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4.8 M quake rocks Nepal

KATHMANDU, Dec 21: An earthquake of magnitude 4.8 struck Nepal in at 3.59 am Indian Standard Time on Saturday, which was recorded at a depth of 10-km at latitude 29.17 north and longitude 81.59 south, National Centre of Seismology (NCS) reported. There was no immediate reports of casualties or significant damage, but authorities continue to closely monitor the situation. (Agency)

NFR announces special trains for Maha Kumbh Mela pilgrims

GUWAHATI, Dec 21: To accommodate the influx of pilgrims expected for the 2025 Maha Kumbh Mela, Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) will operate two special trains from Kamakhya and Naharlagun to Tundla.

Each train will make four trips in both directions, offering devotees and visitors comfortable travel options during the winter season.

The Kamakhya-Tundla special train (no. 05611) will depart from Kamakhya at 05:30 hours on January 9, 25, February 8, and 22, arriving in Tundla at 19:20 hours the next day. The return train

Contd. P.3

Insurgency over in NE, police need to change in approach to ensure speedy justice: Shah



AGARTALA, Dec 21: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said the time has come for a change in approach of the police force with the end of insurgency in the NE to ensure that people get speedy justice.

Shah, addressing 72nd plenary of North Eastern Council (NEC) here, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has brought peace in the region by inking 20 peace accords in 10 years leading to the surrender of 9,000 armed militants.

"The police fought insurgency in the NE for the past

four decades. As insurgency has now ended, we need to change the approach of the force to ensure people get justice within three years of lodging FIRs," he said.

The home minister also said connectivity is no longer a problem in the NE as the Centre has spent Rs 81,000 crore for rail connectivity and Rs 41,000 crore for road network in the NE states.

Asserting that PM Modi expedited development activities in the NE, Shah said Union ministers "spent 700 nights" in states of the NE

since the BJP-led NDA assumed power at the Centre.

"After the exchange of enclaves (land boundary agreements) with Bangladesh, the whole world will open for the NE. This will change the investment ecosystem in the region," he said.

The senior BJP leader also laid emphasis on the uplift of people in rural areas by promoting vegetable cultivation, production of milk, eggs and meat.

"Only a hike in the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) is not enough for overall development. There

is a need to attain self-sufficiency in vegetables, milk, eggs and meat," he said, adding the central Govt has been focusing on organic cultivation in the region.

"The Centre has already constituted the National Organic Corporation Ltd to boost the sector. I urge all NE chief ministers to sign agreements with NOCL for packaging, marketing and exporting of organic products," he said. He, however, said more efforts were needed to tackle narcotics smuggling in the region.

Earlier in the day, Shah inaugurated

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Shi-Yomi state's first district to introduce DDI

By Talar Yuto
ITANAGAR, Dec 21: Shi-Yomi, created on 09.12.18, became the first among 26 districts of Arunachal Pradesh to introduce District Development Index (DDI) to facilitate the general public to go through all ongoing Govt schemes.

The DDI, an initiative of DC Liyi Bagra, established at district HQs Tato in its digital board displays ongoing schemes and aims at monitoring various ongoing projects with department concerned has to mandatorily update their project status every month. Action would be initiated against any officer for failure to update scheme status, he said.

This helps not only to know updated status of ongoing projects while ensuring transparency and accountability in execution

process, Bagra said, adding one used to file an application under Right to Information Act earlier to get details of any scheme, which is redundant now as details are at their finger tip now.

The district administration aims to keep the masses informed about the GoAP welfare schemes to facilitate their participation for transparency and tangible execution, he said, adding many GoAP schemes are implemented in Shi-Yomi district, spread in 2,875 km² for which proper monitor was challenging, but the DDI has made the process easy.

Despite the HQs lacks infrastructure, the district has achieved many developmental milestones so far, Bagra said and sought support of all stakeholders for timely execution of all schemes and projects in a transparent manner.

"To bridge the gap between the GoAP and the masses, the support of local body is crucial role," said the DC, who is chairman of all development committees. He also advocated urgent need for a functional district general hospital, whose building construction is ongoing.

The district created by bifurcating from West Siang district along China border boasts of huge tourism potentials.

It has tourist destinations like Monigong, Mechukha, Pidi and headquarters itself and others, and for the gratification of the outsiders, many homestays are coming up in the mentioned areas. On the other hand, the government is also constructing a Inspection Bungalow (IB) at different locations as per the requirement to cater the visitors.

Mein moots 'Cost Disability Index' to address Arunachal's higher dev cost



JAISALMER, Dec 21: Arunachal Pradesh, Deputy Chief Minister-cum-Finance Minister Chowna Mein, attending the pre-budget consultative meeting, chaired by Union Finance Minister here in Rajasthan on Friday, reiterated state's commitment to fiscal prudence under the Arunachal Pradesh Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2006.

Hinting at ensuring timely payment of salaries, pensions and loans without default, he drew attention to financial challenges posed by state's challenging terrain, where the cost of development is 2.5 times higher compared to other regions. He suggested a 'Cost Disability Index' while allocating resources to states to address this disparity.

He underscored importance of externally aided projects from World Bank, ADB and JICA, of which the state has been deprived and sought alternative funding mechanisms to harness benefits of financial assistance and technical expertise. Stressing on urgent need for replacing the state's dilapidated semi-permanent structures of NEFA era with robust RCC buildings and sought a special financial package.

Appreciating the GoI's consistent support, he commended initiatives like Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment that enabled the state to expedite crucial infrastructure projects. He also requested an enhanced allocation under SASCI (Part-I) to speed up development process.

Rmphasizing that

Arunachal Pradesh, as a carbon sink state, looks forward to incentivization mechanisms for its role in environmental sustainability. "Collaborative efforts between the GoI and GoAP are crucial to overcome its challenges, realize its potential, and contribute to national progress," Mein said.

Besides Union MoS Pankaj Chaudhary, the meeting was attended by Chief Ministers of Goa, Haryana, J&K, Meghalaya and Odisha; DCMs Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Telangana; Finance Ministers of States/UTs, secretaries of departments of economic affairs and expenditure and Finance Ministry senior officials.

The meeting provided a platform for states to present their priorities and challenges ahead of the Union Budget 2025-26. Mein accompanied by commissioner (finance), Y W Ringu, highlighted unique position as a critical border state, emphasizing the need for enhanced infrastructure and connectivity to bridge gaps in accessibility and economic opportunities. (PRO)

State's 1st Surrendered Airgun Museum inaugurated
People urged to protect & preserve wildlife

PALIN, Dec 21: The Nyishi Elite Society (NES) general secretary Heri Maring inaugurated state's first Surrendered Airgun Museum at Kra Daadi DC Office premises in presence of Palin-Chambang MLA -cum-Urban Affairs Minister Balo Raja and Tali MLA Jikke Tako here on Saturday.

The museum would go a long way to inspire people living across the state to follow suit, Maring said, adding as the surrender had started from this district

it has set an example to be followed in all Nyishi inhabited districts as it would inspire tribal people using airguns for hunting and killing wild animals to relapse importance of animals and plant in ecology.

"The ecology balance can be only possible if the lifecycle and ecology is maintained. The airgun surrendered abhyan, initiated by then Environment & Forest Minister Mama Natung and lauded by Prime Minister Narendra Modi

brought mass awareness for people across the state to take note of the initiative, he said.

As community leaders, it is our responsibility to create mass awareness, particularly among hunters to stop hunting wild animals and protect them to enrich state's flora and fauna, he reasoned.

He exhorted all those yet to surrender their arm and join the mission to save wildlife and environment by submitting

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ESDDAPF to seek GoAP help to protect life, lands & properties from proposed SUMP



From Our Correspondent
PASIGHAT, Dec 21: East Siang Downstream Dam Affected Peoples' Forum (ESDDAPF) members, taking to media persons in Pasighat Press Club here on

Saturday, announced to seek help of the GoAP to protect life, lands and properties of downstream people of East Siang district, likely to be affected if the proposed Siang Upper

Multipurpose Project (SUMP) is constructed.

Considering the decision of the GoAP to build a super mega reservoir dam in Upper Siang district, representatives of 24 Villages surrounding Pasighat township, including intellectuals, retired personals, NGOs of downstream and lower riparian zones had taken this decision during a meeting here on October 8 last that gave birth to ESDDAPF, said Jobomchang Mengu.

They termed ESDDAPF with 50 core committee members as a people's movement by

Contd. P.3

Aggrieved families seek closure of school, re-arrest of owner in students' death case

By Staff Reporter
NAHARLAGUN, Dec 21: Members of aggrieved families, during a press conference at APC here on Friday, claimed that prior to completion of police investigation, the High Court has granted a bail to all the arrested persons and demand re-arrest of school owner and closure of Saint Alphonsa School in model village here.

If above demand is not met they would launch a series of democratic movements, they said, adding

"school owner Kapa Rai should be re-arrested for free and fair investigation, and law enforcement agency should take action as per laws".

If they fail to provide justice to the aggrieved families, then they would opt for customary laws to bring justice for three deceased children, they said.

"It was a pre-planned murder of our children by school authority," said a family member, adding that when their children were inside the

Contd. P.3

Biodiversity rich triangle to turn wildlife tourism destination: Pegu

From Our Correspondent
JONAI, Dec 2: Biodiversity rich D. Ering Wildlife Sanctuary, of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam's Dibru Saikhowa National Park and proposed Poba Wildlife Sanctuary (PWS) forming a triangular would not only ensure protection but also turn the area into a hot wildlife tourism destination for nature lovers, Jonai MLA Bhubon Pegu said in his address to 2nd Edition of Poba Festival, proposed by Mising Autonomous Council at Poba's Tini-mile Ghat recently Jonai in Assam in February next

Responding to media questions on protection of wildlife while removing the illegal encroachments and cattle grazing both wildlife sanctuaries, he said ways to solve both problems.

The PWS, a proposed wildlife sanctuary in Assam would include Poba Reserve Forest, Kobo Chapri Proposed Reserve Forest and surrounding river and island areas to spread in 257.29 sqkm.



dress at a function at Boleng on December 19 had said, "If you don't want a dam, if you don't want a hydropower project, there won't be. Chapter closed."

"But, the case at hand is not about a hydropower project. It's about a multipurpose project, a project of national importance and envisioned by the GoI and the Niti Aayog."

Khandu said that 'misinformation' is being circulated to brainwash innocent villagers against a project, which is not even in its pre-initial stage. People who are 'instigating' the protestors are themselves confused whether the said project is of '12500 MW', '11000 MW' or '10000 MW'.

"Being the CM, I am not

aware, not even NHPC is aware of the exact wattage of power the SUMP will generate. How do you know the capacity of the SUMP when the survey and investigation process has not even begun?" he wondered and asserted that the SUMP is not all about generating hydropower.

"Hydropower generation is a by-product of multipurpose project by default. Its real objective is to save Ane Siang and Adi society that is connected with the river since time immemorial," he had categorically said.

Elaborating on it, he said that China has already approved construction of a project that would generate a massive power of about 60,000-MW on the river,

known as Yarlung Tsangpo in the Tibet region, just before entering India through Tuting in Upper Siang.

He revealed that the Chinese Govt, which is not a signatory to International Water Conventions, intends to divert the water from the multiple water reservoirs to be created under the project to dry regions of Tibet and elsewhere in the country.

"In such a scenario it is inevitable that volume of water in Siang River will drastically get reduced so much so that during winters you will be able to cross the mighty Siang on foot. Would you like such a situation? I certainly won't," Khandu reasoned.

The other reason for the project, he said

Contd. P.3

Entire Northeast has to be drug and addiction-free within shortest possible time: Amit Shah

AGARTALA, Dec 21: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday called upon the Chief Ministers, Governors and people of the northeast to spare no effort to make the region drug and addiction-free within the “shortest possible time.”

Addressing the 72nd Plenary of the North Eastern Council (NEC) in Agartala, he said the larger target is to make “entire India drug-free.”

“During the past few years, this region has emerged as a major corridor and consumption centre of highly addictive and contraband drugs. A lot of work has been done in the last six years, but our speed is not enough. I request the chief ministers, governors and people of the northeast to spare no effort to make the region drug-free. We must all try together to get rid of this sin; the entire Northeast has to be drug

and addiction-free within the shortest possible time. The larger target is to make the entire India drug-free,” Shah said

He further asserted that the time has come that every citizen of the Northeast should also get the rights given in the Constitution.

“We have been associated with terrorism and non-violence for years, so the goal of the police of all the states was to get rid of violence, that work is almost complete now. Now the time has come that every citizen of the Northeast should also get the rights given in the Constitution, the right to protect his property, the right to protect his honor and the right to protect his family, which are in these three new criminal laws. Now our focus should be on giving citizens their rights instead of confronting the extremists and the Home Ministry of all the states will have to focus on

this. For this, the approach, training and focus of the police of every state of the Northeast needs to be changed. But the pre-condition for this is that the three new criminal laws should be fully implemented in the states of the Northeast,” Shah said.

He further said that the government has adopted a multi-pronged approach in the field of security.

“We have made progress in the last 10 years by making a specific strategy for every state and the result is that the police, army, Assam Rifles and Central Reserve Police Force together have succeeded in creating a very good system here, due to which violent incidents have decreased by 31 per cent and civilian deaths have decreased by 86 per cent in the last 10 years. About 10,574 militants have surrendered and many agreements have been signed,” said Shah, who

chaired the 72nd Plenary session of the North Eastern Council (NEC).

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha announced the commencement of the session via a post on X. The session is being held at Pragna Bhavan in Agartala.

“The 72nd Plenary of NEC chaired by Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah, begins at Pragna Bhavan, Agartala. In the presence of Union Minister for DoNER JM Scindia & Union MoS for DoNER Sukanta, Governors, HCMs and high officials, joined the important NEC Meet that aims to discuss various matters including growth and prosperity of the NE region,” CM Saha’s X post read.

This is the second time when Agartala has hosted the plenary since 2008 underscoring the city’s growth in the regional development discussions. (Agency)

Only where people follow Dharma can they live happily: Amit Shah quotes Chanakya Sutra

AGARTALA, Dec 21: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday highlighted the importance of ‘Dharma’ as duty, saying that it is written in Chanakya Sutra how only the nations which follow dharma (as duty) can live in peace and happiness.

Clarifying that the Chanakya Sutra talks about dharma as a duty, he said, “Chanakya sutra says - only those states and nations can live in happiness and peace where people follow Dharma - which here means duty and not religion... He further says that of which nation, people can

follow duty - the nations which are prosperous.”

Shah was addressing the North East Bankers Conclave 2.0 in Agartala, Tripura. State’s Chief Minister Manik Saha also attended the event.

“Till we do not fulfil the economic needs of the 140 crores of people, till then we cannot become a developed nation. A developed nation’s imagination is that itself, that every person is successful in raising their families, each person to have basic needs met, contributes to the nation’s development,” Shah said in the Conclave.

In a post on X, Shah also highlighted how a “robust ecosystem” for commerce and industries is being built in the north east, while highlighting a broadcast of his speech.

Talking about the economic development in the north east region further, he said that India cannot become a ‘Viksit bharat’ till that is achieved for north east.

“In north-east, when there is less economic connectivity, development is less, there is less peace among people then how can India become a Viksit rashtriya (developed nation),” he said.

Talking about the plan for a ‘Viksit Bharat 2047’, he added how on the day India completes hundred years of Independence, it will become a developed nation.

He added, “On August 15 2047, when India will celebrate hundred years of Independence, then India will be number one in all aspects and India will be a completely developed nation. To achieve that, everyone has to work towards the development of the nation, only then in 2047 can we become a ‘Viksit Rashtriya.’” (Agency)

Recent amendment removes ambiguity regarding non-sharing of electronic record to public: ECI Official

NEW DELHI, Dec 21: The candidate already has access to all the documents and papers, and no amendments have been made to the rules in this regard, clarified a senior Election Commission of India (ECI) official to ANI.

The clarification comes in the wake of a recent Punjab and Haryana High Court directive in the Mahmoud Pracha vs ECI case, where the court ordered the sharing of all documents related to the Haryana Assembly elections, including CCTV footage under Rule 93(2) of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961.

The ECI official noted that while the rule refers to

“election papers,” it does not explicitly address electronic records. The ambiguity in the rule and concerns over potential misuse of CCTV footage inside polling stations, especially with advancements in artificial intelligence, prompted an amendment to safeguard voter secrecy and prevent its misuse.

The official emphasized that sharing CCTV footage inside the polling stations from sensitive areas such as Jammu and Kashmir or Naxal-affected regions could compromise voter safety. “Lives of voters may be at risk, and the secrecy of the vote must be protected,” the official stated.

All other election-related documents and papers remain accessible for public inspection.

The amendment restricts public scrutiny of certain electronic documents, including CCTV footage, based on a recommendation from the ECI. The Union Law Ministry recently amended Rule 93(2) to specify which documents are open to public inspection.

The move has drawn sharp criticism from the Congress party, which announced plans to challenge the amendment legally. Congress communication chief Jairam Ramesh called the rule change “a vindication” of the party’s concerns

over the “eroding integrity of the electoral process.”

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Ramesh argued, “Sunlight is the best disinfectant, and information restores faith in the process. The Punjab and Haryana High Court agreed when it directed the ECI to share all legally required information. Instead of complying, the ECI amended the law to curtail transparency. Why is the ECI so afraid of transparency?”

The Congress vowed to legally challenge the amendment, reiterating its commitment to ensuring accountability in the electoral process. (Agency)

"Main problem lies with Congress; Rahul Gandhi instructed people to act in particular manner": Rijiju on Parliament ruckus

NEW DELHI, Dec 21: Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Saturday accused the Congress party and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi over the ruckus created in the Parliament and appealed to the opposition to behave ‘democratically’.

He further alleged that Rahul Gandhi instructed the Opposition leaders to act in a “particular manner” that led to the “ugly ruckus” in the House.

In an interview with ANI, Rijiju said, “If you go through the entire proceedings of the winter session of the Parliament, the main problem lies with the Congress party. If you see the conduct of the Congress party, it is the Leader of the Opposition who has instructed his people to act in a particular manner which resulted in the ugly ruckus in the House.”

Rijiju urged the Congress Party to respect the democratic principles of the nation, emphasising that the Congress Party, being a family-run party, should not impose its “non-democratic” values on the country or other parties.

“My only appeal to the Congress party is to be democratic, if Congress cannot be democratic because Congress is a family-run party, don’t impose it on the nation, don’t impose it on other parties because we are all democratic people. We belong to a Democratic party. We believe in democracy,” he said.

The Parliamentary Affairs Minister expressed his disappointment with the Congress party’s behaviour during the recent session, stating that they should prevail upon Rahul Gandhi to be more responsible.

“We want to run the House as per the rules and regulations as part of the conventions. But the way the Congress party started behaving during this session I was very perturbed. Good people in the Congress party should prevail upon Rahul Gandhi to be more responsible,” Rijiju said.

He further alleged that that the Treasury Bench was clear with the timing of every bill and business of the house, but the Congress party disrupted the session citing the US-registered case against industrialist Gautam Adani.

“The issue is very clear. We appealed to all that the House should function well. We had already decided the time of every bill and business of the House, but suddenly the Congress came with placards and slogans written on the t-shirts over a case that was registered in the US,” Rijiju said.

People urged...

From P.I... their names with photos to get identity cards to be recognized by the NES and propose to the GoAP for recognition, Maring added.

Raja, in his address, motivated the people and asked them to follow the initiative to protect and conserve wildlife and environment. He assured all support to the NES team and all those who are working in the mission for ensuring a healthy environment.

MLA Tako, DC Charu Nili, district NES chairman Tichi Tabang & Yanget block chairman Biri Tako also spoke.

Those surrendered their airguns and those uploaded photo and videos of wild animals and motivated the people not to kill the wild animals were felicitated.

Insurgency over in NE, police ...

From P.I... the 72nd plenary session of the NEC at Prajna Bhavan here.

Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, along with governors, CMs of all eight NE states and senior officials, were also present at the event.

The council is the nodal agency for the economic and social development of the NE region, consisting of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura. (Agency)

Guv enlists achievements

PRO adds: Arunachal Pradesh Governor Lt. General (Retd) KT Parnaik, in his address, highlighted achievements and challenges in education, health, infrastructure, tourism, agriculture, Industry, law & order, youth affairs, women empowerment and technology and commitment of the GoAP to achieve Viksit Bharat.

Terming it as one of India’s most aspirational States, where significant focus has always been on fostering growth, and empowerment of our young population, he said that as the nation looks forward to the next 25 years of Amrit Kaal, the GoAP is committed to achieve the Viksit Bharat goal by 2047.

The state reduced multidimensional poverty, achieved 166% increase in GSDP since 2015-16, 321.8% rise in own resources since 2014-15 to become ‘front runner states’ on 2023-2024 sustainable development goals scorecard.

Concerted efforts are being made to boost education standard right from strengthening of anganwadis and upgrading GoAP schools, implementation of NEP-2020 and holding smart classes and establishment of advance learning enters in districts, he said, adding major focus, particularly on eco, religious and adventure tourism, includes creating infrastructure in destinations, skilling the youth as guides and tour operators with focus on marketing.

He said that the agriculture and allied sector produced 5,04,801 metric tonnes of cereals, including millets and 5000 MT of kiwis and called for NEC support for ware houses and their transportation by rail to the rest of India.

Highlighting state challenges, he said that financial inclusion remains a challenge and workforce capacity for which an initiative similar to Mission Karmayogi has been adopted to skill people at the grassroots level. (PRO)

NFR announces special trains for

From P.I... (no. 05612) will leave Tundla at 03:00 hours on January 11, 27, February 10, and 24, reaching Kamakhya at 17:45 hours the following day.

The Naharlagun-Tundla special train (no. 05811) will depart from Naharlagun at 14:30 hours on January 9, 25, February 8, and 22, reaching Tundla at 06:30 hours on the third day. The return train (no. 05812) will leave Tundla at 11:20 hours on January 11, 27, February 10, and 24, arriving in Naharlagun at 05:50 hours on the third day.

The trains will consist of 22 and 21 coaches respectively, including AC Class, Sleeper Class, and General Sitting coaches, stopping at major stations along their routes. The Kamakhya-Tundla train will run via Rangiya, New Bongaigaon, New Coochbehar, New Jalpaiguri, Kishanganj, Malda Town, Bhagalpur, Patna, and Prayagraj. The Naharlagun-Tundla train will run via Rangapara North, Rangiya, New Bongaigaon, New Coochbehar, New Jalpaiguri, Katihar, Barauni, Danapur, and Prayagraj.

This initiative aims to alleviate congestion for travelers planning to attend the Maha Kumbh Mela, providing a convenient and comfortable means of transportation.

ESDDAPF to seek GoAP help to ...

From P.I... representing of all 72 villages of the district, which could be affected in one way or the other.

The National Hydro Electric Power Corporation (NHPC) for construction of the dam has proposed three sites in Upper Siang and Siang districts - one between Parong and Degin villages, two at Ugeng near Riga village and three between Ditte-Dime and Geku, officials said.

Several local organizations and community members spearheaded by Siang Indigenous Farmers Forum (SIFF) are opposing the project, claiming that the dam would displace the indigenous people and cause damage to the environment. However, the project proposed by the GoAP as a significant step to boost the infrastructure, economy and counter possible destruction by Chinese mega dam proposed in upper ridges of Siang River in China occupied Tibet Autonomous Region to Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Bangladesh.

Aggrieved families seek closure of...

From P.I... class room they were asked to stay outside for a while as there was no sitting arrangement when the overhead water tank collapsed.

Slamming the education minister for giving ‘No Objection Certificate’ to private school, they questioned that priority to giving NOC, did the department officers inspect school building, particularly the water tank to assess its status. How come the school authority was certified to construct a water tank with the bricks only?

Raising serious concerns over the negligence of the school, the parents claimed that the seating arrangements were poor while the exam was conducted when the incident took place and sought justice.

Why the education department is keeping silent over the issue when the school conducted examinations without adhering to essential safety protocols and GoAP issued standard operating procedures?

The overhead water tank had collapsed earlier this month injuring five students while three succumbed to their injuries, two others were critically injured. After preliminary interrogation, police had arrested Kapa Rai and principal Shaji Cherian, who have been enlarged on bail now.


NGOs urge President to get ...

From P.I... is that in case China released water from their dams all of a sudden, a trail of unimaginable destruction will sweep through the Siang belt, Assam and Bangladesh.

The SUMP has been proposed by the GoI to maintain natural flow of water in the river throughout the year and flood modulation in case of water released by China, he had reasoned.

Reiterating that Arunachal Pradesh has about 50% of India’s hydropower potential, he said that the 12,500-MW to be generated from projects for which MoUs have been signed with PSUs will generate about Rs 10,000 crore annually for state exchequer.

Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein also quashed all misconceptions created by some anti-dam activists and termed the SUMP as a national project declared in 2008 aimed at ensuring national security by neutralizing China’s plan to build a 60,000-MW dam in its upper stream having potential risks for people living nearby Siang River and downstream areas. He termed SUMP as a strategic boon for development and welfare of local community by addressing critical challenges like flood control, water storage, irrigation, navigation and power generation

 <div> GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH DEPARTMENT OF POWER OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (E) PASIGHAT ELECTRICAL DIVISION EAST SIANG DISTRICT, PASIGHAT - 791 102 E-Mail: exenped@rediffmail.com </div>			
No. PED/DB-35/CS/2024-25/		Dated, Pasighat the 19.12.2024	
PUBLIC NOTICE			
Under Sections 53 & 54 of the Electricity Act, 2003, and as contained in the Guidelines circulated vide No. CE/TPMZ/P&M/012024-25/1026-80, Dated 14 th June 2024, this is to notify for general information of all concerns, that following detailed electrical system shall be charged in the manner mentioned therein at the specified rated voltage on the date & time or any day thereafter and will remain so charged as under:			
Sr. No.	Particulars	Details	Remarks
1.	Particulars of the electrical installation:	33kV S/C Napit to AIR (5th Mile) Distribution line	
2.	Nature & purpose of supply:	Transmission of 33kV Power line from Napit 33/11 kV Sub-station to 33/11 kV AIR (5th Mile) for energisation of 33/11 kV AIR (5th Mile) and kept charged thereafter and also to facilitate Pasighat Electrical Division to draw downstream power	
3.	Name of Project:	Comprehensive Scheme for Strengthening of Transmission & Distribution System in Arunachal Pradesh.	
4.	Implementing Agency:	Power Grid Corporation of India Limited.	
5.	Executing Agency:	M/s Tata Projects Limited, Noida.	
6.	Areas likely to be affected	Napit, Diking, Dihu, Libo, Tajom (5th Mile) villages and areas.	
	Circle:	Pasighat	
	District:	East Siang	
7.	Date & Time of charging:	27.12.2024 (Time : 9:00 AM)	
8.	Rated charging voltage (kV):	33 kV, 50Hz AC	
It is, therefore, hereby cautioned that no attempt should be made by anyone to climb on the tower(s)/pylon(s)/power system(s) and/or touch the conductor(s)/equipment directly or indirectly. Anybody acting contrary to this notice shall do so at risk of one's own life and property, and the Department of Power, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, and/or their authorized agency(ies) shall not be liable for any consequence(s) due to such act of defiance in any way thereof.			
<div> Sd/- Executive Engineer (E) Pasighat Electrical Division DOP, Pasighat. </div>			
DIPR/ARN/001982/2024			

WFFI targets NE

Woman footballers to be skilled to shine: Rajput

By A O News Service
ITANAGAR, Dec 21: The newly elected executive committee of Women's Football Federation of India (WFFI) led by Kasim Ansari (chairman), Mukesh Sharma (president) and Dr Satyapal Singh Prajapati (patron) has evolved a pragmatic plan to ensure Indian woman footballers shine within and outside the country.

India is considered a sub-



continental nation with 145 crore population, including 12.5% of girls (18-24 years age group) old, whose potentials are yet to be tapped for lack of any sports university, modern auditorium, adequate training facilities and coaches, said WFFI central committee coordinator Rajesh Singh Rajput, adding that top ranking corporate houses of India and abroad following tie up with them have agrees to support all projects from their corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds.

Funds would not be a problem, he said while interacting with this editor, adding that Goa Chief Minister Promod Samant, after allotting 250 acre of land for a film city, has consented to allot 200 acre land for developing a multi-purpose advanced multi-storied auditorium.

Moreover, experts would be hired from best universities and institutes from across the world for which Lucknow-based Dr Rahul Mishra has been interacting with many noted global varsities, said Rajput, sectary of yoga guru Ramdeo. But, Dr Mishra, when contacted, quipped "It is the stepping stone. It is a matter of time. Wait and

be hired from best universities and institutes from across the world for which Lucknow-based Dr Rahul Mishra has been interacting with many noted global varsities, said Rajput, sectary of yoga guru Ramdeo. But, Dr Mishra, when contacted, quipped "It is the stepping stone. It is a matter of time. Wait and



watch for a new era of women footballers to win laurels for India".

The WFFI would have state and district level committees for a five-year term with 'tap the young' mantra, he said, adding National Youth Project president H P Biswas and senior journalist Pradeep Kumar Behera would also be member of central publicity committee besides being central committee members, while Behera would also be member of central publicity committee. Moreover, energetic Marina Doye of Seren village of Lower Siang district, who served as coordinator of saints in Haridwar ashram, is also in central panel.

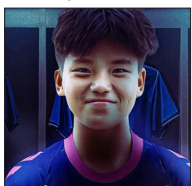
Pointing out that hilly people of hilly states of Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Uttarakhand, West Bengal and Sikkim are physically very strong, the WFFI targets to tap and train young NE girls.

Football is the most popu-



lar sport in the world today. But, the very word 'football' or 'soccer' would be incomplete NE without naming Nagaland footballer Talimeren Ao, who captained India national football team in 1948 Summer Olympic Games and Arunachal's Chow Indrajit Namchoom, who in 60s had put NE on the football map of India being the first to play in Santosh Trophy, one of the most prestigious tournaments in India which continues to be a launch pad for youngsters even today while the modern game of polo is said to have originated from Sagol Kangjei, a traditional game played in Manipur. Some historians claim that Sagol Kangjei was first played around 3100 BCE in the ancient Meitei kingdom of Kangleipak. These are proofs of importance attached to games by NE people since time immemorial.

But, the state is not far behind a s Arunachal Pradesh women's football team led by head coach Kipa Bharat won Assam Rifles Sentinel Cup-2024 (NE zonal) by defeating Assam Rifles Women's football team with 2-0 score in the final match



at Shillong on 08.07.24. Star player Yulam Lali was the standout performer scoring a hattrick to ensure easy victory.

With state youth dragged into drug whirlpool, Chief Minister Pema Khandu and Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein have conscientiously promoting games and sports after state youth without coach won many global laurels, particularly in karate and weightlifting. Thus, both would wholeheartedly welcome any proposal for developing advanced sports infrastructures for women, I told Rajput, who was very happy to learn.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has assured all possible help in this regard and the WFFI team soon approach NE chief ministers, he said, adding the advisory committee includes top leaders of all religions, including Baba Ramdeo.

The birth of modern football association dates back around 2nd to 3rd centuries BC when Cuju, an early type of competitive ball game using feet was played in China during Han dynasty and early Qin dynasty based on an attestation in a military manual. Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) has cited cuju as the earliest form of football.

Nonagenarian Yadik passes away



KOLORIANG, Dec 21: Lokam Yadik, a respected elder of Lobupa village in Damin circle under Kurung Kumey district, passed away on December 19 last.

Born on 01.09.1927, she lived an extraordinary life spanning 97 years and left behind a legacy that touched three generations, including three daughters, six sons and great-grandchildren.

Wife of Lokam Tassok, she was one of the oldest women in the circle to witness growth and evolution of her family and society over the decades.

Expressing his grief, to the Lokam Welfare Society (LWS) advisor Lokam Kani, in his condolence message, highlighted her invaluable contributions to her community. "Her loss is deeply felt as she was among the few remaining elderly figures to significantly shape the society. She will always be remembered for her wisdom and guidance," he said.

Former Koloriang MLA Lokam Tassar described her as one of the most renowned personalities and said. "She was not only the guiding light of our family but also a respected figure in the area. Her legacy will remain an inspiration for generations to come." He was joined by Lokam Sagma and Tarba Tado to mourn.

Her demise marks the end of an era for Lokam clan as she was a living testament to the history and cultural heritage of the area. Her contributions to society and her role as a matriarch will continue to inspire for times to come, they added.

Mumbai climb to 4th position with win over CFC

MUMBAI, Dec 21: Nikolaos Karelis' early strike earned Mumbai City FC a 1-0 victory over Chennaiyin FC, marking their fourth consecutive clean sheet in the Indian Super League here on Saturday.

With this victory, the home team moved from the seventh place to the fourth spot in the points table, accumulating 20 points from 12 games with five victories.

This match also marked the third straight away game where the Marina Machans were unable to find the back of the net.

Karelis capitalised on a loose ball in the eighth minute after Yoell van Nieff's shot was partially deflected, calmly slotting it into the bottom right corner.

Six minutes later, Karelis set up Vikram Partap Singh for a chance, but the latter's effort went wide.

Just before the 20th minute mark, Lukas Brambilla tried to pull one back for the Marina Machans, interlinking with Kiyan Nassiri and receiving the ball on the left side of the 18-yard box.

Brambilla's shot was

saved by Mumbai City FC goalkeeper TP Rehenesh.

Chennaiyin FC once again came close to equalising in the 34th minute but Brambilla's shot was blocked by Mumbai defender Tiri.

The visitors ramped up the pressure after the break, with Daniel Chima Chukwu and Irfan Yadwad combining to create chances.

Yadwad's diving header hit the crossbar in the 48th minute, while Rehenesh made critical saves to deny the Marina Machans and seal full three points. (Agency)

Defending champion Chirag Sen loses to Rithvik in national badminton

BENGALURU, Dec 21: Rithvik Sanjeevi fought back after losing the opening game to pack off defending champion Chirag Sen in the third round of the Senior Nationals Badminton tournament here on Saturday.

The Tamil Nadu shuttler looked in trouble after losing the opening game to the sixth seed but bounced back to win 12-21, 21-19, 21-15. He will take on Raghu M for a place in the quarterfinals.

Earlier, Sen had started his campaign with a 21-15, 21-15 win over Jeet Patel.

In women's singles, defending champion Anmol Kharb and last edition runner-up Tanvi Sharma waltzed

into the round of 16. Anmol defeated Krishika Mahajan 21-14, 21-14 while Tanvi packed off Swati Solanki 21-12, 21-8 in the third round.

Anmol had earlier hammered Deepali Gupta 21-8, 21-6, while Tanvi had eased into the third round with a 21-8, 21-6 win over Flora Engineer.

Former champions Mithun Manjunath and Sourabh Varma relied on their experience to overcome their much younger opponents in the second round.

Mithun defeated third seed Bharat Raghav 21-9, 21-18 before Varma got the better of Abhinav Garg 21-17, 21-17 in the men's singles matches.

In women's singles, Rujula

Ramu shocked 10th seed Surya Charishma Tamiri 21-19, 19-21, 21-17 while Jiya Rawat came from a game behind to beat ninth seed Shruti Mundada 25-27, 21-14, 21-10.

The men's singles event saw fourth seed Bhargav S, and ninth seed Ravi biting the dust. Raj Singh upset Bhargav 21-11, 21-13, while Manish Phogat got the better of Ravi 14-21, 21-14, 21-18.

In other men's singles matches, Rohan Gurbani proved too good for 11th seed K Lokesh Reddy, winning 21-15, 21-1, while Manish Phogat got the better of Ravi 14-21, 21-14, 21-18.

In the final minutes of the first half, though, Devank and Sudhakar started to chip away at the lead.

At the halfway mark, Gujarat Giants led 22-18.

Patna Pirates came out of the break firing on all cylinders with their defence landing an 'All Out' which brought the deficit down to two points.

Suddenly, Gujarat Giants lost the momentum as Patna Pirates began to flex their muscles.

Patna Pirates, Gujarat Giants play out a tie in PKL

PUNE, Dec 21: Patna Pirates' chances of a top-two finish took a hit as Gujarat Giants held them to a 40-40 tie in an action-packed Pro Kabaddi League match here on Saturday.

For Patna Pirates, Devank got a 'Super 10' while Sudhakar M scored seven points. For Gujarat Giants, Guman Singh and Jitender Yadav scored eight points each and Rakesh top-scored with nine.

Guman Singh's raid,

which earned Gujarat Giants three points, put the team in the box seat after only five minutes. The side then piled on more misery with an 'All Out' which put them six points ahead.

Guman, Neeraj and Jitender Yadav combined well but soon Devank and Ayan staged a mount a comeback for Patna Pirates.

Still, Gujarat Giants had a healthy six-point lead midway through the first half.

67th Shooting Nationals

Suruchi wins fourth gold

NEW DELHI, Dec 21: Teen-aged Haryana shooter Suruchi continued to dominate the 67th National Shooting Championship for pistol events by winning her fourth gold in two days here on Saturday.

After sweeping the women's 10m air pistol individual competitions on Friday, she combined with Samrat Rana to blow away Abhinav Deshwal and Yashvi Joshi of Uttarakhand 16-2 in the 10m air pistol mixed team youth gold medal match.

The Army shooters Ravinder Singh and Sejal Kamble

The Haryana duo was 14-0 up even before the Uttarakhand team managed to open their account.

Suruchi's solid form was the cornerstone of the dominating win as she continued to fire mid to high 10s throughout the match.

Karnataka's Jonathan Gavin Antony and Avanthika Madhu upstaged home favourites Jasvir Singh Sahni and Saina Bharwani 17-13 to win bronze.

Army shooters Ravinder Singh and Sejal Kamble

won the first final, the 10m air pistol mixed team, 16-12 over the Andhra pairing of Mukesh Nelavalli and Pranavi Dwaram.

The Indo Tibetan Border Police's Jatin Chaudhary and Kavita Dhoundiyal won bronze in the event. They registered a nail-biting 17-15 win over Assam Rifles Marksmanship Unit's Vinayak Kumbhar and Anjali Choudhary, in the bronze face-off.

In the junior mixed team air pistol final, Karnataka's Jonathan Gavin Antony and

Gamberya Gowda claimed gold with a 16-10 result in their favour, ensuring that the Andhra pair of Mukesh and Pranavi settled for a second silver on the day. It would also be a second medal on the day for Jonathan.

The bronze in the youth category was won by Haryana's Palak Gulia, the reigning Asian Games champion, and her partner Shubham Bisla as they proved too strong for Krushnali Rajput and Tejas Dhore of Maharashtra, winning 17-5. (Agency)

Sejal-Ravinder pair wins mixed team air pistol gold, Paris Olympics medallist Sarabjot finishes fifth

NEW DELHI, Dec 21: Ravinder Singh and Sejal Kamble clinched the mixed team air pistol gold for Army with a 16-12 victory over Pranavi Dwaram and Mukesh Nelavalli in the 67th National shooting championship at the Dr. Karni Singh Range, Tughlakabad, on Saturday.

The Army pair had topped qualification and it was no surprise that it was able to assert itself in the gold medal match.

Jatin Chaudhary and Kavita Dhoundiyal bounced back from the brink of defeat to beat Anjali Choudhary and Vinayak Kumbhar of Assam Rifles Marksmanship Unit 17-15 to thunderous applause and a memorable bronze for the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).

However, the biggest surprise was that Sarabjot Singh, the Paris Olympics



mixed team bronze medallist, and fellow Olympian Rhythm Sangwan, missed the medal round on the count back and placed Haryana fifth among 27 teams. The Haryana pair shot 571 and lost the qualification for the bronze medal match 14x to 20x to

the Assam Rifles team.

Phogat, the triple gold medallist in air pistol, added another gold by winning the mixed air pistol youth gold in partnership with Samrat Rana, outclassing the qualification topper, the Uttarakhand pair of Abhinav Deshwal and

Yashvi Joshi 16-2.

The Karnataka pair of Gamberya Gowda and Jonathan Antony bagged the junior mixed team gold, pushing the Andhra Pradesh team of Pranavi Dwaram and Mukesh Nelavalli to its second silver for the day. (Agency)



Man City crisis deepens after 2-1 defeat to Aston Villa in the Premier League

LONDON, Dec 21: Manchester City's stunning slump continued Saturday with a 2-1 loss to Aston Villa in the Premier League.

Goals from Jhon Duran and Morgan Rogers at Villa Park consigned the four-time defending champion to a ninth defeat in 12 games in a season that is unravelling.

Pep Guardiola's team has won just once during that run.

"We have to stay positive, even though it's difficult, and we have to keep working hard," City striker Erling Haaland said.

Phil Foden pulled a goal back for City in stoppage time, but it wasn't enough to spark a late comeback.

City dropped to sixth in the standings — nine points below leader Liverpool, having played two games more. Villa climbed to fifth.

City's remarkable fall shows little sign of stopping, with Guardiola admitting last week that he had not been good enough to turn his team's form around.

Defeat meant the once-dominant City is without a win in any of its last eight away games in all competitions. While it looks unlikely to win a fifth-straight title, a place in the top four and Champions League qualification could also be in jeopardy.

"We concede the goals we don't concede in the past, we (don't) score the

goals we score in the past," Guardiola said. "We have to think positive and I have incredible trust in the guys. Some of them have incredible pride and desire to do it. We have to find a way, step by step, sooner or later to find a way back."

Only once under Guardiola has City managed to win the title when losing six times in the league. That was in the

2020-21 campaign, when it lost two of its last three games, having already been confirmed champion.

City lost nine times when Liverpool won the title in '19-20, but its sixth defeat didn't come until the February of that campaign.

Guardiola also lost six times in the league in his first season in English soccer in '16-17 and City finished third in the standings.

The latest defeat could have been even more emphatic against a dominant Villa. Duran scored his sixth goal in as many starts in the 16th minute from Rogers' assist. Duran had a goal disallowed for offside in the second half and Rogers hit the post before doubling Villa's lead in the 65th.

Foden's goal in the third minute of added time came too late for City. (Agency)