to accept the lowest rates or any other as quoted in the tender. All the tender are rejected, if the tenderer quoted the excessive rate.
- Security deposit (SD) amount of Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees, Ten thousand only) in General Category and Rs. 5,000/- (Rupees, Five thousand only) for OBC/SC/ST in form of DD in favour of Principal Secretary, Kamatapour Autonomous Council Payable at Bongaigaon.
- The Firm/Contractor must submit the Trade license, PAN, update IT & GST return, Photo copy of Bank pass book or Account statement.

Sd/- Principal Secretary, Kamatapour Autonomous Council, North Salmara, Bongaigaon.

Janasanyog/CF/4564/23/4-Jan-24

No. ESD/TENDER/SOPP-G/2023-24/691

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed tenders, for technical and financial bids, in prescribed formats, affixing non-refundable court fee stamp of Rs. 10.00 (Rupees ten) only from the intending Govt. Registered Contractors/ Firms/Company Ltd., for implementation of the following schemes which will be received up to 2.P.M. on 11.01.2024 and opened on the same date & time at 2.30P.M. on 11.01.2024 in presence of the tenderers or their authorized agents. Separate sealed and superscribed envelopes are to be used for both technical and financial bids and put them together in a single envelope. If due to certain unavoidable circumstances, the tenders cannot be opened on the aforesaid date, the same will be opened on the next working day. The qualified parties, only in respect of the technical bids, will be eligible for competing in the financial bids. Tender paper can be obtained from the office of the undersigned from 05.01.2024 up to 10.01.2024 by depositing Rs. 200/- only for each group in the form of IPO.

Detail terms and conditions, plan and estimate and particulars may be obtained in the office of the undersigned on or before 10.01.2024

Sl No.	Name of Scheme	Estimated Amount (Rs. In Lakh)	Name of District	Time of Completion
1.	Drainage channel cutting at Ochijan.	11.13	Dibrugarh	30 days
2.	Drainage channel cutting at Balibatjan.	10.00	Dibrugarh	30 days
3.	Drainage channel cutting at Kapuruwa.	3.30	Dibrugarh	30 days
4.	Field bund from Shiv mandir to Mulang pathar with Hume pipe	7.18	Tinsukia	30 days

Major terms of References.

- The work order will be served as per the decision of the competent authority.
- Earnest Money: 2% of estimated value in case of General and 1% of estimated value in case of SC/ST/OBC/unemployed Graduate Engineer..
- Overall quoted rate beyond as per estimated rate and below or above on percentage basis.

Sd/- Divisional Officer Eastern Assam Soil Conservation Division, Dibrugarh

Janasanyog/C/14434/23/4-Jan-24

CINEMA PROGRAMME

ANURADHA CINEPLEX
Multiplex Ambience
From 29.12.23 to 04.01.24
At 11.00 am & 5.15 pm
DUNKI (Hindi) 2D
Stg: Shah Rukh Khan, Taapsee Pannu, Vicky Kaushal etc.
At 2.00 & 8.15 pm
SALAAAR (Hindi) 2D
Stg: Prabhas, Shruti Haasan etc.
Booking Nos. 882277555 (995454738, 7086525826)
Online Booking: www.anuradhacineplex.in, www.bookmyshow.com

GALLERIA CINEMA
Dibrugarh, Junction Mall
From 29th Dec. 2023 to 4th Jan. 2024
Screen-1
At 10.30 am & 5.15 pm
SALAAAR
At 1.45 pm
HEPAHOR ENAJORI (Ass.)
At 8.30 pm
DUNKI
Screen-2
At 10.45 am, 1.50 & 5.00 pm
DUNKI
At 8.10 pm
SALAAAR
Tele Booking Timings 9.00 am to 8.00 pm.
Tele Booking No. 8876565001/8876565002
(Terms & conditions apply)
Ticket Rates: Regular Show: Rs. 150/-, Rs. 200/-, Rs. 350/-, Rs. 500/-, 1000/-
New Movie Rates Rs. 180/-, Rs. 240/-, Rs. 360/-, Rs. 500/-, Rs. 1000/-
Ticket Rates 3D Movies: Rs. 170/-,

GALLERIA CINEMA
HUB, G.S. Road
Guwahati is showing
From 29th December onwards
following timings:
At 11.00 am & 5.30 pm
DUNKI (Hindi)
At 2.10 & 9.00 pm
SALAAAR (Hindi)
For Online Booking Please Visit [Bookmy Show/Paytm](http://BookmyShow.com).
Regular price: Silver- 150/-, Gold- 220/-, Platinum- 250/- & Business- 270/-

GALLERIA CINEMA
Tinsukia, ATC Mall, GNB Road
From 29th to 04th Jan. 2024
Screen-1
At 7.30, 10.30 am, 5.10 & 8.10 pm
DUNKI (Hindi)
At 1.40 pm
HEPAHOR ENAJORI (Ass.)
Screen-2
At 10.15 am, 1.30, 4.45 & 8.00 pm
SALAAAR (Hindi)
Tele Booking Timings: 9 am to 8.30 pm.
Tele Booking No. 8876565005/8876565006
(Terms & conditions apply)
Morning Tickets Price (Before 10.30 am)
Rs. 130/-, Rs. 220/-, Rs. 280/-, Rs. 450/-
Regular Tickets price
Rs. 170/-, Rs. 240/-, Rs. 300/-, Rs. 500/-
3D Morning Tickets Price :
Rs. 150/-, 220/-, 280/-, 450/-
3D Tickets Price :
Rs. 180/-, Rs. 280/-, Rs.320/-, Rs. 500/-

Meet on road safety held at Margherita

CORRESPONDENT

DOOMDOOMA, Jan 3: A meeting on road safety was conducted today at the SDO (Civil) office, Margherita in view of the rising cases of road accidents.

Preeti Kumari, SDO(Civil), Margherita, discussed possible steps to check road accidents due to reckless driving, drinking driving, over speeding etc. in the areas under the Margherita sub-division.

The meeting was attended by SDPO, Hemanta Boro, Election Officer, Aditi Neog, Executive Magistrates, Pronamika Konwar and Pritom Gogoi, District Transport Officer, Rajib Pegu, DSE, Excise, Prasanta Dutta and Officers-in-Charge of Margherita, Digboi, Lekhapani Pengeree, and Bordumsa Police Stations and other officials and staff of the administration, stated in a press release issued by Gurmeet Kour Suri, the SDIPRO, Margherita.

Training programme on e-office: A training programme on e-office was conducted today at the conference hall of the office of the sub-divisional officer (Civil), Margherita for the officers and staff of the office of the sub-divisional officer (Civil).

The training was conducted to acquaint the officers and staff with the electronic office (e-office) module for smooth transition from hard files to electronic files. Resource persons from National Informatics Centre, Polash Deka, Information Assistant, DDMA, Tinsukia imparted theory and practical knowledge on e-office to the participating officials.



WEATHER
NorthEast

Forecast for NE: Light rain very likely to occur at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh and weather likely to remain dry over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura. Shallow to moderate fog is very likely to occur at isolated pockets over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura.

Warning: Dense to very dense fog very likely to occur at isolated pockets over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura.

Dibrugarh	Tezpur
Max : Min	Max : Min
27.2 : 9.2	26.0 : 12.3
Silchar	Dhubri
Max : Min	Max : Min
27.6 : 17.0	24.3 : 13.2
Jorhat	N. Lakhimpur
Max : Min	Max : Min
25.8 : 8.6	27.8 : 9.8
Shillong	Kohima
Max : Min	Max : Min
17.4 : 8.0	18.2 : 6.5
Pasighat	Itanagar
Max : Min	Max : Min
27.2 : 14.6	21.6 : 13.4
Imphal	Agartala
Max : Min	Max : Min
21.9 : 8.9	22.5 : 14.9

Duty Meteorological Officer,
Regional Meteorological
Centre, Guwahati

Centre's decision to revoke Free Movement Regime draws flak

CORRESPONDENT

AIZAWL, Jan 3: The decision of the Central Government to terminate the 40-year-old Free Movement Regime (FMR) from areas bordering Myanmar in four North Eastern States has drawn flak from political parties, civil societies, and the public.

The FMR allows people from India and Myanmar to

travel up to 16 kilometres on both sides of the border in accordance with the agreement of both the governments which acknowledge that people of both countries along the border areas belong to the same ethnicity, having the same culture and tradition, and sharing the same ancestry.

A leader of the central committee of the Young Mizo Association (YMA), the Mizo

apex body in the State, said that they have been thinking of holding joint meetings with other civil societies and student associations on the issue.

"The British government divided the ethnic Mizo-inhabited areas on the pretext of administrative convenience and left us divided when British India was trifurcated into India, Pakistan and Burma," he said, adding that people across the 404-km Mizoram-

Myanmar international border are relatives and of the same blood.

Understanding the fact, the Indian and Burma governments in 1970s put into place the FMR which was revised in 2016.

If the Central Government and the Myanmar military junta scrap the FMR, citizens of India and Myanmar will have to get visas to enter each country from either side.

Union minister lays foundation of NCDC branch

CORRESPONDENT

AIZAWL, Jan 3: Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Chemicals and Fertilizers Dr Mansukh Mandaviya laid the foundation stone of the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) branch at the Regional Institute of Paramedical and Nursing Sciences (RIPANS), Aizawl, though the virtual mode today.

The minister also inaugurated the upgraded NCDC at New Delhi and laid the foundation stone or inaugurated the NCDC's Regional and State branches of Assam, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. The NCDC will be equipped with sophisticated medical equipment and will offer training courses for doctors, nurses, and allied health professionals, a RIPANS release stated.

HNLC withdraws from peace talks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SHILLONG, Jan 3: The banned Hynniewtrep National Liberation Council (HNLC) has withdrawn from the tripartite peace talks with the Central and Meghalaya governments.

In a letter addressed to the Ministry of Home Affairs, the HNLC said that it was withdrawing from the tripartite peace talks due to its "gener-

al demands" not being met.

In the letter signed by its 'commander-in-chief' Bobby Marwein, the outfit said that "if the fundamental issues remain unaddressed, our political demands would also be dismissed."

The militant outfit expressed regret that the peace process has come to such a "critical point" and added: "Nevertheless we feel compelled to persist in

our armed struggle."

The peace process with the outfit has barely begun and the State Government had insisted that its top leaders come forward for negotiations.

The HNLC, however, wants a general amnesty for its top leaders and other members of the outfit, which the Government has not agreed to. Both sides have remained stuck with regard to this point, which has derailed the talks.



A worker cleaning the area housing the monoliths, at Nartiang village in West Jaintia Hills district on Wednesday. The area has been declared as protected under the Ancient Monument and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. — UB Photos

Ambulances asked not to use police-like sirens in Manipur

NEWMAI NEWS

IMPHAL, Jan 3: The Manipur Government, in an order passed on Wednesday, asked ambulances and other agencies not to use sirens similar to those used by the police and other law-enforcing agencies in terms of type and sound.

The Home Department issued the order keeping in view the prevailing law-and-order situation in the State and for effective maintenance of public order.

The State Government considered the issues arising out of the use of sirens with similar sounds being used by ambulances and police and law-enforcing agencies, creating a lot of confusion and panic situation to the general public.

Considering the sensitive nature of the use of the same sirens by different authorities and with a view to avoiding any misunderstanding that may occur among the general public, all sirens fitted in the ambulance vehicles and any agencies other than the police and law-enforcing agencies in terms of type and sound, the order stated.

The Transport Department will issue necessary orders in this regard too, the order of the Home Department signed by its Commissioner, T Ranjit Singh, stated.

Short Tender Notice

It is for general information to all concerned, that tender will be received on 17.01.2024 upto 2.00 PM in the office of the CF, LASFC, Bongaigaon for various items of work/ activities under Non plan scheme. The details of the work and terms and conditions may obtain from the office of the undersigned in any working day.

Sd/- Chief Conservator of Forests
Lower Assam Social Forestry Circle
Janasanyog/C/14495/23/4-Jan-24
Bongaigaon

NOTICE

No. LAE.32/2023/128

This is for information for the shortlisted candidates who appeared in the Orator Test held on 03.12.2023 for the post of Interpreter of the Bodo Cell of Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat that the **Simultaneous Interpretation Test** will be held on 12.01.2024 (Fri Day) from 11.00 AM. onwards at Room No. 36 of Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat Building. Shortlisted candidates are hereby directed to appear the aforesaid **Simultaneous Interpretation Test**.

Sd/- Secretary
Assam Legislative Assembly
Janasanyog/DF/2299/23/4-Jan-24





NORTH EAST SKILL CENTRE
NH-37, BHABANANDA BORO PATH, KATABARI, NEAR DPS GUWAHATI
GARCHUK: GUWAHATI-781035, ASSAM

ADMISSION NOTICE

North East Skill Centre (NESO) is a joint initiative between ITE Education Services (ITEES), Singapore and Assam Skill Development Mission (ASDM) under Skill, Employment & Entrepreneurship Dept., Govt. of Assam.

Walk-in-Admissions on the following 'First Come First Serve' basis at North East Skill Centre for the opening of 1 Year Certificate courses under State Council for Vocational Training (SCVT):

1. Retail Services
2. Food & Beverage Service
3. Beauty & Wellness
4. Hospitality Operations- Housekeeping

- Highlights of the institute:**
- International standard course curriculum designed by ITEES, Singapore
 - Facilities trained and Certified by ITEES, Singapore
 - Infrastructure and equipment as per international standards
 - Internship & placement with leading industry players with 90% placement rate in the last 3 years
 - International placements assisted.
 - Subsidised Course Fees - Rs. 16,200/- payable in 4 quarterly instalments
- Minimum qualification- 10+2 passed, Age- 17 to 25 years

For details & online registration log in to www.skillmission.assam.gov.in or www.asdm.assam.gov.in For details interested candidates may visit the institute or contact 6901743926/7002320673

Sd/- Mission Director
Assam Skill Development Mission
Janasanyog/DF/2293/23/4-Jan-24

No. SLRC-G-III/91/Advertisement/2023/8

NOTICE

With reference to this Commission's Advertisement No. SLRC-G-III/91/Advertisement/2023/2, dated the 30th October, 2023, this is for information of all those applicants who have applied for recruitment of Class III Posts and who have made mistakes during filing up their online application forms, that edit option will be provided from 11 a.m. of 5th January, 2024 to 18th January, 2024. The candidates who desire to edit their application may login with their Application Number & Password and follow the steps as described below

- Click on Edit Profile Menu.
- An OTP will be sent to candidate's registered number and OTP Page will be displayed.
- Enter OTP and verify.
- Application Form will be displayed in edit mode.
- To edit Candidate's Name & Employment Registration id, instead of direct edit option, there will be an option:
 - ❖ Do You want to Change?
 - ❖ If clicked 'Yes' then a text box will be displayed where candidate can enter their correct Name or Employment Registration id respectively.
 - ❖ This new value will be saved as 'Request Change' but old values of Name & Registration id will be kept as it is.
- There will not be any option to change Candidate's Registered Mobile No., Photograph and Signature. All other information can be edited including preferential appointment under the Assam Public Service (Preferential Appointment) Rules, 1999.
- After completion of Edit, candidate need to Click on 'Update' Button. A page will be displayed where the candidate can take print out of their Application Form and Lock the Profile.
- After Locking Profile candidate cannot make any changes in Application form.

NOTE:-Candidates who do not want to change any information are not required to do anything.

Sd/- Secretary,
State Level Recruitment Commission for Class-III Posts
Assam Administrative Staff College,
Jawaharnagar, Khanapara, Guwahati-22
Janasanyog/D/15788/23/4-Jan-24

No. SLRC-G-IV/Assam/Advertisement for Analogous Posts-IV/2023-24/01/28

NOTICE

With reference to this Commission's Advertisement No. SLRC-G-IV/Assam/Advertisement for Analogous Posts-IV/2023-24/01/14 Date-27.10.2023 and subsequent Addendum No. SLRC-G-IV/Assam/Advertisement for Analogous Posts-IV/2023-24/01/19 Date-16.12.2023, this is for information of all those applicants who have applied for recruitment of Class IV categories of posts and who may have made inadvertent mistakes during filing up their online application form, that edit option will be provided from 11 am of 5th January 2024 to 18th January 2024.

The candidates who desire to edit their application may Login with Application Number & password and follow the steps as described below –

- Click on Edit Profile Menu.
- An OTP will be sent to candidate's registered mobile number and OTP Page will be displayed.
- Enter OTP and verify.
- Application Form, will be displayed in edit mode.
- To edit Candidate's Name & Employment Registration id, instead of direct edit option, there will be an option:
 - ❖ Do You want to Change?
 - ❖ If clicked 'Yes' then a text box will be displayed where candidate can enter their correct Name or Employment Registration id respectively.
 - ❖ This new value will be saved as 'Request Change' but old values of Name & Registration id will be kept as it is.
- There will not be any option to change Candidate's Registered Mobile No., Photograph and Signature.
- All other information can be edited including information related for consideration under Assam Public Service (Preferential Appointment) Rules, 1999.
- After completion of Edit, candidate need to Click on 'Update' Button. A page will be displayed where the candidate can take print out of Application Form and Lock the Profile.
- After Locking Profile candidate cannot make any changes in Application form.

NOTE:- Candidates who do not want to change any information are not required to do anything.

Sd/- Secretary, State Level Recruitment Commission for
Class-IV Posts
Janasanyog/D/15812/23/4-Jan-24

Governor's citation presented to 40 Assam Rifles

CORRESPONDENT

ITANAGAR, Jan 3: Arunachal Pradesh Governor Lt General KT Parnaik (retd) presented the Governor's Citation to the 40 Assam Rifles in a ceremony at the Raj Bhawan here today.

Col Sunil Lunthi, Subedar Major Suresh Prasad and Ri-

fleman SR Jena, on behalf of the 40 Assam Rifles, received the citation for the professional acumen of the battalion and cooperation in maintaining peace and security in their area of responsibility in Longding district.

The Governor, while acknowledging the good work done by the officers

and personnel, said that the unit has immensely contributed to ensuring the safety and well-being of the local population.

"In an era where security challenges are ever-evolving and complex, 40 Assam Rifles has consistently demonstrated the highest levels of professionalism, commit-

ment, and courage as well as contributed significantly to nation building through empowerment schemes for local population, sports, training local youth for recruitment in Army and paramilitary forces, environmental protection and assisting the civil administration," he said.

The Governor further

commended the 40 Assam Rifles for effectively performing their operational role, maintaining extremely good relations with the civil administration and creating excellent bonhomie in their area of deployment. He added that the local people have given good feedback for the battalion.

New officers appointed to launch probe into scam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SHILLONG, Jan 3: After sacking three Lokayukta investigation officers who unearthed an alleged scam involving an NPP MLA and others in the Garo Hills Autonomous District Council (GHADC), the Meghalaya Government has appointed four new investigation officers.

Lokayukta Chairperson Bhalang Dhar, based on the State Government's recommendation, appointed Israel W Ingty as the director of the inquiry wing and three other members. Ingty is the Secretary, Revenue and DDM Department. The other officials include Challang G Momin, John Clitser and Baniateilang Deingngan as members of the investigation wing of the Lokayukta. All three are serving Meghalaya Police officials.

According to sources, the Lokayukta gave his approval to

the names suggested by the Government on December 19 – the same day when some of the earlier officials were sacked.

"In pursuance of sub section (1) of section 11 of the Meghalaya Lokayukta Act, 2014, the inquiry wing of Meghalaya Lokayukta is hereby constituted with the following officers with immediate effect..." a notification said.

It further read: "The inquiry wing shall be responsible for conducting preliminary inquiry/detailed investigation into any offence alleged to have been committed by a public servant, punishable under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988."

The NPP-led MDA Government terminated the services of the previous investigation wing officials including J Rymmai, the Director of Inquiry and Prosecution, R Pde and Anil K Sangma, enquiry-cum-investigating officers.

Bodies of Lilong victims taken for last rites

CORRESPONDENT

IMPHAL, Jan 3: The Joint Action Committee (JAC) formed in connection with the Lilong incident has agreed to take the bodies of the deceased persons for performance of last rites after a meeting between civil society organisations of the Meitei-Pangal community and a team led by Chief Minister N Biren Singh here today.

Sharing the photographs of the meeting in X (formerly Twitter), the Chief Minister wrote, "Held a meeting with CSOs of the Meitei Pangal community at my official residence today in the presence of Hon'ble MP (RS) Sana-jaoba Leisemba, Hon'ble Minister Shri K Govindas, Hon'ble MLA of Lilong, Shri Abdul Nasir and my officials. Express my deep sorrow for the unfortunate incident that happened at Lilong on 1st Jan. We have come to an understanding where the religious



Manipur CM N Biren Singh meeting members of the Meitei-Pangal community in Imphal on Wednesday. — Photo: Correspondent

leaders and CSOs of the Meitei Pangal community have agreed to take the remains of the victims for their last rites."

On January 1, four persons were killed and 14 others sustained injuries in an incident of violence at Lilong Chingjao in Thoubal district. One of the injured who was undergoing treatment at a private hospital here, succumbed to his injuries today.

Meanwhile, a JAC functionary informed reporters that the meeting agreed to constitute a special investigation team (SIT) to probe

the January 1 incident, apart from agreeing to provide jobs to the immediate family members of the deceased and the seriously injured.

It has also been agreed to provide compensation of Rs 10 lakh to the next of kin of the deceased and Rs 2 lakh each to the injured. The JAC member stated that the meeting agreed to assign a police officer not lesser in rank than the SDPO to the Lilong Police Station, apart from establishing a police outpost between Samrouou and Lilong areas and a Meitei-Pangal museum.

GI tag for three Arunachal products

CORRESPONDENT

ITANAGAR, Jan 3: Three more indigenous products from Arunachal Pradesh namely, Adi Kekir (ginger), handmade carpet, and Wancho wooden craft have received the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag, official sources said today.

Expressing his joy over this, Chief Minister Pema Khandu wrote on X (formerly Twitter): "Delighted to

share that Adi Kekir (Ginger), Handmade Carpet and Wancho Wooden Craft have been granted Geographical Indication (GI) tags. Truly an acknowledgement of the rich cultural heritage and skilled craftsmanship of our state. Let's celebrate and promote our unique traditions!"

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Arunachal Pradesh Regional Office, here is supporting the initia-

tion of the State Government to promote the indigenous products, and also providing financial assistance for such initiatives.

Of the 18 such products supported by the NABARD for GI registration, six products have received the certification so far.

Earlier, three indigenous products from the State – Yak churpi, Khanti rice, and Tangsa textiles – were awarded GI tags by the Geographical Indi-

cation Registry under the Department of Industry Promotion and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The NABARD is in the process of including more potential products in the GI kit, and expects the 12 products in the pipeline to receive the certification by this month-end, officials said.

"It is a proud moment and we will enhance our efforts in the State," a senior official of NABARD, Arunachal

Pradesh Regional Office, Itanagar, said.

GI is a sign used on a product that originates from a specific geographical location. The product must possess the reputation and qualities of the place of origin. The GI tag gives the right to only those registered users the right to use the product name, and prevents others from using the product name that does not meet the standards prescribed.

Oil markets in highly turbulent situation, says Minister Puri on petrol, diesel price cut

NEW DELHI, Jan 3: Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Wednesday responded to expectations of a reduction in petrol and diesel prices in view of softening international oil rates, by saying that global market is in a "highly turbulent" situation and it has to stabilise before any cut.

Three state-owned fuel retailers – Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) – which control roughly 90 per cent of the market, have kept petrol and diesel prices on freeze for a record 21 month in a row.

This is despite crude oil cost surging last year, leading to heavy losses in the first half of 2022-23 fiscal year before easing rates propelled them to profitability in the last three quarters.

"There has been no discussion with the oil marketing companies on any such issue," Puri told reporters

when asked if the government has held discussions with the three firms on a reduction in fuel prices. The oil companies, he said, make their own decisions of fuel pricing.

"We are in highly turbulent situation. There are two areas on the global map which are in conflict situation," he said referring to the Russia-Ukraine war and the

Israel-Hamas conflict that has led to cargo ships being attacked in the Red Sea.

Puri said 12 per cent of the global shipping traffic, 18 per cent of oil and 4-8 per cent of LNG trade goes through the Red Sea and the Suez Canal. "God forbid, if there is further challenge or there is a disruption, you see an impact," he said.

International oil prices rebounded in the aftermath of the attack on ships in the Red Sea. The rates have however eased in subsequent days.

"In a highly volatile situation, our primary responsibility is to ensure availability and affordability," Puri said. "We are navigating this very carefully."

He said oil companies don't

ask the government about price revisions.

"Pray to God that there is no turbulence, things are normal," he added.

While at current prices, oil companies are making some money on petrol, and diesel – the most consumed fuel accounting for almost 40 per cent of all petroleum products consumed in the coun-

try – but it has been in a "touch-and-go" scenario in recent weeks. On some days there is profit on diesel but on other days there is loss. There is no consistent trend.

Three retailers had been recouping losses they incurred for holding rates when crude oil prices shot through the roof last year. In May, international oil prices and retail pump rates had come at par, but the subsequent surge widened the gap between cost and price realised.

For oil companies to reduce prices, oil prices will have to stabilise.

Petrol and diesel prices have been on a freeze since April 6 last year. Petrol costs Rs 96.72 a litre in the National Capital and diesel comes for Rs 89.62 per litre.

The three firms made bumper profits in April-September – the first half of the current fiscal – but considering the low earnings of last year, they are yet to recoup all losses, officials said. – PTI

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'No payment problem with Russia on oil imports'

NEW DELHI, Jan 3: Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Wednesday said there are no payment problems in buying oil from Russia and the recent decline in purchase is a function of discounts they offer.

He said Russian oil made up for just 0.2 per cent of all the oil that India imported in February 2022, before the start of the Russia-Ukraine war. Post the Ukraine war, some Western nations shunned Russian oil, leading

to Moscow offering discounts. This led to Indian refiners lapping up the discounted oil. The discounts made Russia India's top oil supplier with a 40 per cent share. The share fell when the discounts were lower.

"When the problem (Ukraine war) started, Russia started offering discounts and we started buying," Puri told reporters, adding that New Delhi has diversified its sources of imports and that the country will buy at the

cheapest available rates.

"There is only one requirement that Indian consumers get the energy at the most economical price without disruption. Russian imports had gone up to 40 per cent. Now if they have come down to 33 per cent or 28-29 per cent, is it not a question of payment problem? There is no payment problem," he said.

He hastened to add that none of the companies have complained of supplies being stopped because of payment

issues. Instead, suppliers are willing to sell first and collect payments later. "We are buying 1.5 million barrels per day of oil from Russia. 1.5 million barrels per day out of 5 million barrels per day consumption (in India)," he said. "If they don't give a discount, why would we buy it?"

On the drone attacks on shipping vessels in the Red Sea, Puri said some suppliers have changed their route and are now going through the Cape of Good Hope. – PTI

Nagarik Samabay Bank aims for national recognition

GUWAHATI, Jan 3: The Nagarik Samabay Bank Ltd resolved to make the bank one of the premier financial institutions in urban cooperative (UCB) sector.

Jagdish Sarma, Chairman of the bank, requested all the employees and business promoters, during a Sankalpa Sabha held on December 1, to work for the growth and development of the bank. He added that the bank has already earned a reputation and goodwill amongst the UCBs of the Northeast and the need now is to focus on attaining the same at the national level. Pravakar Sharma, CEO of the bank, was also present on the occasion.

The bank, established in 1998 with a view to serve the society and work for its uplift by providing thrift and credit services, has 5 branches in Guwahati – at AT Road, Narengi Tinali, Lalganesh, Basistha and Adabari with its head office at Ulubari, stated a press release.

Bank of Maharashtra lowers home loan rate to 8.35 pc

NEW DELHI, Jan 3: State-owned Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) on Wednesday trimmed its home loan rate by 15 basis points to 8.35 per cent as part of its new year offer to customers. The processing fees are also waived on home loans, BoM said in a statement.

This dual benefit of reduced interest rates and waiver of processing fees in home loans is a testament of bank's commitment to offer best financing solutions to all its valued customers and help them fulfil their needs, it said.

By introducing this offer, the bank is offering one of the lowest interest rates in the banking industry for home loans, it said, adding, the bank has already waived processing fees for home, car and retail gold loans under its 'New Year Dhamaaka offer'. – PTI

ONGC wins 7, Reliance-BP one oil, gas blocks

NEW DELHI, Jan 3: State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) won seven areas for exploration of oil and gas while a consortium of Reliance Industries Ltd and BP Plc walked away with one in the latest bid round.

Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said 10 blocks for exploration and production of oil and gas were offered in the eighth round of Open Acreage Licensing Policy. Contracts for the 10 blocks were signed on Wednesday morning, he said.

Of the 10 blocks offered, ONGC won seven while Reliance-BP Oil India Ltd and Sun Petrochemicals Pvt Ltd got one area each. Parallely, three coal-bed methane (CBM) blocks too were awarded and the ninth round of OALP was launched for bidding. "Estimated investments in awarded blocks for a committed exploration work programme is to the tune of USD 233 million," an official note said.

India had offered 10 blocks for bidding in the eighth round of the OALP in July 2022. After extending the bid deadline a few times, the round closed in July 2023.

Five companies – ONGC, Vedanta Ltd, Oil India Ltd, Sun Petrochemicals Pvt Ltd and Reliance-BP Exploration (Alpha) Ltd – put in 13 bids for the 10 blocks on offer in OALP-VIII, according to the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons. – PTI



Wheat output may touch 114 million tonnes in 2023-24

NEW DELHI, Jan 3: Wheat production is expected to hit a new record of 114 million tonnes in the ongoing 2023-24 crop year on higher coverage, provided weather conditions remain normal, a top food ministry official said on Wednesday.

The last leg of sowing of wheat, the main rabi (winter) crop, is under way and will continue till next week. Till last week, wheat was planted in 320.54 lakh hectares, as per the official data.

Wheat production stood at a record 110.55 million tonnes in the 2022-23 crop year (July-June), compared to 107.7 million tonnes achieved in the previous year.

"We expect that total area under cultivation of wheat will increase this year and God willingly if the climate is alright, the production will be 114 million tonne. That's what the agriculture ministry has indicated informally to us," Food Corporation of India (FCI) Chairman and Managing Director Ashok K Meena told reporters.

Area sown to wheat crop is also showing an increase compared to the last year. There was a deficit of 1 per cent in some States but that will also be made up in the first week of January. – PTI

Will maintain our export figures of last year: Goyal

NEW DELHI, Jan 3: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday exuded confidence that during this fiscal, the country will maintain the last year's export figures despite slow-

down in global trade.

He said that India's exports of goods and services rose to USD 776 billion in 2022-23 from USD 500 billion two years ago.

"Globally growth has been negative, international trade is in the negative territory, estimates are that this year international trade may fall, and in that perspective after having grown so rapidly we are looking at a phase of consolidation ... I expect that in the current year, we will maintain our figures of last year and strengthen our processes and our domestic capacities, capabilities to be able to grow at much faster rates in the years to come," Goyal told reporters here.

Cumulatively, the country's merchandise exports in April-November 2023-24 contracted by 6.51 per cent

to USD 278.8 billion. The estimated value of services export during the eight-month period stood at USD 220.66 billion.

He added that both the foreign affairs and commerce ministries are working together to boost exports.

Earlier, speaking at the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Utsav 2024 and ODOP Awards Ceremony 2023, he said that the country is not "anti-imports" and wherever required, companies can import goods.

"Aatmanirbhar Bharat is not about stopping imports," he added.

Further he said that before the forthcoming General Elections, the country's economy is expected to touch USD 4 trillion.

At the event, Goyal and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar conferred the ODOP (One District, One Product) awards onto the selected States, districts and Indian missions which led a drive towards fostering innovation and achieving excellence under this initiative. – PTI

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No. ZPL/RURBAN/36/TEND/BHP/2023/263

SHORT NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Online Bids through the Assam Govt. e-Tender portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in/> with bid validity of 90 days are invited from intending bidders for the supply work namely "CONSTRUCTION OF FEED STORAGE AND ANIMAL ATTENDANT AT PIG BREEDING CENTRE UNDER SPM RURBAN MISSION" - under the schematic provision of the Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission, Bihpuria Rurban Cluster of Lakhimpur District, Assam which will be available online from 04.01.2024, 10.00 AM onwards to 17.01.2024, 17.00 PM. The estimated amount for this procurement work is Rs. 6,00,000.00 (Rupees Six Lakh only) and the tender fee is Rs. 500.00 (Rupees Five Hundred) only, which is fixed and non-refundable.

Sd/- Chief Executive Officer
Lakhimpur Zilla Parishad
Janasanyog/CF/4581/23/4-Jan-24

ECF No. - 327926/2077

NOTICE

It is for general information to all the applicants applied for registration as well as the applicants whose registration is granted under North East Industrial Development Scheme (NEIDS), 2017 that Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry vide letter No.- P-44026/16/2023-DBA-II dtd.- 27.12.2023 notified a revised Operational Guidelines & Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for filing/ processing/ disposing of claim applications under various components of NEIDS, 2017 superseding the Operational Guidelines issued by DPIIT dtd.- 11.02.2019 & is in addition to the notification dtd.- 12.04.2018 & 09.10.2018. Copy of the same may be downloaded/ seen in the departmental website through URL- <https://industriescom.assam.gov.in/latest/>

Sd/- Commissioner of Industries & Commerce, Assam
Udyog Bhawan, Bamunimaidam, Guwahati-21
Janasanyog/D/15803/23/4-Jan-24

PRESS NOTICE

The Executive Engineer, PWD, Nagaon, Raha, Dhing & Batadrava Territorial Building Division, Nagaon on behalf of Governor of Assam invites item rate bids in electronic tendering system for the work "Improvement of the Roads from the transformer point of the Institute to Girls Hostel of Nowgong Polytechnic, Nagaon" under SOPD-G during the year 2021-22." with an approximate value of work of Rs. 27,31,801.00 from APWD registered Class-I (A/B/C)/ & Class-II (within this circle) contractors having experience of similar nature of work. Details of the bids may be seen at e-procurement portal website: www.assamtenders.gov.in and also in the office of the undersigned during office hours. The bidders must be enrolled in www.assamtenders.gov.in for participating in the bidding process.

Interested bidder must have to obtain one certificate from the concerned Asstt. Executive Engineer, PWD, Nagaon Territorial Building Sub-Division, Nagaon regarding site visit of the proposed work. All the term and condition will be as per the bidding document. The press notice will be a part of bidding documents.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D.
Nagaon, Raha, Dhing & Batadrava
Territorial Building Division, Nagaon.
Janasanyog/C/14493/23/4-Jan-24

No. CE/DEV/TB/707/2023-24/04

PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Chief Engineer (Roads), PWRD, Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3 invites bids on behalf of Governor of Assam for Construction of Roads including Routine Maintenance for 4 (four) years under Mukhya Mantrir Pakipath Nirman Achan (MPPNA) for the year 2023-24 in West Karbi Anglong, Biswanath, Karbi Anglong, Golaghat, Cachar, Dibrugarh, Darrang, Sivasagar, Lakhimpur, Sonitpur, Dhemajai, Tinsukia, Kokrajhar, Hailakandi, Jorhat, Udalguri & Karimganj Districts of Assam amounting to Rs. 453.76 Crores (approx.) including GST etc. from approved & eligible Contractors registered with PWRD, Assam.

Details along with packages under each district may be seen from 08.01.2024 at website www.assamtenders.gov.in. Amendment /Addendum to the SBD, if any, and further notifications shall appear in this website and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours. The contractor/bidder must be registered with the Electronic Tendering System (ETS) of PWRD, Assam website www.assamtenders.gov.in.

Schemes are not yet sanctioned by the competent authority. In the event of non-sanction of the schemes, the bids may be cancelled and no claim what so ever on this account shall be entertained from the bidders.

Note: NIT Value is inclusive of GST (12%), Labour Cess (1%), etc.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Roads), PWRD,
Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3
Janasanyog/C/14499/23/4-Jan-24

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (ROADS), PUBLIC WORKS ROADS
DEPARTMENT, ASSAM, GUWAHATI-03
No. CE/DEV/TB/741/2023-24/01

PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Chief Engineer (Roads), PWRD, Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3 invites Bids on behalf of Governor of Assam for 15 (Fifteen) nos. of Package for Construction of Roads and Bridge projects under SOPD-G for the year 2023-24 in Golaghat, Jorhat & Sivasagar Districts of Assam amounting to Rs. 74.76 Crores (approx.) including GST etc. from approved & eligible Contractors registered with PWRD, Assam.

Details may be seen from 08.01.2024 at website www.assamtenders.gov.in. Amendment / Addendum to the SBD, if any, and further notifications shall appear in this website and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours. The contractor/bidder must be registered with the Electronic Tendering System (ETS) of PWRD, Assam website www.assamtenders.gov.in.

The schemes are not yet sanctioned by the competent authority. In the event of non-sanction of the schemes, the bids may be cancelled and no claim what so ever on this account shall be entertained from the bidders.

Note: - N.I.T Value is inclusive of GST (12%), Labour cess (1%) etc.

Sd- Chief Engineer (Roads), PWRD
Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3
Janasanyog/C/14501/23/4-Jan-24

AUCTION SALE NOTICE

It is for general information to all intending participants that an Open Auction Sale Notice of disposed seized timber lot under the DFO, Chirang Division, Kajalgaon will be conducted on 08/01/2024 at 11:00 AM at the DFO Office. The timber lot will be settled with the highest offered immediately on realization of 2% from the assess value of the mention below of lot no. on the table on the same date of auction. The selected timber lots should be lifting within 7 (seven) days, if delay no claim will be considered by the undersigned.

Detail of timber lots to be disposed by Spot Auction Sale as below:-

Sl. No	Lot No. & Year	Species	Volume	Category of Timber	Location	Govt. Value (in Rs.)	D.B Cost (in Rs.)
1.	AMT/UST/14 of 2023-24	Paroli Logs=11 Pcs.	2.850Cu.M	B-II	Amteka Range	8,570/-	4,275/-
2.	AMT/OR/ Confiscate timber/15 of 2023-24	Simul, Odal Logs=25Pcs	3.771Cu.M	B-II, C	Amteka Range	8,876/-	3,771/-
3.	AMT/OR/ Confiscated timber/16 of 2023-24	Haldisopa, M/Sal Logs=12 Pcs	3.059Cu.M	A-III, B-I	Amteka Range	20,066/-	3,059/-
4.	AMT/OR/ Confiscated timber/17 of 2023-24	Koral Simul Logs=27 Pcs	6.317Cu.M	B-I, B-II	Amteka Range	24,075/-	7,580/-
5.	AMT/OR/ Confiscated timber/13 of 2023-24	Paroli Logs=14 Pcs.	4.702Cu.M	B-II	Amteka Range	14,173/-	5,642/-
6.	RR/US/64 of 2022-23	Khokon, Lali 36 Pcs sawn	6.723Cu.M	B-I	Runkhat a Range	44,223/-	—

Sd/- Divisional Forest Officer,
Chirang Division, Kajalgaon
Janasanyog/C/14467/23/4-Jan-24

Great Nicobar Island

11 players interested in transshipment port project: Sonowal

NEW DELHI, Jan 3: The government has received expressions of interest (EOIs) from 11 players for the Rs 41,000-crore international transshipment port project at Great Nicobar Island in the Bay of Bengal, Union minister Sarbananda Sonowal said on Wednesday.

Last year, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways in a statement said the project is expected to be completed with an investment of Rs 41,000 crore (USD 5 billion), including investment from both government and public-private partnership (PPP) concessionaires.

"11 players have submitted expressions of interest

for the international transshipment port project at Great Nicobar Island," the Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister said.

The EOI was sought on January 28, 2022.

The proposed port in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands will have the ultimate capacity to handle 16 million containers per year, and in the first phase, to be commissioned by 2028 at a cost of Rs 18,000 crore, it will handle over 4 million containers.

Other projects planned around the transshipment port include an airport, a township and a power plant.

The project is located on the international trade route,

with existing transshipment terminals like Singapore, Klang and Colombo in proximity.

The project focuses on three key drivers, which can result in making it a leading container transshipment port – strategic location in terms of proximity (40 nautical miles) with the international shipping trade route, availability of natural water depth of over 20m and carrying capacity of transshipment cargo from all the ports in the proximity, including Indian ports, as per the statement.

The proposed facility is envisaged to be developed in four phases.

The estimated cost for

Phase 1 of the proposed transshipment port is around Rs 18,000 crore, which includes the construction of breakwaters, dredging, reclamation, berths, storage areas, building and utilities, procurement and installation of equipment and development of the port colony, with core infrastructure going to be developed with the government support.

Public-private partnership (PPP) will be encouraged for this project via landlord mode. The PPP concessionaire will have the flexibility to develop a storage area, container handling equipment and other infrastructure based on the concession-

aire's own market and business assessment, subject to the minimum guaranteed traffic.

The concessionaire would be awarded a long-term PPP concession of 30 to 50 years (based on requirement), will be responsible for the provision(s) of port services and shall have the rights to levy, collect and retain charges from port users.

Currently, nearly 75 per cent of India's transhipped cargo is handled at ports outside India.

Colombo, Singapore and Klang handle more than 85 per cent of this cargo, with more than half of it handled at Colombo port. – PTI

TMC asserts non-implementation of CAA in Bengal

KOLKATA, Jan 3: West Bengal's ruling TMC asserted today that the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) will not be implemented in the State, dismissing reports of imminent CAA rules notification ahead of the Lok Sabha elections and alleging that such speculations intend to mislead the public before the parliamentary polls.

Rules for the Citizenship (Amendment) Act of 2019 will be notified "much before" the announcement of the Lok Sabha elections, a senior government functionary had said on Tuesday.

Under the CAA brought in by the Narendra Modi government, Indian nationality will be granted to persecuted non-Muslim migrants – Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis and Christians – from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan who had come to India till December 31, 2014.

TMC minister Shashi Panja affirmed the party's stance stating, "Our party supremo and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has said CAA won't be implemented in West Bengal. Those who are making such promises before the Lok Sabha elections are attempting to mislead the people."

"They have passed the law but are yet to frame the rules. This is nothing but an attempt to fool the masses before the Lok Sabha elections," she said.

Addressing concerns raised by Banerjee about citizenship in border areas, Panja emphasised, "Those who already have citizenship, why will they again need to apply for it? CAA will never be implemented in Bengal."

Responding to Panja's comments, West Bengal BJP spokesperson Samik Bhattacharya accused the TMC of opposing CAA to cater to its vote-bank politics.

He asserted, "The TMC is neither interested in the development of the country nor in national security. They are only interested in vote-bank politics. The TMC is opposing CAA to appease its vote-bank politics."

Last week, Union Home Minister Amit Shah reiterated that the implementation of CAA is inevitable as it is the law of the land. He had accused Banerjee of misleading people on the issue during a party meeting in Kolkata.

The feisty TMC boss had alleged that the BJP is manipulating the citizenship issue for political advantages. – PTI

Soren to remain CM, say coalition MLAs

RANCHI, Jan 3: Legislators of the ruling coalition partners in Jharkhand today expressed solidarity with the Hemant Soren government and said the JMM leader will continue as the State Chief Minister.

Coming out from the meeting held here to discuss the present political scenario in the backdrop of the ED's summons to Soren, the lawmakers said they stand united and "solidly" behind Soren and there is no threat to the present government.

Senior JMM leader, Mithlesh Thakur, who holds the drinking water and sanitation portfolio, said Soren will continue as the Chief Minister and JMM will contest the 2024 Lok Sabha and State Assembly polls under his leadership.

The meeting was chaired by Soren himself.

"The MLAs of the coalition parties are united, there is no threat to the present government. There was no talk of any change in the leadership in the State," a legislator said after the meeting.

Soren, the 48-year-old Executive President of JMM, has been in the eye of a political storm since the Enforcement Directorate summoned him in connection with its probe into an office-of-profit case.

A statement from the Chief Minister's secretariat said, "An important meeting of ministers and MLAs of the ruling coalition was held today under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Shri Hemant Soren. The latest political situation in the State was specifically discussed in this meeting. The Chief Minister gave his views on the entire incident and informed everyone about it... All the MLAs expressed their full confidence in the Chief Minister."

All the legislators expressed solidarity with the Chief Minister "under all circumstances", it said.

"In any situation, all of them (MLAs of the coalition parties) are completely united and they will thwart any conspiracy against the Chief Minister and the State government," the statement added.

Sources in the Chief Minister's Office had told PTI that the timeline for reply to the summons to Soren by the ED will end on January 5. The summons, the seventh one, was issued in December last year.

Soren has skipped six earlier summonses by the ED and accused the BJP-led government at the Centre of using Central agencies to destabilise his democratically elected government.

The Election Commission had sent a letter in August 2022 to the then Governor of Jharkhand, Ramesh Bais, which is believed to have recommended his disqualification as an MLA as a mining lease given to him was renewed during his tenure as the Chief Minister. However, neither Bais nor his successor CP Radhakrishnan opened the letter. – PTI

Over 3 cr students have so far registered for Academic Bank of Credits: UGC

NEW DELHI, Jan 3: Over three crore students from across the country have so far registered for the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC), according to the University Grants Commission.

The ABC portal promotes curriculum framework flexibility and interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary academic mobility of the students among the Indian Higher Educational Institutes (HEIs) through a proper credit transfer method.

It is a digital repository of credit records of each student that allows them to seamlessly access their scores and facilitate the transition from a university or a college to other institutions.

"So far, three crore students have joined the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) platform and the process is still going on. This is very important for the successful implementation of the National Credit Framework, which provides more choices to the students," said a senior UGC official.

"If a student does any course during his studies, his credits will continue to be deposited in the bank," the official added.

The UGC is writing to all the universities and colleges from time to time that every student should have an account and it is also being monitored on a regular basis.

The students can upload their credits, transcripts and certificates to the academic account. A four-year course has now been implemented in graduation and the students have the option of multiple entry and exit during graduation.

"Till now, the students used to face difficulties in taking admission from one institute to another, but after the implementation of the provisions of National Credit Framework, now they will be able to easily shift to another institute," the official said. – PTI

GOVT. OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, PWD (ROADS),
ASSAM, CHANDMARI, GUWAHATI-3.

No. CE/STBR/II/37/2023-24/06

CORRIGENDUM

In partial modification of the SBD published vide this office Detailed Tender Notice no. CE/STBR/II/37/2023-24/05, dated 22/12/2023, the line "Bridge/Flyover Length : 1206 Rm" on page no. 33 of SBD shall be read as "Deleted" for the work "Construction of Flyover at Cycle Factory Junction and its extension up to Lal Ganesh Market on Guwahati - Garbhanga Road in Guwahati". Other terms and conditions shall remain same.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, PWD (Roads) Assam,
Chandmari, Guwahati-3.

No. CE/STBR/II/41/2023-24/05

CORRIGENDUM

In partial modification of the SBD published vide this office Detailed Tender Notice no. CE/STBR/II/41/2023-24/03, dated 22/12/2023, the line "Bridge/Flyover Length : 508 Rm" on page no. 32 of SBD shall be read as "Deleted" for the work "Construction of 3-Lane Elevated Corridor on A.T. Road from Barua Chariali to Bhogdoi Bridge in Jorhat District of Assam". Other terms and conditions shall remain same.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, PWD (Roads) Assam,
Chandmari, Guwahati-3.

Janasanyog/CF/4578/23/4-Jan-24

অসম লোকসেৱা আয়োগ
ASSAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Jawaharnagar, Khanapara, Guwahati-781022

No. 76PSC/DR-21/4/2022-23

NOTIFICATION

It is for information to all concerned that the Assam Public Service Commission will hold the Interview/Viva-Voce for the post of Assistant Manager (Human Resource) in Assam Power Distribution Company Limited (APDCL) (Advt. No.07/2023, dated 30th March/2023) as per programme given below at its office at Jawaharnagar, Khanapara, Guwahati-22. The detailed programme for the Interview/Viva-Voce is given below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Post & Department	Date of Interview/Viva-Voce	Reporting Time
1	Assistant Manager (Human Resource) in Assam Power Distribution Company Limited (APDCL)	10th January, 2024	9:00 AM

Kindly note that the candidates appearing the interview/viva-voce must bring the following testimonials in original alongwith self attested photocopies in chronological order, thereof for verification/scrutiny on the day of the interview:

- H.S.L.C. Admit/Pass Certificate as a proof of age.
- H.S.L.C. Marksheet and Pass Certificate.
- H.S.L.C. Marksheet and Pass Certificate.
- Degree Marksheet and Pass Certificate (if applicable)
- MBA/PGDM Degree Marksheet (All Semester) and Pass Certificate.
- CGPA Conversion Formula of the respective universities
- Permanent Residential Certificate/Employment Exchange Registration/Voter ID.
- State Government Employees of Assam must submit No Objection Certificate from their respective employer or Permanent Residential Certificate/Employment Exchange Registration/Voter ID as domicile proof.**
- Caste/PwBD certificate/BPL Card (if applicable).
- Declaration Form A ("May be downloaded from APSC's website")
- Any other documents that may be relevant for their candidature.

No intimation letter to the eligible candidates shall be sent separately by post. **The intimation letters shall be uploaded on 06-01-2024 in the APSC's website (www.apsc.nic.in).** The candidates shall have to download their own intimation letter from the aforesaid website.

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

Janasanyog/D/15771/23/4-Jan-24

NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION
ASSAM

No. NHM-32026/11/2022-Construction-NHM(Part 1)/1/387305/2023
Dated : 03-01-2024

PRESS NOTICE

The Mission Director, National Health Mission, Assam, Christianbasti, Guwahati-5 invites bids for the work, "Construction of District Drug Ware House at Bengenakhua Grant in Golaghat District under NHM, Assam" for a total Rs. 8,29,40,613.00 (Rupees Eight Crore Twenty Nine Lakh Forty Thousand Six Hundred and Thirteen) only.

Intending bidders are requested to visit the NHM, Assam website: nhm.assam.gov.in and assamtenders.gov.in from 04/01/2024. Details of terms and conditions are available in the bidding documents in the above mentioned portal.

Sd/-
Mission Director, NHM, Assam

NHM/N/2023-24/189

Assam Tea Employees Provident Fund Organization
One step more towards transparency

ATEPFO "AT YOUR DOORSTEP"

Launch of e-NIDHI for PF members under ATEPFO

Date: 5th January 2024 (Friday)
Venue: BANGA BHAWAN, Silchar

By
SRI SANJOY KISHAN,
Hon'ble Minister, Labour Welfare Department, Govt. of Assam,
in presence of

Shri Terosh Gowalla
Hon'ble MLA & Vice- Chairman A.T.E.P.F.O.

Shri Kripanath Mallah
Hon'ble Member of Parliament,
Karimganj

Shri B. Kalyan Chakravarthy, IAS
Hon'ble Principal Secretary to the
Govt. of Assam, Labour Welfare Deptt.

Register your mobile no. at www.atepfo.in (ATEPFO e-Portal) for easy access to e-NIDHI

01. Know your up-to-date Provident Fund Balance through e-NIDHI
02. Get your e-Passbook at your fingertips
03. You can download your Individual Receipt from e-NIDHI
04. Get your provident fund related claim status on few taps

GET IT ON Google Play

Website: www.atepfo.in, email: enidhi.atepfo@gmail.com For any feedback/query, call 7099004082
Issued by ATEPFO, Nidhi Bhawan, Lalmati, Guwahati-29

Janasanyog/DF/2301/23/4-Jan-24

S Africa's genocide case against Israel sets up high-stakes legal battle

International Court of Justice

THE HAGUE, Jan 3: South Africa has launched a case at the United Nations' top court alleging that Israel's military campaign in Gaza amounts to genocide.

The filing and Israel's decision to defend itself at the International Court of Justice set up a high-stakes showdown before a panel of judges in the Great Hall of Justice.

The case will likely drag on for years. At its heart is the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, drawn up in the aftermath of World War-II and the Holocaust.

The convention defines genocide as acts such as killings "committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group".

South Africa's 84-page filing says Israel's actions "are genocidal in character because they are intended to bring about the destruction of a substantial part" of the Palestinians in Gaza.

It asks the ICJ, also known as the world court, for a series of legally-binding rulings.



It wants the court to declare that Israel "has breached and continues to breach its obligations under the Genocide Convention", and to order Israel to cease hostilities in Gaza that could amount to breaches of the convention, to offer reparations, and to provide for reconstruction of what it has destroyed in Gaza.

The filing argues that genocidal acts include killing Palestinians, causing serious mental and bodily harm, and

deliberately inflicting conditions meant to "bring about their physical destruction as a group". And it says statements by Israeli officials express genocidal intent.

South Africa argues that the court has jurisdiction because both countries are signatories of the genocide convention. The convention's ninth article says disputes between nations over the convention can be submitted to the International

Court of Justice.

Many South Africans, including President Cyril Ramaphosa, have compared Israel's policies regarding Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank with South Africa's past apartheid regime of racial segregation. Israel rejects such allegations.

Israel's government swiftly rejected the genocide claim. A Foreign Ministry statement said South Africa's case lacks a legal foundation

and constitutes a "despicable and contemptuous exploitation" of the court.

Eylon Levy, an official in the Israeli Prime Minister's office, on Tuesday accused South Africa of "giving political and legal cover" to the October 7 attack by Hamas that triggered Israel's campaign. But he confirmed that Israel would send a legal team to the Hague "to dispel South Africa's absurd blood libel". - AP

Senior Hamas leader killed in Beirut strike

Israel on alert for likely Hezbollah response

BEIRUT, Jan 3: Israel was on high alert for an escalation with Hezbollah on Wednesday after one of the top leaders of the Palestinian Hamas was killed in a strike in Beirut that was widely blamed on Israel and heightened the risk of a broader Middle East conflict.

The killing of Saleh Aroui, the most senior Hamas member slain since the war in Gaza erupted nearly three months ago, provided a morale boost for Israelis still reeling from Hamas' October 7 attack as the militants put up stiff resistance in Gaza and continue to hold scores of hostages.

But its implications for the war remain unclear. Israel has killed several top Hamas leaders over the years, only to see them quickly replaced. And the strike in Hezbollah's southern Beirut stronghold could cause the low-intensity fighting along the Lebanon border to boil over into all-out war.

Much depends on how Hassan Nasrallah - who has



Saleh Aroui

led Hezbollah since an Israeli strike killed his predecessor in 1992 - chooses to respond. He has previously vowed to retaliate for any Israeli targeting of allied militant leaders in Lebanon, and was expected to deliver a speech at 6 pm (1600 GMT).

Hezbollah and the Israeli military have been exchanging fire almost daily over the

Israeli-Lebanese border since the war in Gaza began, but Nasrallah has appeared reluctant to escalate it further, perhaps fearing a repeat of the month-long 2006 war, in which Israel heavily bombed Beirut and southern Lebanon.

Hezbollah said its fighters attacked two Israeli border posts on Wednesday using "suitable weapons" and scor-

ing "direct hits." The two sides also exchanged fire overnight, but Hezbollah did not directly link its actions to Aroui's killing. There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military.

Israeli officials have not commented on the strike that killed Aroui, but Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari, an Israeli military spokesman, said "We are on high readiness for any scenario."

The United States has sought to prevent any widening of the conflict, including by deploying two aircraft carriers and other military assets to the region. Secretary of State Antony Blinken was expected in the region this week.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and other Israeli officials have repeatedly threatened to kill Hamas leaders wherever they are. The group's October 7 attack from Gaza into southern Israel killed around 1,200 people, and some 240 others were taken hostage. - AP

Pak HC restores ECP order stripping Imran's party of 'bat' electoral symbol

PESHAWAR, Jan 3: A High Court in Pakistan on Wednesday restored the Election Commission's order suspending the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's organisational polls as void and revoking its iconic cricket bat electoral symbol, in a huge blow to jailed former Premier Imran Khan's embattled party.

The verdict, reserved early on in the day, was announced by Peshawar High Court judge Ejaz Khan on the Election Commission of Pakistan's review petitions. On December 22, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) rejected PTI's organisational elections and deprived the party of its cricket bat symbol. Barrister Gohar Khan was elected as the party's new chairman in the internal elections in December.

The party, founded by Khan, a cricketer-turned-politician, challenged the verdict in the Peshawar High Court which on December 26 suspended the ECP's declaration of the PTI's intra-party polls as unconstitutional as well as the subsequent revocation of the party's iconic symbol. The Election Commission challenged the High Court verdict.

During the hearing presided over by Justice Khan, PTI counsel Anwar said that the ECP was not a judicial institution, adding that seeking court intervention for or against its own verdict constituted contempt of court, the *Dawn* newspaper reported.

Anwar claimed that all parties, except the PPP, hatched a conspiracy to keep the PTI out of the electoral battle. He further asserted that the Constitution mandated free-and-fair elections.

On his part, the ECP lawyer said that the PTI had secured a stay order against the commission's verdict. "We have the authority to file a writ," he said.

After listening to the arguments, the court reserved its verdict.

A day earlier, the ECP counsel presented his arguments, while the PTI lawyers remained absent. Subsequently, the court issued a notice to the PTI for the completion of arguments.

The development has left the former ruling party, its candidates, and supporters in limbo in the wake of the upcoming elections slated for February 8. - PTI

'Indian-origin' fraudsters face trial in Scotland court

LONDON, Jan 3: A group of Indian-origin alleged fraudsters, including a woman, arrested and charged in connection with a high-value fraud face trial in a Scottish court in the coming weeks after they declined to enter a plea.

According to Police Scotland, the arrests took place as part of an ongoing investigation into a "significant fraud" where an elderly woman in South Lanarkshire, Scotland, had a seven-figure sum in pounds stolen between May and August 2023. The force said six men and one woman were arrested on December 14 following a joint operation with policing partners in Essex, London, and Eastbourne.

While two men aged 23 and 28 years were released on bail to appear at a later date, Londoners Mukesh Vippanapelli, 41, Vageesan Sunmugaraja, 50, and Sunil Theyath, 39, appeared at Airdrie Sheriff Court in North Lanarkshire on December 27. Their alleged accomplices Hafeeza Samreen, 34, and Umar Mohammed, 39, from Eastbourne, were all charged with a "fraudulent scheme." - PTI

Deaths of Indian-origin couple, daughter ruled murder-suicide



NEW YORK, Jan 3: The deaths of a wealthy Indian-origin couple and their daughter in the US state of Massachusetts last week have been ruled a murder-suicide by medical authorities after autopsy.

Rakesh Kamal, 57, his wife Teena Kamal, 54 and their college-going daughter Arianna Kamal, 18 were found dead in their USD 5-million mansion in Dover, Massachusetts on December 28, 2023.

A firearm was found near Rakesh Kamal. A press release issued by the office of Norfolk District Attorney Michael Morrissey on Tuesday said that autopsy results issued by the Office of

the Chief Medical Examiner confirm that Teena and her daughter Arianna were victims of homicide by gunshot.

Rakesh died from a "gunshot wound consistent with being self-inflicted". The final autopsy report is likely to be completed in the coming weeks. The release further said that while full forensic and ballistics testing of the gun has not been finalised, the firearm found with Rakesh is consistent with a .40 calibre Glock 22.

However, the firearm was not registered in Rakesh's name and "he was not licensed to possess it," the release added. Massachusetts State Police have

contacted the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives for assistance in determining the origin of the firearm. The incident remains under investigation by Dover and Massachusetts State Police.

Last week, Morrissey said that the initial investigation indicated the incident was a case of domestic violence and did not initially indicate the involvement of outside parties.

Dover Police received a 911 call requesting a response to the Kamal residence at approximately 7:24 pm on December 28 by a family member who had stopped by to check on the family. - PTI

No. UWS (T)- 1072/2000/PI-V/
RE-TENDER OF NOTICE INVITING TENDER No. 10 OF 2023-2024

e-Tender is re-invited from the intending contractors / firms for Execution, testing and Commissioning of **Dhakuakhana** Town Water Supply Scheme under 6th ASFC required in the Assam Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Board under Department of Housing and Urban Affairs.

(i) Estimated amount : INR 995.70 lakh
(ii) Cost of Tender document : INR 1995/-
(iii) EMD/ Bid Security : INR. 19.914 Lakh only for General category
: INR. 9.96 Lakh only for OBC/MOBC/SC /ST categories

(iv) The Tender documents can be downloaded from www.assamtenders.gov.in from 04.01.2024 (16.00 hours)

(v) The last date of submission of tender document is 24.01.2024 at 14.00 Hours.
(vi) The bid will be opened online on the e-procurement portal on 24.01.2024 at 15.00 Hours
(vii) Completion period : 13 (Thirteen) months

The Tender Inviting Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any bid/tender, and to cancel/annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award.

Sd/- Managing Director
Assam Urban Water Supply &
Sewerage Board, Amritpur Path,
Ganeshguri, Guwahati-6

Janasanyog/CF/4583/23/4-Jan-24

NOTIFICATION
The 5th December, 2023
L.A. Case No. 29/2023

No. LA 29/2023/829.- It is hereby notified that in pursuance of Section 6(1) of the Assam Land (Requisition and Acquisition) Act, 1964 (Assam Act XV of 1964), the Governor of Assam is pleased to decide the acquisition with effect from the date of publication of this notice of the land requisitioned under section 3(1) of said Act as per schedule below measuring an area of KP land measuring **1K-18.22Ls** in village Kamakhya under mouza Jalukbari in the district of Kamrup Metropolitan for purpose of acquisition of land for widening of service road, pertaining to construction of land for 4-Lane Flyover from Maligaon to Kamakhya Gate on AT Road with extended arm to Pandu Feeder Road under L.A. Case No. 29/2023.

SCHEDULE

District : Kamrup Metro.
Mauza/Pargana : Jalukbari
Village : Kamakhya
KP Dag No. : 625(Kha), 627(Kha), 629(Kha), 634(Kha), 635(Kha), 636(Kha), 637(Kha), 628(Kha).
KP Patta No : 297, 60, 130, 289, 275.
Area : K. P Land 0B-1K-18.22Ls
TOTAL 00B-1K-18.22Ls

BLOCK BOUNDARIES

North :- Dag no. 625(ka), 627(ka), 628(ka), 629(ka), 634(ka), 635(ka), 636(ka), 637(ka)
South :- Existing Road (A.T. Road).
East :- Dag no. 637(ka).
West :- Dag no. 624

PALLAV GOPAL JHA,
Deputy Commissioner,
Kamrup Metropolitan District,
Guwahati

Janasanyog/CF/4569/23/4-Jan-24

NOTIFICATION
The 5th December, 2023
L. A. Case No. 30/2023

No. LA 30/2023/831.- It is hereby notified that in pursuance of Section 6(1) of the Assam Land (Requisition and Acquisition) Act, 1964 (Assam Act XV of 1964), the Governor of Assam is pleased to decide the acquisition with effect from the date of publication of this notice of the land requisitioned under section 3(1) of said Act as per schedule below measuring an area of KP land measuring **11.28Ls** in village Maligaon under mouza Jalukbari in the district of Kamrup Metropolitan for purpose of acquisition of land for widening of service road, pertaining to construction of land for 4-Lane Flyover from Maligaon to Kamakhya Gate on AT Road with extended arm to Pandu Feeder Road under L.A. Case No. 30/2023.

SCHEDULE

District : Kamrup Metro.
Mauza/Pargana : Jalukbari
Village : Maligaon
KP Dag No. : 380 (kha), 418(kha), 408 (kha), 400 (kha), 401 (kha), 404 (kha)
KP Patta No. : 294, 213, 210, 247, 69, 246
Area : K.P Land 0B-0K-11.28Ls
TOTAL 00B-0K-11.28Ls

BOUNDARIES

(KA) (KHA)
North: Dag no. 380(ka) North:- Dag no. 385
South: Dag no. 380(ka) South:- Dag no. 418(ka),408(ka)
404(ka), 401(ka), 400(ka)
East: Dag no. 380(ka) East:- Dag no. 419
West: Dag no. 379(ka) West:- Dag no. 397

Sd/- Pallav Gopal Jha,
Deputy Commissioner,
Kamrup Metropolitan District, Guwahati.

Janasanyog/CF/4566/23/4-Jan-24

No: DSY/S/KIUG-PMA/430486/41
NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

The Director, Sports & Youth Welfare, Assam, invites e-Tender affixing non-refundable Court Fee Stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight and twenty five paise) only from the registered Professional Project Management Unit/ Agencies / Company in connection with Engagement of a Project Management Unit for Khelo India University Games 2024 in Assam.

An intending bidder must have the valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-III for processing e-Tender through e-Procurement Portal "www.assamtenders.gov.in", and has to register in the portal. The RFP documents can be downloaded from "www.assamtenders.gov.in" and the bids will have to be submitted online as per the Critical Date Sheet. The bidder has to deposit the following Tender Processing Fee and Earnest Money:

a) Tender Processing Fee : Rs. 2,000.00 (Rupees two thousand) only
b) Earnest Money Deposit : Rs. 2,00,000.00 (Rupees two lakhs) only
c) Bidder has to submit the Tender Fees and EMD online through <https://assamtenders.gov.in>.

A. Critical Date Sheet:

Sl No	Schedule	Start Date	Start time	End date	End Time
1	Publication of tender	03.01.2024	4:30 pm	-	-
2	Downloading of bidding documents	04.01.2024	10:00 am	-	-
3	Pre-bid meeting	06.01.2024	02:30 pm	-	-
4	Submission of bid	08.01.2024	11:00 am	10.01.2024	12:30 pm
5	Opening of technical bid	10.01.2024	02:30 pm	-	-
6	Opening of financial bid (Technically-qualified bidders only)	Will be intimated in due course.			

B. The pre-bid meeting will be held in the office of the Director, Sports & Youth Welfare, Dispur, Assam.

C. If there is a Government holiday on the day of opening of technical bid/financial bid, it will be opened on the next working day.

D. A complete set of the uploaded documents with regard to this RFP should also be submitted mandatorily to the office of the Director, Sports & Youth Welfare, Assam, Rudra Singha Sports Complex, Super Market, Dispur, Guwahati-781006.

E. The authority reserves the right to change any of the schedules, indicated in the Critical Date Sheet. The Department will not be liable for any delay in submission of the bids and system errors (if any).

F. The authority reserves the right to cancel the bid at any time or amend / withdraw any of the terms and conditions contained in the RFP Document without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/- Director
Sports & Youth Welfare, Assam

Janasanyog/C/14481/23/4-Jan-24

Cummins takes 5 wickets but Pakistan rally on Day 1

SYDNEY, Jan 3: Australia captain Pat Cummins took 5-61 for his third consecutive five-wicket haul as Pakistan's brittle top order was again exposed before a combative lower order rally helped the tourists to 313 on Day 1 of the third and final Test.

At 96-5 shortly after lunch on Wednesday, Pakistan were in grave danger of being bundled out cheaply after it had won the toss and chose to bat under bright, blue skies at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

But an enterprising counter-attack led by wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan with a brisk 88, followed by a half-century from Agha Salman and a stunning maiden Test half-century by Aamer Jamal helped Pakistan recover to a respectable total.

Australian pair David Warner playing his final Test, and Usman Khawaja had to survive one over from spinner Sajid Khan under fading light before stumps.

Warner (6 not out) in characteristic style smashed the first ball for four but was lucky later in the over as he somehow survived the ball bouncing over the stumps from a defensive shot. Australia were 6 without loss at stumps.

Much of the pre-match attention may have been on Warner's last Test for Aus-



Australia's Pat Cummins appeals during day one of the 3rd Test in Sydney on Wednesday. - AP/PTI

tralia, but it was the pace bowlers who stole the spotlight early.

Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood set the tone by each taking a wicket in the first two overs, before Cummins, coming off a ten-wicket haul in the Boxing Day Test at Melbourne, snared two wickets including the prize scalp of Babar Azam as Pakistan batters crumbled.

Starc (2-75) struck with the second ball, teasing Shafiq into an uncontrolled swi-

pe which the opener could only edge through to

Steve Smith at second slip. Hazlewood (1-65) struck in the next over when he had Test rookie Saim Ayub edging through to Alex Carey in his debut innings.

From 4-2, Babar and Masood started the rebuild for Pakistan, with Babar especially attacking the Aussie quick bowlers.

But the rally was short-lived as Cummins removed Babar (26) with a ball that came back at the right-hander and struck him on the pad. Umpire Michael Gough turned down the initial Australian appeal, but

the TV umpire overturned the decision.

Saud Shakeel was Cummins' second wicket, edging behind to Carey to leave Pakistan's first innings in tatters at 47-4.

Captain Shan Masood (35) and Rizwan shared a 49-run stand either side of the lunch break to steady Pakistan. Mitchell Marsh (1-27) ended that partnership by teasing an edge from Masood which flew through to Smith.

Rizwan went on the attack and made an enterprising half-century off 74 balls. He con-

tinued to play his shots but eventually holed out to Hazlewood as Cummins brought himself back in to the attack to take his third wicket.

"If you look back at all the best bowlers in the history of cricket, they've always had that in them - the ability to come on and take a wicket when the team needs to," Marsh said of Cummins' uncanny knack of choosing the right time to bowl. "I think the best part about Pat is that he always finds a way for us."

The Aussie skipper got his fourth when he had Sajid caught at midwicket by Nathan Lyon for 15 and a deserved fifth shortly after with Hasan Ali (0) picking out Starc in the deep.

In between Starc had ended Salman's impressive innings at 53 when he was caught by Travis Head at square leg.

Pakistan's lower order continued, though, and a final-wicket partnership of 86 between Jamal and Mir Hamza frustrated Australia for almost 23 overs. Jamal, who made his Test debut in the series-opening match in Perth, blasted nine boundaries and four sixes in an enthralling 82 off 97 balls before finding Starc in the deep off Lyon (1-74) to end the innings. - AP

Suryakumar again in running for ICC Men's T20 Cricketer of Year

DUBAI, Jan 3: India star Suryakumar Yadav was on Wednesday named as one of the four nominees for the ICC Men's T20 Cricketer of the Year 2023.

The 33-year-old Indian, who won the accolade in 2022, dominated 2023 in the shortest format with 733 runs from 17 innings at an average of 48.86 and strike rate of 155.95.

Suryakumar's first innings of just 7 to start 2023 against Sri Lanka was a mere speed bump in another prolific year, making scores of 51 (36 balls) and 112 not out (51 balls) in the next two matches.

With a range of his inside-out drives and clever play behind the wicket, Suryakumar's knock of 112 off 51 balls

included nine sixes and seven fours, equating to almost a boundary every three deliveries.

His first boundary came off just the fourth ball of his innings, and it took just 45 balls to reach three figures. The effort was the second-fastest hundred for India in men's T20s behind Rohit Sharma's 35-ball effort against the same opponent in 2017, and India were clear 91-run winners.

Consistent scoring in 20s to 40s continued, before an innings of 83 (44 balls) against the West Indies in Providence proved his class. He ended the series against the West Indies with a knock of 61 (45 balls) in Florida. Suryakumar flourished

despite the burden of captaincy, taking the reins of a young Indian side towards the end of the year.

He made half-centuries against Australia (80 off 42 balls) and South Africa (56 from 36 balls), before posting an even 100 against the Proteas off just 56 balls in their final T20 of the year in Johannesburg.

The other three nominees are Sikandar Raza of Zimbabwe (11 innings, 515 runs at 51.50, strike rate 150.14; 17 wickets at 14.88, economy 6.57), Alpeh Ramjani of Uganda (55 wickets at 8.98, economy 4.77) and Mark Chapman of New Zealand (17 innings, 556 runs at 50.54, strike rate 145.54). - PTI

Poland advance to United Cup semis with sweep of China



(L to R) Daniel Michalski, Hubert Hurkacz, Jan Zieliński, Iga Świątek, Katerzyna Piter and Katerzyna Kawa of Poland pose for a photo after defeating China in the quarterfinal of the United Cup in Perth on Wednesday.

PERTH, Jan 3: Poland became the first team through to the United Cup semifinals with a dominant 3-0 win over China in Perth on Wednesday after France completed a sweep of Italy in Sydney to progress to the quarterfinals.

Top-ranked Iga Świątek beat No. 14 Zheng Qinwen 6-2, 6-3 in the women's singles to give Poland an unassailable 2-0 lead after Hubert Hurkacz's 6-3, 6-4 win over Zhang Zhizhen in the men's singles.

Polish pair Katarzyna Piter and Jan Zieliński finished the sweep with a 6-3, 5-7, 10-7 win over You Xiaodi and Sun Fajing in the mixed doubles.

The Poland team will trav-

el across Australia for Saturday's semifinals in Sydney, where they will play the winner of the France vs Norway quarterfinal.

Earlier on Wednesday in Sydney, Caroline Garcia and Adrian Panatta led France past Italy.

Mannarino beat Lorenzo Sonego in straight sets before Garcia beat Jasmine Paolini 6-4, 5-7, 6-4 in the women's singles to give France a 2-0 lead and confirm top spot in Group D.

"We have gone a step further than last year," Garcia said.

"Obviously we're very happy with it and we want to

keep going."

French pair Elixane Lechemia and Edouard Roger-Vasselin completed the sweep with a straight sets win in the mixed doubles.

Greece were scheduled to play Canada later on Wednesday in Sydney to conclude Group B. Greece, which had to make do without Stefanos Tsitsipas in its opening match against Chile, must beat Canada to have any chance of advancing. A win for Canada will see it advance as group winner.

Serbia - led by top-ranked Novak Djokovic - faced Australia in the night session in Perth. - AP

No. UWS (T)- 1072/2000/Pt-IV/
RE-TENDER OF NOTICE INVITING TENDER No. 07 OF 2023-2024
e-Tender is re-invited from the intending contractors / firms for Execution, testing and Commissioning of **Dhemaji Town Water Supply Scheme** under 6th AFSC required in the Assam Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Board under Department of Housing and Urban Affairs.
(i) Estimated amount : INR 1431.34 lakh
(ii) Cost of Tender document : INR 20000/-
(iii) EMD/ Bid Security : INR. 28.63 Lakh only for General category
(iv) EMD/ Bid Security : INR. 14.31 Lakh only for OBC/MOBC/SC /ST categories
(v) The Tender documents can be downloaded from www.assamtenders.gov.in from 04.01.2024 (16.00 hours)
(vi) The last date of submission of tender document is 24.01.2024 at 14.00 Hours.
(vii) The bid will be opened online on the e-procurement portal on 24.01.2024 at 15.00 Hours
(viii) Completion period : 13 (Thirteen) months
The Tender Inviting Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any bid/tender, and to cancel/annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award.
Sd/- Managing Director
Assam Urban Water Supply & Sewerage Board, Amritpur Path, Ganeshguri, Guwahati-6
Janasanyog/CF/4586/23/4-Jan-24

No. CE/CC/WR/NIT/2019-20/1003/207
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
The office of Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department, Assam invites bids from eligible contractors/ firms for the following work-

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Approx. Estimated Value in lakh (in Rs.)	EMD/ Bid Security (in Rs.)	Tender Fees (in Rs.)	Pre-bid date and time	Last date & time of bid submission	Date & time of bid opening
1	A/E measures to protect village Hangshabil and its adjoining areas from the erosion of river Garuphella on its R/B.	195.00	2% of Package value	4,000.00	As per Bid Document	12.01.2024 at 14:00 Hrs	12.01.2024 at 15:00 Hrs

The Tender documents can be downloaded from www.assamtenders.gov.in. A pre-bid meeting will be held as per bid document. The address for the meeting will be specified/ notified later on as per Bid Document. The bid will be opened online on the e-procurement portal as per the schedule mentioned above.
The Tender Inviting Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any bid/tender, and to cancel/annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award.
Sd/- Chief Engineer
Water Resources Department, Assam Water Centre, Basistha, Guwahati 29
Janasanyog/C/14463/23/4-Jan-24

Assam State Warehousing Corporation
(A Govt. of Assam Undertaking)
Tender No. AWC.284/2017/2023-24/FCI/(Contract)
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
E-Tender with Technical and price bid are invited from the reputed Contractors/ eligible bidders under "TWO BID TENDERING SYSTEM" at Assam State Procurement Portal (URL:<https://assamtenders.gov.in>) as per conditions prescribed in the tender form for appointment of regular contractors as per details given below from **contractors with or without requisite experience** with strong financial background on regular basis for a period of 2 (two) years. Detailed instructions for online bidding are available in Assam State Procurement Portal (URL:<https://assamtenders.gov.in>) and ASWC Portal www.warehouse.assam.gov.in Tenders and supporting documents should be uploaded through e-procurement portal. **The hard copy of tender documents will have to be submitted as ASWC Head Office on before 22.01.2024.** The Bidders must be registered with the E-Tendering system (ETS) of the Govt. of Assam (URL:<https://assamtenders.gov.in>). All terms and conditions will be as per the Bidding documents. The Press Notice will be a part of the Bidding documents.
The last date of online submission of tender is 22.01.2024 up to 1.00 pm. Interested contractors/ eligible bidders may obtain the details of E-Tenders with all terms and conditions uploaded on 05.01.2024 in the web portal URL: <https://assamtenders.gov.in>
Janasanyog/CF/4589/23/4-Jan-24 **Sd/- Managing Director**

AUCTION NOTICE
It is hereby notice for general information to all concerned that, condemned items of clothing & web equipments and non lethal items, cooking utensil, fatigue implement, steel cot, miscellaneous articles and tent & tarpaulin etc. as per list enclosed herewith will be sold in public auction in the Office of the **Commandant, 16th A.P. Battalion, Bormonipur, Morigaon on 10.01.2024 at 11.00 hrs.**
Any intending bidders will have to deposit a sum of **Rs. 1000 (one thousand) only** in cash as earnest money for enlisting their names in the bidders list. The earnest money will be returned after the auction is over.
The successful bidders will have to deposit the full amount of bid money in case on the spot and take delivery of the auctioned articles on the same day. If he will be failed to deposit the bid money, the amount so deposit will be forfeited to the Govt. of Assam.
The undersigned will not hold any responsibilities for loss or damage of the stores if those are not removed on the auction day, also not bound to accept the highest bid money and may reject any or all the tenders, without any notice or assigning any reason thereof.
Intending bidders may inspect the stores on any working days between **10.00 A.M. to 2 P.M. at the stores of "Q" Branch.**
Sd/- Commandant,
16th A.P. Battalion,
Bormonipur, Morigaon, Assam.
Janasanyog/C/14443/23/4-Jan-24

NO. SAA/Est/Shooting Range/611/2022/Pt-I/27
NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
Sealed Request for Proposal affixing Court Fee Stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight & twenty five paise) only are invited from Contractors/ Firms/ Manufacturers/ Dealers registered under Govt./ APWD (Electrical) etc. having expertise and past experience in similar work for execution work- "Shifting of Floor Mounted Ductable package Air Conditioner Machine (8 x 17 TR) from Squash Court at R.G. Boruah Sports Complex, Ulubari, Guwahati-7 to Guwahati Shooting Range, Kahilipara, Guwahati with Re-installation, Testing & Commissioning with Ducting & necessary Electrical works & Construction of Civil foundation for Indoor, Outdoor Unit".
Interested Bidders may submit RFP documents with Firm's Registration Certificate/ Dealership Certificate/ Registration Certificate of APWD (Electrical) with previous experience certificate, Electrical Contractor License, Pan Card, GST registration etc. on or before 24th January, 2024 at the Engineering Cell, Sports Authority of Assam at Bhogeswari Phukanani Indoor Stadium, Rudra Singha Sports Complex, Dispur, Guwahati-6. The RFP will be opened at 12:00 hrs of 25th January, 2024.
Sd/- Secretary,
Sports Authority of Assam
Janasanyog/C/14419/23/4-Jan-24

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Sealed tender in F-2 Form affixing court fee stamp of Rs.8.25 (Rupees eight and paise twenty five) only with a validity period of 180 (one hundred and eighty) days are invited from the registered APWD (Building) contractors for the work as detailed below:-
1. Name of work: Renovation / fitting / fixing of the tiles along with aluminium panel windows in the Ground floor of DGM main building at Directorate of Geology and Mining, Assam.
2. Approx. Value of work :- Rs. 13,57,778.00
3. Bid Security 2% for general and 1 % for reserved category.
4. Cost of tender documents (In Rs.) :- Rs. 1000. 00
5. Date of application :- During office hours of 19-01-2024 to 20-01-2024
6. Date of issue of tender paper :- 22/01/2024
7. Time & Date of receiving / opening of tender :- Receiving upto 14.00 hours of 24.01.2024 and opening at 14.30hours of 24.01.2024
8. Period of completion :- 60(sixty) days
9. Eligibility of contractor :- APWD (Building) Class-I (A, B, C), Class- II of Circle-II & Class-III under this office
Detail particulars may be seen during office hours of any working days in the office of the undersigned upto 19-01-2024.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D.
Jalukbari & Guwahati West Territorial Building Division, Jalukbari, Guwahati-13.
Janasanyog/C/14476/23/4-Jan-24

Letter no. B/CAMPA/E-Tender/5093
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER FOR ERECTION OF 10 HA. CHAINLINK FENCING UNDER NORTH KAMRUP DIVISION, RANGIA
This is for general information to all concerned that the work for "Erection of 10 ha. fencing at Natuanacha Reserve Forest under CAMPA Scheme during the year 2023-24 of North Kamrup Division, Rangia" are intended to be e-tender.
The details of E-tender will be available on <https://www.assamforestonline.in> portal from 05.01.2024.
Sd/- Divisional Forest Officer
North Kamrup Division, Rangia.
Janasanyog/C/14429/23/4-Jan-24

No. SSUHS/281/2023/43
EDUCATIONAL NOTICE
MOP-UP COUNSELLING FOR SELECTION OF CANDIDATES FOR ADMISSION INTO B.SC. MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY COURSES IN THE MEDICAL COLLEGES OF ASSAM FOR THE SESSION 2023-24 UNDER SSUHS
Mop-up counselling for vacant seats in various subjects of B.Sc. Medical Technology courses under Srimanta Sankaradeva University of Health Sciences for the session 2023-24 shall be held on 8th January, 2024 from 10.00 AM onwards.
The details are available in the University website www.ssuhs.in
Sd/- Registrar,
Srimanta Sankaradeva University of Health Sciences
Janasanyog/D/15757/23/4-Jan-24

RE-E-TENDER NOTICE FOR SALE OF TIMBER LOTS OF 2023-24
This is for the general information of all concern that under the provision laid down in the "Assam Sale of Forest Produce, Coupes and Mahals Rules' 1977" and Amendment Rule' 2000, bids are invited through online by the undersigned from Registered Companies/ Firms/ Individuals etc. for the re-sale of Timber lots of respectively kept in different location within Lakhimpur Division, North Lakhimpur.
The details of E-Tender will be available on <https://www.assamforestonline.in>
Sd/- Divisional Forest Officer,
Lakhimpur Division,
North Lakhimpur.
Janasanyog/C/14456/23/4-Jan-24

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Sealed tender affixed non-refundable court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight and twenty five paise) only are invited for JSB Civil Hospital, Chirang from the intending Registered Firm/Supplier for installation of FIRE FIGHTING SYSTEM at JSB Civil Hospital, Kajalgaon, Chirang an amount of Rs. 15,00,000/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakh) only. The tender will be received in the office of the undersigned up to 1:00 PM on 07.01.2024 and will be open on 08.01.2024 at 12:30 PM at the Chamber of Superintendent, JSB Civil Hospital, Kajalgaon in presence of tender parties. For details of items and terms & conditions can be obtained from the office of the Superintendent, JSB Civil Hospital, Kajalgaon, Chirang in all working days.
Sd/- Superintendent,
JSB Civil Hospital, Kajalgaon, Chirang
Janasanyog/C/14473/23/4-Jan-24

CORRIGENDUM
It is hereby informed to all the concerned that, the Tender Notice dated 20.12.2023, so published on 21.12.2023, from the office of the undersigned, has a rectification to be made, i.e. the Bid Security of the project cost may be read as 'Security Deposit' against Construction of boundary fencing with RCC Posts and chain link fencing at Padumpukhuri, Sadiya under Sadiya SF Range and Construction of Entrance Gate respectively. Other terms and conditions will remain the same.
Sd/- Divisional Forest Officer
Social Forestry Division
Dibrugarh
Janasanyog/C/14451/23/4-Jan-24

India suffer batting collapse after Siraj special as 23 wickets fall on Day 1

CAPE TOWN, Jan 3: Mohammed Siraj got six wickets in a breathtakingly menacing morning spell but to his horror found India losing six wickets in a space of eleven balls in the final session before regaining the advantage against South Africa on a riveting day one of the second Test here.

After Siraj's career-best 6/15 decimated South Africa for their lowest post-apartheid score of 55, India were 153 for 4 before losing six wickets without addition of single run in a space of 11 deliveries to end with a 98-run lead.

There were six Indian batters, who failed to open their accounts and one who remained not out also didn't trouble the scorer, making it a statistician's nightmare.

Lungi Ngidi (3/30) and Kagiso Rabada (3/38) got five of those six wickets keeping the lead below 100 and gaining



Mohammed Siraj celebrates after picking up a wicket on the first day of the 2nd Test against South Africa at the Newlands Cricket Ground in Cape Town on Wednesday. — PTI

the necessary psychological advantage as 23 wickets fell on the opening day.

South Africa were more cautious despite being aggressive as they scored 62 for three in their second innings at stumps to bring

down the deficit to 36 runs. Aiden Markram (32 batting) looked solid in the middle.

The maximum number of wickets lost on Day 1 of a Test is 25 and that happened in an Ashes Test back in 1902.

SCORECARD

South Africa (1st innings): Aiden Markram c Jaiswal b Siraj 2, Dean Elgar (c) b Siraj 4, Tony de Zorzi c Rahul b Siraj 2, Tristan Stubbs c Sharma b Bumrah 3, David Bedingham c Jaiswal b Siraj 12, Kyle Verreynne c Gill b Siraj 15, Marco Jansen c Rahul b Siraj 0, Keshav Maharaj c Bumrah b Mukesh 3, Kagiso Rabada c Gill b Mukesh 5,

Nandre Burger c Jaiswal b Bumrah 4, Lungi Ngidi not out 0. **Extras:** (B-4, LB-1) 5. **Total: (All out in 23.2 overs) 55.** **Fall of wickets:** 1-5, 2-8, 3-11, 4-15, 5-34, 6-34, 7-45, 8-46, 9-55, 10-55. **Bowling:** Jasprit Bumrah 8-1-25-2, Mohammed Siraj 9-3-15-6, Prasidh Krishna 4-1-10-0, Mukesh Kumar 2-2-0-2.

India (1st innings): Yashasvi Jaiswal b Rabada 0, Rohit Sharma (c) c Jansen b Burger 39, Shubman Gill c Jansen b Burger 36, Virat Kohli c Markram b Rabada 46, Shreyas Iyer c Verreynne b Burger 0, KL Rahul c Verreynne b Ngidi 8, Ravindra Jadeja c Jansen b Ngidi 0, Jasprit Bumrah c Jansen b Ngidi 0, Mohammed Siraj run out (Burger) 0, Prasidh Krishna c Markram b Rabada 0, Mukesh Kumar not out 0. **Extras:** (B-4, LB-10, NB-5, W-5) 24. **Total: (All out in 34.5 overs) 153.** **Fall of wickets:** 1-17, 2-72, 3-105, 4-110, 5-153, 6-153, 7-153, 8-153, 9-153, 10-153. **Bowling:** Kagiso Rabada 11.5-2-38-3, Lungi Ngidi 6-1-30-3, Nandre Burger 6-2-42-3, Marco Jansen 9-2-29-0.

South Africa (2nd innings): Aiden Markram batting 36, Dean Elgar c Kohli b Mukesh 12, Tony de Zorzi c Rahul b Mukesh 1, Tristan Stubbs c Rahul b Bumrah 1, David Bedingham batting 7. **Extras:** (LB-1, NB-4) 5. **Total: (For 3 wickets in 17 overs) 62.** **Fall of wickets:** 1-37, 2-41, 3-45. **Bowling:** Jasprit Bumrah 6-0-25-1, Mohammed Siraj 5-2-11-0, Mukesh Kumar 6-2-25-2. — PTI

Fresh protest erupts in Indian wrestling

This time against Bajrang, Sakshi and Vinesh

NEW DELHI, Jan 3: The ongoing crisis in Indian wrestling took a new twist on Wednesday when hundreds of junior wrestlers assembled at Jantar Mantar for a symbolic three-hour protest against the loss of one crucial year of their careers, a situation for which they blamed top grapplers Bajrang Punia, Sakshi Malik and Vinesh Phogat.

Loaded in buses, the junior wrestlers arrived from different parts of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi, catching the police unawares. Close to 300 of them came from Arya Samaj Akhara in Chhaprauli, Baghatpat while many others came from the Virender Wrestling Academy in Narela. The security personnel struggled to control them as they shouted slogans against Punia, Malik and Phogat.

Braving cold conditions,

the junior wrestlers arrived at Jantar Mantar at 11 am and left after three hours with a warning that if the government does not lift the WFI suspension within 10 days, they will start returning their awards.

The protesters were carrying banners that read: 'UWW (United World Wrestling) save our wrestling from these 3 wrestlers'.

Another banner read: 'Kar Diya Desh Ki Kushti Ko Barbaad: Sakshi Bajrang, Vinesh Phogat'.

Soon after the election of new office-bearers, the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) announced the hosting of the Under-15 and Under-20 Nationals in Gonda, UP but the ministry suspended the body, leading to the cancellation of the proposed tournament.

Several wrestlers, who could have competed in the

junior categories for one last time, lost the opportunity.

"It was a symbolic protest. We are giving 10 days' time to the government to revoke the suspension of the new WFI and allow it to hold age group nationals.

"If they don't do it, we will start returning our Arjuna and other awards to the government just like Bajrang and Vinesh have done," said Greco-Roman wrestler Sunil Rana, who is an Arjuna awardee and a bronze medallist from the 2023 Asian Games.

Muzaffarnagar stadium coach Pradeep Kumar said, "More than 90 per cent of Akharas (training centres) in UP are with us in this protest. There are only three wrestlers on one side and thousands on the other. They have spoilt the careers of so many wrestlers from across the country." — PTI

City Cricket Club lift GSA Champions Trophy

SPORTS REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Jan 3: City Cricket Club (CCC) emerged victorious defeating Bud Cricket Club by a convincing 34-run margin in the final of the GSA Champions Trophy T20 Cricket Tournament at the Amingaon Cricket Ground in North Guwahati on Wednesday.

Winning the toss and opting to bat first, City Cricket boys put up a commanding performance, amassing a formidable total of 194/3 in their stipulated 20 overs. The star of the show was Hrishikesh Tamuli, who remained un-



The victorious City Cricket Club players along with guests after winning the final on Wednesday.

beaten on 72 off just 52 balls, providing the perfect anchor for the innings. Wasiqur Rahman (51 off 38 balls) and Rohan Hazarika (30 off 18 balls) also chipped in with valuable contributions, ensuring a strong finish for CCC.

In response, Bud faced an

uphill task from the outset. However, they put up a respectable fight, racking up 160 all out in their 20 overs. Atul Singh (32 off 26 balls) and Diwiz Pathak (28 off 19 balls) played well with the bat, but City bowlers, led by Pankaj Khadal's 3/29, proved too

strong in the end.

The tournament concluded with a closing ceremony graced by Assam Cricket Association (ACA) treasurer Chiranjit Langthasa as chief guest and ACA joint secretary Rajendra Singh as guest of honour. GSA office bearers

including president Paresh Chandra Das, vice president Kajal Paul Choudhary, assistant general secretary Bablu Choudhary, athletics sports secretary Raghavendra Majumdar, table tennis secretary Gitartha Das, cricket secretary Nasir Gul Khan and executive member Pramod Rajbangshi, among others were also present during the occasion.

Brief scores: City Cricket Club 194/3 in 20 overs: (Hrishikesh Tamuli 72 not out of 52 balls, Wasiqur Rahman 51 off 38 balls, Rohan Hazarika 30 off 18 balls). **Bud Cricket Club 160 all out in 20 overs:** (Atul Singh 32 off 26 balls, Diwiz Pathak 28 off 19 balls; Pankaj Khadal 3/29).

Assam team for CK Nayudu Trophy named

SPORTS REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Jan 3: The names of the players to represent the Assam State team for the first two matches of the Men's U-23 Col CK Nayudu (Multi-day) Tournament have been announced by the Assam Cricket Association.

Assam will take on Jharkhand from January 7 at the Amingaon Cricket Ground in North Guwahati and in the second match will face Chandigarh at the same venue.

Team: Amlanjyoti Das (captain), Abdul Ajj Kuraishi, Mayukh Hazarika, Rituraj Biswas, Jay Borah, Nibir Deka, Nihar Narah, Parvej Musaraf, Pradyun Saikia, Hrishikesh Borah, Jitumoni Kalita, Darshan Rajbangshi, Dipiyoti Saikia, Ayush Agarwal (wicket-keeper), Roshan Topno (wicket-keeper). **Standbys:** Ayushman Malakar, Saurav Dey, Dhruv Raj Borah, Jitu Ali, Nihar Deka, Dipankar Paul, Reshabh Dipak, Mohit Thakur, Altaf Alam, Bhargab Pratim Lahkar, Rohit Mihir Sen. **Support staff:** Head coach: Raju Singh; **Coach-cum-manager:** Zakaria Zuffri; **Physio:** Jai Sabharwal; **Trainer:** Navajit Kaushik; **Video analyst:** Sunit Chhetri.

In the loving Memory of



Robindra Kumar Bhuyan
14.02.1954 - 29.12.2018

Today on the "Punya - Tithi" of your 5th Death Anniversary, We pray to the Almighty for the eternal peace of your departed soul. Your divine presence will always continue to inspire and guide us.

Mrs. Ila Bhuyan
Ulubari, Guwahati - 7

Guwahati Premier Football League

ASEB triumph over Barekuri FC; semifinals scheduled for Friday

SPORTS REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Jan 3: ASEB Sports Club showcased their prowess by securing a convincing 2-0 victory against Barekuri FC in a gripping match of the Protech Guwahati Premier Football League played at the Judges' Field on Wednesday.

Chandan Barman netted the first goal for ASEB in the 11th minute while Karma Narzary sealed the victory with a goal in the 90+3rd minute.

Sandeep Thapa of ASEB Sports Club earned the Player of the Match award for his outstanding performance on the field. Luchan Saikia, a former Santosh Trophy player from Assam, presented him with a trophy and a cash award.



Srinivasan Singh of Gauhati Town Club receiving the Player of the Match award from senior advocate Tanmay Jyoti Mahanta.

day, Gauhati Town Club and Assam Police battled fiercely, resulting in a 1-1 draw. Srinivasan Singh of Gauhati Town Club scored in the 25th minute, matched by Bilson Daimary from Assam Police in the 65th minute.

Srinivasan Singh received the Player of the Match honour, accompanied by a trophy and cash award presented by Tanmay Jyoti Mahanta, senior advocate at Gauhati High Court and an eminent sports organiser.

Thursday has been designated as a rest day for the participating teams. The semifinal matches are scheduled for January 5. The matchups include Oil India Limited facing DBI at 2:45 pm and NorthEast United FC taking on Barekuri FC in the second semifinal at 5 pm.

GUNOTSAV 2024

Ensuring Quality Education

TOTAL SCHOOLS TO BE COVERED : 16,796

- GOVERNMENT/ PROVINCIALIZED SCHOOLS
- ADARSHA VIDYALAYA
- TEA GARDEN MODEL SCHOOLS
- KASTURBA GANDHI BALIKA VIDYALAYA
- NETAJI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE AVASIYA VIDYALAYA
- TEA GARDEN MANAGEMENT SCHOOLS

TOTAL STUDENTS TO BE EVALUATED : 15,38,371

CLASSES I TO IX

TOTAL EXTERNAL EVALUATORS : 7,008

MINISTERS, MPs, MLAs, CEMs, EMs,
IAS, IPS, IFS, ACS, APS, AFS, CLASS I & II OFFICIALS OF STATE GOVT. ETC.

Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma
Chief Minister, Assam

PHASES OF EVALUATION

1ST PHASE (3 - 6 JANUARY 2024)

BARPETA, BAJALI, HOJAL, KARIMGANJ, KAMRUP, KARBI ANGLONG, KOKRAJHAR, LAKHIMPUR, NAGAON, Sivasagar, SOUTH SALSAR, MANKACHAR AND UDALGURI DISTRICTS

EXTERNAL EVALUATION
4 - 6 January 2024

Participate and nurture our students and schools on their journey towards excellence!

Janasanyog/DF/2308/23/4-Jan 24

Osaka's first tournament as a mom ends in a loss

BRISBANE, Jan 3: A loss didn't bother Naomi Osaka at the Brisbane International as much as the missed opportunity for more matches ahead of the year's first Grand Slam tournament.

The four-time major winner's first tournament since becoming a mother ended in a 3-6, 7-6 (4), 6-4 second-round loss on Wednesday to three-time Brisbane International champion Karolina Pliskova.

Osaka won her first match at the elite level since late 2022 on Monday in straight sets against Tamara Korpatsch.

After that win, she said the birth in July of her daughter, Shai, and the changes to her mindset since becoming a mother had given her a better perspective on tennis.

A second-round encounter featuring two former No. 1-ranked players was a step up in tempo and a better indication of how Osaka's preparations are going for the Australian Open starting January 14 in Melbourne.

"The week is definitely shorter than I wanted it to be," Osaka said in a news conference. "I feel like I'm pretty good where I am right now. Even the last time I played her, I think I played better today.

"I feel like, honestly, I think I'm pretty good. Like, the court is just really... It's her court, you know what I mean? I guess I'll see what happens in Melbourne."

Osaka won the first set but Pliskova recovered and fired 16 aces and hit 50 winners, saving 10 of the 12 breakpoint chances she faced and making amends for her 11 double-faults.

"I saw the stats after and my break points could have been better," Osaka said, "but I think other than that we both played really well... So hopefully she says the same thing!" — AP

SU DO KU

	2		3	5	6		7
3			8		7		4
	7						5
		2	4		5	3	
9							7
		1	6		9	4	
	3						4
5			7	4			6
	6		1	2	3		9

Solution of last problem

Originating from Japan, 'su do ku' is a mind game and a puzzle that can be solved with proper reasoning and logic. Fill the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3 x 3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9 without repeating any.

8	5	1	2	9	7	6	4	3
4	7	3	5	6	1	2	8	9
9	6	2	4	3	8	1	5	7
3	7	8	4	6	9	1	2	
2	1	9	7	5	3	8	6	4
6	4	8	1	2	9	7	3	5
7	9	4	6	1	5	3	2	8
1	8	5	3	7	2	4	9	6
3	2	6	9	8	4	5	7	1

Reprints — Believe It or Not!



Why What?

What are arthropods?

Arthropods are animals with hard outer skeleton and a jointed body and limbs. Most arthropods are small, and many are microscopic. Several species are quite large — a fully grown coconut crab can weigh four kg, about the size of a small cat. Lacking internal skeletons, arthropods wear their 'bones' on the outside in the form of an armoured exoskeleton. This durable shell is made of chitin, a hard material containing cellulose and further strengthened by protein and, in some species, calcium carbonate.



Arthropods make up a phylum of invertebrates that include insects, such as ants, beetles, and butterflies; crustaceans, such as lobsters, shrimps, and crabs; and arachnids, including scorpions, spiders, and ticks. More than one million arthropod species have been identified.

In terms of sheer numbers and the variety of niches they fill, arthropods are the most successful animals on Earth. Arthropods have adapted to life on land, at sea, and in the air. They occupy an array of habitats, from scorching deserts and scalding hot springs to snow-capped mountains and frigid fjords. As plant pollinators, nutrient recyclers, and prey for other animals, they are essential members of the web of life.

Many arthropods, including shrimp, lobsters, and crabs, are harvested as food for people throughout the world. Other arthropods provide the ingredients for fabric dyes, wood preservatives, and medicines. Members of one arthropod class in particular — insects — can be formidable pests, devouring crops, destroying wood structures, and spreading malaria and other life-threatening diseases.



My viewpoint

How can we, the youth, do constructive social work?



Swati Boro, Class-VIII, Christ Jyoti School, Pathsala.

The youth of a country are the future of the nation. Constructive social work will bring about a positive change, helping in the welfare of the society. We are the assets of our society. Brotherhood and integrity, along with our caring and loving nature, can eliminate all social evils. Be a green crusader, plant more trees around you. Spread education as much as you can. Respect and help your elders and love your juniors. Let's be conscious about our responsibilities towards the country and be committed to social work, ushering peace and progress.



Ananth Palaparthi, Class-VIII, Delhi Public School, Kamrup.

As a youth of the nation, I would like to work for the betterment of the society. We can help orphans, as well as the elderly. Let's bring a smile on someone's face today. Any person can spare some time out of a busy day. Visit an old-age home or an orphanage and spread smiles. We can donate clothes, food, etc., and distribute gifts such as stationery items among the orphans on our birthdays. Everyone can do it. Social work will not just help others and spread happiness, but we too shall be blessed.



Sinjini Paul, Class-VIII, St. Vivekananda English Academy, Maligaon, Guwahati.

We, the youth, must have a sense of responsibility towards the nation in order to bring about a positive change in the society. Be conscious of your thoughts and actions. Social work can always lead to a better society. A few ways in which we, the youth, can bring about change in the society include being respectful towards elders, being kind to all, keeping our surroundings clean, etc. These habits will make us better individuals. Let us all be responsible citizens of our country.



Bashabi Choudhury, Class-IX, Delhi Public School, Kamrup.

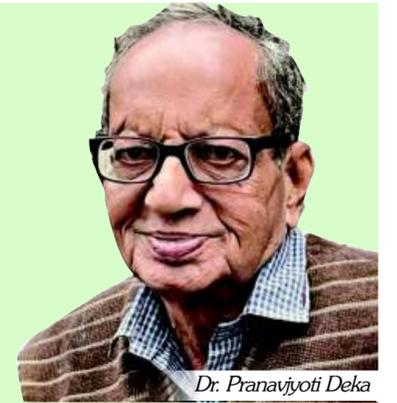
We, the youth, are the future of this world. It is our responsibility to make this world a better place. Change starts from within. We need to take constructive steps for a better society. We can help the less privileged ones who live on the streets, in the cold, by donating warm clothes or blankets to them. Help disadvantaged senior citizens, visit them in old-age homes. Also, spread awareness regarding child labour, quality education, etc. We should show empathy towards one another. If not us, then no one will. Start doing social work to build a better society.

PLANET YOUNG

GUWAHATI, THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2024

The ultimate balloon ride to space is here!

A space tourism company has given a sneak peek at the spherical pod that could transport paying customers to space this year. New photos and video show construction of the Space Neptune capsule which is being built by the U.S. firm — Space Perspective, in Florida. Once completed, Space Neptune will ferry people 100,000 feet above our planet's surface for incredible photo opportunities. The cost of the ticket would be \$125,000. Passengers will be able to feast their eyes on 360-degree views of Earth. The company hopes the first people will fly on Space Neptune before the end of 2024, but this depends on how unmanned test flights go.



Dr. Pranavijoti Deka

Trailblazers

By Maithilee Bhuyan

Dr. Pranavijoti Deka is an eminent author, researcher, dictionary compiler and academician who has recently bagged the Sahitya Akademi Award 2023 for his short story collection, *Dr. Pranavijoti Dekar Srestho Golpo*. This collection of Assamese short stories was published in 2021.

The Sahitya Akademi Award recognises the most outstanding books of literary merit published in major Indian languages. The award comes in the form of a casket containing an engraved copper plaque, a shawl, and an amount of one lakh rupees.

A prominent academician, Dr. Deka retired as a Professor of Geology from Gauhati University. Born on July 21, 1939, in Kolkata to the first Assamese judge, Haliram Deka, Dr. Deka completed his higher studies from Cotton College and Banaras Hindu University. He received his Master's degree in Geology from Banaras Hindu University in 1961. Later, he obtained his Doctorate in Economic Geology from Leningrad School of Mines. He joined the Department of Geology, Gauhati University, as a Professor in 1966.

Dr. Deka has relentlessly worked to contribute to Assamese literature and the Sahitya Akademi Award is a testament to his hard work. He has truly made Assam proud.

Staying up late?

New sleep therapy offers hope for teens living with depression.

Plenty of teens prefer staying up late and sleeping in the next morning. While many parents, teachers, and other adults are quick to label many adolescents as lazy, researchers from the University of California-San Francisco (UCSF) explain that a new alarm clock is hardly the ideal solution.

Estimates show that roughly 40 per cent of teens are night owls. Among those with depression, however, 80 per cent report late-night sleep patterns.

Now, study authors say the key to happier, more well-rested adolescents is teaching night owls to structure their lives so they can sleep as late as possible, while also gently working to train their bodies to fall asleep a little earlier gradually over time.

"A big finding here is that there is a subgroup of teens for whom treating sleep is particularly important for improving depression symptoms,"

says Lauren Asarnow, PhD, a clinical psychologist with UCSF Health who specialises in sleep health.

To conduct this research, the team at UCSF analysed data from 42 participants diagnosed with clinical depression who took part in a larger study of 176 night owl adolescents. While 24 of those participants took part in the intervention, called the *Transdiagnostic Sleep and Circadian Intervention* (TransS-C), the other 18 received educational sessions focussing on how to lead a healthy lifestyle.

"There is a saying in our psychology and psychiatry clinics that the best treatment for depression and anxiety is summer break," Dr. Asarnow concludes. "We need to stop calling these kids 'lazy'. A lot of the time it is just their biology. It's not their fault."

The study has been published in *The Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*.

— Agencies



It was a breezy afternoon. Rakesh was leisurely sitting in the verandah, reading the newspaper. It was all quiet and peaceful until he heard a faint noise in the backyard. He stood up and went to check. To his surprise, he saw two greater adjutant storks on a big pile of grass. The birds seemed very sick and old to Rakesh.

Rakesh immediately called the forest department helpline number and informed them about the piteous

Being empathetic

Yugabrata Mahanta, Class-VII, Sarala Birla Gyan Jyoti, Amingaon, North Guwahati.

condition of the adjutant birds, and asked them for help. A few forest guards immediately came to the rescue of the poor birds.

"Thank you, Sir, for calling us to rescue these poor birds. We are happy to have a man with a big

heart like you in this society and I hope that our future generations will have more people like you." Saying so, the guards thanked Rakesh and praised him for his kindness.

Without any further delay, they left with the birds to take care of them.

Rakesh felt happy and remembered what his mother had once said to him when he was a kid. "Treat others the way you want to be treated by others. Always think about others as much as you think about yourself. The society will always need people who will work for the sake of humanity and not only for themselves."



CONTRIBUTOR OF THE WEEK
Yugabrata Mahanta, Amingaon, North Guwahati.



POEM OF THE WEEK
Anushree Borah, Sivasagar.



SKETCH OF THE WEEK
Haziq Rashad, Guwahati.



Dear Ishani Aunty,
On Christmas, this time, I did not get a single decent present. Most of the gifts I got were things I did not want. I am so sad. Please help.

— Anju

Dear Anju,
Things happen. But you need to get over it. The gifts were given to you with the best of intentions, so please don't crib about them. And remember, Christmas is not only about receiving, but giving as well.

Dear Ishani Aunty,
My aunt is seriously ill and she will stay at our place while undergoing treatment. I don't like the idea at all. Kindly advise.

— Chirag

Dear Chirag,
I am amazed you are saying such a thing. Your aunt needs all of you in this hour of need. Make preparations to help her be comfortable. That is the least you can do.

Dear Ishani Aunty,
My father insists on us using very little electricity. We are not even allowed to charge our phones and laptops more than a couple of hours a day. What is his problem?

— Tara

Dear Tara,
Your father is obviously troubled by the rising electricity charges, and this is his way of coping. It is always wise to use less electricity and you should take the initiative yourself.

Devansh Sharma, Class-III, Faculty Hr. Sec. School.



[Send your entries to: planet_young@assamtribune.com / planetyoung23@gmail.com]

PicSPEAK

NEXT WEEK'S PICTURE



JUNIOR WORD FIND

FAMOUS RIVERS

Solution: 12 letters

The words below can all be found in the puzzle. They may be spelled horizontally, vertically, backwards, forwards or diagonally. Be careful, some letters are used more than once. When you find a word, circle each letter. When all the words on the list have been found, the letters left over will spell the solution. Have fun!

E	L	I	N	I	N	D	U	S	F
J	O	R	D	A	N	L	E	E	Y
O	W	I	C	N	I	N	I	M	A
G	R	N	Z	O	I	Z	G	A	N
A	H	W	A	E	N	G	T	H	G
N	I	E	S	E	B	G	E	T	T
G	N	O	K	E	M	M	O	R	Z
E	E	C	E	B	U	N	A	D	E
S	A	A	M	A	Z	O	N	Z	R
M	E	D	N	A	R	G	O	I	R

- Amazon
- Congo
- Danube
- Ganges
- Indus
- Jordan
- Mackenzie
- Mekong
- Niger
- Nile
- Rhine
- Rio Grande
- Seine
- Thames
- Yangtze
- Zambezi



Solution: "Flowing water"

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Fascinating Facts



Great Rift Valley

Arguably one of the most impressive geographic features on the planet, the Great Rift Valley has provided Africa with the greatest volcanoes and the deepest lakes in the continent. Over 5,000 kilometres in length and stretching from the river Jordan and the Dead Sea to central Mozambique, the Great Rift Valley is an active example of plate tectonics. The formation of the Great Rift Valley continues, and it's believed that in a few million years (almost nothing in geological terms), the whole of eastern Africa will be split off from the rest of the continent and a new ocean might get created. In Africa, the rift is split into eastern and western courses. The Western Rift borders Uganda, Congo, and Tanzania. At approximately 1,470 metres deep, Lake Tanganyika is second only in depth of the world's freshwater lakes to Lake Baikal in Siberia. Paradoxically, this geologically violent region is an area of outstanding biology. It is home not just to the giant herbivores and predators of the savannah but is also a treasure trove of remains of human beings' ancient ancestors; as believed by some, the birthplace of humanity itself.

JOKES



Q: "Why do mummies love gifts?"
Ans: "Because of the 'wrap' pings."

Q: "What did the hat say to the scarf?"
Ans: "You hang around, while I'll go a-head."

Q: "What kind of Math do Snowy Owls like?"
Ans: "Owl-gebra."

Q: "Why do winter socks never like to make plans?"
Ans: "They are afraid of getting cold feet."

Braille

Let's learn about the Braille Code and Louis Braille, the person behind it.

Based on a tactile code, Braille is a 'writing system' used by visually impaired people. The tactile code is now known as 'night writing', which was developed by Charles Barbier. However, the French educator Louis Braille, after whom the Braille Code is named, found certain defects in the tactile code and he developed the Braille Code which can be read either on embossed paper or can also be used by refreshable Braille displays — which can be easily connected to computers or smartphones. Further, Braille can be written with a computer connected to a Braille embosser or a Braille writer or an electronic Braille notetaker or by using a slate and stylus.

Louis Braille, who invented Braille system, had lost his vision in a childhood accident. Louis Braille was born on January 4, 1809. At the age of 15, as an improvement on 'night writing', he developed the Braille Code. Soon, Braille published his system; which later on included musical notation. The Braille Code was revised for the second



time in the year 1837 to include the first binary form of writing developed in the modern era. The Braille Code developed then is used worldwide and remains unchanged till date.

The Braille system has a Braille cell that contains characters which are formed using a combination of six raised dots arranged in a 3 x 2 matrix. The number and arrangement of these dots help distinguish one character from another. The Braille alphabet

originated as transcription codes for printed writing. Hence, the mappings of the dots and their arrangements differ from language to language. There are three levels of Braille in English Braille.

Apart from Braille letters, punctuation, contractions, it is also possible to create embossed illustrations and graphs with the lines either solid or made of series of dots, arrows, and bullets that are larger than Braille dots. Dot configurations in Braille can be used to represent a letter, digit, punctuation mark, or even a word.

For education, literacy and employment among the blind, early Braille education is crucial. Evolution of new technologies and software is important too, but Braille provides blind people with access to spelling, punctuation and other aspects of written language. The advancement of technologies like 'Braille displays' have continued to make Braille more accessible, and today there are standardised Braille codes for over 133 languages.

(only4_pol@yahoo.co.uk)

Quiz

Prajnapriya Kalita, Class-VII, St. Vivekananda English Academy, Maligaon, Guwahati.

1 Who invented the first mechanical computer?



2 Which tennis player is referred to as 'The Joker'?



3. Yes, 4. Edward Munch,

ANSWERS

3

Rukmini Devi Arundale was an Indian classical dancer. Yes or no?



4

The Scream is a famous art piece created by which Norwegian artist?

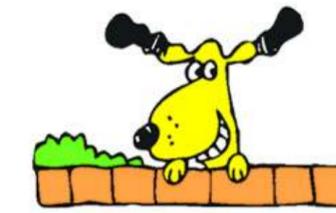


5

A group of bats is called a colony/ cauldron of bats. Yes or no?

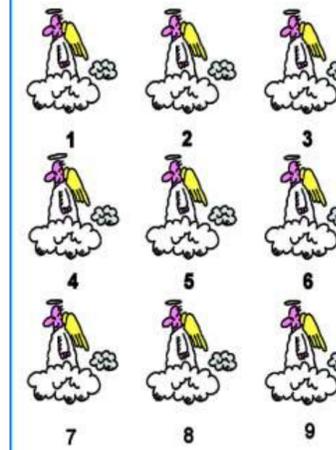


Kids' Stuff BRAIN TEASERS



SPOT THE ERROR!

Can you find which drawing Diggity has changed?



Answer: Number Four: Halo is larger!

SCRAMBLED WORDS

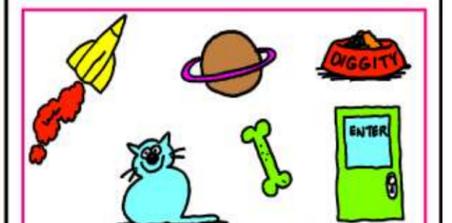
Diggity has written these SIX words back to front. Can you unscramble the words?

- GNIZAMA
- DELBMARCS
- DROW
- SWODAHS
- TSOHG
- YNAPMOC

The words are: AMAZING, SCRAMBLED, WORD, SHADOWS, GHOST, COMPANY

TOTAL RECALL

Study the SIX drawings in the square for ten seconds. Cover the puzzle and see if you can remember all the drawings. Score: 6: Excellent, 5: Very good, 4: Good, 3: Try again!



wordwatch

Pick the words closest in meaning.

1 Portable — able to be a) Sung b) Floated c) Flexible d) Carried	4 Disrupt a) To throw into disorder b) Anger c) Unwrap d) Toss out
2 Sleazy a) Slippery b) Shiftless c) Shoddy d) Foolish	5 Giddy a) Dizzy b) Distracted c) Unreasonable d) Infatuated
3 Moil a) Procedure b) Hard work c) Environment d) Something central	Answers: 1. (d) Carried, 2. (c) Shoddy, 3. (b) Hard work, 4. (a) To throw into disorder, 5. (a) Dizzy.

BOOK NOOK

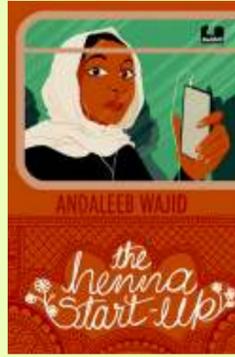
Compiled by: Maithilee Bhuyan

The Henna Start-Up

By **Andaleeb Wajid**

This novel is about an ambitious, career-oriented college girl — Abir Maqsood, from a humble background who wants to stand on her own feet before she can even think of marriage. Her *ammi*, on the other hand, is calculating gold rates daily! When *Ammi*, a henna artist, is not paid for her henna service by a woman, Abir resolves to create an app to help support her mother's business. Enter Arsalan and Sahil. Sahil is Samreen Khala's brother-in-law and is studying software engineering, while Arsalan is the distraction Abir is not happy about. Read the book to know what brews when these four are thrown together to work on a pitch for a start-up student programme that Abir's college is offering.

The Henna Start-up will keep young readers hooked right up to its pacy finish.



Know your masterpieces

Dr. Tanu Shree Singh

Dr. Tanu Shree Singh is an Assistant Professor in Psychology and an author who writes both for children and adults. She mostly writes on issues related to parenting and has been published in leading online dailies and communities. Her passion for reading and getting more children to read led her to set up two libraries in Faridabad and Tirthan Valley. Dr. Singh also supports 13 other libraries in Himachal Pradesh.

Some of her popular books for children include:

- ▶ *Darkless*
- ▶ *Ani's Light*
- ▶ *The Letter to Lahore*



Starry Starry Night

By **Nandita Basu**

This graphic novel explores death, grief, friendship and music. After his mother passes away, ten-year-old Kunal comes to live with his aunt, Tara, who teaches a special music programme at a boarding school. Both are grieving, both are coping to understand the world without their loved ones, and both understand that each individual's process of grieving is different. With an unexpected protagonist thrown in the mix, Tara and Kunal find a way to connect and heal. Music and art weave their way into the narrative to help the two navigate their grief.

Starry Starry Night is a moving novel which addresses the impermanence of life and our inability to come to terms with it. It helps the reader address the deep, buried grief over a loved one's death.



Andrea's dream

One night while Andrea was asleep, she dreamt a very unique dream — she saw that she could understand and speak the language of all animals. Oh! How happy she was in her dream — talking to deer, rabbits, birds, etc.

The next day, she woke up as usual. But she was still thinking about the previous night's dream. She wished it were all true because she was an animal lover and always thought how nice it would be if she could talk to animals. Birds were her favourite. Thus, daydreaming, she went to the balcony to get some fresh air and to look at the sparrows perched on the railing of her balcony.

"Good morning, Andrea!" came a voice from somewhere. She looked here and there but couldn't see a single creature. Then she heard, "Hey there! I'm here." To her surprise, she realised that it was a sparrow who was calling her. She couldn't believe her eyes and ears. Her dream had come true. She thought that it would be wise to keep it a secret for a while. Then she started talking to her sparrow friend. Suddenly, Andrea heard her mother calling her to get ready for school, so she bid her friend goodbye.

Later that day, while the sparrows were feeding on some worms, they overheard a conversation between Andrea's mum and dad. Andrea's dad said, "I think we need to cut down that mango tree if we want

Rawnaq Tasneem, Class-IX, SBOA Public School, Garchuk, Guwahati.



an office space in our house."

"I feel very sorry for Andrea. I don't know how she would react if we tell her about this. But I fear that we have to cut it down for the new office," said her mum.

The sparrows were very sad when they heard this because they had been living

there for quite some time. Later, while Andrea was heading home from school, she saw her sparrow friend perched on a bench near the school garden. She said, "Hey there! How have you been while I was at school?"

"Andrea," began the sparrow in a rather gloomy and lifeless tone, "I have

something to tell you." It told her about the whole situation. Andrea didn't want to lose her sparrow friends who had been living on the mango tree in their garden. She ran to her room, freshened up, and went downstairs. Her mum called her out, "Andy, I want to have a talk with you. Come here, sit with me." She told Andrea about their plan to build a new office in their house and said that they have to cut down the mango tree.

Andrea couldn't stop herself from speaking her mind and said, "We, humans, think that we are the most superior of all organisms but it is we who have so much to learn from Nature. Yet, we only hurt the spirit of Mother Nature. We are the destroyers. How can we be the superior ones?"

Andrea's mum was moved and so was her dad when he got a call from Andrea's mum, explaining him everything. The tree was left uncut. Andrea was happy that she had managed to convince her parents. That night she dreamt of the sparrow and a spirit — the spirit of Mother Nature, thanking her for her kind deed and love for Nature.

I don't know whether Andrea told anyone about her ability to speak and understand the language of other animals but one thing I know for sure is that if every individual tries his or her best to save the planet like Andrea, we can save our planet together.

PHRASE OF THE WEEK

Red in tooth and claw



"Red in tooth and claw" is a reference to the sometimes violent natural world in which predatory animals unsentimentally cover their teeth and claws with the blood of their prey as they kill and devour them.

One of the earliest references is from Alfred Lord Tennyson's *In Memoriam A.H.H.* (1850):

"Who trusted God was love indeed
And love Creation's final law —
Tho' Nature, red in tooth and claw
With ravine, shriek'd against his creed —"

"Tooth and claw" was already in use as a phrase, denoting wild Nature, by Tennyson's day. For example, this piece from *The Hagerstown Mail*, March 1837:

"Hereupon, the beasts, enraged at the humbug, fell upon him tooth and claw."

Hampering progress

Dear Bhaity, Bhonti,

There is a great need for tolerance today. We have made progress in so many fields — we have better schools, colleges and universities. We have better roads and public facilities. Yet, in our hearts still lurk the old prejudices towards faith, caste, creed, etc. These prevent us from being truly progressive and break down the shackles of the past. Please give it a thought and learn to change your mindset.

With love, as always,

Kakaiduu



Picture crossword

Across: 4. Witch, 6. Queen, 7. Rollercoaster, 9. Teapot, 13. Binoculars, 14. Greece.
Down: 1. Snake, 2. Crown, 3. Bottle, 5. Dentist, 7. Reindeer, 8. Rectangle, 10. Plum, 11. Dosa, 12. Pug, 13. Bed.

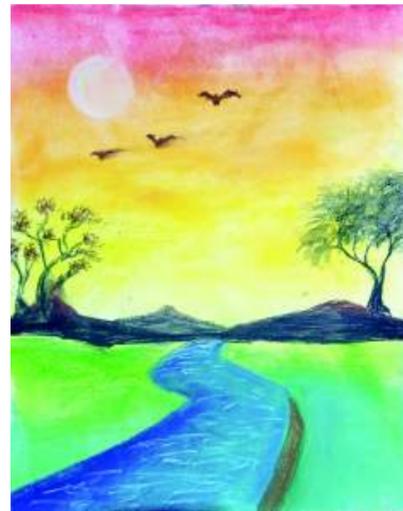
SOLUTION

Sketch of the Week

Haziq Rashad, Class-XI,
Miles Bronson Residential School, Guwahati



Dhyanam Singha, Class-I,
Delhi Public School, Kamrup



Kaustuv Ranjan Das, Class-IX,
Don Bosco School, Panbazar, Guwahati

Poem of the Week

Anushree Borah, Class-IX,
Delhi Public School, ONGC Nazira, Sivasagar.

Living better lives

A fresh, new year is here,
With surprises, cheer and joy...
Children are singing, "La-la-la,"
Ringing out the old,
Learning from last year's mistakes...

We are full of positivity,
With expectations and inspiration...
Open the doors to your dreams,
Make every moment special!
We are in a new year, living better lives.



Larioli Bhuyan, Class-II,
Shernford Futuristic School

Another chance

Another bright
And happy year has dawned.
A joyous and prosperous
Year is here,
To fill our lives with colours
And bring us sweets and candies.
It's time to forget the bad,
It's time to do good.
Another chance to love and forgive,
To ensure our goal is achieved.
This year will make us better human beings!
We've welcomed new beginnings
Full of cheer!

Anshruta Atri, Class-VIII,
Shrimanta Shankar Academy, Guwahati.



Anahita Saikia, Class-VII,
Delhi Public School, Dibrugarh



Kabyika Saikia, Class-III,
St. Mary's H.S. School, Doomdooma, Tinsukia

Subconsciously

When you see something subconsciously,
It's so much like a dream, you see.
You've looked so long, you know it's there,
You feel its presence but don't know from where.
The next time you look for that thing,
Your mind is still registering
Where it had seen
The thing that had always been
Right in front of your eyes —
No doubt, it comes as a surprise
That you couldn't find it long before.
Well, why waste time anymore?

Abeer Datta, Class-IX,
Vasant Valley School, New Delhi.

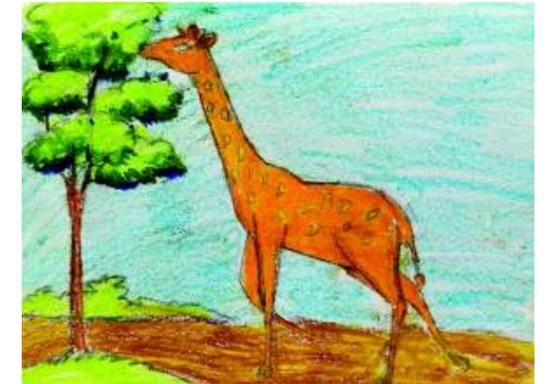
With joy and fun

New year, new year!
It comes every year.
Everyone celebrated December 31 with joy,
Crackers shone in the night sky.
Pretty flowers smile in the meadows,
Welcoming a new year,
Filling it up with joy and fun!

Anurag Sarmah, Class-IV,
Axel Public School.



Dristi Darshana Phukan, Class-VI,
St. Stephen's Hr. Sec. School, Tinsukia



Subhranil Das,
Beli Academy, Barihat, Mirza



Sriyas Sarkar, Class-IV,
St. Vivekananda English Academy, Maligaon, Guwahati



Harshita Dhan Borah, Class-II,
Delhi Public School, Kamrup



Amisha Das, Class-VII,
Angels' English Hr. Sec. School, Guwahati



Anindya Siddhi Dutta, Class-IV,
Swami Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya



Nimisa Bhattacharyya,
Modern High School, Geetanagar, Guwahati