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1 June 2024

Assam's semiconductor dream

KULADHAR SAIKIA

In an under-industrialized State, any industrial venture that has the potential for growth and employment generation without jeopardizing the environment is a welcome step. As is being widely talked about, Assam needs private and public investment, which would add to its State Domestic Product and create employment for a vast pool of young job-seekers. The media reporting on the upcoming semiconductor complex at Jagiroad in Morigaon district deserves to be seen from this broader perspective.

This venture is a part of the country's prioritized goal of sunrise industry, like semiconductor fabrication, chip design, assembly, testing and packaging. As the world moves at a breakneck speed with innovative applications in the digital world, in the form of AI, IoT, robotics, driverless cars, etc., the market of chip-making and integrated circuits is ever expanding. Several developed countries today are gearing up in this direction to keep the supply chain strong.

India is one of the largest importers of semiconductor chips in the global market. It is estimated that the semiconductor workforce in the world should be growing by more than a million by 2030. With its vast army of unemployed engineers, technicians and computer engineers, India can hope to fill the void across the vertical and horizontal domains. Apart from critical skills like designing chip architectures, R&D, and process engineering, other job roles like testing, quality analysis, packaging, cyber security, etc., are also in demand, depending on the nature of the plant.

The proposed Morigaon plant will report-

Appropriate steps need to be taken to ensure that the proposed semiconductor plant in Morigaon district does not disturb the environment in its surroundings.

edly have facilities for a post-fabrication unit called Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) under the modified scheme for semiconductor assembly, testing, marking and packaging (ATMP), where the manufactured wafers will be cut into individual chips and put to rigorous testing to meet the required specifications. The priority given to this sector is expected to result in a heavy demand creation for skilled job-seekers, from semiconductor professionals to other allied services trained manpower in the upstream and downstream ventures. Keeping this in mind, already several initiatives have been undertaken to cater to the rising demands through collaboration between corporate enterprises and universities and skilling organisations, and accordingly, demand-based courses and workshops are in the pipeline. It is high time for the tech-institutes and other concerned entities in the State to take urgent steps so as not to miss the bus.

For imparting training for upskilling our youth, a well-coordinated action plan needs to be taken to make them suitable for the job market by roping in different stakeholders of the domains concerned. Several pertinent issues are being raised, often in the case of setting up such capital-intensive industries where the employment potential against investment of a huge quantum of capital is significantly low. If creating job opportunities is the objective, encouraging growth in several labour-intensive medium-scale manufacturing enterprises is often cited as a more viable option in a State where the unemployment figure is awfully high. Since, as per the policy guideline, 50 per cent sup-

port of capital expenditure is to come from the public exchequer for setting up the semiconductor ATMP and OSAT facilities in the country, this dimension of employment generation assumes significance for a whole lot of things like making provision for land, water and power offered by the State. Even a policy of employment for local skilled youths by designating a particular percentage of jobs may be worth considering for some earmarked categories of jobs. The expected growth of the subsidiary and downstream activities, along with the birth of viable start-ups, may open up avenues for the local skill training institutes to collaborate with corporate firms and introduce courses on relevant skill development. Thus, schemes for industry-academia collaboration need to be encouraged.

Another significant issue that requires attention is that semiconductor plants not only require a consistent high-power supply, they also consume vast amounts of water, often totalling millions of gallons a day. The type of water used is mostly ultrapure water for production purposes. Huge consumption of water has been a serious problem in the semiconductor manufacturing value chain. One can point to the case in Taiwan where the government had decided to channel water from the agricultural fields to the semiconductor complex and subsidise the rice cultivators who could not continue their farming due to the lack of water in the field. A similar situation of water scarcity occurred in Arizona in the US, when the area was facing the problem of less water due to drought. The venture there is facing a lot of public resistance and protests.

To counter such problems, a well-thought-out plan should be in place by according priority to water conservation along with steps for recycling, reuse and diversification of this resource, so that the local populace, especially the farming community, does not fall victim to a water crisis.

Moreover, the issue of industrial waste disposal in such plants has been widely discussed by experts all over the world, wherever such proposals are getting into shape, so that sustainability, protection and preservation of the environment are adequately ensured. Besides, semiconductor ventures are expected to produce considerably high air emissions coupled with chemical waste. This calls for the use of modern and innovative measures to address these environmental concerns.

The participants in the value chain in semiconductor industries are increasingly in the process of either adopting or upgrading their technologies, which would ensure the use of greener materials in the form of chemicals and materials, so that environmental impact is minimized. Transparency and sustainability should be prioritized so that the environment-friendly industrial practices are put into place. Environmental bodies are increasingly conducting scrutiny and social audits to address growing concerns about the environmental impact of industrial activities. Appropriate actions need to be taken to ensure that the proposed semiconductor plant in Morigaon does not disturb the green environment in the surrounding area. Nearby villagers must not suffer from breathing polluted air or living on toxic land due to hazardous waste.

Tobacco Prevalence In NE India : Gs5/GS2

- Cigarette and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) 2003: It regulates the advertisement, promotion, and sponsorship of tobacco products, prohibits smoking in public places, mandates pictorial health warnings on tobacco product packaging, and sets rules for the sale of tobacco products to minors.
- 38% men and 9% women above 15 years of age use tobacco products, as per the National Family Health Survey 5 (2019-21).
- Women (19%) and men (51%) belonging to Scheduled Tribes are more likely to use tobacco than those from any other caste/tribe groups.
- Among men as well as women, the use of tobacco is higher in rural areas (43% for men and 11 % for women) than in urban areas.
- Nearly three-fifths of men and 15% of women with no schooling or less than 5 years of schooling use tobacco.

Highest prevalence of tobacco use in NE: Centre

A CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, May 31: As the Centre today expressed serious concern over the alarming increase in the number of tobacco users across the country, government data revealed that the prevalence of tobacco use in the North Eastern States is much higher than the national average of 29 per cent.

Quoting the Global Adult Tobacco Survey, a senior government official said that Tripura with a prevalence rate of 65 per cent, Mizoram



at 59 per cent, Manipur at 59 per cent, Assam at 48 per cent and Meghalaya at 49 per

Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur, Assam and Meghalaya are the five top tobacco consuming States in the NE region

cent are the top five North Eastern States with the highest tobacco consumption.

Arunachal Pradesh has 46 per cent prevalence of tobacco use and Nagaland has 43 per cent.

A few other States including Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal, too, registered tobacco use more than the national average.

"As today we observe the No-Tobacco Day, let us pledge to make villages across India tobacco free," said Union Health Secretary Apurva Chandra.

Chandra highlighted the

Government's proactive approach, implementing measures across various levels – local, national, regional, and global – to significantly reduce tobacco prevalence and exposure to tobacco smoke, thereby fostering healthier communities.

He also unveiled the key focus areas for tobacco control initiatives in 2024, which include strict enforcement of India's national tobacco control law, COTPA 2003, intensified public awareness campaigns, and increasing tobacco-free educational institutions.

Assam Higher Education GS5/GS2

- NEP 2020
- NCF 2023
- Mihir K Choudhury Committee

1 June 2024

Transforming higher education in Assam: Digital innovation and inclusive access

Dr. Mohini Mohan Borah

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In a significant effort to modernize its educational infrastructure, Assam has introduced a unified higher education portal for this year's admissions cycle. This platform, part of the Ministry of Education's Samarth initiative, aims to streamline the admission process for both students and institutions across the state, enhancing efficiency and transparency. By centralizing admissions, the portal allows students to apply to multiple institutions through a single platform, reducing hard copies, manual paperwork, and administrative burdens for both students and colleges. The digitization of admissions is particularly beneficial for students from rural areas, who often face challenges with the traditional, paper-heavy application process. Now, students from diverse backgrounds can easily access information and submit applications, which is crucial for those in remote locations who struggle to reach institutions physically. The unified system enhances transparency by providing real-time updates on application status, seat allocation, and admission criteria, promoting a fair and merit-based process.

Institutions benefit from a centralized database, enabling better management of resources such as seats and faculty. This leads to optimized use of infrastructure and human resources, helping institutions plan more effectively for the academic year. Simplifying the admissions process is expected to boost enrollment rates, particularly among marginalized groups, and bridge the gap between urban and rural education participation, contributing to higher literacy rates and educational attainment in the state. As students and institutions engage with the digital portal, it also promotes digital literacy, aligning with broader national and global trends towards digital education and e-governance. This prepares students for a tech-driven future and supports the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which advocates for using technology to improve educational access and quality. With comprehensive data on student applications, preferences, and demographics,

educational authorities can make informed decisions about policy formulation and resource allocation. The portal could eventually integrate with national educational systems like the National Academic Depository and DigiLocker, simplifying processes like document verification and transfer certificates. Additionally, it could expand to include career counselling modules, helping students



make informed decisions about their educational and career paths. Incorporating AI and machine learning algorithms could further enhance the portal by providing personalized recommendations to students, predicting admission trends, and identifying potential dropouts early for intervention. Continuous feedback from students, parents, and institutions will help improve the portal's functionality, ensuring it remains user-friendly and effective. However, while Assam's higher education system is evolving, there are pressing issues that need attention. The introduction of a self-financing integrated master's programme in response to societal demand has been implemented in various colleges and universities. Similarly, the four-year B.Ed. under the Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP) will be available this year in four colleges in Assam. However, these self-fi-

nanced programmes pose a significant burden on low-income families, who struggle to afford the course fees, application fees, and entrance exams conducted by the NTA. This shift towards self-financing could disrupt access to higher education for economically disadvantaged groups, leading to widespread dissatisfaction. It is a matter of concern regarding the increasing number of educated graduates in traditional courses who are struggling to find employment. This situation not only causes significant frustration among these young individuals but also poses a risk of societal unrest. It is im-

perative that we address this issue by exploring alternative educational pathways and enhancing job opportunities to ensure our graduates can contribute positively to society. To address this, it is crucial to strengthen the alignment between higher education and job market demands. Therefore, aligning skill development courses with industrial and societal needs is essential. Vocational courses that lead to self-employment are in high demand, especially post-Covid. Higher education in Assam faces challenges like inadequate infrastructure, faculty shortages, and limited research opportunities. However, initiatives like RUSA and digital transformation offer opportunities for growth. By investing in infrastructure, faculty development, and research, Assam can create a more inclusive and quality educational ecosystem.

Enhancing online education plat-

forms can play a significant role in mitigating these challenges by offering flexible learning options tailored to individual needs, especially for students in remote areas. Investing in infrastructure to support both in-person and online education is crucial, including reliable internet connectivity, digital libraries, and virtual labs. Continuous professional development for teachers is also necessary to enhance their teaching methodologies and better support student learning. Public-private partnerships (PPPs) can play a significant role in advancing higher education by leveraging the strengths of both sectors. These partnerships can facilitate internships, apprenticeships, and job placements, ensuring graduates are well-prepared for the workforce. Effective policy reforms are essential to support and sustain these advancements. Will the government create an enabling environment that fosters innovation, ensures quality, and promotes equitable access to higher education? This includes updating regulatory frameworks, providing incentives for private sector involvement, and ensuring efficient and transparent funding allocation. By addressing these issues proactively, Assam's higher education system can become more resilient, inclusive, and quality-driven. Initiatives like extension activities, adopted villages, and mentorship programmes by college and university teachers aim to accelerate societal growth and development, ensuring no one is left behind. These measures can make higher education in Assam more accessible and affordable, significantly enhancing the employability of graduates and contributing to the overall development of society. In the digital era, student preparedness is essential for success. Integrating technology into education enhances learning experiences by providing access to a wealth of information and diverse perspectives. This requires students to practice effective digital etiquette, cyber security awareness, and the ability to discern credible sources. By embedding these skills into the curriculum, we can equip students to navigate and thrive in an increasingly digital world, preparing them for future challenges and opportunities. The recent advancements in the admissions process, exemplified by the implementation of the Samarth portal, are set to transform the landscape of higher education. To alleviate the rush and costs associated with traditional admissions, higher education institutions should establish student help facilities to ensure a smooth and efficient admissions process. Authorities, educators, and policymakers must take immediate action to ensure students receive the education they deserve without any hardships.

Flood Disaster. GS3/GS5

Ministers take stock of Barak Valley scenario

Cachar DC imposes restrictions on movement of four-wheelers along sinking zone of Sib Bari Road and its adjoining areas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SILCHAR, May 31: At a time when the Barak river is flowing above the danger level and many areas have been inundated, Water Resources Minister Pijush Hazarika reached the Barak Valley on Thursday to take stock of the situation.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of his visit to assess the condition of the sinking zone in Silchar-Kalain Road at Sib Bari Road of the Tarapur area, Hazarika expressed the intent of the State government to prevent further damage of the dykes and embankments and initiate measures to mend the breached dykes in the valley.

He said that while there have been no reports of any breach of embankments in Cachar so far, there are four instances of embankment breach in Karimganj, which will be repaired within a fortnight with geo-mega tubes.

“To solve the issues of sluice gate at Betukandi we will need at least another year’s time.



“To solve the issues of sluice gate at Betukandi we will need at least another year’s time

of Irrigation and we are in the process of constructing another sluice gate. Once

the new sluice gate is completed, the problem will be solved to a great extent,” the Minister told reporters while maintaining that the government is working to find an effective solution to the problem of the sinking zone on the Silchar-Kalain road.

MLAs Kaushik Rai, Dipayan Chakraborty, Kamalashya Dey Purkayastha and other leaders accompanied the minister in his visit to assess the affected spots.

On the other hand, Minister of Excise, Transport, and Fisheries Parimal Suklabai-

dya also reached out to the flood affected people in different areas of the district. Later, Suklabaidya took to the social media to share his thoughts with the people saying, “In the wake of the flood situation in Cachar, our Government of Assam, & the district authorities of Cachar are actively coordinating relief efforts to support the affected communities. Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma *dan-goriya* is personally overseeing the situation to ensure that swift and effective measures are taken.”



“...Govt of Assam, Cachar dist authorities are actively coordinating relief efforts...

Meanwhile, Cachar district commissioner Rohan Kumar Jha, in an order is-

sued under the provisions of the Disaster Management Act 2005 on Thursday, has imposed restrictions on the movement of four-wheelers, including loaded vehicles, along the sinking zone of Sib Bari Road and its adjoining areas from 7 pm onwards.

On the other hand, the Cachar district administration has opened up a control room for providing health-care service to the flood-affected people here.

In accordance with the initiative taken by the district administration, the joint director of health services, Cachar, has constituted a flood control room which will operate seven days a week.

It may be mentioned that the water level of the river Barak at Annapurna Ghat was measured at 21.46m against the danger level of 19.83m on Thursday at 8:00 pm, indicating a rising trend of 2 cm per hour.

As a result of the increase in the water level of the river, many low-lying adjacent areas have been inundated with people seeking shelter in many nearby schools and higher-altitude places.

- Structural measures
 - - dykes
 - - embankments
 - -submerged vane
- Innovative measures
 - - vetiver grass
 - - AI based prediction

Sustainable farming in Assam's flood-prone areas

Ravaging annual floods in Assam damage standing crops on vast stretches of paddy fields, causing substantial losses to farm households and the state's agricultural economy. Increasing the area under submergence-resistant rice varieties can significantly reduce crop damage during floods. Embankments provide protection to about 52% of total flood-prone areas, but paddy fields in 46% of flood-prone areas are without any protection and get submerged during floods. Even paddy fields in areas protected with embankments get submerged when breaches occur. One of the reasons behind breaches is that most of these embankments have outlived their span, and if one breach is plugged, more stretches of the same embankment are prone to breaches due to a lack of required maintenance. Strengthening all the embankments that are vulnerable to breaches requires huge expenditure and can be taken up only in phases, which is going to take many years. The submergence-tolerant new rice varieties have brought fresh hopes of resilience for farmers. Demonstrating success stories in terms of survival rates, production of such rice varieties can have a rippling effect and make them popular among farmers in flood-ravaged areas. As 60% of the state's cultivated area is rain-dependent, farmers growing sali or winter paddy must take the risk of growing paddy during the monsoon season, despite the potential submergence in flood waters. Small and marginal farmers who are unable to cope with the losses due to flood damage to their winter paddy look for alternative avenues to reduce dependence on paddy farming for their livelihood. Some of the members of the family migrate out of the village to work as daily wage earners to augment household income or make up for the losses in agricultural income due to multiple waves of flooding. Due to the erosion of household savings to meet household expenditures without any income from farming, such families find it difficult to make the required investment to meet the rising agricultural input costs of buying seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, insecticides, etc. and are either forced to keep a portion of their rice fields fallow for long periods of time or sell

Sustainable Farming

- Flood Resistant Crop in Assam
- 46% of Paddy fields flood prone.
- Embankment provide protection to 52% of flood prone areas.
- Vetiver grass technology

A brewing conflict over a sacred flower

In mid-April, 25-year-old Madakam Jana-kamma was filled with joy as she started preparations for the naming ceremony of her first child due in two weeks. A part of Koya tribe celebrations, liquor brewed from dried Mahua flowers was central to her plans. She took stock of the 20 litres of liquor that she had already brewed from flowers collected earlier, before heading to the lone Mahua tree in her backyard. She was about to collect the flowers scattered on the ground, when two unexpected visitors in a government vehicle, arrived at her house located in a remote village of Andhra Pradesh. They identified themselves as the staff of the Special Enforcement Bureau (SEB), a newly-created wing of the State police responsible for enforcing sand and liquor regulations.

"I was working in the fields nearby when the police came to raid our house. Janakamma was alone at home at that time. She had brewed nearly 20 litres of Mahua liquor and police took away half of it. They also took the Aadhaar cards of all our family members," says Janakamma's sister-in-law Madakam Adamma, 30, who stays in the same house.

The following day, the police returned the documents after Janakamma's husband shelled out ₹10,000 so that no further legal charges would be slapped against the family for brewing Mahua, says Adamma.

Towards the end of April, Janakamma delivered a baby girl, but the naming ceremony was held without Mahua liquor, a cultural shock for the family's Koya friends and relatives.

Their village, Kokkeragudem, in Alluri Sitarama Raju district, is nestled in the heart of a jungle with 50-odd households. It is located about 5 kilometres deep within an isolated forest from the Chintoor-Bhadrachalam national highway on the Andhra Pradesh-Chhattisgarh border. The village takes great pride in conserving Mahua trees, and remarkably, has three times more such trees than homes.

Mahua, a tropical tree known by its scientific

CHILAKAMMA,
Resident of
Kundluru village

During the raid, the officials demanded ₹5,000 despite us explaining to them about our death ritual and its association with Mahua... we had to bribe them with a rooster used for cockfights roughly worth ₹5,000.



them with a rooster used for cockfights roughly worth ₹5,000," she adds.

Tribal raids

Chintoor Circle Inspector (SEB), M. Prasad, says at least 100 raids on Mahua liquor brewing and storing have been carried out in his jurisdiction in the past three months. "But we have not registered a single case yet. Those raids are known as UDC (undetected cases) in which no claimant of the seized liquor is established. However, we destroyed the seized Mahua liquor at the same spot where it is found, mostly stored on trees."

The Andhra Pradesh Prohibition Act, 1995, did not exempt the brewing and storage of Mahua liquor by the Koya tribe. The Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (or PESA), 1996, empowers the gram sabha to protect traditions, beliefs, and culture of the tribes. However, implementation of the PESA Act is in question as the SEB reportedly chose to ignore this legislation and its entitlements to the tribes in Chintoor Agency.

"The Koyas have convinced us about their cultural association with Mahua liquor. We do admit that they brew it for their rituals, festivals, and ceremonies, and not for commercial purposes. However, we are tasked with enforcement on any liquor. The amendment to the AP Prohibition Act, 1995, with some privileges for the Koya tribe on brewing and storing of Mahua liquor is the only solution," says Prasad.

Under the leadership of Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, restrictions and raids have intensified, particularly with the establishment of the SEB to oversee liquor and sand sales. The police wing purportedly receives information on Mahua liquor in Koya villages, allegedly from supporters of political parties aligned with the government. Koyas claim that during police raids for Mahua liquor, fellow tribe members have stopped intervening, as they do not deem it fit to question the authority that is questioning their cultural practices.

"In just three to four years, our Koya villages have been weakened greatly without any voice to question or protest such raids. In many villages, Koyas have been divided on political lines, posing a threat to protect our tribe's cultural identities," says Sunnam Sarada, a Koya woman and native of Kunduluru village.

Impact on collection

Along the 15-kilometer stretch on Andhra-Chhattisgarh border, over half the households in the

and winter, the price rises sharply.

For the Koyas, Mahua flower is a major source of income, often exchanged for essential goods at the shandies set up in the border villages of Odisha, Telangana, and Chhattisgarh. In the inter-State shandies, much of the Mahua dry flowers come from Chintoor mandal and they are exchanged for commodities, including salt. The Koyas are left with no alternative income source if they give up collection of Mahua flowers.

Bond with lifecycle

From birth to wedding to death, Mahua liquor is a staple at Koya events. Of all the ceremonies, weddings are the most extravagant. Even the most modest Koya weddings typically host 3,000 to 4,000 guests, all of whom are served Mahua liquor according to tradition. In addition to a lavish feast, which typically includes dishes such as beef, fish, chicken and mutton, Mahua liquor remains a central component.

Deeply connected to nature, the Koyas begin their agricultural year with a three-day Bhumi Panduga, a monsoon festival complete with hunting and Mahua liquor. For the Koyas, consuming Mahua liquor offers relief during hunting expeditions. The festival culminates in a community feast, signifying the beginning of the kharif season. During Dasara, they observe Pachha Panduga, a festival centred around vegetables. Come Sankranti, they celebrate Chhikduukai Panduga, in which all the newly harvested crops and Mahua liquor are offered to ancestors and deities before the people partake of it.

In early summer, the Koyas celebrate Kolupu, a time dedicated to offering prayers to their local village deities. At the end of Mahua flower collection, they observe Maamidi Panduga, a festival of mangoes. "Without Mahua liquor, nothing moves in our life. Are we being forced by the government to redesign our cultural life by excluding Mahua liquor," asks Sarada. "This year, I brewed Mahua liquor with flowers that I collected during the last season and presented it to our Koya deities, Sammakha-Sarakka, during the biennial Medaram Jatara in Telangana. From next time, should I buy Mahua flowers to brew the liquor to offer to our deity?"

Guardians of culture

Secretary of the CPI(M) Chintoor mandal, Sesam Suresh, who also belongs to the Koya tribe, says many Koya families have been seeking his party's support while visiting the SEB police station on Mahua liquor matters. "The enforcement authorities are free to conduct raids if any commercial activity of Mahua liquor is established. Otherwise, their intrusion into the Koyas' cultural life is highly objectionable."

He has proposed that the government focus on empowering Koya women by training them in producing value-added products using Mahua flowers, rather than undermining the revenue generated from the sale of the flowers.

Debilitated state of water pollution: GS5/GS1

Shocking laxity

That a life-and-death matter concerning the masses is shamelessly ignored by the State Government speaks volumes about its so-called 'health for all' agenda. Presence of arsenic and fluoride in groundwater beyond permissible limits has been documented long back, but the grave health hazard that has crippled and killed many has failed to compel the authorities into any meaningful action. Even strictures by the National Green Tribunal have had no effect on our thick-skinned authorities. The NGT did not mince any words when it categorically termed the situation as "very serious" and which required "urgent preventive and protective steps." It also pulled up the Central Ground Water Authority, responsible for regulating groundwater, for not taking any independent steps on the issue. In Assam, the presence of arsenic and fluoride was detected in various pockets in 21 and 17 districts respectively. Unfortunately, the State Government has chosen to sit over the disturbing findings even as the number of people afflicted by disorders from consumption of contaminated water continues to rise. Recently, a multi-stakeholder study facilitated by Dr B Borooah Cancer Institute had found exposure to arsenic in drinking water as a possible risk factor for gallbladder cancer in high-risk regions of India, including the Northeast.

Not just cancer, several debilitating disorders stemming from prolonged exposure to water contaminated by arsenic and fluoride have already been known and documented. The latest findings, linking it with cancer, further buttress the grave health risk plaguing the vulnerable populations who do not have access to pure drinking water. It is shocking that despite Assam being a State suffering heavily on this count, mitigation measures from the Government in ensuring safe drinking water to the affected populations across the State have been far from adequate. With the cancer risk adding to the list of debilitating disorders accruing from exposure to arsenic-contaminated groundwater, the authorities would do well to treat the matter seriously and intervene in the urgency it deserves. As the study has pointed out, long-term exposure to low levels of arsenic in drinking water can also lead to discoloration of the skin, high blood pressure, heart disease, nerve conditions like numbness, etc. The havoc caused by

- **Arsenic:** While arsenic occurs naturally, it is also present in human-made forms used in agriculture, mining, and manufacturing.
- **Fluoride:** In India, fluorosis is a prevalent issue due to the consumption of water with high fluoride content.
- **Nitrates:** Excessive nitrate levels in drinking water react with haemoglobin, forming non-functional methaemoglobin and hindering oxygen transport, leading to methemoglobinemia and blue baby syndrome.
- **Uranium:** Uranium, weak radioactive with a long physical half-life, is found in concentrations above WHO guidelines in localised pockets in India.
- **Radon:** Recently, in some areas of Bengaluru, groundwater used for drinking has been found to contain significantly high levels of radioactive radon.
- **Other Trace Metals:** Water may also be contaminated by trace metals such as lead, mercury, cadmium, copper, chromium, and nickel, which possess carcinogenic properties.

Prelims Centric/GS4

Major Radhika Sen's service is true credit to United Nations as a whole: UN chief

UNITED NATIONS, May 31: Major Radhika Sen of India is a true leader and role model and her service is a true credit to the United Nations as a whole, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said, as he conferred a prestigious award on the Indian woman peacekeeper.

Major Sen, who served with the United Nations Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), received the prestigious '2023 United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award' from Guterres during a ceremony at the world body's headquarters on Thursday on the occasion of the International Day of UN Peacekeepers.

"Major Sen is a true leader and role model. Her service is a true credit to the United Nations as a whole. Please join me in congratulating Major Radhika Sen of India. I could not be prouder to confer her with the Military Gender Advocate of the Year

“
In an escalating conflict environment in North Kivu, her troops actively engaged with conflict-affected communities

– Antonio Guterres

Award," Guterres said, as he presided over the Dag Hammarskjold medal and Military Gender Advocate of the Year ceremony.

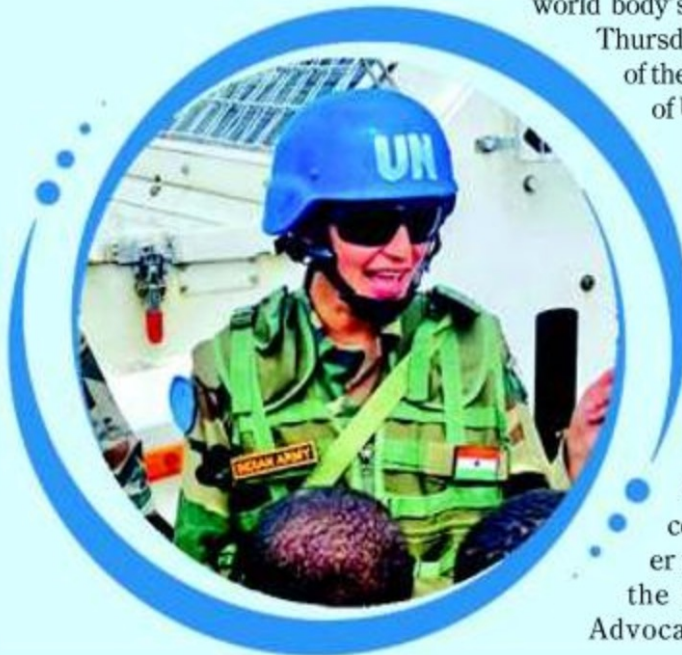
Major Sen served in the East of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) from March 2023 to April 2024 as the Commander of MONUSCO's Engagement Pla-

toon for the Indian Rapid Deployment Battalion (INDRDB).

The UN chief said Major Sen led her unit on countless patrols. "During these patrols, in an escalating conflict environment in North Kivu, her troops actively engaged with conflict-affected communities, including particularly women and girls," he said adding that "She earned their trust. Doing so with humility, compassion, and dedication."

The UN chief said that Major Sen provided a safe and welcoming platform for women to share their ideas and concerns so that the Mission could better respond to their needs.

"In her one-year deployment, Major Sen also served as gender focal point, and took on civil-military tasks – including vocational trainings for women and young people," he said, adding that she was also her battalion's sexual exploitation and abuse focal point, undertaking important efforts to prevent misconduct. – PTI



Conservation effort. Pre/GS3/GS5

Railways to construct canopy bridges across track in Assam gibbon habitat

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has earmarked funds to construct canopy bridges for India's only ape to move across a railway track bifurcating its prime habitat in eastern Assam.

A 1.65-km-long track – set to be doubled and electrified – divides the 2,098.62-hectare Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary in Jorhat district. The sanctuary has the largest concentration of the Hoolock gibbon, one of 20 species of apes on earth.

The gibbon, known for its vocalisation, spends much of its time on the upper canopy of tall trees, mostly the hollong (*Dipterocarpus macrocarpus*). The fragmentation of the forest along the track has disturbed the arboreal nature of the ape, putting it at risk while crossing the track.

“We decided to install canopy bridges inside the sanctuary to facilitate the



The canopy bridge designed by the Wildlife Institute of India for installation in a gibbon sanctuary in Assam, and, right, a Hoolock gibbon. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

movement of the gibbons across the track. The decision was made in consultation with the Assam State Forest Department, Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and other stakeholders,” NFR spokesperson Sabyasachi De said.

These canopy bridges, designed by the WII in consultation with the NFR, will be constructed at identified points to facilitate easy movement of the arboreal species between the two halves of the sanctuary partitioned by the Mariani-

Dibrugarh railway track.

“The ends of the canopy bridges, as well as the knots, will be secured and clamped or tightened using appropriate and high-grade fastening materials and techniques. As a fail-safe mechanism, safety nets will be installed below the main twin-rope bridge to save the species accidentally falling off the bridges,” Mr. De said.

The canopy rope bridges will be installed in such a way that lianas and creepers can be guided



along them to make the bridges look as natural as possible, railway officials said.

The NFR had undertaken efforts in the past to build an artificial canopy bridge while the State Forest Department and Assam-based biodiversity conservation organisation Aaranyak had erected a natural canopy bridge in a part of the sanctuary frequented by the gibbons. The gibbons did not use the artificial bridge but used the natural canopy.

Canopy Bridges:

Purpose: Facilitate safe movement of gibbons across the railway track.

Design: Developed by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in consultation with NFR.

Installation: Bridges will be installed at strategic points within the sanctuary.

Construction: Ends and knots secured with high-grade materials; safety nets installed below the bridges.

Conservation Status:

Western Hoolock Gibbon: Endangered (IUCN Red List).

Eastern Hoolock Gibbon: Vulnerable (IUCN Red List).

Legal Protection: Both species listed on Schedule 1 of the Indian Wildlife Protection Act 1972.

Nirmalprabha Bordoloi. GS5/Prelims

The inspirational Nirmalprabha

DR TAPATI BARUAH
KASHYAP

One of the most remarkable figures of Assamese literature, the creative prowess of this versatile genius is always worth remembering.

Listening to the melodious songs of great Assamese singers like Bhupen Hazarika, Deepali Borthakur, Jayanta Hazarika, Dwipen Barua, Tulika Senapati and Mihir Bardoloi is always an enriching and heartening experience. Many of their songs have something in common that always touches the heart of the listener. What exactly is that? It is the soft, flowing words, beautiful expressions, and so on. And the sheer credit for the timeless appeal of these songs goes to Nirmalprabha Bardoloi, who wove together amazing words drawn from the Assamese language and turned them into evergreen lyrics. It was only from her heart that such inimitable, touching, beautiful and immortal lyrics could flow, notwithstanding the fact that composing lyrics was only one of her favourite pastimes. She was indeed one of the most remarkable figures of Assamese literature of all time.

Born to Dharmeswar Sarma Bardoloi and Mukutabala Bardoloi on June 20, 1933, in Sivasagar, Nirmalprabha came from a family that traced its lineage to an astrologer named Arjun Sharma of Kanauj, who had arrived in Assam around 1680-81. Impressed by his scholarship, Swargadeo Gadadhar Singha (1681-96), the then Ahom king, appointed him as a 'Bardoloi,' or royal astrologer.

Nirmalprabha showed her brilliance right from her childhood, consistently ranking first in her class throughout her school life. She was married off at a very young age, and she was not fortunate enough to have a happy married life. As a result, she strug-

gled to establish herself, and her indomitable spirit was her only companion till the end. Her life itself was an inspiration for many people in Assam, and even today, she continues to be a beloved figure for every Assamese.

She was a versatile lady, who contributed immensely to the Assamese cultural and literary fields. A closer look reveals that her name is attached to every genre of Assamese language. Essentially a poet, she continues to be the most cherished name for the lovers of Assamese poetry. Her poetry was characterized by a clear and luminous perception, which gave her style lucid expressions and compelling imagery. She was a trendsetter, not only in the realm of women's poetry in Assam but also in the entire history of modern Assamese poetry.

She was a great scholar. Though poetry was her forte, Nirmalprabha also carved a niche for herself as a very serious and successful researcher. Apart from her doctoral thesis titled 'The Treatment of Nature in Assamese Poetry,' her other major works involving deep research are *Devi* (1986), *Shiva* (1997) and *Surya* (2000). A born poet, her mastery of the language and her intuitive musical ability not only made her a top lyricist in the Assamese language but also placed her on par with none other than Dr Bhupen Hazarika in terms of her lyrics.

Nirmalprabha Bardoloi was a children's writer, too. A lover of children, who understood child psychology extremely well, she could write prolifically for children on various issues, which not only inspired

young people but also encouraged a number of older people to take up writing for children and young adults.

She was a humanist of the highest order. Although she faced problems in society during the prime time of her life, she did not lose hope in human beings and continued to love them throughout her life. Most of her lyrics and poems thus reflect her love for human beings right from her childhood days. Several incidents, which she revealed through her autobiography, proved that she was more a humanist than a feminist.

Very few know that Nirmalprabha Bardoloi was also a novelist. Though she had written only one major work of fiction – a novel – that single work is enough to prove her expertise in that sphere of literature. *Jalapadma*, her only novel, is set in the backdrop of Majuli. It highlights the realities about its people, their hopes and aspirations, their joys and sufferings, and their dreams and imaginations through the family of a poverty-stricken widow, who gives away two of her sons to a *satra*.

Nirmalprabha Bardoloi was not only a legendary poet, lyricist and novelist, but also a great translator. She had an irresistible passion for reading poetry from different cultures and countries, leading her to translate numerous poems from China, Japan, and Russia, enriching contemporary Assamese literature in the process.

There is hardly any literary genre where Nirmalprabha Bardoloi has not left her footprints behind. She was a biographer, too.

Her most significant work in this genre is a biography of Rajani Kanta Bardoloi, known as 'the Emperor of Novels', which was published by Sahitya Akademi.

She was also a playwright and made significant contributions to the field of Assamese drama. Some of her plays were *Meghdoot*, *Phulkonwar*, *Beula*, *Urvashi*, and *Tritiya Anka*, many of which were broadcast by Akashvani.

A versatile literary genius, Nirmalprabha Bardoloi was the second woman writer to become the president of Asam Sahitya Sabha after the great Assamese poet Nalinibala Devi. Her unmatched power of creativity is worth remembering, especially on her twentieth death anniversary.



Integrity pillar/cyber. Gs4/GS5

RBI to roll out AI-driven system to protect interests of bank customers

In order to protect the interests of customers of banks and NBFCs, the Reserve Bank plans to focus on embedding AI and other related tools in the complaint management system (CMS) to facilitate lodging of complaints with ease and ensure greater consistency in the decision-making process, according to the RBI's annual report released on Thursday.

The Internal Grievance Redress (IGR) framework would be further strengthened to encourage banks to take proactive measures to improve customer service, the report states.

Going forward, the Reserve Bank will continue to endeavour to proactively take appropriate measures in the best interest of the

economy to ensure a stable and strong financial system, while being mindful of risks stemming from the evolving technology, innovations, business practices and growing complexities in the financial sector, according to the RBI report.

For payment systems, the focus would be on consolidation of measures to enhance customer centricity, promote innovation and support expansion. Under the 'integrity' pillar, the Central Payments Fraud Information Registry (CPFIR) is planned to be extended to local area banks, state cooperative banks, district cooperative banks, regional rural banks and non-scheduled UCBs for payment fraud reporting.

A risk-based authentication mechanism, as an alter-

native to SMS-based one-time password (OTP) for an Additional Factor of Authentication (AFA), would also be introduced to address risks in payments. On the international front, the Fast Payment System (FPS) as well as multilateral inter-linkages would be explored in collaboration with groups of countries like the European Union (EU) and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the RBI report stated.

The Reserve Bank would also review the priority sector lending guidelines and work towards formulation of the next iteration of the National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (NSFI) for the period 2025-30, the RBI report added. (IANS)

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- On the international front, the Fast Payment System (FPS) as well as multilateral inter-linkages would be explored in collaboration with groups of countries like the European Union (EU) and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

NGT order: GS3/GS5/Prelims

NGT orders inquiry into 'unlawful' diversion of Geleky Reserve Forest land

AJIT PATOWARY

GUWAHATI, May 31: The Kolkata-based Eastern Zone (EZ) Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has constituted a committee with three top officials of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) to comprehensively enquire about a case related to the alleged unlawful diversion of 28 hectares (Ha) of land of the Geleky Reserve Forest in Sivasagar district of the State for non-forestry use. It has also asked the respondents to file their counter-affidavits in this case (Original Application No.105/2024/EZ) within four weeks, since May 29.

The applicant of the case is RTI-cum-environmental activist Rohit Choudhury and the respondents include the Assam government and four others, including the MoEF&CC.

The NGT Bench constituted committee in this case includes the MoEF&CC Additional Director General of Forest, who is dealing with the Forest (Conservation) Act; the MoEF&CC Additional Secretary, nominated by the Ministry's Secretary, and the Deputy Director General of Forests (C) of the Ministry's Integrated Re-



CASE FACTS

- 28 hectares of forest land has been 'unlawfully' diverted for non-forestry use
- The land has been diverted to establish a state commando battalion camp on the Assam-Nagaland interstate border
- The state forest dept has diverted the land without the Centre's approval
- The permission was 'illegally' granted by the then Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and the Head of Forest Force (HoFF), Assam

The committee has been asked to visit the site and submit its report on the affidavit. The MoEF&CC Additional Director General of Forest will file the report as the nodal officer, the NGT Bench said in its May 29 order.

In his application, Choudhury alleged that the Assam Forest Department has diverted 28 hectares of reserved forest land illegally for the establishment of an Assam Commando Battalion camp in the Assam-Nagaland interstate border area of the Geleky Reserved Forest

proval. The permission has been illegally granted by MK Yadava, the then Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) and the Head of Forest Force (HoFF), Assam. Yadava is presently the Special Chief Secretary (Forest) at the Government of Assam.

Yadava has misused his power and position to illegally divert a part of the forest area without fulfilling the requirements of compensatory afforestation and net present value. This has made him personally liable for compensating and restoring

est, Choudhury said.

He also referred to the NGT New Delhi Bench *suo-motu*, taking up the matter of Yadava, 'illegally' allowing clearance of protected forest land measuring 44 Ha for housing a 2nd Commando Battalion unit at Damcherra within the Inner Line Reserve Forest (ILRF) in the State's Hailakandi district. This case was registered by the NGT New Delhi as Original Application No.-61/2024 on January 23, 2024.

The MoEF&CC counter affidavit filed in the ILRF case stated that it had directed the State government to stop and discontinue the alleged construction activities forthwith on this plot of forest land, through a letter dated March 18, 2024. The Ministry also requested its Shillong Regional Office to initiate action under sections 3A and 3B of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. The Ministry's affidavit reflects that the construction has been done in utter violation of the norms.

In the case of Geleky Reserve Forest, Yadava had written to the Officer-in-Charge, Eastern Assam Circle that the construction of a police battalion camp could be approved "in the interest of conservation and protec-

- The NGT's principal bench is already hearing a suo motu case on the alleged illegal construction of commando battalion headquarters on reserve forest land in the state's Hailakandi district.
- The latest case relates to the construction of the 2nd Assam Commando Battalion Camp on 28 hectares in Sivasagar district's Geleky Forest Reserve. A petition filed by Golaghat-based environmental activist Rohit Choudhury alleged that the construction happened without approval from the Union Environment Ministry. Under the Forest (Conservation) Law, 1980, any non-forestry activity on forest land requires approval from the ministry.

Empowered. Women: GS1/GS2/GS3

Trailblazing Indian Women: Decades of Leadership at the United Nations

Ritika Das

(The writer can be contacted at ritikadas108@gmail.com.)



Once, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres remarkably said, “When we exclude women, everyone pays the price; when we include women, the whole world wins.” The current wave lingering around the world is the wave of gender equality. In all walks of life, women are solidifying their position and their relevance in whatever work they decide to do. Many international organizations and many countries are trying to provide a gender-friendly workplace where both genders are given an equal share of leadership opportunities. India is also not far behind in this race, especially when it comes to the UN. Today, the UN stands on the pedestal of ensuring collective dialogue and international peace among its member countries. But it does not limit itself to the aforementioned roles alone.

Over the past few decades, it has significantly broadened its vision and goal to accommodate what is called ‘gender equality’. Whether it’s the establishment of the UN Women

Peacekeeping Force, conducting UN Women Conferences in the late 20th century, establishing a separate entity called UN Women, or even the introduction of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), where the main focus has been gender equality, the UN has made multiple efforts towards women’s empowerment and ensuring a just and humane society for all. But, amidst all these initiatives and actions taken, India takes one of the leads when it comes to the strong presence of women leaders in the UN. Even before India got its freedom, it was one of the important founding members of the United Nations Charter. And since then, India has continuously exercised its influence at the UN in some way or another. Within a few years of its independence, India was offered membership of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) in 1950. It also actively deploys its army to the UN Peacekeeping Forces and lobbies for peace and stability in many war-torn areas. But over the years, the biggest

asset for India has been its women leaders, who have showcased their leadership qualities in different areas of the UN. Whether it’s diplomacy, the military, or even becoming a strong voice for the country, Indian women have been up there in the UN whenever they were needed.

It was through Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit that India got an early opportunity to flaunt its women power in the UN. Firstly, she led the Indian delegation to the UN from 1946–53. And then, in 1953, the UN elected her as the 8th President of the UN General Assembly. Herein, she was not only the first-ever Indian to hold such a prestigious

position, but she was also the first woman ever to do so. Further, in 1978, she was also appointed as the Indian representative to the UN Human Rights Commission. At a time when the country was still pulling itself out of the stretches of colonial dominance and figuring out its stand in the international arena, this was the perfect launchpad for India as a global power. Another prominent female figure in the UN was Hansa Jivraj Mehta. A great freedom fighter and one of the few female leaders in India’s constituent assembly, she was the only female on the UN Commission on Human Rights besides Eleanor Roosevelt.

She actively vouched against the usage of the word ‘man’ in the UN’s Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) draft.

While the word ‘man’ tried to refer to both genders universally, Mehta felt that it would be wrongly perceived that the charter only catered to the needs of one gender. As a result, later, the draft was amended to mention “human persons” and “equality of men and women”. Further, other women leaders like Begum Shareefa Hamid Ali represented India at the UN Commission on the Status of Women in 1947. Subsequently, another Indian woman leader, Lakshmi N.

Menon, was nominated as a member of the Indian delegation to the United Nations. She also headed the Commission on the Status of Women during 1949–50. It was due to these initial important opportunities that today, after seven decades of being a part of the UN, India has been continuously able to fulfill its pledge to encourage its women leaders to represent the country in major global affairs.

If we observe the recent activities of Indian women in the UN, the foremost example is its UN Women-led Peacekeeping Force. The military relationship between India and the UN has been flourishing since the beginning of the UN’s establishment. More than 2,00,000 Indians have served in 49 of the total 71 UN peacekeeping missions since 1948. And within this, Indian women have played a very significant role. Back in 1960, women in the Indian Armed Forces, serving in the medical service were interviewed by UN Radio before being deployed to the Republic of Congo. Later, in 2007, India became the first country to deploy an all-women contingent to a UN peacekeeping mission in Liberia. Recently, India again created history by sending the single largest all-women platoon to the UN, consisting of two officers and 25 other ranks. They are currently deployed in Abyei, a disputed

zone between South Sudan and Sudan. While we refer to the Indian female leadership contingent in the UN, we cannot forget IPS officer Dr. Kiran Bedi, who served as the UN’s first police advisor. She bashed society’s general stereotype that professions like the military and police are male-dominated bastions. Along with this, India has also been fairly fortunate to have some meticulous women leaders who have, over the years, duly represented India’s voice in the UN. One such instance is that of IFS Sneha Dubey. When Pakistan’s ex-PM, Imran Khan, raised the issue of Kashmir and the scrapping of Article 370 while addressing the UN General Assembly, India’s now advisor for sustainable development and once Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations, Sneha Dubey gave a befitting reply and quoted, “We call upon Pakistan to immediately vacate all areas under its illegal occupation”, hinting that Jammu and Kashmir, along with Ladakh, “were, are, and will always be an integral and inalienable part of India”.

But recently, the most celebrated achievement in regard to fostering women’s leadership has come through IFS officer Ruchira Kamboj. After the glorious stint of Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, it has been almost seven decades since another woman leader be-

longing to India secured a strong position in the UN. Mrs. Kamboj has been serving as India’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations since August 2022. She became the first woman to represent India at the United Nations. Previously, she was posted as a counsellor at India’s Permanent Mission to the United Nations from 2002–2005. She was also India’s Ambassador to UNESCO Paris in 2014. It was under her then-three-year stint that three Indian sites were added to UNESCO’s World Heritage List, a never-accomplished hat trick by any country. Conclusion: India has a rich legacy of being a prestigious member of the UN. Even if it is not one of the permanent members of the UN, India’s views and especially its stand on global issues are highly regarded. When it comes to its women leaders, a strong female voice on such a prestigious global platform helps all the issues related to gender equality and gender discrimination come to the forefront. This is especially true for India, which is inhabited by a huge population, and a significant part of that population is women. All the Indian women, who hold significant positions in the international forums, only provide inspiration and courage to all the other women to aspire and climb up to a similar feat.

Very Imp for Mains

The Assam Tribune

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Celebrates

**WORLD
ENVIRONMENT
DAY 2024**

Land Restoration, Desertification and
Drought Resilience

#GenerationRestoration



Save the soil



Soil is more than just the dirt under our feet. It is the planet's most biodiverse habitat with almost 60 per cent of all species living in it. And it is estimated that 95 per cent of our food is directly or indirectly produced on soil.



Support organic farming that uses little or no synthetic chemicals.



Add compost and organic materials to soil to improve its fertility, water retention and microbial activity.



Build the knowledge, skills and capacity of youth to engage in land restoration activities effectively.



Collect kitchen waste to use as compost in gardens or balconies or contribute to composting schemes.



Learn about sustainable agriculture practices that preserve soil health, retain water and minimise erosion.



- The theme of World Environment Day 2024 is 'Land Restoration, Desertification and Drought Resilience'. The slogan of this event will be "Our Land, Our Future." We are Generation Restoration.
- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will host World Environment Day 2024 with a focus on land restoration, desertification and drought resilience. Land restoration is a key pillar of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030), a rallying call for the protection and revival of ecosystems all around the world, which is critical to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Prelims Centric

Purnima Devi Barman to promote Hargila conservation in France

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 31: Iycee des Lumieres, a reputed educational institution of Mayotte island of France, has signed a two-year agreement with conservation biologist Dr Purnima Devi Barman to work together towards conservation of biodiversity in tune with the community-based model adopted by her for conservation of endangered greater adjutant stork (Hargila).

The school in Mayotte island, one of the 18 regions in France, has been immensely impressed by the Hargila conservation model driven by the grassroots community movement, Hargila Army, dominated by village women from the conservation project site in the twin villages of Dadara and Pachariya in Kamrup district of Assam.

Iycee des Lumieres in Mayotte island will use Barman's knowledge and expertise to make the students ambassadors for preservation of environment

It has signed the pact with the reputed conservation biologist from NGO Aaranyak who has been in the lime-light of late after being conferred with the coveted Whitely Gold Award 2024.

The agreement is focused on edu-



cation and research on the community-dominant model of Hargila conservation successfully adopted by Dr Barman; character, origin, health and diet of the stork species; discover the commitment of India women in safe-

guarding the stork; making the conservation army of the community women a mascot of Iycee des Lumieres and making students of Iycee des Lumieres ambassadors for the preservation of environment and biodiversity.

Iycee des Lumieres will use the knowledge and expertise of Dr Barman, a winner of the UNEP Champion of the Earth 2022 award, and her army of women conservation workers to create an "army of students" within the school, trained to protect species and biodiversity as a whole.

The France-base school expects that the experience and knowledge of Dr Barman based on her experience of prolonged community-driven conservation work, will provide cultural enrichment and knowledge in terms of protecting Hargila and support the students by sharing her knowledge.

WHO Nelson Mandela Award

NIMHANS bags WHO's Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion for 2024

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THE HINDU BUREAU



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