

Diversity message at council's jubilee meet

MITA MUKHERJEE AND
JHINUK MAZUMDAR

New Town: Former President Pranab Mukherjee on Friday advised a gathering of over 2,000 schoolteachers and principals from across India to "celebrate diversity" and "nourish it" because "it is the various cultures, languages and practices that make India".

There is "huge diversity" in India, and this is the "reality" that has to be recognised", Mukherjee added. The former President underscored the plurality of India at a time when politics of polarisation is threatening to rear its head and take control. "Diversity need not affect our united action. Let us celebrate diversity, let us enjoy it, let us nurse it and let us nourish it," he said at the Diamond Jubilee Celebration of the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations, in association with The Telegraph Young Metro, at Biswa Bangla Convention Centre in New Town on Friday.

Mukherjee urged the "managers, teachers, principals, founders and educational administrators" to "partake of this march which they began long ago... to recognise each individual as a creation of God". "There are various cultures, various languages, various practices that make India... But at the same time it makes proud citizens of a proud country under one Constitution, one flag, one sys-



A cultural programme organised as part of the Diamond Jubilee celebration of the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations, in association with The Telegraph Young Metro, at the Biswa Bangla Convention Centre in New Town on Friday. Pictures by Pradip Sanyal

tem," he said.

Some of the school heads present felt it was important to recognise diversity and help students realise its importance. They stressed schools should be free of prejudice and differences created by language, caste, colour or creed.

"Our school was founded

with a vision that would allow students to grow up in an institution devoid of prejudice. It is still very relevant today because there is anxiety in the minds of many regarding divisive thoughts and ideas and our students are made aware to overcome this," said Terence Ireland, principal, St

James' School.

The new bishop of the Calcutta diocese of the Church of North, Probal Kanto Dutta, recently expressed his desire for a more inclusive classroom with respect to the La Martiniere schools.

"The classroom should be a microcosm of the society in

terms of representation of different communities," a church official had told Metro.

Several teachers on Friday welcomed Mukherjee's "time-ly reminder".

"Diversity must be embraced in every aspect. There are people coming from diverse backgrounds, abilities

and schools have to accommodate and embrace all of them," said Seema Sapru, the principal of The Heritage School.

Gerry Arathoon, the secretary and chief executive of CISCE, said the council was set up 60 years ago by a group of educationists who made a "commitment to ensure quali-



Former President Pranab Mukherjee and (below) Gerry Arathoon, secretary and chief executive of CISCE at the event



Body-ferry app cab found in Ranchi

OUR SPECIAL
CORRESPONDENT

Ultadanga: An app cab allegedly used to dispose of the bodies of a homemaker and a man with whom she had checked into a central Calcutta hotel in September was found in Ranchi, Jharkhand, on Friday.

The cab driver, Vijay Yadav, was arrested from Bally in Howrah last month.

The body of Archana Palangdar, a 35-year-old mother of two, had been fished out of a canal off EM Bypass. She was allegedly murdered by Balaram Keshari, a Jharkhand resident she had befriended and with whom she checked into the hotel on SN Banerjee Road posing as a couple. Balaram allegedly committed suicide after the murder. His decomposed body was found in the same canal a few days later.

The hotel manager, on discovering the bodies, had allegedly called his brother, a cab driver, and asked him to take the bodies to Anandapur off the Bypass in his car.

"The car will be sent for forensic examination as the two bodies were transported in it from the hotel to a canal off EM Bypass. The vehicle is a vital piece of evidence that we will mention in the court during the hearing," a police officer said.

Archana had stepped out of her home on September 19 saying she was going to her maternal uncle's home near Jadu Babu's Bazar in Bhowanipore. Her body, stuffed in a gunny bag, was fished out of the canal two days later. The post-mortem report suggested she was strangled and smothered to death.

During investigation, police found Balaram's phone number from Archana's call records. Probe revealed that the two mobile phones had received signals from the same tower near a central Calcutta hotel since Archana left home.

The police visited the hotel and came to know that three employees had stopped coming to work. One of the workers, Ashish Yadav, was arrested from Jharkhand on October 6 and based on his interrogation Balaram's body was found.

Hotel workers had used a master key to open the door to the room where Archana and Balaram were staying after repeated knocks went unanswered.

Hotel manager Harihar Mahato and another employee, Jadu Prasad, are on the run.

Help held for theft
A domestic help at a GC block house in Salt Lake's Sector III was arrested on Friday for allegedly stealing gold jewellery worth Rs 2 lakh.

The 38-year-old Duttabad resident was picked up on the basis of a complaint lodged by her employer Saptaswa Sarkar. Sarkar alleged two gold bangles and a pendant had gone missing from a compartment in their bedroom cupboard that remain locked.

Sky lanterns seized from Baguiati house

SNEHAL SENGUPTA

Bidhannagar: Sky lanterns that languidly soar into the night sky without any of the noisy fuss of a firecracker have been seized from some shops and at least one house in Baguiati since police issued a notification banning its use within a 10km radius of the airport.

Teams from Rajarhat and Baguiati police stations on Friday raided several shops in the areas under their jurisdiction and seized some sky lanterns along with other banned firecrackers.

The largest haul was at Ashwininagar in Baguiati, where the police found around 1,400 sky lanterns in the house of a relative of a Trinamul Congress councillor. The lanterns were part of a 125kg "stockpile" of banned fireworks, an officer said.

"Our team had raided the house based on specific information," Amit Javalgi, the deputy commissioner (headquarters) of Bidhannagar City Police, said.

Apart from sky lanterns, outdoor laser lights have been banned within 10km of the airport on grounds of their being an aviation hazard. The notification classifies sky lanterns (*phanush*), a traditional feature of Diwali in this part of the world, as a fire hazard.



Sky lanterns being released on Diwali night last year

Flying lanterns can cause catastrophic accidents if aircraft engines suck them in, according to the notification. Difficulties faced by pilots of aircraft preparing to land at the airport have been cited as the reason for clamping the ban on laser lights.

"Sky lanterns are also a threat to the safety of aircraft. We have to make people understand that releasing them near the airport is not allowed," Javalgi said.

In Rajarhat, the police seized 22 sky lanterns on Friday from a makeshift fireworks stall.

A resident of Rabindrapalli

in Baguiati was arrested after 15kg of banned crackers were found in his shop. He is out on bail.

The banned firecrackers in the seized lot include 792 chocolate bombs, 410 dodomas, 62 packets of *kali patakas* and 46 firecrackers that burst twice each, first on the ground and again after shooting into the sky.

Javalgi said programmes were being held to raise awareness simultaneously with raids on firecracker stalls across Baguiati, Rajarhat and Narayanpur. The inspectors-in-charge of six police stations under the Airport division of the police commissionerate have been asked to spread the word in public places and housing complexes.

The notification banning sky lanterns and laser lights was issued after the district administration of North 24 Parganas received a letter from the general manager of air traffic management in Calcutta about sky lanterns posing a threat to aviation safety.

The letter mentioned the use of powerful laser lights outdoors and how they affect pilots of aircraft landing at or taking off from the airport. Laser lights are a bigger problem when planes have to land at the southern end of the runway during winter to avoid tailwinds from the north.

CU sets marks deadline

OUR SPECIAL
CORRESPONDENT

College Street: Colleges affiliated to Calcutta University will have to submit marks for the undergraduate Part-II examination to the varsity by November 21.

The deadline, along with a detailed timeline for evaluation of scripts and publication of results, was shared with the principals of affiliated colleges at a meeting on Friday.

The examiners must submit marks to the university within November 21.

The meeting held on the university's College Street campus discussed ways to ensure timely declaration of results of BA, BSc and B-Com

TIMETABLE

- Examiners to submit evaluated and scrutinised answer scripts and marks to principals by November 14
- Principals to send scripts to head examiners by November 16
- Marks to be submitted to the university by November 21
- Results to be published in late November

Part-II general examinations.

The university has so long faced much flak for delay in publication of results.

The principals who attended Friday's meeting were handed a note with the detailed timeline.

All examiners will have to

submit the evaluated and scrutinised answer scripts and marks to the principals of respective colleges with marks by November 14. The principals will have to send the scripts to the head examiners concerned by November 16. The marks must be submitted to the university by November 21.

In case of minor subjects that don't require the involvement of head examiners, the principals have been asked to submit the evaluated answer scripts directly to the controller of examinations department by November 16.

A representative of a principal in a north Calcutta College said the university au-

thorities enquired about the status of evaluation and whether the colleges were facing any problems.

"We explained to the controller of examination that although the examination was held in July, the scripts did not reach the colleges before September. Till date, the university has not sent the full list of head examiners. This was coming in the way of completing the evaluation and submitting marks," the representative said.

The results are likely to be published in late November. Repeated calls to the controller of examinations, Jayanta Sinha, went unanswered.

A university official blamed the delay in distribution of scripts on lack of planning. The official admitted that this was the first time such an exercise was being conducted by the university.

"The university would till now restrict itself to sending instructions to colleges. This year the exercise was held on the campus to convey a firm message to the colleges that they should not delay the process," he said.

NTPC

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Extract of the Standalone Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter and Half-year ended 30 September 2018

(₹ in Crore)

| Sl. No. | Particulars | Quarter ended 30.09.2018 (Unaudited) | Quarter ended 30.09.2017 (Unaudited) | Half-year ended 30.09.2018 (Unaudited) | Half-year ended 30.09.2017 (Unaudited) | Year ended 31.03.2018 (Audited) |
|---------|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 1 | Total income from operations | 22261.08 | 19698.75 | 44964.68 | 39578.07 | 83452.70 |
| 2 | Net profit before tax (before exceptional items) | 2634.68 | 3069.69 | 5645.81 | 6306.80 | 12339.46 |
| 3 | Net profit before tax (after exceptional items) | 2634.68 | 3069.69 | 5645.81 | 6306.80 | 12339.46 |
| 4 | Profit after tax | 2426.02 | 2438.60 | 5014.16 | 5056.77 | 10343.17 |
| 5 | Total comprehensive income after tax | 2417.60 | 2444.80 | 4994.30 | 5040.05 | 10328.69 |
| 6 | Paid-up equity share capital (Face value of share ₹ 10/- each) | 8245.46 | 8245.46 | 8245.46 | 8245.46 | 8245.46 |
| 7 | Reserves excluding revaluation reserve as per balance sheet | | | 96166.99 | 90923.87 | 93532.31 |
| 8 | Net worth* | | | 103769.23 | 98567.19 | 101146.56 |
| 9 | Paid up debt capital | | | 122851.53 | 107042.31 | 115104.29 |
| 10 | Debenture redemption reserve | | | 7093.81 | 5761.06 | 7274.56 |
| 11 | Earnings per share (of ₹ 10/- each) - (not annualised) (including regulatory deferral account balances): Basic and Diluted (in ₹) | 2.94 | 2.95 | 6.08 | 6.13 | 12.54 |
| 12 | Earnings per share (of ₹ 10/- each) - (not annualised) (excluding regulatory deferral account balances): Basic and Diluted (in ₹) | 2.50 | 2.81 | 5.44 | 5.77 | 11.87 |
| 13 | Debt equity Ratio | | | 1.18 | 1.09 | 1.14 |
| 14 | Debt service coverage ratio | | | 2.39 | 2.03 | 2.14 |
| 15 | Interest service coverage ratio | | | 4.77 | 6.40 | 5.93 |

* Excluding Fly ash utilization reserve

Note:

1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the financial results of the Company are available on the investor section of our website <https://www.ntpc.co.in> and under Corporate Section of BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited at <https://www.bseindia.com> & <https://www.nseindia.com>

2. Previous periods figures have been reclassified wherever considered necessary.



NTPC Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Leading the Power Sector

For and on behalf of Board of Directors

Place : New Delhi
Date : 2 November, 2018

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Sd/-
(K. Sreerant)
Director (Finance)

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World Bank financed Assam Agribusiness & Rural Transformation Project (APART) Assam Rural Infrastructure and Agricultural Services (ARIAS) Society (An Autonomous Body of the Government of Assam)

REVISED REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (REOI)

FOR HIRING OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR IEC CAMPAIGN UNDER APART

(This is a fresh REOI issued against cancellation of earlier REOI No. No. ARIASS/APART/IEC/176/2017/16 dated 20th January 2017).

Re-REOI No. ARIASS/APART/IEC/176/2017/150

Dated Guwahati the 2nd November, 2018

The Government of Assam (GoA) through the Government of India has received a loan from the World Bank (WB) for implementation of the Assam Agribusiness & Rural Transformation Project (APART). The ARIAS Society now intends to apply a portion of the loan for hiring of Consultancy Services for IEC Campaign for 3 (three) years under APART. Further details may be seen in the detailed REOI and the related draft indicative Terms of Reference (TOF) for the assignment at the URL - <http://www.arias.in/procurements.html>. The Consultancy firm/Agency will be selected in accordance with the World Bank's 'Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers: Procurement of Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services, July 2016 (as updated)', available at www.worldbank.org. Interested Consultancy Firms/Agencies may submit their Expressions of Interest (EOI) in English language to the following address on or before 26th November, 2018 in hard copy as well as a soft copy. Further information may be obtained at the address given below from 11.00 am to 04.00 pm (IST) on all working days.

The State Project Director, ARIAS Society, Agriculture complex, Khanapara, G.S. Road, Guwahati-781022 (Assam)
Tel: 0361-2332125; website: www.arias.in; email: spd@arias.in

Sd/-
State Project Director,
ARIAS Society

Tender

NORTHERN RAILWAY Tender Notice

Principal Chief Engineer, Northern Railway Headquarter Office, Baroda House, New Delhi-110001. Publication in newspaper of e-Tender Notice for procurement of P. Way material has been stopped by the office Pr. CE, Northern Railway. Firms desiring to participate in tenders for P.Way items of Northern Railway are requested to visit the website www.ireps.gov.in regularly after registering themselves on this portal and submit their e-bids on this portal only. No.196-S/71/2018-19/Tender Notice/TS/GPS Date: 23.10.2018

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