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# CIVIL SERVICES ACHIEVERS' POINT

A ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR UPSC/APSC/SSC & BANKING

**THE ASSAM TRIBUNE ANALYSIS**

**DATE - 1<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2021**

**For Preliminary and Mains examination**

**As per new Pattern of APSC**

**(Also useful for UPSC and other State level government examinations)**

**CSAP**

**CIVIL SERVICES ACHIEVER'S POINT**

*Leadership through knowledge...*

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# CSAP

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ADKJ #DID YOU KNOW ?

## ASLEEP IN THE MISHMI HILLS.

THE SENTINEL HILLS  
THAT ROUND US STAND  
BEAR WITNESS THAT  
WE LOVED OUR LAND.

AMIDST SHATTERED ROCK  
AND FLAMING PINE  
WE FOUGHT AND DIED  
ON NAMTI PLAIN.

O LOHIT GENTLY BY US GLIDE,  
PALE STARS ABOVE SOFTLY SHINE,  
AS WE SLEEP HERE  
IN SUN AND RAIN.

- BERNARD S. DOUGAL -

THE BATTLE OF WALONG  
OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1962.

IN UNDYING TRIBUTE TO OUR  
SOLDIERS WHO LAID DOWN THEIR  
LIVES IN DEFENCE OF THE MOTHERLAND.

JAI HIND.



## Salvaged Pride

In the only Indian counterattack in 1962 Sino-Indian War at Walong, the easternmost town of India in Arunachal Pradesh, the 6 Kumaon infantry battalion inflicted heavy losses on the Chinese.



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## Govt defers labour codes implementation

- The four labour codes will not come into effect from April 1 as States are yet to finalise the relevant rules, which means that there will be no change in take-home pay of employees and provident fund liability of companies for now.
- Once the wages code comes into force, there will be significant changes in the way basic pay and provident fund of employees are calculated.
- The Labour Ministry had envisaged implementing the four codes on industrial relations, wages, social security and occupational health safety and working conditions from April 1, 2021.
- The ministry had even finalised the rules under the four codes.
- “Since the States have not finalised the rules under four codes, the implementation of these laws are deferred for the time being,” a source told PTI.
- According to the source, a few States had circulated the draft rules. These States include Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and Uttarakhand.
- Since labour is a concurrent subject under the Constitution of India, both the Centre and the States would have to notify rules under the codes to bring those into force in their respective jurisdictions.
- Under the new wages code, allowances are capped at 50 per cent. This means half of the gross pay of an employee would be basic wages.
- Provident fund contribution is calculated as a percentage of basic wage, which includes basic pay and dearness allowance.
- The employers have been splitting wages into numerous allowances to keep basic wages low to reduce provident fund and income tax outgo.
- The new wages code provides for provident fund contribution as a prescribed proportion of 50 per cent of gross pay.
- In case the new codes had come into effect from April 1, the take-home pay of employees and provident fund liability of employers would have increased in many cases.
- Now the employer would get some more time to restructure salaries of their employees as per the new code on wages. – PTI

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## EDITORIALS

### Heritage destroyed: Only we can do it!

- On an early wintry morning of February 1998, the writer of this piece set foot for the first time in his alma mater, the Assam Medical College & Hospital, located at Borbari, Dibrugarh. Back then, the AMCH with its old colonial style structures, surrounded by a lush green tea garden, with the mighty Brahmaputra flowing by its side, had a charm of its own.
- A wide expansive boulevard lined by tall *gulumohar* and mahogany trees, led from the entrance to the main administrative building. A garden with blossoms of roses and dahlias stood right behind those trees which greeted the patients thronging the high-roofed Assam type OPD complex.
- The tall John Berry White auditorium in itself was an enchanting one, the walls of which proudly flaunted huge life-size portraits of the doyens of medical science and where young students took the first step of getting formally inducted into the course of modern medicine. The basic science complex (where students got the first taste of the curriculum) was a heritage structure in itself, housing the anatomy museum and a huge dissection hall.
- All the three departments were interconnected by open corridors interspersed with lecture halls and laboratories where eager first-year pupils carried out their biochemistry and physiology experiments. The anatomy museum was one of a kind as well, and in it curious students gazed and gaped at the specimens with rapt attention.
- The dissection room had its own charm, with the hall being as large as one could imagine, the walls of which carried rows of wide glass windows which opened into the adjacent theatre-like class halls. In the dissection hall, mini batches of first year students huddled around iron tables on top of which lay dead desiccated lifeless bodies –ready to get dissected and teach the novice the tricks of the trade.
- While some deftly manoeuvred their scalpel over the lifeless body, dissecting muscles and separating nerves from arteries, others kept busy indulging in small candid talks and fumbling whispers.
- On rainy days a few would just sit and gape through the large windows amidst the strong smell of formaldehyde which emanated from the dead bodies. A separate set of students meanwhile would perform physiology and biochemical experiments elsewhere in the same basic block. During breaks, groups of students would emerge for a gossip, in the verandah while others would slip out to the nearby cafeteria for some *samosa* and tea.

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- Young students clad in white aprons, hustling through winding corridors with books tucked under their arms made for an interesting sight to the naive passer-by. Adjacent to the pathology department was the post mortem room from where one could easily slip into the massive Old Boys Hostels – all four of them – a square Assam type structure lined by long corridors and supported by wooden beams on the outside.
- Many of the wards and units where patients got hospitalized and treated were interconnected and few of the units had small, almost hidden semi -dark rooms which served as the chambers and clinics for the faculty. Intriguing in its layout and charm, the AMCH back then was neat and devoid of litter or garbage.
- The New Boys Hostel and ladies hostel 7 lay adjacent to each other, in front of which there was a garden of gooseberry and a few *gulmohar* trees. The garden was a bird's paradise where a host of feathered friends used to flock and frolic together. The whole campus offered a unique undulating charm, with the professors' quarters built out of mud, concrete and flaunting a lawn each, adding to its natural beauty.
- All these, till the inevitable happened. Sometime around 2010-2012 'a few' thought that the oldest medical college and hospital laden with a rich coat of history needed a brushstroke and an urgent refurbishment. Plans were drawn and contracts awarded to give the AMCH a face-lift. In a whiff and with much 'precision', the basic science building was brought down, the vintage anatomy museum demolished, and the theatre-like lecture halls as well as the half-a-century-old dissection hall levelled.
- In its place came up the utmost mundane block of concrete which now functions as the basic science building. The garden in front of the New Boys Hostel was cleared too and a dab-looking block of concrete erected in the cleared space, blocking much of its archaic view. The feathered friends must have deserted the place for good – for a block of concrete in place of lush green foliage has little to offer for them.
- If one takes a tour inside the AMCH now, one would find it as a place with haphazard constructions – a block here, a building there – all unplanned and chaotic. Just near the busiest intersection of the college, by the side of the present cafeteria and the paediatrics department lay a concrete dustbin which holds the entire garbage of the previous day.
- Just imagine, a dustbin at the busiest of intersections of the oldest medical college in Assam, to greet and welcome you! The drains leading to the Old Boys Hostels are clogged and uncovered while ramshackle tea stalls and roadside vendors dangling packets of potato chips and *pan masala* greet you as you proceed to the Officers' Mess. Even the age-old professors' quarters are now being slowly demolished, whereas with a little effort they could have been preserved and converted to vintage guest houses.

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- The AMCH, once a beautiful and orderly campus, happens to be nothing more than an eyesore now. No doubt, some 'artists' have meddled with a vintage old painting and in an attempt to modernize it, spoiled it completely. Except the forlorn OPD complex, nothing of the old and yesteryears remains now.
- Assam has a dearth of vintage structures and establishments. Except a few heritage structures in and around Guwahati, a couple of bungalows in remote tea gardens and one or two government establishments, there is not much to boast of. The AMCH, in its earlier days, had a heritage and glory about it – not only in its edifices but also in its layout. That such an unscientific methodology was employed in restructuring and revamping its design/buildings and structures is quite disheartening. The AMCH is surrounded by a vast tea garden and as such space was never a problem. Construction could have been carried out in the rim or the periphery of the existing college and attempts to conserve the heritage structures should have been made. But, sadly, it was never done and all is over now. The damage cannot be undone.
- The AMCH's loss is the loss for the people of Assam. Through this write-up, the writer wishes to make an appeal that all heritage buildings/structures ought to be preserved – be it a small Assam type house or a plush 'Chang Bungalow' in a forlorn tea garden.
- The vigilant eye is perhaps witnessing the reality of small Assam type houses with big lawns being taken over by builders and construction companies to erect multi-storeyed complexes. This happens to be a stark as well as sad reality.
- It is time to save and safeguard whatever we are left with. Otherwise our children will have nothing to savour, nothing to identify with rich heritage and history.

## Illegal firearms

- That illegal firearms continue to be seized in the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) is a disturbing development, more so in view of the third phase of the Assembly polls scheduled there on April 6.
- The use of the gun to coerce voters into voting for a particular party in the militancy-affected areas is nothing new.

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- However, the ultra outfits are not solely to be blamed for this, as political parties are known to use them to enhance their electoral prospects in such areas.
- According to the police, as many as 80 weapons, including 37 sophisticated ones along with 2,500 rounds of ammunition have been recovered from various locations in the BTR within a year and that an average of 6-7 weapons were being recovered in the area every month.
- A garrulous minister of the State Government is now warning of taking action on former BTC chief Hagrama Mohilary over the firearm seizures but what begs the question is what action had been taken on Hagrama all these years when the BPF was an ally of the BJP Government. In order to sound convincing and not to seem as political vendetta, the Government's words and action need to be coherent.
- With a number of former members of the NDFB and the BLT once again taking up arms under the dreaded ex-NDFB leader M Batha, there have been reports of floating of a new armed outfit and this bodes ill for long-term peace in Bodoland.
- The restive area had achieved substantial peace in recent years with almost all the ultra outfits joining the peace process. While a sustained crackdown on illegal firearms is a must, both the Government and civil society should put in their efforts in bringing the misguided youths back to the mainstream.
- The issue of large-scale presence of illegal arms in Bodoland has been a disturbing reality for years, as members of the surrendered ultras are known to keep some weapons with themselves. The Centre had also taken a strong view of the trend and repeatedly asked the State Government to seize illegal arms.
- It is a poor reflection on the State Government that it has to be told by the Centre to go hard on possessors of illegal weapons, as it is a bounden duty on the former's part to have a sustained crackdown on the illegal arms racket in the larger interests of peace and stability in the State.
- Unfortunately, nothing of the sort was witnessed all these years with the consequence that illegal weapons found their way into the hands of all and sundry – from overground militants who profess peace to criminals and other anti-socials.
- A major reason why the Government is reluctant to crack down on those holding illegal arms is the thriving politician-criminal nexus. The gun cult in the BTAD had been too all-pervasive to merit much elaboration, and only the naive would believe that it is divorced from the kind of politics practised in the area.

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