

HEADLINES

- Assam government dismisses 13 arrested state civil services officers for their alleged involvement in Assam Public Service Commission 'cash for job' scam.
- Meghalaya's Congress MLA from Ranikor constituency, Martin M. Danggo resigns as member of State Assembly.
- Veteran Congress-turned-BJP MLA, Biswabhandu Sen elected as Deputy Speaker of Tripura Assembly in Agartala.
- Union Minister of state for Statistics and Programme Implementation, Vijay Goel calls for timely execution of central projects in North East for overall economic and social development of the region.
- School education department in Nagaland expresses concern over poor performance of students in government-run schools in High School Leaving Certificate examinations.
- 4th International Day of Yoga celebrated in different parts of North Eastern states.
- Six ULFA militants surrendered with arms before Assam police in Guwahati.

NEWS IN DETAILS**DISMISSED**

The Assam government has dismissed 13 arrested state civil services officers for their alleged involvement in the Assam Public Service Commission 'cash for job' scam. The dismissed officers were undergoing probation when they were arrested in November last year. They are currently lodged in Guwahati Central Jail. All these officers have been accused of bribing former APSC Chairman Rakesh Pal, currently in jail, and using unfair means in the examination to qualify for the state civil services. It may be mentioned that 35 officers of the Assam Civil Services and Assam Police Services have been arrested so far in connection with the alleged scam.

RESIGNATION

In Meghalaya, Congress MLA from Ranikor constituency, Martin M. Danggo has resigned as member of the State Assembly late last night. A political drama was witnessed in the Assembly Secretariat at Khyndai Lad in Shillong yesterday when the Ranikor MLA did not turn up to submit his resignation letter, though he was supposed to hand over his letter to the Deputy Speaker, Timothy D. Shira at around 5 pm. However later at night, Home Minister, James K. Sangma confirmed that Danggo has resigned as MLA, and his resignation letter has been accepted. Danggo is set to join the ruling National People's Party and would seek re-election as candidate of the party when a bye election to the Ranikor Assembly constituency is held.

DEPUTY SPEAKER

In Tripura, veteran Congress-turned-BJP MLA, Biswabhandu Sen was unanimously elected as Deputy Speaker of the Tripura Assembly in Agartala yesterday. The opposition CPI (M) did not field any candidate for the post. Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ratan Lal Nath and leader of the opposition Manik Sarkar escorted the Deputy Speaker to the chair. Sen thanked all members of the House and declared his resolve to conduct the proceedings in a fair manner with the best parliamentary tradition.

REVIEW

Union Minister of state for Statistics and Programme Implementation, Vijay Goel yesterday said that timely execution of central projects in the North East was critical for the overall economic and social development of the region. The Union Minister told reporters in Guwahati after reviewing the progress of central sector infrastructure projects in road and transport, petroleum and natural gas and railway sectors. The centre was implementing 44 projects worth more than 50,000 crore rupees in the North East and timely completion was of utmost importance to ensure development. The Ministry reviewed projects worth over 150 crore rupees and Goel held review meetings with senior officials of the NHAI, Oil India Limited, North East Frontier Railways and the state government.

EDUCATION

The school education department in Nagaland has expressed concern over the poor performance of students in government-run schools in the High School Leaving Certificate examinations conducted by the Nagaland Board of School Education this year. Of the 294 government schools, comprising of 41 government higher secondary schools and 253 government high schools, students from 233 schools appeared for the examinations this year. Twenty-seven government schools recorded nil pass percentage while 12 schools secured hundred per cent success. Principal Director of the department, Smita Sarangi said at the review meeting that the pass percentage in government schools was 40.77 per cent, a decrease by 1.83 per cent from last year's pass percentage.

YOGA

Along with the rest of the country, the 4th International Day of Yoga was celebrated in different parts of North Eastern states yesterday. In Shillong, Meghalaya Governor, Ganga Prasad attended the celebration at Sri Aurobindo Institute of Indian Culture. The yoga day was also observed at Laban Sports Club, Shillong participated by Health Minister, A. L. Hek and other dignitaries. Yoga Day was also observed in other North Eastern states like Nagaland, Sikkim, Manipur and Assam. On the occasion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the nation in performing asanas, in the main event organised at the Forest Research Institute in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

SURRENDER

In Assam, 6 ULFA militants yesterday surrendered with arms before the Assam police in Guwahati. Official sources said that all of them were trained militants but decided to join the

mainstream as they were fed up with activities of ULFA leaders including kidnapping of indigenous people.