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## MBBS Seats: 1 disqualified

Staff Reporter

**Shillong, Oct 4:** The state's health department has revoked the nomination of one Ayush Kumar for MBBS studies during the academic year 2023-24 under the open category against the state quota.

Informing this on Wednesday, Health Minister Ampareen Lyngdoh said, "One candidate from East Jaintia Hills has been denied the seat because the deputy commissioner has reviewed the issuance of the provisional permanent residential certificate (PRC) and has deemed it fit to disqualify the candidate for not being eligible for the issuance of a PRC."

"The seat will be duly accorded to the next person in the waiting list of the unreserved category," she added.

The minister informed that after due processing of the list of eligible selected candidates for allotment of MBBS seats became controversial because of several details that were indicated to the government at that point of time, the department had sent the provisional PRCs to the various districts giving them an instruction that henceforth, there shall be no more issuance of a provisional PRC.

Stating that a PRC is a PRC, Lyngdoh said, "We had vetted through the Department of Law and Department of Political and it was decided that all these provisional PRCs should be sent back to the DCs and the DCs should decide once and for whether or not these candidates were eligible or not eligible to be given the seats."

Earlier on September 11, the dorbar shnong of Thangskal and Jaintia Students' Union (JSU) had demanded the State government to disqualify Ayush Kumar from the list of selected candidates for the MBBS state quota because he is not a permanent resident of the village.



Pigs root for scraps as workers struggle to push a food waste trolley through a hospital rubbish tip in Nanded, Maharashtra

## JHADC employees without pay for 10 months

Correspondent

**Jowai, Oct 4:** After not having received their salary from December last year, over 500 employees of the Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council under the umbrella of the JHADC-Staff Association took to peaceful protest by way of a sit-in demonstration at the premises of the council at Jowai today.

The council employees were seen with banners and signage bearing messages like "We demand our right", "We have our families we can't live without salary", "Salary is our right" and others.

The president of the JHADC-Staff Association, Johnson Pohrmen while speaking to the media said that this sit-in demonstration is not because they are opposed to the government, however, it is a manifestation of their disappointment for not being paid for the last 10 months since December 2022.

"This is something that



really saddens us as employees of this District Council because we have not been paid for the last 10 months which has led to our inability to take care of our family," Pohrmen said.

He said that in times of emergencies, the employees have to go into debt from private money lenders because banks have stopped granting loans to them because of the erratic way that salary is disbursed to the Council employees.

He also reminded that Deputy Chief Minister, Sniawbhalang Dhar on 16

June 2023, had assured to help in the disbursement of the pending salary of the employees in the first week of September 2023 but this promise has not materialised till date.

As such, he has urged for the release of all pending dues so that the ongoing hardships faced by the Council employees is brought to an end. He also said that if nothing is done to address this issue, the association will be forced to take other methods to ensure that their rights are not trampled upon.

## High Court clamps down on diversion of illegally mined coal

Staff Reporter

**Shillong, Oct 4:** The Meghalaya High Court today directed that illegally mined coal should not be diverted to cement and coke industries in the state.

"Further action in such regard should continue unabated to ensure that the illegally mined coal in the State is not diverted to such industries as aforesaid," the full bench headed by Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee said in its order passed after hearing a PIL on the issue.

In addition to the report filed by the State, the Advocate-General informed that details have been obtained and further details are awaited as to the extent of use of coal and the source of such coal in the ferro-alloy, cement and coke industries.

The AG also informed that pursuant to certain observations made by Justice Katakay in one of the interim reports, show-cause notices have been issued to some of the units manufacturing cement in the State.

The order said as to the



17th interim report filed by Justice Katakay, the State said that a report will be filed before Justice Katakay by October 7, 2023, as directed, as to the steps taken by the State in respect of various aspects that have been pointed out in the interim report.

The State also assured the Court that the disposal of the previously mined coal is continuing as per schedule and, as far as

practicable, the schedule submitted in Court will be adhered to.

The bench has directed that the matter will again appear after six weeks and that Justice Katakay be paid an ad hoc remuneration of Rs. 4 lakh in addition to the other expenses as per previous directions.

Meanwhile, the bench has directed the State to look into the allegations

levelled against Jai Maa Coal Private Limited and its associates and the persons in control by the petitioner in the relevant PIL.

It said that the State of Assam assures the Court that all assistance has been rendered to Meghalaya Police and the State of Assam will continue to ensure that the incidental activities pertaining to illegal mining in Meghalaya, if conducted in Assam, are arrested.

## Assam govt to auction Ministers' gifts

**Guwahati, Oct 4 (IANS):** The Assam government has decided to auction the gifts received by the various ministers, officials said on Wednesday.

Assam Education Minister Ranaj Pegu said that state cabinet has taken a decision, saying that the gifts received by various ministers are government properties.

"I also receive a lot of gifts as minister, but these are not individual properties. All the gifts received by us are owned by the state government," Pegu said.

The state government will build a warehouse where all the gifts will be kept.

It has been also decided that the funds collected

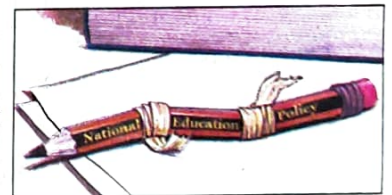
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## NEHU Academic Council flays 'inappropriate NEP implementation'

Staff Reporter

**Shillong, Oct 4:** Members of the Academic Council (AC) of North Eastern Hill University (NEHU) have requisitioned a special emergency meeting of the AC to the University's Vice-Chancellor and chairman of the AC Prof P Shukla to discuss the alleged inappropriate implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 at the under-graduate (UG) level in the affiliated colleges from the session 2023-24 without the AC's approval.

The decision was taken after the Vice Chancellor was not keen to convene an emergency meeting of the AC despite several requests made by the teaching communities through their respective associations and other stakeholders, President of the Teachers' Association



(NEHUTA) Prof Lakhon Kma said in a statement issued here on Wednesday.

He said, "The responsible members of the AC are deeply concerned with the act of infringement on the authority of the AC and violation of the established norms and procedures as per NEHU Act, Statutes and Ordinances."

"Therefore, the members have requisitioned a special emergency meeting of the AC to discuss the inappropriate implementation of the NEP 2020 at the UG level in the affiliated

colleges of NEHU without the approval of the Academic Council as per Regulation RA-5, Clause 13, under Clause (1) (a) and (2) of Statute 42," Kma added.

Kma further maintained that the AC members are not harping on the roll back of the NEP implementation but on the urgent need to rectify the procedural flaws after discussion and approval in the Emergency meeting and move forward for the sake of students at the UG level in our affiliated colleges.

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## Hoard of Phensedyl recovered from abandoned truck

Staff Reporter

**Shillong, Oct 4:** Over 44,900 bottles of banned Phensedyl were seized from a truck, which was abandoned on the national highway in East Jaintia Hills after being chased by police on Tuesday evening.

East Jaintia Hills district police chief Japal

Singh Dhanao said while conducting checking near Lumshnong police station, two trucks were signalled to stop for verification but only one of the trucks coming from the Umkiang side stopped when given a signal while the truck coming from the Khliehriat side refused to comply and instead drove rashly

ahead. He said the said truck was then pursued by the staff from Lumshnong PS, and after a short chase, the driver of the said truck abandoned the truck on the NH and fled.

Accordingly, the said truck was brought to Lumshnong police station as it was suspected to be carry-

ing illegal contraband.

From the truck, 150 bags containing 44900 bottles of 100 ml each of the banned Phensedyl were recovered, the SP said while informing that a case is being registered at Lumshnong PS and necessary legal action initiated to arrest the accused persons.

## MGMP a hit with music lovers

Staff Reporter

and thereby, benefiting

## Young farmers should not

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### Young farmers should not be job seekers

... food, agriculture, animal husbandry, horticulture, business and rural development for linkages & partnerships and come up with comprehensive policy recommendations.

Briefing about the activities of the Agri-Business Innovation Centre, Dr. B. P. Singh, Head Division of Technology Assessment and Capacity Building (DTAC), said the Prime Minister & Vocal for Local and Local for all wanted our local brands to have a prominent presence in the global market, where the agri-business can play a key role. Agribusiness in India has the potential to play this critical role in the livelihoods and well-being of a large segment of the population and for the economic vitality of the country's economy.

A.K. Mohanty, Director, ATARI, Umiam said that farmers need to have the perspective of a businessman of today's era. He also expressed research should be done in a collaborative manner which is as per the requirements of the industries. The major strength of the country is the working population which is highest in India as a whole. He further added that it is high time the government should come out with industry-ready technologies. The major strength of the country is the working population which is highest in India as a whole.

"The political parties should have support for the recognition and the amendment of the 8th Schedule for any language that has al-

manifesto particularly mentioning that if amendments were done in the past to amend the 8th schedule I don't see why we should

pressure to ensure that political parties in this country recognize the indigenous languages of the people of various states of India," she said.

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### NEHU Academic Council flays ...

"In accordance with upholding the democratic norms and protecting the sanctity of the Statutory Body of the University Academic Council, the members have requested the Vice Chancellor to convene the special/emergency meeting of the AC immediately based on the requisition as per rule.

More than 100 bona fide members of the AC from Shillong and Tura Campuses of NEHU have signed the requisition of the special/emergency AC meeting which is much higher than the requirement of one-third of the total members of the AC as per Regulation RA-5, Clause 13, under Clause (1) (a) and (2) of Statute 42. Kma stated.

### MGMP-a hit with music lovers

He added, "This project has undeniably served as an invaluable platform for budding artists in Meghalaya. In the upcoming season, our commitment extends to reaching every corner of the state, including every district headquarters, ensuring that our music resonates throughout the hills. Shillong, too, is on the cusp of blossoming into a vibrant hub for musicians, street performers, and bands. With these developments, the music scene in Meghalaya is poised to thrive and lead our state to become the top destination for tourism in India."

The atmosphere at Khyndailad was musical, with music enthusiasts of all ages swaying to the rhythm of three incredible bands - Sur Ki Nongkyndong, Colours, and Na u Bnai. Their soul-stirring melodies resonated in the hearts of the audience, leaving them crave for more.