



## NEWS CAPSULE



A protester dressed as a clown during a May Day demonstration in Zurich, Monday - UNI

### Security review

NEW DELHI, May 1: Home Minister Rajnath Singh today reviewed security situation in Jammu and Kashmir and the Naxal-affected states in the wake of recent violence there. He also directed officials to ensure strict vigil along the international border. - PTI

### Rajiv probe

NEW DELHI, May 1: The larger conspiracy behind the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi "has to be investigated", the Supreme Court said today. It directed the CBI to give a time-frame for completing the detailed probe. - PTI

### RSS chief visit

GUWAHATI, May 1: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat will be in Assam on Monday from Tuesday. Besides addressing Sangh members at Hojai, he is also expected to hold discussions with the State and regional RSS leaders and review organisational matters. - Staff Reporter

### Hafiz arrest

LAHORE, May 1: Pakistan's Punjab government today issued a notification extending the house arrest of Mumbai attack mastermind and Jamaat-ud-Dawah chief Hafiz Saeed and his four aides for 90 days more under the country's anti-terrorism Act. - PTI

### Blood pressure

NEW DELHI, May 1: A mega exercise on May 1st and 2nd - 2017 was launched today to measure blood pressure of over two million people in India. It is part of a global initiative to raise awareness on the importance of screening to tackle high blood pressure. - PTI

The Assam Tribune on Internet  
<http://www.assamtribune.com>

## Pak forces cross LoC, behead 2 soldiers

JAMMU, May 1: Under the cover of heavy mortar fire, a Pakistani special forces team sneaked 250 metres across the Line of Control (LoC) into the Poonch sector and beheaded two Indian security personnel today, officials said.

The Indian Army vowed in an "appropriate" response to the "despicable act", which significantly took place a day after Pakistan army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa visited some areas along the LoC and promised support to the Kashmiris.

The Pakistan army denied that it was involved in any attack.

Defence Minister Arun Jaitley said in Delhi that the "sacrifice of the two killed will not go in vain" and the Indian armed forces will react "appropriately" to the "inhuman act" of the Pakistani troops.

"This is a reprehensible and an inhuman act. Such attacks do not take place during war," he said.

"Bodies of soldiers being mutilated is an extreme form of barbaric act. The government of India strongly condemns this act. The whole country has full faith in our armed forces which will react appropriately to the act," Jaitley said.

The attack was carried out by the Border Action Team (BAT), which comprises the special forces, under the cover of shelling by Pakistanis.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi receiving President of Republic of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan in New Delhi on Monday. - UNI

## Centre proposes 'aerotropolis' in State

Sinha, Sonowal discuss aviation infrastructure development

### STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 1:

Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation Jayanta Sinha today met Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal at Brahmaputra State Guest House in the city and discussed various issues pertaining to development of civil aviation sector in the State.

During the meeting, Sinha proposed to build an aerotropolis - a metropolitan subregion where the layout,

infrastructure, and economy are centred on an airport, which serves as a multimodal 'airport city' - in the State which would bring huge benefits to the region in terms of civil aviation and air connectivity and requested the Chief Minister to allot 2,000 acres of land within hour-long distance from Guwahati city near the Brahmaputra river. The Chief Minister assured all

cooperation in this regard and said that it would be huge opportunity for the Northeast to open air links with southeast Asian countries.

Saying that the Act East Policy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been at the forefront of the development agenda of the State, Sonowal stated that the proposed aerotropolis would bolster the air

connectivity in the region and open the northeastern region as the business hub of Southeast Asia.

The Chief Minister also requested the Union minister for sending officials from the Civil Aviation Department for conducting an aerial survey of the entire stretch of the Brahmaputra from Sadiya to Dhubri for identifying suitable locations for setting up airports in the State. (See page 2)

Saying that the Northeast has the potential to be the growth engine of the country through opening of road and air links with southeast Asian countries, Sonowal urged the Union minister for starting direct flights on the route between Bangkok and Guwahati-Singapore routes which would speed up economic growth of the region by increased tourist inflow and trade activities. (See page 2)

## Jamiat opposes 1951 as new cut-off year

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, May 1: Ahead of the deadline, the Assam and Jamiat-Ulema-e-Hind has petitioned the Supreme Court in support of the Assam Accord, and expressed its opposition to 1951 as the new cut-off year.

The Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court had set May 1 as the deadline for all interested parties to make their submission. In keeping with that the Assam Jamiat, which has close links with AIUDF, filed its petition.

Later briefing newsmen

and member of Assam Jamiat said that they have supported Assam Accord and advocated that all illegal migrants should be detected and deported as per the Accord. "Otherwise there will be a civil war in Assam, if the dates are changed," he warned.

The general secretary alleged that a section of organisations including Assam Public Works (APWs), Assam Sammelana Maha Sangha, Purbar Hindustani Sammelan and Ahom Association among others have been opposing 1971 as the cut-off date and filed 1951 as the cut-off date for the Muslims.

Attacking the BJP want to take advantage of the situation by creation a political mess. What will be the fate of the 48 lakh people, whose names have been kept away from National Register of Citizens (NRC), he asked.

The BJP wants to keep the clear-cut date for detection and deportation of foreigners.

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## APSC candidates securing jobs with bribes to be arrested

### SANJOY RAY

GUWAHATI, May 1: Dibrugarh police have gained the political clearance to arrest the first lot of APSC (Assam Public Service Commission) candidates who had secured jobs by paying huge amount of money to Rakesh Paul, the arrested former chairman of the Commission and other arrested members of the APSC.

This is now expected to put the ongoing investigation into the cash-for-job scam on the fast-track mode.

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## Plant a tree : Himanta mantra on free education

### STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 1: Need free education Plant a tree.

State Education Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma today said students who get free admission in first year – whether higher secondary or degree level – will have to plant a tree and produce photographic evidence to show its annual growth to avail free admission in the second year.

Addressing a review meeting with college principals at Cotton College here, Sarma said

the students can plant the sapling at a place of their choice – a village, premises of their college or residence, along the road, etc. "But they will have to click pictures to show the growth of the tree during the year. Only then, their admission fee in the second year will be waived," he said.

Announcing a slew of new policies in higher education, Sarma also said government college teachers or principals should not associate themselves with private institutions. "They cannot be members of a governing body of a

(See page 2)

## Talks with ultra groups in limbo

### R DUTTA CHOUDHURY

GUWAHATI, May 1: Talks with militant groups of Assam, which are under ceasefire agreement with the Central and State Governments, have almost come to a standstill and there is apprehension among the security agencies that the trained cadres of the outfit may get frustrated and join the movements for separate states or demands for the status of Scheduled Tribe if the last three months, the talks have

come to a standstill as there is no interlocutor. The term of the Central Government's interlocutor for talks with militant groups of Assam, PC Halder, who is a former Director of the Intelligence Bureau, expired more than three months back. But till date, the Government has neither extended his term nor appointed a new interlocutor to continue the process of talks with the ultras.

Sources admitted that the talks with the militant groups of the State under ceasefire agreement are not making much headway and for the last three months, the talks have

Sources admitted that the (See page 2)

## India, Turkey to jointly act against terror

NEW DELHI, May 1: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan today assured India of his country's full support in the fight against terrorism as he held an "extensive" discussion on this evolving threat with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who described it as "shared worry".

Holding that "no intent or goal or reason or rationale can validate terrorism", Modi, at a joint press event with Erdogan, said the two sides have decided to work together to deepen cooperation, both bilaterally and multilaterally, to effectively counter this menace.

In an obvious reference to Pakistan-based terror groups, Modi said countries across the world need to "work as one to disrupt the terrorist networks and their financing and put a stop to cross-border movement of terrorists". - PTI

## Terrorists kill 7 in J-K attack

SRINAGAR, May 1: In a major attack, terrorists today shot dead seven people, including five policemen, after dragging them out of a vehicle carrying cash of a bank in Kulgam district of south Kashmir.

The cash van of the Jammu and Kashmir Bank, which was returning to Kulgam district headquarters from Damhal Hanji Pora, was waylaid by a group of heavily-armed terrorists this afternoon, a police official said. He said the terrorists pulled out the five police personnel and two bank employees from the vehicle and shot them from point blank range.

While four cops and two bank employees – including a bank security guard – died on the spot, the fifth cop succumbed to injuries at a hospital, the official said. - PTI

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MARKS: 150 GEN Roll No.: 10708932 Jayaditya Kalita	MARKS: 143 GEN Roll No.: 50700397 Md Nazmul Haque	MARKS: 135 GEN Roll No.: 10701995 Mukunda M. Sharma	MARKS: 133 GEN Roll No.: 10703623 Gaurav Sarma	MARKS: 131 GEN Roll No.: 10713512 Madhuya Hazarika	MARKS: 125 GEN Roll No.: 10708270 Aveek Sharma	MARKS: 132 GEN Roll No.: 10714586 Somnath Paul	MARKS: 130 GEN Roll No.: 10700275 Suvankar Paul
MARKS: 126 GEN Roll No.: 10709173 Kangkan Joyoti Deka	MARKS: 126 GEN Roll No.: 10716982 Ashmit Singh	MARKS: 119 GEN Roll No.: 10703302 Dhiraj Kalita	MARKS: 119 GEN Roll No.: 10709554 Bishali Hazarika	MARKS: 117 GEN Roll No.: 10708270 Madhurye Kakati	MARKS: 117 GEN Roll No.: 10716014 Sneha Sinha	MARKS: 112 GEN Roll No.: 50700056 Harsha Verdhan Dhang	MARKS: 110 GEN Roll No.: 10707112 Tanisha Sinha
MARKS: 109 GEN Roll No.: 10705504 Anubhab Kundu	MARKS: 108 GEN Roll No.: 10701424 Kankana Medhi	MARKS: 108 GEN Roll No.: 10702009 Rituraj Borah	MARKS: 107 GEN Roll No.: 10700058 Mohsin Kr. Dey	MARKS: 105 GEN Roll No.: 10703238 Amitab Kr. Dey	MARKS: 106 GEN Roll No.: 10710946 Monowar Hossain	MARKS: 106 GEN Roll No.: 10705106 Hiranyakshi	MARKS: 104 GEN Roll No.: 10702480 Himanshu Bhartia
MARKS: 104 GEN Roll No.: 10710196 Hrishikesh Deka	MARKS: 104 GEN Roll No.: NA Shasank Das	MARKS: 103 GEN Roll No.: 10712653 Yogesh Kr. Karm	MARKS: 102 GEN Roll No.: 10700505 Rahul Deb	MARKS: 101 GEN Roll No.: 10710206 Abhik Bhattacharya	MARKS: 101 GEN Roll No.: 10704799 Prachi Gogoi	MARKS: 100 GEN Roll No.: 10716462 Nekib Hussain	MARKS: 100 GEN Roll No.: 10712628 Abhijyan Biswas
MARKS: 99 GEN Roll No.: 10716463 Nekib Ali	MARKS: 98 GEN Roll No.: 10704430 Manas Pratim Medhi	MARKS: 98 GEN Roll No.: 10711460 Sikdar Hafizur Rahman	MARKS: 98 GEN Roll No.: 10704453 Ankit Purvey	MARKS: 96 GEN Roll No.: 10716763 Sameeron Borah	MARKS: 96 GEN Roll No.: 10716733 Barsha Sarma	MARKS: 96 GEN Roll No.: 10702892 Muklasur Rahman	MARKS: 95 GEN Roll No.: 10712156 Sonika Kumar
MARKS: 95 GEN Roll No.: 10709403 Aakash R. Choudhury	MARKS: 95 GEN Roll No.: 10715132 Saurav Joyoti Nath	MARKS: 95 GEN Roll No.: 10712897 Saurabh Joyoti Nath	MARKS: 93 GEN Roll No.: 10713534 Panchapran Borah	MARKS: 93 GEN Roll No.: 10706636 Vidushi Beriwal	MARKS: 91 GEN Roll No.: 10709743 Raunak Kumar Jha	MARKS: 91 GEN Roll No.: 10715485 Sakir Wahid	MARKS: 91 GEN Roll No.: 10708026 Jitendra Doley
MARKS: 90 GEN Roll No.: 10706314 Nayanjyoti Selchia	MARKS: 90 GEN Roll No.: 10800822 Susmita Das	MARKS: 90 GEN Roll No.: 10711799 Dhimanjyoti Rabha	MARKS: 90 GEN Roll No.: 10706879 Raktim Saikia	MARKS: 89 GEN Roll No.: 10710973 Ziaul Hoque	MARKS: 89 GEN Roll No.: 10800783 Beharul Islam	MARKS: 89 GEN Roll No.: 10712259 Jyotishman Sarma	MARKS: 87 GEN Roll No.: 10703487 Rajipul Awal
MARKS: 87 GEN Roll No.: 10709116 Soushardya Das	MARKS: 87 GEN Roll No.: 10713131 Anifa Nasrin Akand	MARKS: 87 GEN Roll No.: 10700580 Pranjal Das	MARKS: 87 GEN Roll No.: 10704254 Bhupesh Ray	MARKS: 87 GEN Roll No.: 10706278 Kamiska Sarmie	MARKS: 87 GEN Roll No.: 10703628 Sasenka Sarmie	MARKS: 85 GEN Roll No.: 10700235 Avegarohan Jaiswal	MARKS: 85 GEN Roll No.: 10707079 Daisy Das
MARKS: 85 GEN Roll No.: 10711061 Dewan Akhiruzzaman	MARKS: 84 GEN Roll No.: 10700468 Ritupraj Tukdar	MARKS: 84 GEN Roll No.: 10730379 Anukuram Bora	MARKS: 83 GEN Roll No.: 10704247 Bittu Paul	MARKS: 83 GEN Roll No.: 10703347 Roshan Kumar Dinha	MARKS: 82 GEN Roll No.: 50700359 Rima Kalita	MARKS: 82 GEN Roll No.: 10713855 Kibria Ahmed	MARKS: 82 GEN Roll No.: 10706873 Kausar Ahmed
MARKS: 82 GEN Roll No.: 10712375 Priyakshi Nath	MARKS: 82 GEN Roll No.: 10700119 Bishal Kalita	MARKS: 81 GEN Roll No.: 10701182 Anshuman Hazarika	MARKS: 80 GEN Roll No.: 10711182 Bikash Hazarika	MARKS: 77 GEN Roll No.: 10714795 Samridhi Gogoi	MARKS: 76 GEN Roll No.: 10713757 Tirthankha Borah	MARKS: 75 GEN Roll No.: 1072629 Mehsub A. Mazumder	MARKS: 75 GEN Roll No.: 10707409 Jaydeep Kr Nath
MARKS: 75 GEN Roll No.: 10705626 Chinmoy Saikia	MARKS: 75 GEN Roll No.: 10702575 Manash Jyoti Medhi	MARKS: 75 GEN Roll No.: 10708733 Rajdeep Gogoi	MARKS: 72 GEN Roll No.: 10711004 Bhaskar Singh	MARKS: 71 GEN Roll No.: 10716437 Bikash Jyoti Kumar	MARKS: 71 GEN Roll No.: 10708365 Mrimay Nath	MARKS: 70 GEN Roll No.: 10712994 Krishna Sah	MARKS: 69 GEN Roll No.: 10710032 Rajdeep Saharia
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MARKS: 64 GEN Roll No.: 10709546 Diganta Das	MARKS: 63 GEN Roll No.: 10703643 Gaurab Das	MARKS: 63 GEN Roll No.: 10705657 Shivani Nath	MARKS: 62 GEN Roll No.: 10716548 Oniga Empuhum	MARKS: 62 GEN Roll No.: 10714210 Rinku Borah	MARKS: 60 GEN Roll No.: 10716050 Bhaskar Taye	MARKS: 60 GEN Roll No.: 10705226 Rizwan Mahmood	MARKS: 59 GEN Roll No.: 10704157 Shristi Phukan
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MARKS: 54 GEN Roll No.: 10709791 Durvud Phukan	MARKS: 54 GEN Roll No.: 10711801 Nayan Jyoti Bordoloi	MARKS: 54 GEN Roll No.: 10709845 Sabyasachi K. Mech	MARKS: 52 GEN Roll No.: 10710320 Bikash Thapa	MARKS: 52 GEN Roll No.: 10705939 Satabdi Baruah	MARKS: 50 GEN Roll No.: 10710355 Nishanta Das	MARKS: 50 GEN Roll No.: 10707909 Niloy Barman	MARKS: 45 GEN Roll No.: 16500250 B Moba
MARKS: 44 GEN Roll No.: NA Tridib Sundar Das	MARKS: 43 GEN Roll No.: 10714129 Sujima Basumatary	MARKS: 43 GEN Roll No.: 10710637 Jili Bora	MARKS: 42 GEN Roll No.: 10711961 Ketupati Swargiary	MARKS: 42 GEN Roll No.: 10709113 Reshma R. Muchahary	MARKS: 45 GEN Roll No.: 10715653 Dipankar Hira	MARKS: 41 GEN Roll No.: 10700768 Pura Yaro	MARKS: 41 GEN Roll No.: 10705426 Jyotsna Hazarika
MARKS: 39 GEN Roll No.: 10713977 Haimanti Sarkar	MARKS: 38 GEN Roll No.: 10713040 Bhaskar Jyoti Das	MARKS: 38 GEN Roll No.: 10600073 Likha Naga	MARKS: 37 GEN Roll No.: 10708064 Dilip Bodoya	MARKS: 36 GEN Roll No.: 10700733 Bhaskar Jyoti Das	MARKS: 35 GEN Roll No.: 10709463 Udipra Dekarja	MARKS: 34 GEN Roll No.: 10700926 Klirdap Timung	MARKS: 33 GEN Roll No.: 10712123 Nayan Jyoti Rabha
MARKS: 32 GEN Roll No.: 10710011 Roktima Medhi	MARKS: 32 GEN Roll No.: 10714112 Himangshu Das	MARKS: 30 GEN Roll No.: 10716503 Sonyong Taid	MARKS: 30 GEN Roll No.: 10712092 Kh. Irashinal	MARKS: 51 GEN Roll No.: 10720733 Pratiksha Jhakal	MARKS: 81 GEN Roll No.: 50708082 Pankaj Das	AND MANY MORE...	

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# S Korean media warns of 'Trump risk' to alliance

SEOUL, May 1: South Korean media today warned of a "Trump risk" threatening the alliance between Washington and Seoul amid high tensions over the North's weapons ambitions.

The two countries are bound by a defence pact and 28,500 US troops are stationed in the South.

But the new US President has said in recent interviews that Seoul should pay for a "billion-dollar" US missile defence system being deployed in the

South to guard against threats from the nuclear-armed North.

He has also pushed for renegotiation of what he called a "horrible" bilateral free trade pact that went into effect five years ago, calling it an "unacceptable... Deal made by Hillary".

The remarks stunned Seoul, with South Korean politicians immediately rejecting his push for payment for the Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) battery.

Tensions are high over the North's nuclear and missile programmes – it has ambitions to develop a rocket that can deliver a warhead to the US mainland – and threats on both sides have raised fears of conflict.

"Trump's mouth rattling Korea-US alliance" said a front-page headline in South Korea's top-selling Chosun daily today.

"There are issues that are far more important than just money," it said in

an editorial.

"If either country keeps reducing the alliance to the matter of money or the economy, it is bound to undermine basic trust."

Seoul, it said, needed to come up with "various Plan Bs" for the future.

The THAAD system is being installed at a former golf course in the South.

This has infuriated China, which sees it as compromising its own capabilities and has responded with a series

of measures seen as economic retaliation, even as Washington looks to Beijing to rein in Pyongyang.

At the weekend Seoul's presidential office said US National Security Advisor H.R. McMaster had appeared to backtrack on THAAD, telling his South Korean counterpart by phone that the US would bear the cost of the missile deployment as initially agreed.

But McMaster told Fox News Sunday that the "last thing" he would ever

do was contradict the president, and that "the relationship on THAAD, on our defence relationship going forward, will be renegotiated as it's going to be with all of our allies".

Another major South Korean newspaper, JoongAng Ilbo, accused Trump's administration of sending "confusing and contradictory messages", creating a "chaotic situation" that dealt a "huge blow" to the bilateral alliance. – AFP

## SpaceX launches spy satellite for US

WASHINGTON, May 1: SpaceX launched a spy satellite for the US Department of Defense on Monday, officials said.

The two-stage Falcon 9 rocket, carrying the classified NROL-76 satellite, lifted off at 7.15 am from Launch Complex 39A at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, the same pad that supported numerous Apollo and space shuttle launches, the company's live webcast reported.

About 10 minutes later, the rocket's first stage landed at SpaceX's Landing Zone 1, just south of the launch site at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Xinhua news agency reported.

SpaceX previously landed a first stage booster at Landing Zone 1 three times. It also successfully recovered Falcon 9 first stages from six missions at sea using the company's drone ships.

Few details have been released about NROL-76, a satellite designed, built and operated by the National Reconnaissance Office under the Department of Defense.

This launch marks the 15-year-old company's first mission for the Pentagon.

For years, the market for launching US military payloads was dominated by the United Launch Alliance, a joint venture of Lockheed Martin and Boeing.

But SpaceX broke the monopoly in 2015, when the US Air Force certified its Falcon 9 rocket to launch national security space missions.

Since then, the California-based company has also won two contracts to launch Global Positioning System satellites for the US Air Force. – IANS

## Police kill suspect in fatal San Diego pool party shooting

SAN DIEGO, May 1: Police shot and killed a 49-year-old man suspected of shooting seven people at a birthday pool party in an apartment complex near the University of California, San Diego, authorities said.

Authorities said the suspect, a white man identified as Peter Seis, shot four black women, two black men and one Latino man, the San Diego Union-Tribune reported.

Ricky Galindes, 27, heard gunshots around 6 PM yesterday and went to look outside his sixth-story apartment when he spotted a man bleeding and running near the pool below.

Galindes told the Associated Press that he called out to ask if the man needed help when his roommate grabbed him, yanked him down and then pointed toward a man sitting in a chair with a gun.

"When we looked over the balcony, he was just sitting down with a gun on his lap," Galindes said.

"He was calm, you know. I mean from my perspective, the guy was ready to do whatever he was going to do. He shot at people having a good time and having a party."

Galindes and his roommate ran back inside and called police. They stayed indoors until neighbors yelled that it was safe to come out, Galindes said it was a horrifying scene.

"As soon as I heard the gunshots I had goosebumps and the whole thing was really emotionally draining, seeing blood everywhere, seeing bodies on the ground, hoping they survived, seeing bloody footprints you know of people who ran away. There was just so much blood. It was so surreal." – AP



Jeremy Corbyn, the leader of Britain's opposition Labour Party, attends a campaign event in Clapham Junction in south London, on Monday. – UNI

## Merkel presses Saudi Arabia on refugees and rights

RIVADHI, May 1: German Chancellor Angela Merkel met with Saudi Arabia's King Salman and his successors in her first visit to the kingdom in seven years, saying she pressed them on women's rights, the war in Yemen and other sensitive issues.

After her meetings in the Red Sea city of Jiddah, she told German journalists travelling with her that she raised human rights concerns with Saudi leaders, including the rights of women.

She said Saudi Arabia's win in Yemen also was discussed. For more than two years, the kingdom has been bombing Yemeni rebels aligned with Saudi Arabia's regional Shiite rival, Iran.

The conflict there has driven the Arab world's poorest country to the brink of famine, with 27 million people needing humanitarian or protection assistance.

"We don't believe there can be a military solution to the conflict," Merkel said.

Saudi Arabia and Iran also back opposite sides of the conflict in Syria, and Germany was one of six international powers that negotiated the nuclear deal with Iran to which Saudi Arabia objected.

As is customary, Saudi officials did not comment on the details of the meetings.

After her meeting with the Saudi king, Merkel held talks with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, who oversees security forces and counterterrorism, and Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who has a vast portfolio overseeing defence and the economy.

During the meetings, Merkel said, she specifically discussed the kingdom's death penalty. Saudi Arabia has one of the world's highest execution rates and executes people for non-lethal offenses such as drug smuggling.

She also raised the case of Raif Badawi, a Saudi blogger whose public lashing drew international condemnation from even the kingdom's closest Western allies. He is serving a 10-year prison sentence for blog posts critical of the country's powerful religious establishment.

Having scheduled a meeting with Saudi businesswomen during her two-day visit, Merkel acknowledged there have been "significant changes in the role of women" since her last visit in 2010. She cited the historic first-time participation of women in Saudi Arabia's only elections for local council seats in 2015.

She noted, however, that women in Saudi Arabia still face many restrictions.

"I have the impression that the country is in a phase of change and that a lot more is possible now than some years ago, but it's still a long way away from having achieved what we would understand as equality," Merkel said.

Like other high-profile female visitors, Merkel did not cover her hair or wear a traditional flowing black robe upon arrival in the kingdom. – AP



## Coffee may halve prostate cancer risk: study

LONDON, May 1: Drinking three or more cups of Italian-style coffee daily may reduce the risk of prostate cancer by over 50 per cent, a new study claims.

The research sheds light on the role of coffee prepared the Italian way, and specifically caffeine, in relation to prostate cancer.

Italians prepare their coffee rigorously, under high pressure, with very high water tempera-

## US-led strikes against ISIS have killed 352 civilians

WASHINGTON, May 1: US-led strikes aimed against the Islamic State group have "unnecessarily" killed 352 civilians since the offensive began in 2014, according to the US military.

The tally from the Combined Joint Task Force did not include findings from an investigation the coalition said it had launched into one allegedly particularly deadly strike on the US military.

The statement released Sunday by Operation Inherent Resolve – the coalition fighting the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria – said 42 reports of civilian fatalities were still under review.

US General Stephen Townsend had said coalition forces "probably had a role in those casualties."

The statement released Sunday by Operation Inherent Resolve – the coalition fighting the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria – said 42 reports of civilian fatalities were still under review.

Three separate strikes near Mosul in early March of this year left 26 civilians dead. The statement said the coalition had in February and March finished an audit of its civilian casualty report tracking.

The Pentagon said 80 civilian casualties caused by US-led strikes in Iraq and Syria from August 2014 to date had not previously been publicly announced.

"Two civilian deaths that had previously been reported were found not to be attributable to the coalition," the statement said. Critics, including monitoring groups, say the real total number of civilian casualties is much higher than the officially reported by the US military.

The coalition insists the ISIS group has targeted civilians and used them as human shields, making it difficult to avoid civilian casualties despite its state-of-the-art technology. – AFP

ture and without filters. About 7,000 men who participated in the study were observed for four years on average.

"By analysing their coffee consumption habits and comparing them with prostate cancer cases occurring over time, we saw a net reduction of risk, 53 per cent, in those who drank more than three cups a day," said George Pounis from IRCCS Neuromed – Mediterranean Neurological Institute in Italy.

The researchers confirmed the

## After move to impeach CJ, Nepal Army says 'maintaining vigil'

KATHMANDU, May 1: The Nepal Army will maintain vigil due to the "unfoldings events" in the country, it said in an unusual move hours after an impeachment motion was registered in the parliament against the first woman chief justice.

The decision to step up security vigil was taken at a high-level meeting last night, hours after the impeachment motion was registered against Sushil Karki by two major ruling parties. The motion accused her of "interfering" with the executive and issuing "prejudiced" verdicts.

Top officials have decided to maintain vigil in view of the challenges to security from "unfoldings events", the army's media wing said in a statement, without explaining what it meant by unfolding events.

It said the officials also reviewed overall security situation in Nepal.

Karki, 64, has been automatically suspended from the post after the motion was registered. A total of 249 lawmakers from the ruling Nepali Congress and CPN (Maoist-Centre) have signed the motion.

As a fallout, Deputy Prime Minister and Minis-

ter for Home Affairs Bimalendra Nidhi too resigned. A close aide of Nidhi told reporters he has serious reservations over the motion.

Nidhi leads the Nepali Congress, the largest constituent of the ruling coalition masterminded by Prime Minister Prachanda.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Local Development Kamal Thapa has expressed his displeasure against the motion.

Thapa, also the chairman of the Rastriya Prajatantra Party, in a tweet said the motion was not just unfortunate but objectionable.

Nepal, which has been witnessing political instability for some time now, is scheduled to hold local-level polls on May 14. Some Madhesi-centric parties have opposed the elections until the Constitution is amended to accommodate their views, more representation in parliament and redrawing of provincial boundaries.

The army, which is to be deployed for the smooth conduct of the polls, said it has reviewed the situation and the efforts by political parties in forging a consensus, said the statement. – PTI



US jazz bassist and singer Esperanza Spalding performs during the 6th International Jazz Day at the Grand Theatre of Havana Alicia Alonso, Cuba, on Sunday. – UNI

likely due to caffeine, rather than to the many other substances contained in coffee," said Maria Benedetta Donati, head of the Laboratory of Translational Medicine in Italy.

"We should keep in mind that the study is conducted on a central Italian population. They prepare coffee rigorously, the Italian way: high pressure, very high water temperature and with no filters," said Licia Iacoviello, head of the Molecular and Nutritional Epidemiology Laboratory at IRCCS Neuromed.

"This method, different from those followed in other areas of the world, could lead to a higher concentration of bioactive substances," said Iacoviello. – PTI





**LOCAL FORECAST:**  
Partly cloudy sky to generally cloudy sky. Rain/thundershower is likely to occur.  
The maximum temperature is most likely to be 32°C on Tuesday.  
**TEMPERATURE:**  
Max 32.0°C  
Min 20.4°C

Seminar on media conspiracy  
STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 1: The Intellectual Forum for North East (IFNE) organised a seminar, 'Western Media Conspiracy Against Pride of Assam' at the Vivekananda Kendra here on Saturday. The speakers on the occasion were writer Sumanta Chalhia and conservationist Sounyadeep Datta.

Chalhia in his speech bemoaned what he said was western media's ignorance of India and its rich culture, which often resulted in trivialisation and distortion of things associated with India. He urged the new generation to 'stand against such western media that are trying to destroy our culture.'

Describing the recent news report by BBC on Kaziranga as baseless and a conspiracy, Chalhia said that it was intended to derogate the image of Kaziranga and Assam.

Sounyadeep Datta, while stating that such 'conspiracies' cannot be stopped by banning media houses, said that civil society, media houses and foreign media need to have an open discussion on the issue. "This did not happen as the system is wrong and it needs to be evaluated. We need to strengthen the system so that such things do not recur in future," he said.

## Clarion call to working class to unite

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 1: May Day was observed in the State today along with the rest of the country, with the observers making a clarion call to the working class to unite for securing their rights and putting an end to discriminatory practices to workers by governments and corporate alike.

Various trade unions including associations of workers, employees and officers observed the day with various programmes that included meetings, processions and tribute-paying ceremonies.

The centrally-organised function in Guwahati under the aegis of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) and attended by a host of worker bodies on the bank of Dighali-pukuri decided the 'anti-peasant and anti-labour' policies of the BJP Government at the Centre, stating that the government, while reducing allocations for vital sectors such as health, education, etc., was placating the corporate groups.

The speakers also criticised the State Government for ignoring the pressing concerns of the State and its people and attending to trivial matters and wasting huge amounts of mon-



Assam Tribune employees observing May Day. – AT photo

and indirect patronage of the soft-faction party and government that such radical Hindutva forces could gain ground, threatening the country's secular fabric. They alleged that in its bid to polarise the masses and secure power, the government was maintaining a calculated silence over the radio airwaves.

The speakers also criticised the State Government for ignoring the pressing concerns of the State and its people and attending to trivial matters and wasting huge amounts of money for holding unnecessary fests and events.

Earlier, the proceedings began at noon with the hoisting of the May Day flag. This was followed by the mass convention and a procession.

Trade unions that participated in the central programme included AICTU, HIMS, AIC, AUHTUC, general insurance employees' associations, Assam Pradeshik Bank Karmachari Samiti, SHI Staff Association (NE Circle), BSNL Employees' Union, Assam Raykh Karmachari Federation, Na-

tional Federation of Postal Employees (Assam Circle), Central Govt Employees' Coordination Committee, North East Oil Workers' Coordination Committee, among others.

The Assam unit of All India Bank Officers' Confederation (AIBOC) also observed May Day under the theme 'Save public sector, save farmers and save India'. Day' in the wake of the call given by the central committee of the All India Bank Officers' Confederation.

The Assam Pradeshik

governance Committee (APCC) extended greetings to the workers engaged in both the organised and the unorganised sectors on the occasion of May Day. In a statement, it said the BJ

After assuming power at the Centre, started working for the benefit of the corporate houses and hence it had been adopting 'anti-worker' policies, which was going to affect the country's overall growth.

The Assam Tribune Employees' Union (ATEU) observed May Day in a befitting manner.

The day's proceedings started with the unfurling of the flag at the ATEU's permanent campus by president Siba Prasad Deka at 9.30 am, followed by hoisting of the flag at The Assam Tribune camp-

us, senior employee of the establishment, at 10 am.

Among those who addressed the gathering were ATEU president Siba Prasad Deka, general secretary Dugdhamoni Kalita, organizing secretary Prajnal Hazarika and assistant general secretary Debashish Sinha. It later took out a procession and participated in the central May Day programme.

## Workshop for Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan officials

STAFF REPORTER

The objective of the programme is capacity building and to orient the NYKS officials about the new programmes and activities in the field of youth development in NE.

In this programme, topics such as documentation, image building and media matters, maintenance of service records, vigilance and departmental proceedings, general administration, RTI Act, Accounts and utilisation certificates, etc., will be covered.

Altogether 73 NYKS officials from all NE states are attending the programme.

**Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.**  
Assam Asset, Sivasagar

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Sealed percentage rate tender through E-Tender is hereby invited by CE(Civil), I/C Tender Cell, ES, Sivasagar on behalf of ONGC, from reputed contractors as per instruction given in bid documents for the following works:

**Short Tender No. RC2KC17037 (Two Bid): Name of work: Civil works at drill site GK17\_H in Geleky area, SH.1: Extension and widening of main foundation, construction of new cell pillar and ancillary foundation, internal hardening, waste pit, ring bund etc. , Estd cost: ₹ 73,66,424.46. EMD: ₹ 1,47,330/- Tender fee: ₹ 500/- Job completion time: 03 months. Issue/sale of tender papers: 02-05-17, 09:30 hrs. Submission / opening of physical document: upto 11-05-17 at 14:00 hrs. Submission / opening of physical document: upto 11-05-17 at 14:00 / 15:30 hrs.**

For details of tenders please log on to website: ["tenders.ongc.co.in"](http://tenders.ongc.co.in) & ["etender.ongc.co.in"](http://etender.ongc.co.in)

## 'Reveal those named by Paul'

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 1: Assam Pradeshik Bank Karmachari Samiti, SHI Staff Association (NE Circle), BSNL Employees' Union, Assam Raykh Karmachari Federation, Na-

against different State Government jobs.

Paul, in his statement before the investigating officers of the State Police, had named these

persons, claimed the APCC. In a statement, the APCC has also asked the Chief Minister to state in a clear-cut way as to whether the check-coupons and the syndicates have ceased to be operative. Moreover, it

said it is a duty of the State Government to tell the people as to the areas which have recorded enhanced revenue earning and the factors responsible for this enhancement.

The party has demanded another statement from the Chief Minister as to the progress of the implementation of the flood control and anti-erosion measures for

the public.

This is the case with respect to ambulances, hospitals, charitable institutions, etc. Have the public representatives spent their own money for such activities? They are merely using public funds and seeking to glorify themselves at the same time.

— Pritom Baruah, Azara  
**Build sturdy roads**  
The present condition of most city roads is not up to the mark. Not much

work has been done to repair the multiple potholes most of these roads have developed. Some portions, which have been repaired, stand the risk of getting washed away during rainfall as the work done is patchy.

As Guwahati is a flood-prone city due to the surrounding hills, the roads should be built in such a manner that rainwater cannot seep into the surface. The road on the Ganeshguri flyover has been constructed in this manner. If the same method is used for the entire city, the roads can be secured from the havoc created by artificial floods.

— Devraj Dey, Kahilpara

## Access to Gandhi Mandap



Gandhi Mandap — a temple-like structure constructed in memory of the Father of the Nation — is situated atop Sarania Hill. Gandhi Mandap was opened to the public on October 2, 1970 by then Prime Minister of India, Mahatma Gandhi who stayed at Sarania Hill where he came to Guwahati before Independence.

Though the site is a vantage point with vehicular access, the South Sarania main road (starting from the 9th

hylane of Rajgarh-Pub Sarania to the Ulubari side), which leads to the hilly road towards Gandhi Mandap, lies in a poor shape. Every year, on the eve of Gandhi Jayanti on October 2, there is some semblance of repair but these temporary works are wasted during the rainy season.

If the road is built in a planned manner like those leading to the Roi Bhawan and Navagraha temple, it will facilitate a smooth visit to Gandhi Mandap and also provide an alternative route to Ulubari via South Sarania.

Bijoya Devi  
51, Pub-Sarania  
**Hollow publicity**

I have an issue with the hollow publicity resorted to by some of our elected representatives. Recently, I came across

a bus stand which displayed a board saying 'Donated by Ramendra Narayan Kalita'. Everybody knows that he is the West Guwahati MLA. The word 'donation' has a philanthropic connotation. So, was it proper to use it?

This is the case with respect to ambulances, hospitals, charitable institutions, etc. Have the public representatives spent their own money for such activities? They are merely using public funds and seeking to glorify themselves at the same time.

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— Devraj Dey, Kahilpara

## citizens' voice

Citizens are requested to express their Guwahati-specific views within 100 words and mail the same to [citizensvoice005@gmail.com](mailto:citizensvoice005@gmail.com)

**GIMT**  
*(Under the aegis of Shrimanta Shankar Academy)*  
**Girijananda Chowdhury Institute of Management and Technology**  
*(Recognised under section 2(i) of the UGC Act 1956)*  
Hatkhopara, Azara, Guwahati - 781017  
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## জাপানীজ এন্কেফেলাইটিচ প্রতিষেধক টীকা করণ অভিযান

৩০ এপ্রিলৰ পৰা ২০ মে' ২০১৭ লৈকে

উক্ত অভিযান এতিয়া নলবাৰী, মৰিগাঁও, বঙাইগাঁও আৰু কাছাৰ জিলাৰ প্ৰতিটি গাঁৱত  
১৫ বছৰৰ পৰা ৬৫ বছৰ বয়সৰ জাপানীজ এন্কেফেলাইটিচৰ প্রতিষেধক টীকা দিয়া হ'ব।

আহক ৰাহিজ, এই সুযোগ গ্ৰহণ কৰক

এটি মাত্ৰ টীকা, জীৱনজোৱা সুৰক্ষা



মানস আৰু পৰিয়াল কল্যাণ বিভাগ, অসম চৰকাৰ

## MESSAGE FOR TODAY

You cannot propel yourself forward by putting yourself on the back.

— STEVE PREFONTAINE

## The Assam Tribune

### Pervasive culture

With the NDA Government flashing the green light on a ban on red lights, this ubiquitous symbol in India of the VIP culture might perhaps be discarded into the garbage dump of history. However, the red light was merely a symptom and not the actual disease, thus sceptics will continue to doubt whether its abolishment would cure the quirk in India's national psyche. The propensity of the common Indian to kowtow to individuals who had attained power, whether political, bureaucratic or monetary, of course, is the outcome of the subcontinent's political history. Since ancient times the various principalities which constituted the region, mostly fragmented but occasionally brought together by some adventurous monarch, had been governed by kings and queens. Thus the feudal mentality had been implanted deep into the subconscious of the people, reinforced by the conquest of the land by foreign powers, and the establishment of colonialism, especially by the British. The middle-class, which was a product of British imperialism, learnt well from the masters and, after India attained independence, did not hesitate to take advantage of the feudal mentality of the people. It may be noted that most of our politicians and bureaucrats, who have erected a system where they get predominance over the common citizens, belong to the newly emerged middle-class, with even those belonging to the so-called lower strata aspiring to this class's value.

Moreover, the Indian war of independence, unlike say those of France, US, Russia or China, was not 'revolutionary' in character, one which tends to promote the feel of egalitarianism. The Indian freedom movement had its foot-soldiers and leaders, with the former oozing unreserved loyalty to the latter long after the country attained independence. Since inception our so-called 'leaders' had batted off hero worship by the common multitude, fabricating a social system to keep themselves away from the riffraff. Thus we have VIP lounges and guest houses everywhere, whether at the airport or in a metropolis. Our VIP brigades do not have to wait even at a temple, for they are offered quicker access to the deity through a VIP entrance! A VIP criminal, currently burgeoning in numbers, is known to be accommodated in a VIP cell and offered VIP hospitality during periods of incarceration! The tragic reality is that the ordinary citizen in India has been so conditioned to the VIP culture that perhaps he or she might feel uncomfortable in its absence! A street scene, where traffic automatically moves sideways to allow a red-light flashing, siren-blaring cavalcade to pass, bears testimony to how we take display of braggadocio by a segment of our society for granted and do not raise our voices against it. Simply banning red lights on official vehicles would switch off one symptom of an all-pervasive cancer but do nothing to cure the disease.

### Aizawl does it

In what would go down as an epoch-making performance in Indian football history, heralded Aizawl FC became the I-League champions after they held Shillong Lajong 1-1 in a tense match in Shillong last night. Lajong went ahead in the ninth minute through A Dipanda but Aizawl equalized in the 67th minute through W Lalnunlila, enabling it share points with Lajong in a high-voltage match. Although Mohun Bagan defeated Chennai City FC 2-1 in a simultaneous match in Kolkata, Aizawl ran away with the title, capping a remarkable season and becoming the first club from the North-east to bag the title. But for the fact that a few Goan sides pulled out of the country's top-flight league, Aizawl would not have played at all in the event, as they had finished eighth last year. The success of Aizawl has undoubtedly given soccer a shot in the arm in the North-east which is now seeing a renewed interest in the game that has been visible since the launching of the Indian Super League (ISL) a few years back. The matches of the I-League featuring clubs from the North-east drew football fans in their hordes, testifying to the fact that the game of football still has many takers in the region. Apparently, the infusion of glitz and glamour into soccer has a lot to do with the revival of mass interest in the game. Soccer used to be the firm favourite in the region till the 1980s when Assam in particular used to host a number of hugely popular national-level tournaments like Bordoloi Trophy, Independence Day Cup, Dugor Shield, etc.

Times have changed drastically since the golden days of the Bordoloi Trophy, with football losing its mass appeal in the region and cricket beginning to reign as the all-important game. Thankfully, holding of highly-professional events such as the ISL and I-League under floodlights has given soccer a much-needed makeover across the country. It is having the desired and all-important effect of luring the crowds back into the stadiums. And it's not just the soccer fans who are thronging the venues; rather everybody seems to have acquired a sudden interest in being a part of the spectacle that has started to unfold in our stadiums. All this stands to serve soccer's interests in good stead. The past few years have also had some positive developments in diverse sporting spheres in the North-east. There have been a few outstanding performances by our sportspersons, and this – together with the fact that we have witnessed some much-needed augmentation of sports infrastructure – can go a long way in inspiring our youth into sports and creating the ideal sporting ambience. Last year's SAF Games in Guwahati and Shillong was also a major morale booster. Aside the fact that the international event provided a lot of exposure to young talents of the region, it also showed that the North-east could organize international sports event with success.

# Reinvigorating sports in Assam

### ■ Swapnanil Barua

**T**here seems to be a paradoxical situation emerging in the sports scene of Assam. While the sports infrastructure has improved in leaps and bounds in the last 25 years, the number of youth in the fields has seen a steady decline, as much as the spectators' interest in games and sports. Earlier, there wasn't a child or young person not playing around with a ball of sorts in a village opening or an open space in the towns. Be it kabaddi, football or volleyball, table tennis, badminton or carom, or even lifting weights – everyone spent an hour a day in sporty activity. This was a part of the daily routine not because all were very talented in sports and had lofty ambitions of making it big in the sports scene, but because it was the done thing every afternoon, like going to school or having one's meals. But then it disappeared all of a sudden. Small localized tournaments were a big draw, where emotions of supporters ran high and the prestige of the locality hinged on winning or losing. Spectators young and old thronged to these tournaments and the game of the day was the topic of heated discussion, till the next game took over. Players played with borrowed jerseys and shoes, and a glucose drink or lime juice mixed in a rusted bucket was the only refreshment. Cricket was the only game where players got to have a sandwich and an egg for lunch and a biscuit for tea. Only deeply involved organizers were a part of the sports associations, be it at a town, district or state level, where the perennial shortage of funds were never a hur-

dle in regular holding of the competitions like district and state meets. School tournaments and inter college meets were the green fields from which talents were spotted, nurtured by seniors and the mantle of continuity passed down the generations. In short, short of everything else but enthusiasm and sincerity, sport was a happening thing in Assam till a few years ago.

What has gone wrong? Finding the answers will give rise to more views than answers or solutions. Sports organizations have become offices of visibility, clout and pelf than genuine incentive in development of sports. Organizers want to garner posts by all forms of politicking and corner forming and then hold them till death does them apart. Things have become so foul that the Apex Court

had to intervene to give guidelines as to the tenure and number of posts that can be held by a person. The problem with such organizers is that they are more interested in hosting mega events which attract publicity and money, than slug out in the nurturing fields of villages and small towns. The Commonwealth Games case is a classic point.

No glare of media falls on such organizers and teachers, who are slogging out in the remote areas to scout and develop talent. They have no incentives, financial or mental other than seeing their wards shine. Big time organizers promote giant

be of a flock of dedicated workers, dedicated to the game and players and society and government must facilitate this return. What is the benefit of a SAARC Games in Assam, if the State has no weighty presence in the national side? Both happening together is a more positive development. Politicization of sports has not delivered and should be discontinued, to see better results.

A physically and mentally fit nation is the basis of a strong India. Prime Minister Modi realizing this insisted on the wide practice of yoga. Through yoga becoming widespread, the nation will

progress towards being a fit nation. The broad basing of physical activity, especially among the youth, is one of the prime lookouts of the government. Assam has a dedicated Sports Department since 1973, entrusted with this responsibility, but it has fallen to seed. Funds are not coming in time for which school-level tournaments are not being held in time, which in turn has affected participation in the national level school games. Optimization of limited coaches has not been planned out in the form of an annual coaching calendar, to cover the whole State. Proper tie-up with the schools has not yet been done to make effective use of the physical instructors in the Sports Department. Grants to sports associations have not been covered under any transparent guidelines, making it discriminatory and not fair to the needs of the different associations.

This has made hosting the national-level meets a lucrative proposition for some. More money has been spent on *gamochas*, *sorais*, *japs*, five-star dinners, mementos and travel, than in the tournament itself. State quotas in NIS and the adventure sports institutions have been discontinued, as booking fees have not been paid. No formally-trained coach has been absorbed in the Sports Department in the recent past. Equipment purchases and grants have not been need-based in the recent years. A state Physical Education College has not yet been

importance of sports and physical fitness can be gauged by the numbers of the people involved, with more than half of the population being less than 35 years old. Any one to ignore this massive group, will do it at his own peril. The Vision Document of the ruling party covers the issues raised. What is required is a sense of urgency, political will, funding, and the right people in the right places. Catch them young, give them the opportunity and wherewithal and make yoga universal in Assam.

## Developing Assam as a tourist hub

### ■ Dr Sudha Kumari

**A**ssam has great potential of growth due to her vast natural resources, and concerted efforts in this direction can add to the prosperity of the State and make it an ideal tourist hub.

The development of a modern market hub is required in the old Fancy Bazaar area which is suffering from traffic jams, encroachment and congestion. In case of fire, there is no escape route. It can be developed by making underground parking, radial road encircling the market, joining all the lanes like that of Connought Place and removing congestion and making clean sewerage and smooth pavements. For this purpose, trade associations and municipality should work together.

Cable car or ropeway can be set up for easy reach to islands like Majuli and Umananda and hilly tourist spots like Gandhi Mandap of Guwahati and Agnigarh at Tezpur. Sentosa Island in Singapur, Gulmarg in Kashmir and Rairang in Bihar have developed as beautiful tourist places with the help of ropeway or cable car facilities. Sentosa Island, umbrella Manjil, has sand only, but a laser light and sound programme with semi-circular stadium like sitting rows have made the cable car journey a unique experience. The Ka-

makhya temple may be connected with a helicopter service like the Vaishnav Devi temple which helps even old and ailing persons to fulfil their desire to pay respect to the deity at least once in a lifetime.

A textile hub at Sualkuchi will be an ideal plan to develop the village as a tourist destination. It is a silk centre and its nearby areas of Barpeta, Nalbari, Baksa, Kokrajhar and Bongaigaon are known for excellent hand-woven cotton textiles. The raw materials and skilled artisans are available in abundance. At the same time, all the States of the North-east have their own traditional hand-woven textiles. A textile hub at Sualkuchi will be ideal for all the weavers of the North-east. It is also well-connected with Guwahati. The raw material, skill and market will be available here and it will emerge as a tourism magnet. Amenities may be provided for the people working in the units.

The development of agro industry and expansion of industrial area is a potential case. The Assam tea should be promoted in all cities of India similarly to Darjeeling tea. Various products like coconut oil, coconut sweets, coconut powder, coconut water tetra packs, coconut husk rope and doormats, rice powder and idli mix, bamboo and jute

handicrafts may be produced in the industrial area and should be locally available. It may be coordinated in the Export Promotion Park at Aminiganj which is mainly for export.

The river course from Majuli to Guwahati, Silghat and Gopadara flows through plain area. Hence, huge amount of silt is deposited in this area causing diversion of the river flow into numerous streams forming a network called braided streams. This leads to emergence of multiple islands creating difficulty in movement. This phenomenon is increasing over the years as per studies. Dredging should be done regularly in this area for passage of water and silt. Prevention of soil erosion and bank stabilization is another challenge. Strong embankment is urgently required near the heavy erosion areas in the northern parts of river. This can be done by methods like, dredging, removing shrub land and woodland (big trees) which has been successfully done by China in the Yangtze river which gets heavy rainfall and landslides. The results of this method are visible after three-four years, i.e., after the growth of the plants. The second method is the use of geotextile bags, polypropylene gels and geo-tube embankments. These modern methods help decrease in tractive shear stress to prevent displacement/erosion of soil particles.

After the dredging of the Brahmaputra and the prevention of soil erosion, the inland water transport on the Brahmaputra will have to be developed to avoid traffic snarls and excess load on roadways and railways.

The river can be used effectively for freight as well as passenger traffic. Water transport can emerge as a good alternative as it is less expensive than road transport. It is cost effective too. It will help reduce transportation costs and traffic jams in both roadways and railways. Oil and other heavy materials from Upper Assam can be transported to middle and lower parts of Assam and can also be exported to Bangladesh. While going back upstream, the light materials like fabric and other handicrafts produced at places like Sualkuchi may be uploaded. Ports may be developed at important places preferably near the tourist or industrial spots along the river course to help transport and trade.

For developing a beautiful tourist hub, all highways and main roads leading to tourist places should have clean and green ambience without distractions like wine and meat shop littered along the roadsides. All world-class tourist places including Khasi hill have developed as attractive tourist destinations because of the green and clean ambience without such distractions.

must ensure smooth roads after the repair work, sewerage, water pipe works are over.

As the North-east lies in geographical hinterland making road or rail journey time consuming, tourists bank heavily on air transport. But air connectivity from the main cities of India to Guwahati, Shillong, Agartala and Imphal is poor. Today it takes almost as much time in reaching Shillong/Guwahati from Ahmedabad as it takes in reaching the USA from India. To meet the requirement, air connectivity should substantially improve. Helicopter services should supplement the airline services for short travels at all tourist places inside the North-east like Bongaigaon, Sualkuchi, Tezpur, Kaziranga, Jorhat, Majuli, Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Shillong, Pasighat, Imphal, Dimapur, Silchar and Agartala. As Air India has very few flights available in this region, the barrier on the government organizations to travel only by Air India for official and leave travel concession should be immediately removed. The removal of such a serious handicap will help in promotion of tourism in the North-east.

It is good to see that the infrastructure has improved a lot in the past. With a cohesive plan and focused attention, the North-east in general and Assam in particular can be developed into great tourist destinations.

### Letters to the EDITOR

Sir, — Through your esteemed

I would like to request the leadership of the education sector in our State to make effort in restoring the mandatory practice of the hand work related with bamboo up to

Class VII irrespective of medium and boards, particularly during the summer vacation. This agenda of incorporating bamboo works with the primary and upper primary stage of education will be instru-

mentous culture. The use of bamboo is embedded with the entire gamut of our culture ranging from birth to death including the inherent skills of our people. As education is the ultimate tool of transforming society, the beginning of any visionary policy ought to be designed in terms of education, if we seek the long-term benefit.

The new generation people should be aware about the utility of our own culture which is not complete without the use of bamboo in raw form and also its processing products. Yours etc., RAJESH KAKATI, Nalbari.

**TV commercials**

Sir, — Most of the TV commercials, originally made in Hindi, Bengali or any other language, are dubbed into Assamese and telecast in the local television channels.

Because they are dubbed, many shortcomings arise. Mostly, the Assamese language is treated wrongly with distorted usage. Hence, such television commercials with wrong Assamese pronunciations and usage should not be telecast. Yours etc., GAUTAM RAJUAR, Chandmari, Guwahati.

(II)

Sir, — This refers to the sad demise of legendary Prof Dilip Baruah, the doyen of North-east quizzing. Back in my school and college days, I used to participate in his quiz shows, and marvelled at the depth of his knowledge. His

quizzing standards were definitely among the toughest and the best in India. Apart from being a good economist and educationist, he was also a great human being with an impeccable persona and amiable disposition. He will definitely be remembered as a great personality of Assam in the years to come.

Yours etc., SAMIQ HUSSAIN LASKAR, Guwahati.

### DU libraries

Sir, — The Dibrugarh University Central Library and the DUDET (Dibrugarh University Institute of Engineering and Technology) library are in pathetic conditions for the last few years. Although a lot of state-of-the-art infrastructural changes have been done, yet both the libraries suffer from online server problems most of the time. Students are facing many difficulties in issuance of books. The university authority should take immediate steps to redress the problems besetting the libraries. Yours etc., SOME CONCERNED STUDENTS, DU.

### Language policy

Sir, — This refers to Monika Rauth's article, 'Making Assamese, Hindi compulsory' (AT, April 28). As a matter of fact, Hindi is just a regional language. It is not the language of southern or western India. Neither is it the language of North-eastern India. So, making a regional language mandatory to be imposed in our country. On being asked about his views on Hindi being the common language of India, Sri Aurobindo had said, "English will be all right and even necessary if India is to be an international state. In that case English has to be the medium of expression, especially as English is now replacing French as a world language." Had we paid heed to the pragmatic views of Sri Aurobindo, India could have taken a big step forward towards national unity. The need of the hour is to review our language policy and to accept English without any hesitation as the common language of our country for the sake of national unity and practicality. Yours etc., SUJIT DE, Sodepur, Kolkata.

### Articles

(within 1000-1100 words) and Letters to the Editor for publication in the editorial page may be sent to the email ID: editor@assamttribune.com.

## Giving bamboo an industrial shape

### A great loss

Sir, — The demise of Prof Dilip Kumar Baruah is a shocking news for many like me. He was my favourite teacher in college. Any student of his understood, in the very first class itself, his capacity as a teacher. Even if one hadn't prepared for a particular question, one had only to recall his lecture given even two years back to write a good answer. He was that good!

A mild-mannered gentleman in the truest sense of the term, and a truly worthy and role model teacher both inside and outside the classroom, I consider myself blessed to be one of his students. We know that the Almighty will have a special place for someone like Dilip Baruah. He will never be forgotten and his ideals will live on in each one of his pupils. Yours etc., ABDUL RAQUIB, Chandmari, Guwahati.

### Language policy

Sir, — This refers to Monika

Rauth's article, 'Making Assamese,



Trucks being parked along the highway as the drivers observe May Day, in Guwahati on Monday. - UB Photos

Union Minister Jayant Sinha delivers Sarat Mahanta memorial lecture

## Youth of Assam, NE can lead India's transformation

STAFF REPORTER

**GUWAHATI, May 1:** India is now uniquely poised to lead the next chapter of global growth because of the sustainable nature of its economic development, the country's rich reservoir of innovators and entrepreneurs and the new pro-poor and pro-market role of the Indian state, charted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Stating this while delivering the 4th Professor Sarat Mahanta Memorial Lecture at the Royal Global Institution campus at Gorchukh here on Monday evening, Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation Jayant Sinha emphasised that it is India's turn now to be the flag bearer of the new global order.

Sinha, a BTech from IIT, Delhi, MBA from Harvard Business School and a postgraduate from the University of Pennsylvania, said India's frugal development model can drive sustainable, global economic growth. Countries like China and the US use much more resources than India to achieve the same rate of growth, he said. In

the next decade, India will contribute almost as much as China and more than twice as much as the US in terms of absolute economic growth. India's capital productivity is also much higher than that of other major economies and Indian companies are generally conservative in their borrowings while the government and financial sector debt is also lower than most major emerging market economies, he said.

He explained the Centre has been making systemic changes to make India the leader of the emerging world order. The pro-poor and pro-market Narendra Modi government is moving the nation away from being a "Nehruvian Sarkar" to becoming a "Kautlyn Sarkar".

Sinha defined the Kautlyn sarkar as one which gets off the playing field and allows citizens to become players. "The role of the state has to be defined as establishing and enforcing the rules and letting citizens be the players on the field," said Sinha.

Sinha explained that India's economic development model is frugal and sustainable since it is driven by the quest to deliver affordable products and services for a vast, young population. The country's open, market-driven economy has resulted in a competitive and sustainable manufacturing sector, a vast non-tradable services sector and an employment-intensive but relatively small agricultural sector. India produces a wide range of inexpensive items and serv-

ices ranging from mobile phones, ice-creams, shampoos and motorcycles to generic medicines, small cars, financial services and doorstep delivery of food.

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Sinha defined the Kautlyn sarkar as one which gets off the playing field and allows citizens to become players. "The role of the state has to be defined as establishing and enforcing the rules and letting citizens be the players on the field," said Sinha.

Sinha explained that India, which is already one of the world's leading producers of IT services, generic pharmaceuticals, small cars and motorcycles, will soon become a premier manufacturing hub for electronics and defence equipment.

The Minister called upon the youth of Assam and the Northeast to become the pioneers in driving the transformation of

of 20.8 per cent and urged the excise staff to work for dispelling the negative image commonly associated with the department.

The Chief Minister also lauded the initiative of the excise department for taking the 'Digital India' movement further and stated the online initiative would bolster administrative functioning and bring more transparency. He also stressed the need to establish a quality maintenance ledger for ensuring longer life of the vehicles commissioned for government duty and asked the field staff of the excise department to take good care of the vehicles flagged off on Saturday.

During the past few months, the excise department has organised many revolutionary changes, important amongst which include the enactment of Assam Excise Act, 2000 repealing the archaic Assam Excise Act, 1910 and enforcement of Assam Excise Rules, 2016, scrapping the Assam Excise Rules, 1945. Such measures have resulted in substantial growth of revenue collection amounting to Rs 970 crore during 2016-17, which is Rs 171 crore more than the revenue earned during the previous financial year. Further, the department has reduced renewal fee of excise licence for retail outlets from Rs 3 lakh to Rs 1 lakh and for wholesalers from Rs 30 lakh to Rs 5 lakh.

State Excise Minister Parimal Sukdialya also spoke on the occasion.

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## CM launches 'Excise Online' web portal

STAFF REPORTER

34 per cent in 2005 to 18 per cent in 2017.

Sonowal termed this achievement as the result of a collective initiative of the people of Assam and exhorted the staff of the excise department to embody the 'Team Assam' spirit to build a better and prosperous Assam.

"Corruption results from our failure to eschew worldly temptations. Allurements may come in different forms, but if we could contain our desires, it is possible to stop corruption," Sonowal said, adding that the State Government's fight against corruption would continue vigorously in the days to come. In the same breath, he also appreciated the excise department for achieving a record increase of revenue collection

of 20.8 per cent and urged the excise staff to work for dispelling the negative image commonly associated with the department.

The Chief Minister also lauded the initiative of the excise department for taking the 'Digital India' movement further and stated the online initiative would bolster administrative functioning and bring more transparency. He also stressed the need to establish a quality maintenance ledger for ensuring longer life of the vehicles commissioned for government duty and asked the field staff of the excise department to take good care of the vehicles flagged off on Saturday.

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## Kazis, Imams solemnising child marriages may lose privileges

SANJOY RAY

**GUWAHATI, May 1:** Kazis or Imams found responsible for solemnising marriages without verifying the age of the bride and the groom may face cancellation of their licence and could well be deprived of all the existing government amenities, with or without notice!

Besides, their names would also be struck out from the list of beneficiaries of various government schemes with immediate effect and may even lose the right to sale or buy movable and immovable properties.

These are some of the new stringent points that may find place in the State's Population Policy aimed specifically at curbing child marriages in several pockets of the State, especially the child marriage-prone areas, which includes riverine/char areas, border areas and also tea garden areas.

"In addition to this, legal Kazidis and Imams if they are found administering



any activities related to child marriages," Dr Illias Ali, one of the members of the committee responsible for drafting the Population Policy, told this reporter.

Dr Ali said that the Child Marriages Act has not fetched the desired results and the State's Population Policy aims at addressing the issues specific to the State and its diverse population.

"If the child marriage takes place with due consent from the parents, they (parents) will lose all the government amenities. I will press for the inclusion of these new guidelines in the State Population Policy," Dr Ali said.

Dr Ali pointed out that the Kazis and Imams will have to maintain a register and shall record the documents related to age of both the bride and the groom before solemnising their marriage.

"In case of any suspicion or discrepancy, he should take up the matter with the child protection officer, who in turn would facilitate registration of the case, if necessary," he said.

Dr Ali, however, mentioned that religious institutions like temples, mosques and churches along with community leaders should play a important role in raising the awareness level about birth control, especially in remote and geographical isolated areas.

"The whole idea is to bring down the fertility rate to 2.1 per cent from the existing 3.2 per cent by 2019."

Meanwhile, Health Department sources informed that the government is receiving positive response from people from different walks of life and a number of good suggestions have been received, which will be discussed in due course of time.

## Youth held for threatening Akhil Gogoi

STAFF REPORTER

**GUWAHATI, May 1:** A youth of Rukmingiaon was today arrested by Dispur police for threatening KMSS leader Akhil Gogoi.

Nilptul Baruah had allegedly posted messages in social networking sites threatening to kill Akhil Gogoi three days back. A case has been registered in this regard at Dispur Police Station (No 1048/17).

## AIR phone-in prog today

GUWAHATI, May 1: The Regional News Unit of AIR Guwahati will hold a phone-in programme, Dristhipat at 8.30 pm tomorrow on the welfare measures being taken by the social welfare department.

Manashita Sarma, CDPO, Jorhat, and Naba Kumar Tamuli, Deputy Director, Social Welfare, Sarma, who was the guest of honour, recalled his personal association with Professor Mahanta and said the memorial lecture

has become an important event in the intellectual calendar of the State. President of Professor Sarma Mahanta Foundation Ajit Kumar Bhuyan delivered the welcome address.

The telephony of his poems also marked the break with the nineteenth century English poetry and to accomplish this, Eliot appropriated the works of French symbolists like Baudelaire and Laforgue in his verses, which are different from the earlier similitudes. Perhaps it would be

## Centenary of TS Eliot's first collection of poems celebrated

STAFF REPORTER

**GUWAHATI, May 1:** TS Eliot's first collection of poems *Prufrock and Other Observations*, which was first published in 1917, not only 'dragged' English poetry into the twentieth century, it was also a radical attempt at connecting English and America to what Eliot later called 'the mind of Europe.'

This was the observation made by noted critic Prof Ranjit Kumar Dev Goswami, Sarankaranda Chair Professor of Tezpur University, who was the chief guest, spoke of the work done by Professor Sarma Mahanta and the importance of acquiring knowledge for the State to go forward. Assam Health and Education Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, who was the guest of honour, recalled his personal association with Professor Mahanta and said the memorial lecture

has become an important event in the intellectual calendar of the State. President of Professor Sarma Mahanta Foundation Ajit Kumar Bhuyan delivered the welcome address.

Written in a style that is is racy and colloquial, *Prufrock* still baffles its readers not only with its densely allusive structure, forbidding erudition and an admixture of seriousness and levity, but also inspires poets and artists to cultivate the values of exploration so poignantly outlined in *Four Quartets*, Eliot's last major poem, said Prof Dev Goswami.

This telephony of his poems will be the guests in the show which will be presented by the Jorhat district administration. Manas Pranta Samui will host the show. Listeners can ask questions dialling 0361-2661876 and 2662325, an AIR statement said. - Staff Reporter

best to treat this poem as a zone of consciousness, Prof Dev Goswami said.

Describing Eliot as the most scholarly poet of English literature after Milton, Prof Dev Goswami asserted that Eliot was a man of prodigious intellect, who was phenomenal in verbal memory and keen on deriving from other cultures and thus with his *Prufrock*, English poetry suddenly became European in nature. *Prufrock* belonged to the French period of Eliot's poetic career, said Prof Dev Goswami.

Eliot influenced Indian, British, American and Arabic poetry and his immense influence was felt on Bengali poet Bishnu Dey and Assamese poet Ajit Barua. Even Nahabanta Barua was influenced by Eliot to some extent, he said.

The function, jointly organised by the socio-literary organisation Aalap, Cotton College and Ajit Barua Anuragi Xanay, was also addressed by Cotton College University Vice Chancellor Prof DJ Saikia. It was presided over by Aalap president Pradip Khatani.



Education Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma addressing college principals during a review meeting at Kalaguru Bishnu Rava Hall, Cotton College, in Guwahati on Monday. - UB Photos

## Only agriculture can boost India's economy: agrarian economist

CORRESPONDENT

**JALUKBARI, May 1:** The South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE) launched the 5th Triennial Poverty Report (2016) at the Gauhati University on Saturday. A public lecture on agrarian crisis and food insecurity in India was held along with the national launch of the poverty report.

The programme was organised by the Brahmaputra Institute of Research and Development (BIRD) in collaboration with the Department of Political Science, GU.

Devinder Sharma, veteran journalist and agrarian economist from Chandigarh, who spoke on agrarian crisis and food insecurity in India, later told this correspondent. "The agrarian crisis in India is actually part of a clearly laid out design. The World Bank had

told India to move 4 hundred million population, which is double the population of the UK, France and Germany put together, out of rural areas to urban areas by 2015. India has been blindly adopting the strategy and successive governments at the Centre have been following the policy of pushing

dominant message from the World Bank, IMF etc., is to move people out of agriculture sector."

Head, GU Department of Political Science and director of South East Asian Studies Centre Prof Nanji Gopal Mahanta critically reviewed the report published by SAAPE. He said

## Poverty report launched at GU

farmers out of agriculture. This is done by two means – one, by not investing in agriculture sector in the country, economic thinking which is leading to the crisis and secondly by keeping food prices low. We are not giving full price to the farmers and denying them their rights."

Sharma further said, "It is only agriculture which can boost the country's economy, which we don't want to do. The

increasing military spending by India can't be seen in isolation. There are a lot of geo-strategic issues which force India to secure its sovereignty. In this regard he particularly mentioned the ever assertive role of China in the South China Sea and its huge increase in military expenditure."

China has already staked its claim on Arunachal Pradesh by renaming its six zones. He said one can't neglect such security issues in the name of human development and called for a balance between security and development.

On the issue of growing fundamentalism, Prof Mahanta said that primordial politics has reached its culminating point where all arsenals of identity politics like caste, region, language, customs, culture, and ethnicity and now religion are articulated. After exhaustion of issues-based politics in India, it is a larger theoretical question how democracy can keep its secular identity intact in the light of gradual communal electoral politics.

Prof Mahanta urged the SAAPE officials to include the issues of North East India in their future report as the NE offers new insight in the fields of ethnicity, development, security, students' movements and vortex of violence.

# CM vows to remove barriers to State's development



Members of various organisations paying homage to Hencandra Barua on his 121st death anniversary at a function organised by the Golaghat District Journalists' Union, at Golaghat on Sunday. — UB Photos

## CORRESPONDENT

MANGALDAI, May 1: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has vowed for an immigrant, insurgency, corruption and pollution-free Assam. He was addressing the opening session of the two-day conference of the Darrang Kalikristi Unnayan Sangha, a pioneer local non-government cultural organisation on Sunday afternoon at village Holouchouka-Ahoka, as the chief guest.

Pointing out illegal migration, insurgency, pollution and corruption as the main barriers to the development of the State, the Chief Minister said,

"We have decided to arrive at four points, i.e., immigrant-free Assam, insurgency-free Assam, pollution-free Assam and corruption-free Assam. These are the major four obstacles which have prohibited Assam from taking the path of prosperity, and if we can achieve these four targets, no one can stop Assam from all-round prosperity."

Referring to the age-old rich folk culture and traditional values of various ethnic groups of the State, the Chief Minister observed that Assam is yet to be explored properly. If we are to establish Assam as a strong and prosperous State outside, then the

new generation must explore the social, cultural, economic and spiritual resources and potential of each and every ethnic group across the State through necessary scientific studies. He stressed the need of creating an environment full of peace, brotherhood and communal harmony through the culture of traditional music and help the State to grow. He also assured the people of Darrang of extending necessary support in taking care of the rich components of the folklore of Assam, "Ojapali" not only to the national level but also to the international level.

The Chief Minister who ar-

## Basanta Utsav celebrated

**CORRESPONDENT**

DOOMDOOMA, May 1: The Doomdooma branch of Sadou Asom Lekhika Samor Samiti (SALSS) celebrated Basanta Utsav at its office premises situated at Toppur of Rupai Siding near here on Sunday. Along with the celebration, the newly-constructed toran (gateway) of the office was also inaugurated by a senior citizen of Doomdooma, Niren Baruah. The toran was constructed by founder president of SALSS, Doomdooma branch, Beena Deka in memory of her husband Robin Deka and her elder daughter Alpana Deka at a cost of Rs 2 lakh.

On the occasion, a meeting was held under the leadership of the Doomdooma branch SALSS, Dr Meenya Devi Baruah. In the meeting, the donor of the toran, Beena Deka was felicitated along with Ramani Saikia, who supervised the construction work of the toran. Earlier, the secretary of the branch, Jumumoni Bora explained the objectives of the meeting. A new edition of the wall magazine of the branch, *Jyotsnada* was inaugurated by retired professor of Doomdooma College, Anupam Baruah.

Later, the members of the branch performed various cultural programmes which included Lecheri Bihu, Deori Bihu, Bagarumba, Jeng Bihu etc.

## Scribe manhandled

**CORRESPONDENT**

BONGAIGAON, May 1: One Satya Ray allegedly managed a local scribe of Abhayapuri in Bongaigaon district on Saturday night at a Bisbari function at Deolati sparkling a sharp reaction in the locality. The aggrieved scribe Bikram Ranjan Ray has already filed an FIR against Satya, son of Angad Ray of Batabari in Abhayapuri area at the local police station. Scribes of the locality and the district have demanded immediate arrest of the accused.

## OBITUARY

### Shikha Bora

GUWAHATI, May 1: Shikha Bora, Agricultural Development Officer, who was posted at Soi Survey Office, Department of Agriculture, Ulubari, passed away last night at her official quarter, Ulubari due to illness. She was around 40.

She was a sincere officer of the Agriculture department. She was popular because of her politeness and simplicity. Her death has been widely mourned in the Agriculture department.

She leaves behind her husband and a host of relatives.

### Nimai Chandra Sarkar

GUWAHATI, May 1: Nimai Chandra Sarkar, a prominent social worker of Dalgong (Darrang) died on April 30 at his own residence. He was 85.

His death was widely mourned in the locality. He leaves behind four sons, three daughters and many relatives.

## Widow killed at Hattigarh TE, trafficker held

**CORRESPONDENT**

KALIAGAON, May 1: The northern parts of Udalguri district bordering Bhutan have been badly hit by social menaces like witch-hunting, child marriage, illegal trafficking of women and girls etc., for years. Taking advantage of illiteracy and poverty, anti-social elements operating from other States can easily appoint locals to lure girls and women to move to other States, mostly to Haryana, Delhi, Gujarat, Maharashtra etc.

Unfortunately, neither the Government nor social NGOs, not to speak of tea garden managements have ever taken any step for stopping these menaces in Udalguri district.

The role of tea garden managements and police has always been negative to curb these menaces. Such an incident about the death of a widow has come to the light recently at Hattigarh tea garden in Udalguri district. One Bina Be-

hra (45), a widow living in Khoirajung village with her six-year-old son was found dead on her bed on April 27 morning.

Thinking this to be a case of natural death, villagers buried her body on April 27 evening. Police was not informed and post-mortem was also not done. Next day on April 28, the six-year-old son revealed to the villagers that he had seen one Gauranga Mantra (37) fighting with her mother in the previous night.

The revelation alerted the family members and the villagers as the said Gauranga had been a notorious trafficker of girls and women, working as an agent of a Delhi-based employment company. Gauranga's wife too was found dead in a burning case four years back. But the matter was never reported to the police.

The family members, on the basis of the statement of the minor son, filed an FIR in Paneri police station on April 28

and Gauranga was apprehended immediately. Police have removed the body from the grave for post-mortem.

DN Hazarika, ADC, Udalguri visited the site on April 29 to meet the family members and villagers. Ranjit Tanti, former president of AASAA, Udalguri district, alleged that the law-and-order situation in Udalguri district has not been satisfactory.

Massive awareness programmes must be launched by the Government, political parties, tea garden managements and student organisations against illegal trafficking, witch-hunting, child marriage etc., he said.

Talking to this correspondent, Tanti said that because of the availability of alcohol in the villages in and around Hattigarh and due to poverty, most of the youths have been easily lured by anti-social elements. He requested all to arrange good counselling for the boys and girls of the tea garden villages.

Gauranga was apprehended imme-

## DRM Lumding's assurance to students' body

**CORRESPONDENT**

HAFLONG, May 1: A joint meeting of the Railways, the Dima Hasao district administration and representatives of the NC Hills Indigenous Students' Forum was held at the Deputy Commissioner's Conference Hall on Saturday. The joint meeting was chaired by Pramod Kumar Jain, Divisional Railway Manager, Lumding and discussed various issues raised by the NC Hills Indigenous Students' Forum.

Talking to this correspondent David Keivom, president of NCHISF said that the discussion was held regarding the delay in the release of railway compensation by the Deputy Commissioner and the DRM has assured to settle all the matters. Regarding construction of new approach roads from Mahun to the Mahur station, the DRM informed the delegation that work will be started within a short time after the com-

pletion of tendering process. The approach road to New Haflong and New Harangao stations will be constructed after a joint survey to be conducted by the Railways and NCHISF.

"The DRB assured us that the Railways will construct the approach roads within this financial year," Keivom said. The Railway authorities have also agreed to construct a new foot overbridges at Mahur, New Harangao and Dikharara stations. It was decided to conduct a joint survey before the works are started to finalise the location. Last but not the least, regarding the Hill Queen, the DRB informed that within two months, the Lumding-Silchar Hill Queen Train will be in service. The DRB has also assured that some additional train stoppages will be introduced after the Hill Queen train starts functioning. The NCHISF requested the railway authorities to connect the Hill Queen with the Jan Shatabdi for the convenience of the public.

## Dipak Dahal remembered

**CORRESPONDENT**

UDALGURI, May 1: The All Assam Gurkha Students' Union (AAGSU) on Sunday joined the adyashradha ceremony of Dipak Dahal, its former organising secretary and former president of Udalguri district committee of AAGSU at his Khantuhuri village residence under Mazhat police station and offered floral tributes to the departed student leader.

The students' organisation also arranged a condolence meeting to this effect anchored by Pur納 Kirat Rai, president of the Udalguri district committee of the students' organisation where Pushpadhar Sarma, principal of Udalguri HS School released a memoir entitled *Dipak* on the occasion while Gayatri Bhattacharjee, working president of Udalguri district committee of Ason Nepali Sahitya Sabha initiated the floral tribute

paying ceremony, which was attended by dozens of social and students' organisations of the district including the members from Udalguri Bar Association and Sanjiv Chetry, general secretary of AAGSU with a large number of members from central committee of AAGSU.

It is to be noted that Dipak Dahal was one of the popular AAGSU leaders of Assam since 2008 till date and served the Gurkha students' body as president of Udalguri district committee of AAGSU from 2009 to 2013 and was the organising secretary from 2014 to 2016. He later joined as an advocate at Udalguri civil court and earned immense popularity in his legal profession and through his social activities. He died of asthma at the age of 37 and leaves behind his parents, wife, a minor daughter, two brothers and a host of relatives.

**CORRESPONDENT**

paying ceremony, which was attended by dozens of social and students' organisations of the district including the members from Udalguri Bar Association and Sanjiv Chetry, general secretary of AAGSU with a large number of members from central committee of AAGSU.

On the first day, the programme will begin with the hoisting of the flag by Suren Gogoi, president, Namrup Bihu troupe will be awarded Rs one lakh.

The second day's programme will consist of single competitions on Bihu dance, Bihu song, dhol badan and pepa badan from 10 am to 4 pm. The open session-cum-prize distribution ceremony will be held under the chairmanship of SD Singh, Director (Production) BVFCL. The second day's programme will end with a glittering cultural night by the local artists which will be inaugurated by the local

competitions like semonia hussori, Jeng Bihu and yubak-yuban Mukoli bihu will go on. The best Mukoli Bihu troupe will be awarded Rs one lakh.

The third day's programme will consist of single competitions on Bihu dance, Bihu song, dhol badan and pepa badan from 10 am to 4 pm. The open session-cum-prize distribution ceremony will be held under the chairmanship of SD Singh, Director (Production) BVFCL. The second day's programme will end with a glittering cultural night by the local artists which will be inaugurated by the local

MLA Noren Sonowal.

On the concluding day, the pro-

grammes will begin with the drawing competition at 10 am which will be followed by a lively 'Symposium on Bihu'. The three-day-long celebration will round off with the sonorous 'Geetor Sarai' of popular singer Asurya Borpatra and 'Bihu' performance of internationally-reputed Bihuwa Ranjita Gogoi and his troupe. Earlier, programmes like inauguration of cultural night by Gautam Bora, SP Dibrugarh and the releasing of souvenir published on the occasion by APL MD, Ratul Bordoloi will take place.

new generation must explore the social, cultural, economic and spiritual resources and potential of each and every ethnic group across the State through necessary scientific studies. He stressed the need of creating an environment full of peace, brotherhood and communal harmony through the culture of traditional music and help the State to grow. He also assured the people of Darrang of extending necessary support to the folklores of Assam, "Ojapali" not only to the national level but also to the international level.

Meanwhile the intolerance shown by the security personnel towards the local indigenous persons while they tried to take an interview of the Chief Minister on camera has been widely resented by the media fraternity here.

## Entries sought for national-level essay contest on Physics

**CORRESPONDENT**

GOLALPARA, May 1: Entries have been sought for the Assam Zone Indian Association of Physics Teachers national essay competition on physics from participants in two categories, viz., (a) for students and (b) for teachers of higher secondary/junior colleges, under graduate and post graduate classes and also workers in recognition institutions.

The topic of the essay for both the categories is, 'Laser Today – A Century of Einstein's Stimulating Theory of Radiation' and the essay should be limited to eight pages, neatly typed using 11-point font size in the *Times New Roman*. The desired participants are expected to build up the theme properly and cover major aspects of the basic physics and technological application of lasers.

Also, the entries will have to be forwarded through the head/principal of the institution mentioning their categories before June 15, 2017. In case of category A, essays have to be sent to Prof UND Sarma, secretary RC-17, Department of Physics, Goalpara College or to Dr Ranjita Deka, Department of Physics, to eight pages, neatly typed using 11-point font size in the *Times New Roman*. The desired participants are expected to build up the theme properly and cover major aspects of the basic physics and technological application of lasers.

Pragjyotish College, Bharalumukh, Guwahati.

In regard to category B, essays have to be sent on or before August 1 to Prof KN Joshipura, Coordinator, NCEWP.

Professor Ranjit Choudhury, head of the Department of Physics, Goalpara College said that attractive cash prizes plus books/CDs will be awarded to the winners separately in both the categories. The results of the NCEWP-2017 will be declared in the IAPT (Indian Association of Physics Teachers) bulletin and the first three entries from RC-17 will be sent for the national competition, he added.

## Pious lady donates eyes posthumously

**SANJOY KR HAZARIKA**

DERGONA, May 1: Though the donation of eyes or the body posthumously is not popular even today, yet there are some such stories which may serve as an example to others. This is rarer among the women in Assam.

According to information a socially active pious as well as a simple lady of Dergona Town's Ward No. 7, Ghunusha Bora died on Thursday at the age of 60. Originally from a rural background, the lady spent a simple living and high thinking life with cordiality to the needy. So to honour her ideals, the family members decided to donate her eyes to an eye bank. And finally with the initiative of a noted physician of Dergona, Dr Shantanu Barthakur a team from the Jeutly Eye Bank of Jorhat collected the eyes within the stipulated time.

Talking to this correspondent, her husband who is also a retired Head Master of Samnill High School Pradip Bora told this correspondent that if the eyes of his beloved wife could help any one, then that will be a matter of joy even though his wife died an untimely death. He also opined that the donation of the eyes will help in getting the eternal peace of the departed soul. He also lauded the initiative of Dr Shantanu Barthakur.

Smita Bora, the elder daughter as well as a student of MSc final semester of Dibrugarh University, Deptt of Mathematics who also performed the rituals of Late Ghunusha Bora also appreciated herself over the donation of the eyes of their mother. The younger daughter Priyanka also expressed the same feelings. The residents of greater Dergona as well as several organisations like AASHRAY, Dergona Sports Club, Greater Dergona Consumer Awareness and Protection Forum, Proficient Career Counselling etc., have condoled the sad demise of the pious lady and opined that the exemplary donation will keep her memory alive in the coming days.



A cultural procession being taken out to mark the 47th Rongali Bihu celebration of Nij Juluki, in Boksa district on Sunday.— UB Photos

## Rongali Bihu Sanmilan at Namrup from May 12

**ANN Service**

NAMRUP, May 1: Namrup is gear-

ing up to celebrate the 53rd Rongali Bihu Sammilan in the name of Namrup Udyog Nagari Rajdhana Rongali Bihu Sammilan 2017(JUNRBS) with a three-day-long glittering pro-

gramme from May 12 to 14, at Sarangagri Bihumandap premises here. To make the celebration a grand success, a strong reception committee has been formed with Suren Gogoi as the president, Ranjita Baruah, Nitya Sonowal and Mugdha Pran Mahanta as the executive presidents and Kal-

peadeep Mahan as the secretary along with 10 sub-committees.

On the first day, the programme will begin with the hoisting of the flag by Suren Gogoi, president, Namrup Bihu troupe will be awarded Rs one lakh.

The second day's programme will consist of single competitions on Bihu dance, Bihu song, dhol badan and pepa badan from 10 am to 4 pm. The open session-cum-prize distribution ceremony will be held under the chairmanship of SD Singh, Director (Production) BVFCL. The second day's programme will end with a glittering cultural night by the local artists which will be inaugurated by the local

## AASU meet over revamp of APOL mill

**CORRESPONDENT**

RANGIYA, May 1: The Baidyabrahm anchal unit of the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) here on Sunday evening organised a meet to demand the immediate revamp of the APOL mill located at Tulsibari under Rangiya subdivision.

The student body discussed the present affairs of the mill and raised its con-

cern over the lackadaisical attitude of the mill administration. It also criticised the State Government for not taking any steps in spite of several protests, pleas and public prayers before the authority concerned. The student body urged the Government to initiate measures for urgent revamp of this oldest indigenous cloth mill located here under Kamrup district.





## WEATHER NORTHEAST

**Forecast for NE:** Moderate rain/thundershower is very likely to occur at most places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam & Meghalaya and at many places over Nagaland, Manipur.

**Warnings:** Thunderstorm with wind speed exceeding 50 kmph is likely to occur at isolated places over Assam & Meghalaya on May 2 and 3 and over Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya & Assam on May 2-3. Heavy to very heavy rain is very likely to occur at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh on May 5. Heavy rain is very likely to occur at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh on May 4 and over Assam & Meghalaya on May 4-5.

**Temperatures :**

	Max (°C)	Min (°C)
Dibrugarh	25.6	20.3
Tezpur	28.9	20.0
Silchar	34.0	20.6
Dhubri	30.5	21.0
Sonitpur	31.7	20.1
M Lakhimpur	26.9	20.5
Shillong	24.4	10.6
Imphal	30.6	17.4
Itanagar	27.8	19.1
Aizawl	31.4	12.1
Apatani	34.5	22.1
Kohima	25.8	17.6
Pasighat	24.7	20.2
Cherrapunji	23.5	13.0

## Road link to Arunachal dist cut off

ROING, May 1: Surface communication along Dambuk-Roing-Pasighat road in Arunachal Pradesh has been cut off due to flood triggered by heavy and incessant pre-monsoon rains since last week.

Road communication on Dambuk-Bizari-Paglam roads have also been snapped and the log bridge at 14 Kilometre from Dambuk and Bizari was washed away by floodwaters, according to ADC Dambuk, Atal Tyaeng.

He further informed that Dibang river was causing heavy erosion at Bomirai and Biziari and the main rice fields of Dambuk was getting eroded at a alarming rate.

The ADC said since communication is not expected to be through before winter, rations sorties by helicopter has to be carried out for Dambuk and Paglam. — Correspondent

## Khandu releases film on 'Kaan'

ITANAGAR, May 1: "Kaan: A film on opium", a documentary based on opium, was released by Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu here today.

The documentary, initiated by Longleng district administration as a part of the drug awareness campaign in the district, captures the effects of opium on Wancho society.

The documentary is an attempt at creating mass awareness about the drug and its destructive effects in Longleng district, which is affected by opium addiction.

Khandu hoped that the documentary would bring about some positive change in the outlook of the people. He also appealed to the people of Longleng to stop growing and using opium.

A special screening of the documentary was also held at the Chief Secretary's conference hall here which was attended by heads of departments. — Correspondent

## 14 year-old gangraped

TURA, May 1: A 14 year-old girl was gangraped near Williamson town in East Garo Hills on April 27. Two alleged rapists, one of whom was a 14 year-old were later caught by villagers a day after the incident before being handed over to police after a sound thrashing.

According to sources, the girl was on her way home in Dimangre from her school when she was waylaid by two persons, identified as Ramong-T Sangma (45) and the teen after which she was sexually assaulted by the duo.

The victim was later sent to Williamnagar Civil Hospital. A case of rape was filed by the family in Williamnagar police station the same day. — Correspondent

## NORTH EAST

# Fake currency racket busted in Garo Hills, two nabbed

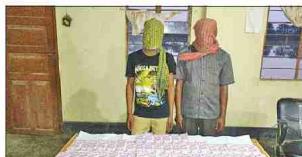
BIPABR KR DEY

TURA, May 1: West Garo Hills (WGH) police today arrested two persons from Rajabia in the district with fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN) worth Rs 1.32 lakh after busting a major racket close to Assam-Meghalaya border.

The arrests were made based on reports of FICN being circulated by some unscrupulous criminals amongst villagers as payment for various trades.

Police suspect that the gang responsible for the racket could have circulated over Rs 40 lakh amongst unsuspecting victims.

"This group of criminals was going into villages and buying betel nuts and other products



and making payments late in the evenings in mostly dark places. As villagers were unable to check the authenticity of the notes due to darkness, they were getting away with the entire operation," said a highly placed police source.

"We have arrested two of the main men behind the en-

tre operation and search is currently on for the rest of the gang," said district police chief Dr MGR Kumar.

"We believe the gang is international and has been circulating FICN for some time through the Mankachar route from Bangladesh. The notes are very difficult to discern as they

have most security features including high security thread, 3D raised elevation for visibly disabled people. They used crowded market days to push through the FICN," added Dr Kumar.

The two arrested have been identified as Abdul Kalam from Hazirhat in Assam and Salseng Sangma from Tura in West Garo Hills with minor arrests.

Meanwhile, as a measure to ensure the network of FICN did not spread, WGH police will soon work on spreading awareness on how to differentiate FICN from real money.

WGH police also seized a motorcycle from the duo with registration ML-08 C 8913 which they believed was used to transport the fake currency.

## Drug abuse rising in Shillong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

to some sense hearing of the people.

"The world is aware of their anti-Christian activities. World leaders have even cautioned the BJP Government," Theerie said. However, to demean and forget Christian holiday like Christmas Day, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday, he said the BJP Government had declared them as official functioning days.

Theerie further warned citizens saying the near and real danger of losing our identity would be when BJP gets majority in Raja Sabha. They would force the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) where Special Provisions under Art. 370 and 371(A), (B), (C), etc., would become dormant, he alleged.

He, however, expressed happiness that the State BJP for the first time was coming

year too, Syiem said.

SHILLONG, May 1: Meghalaya police is conducting regular raids against suspected drug users and peddlers in the State Capital with reports of increase in number of drug users here.

East Khasi Hills SP (City) Vivek Siem said here that the police is conducting raids on a "war footing" and several seizures and arrests have been made over the past few months.

"There was 81 arrests made in relation to drug users and peddlers in the State Capital last year. We can say that there has been a rise in such cases this

year," Syiem said.

He said that a large number of those arrested were heroin users and there has been an increase in the number of arrests and seizures related to heroin.

"In the drug peddlers' game, a small amount of Heroin wrapped in paper is called a 'piece'. Each piece is sold somewhere between Rs 300-500," Syiem informed.

"A Golden tobacco tin" filled with the drug cost about Rs 7,000-Rs 9,000. Larger amount of the drug wrapped in "plastic suitcases" cost anything between Rs 40,000 to Rs 50,000, he informed.



Members of Meghalaya Joint Council of Trade Unions & Associations observing May Day at Shillong on Monday. — UB Photos

## All is not well with tea industry in Tripura

CORRESPONDENT

AGARTALA, May 1: Despite the projected record breaking production of green tea leaf, planters in Tripura are still uncertain over the fate of the industry. Pre-monsoon showers have already hit the State indicating that there would be sufficient rainfall in the upcoming monsoon season.

If the State gets sufficient rainfall, there will be bumper production of green tea leaf, according to tea planters.

But tea planters are not in a win-win situation as price of

made tea (orthodox) has been falling with every passing year.

A kg of made tea was sold at Rs 80/85 in the auction markets in 2016 which is less than the cost of production, PIBSarkar, secretary of Tea Association of India (TAI) State branch said here recently.

"In the year 2017, tea planters can expect good production and it may break the previous year's production of 9.50 million kg made tea. What is worrying the tea planters is the rapid fall in the made tea price. Tea planters are struggling to realise the cost

of production of finished tea due to various reasons", he pointed out.

Sarkar, however, said tea estates which are producing green tea are relatively in better position as its price is a bit higher than that of orthodox tea.

"A kg orthodox tea is selling at Rs 80/85 in the auction markets whereas green tea price stands at Rs 150/200 per kg. Obviously, tea planters are gradually shifting from green tea to orthodox tea to green tea", he said.

According to him, sipping green tea is no longer a status symbol with a sizable

number of people suffering from higher BP or cholesterol.

"Study has already re-

vealed that drinking green tea is beneficial to reduce cholesterol, a key factor in spike of BP. Besides, it also keeps the heart in good shape. These factors are encouraging people to sip green tea", he opined.

At present 52 tea estates are operational in the State with 13,000 workers involved in the tea industry but the industry is no longer a viable business due to various factors, he pointed out.

## Stop killing birds and animals, pleads Najma

CORRESPONDENT

Stating that over the ages, the State has remained covered with thick forest maintaining a fine balance of ecosystems, the Governor in an appeal said, "However, it is very disturbing that large areas in the State especially in the hills have now become barren due to

wanting of trees."

Though she did not

mention any particular incident about the degradation of the State's biodiversity, she said, this has led to far reaching consequences

having a very adverse impact

on the environment particularly on the flora and fauna.

The environment has become increasingly hostile to the birds and animals.

They are gradually vanishing from the region and flocks of birds once a common sight, has become a rarity now.

"We have already done enough harm to the birds and animals by playing unscrupu-

TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2017

## May Day celebrated in Manipur

CORRESPONDENT

IMPHAL, May 1: Manipur Education Minister Th Radhesyam, who also holds the Labour and Employment portfolio, today said that a Labour Mela will be organised to create awareness on the various Central schemes for the welfare of labour in the State.

The announcement was made by the Minister during May Day celebration which was organised by Concerned Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Labourers' Welfare Association (ALWA) on Monday.

Appreciating the celebration of May Day, he said, the celebration would have been more meaningful if all the workers of Manipur working in organised and unorganised sectors were brought under one umbrella at such a function.

The Minister said the labourers need to be aware of the welfare schemes covering health, social security, education, housing, recreation, water supply, etc., provided by the Union Government for the welfare of labourers in the country.

Highlighting the importance of having labour unions, the Minister said, unions have to

carry out certain work for the welfare of the labourers. The main task for such unions should be to check the implementation of the government schemes for the upliftment of labourers, the Minister added.

Stating the need to set a target for the improvement of the working conditions of the working class citizens, the Minister said, the workers and the authority need to come together and work together to improve the working conditions within the minimum time frame.

Parliamentary Secretary Tourism & IT, Dr Sapam Ranjan Singh and president and members of CAP & PD, Labourers' Welfare Association were present at the function. As part of the function, a Voluntary Blood Donation Camp was also held by National Health Mission.

## Mizoram CM congratulates AFC on big win

AIZAWL, May 1: Mizoram Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla today congratulated Aizawl Football Club that scripted history in Indian football when it became the first team from North East to lift India's highest football league I-League at Shillong on Sunday night.

He said AFC's win is a proud moment in the sports history of the State. It is something in which both the government and the people of Mizoram take equal pride in, he added.

In his congratulatory message to the club, he said, through their win, AFC has sent out the message that even from one of the remotest States that lacks infrastructure and investment, success can be scripted through sheer determination, hard work, a missionary zeal and will power.

The AFC team was accorded a heroes' welcome at Assam Rifles ground here this evening as the State Governor declared public half holiday in honour of the team's historic win. — Correspondent

## Khandu congratulates Arunachal beauty

ITANAGAR, May 1: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has congratulated Licha Thosum who is representing the State in Femina Miss India 2017 contest, when she called on him at his office here recently.

She was accompanied by famed local designer of international repute Nabanj Aka, sister and entrepreneur Licha Pera and Licha Topu, who is overseeing all her engagements as Public Relations Officer (PRO).

While congratulating Thosum for being shortlisted in the beauty pageant representing Arunachal Pradesh, Khandu said that people of the State look up to her to draw attention of the world towards the State, an official communiqué said. Thosum is pursuing Masters in Sociology from Rajiv Gandhi University, Domlukh. — PTI

"Licha with nature," the Governor felt. "The situation has been made worse by our senseless killing of birds and animals. At this rate of predation, the days may not be far away when our rare birds go extinct, and only a few of the common birds and animals remain", she said.

Senior members may not be included and there is a possibility of division in the rank and order of our organisation. Moreover, we have jointly resolved to wait till our proposed list is accepted (210 Cadres)," added the release.

"The delay in providing us our packages is an attempt to demoralise us and create division among our cadres. We waited for so long and will continue to do so till 24th September 2017. After that, if there is no development, the Agreement will be burnt publicly as it failed our expectations and disappointed the anticipation of our people," added the former chairman.

## ANVC (B) threatens to burn agreement

CORRESPONDENT

TURA, May 1: Terming the agreement with Meghalaya Government as a total failure, chairman of the now disbanded Achik National Volunteers' Council - Breakaway (ANVC-B), Bernard (Rimpa) Marak has threatened to burn copies of the Agreed Text of Settlement (ATS) in protest at the government's apathy.

"The ATS is a total failure. Till date its implementation has not been monitored properly by the State Government and is at a standstill ever since it was signed. There has been very little

development due to the government's lack of interest in its implementation", said Bernard in a release.

"Medical College, Child and Maternal Health Hospital, bridge over Brahmaputra, etc., are few projects included in the Agreement. The development that is flowing to the State and GHADC is an outcome of the ATS but we are not made part of any event," he alleged.

With regard to the rehabilitation of its cadres, Bernard felt it had become a joke now. "Terming the Agreement is what we have in our mind now," said Bernard, who has joined the State BJP. "The State Govt formed the State lev-

**CAPSULE****TRAI consultation**

NEW DELHI, May 1: Having seen the controversy related to Reliance Jio's free trial run stretched too far, TRAI today started a consultation process to frame rules for the network testing period before full-fledged commercial launch. "The DoT requested me... The Authority to provide its recommendations on testing of network before commercial launch of services including enrolment of customers for testing purposes before commercial launch, duration of testing period etc...." TRA's consultation paper said. - PTI

**SBI deposit rates**

Mumbai, May 1: Country's largest lender State Bank of India has cut its term deposit rates by up to 50 basis points for various maturities. According to the new rates, it is now two to less than three years deposits, SBI will offer a rate of 6.25 per cent as compared to 6.75 per cent earlier, the bank said. For the similar maturity, the deposit rates for senior citizen have been cut to 6.75 per cent from 7.25 per cent. For deposits ranging between one year and 10 years, the rates have been lowered by 25 basis points to 6.50 per cent. - PTI

**Hero MotoCorp**

NEW DELHI, May 1: The country's largest two-wheeler manufacturer Hero MotoCorp today hiked prices of its products ranging from Rs 500 to Rs 2,200 across models to offset the impact of rising input costs. "The company raised the prices — ranging from Rs 500 to Rs 2,200 — across different models to partially offset the commodity cost increases, effective from May 1," the company said in a statement. - PTI

**Morepen Labs**

NEW DELHI, May 1: Morepen Laboratories has reported a near three-fold jump in net profit to Rs 7.72 crore for the corresponding period of the previous fiscal, it said in a statement. - PTI

**Dabur India**

NEW DELHI, May 1: Homegrown FMCG major Dabur India today reported a flat consolidated net profit at Rs 333.11 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 31, hit by currency volatility and economic turmoil in key markets. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 301.49 crore in the January-March period of the last fiscal, Dabur India said in a BSE filing. - PTI

**PNB lending rate**

NEW DELHI, May 1: Public lender Punjab National Bank has revised down marginal cost-based lending rates by 0.10- 0.15 per cent for various maturities effective today. The maximum of 0.15 per cent has been effected for overnight marginal cost of funds based lending rate tenure to 8.05 per cent. - PTI

**AirAsia India**

MUMBAI, May 1: AirAsia India flew 8.4 lakh passengers in the January-March quarter of the current year, up 2.76 per cent from 8.1 lakh in the same period of 2016, aided by new routes and higher capacity. The Bengaluru-based airline which is a joint venture between Tata Sons and Malaysia's AirAsia Berhad, raised its fleet size to nine aircraft from six in the first quarter of the previous year. AirAsia India said in a statement today. - PTI

**Royal Enfield**

NEW DELHI, May 1: Royal Enfield, the two-wheeler division of Eicher Motors, today reported a 24.78 per cent jump in total sales at 60,142 units in April. It had sold 49,197 units in April 2016. Eicher Motors said in a statement. - PTI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan attending India-Turkey Business Forum, in New Delhi on Monday. - UNI

## India should be standard setter, not follower: Nirmala

NEW DELHI, May 1: India should be setting quality standards for products rather than following global norms. Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said today, stressing timely dissemination of regulations for better implementation.

Addressing the 4th National Standards Conclave here, she called on the industry to produce quality products at an affordable price. The import of cheaper products can be contained. "India should be setting standards rather than following the standards which are being set," Sitharaman said, adding that the country should have active participation in any global debate on setting standards.

The minister said technology will play a very critical role in standard setting and conformity assessment, and there is a need to factor this in.

Launching a portal of standards developed jointly by the Commerce Ministry and industry body CII, Sitharaman said this website will be providing all the information relating to standards and conformity assessments.

"But I am also a bit impatient (as to) how it will reach people who will have to follow, conform and implement these standards," she added.

Sitharaman said there should be constant awareness among not just farmers, but trade ne-

gotiators so that standards, especially of agri products, are set in a manner that it covers all varieties of farm items and exports are not hit.

In this regard, she cited the example of global standards on length and weight of mangoes and wondered how India accepted those norms. She said, "India has exemplary varieties of mango, grapes and bananas. Uniform standards can go against it."

Sitharaman commented that only man-made products can be homogeneous and therefore, any quality standards on agri products should reflect different varieties and not homogeneity. - PTI

## Apply differential pricing for DES: stent makers to govt

NEW DELHI, May 1: Stent manufacturers want the government to apply differential pricing for drug-eluting stents by classifying them on the basis of technology used.

Such a move will reward quality and innovation under the segment viable while also giving physicians broader treatment options, according to two industry bodies - AdvaMed and MTaI.

Drug-eluting stents (DES) have a polymer coating over mesh that emits a drug over time that prevent blockage of arteries from recurring. These are considered superior over bare metal stents, which are a mesh-like tube of thin wires.

In February this year, the MTaI had brought stents under price control and capped their price at Rs 7,260 for bare metal variety and Rs 29,600 for DES.

The corresponding average MRP's before the price control stood at Rs 45,100 and Rs 1,21

lakh respectively. With the government rejecting applications from Abbott and Medtronic to withdraw their advanced DES, Medical Technology Association of India (MTaI) said if all the DES were treated as same Class II for complex cases and Class III for innovative ones.

"This will ensure that patients have access to quality medical devices, physicians have broad treatment options to address complex diseases," it said.

Moreover, with such classification, India's nascent medical technology industry will be rewarded for introducing new and innovative technologies by securing the economic viability of desirable products, it added.

Expressing similar views, MTaI said the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) had decided on one price for all drug-eluting stents on the basis that later generations of DES are not superior to earlier generations.

"So, if all the drug-eluting stents are the same, the industry should have some freedom in deciding which stents to market, as long as a broad range still stays available," MTaI said in the statement. - PTI

## AIBEA opposes RBI By Governor's 're-privatisation' remarks

CHENNAI, May 1: All India Bank Employees Association today flayed RBI Deputy Governor Viral Acharya's remarks that it was time to re-privatise some nationalised banks and warned it would resort to a strike to oppose the move.

In a recent function in Mumbai, Acharya had said the time has come to re-privatise some nationalised banks.

"Perhaps re-privatising some of the nationalised banks is an idea whose time has come.... This could reduce the overall money government needs to inject as bank capital," he had said.

AIBEA General Secretary, CH Venkatachalam said that the banks belong to people and represent the hard-earned savings of the people and must remain so.

"It cannot be handed over to the profit-greedy private sector. We demand withdrawal of these remarks by RBI

Deputy Governor" and warned AIBEA would go on strike to oppose it.

He said everyone, including Acharya, knew that the bulk of bad loans are due to big debtors and that the private sector is the contributor of 97 per cent of bad loans.

Venkatachalam said public sector banks make operating profits despite all odds while the net loss was due to "provision of bad loans".

Reeling out statistics, he said that for the year ending March 31, 2016, public sector banks earned operating profits of Rs 1,37,306 crore. But total provisions for bad loans and contingencies were Rs 1,55,297 crore, with a net loss of Rs 17,991 crore".

Requesting the Central bank to stand with public sector banks, he alleged that all big loans were sanctioned with concurrence of the RBI and sought a probe. - PTI

OIL strikes hydrocarbon in Upper Assam Basin

SPL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, May 1: Oil India Limited (OIL) has made two hydrocarbon discoveries in Moran Petroleum Mining Lease (MPML) in the Upper Assam Basin in April in the wells Boribhulbul-I and Lakwaggon-I.

OIL's official sources said that the well Boribhulbul-I encountered multiple sands in Barail and Lakadong + Theria formations.

On testing, a 15m Barail sand at a depth of 3232m produced oil at the rate of 28m3/d. A 10m Lakadong + Theria sand at a depth of 4300m produced oil at the rate of 10m3/d.

The feasibility of bringing the discovery on production at the earliest is under study. In the well Lakwaggon-I, discovery of a gross column of 30m oil sand in Barail formation has been made, which produced 42 m3/d of oil on initial testing.

The well is currently on production. The discoveries have opened up avenue for further exploration of already identified prospects in the area, said sources.

The apex court on March 29 banned the sale and registration of BS-III category vehicles or those not compliant with Bharat Stage-IV (BS-IV) emission norms from April 1. The step was taken due to concerns on vehicular emissions.

The BS norms are emission standards imposed on automobile manufacturers which specify the maximum permissible limits for pollutants in the exhaust fumes of automobiles.

"The total loss for the two-wheeler

## GST not to increase compliance burden: Adhia

NEW DELHI, May 1: The GST would not increase compliance burden on assesses and all apprehensions in this regard are misplaced, Revenue Secretary Hasmukh Adhia said today.

"Many people think that implementation of GST would result in increase in compliance cost. This is completely misplaced," he said while addressing netizens on Facebook.

Explaining the rationale, he said people have to keep different law books for filing return for various taxes like VAT, excise, etc., in the present taxation regime.

"But with the rollout of GST, there would be a single tax and accounting for this will be very simple. It can be done through an offline excel form provided

by GST Network. If someone

uses this form for keeping record of purchase and sales, then he can use this for filing return. Thus, compliance would be minimised," he said.

Adhia, who is spearheading implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), said the Finance Ministry is gear-

ing up for its rollout and five days' training has already been given to officers.

Besides, IT training for its

is going on, he said.

The government intends to

implement the GST from July 1 and the GST Council headed

by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has finalised four rate categories of 5 per cent, 12 per cent, 18 per cent and 28 per cent after levying levies like central excise, service tax and VAT.

Excise will be done by add-

ing the total incidence of cur-

rent taxation (Central plus State levies) and then putting the good or service in the tax bracket closest to it.

Adhia also said indirect tax burden may come down in the new GST regime.

"There would be many goods and services which would be out of GST so it would provide benefit to common man in respect of taxes.

The rollout GST would be either tax neutral or there could be reduction of tax burden," he said.

With regard to traders, he said the tax filing would start from the threshold level of Rs 20 lakh and registration below the threshold limit is not re-

quired.

Within one State under one PAN, only one registration is allowed, he said. - PTI

## Maruti, Honda, Toyota kick off new fiscal with a bang

NEW DELHI, May 1: Auto majors Maruti Suzuki, Tata Motors, Toyota and Honda began the new fiscal on a strong note, posting high double-digit growth in their domestic passenger vehicle sales in April.

Market leader Maruti Suzuki (MSD) recorded its best ever monthly domestic numbers in April, with sales at 1,44,492 units, a growth of 23.4 per cent compared to 1,17,045 units in April 2016.

MST's April sales were driven by the compact car segment and utility vehicles (UV).

Tata Motors reported 23 per cent growth in its sales of

passenger vehicles in the do-

mestic market at 12,827 units last month.

It was led by a strong pipeline for Tiago and a positive re-

sponse for new lifestyle UV -

Tata HEXA, Tata Motors Presi-

dent, Passenger Vehicles Busi-

ness Unit, Mayank Pareek said.

Honda Cars India Ltd (HCIL) reported a 51.81 per cent jump in its domestic sales at 12,948 units as against 8,529 units in April last year. It was driven by its newly launched SUV Fortuner.

However, the second-largest manufacturer in the segment, Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL) logged a growth of just 5.68 per cent in its domestic sales at 44,758 units in April as against 42,351 units in the year-ago month. - PTI

## Jobs, higher wages govt's focus areas, says Dattatreya



Union Minister of State (i/c) for Labour & Employment Bandaru Dattatreya launching PF online claim receipt system at an International Labour Day function in New Delhi on Monday. M. Sathiyavathy, Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment, is also seen. - UNI

employment.

The Centre, he said, will in the interest of the workers improve their minimum wages.

"The more the skill is enhanced, the more wages would increase. If good scale comes then the workers will not only get minimum wage but also fair wage," the minister added.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said, has accorded top priority to jobs creation and the Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Yojana has been announced in view of the same objective. An allocation of Rs 1,000 crore has been made towards the scheme, the minister added.

The scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Employment. Under it, the employers would be provided an incentive for enhancing employment by reimbursement of the 8.33 per cent EPS contribution made by the employer in respect of new

social security are the goals of

the government, the minister said.

The Centre was also giving a lot of focus on the unor-

ganised sector.

During the function, the minister also launched the facility of medical help to migrant workers and their families residing at different places, besides an online claim submission by members using UAN

interface.

As part of government's initiatives, all Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) members who have activated their UAN and seeded their KYC (Aadhaar) with EPFO will be able to apply for PF final settle-

ment, pension withdrawal bene-

fit and PF part withdrawal

from their UAN interface directly. - PTI

## 2-wheeler industry took Rs 600-cr hit: Report

MUMBAI, May 1: The two-wheeler industry is estimated to have incurred a loss of Rs 600 crore due to the three-day discount offered to customers after the Supreme Court ordered a ban on sale of BS-III vehicles, a report said.

The major chunk of the loss is expected to be borne by the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) even as retrofitting of the unsold vehicles to make them BS-IV-compliant is also an alternative, the report by ratings firm ICRA said today.

The apex court on March 29 banned the sale and registration of BS-III category vehicles or those not compliant with Bharat Stage-IV (BS-IV) emission norms from April 1. The step was taken due to concerns on vehicular emissions.

The BS norms are emission standards imposed on automobile manufacturers which specify the maximum permissible limits for pollutants in the exhaust fumes of automobiles.

"The resultant discount-induced fire-

sales are likely to suppress the fourth-

quarter earnings of automobile OEMs, and in particular two-wheeler OEMs," ICRA said.

ICRA also estimates that the costs associated with the heavy discounting during the March 30-31 period would have a 150-165 bps impact on the operating profitability of two-wheeler OEMs during the fourth quarter of the last fiscal.

India, which had been following the BS-III emission regime from 2010, shifted to BS-IV norms for all new two-wheelers from April 1, 2016 and was required to do so for all existing vehicles from April 1, 2017.

The major change in a two-wheeler on migration to BS-IV norms would be the inclusion of carbon canisters to control evaporative emissions, the report said.

The other changes like tightening on limits of different pollutants would be met through optimisation of the combustion process and increasing the volume and surface area of catalyst used in the catalytic converter, it added. - PTI

# Politics of nepotism, casteism, appeasement will end: Yogi



LUCKNOW, May 1: The Uttar Pradesh Assembly poll results have caused a flutter across the country's political spectrum as the politics of casteism and appeasement will end while the agenda of development and nationalism will sustain, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said today.

He added that the rival parties had tried to project the BJP as communal and therefore "untouchable" but the people realised that the party stood for their welfare.

Adityanath was speaking at the inaugural session of a two-day BJP state executive meet here.

"There is a flutter in the political spectrum after the UP poll results. Politics of nepotism, casteism and appeasement will now end and only politics of development and 'rashtra bhakti' (nationalism) will sustain," Adityanath said.

He declared that the state government will come up with a new Excise policy under which liquor shops will not be allowed along national and state highways, near educational institutions or religious places and in densely populated areas.

The UP Chief Minister said that wherever he has gone during the Assembly elections, concerns were raised about the security of women.

We constituted anti-Romeo squads within 24 hours of assuming office as was promised in our election manifesto, Adityanath said. He said that while some opposed the move, "our mothers and sisters have appreciated it and their comments came in media."

Justifying his government's decision to close illegal abattoirs, the Chief Minister said that no action was taken in the earlier regime on the directions of the National Green Tribunal in 2014 and Supreme Court in 2017 to shut down such slaughter houses.

"Police officers were stabbed and beaten when they went for the closure of such slaughter houses in the previous regime. I told them (police) that now government has changed... All knives have now vanished and illegal slaughter houses were closed. Those functioning will also be taken care of," he said.

He claimed that the previous government backed those operating illegal slaughterhouses due to which they could cause nuisance. Adityanath also highlighted the government's loan waiver scheme for small and marginalised farmers under which loans of Rs 36,000

crore were waived.

After declaration of minimum support price of Rs 487 per quintal for potato, farmers are getting a good price in the market also, he said.

The CM said the government was serious in ensuring payment of sugarcane dues to farmers and till now Rs 5,500 crore dues were paid to farmers.

"We are going to revive four sugar mills and will start expansion work in one more mill," he said.

Adityanath stressed that his government was working to end豪華農業 adding that people would realise it in the days to come.

The CM also announced that from this academic session starting from July, children going to government primary schools will get new uniform, shoes and 'chappal' (slippers) matching those worn by kids going to private schools.

He said the state was prepared for implementation of GST.

Adityanath said that Deen Dayal Upadhyay poor welfare cards will be made to support those below poverty line.

The UP government will also act tough on corruption and not spare anyone even those with high political connections, he said. – PTI

## SC orders medical examination of Justice Karnan

NEW DELHI, May 1: The Supreme Court today ordered the medical examination of Calcutta High Court judge Justice CS Karnan on May 4 before a board of doctors, to be set up by a government hospital in Kolkata.

A seven-judge bench headed by Chief Justice JS Khehar also directed the Director General of Police of West Bengal to form a team of police officers who could assist the medical board in carrying out the medical examination on Justice Karnan.

The bench, while referring to its earlier order by which it had restrained Justice Karnan from exercising administrative and judicial powers, directed all the courts, tribunal and commissions across the country not to consider and act on the orders passed by him after February 8.

The bench also asked the judge to file his response to the contempt notice and made it clear that if no response was filed by May 8, then it would be presumed that "he does not

have anything to say".

The bench, which also comprised Justices Dipak Misra, J Chelameswar, Ranjan Gogoi, MB Lokur, PC Ghose and Kari Joseph, has sought the medical report on or before May 8 and posted the contempt petition against Justice Karnan a day after.

Earlier, Justice Karnan had appeared before the apex court and sought restoration of his judicial and administrative powers. As the court refused to modify its earlier order, Justice Karnan had made clear that he will not appear before the court again.

The apex court has taken suo motu (on its own) cognisance of various letters written by Justice Karnan against judges of the Madras High Court and the Supreme Court.

Justice Karnan had on March 31 appeared before the apex court which had granted him four weeks to respond to the contempt notice while rejecting the submission that his administrative and judicial pow-

ers be restored.

The seven-judge bench took note of personal appearance of Justice Karnan, a first in the history of Indian judiciary, and asked him to respond to the allegations levelled against various judges in his several communications.

The bench had asked Justice Karnan whether he was willing to tender an unconditional apology and withdraw his earlier communications. It had gone to the extent of suggesting to Justice Karnan who had defiantly refused to appear before the bench despite summons, that he may file some medical records pertaining to his mental condition.

Justice Karnan, in his response, had alleged discrimination and "social boycott" by companion judges on various grounds including his caste and social status.

Justice Karnan had on March 10 dismissed the claim of the Punjab government on putting an end to the drug menace in the state, terming it as "a brazen lie and a cover-up for failure".

## SAD dismisses Cong govt claim of putting an end to drug issue

CHANDIGARH, May 1: The Shromani Akali Dal (SAD) today dismissed the claim of the Punjab government on putting an end to the drug menace in the state, terming it as "a brazen lie and a cover-up for failure".

The party dared the Amarinder Singh government to release data of number of addicts weaned away from drugs in the past six weeks.

SAD general secretary and MP Prem Singh Chandamajha said, "Before the elections, the Congress had claimed that 70 per cent of Punjabis were addicted to drugs. That comes to a whopping figure of about two crore ten lakh Punjabis out of a population of roughly three crores".

Ghosh alleged that in Cooch Behar district, TMC was targeting BJP workers at places like Dinhati, Sitai where a large number of supporters of the Forward Bloc, which was earlier strong in the district, had joined the BJP.

During his three-day visit to the state last week, BJP president Amit Shah had also accused the TMC-government of unleashing atrocities on the people in a way "never seen since Independence".

Ghosh alleged that in Cooch Behar district, TMC was targeting BJP workers at places like Dinhati, Sitai where a large number of supporters of the Forward Bloc, which was earlier strong in the district, had joined the BJP.

During my visit to Cooch Behar, I had seen that the people there wanted to work for the BJP but they were intimidated by the TMC", he said.

Now, facing criticism from the SAD, they have cooked up this lie, he added.

Chandamajha said the claim of Amarinder government is just a loud boast and an attempt to sidetrack criticism on its failures and inaction through misleading statements.

The SAD leader said that before the elections, both the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders defamed Punjab with daily hue and cry about the Punjab youth falling prey to drugs.

"But once the elections were over, they forgot all about it," he said.

The Akali leader said that the fact was that the Congress had in the first place vastly exaggerated the magnitude of the drug problem in the state during the SAD-BJP government.

Now, it is finding it hard to reconcile those allegations with ground reality, he said. – PTI



Members of various trade union organisations participating at a rally to mark the International Labour Day, in Bengaluru on Monday. – UNI

## TMC unleashing violence against BJP: Ghosh

BURDWAN (WB), May 1:

The BJP today charged the Trinamool Congress with resorting to atrocities and unleashing violence against its party workers leading to frequent clashes across West Bengal.

"TMC is unleashing atrocities against the BJP as the party is growing. TMC is following the footstep of the CPIM which used to unleash violence against the political opponents when it was in power in the state", Ghosh said at the BJP state executive meeting here.

Opening his three-day visit to the state last week, BJP president Amit Shah had also accused the TMC-government of unleashing atrocities on the people in a way "never seen since Independence".

Ghosh alleged that in Cooch Behar district, TMC was targeting BJP workers at places like Dinhati, Sitai where a large number of supporters of the Forward Bloc, which was earlier strong in the district, had joined the BJP.

During my visit to Cooch Behar, I had seen that the people there wanted to work for the BJP but they were intimidated by the TMC", he said.

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Now, it is finding it hard to reconcile those allegations with ground reality, he said. – PTI

## May Day celebrated in Kerala

T H I R U V A N N A M - THAPURAM (Kerala), May 1:

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan today underscored the CPI(M) led LDF government's commitment to welfare of all in all sectors.

In his May Day message, he listed out the various welfare initiatives of the government after it assumed office in May last year.

Opening of closed cashew factories, disbursement of welfare pension arrears, revising basic wages of workers in different areas and creation of new job opportunities in traditional industry sectors were some of the pro working class initiative of the government,

the CPI(M) leader said.

The Chief Minister said the government's slogan of "Secular, corruption free and New Kerala" is the dream of the working class and the May Day memories would give vigour to the efforts to realize that

before to defend their hard

earned rights like job security, eight-hour working time and minimum wages.

Joining the celebrations,

Governor Justice (Retd) P Sathasivam greeted the people and wished them success in their work.

"I salute the working people of Kerala and Malavalees

all over the work of their relentless and dignified efforts to ensure progress and prosperity of the societies in which they serve", he said.

Trade union leaders said unity of the working class was more relevant now than ever

before to defend their hard earned rights like job security, eight-hour working time and minimum wages.

Joining the celebrations,

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"I salute the working people of Kerala and Malavalees

all over the work of their relentless and dignified efforts to ensure progress and prosperity of the societies in which they serve", he said.

Opposition leader in the state Assembly Ramesh Chennithala also greeted the workers on the occasion. – PTI

## Karunanidhi's health stable, says Stalin

CHENNAI, May 1:

The health of DMK chief M Karunanidhi, who has been out of public life for the last six months, was stable with doctors monitoring him continuously, his son and party working president MK Stalin said today.

"Kaigaigar (Karunanidhi) will be admitted only if doctors give permission," Stalin said when asked if the nonagenarian leader will participate in his birthday celebrations next month.

Karunanidhi, who will be celebrating his 94th birthday on June 3, has been facing health issues since October last and has not participated in public functions.

During October last year, Karunanidhi was diagnosed with allergy caused by a medicine he had used and was then advised rest.

He was discharged from a private hospital on December 23 after a week-long treatment for breathing difficulty caused by throat and lung infections and since then has been recuperating at his home here.

During hospitalisation, the party patriarch had undergone tracheotomy to optimise breathing.

The DMK general council meet originally scheduled for December 20 last year, had to be cancelled in view of Karunanidhi's hospitalisation. – PTI

## Centre orders probe into Allahabad varsity violence

NEW DELHI, May 1:

The central government has ordered a probe into the recent violence on the Allahabad University campus in Uttar Pradesh.

Union HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar today said he formed a fact-finding committee to look into the matter and submit a report.

I will then take necessary action to prevent such incidents in the future," Javadekar said in a series of tweets.

The minister also appealed to the students to maintain peace.

Tensions began on the campus on Friday after a group

of students, led by office-bearers of their union, surrounded the university's guest house,

where an executive council meeting was under way, and shouted slogans demanding action against alleged financial irregularities in the institute.

"I have formed a fact-finding committee to investigate the matter. It will submit me the report in a couple of days.

I will then take necessary action to prevent such incidents in the future," Javadekar said in a series of tweets.

The minister also appealed to the students to maintain peace.

He has also said that problems of students should be speedily redressed. – PTI

## CRPF to groom personality, conduct psychometric test of troops

NEW DELHI, May 1:

The CRPF will conduct interviews and psychometric tests of its personnel to assess their abilities and behavioural traits before they are deployed on special tasks like anti-Naxal operations.

The country's largest paramilitary force has for the first time decided to hire a full-time psychologist not only to undertake special mental health classes but also to treat a variety of stress-related disorders among its about 3-lakh strong force working in stressful conditions in some of the toughest combat zones in the country.

The 77-year-old force, which was raised in 1939 as the Crown Representative's Police during the British rule, will groom personality and impact psychological training to its men and women tasked with carrying out various activities in the internal security domain of the country like conducting anti-Naxal operations, and counter-insurgency and policing duties in Jammu and Kashmir.

"This is the first time that the force has decided to hire a full-time clinical psychologist. The doctor will be part

of the medical set up of the force and is being brought to tackle issues like suicides, depression, anxiety and similar disorders among the personnel who render some very stressful duties across the country," a senior CRPF officer said.

A charter prepared in this regard by the Central Reserve Police Force has been accessed by PTI.

The psychologist will have to "assess the need, abilities or behaviour using a variety of methods including psychometric tests, interviews and through direct observation of behaviour".

The charter talks of "devising and monitoring appropriate treatment programmes including therapy, counselling or advice to the patient having psychological disorders or who need psychological support".

The officer said the need to have a full-time psychologist in the force was felt as some theates of operation, where its troops are deployed, witness regular bloodshed, deaths and high levels of stress due to the nature of their duty.

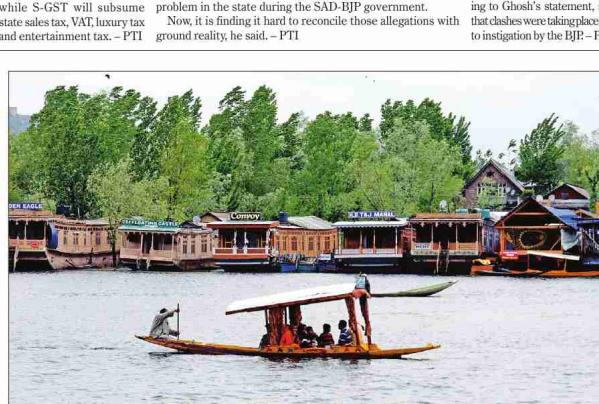
"For example, in the Maoist-affected

areas, the force has seen many deaths and killings and keeping the morale of the men high is the most important challenge for the commanders here. The psychologist will help them undertake these measures by using various medical techniques," the officer added.

Such occupational hazards, he said, are accompanied by a lack of good food, water and several other such essentials in hard posting areas and to keep the men motivated, a psychological analysis and refresher classes are important, he said.

It is for this reason that the psychologist will also offer "therapy and treatment for difficulties relating to metal and health issues such as anxiety, depression, addiction, social and inter-personal problems and challenging behaviour" by not only holding special sessions but also travelling to such hard areas.

As per the charter, the medical specialist will provide consultation to all jawans and officers of the CRPF and encourage a "psychological approach in their work, training and personality grooming of personnel for behaviour in public". – PTI



Tourists enjoying shikara ride in the world famous Dal Lake in Kashmir valley on Monday. – UNI



## Dieting: myths and reality

Experts seek to debunk some myths around dieting

**P**ortions don't matter, eating fat makes you fat — shun such myths if you are going on a diet, says experts. Anita Mirchandani, a registered dietician, and chef Ganesh Krishnamoorthy, co-founder, Eggnog and Drums Food International, seek to bust some myths around dieting.

\* **Portions don't matter:** In fact, portions matter the most. It is important to understand what the true portions are for adults and for children. Overeating is one of the main contributors to the obesity epidemic.

\* **Avoid pasta:** You don't have to avoid anything unless you have an allergy or intolerance. Pasta in moderation is completely acceptable. If you want to avoid gluten or increase nutrition quality, try whole grain varieties or spelt pasta.

\* **Coffee will help you lose weight:** Yes, coffee does tend to suppress appetite. However, the quantity you need to do so would exceed the suggested daily limit, which then becomes unhealthy. In addition, too much caffeine could have a negative impact on the body in the form of dehydration and anxiety. Try not to exceed two caffeinated cups per day.

\* **Vitamins are a must:** Not true. You don't really need a multivitamin unless you're pregnant, nursing or over 50. If you

focus on a wholesome diet that integrates healthy fats such as Greek yogurt, nuts and seeds as well as whole grains, vegetables and fruits, you will achieve a varied vitamin and mineral intake.

\* **Eating fat makes you fat:** Yes, it does, but only if you eat the wrong kind and in excessive portions. Good fats such as those found in avocados, Greek yogurt, nuts and seeds are beneficial to the body in many ways. Focus on eating healthy fat sources and avoid large amounts of saturated fats such as fatty cuts of meats, butter and fried foods.

\* **If you exercise, you can eat as much as you want:** This myth is one of the reasons you may not experience weight loss. Calories are calories. You should be conscious of portion. Just because something (like an apple) is healthy, it doesn't mean you eat five of them.

\* **Only salad diet is healthy:** Of course, salads are very healthy since they add a lot of fibre to the diet and this helps in easy digestion. Ingredients in the salad can make a lot of difference to the health scale: cheese, lean meats, nuts with lots of leafy green and vegetables can provide a good balance of nutrients. Replace heavy dressings like mayo, thousand island, etc., with healthy low-fat Greek yogurt to get that extra bit of health. — IANS

### Kids

#### CN CARTOON NETWORK

12:00 Ben 10 Omnitrix  
12:30 Kriegerin  
13:00 Ben 10 Omnitrix  
14:00 Ben 10 Omnitrix  
15:00 Rob No. 21  
16:00 We Bare Bears  
17:00 Team Titans Go  
18:00 Larva  
19:00 Peter Potor  
20:00 Rob No. 21  
21:00 Ben 10 Alien Go  
22:00 Larva  
23:00 Dragon Ball Z  
23:30 Teleshopping

#### UNIQLO

12:00 Telstar's Castle  
12:30 Mr Bean  
13:00 The Tom And Jerry Show  
13:30 Chhota Bheem  
14:00 Chhota Bheem  
14:30 Chhota Bheem  
15:00 My Little Pony: Friendship Is Magic  
15:30 Chhota Bheem  
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23:00 Chhota Bheem  
23:30 Dhriti Ki Phim

#### colors

12:00 Ek Shringar - Swabhimaan  
12:30 Kasa m  
13:00 Ek Shringar - Swabhimaan  
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22:00 Kasa m  
23:00 Ek Shringar - Swabhimaan  
23:30 Kasa m

#### Entertainment

17:00 Shak - Astha Ke Ehsaas Ki  
17:30 Kasam  
18:00 Dil Se Dil Tak  
18:30 Saurav Siya Ke  
19:00 Ek Asrha Ke Ehsaas Ki  
20:30 Udens  
21:00 Kamalat Dada Shani

18:00 Bin Kuch Kaha  
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# Tottenham keep pressure on Chelsea, Man Utd held

LONDON, May 1: Tottenham Hotspur beat local rivals Arsenal with second-half goals from prolific pair Dele Alli and Harry Kane on Sunday to maintain their Premier league title challenge.

Earlier in the day, Chelsea took a significant step towards the title with a 3-0 victory at Everton.

Second-half goals by Alli and Kane, from the penalty spot, sealed the three points and ensured that Spurs will finish above their North London rivals Arsenal for the first time in 22 years.

Alli put Spurs ahead in the 56th minute when he followed up after Christian Eriksen's shot was saved. Two minutes later Kane went down in the penalty area under Gabriel's challenge and got up to convert the penalty.

It was their ninth successive league win and the margin would have been greater but for some fine saves by Petr Cech.

A disappointing Arsenal were restricted to a single chance in the first half when Aaron Ramsey brought a good low save from Hugo Lloris shortly before halftime.

Arsenal's defeat in the last North London derby at White Hart Lane leaves manager Arsene Wenger's proud record of qualifying for the Champions League in real trouble.

They are six, five points behind United and six behind City in fourth, although the Londoners have a game in hand on both.

Only the top four get into the Champions League.

Goals by Pedro, Gary Cahill and Willian gave Antonio Conte's Chelsea a comfortable win.

A superb second-half strike by Pedro and late

goals from Gary Cahill and Willian ended Everton's run of eight successive home wins.

Chelsea took time to settle but once Pedro scored their opener – his first goal in nine

matches – the floodgates opened and they ran out 3-0 winners.

"This gives us lots of confidence," manager Antonio Conte told Sky Sports. "Now it is im-

portant to prepare the final rush.

"If in the next game against Middlesbrough you don't win, you lose this victory. We must look step by step."

Cahill's eighth goal of the season and Willian's beautifully worked third inflicted only Everton's second home defeat of the season.

"It was convincing but we had to work hard for it," Cahill told Sky Sports, sensing this might be the win that delivers the title in Conte's first season at Chelsea.

"Pedro's goal was special, at times you need a bit of class to open up a team, that's what he did today. I'm buzzing with that, it's a huge result for us."

Manchester City had to come from behind twice to draw 2-2 at Middlesbrough and Manchester United drew 1-1 at home to Swans on a bad day for the Manchester giants against relegation candidates.

City relied on 20-year-old striker Gabriel Jesus to secure them a point in the final five minutes of their game against a Middlesbrough side scented back-to-back wins in the Premier League for the first time since May 2008.

A sublime free-kick by Icelandic international Gylfi Sigurdsson gained Swans a deserved point against Manchester United at Old Trafford.

Sigurdsson's 10th goal of the season, but first in 11 matches, cancelled out veteran Wayne Rooney's contentious penalty in time added on in the first half when Marcus Rashford made the most out of minimal contact with Swans goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski.

It will be of little consolation to manager Jose Mourinho that it extended United's unbeaten run to 25 and they have not been defeated at Old Trafford since September 10 last year. – Agencies



Tottenham's Harry Kane scores from the penalty spot during the Premier League match against Arsenal at the White Hart Lane, on Sunday.

## Estoril thrash India colts 4-1 in practice game

LISBON, May 1: The India U-17 football team today crashed to a 4-1 defeat at the hands of Portuguese club Estoril during a practice match of their exposure tour to Europe.

Estoril took the lead as early as the 8th minute when Monteiro went past the Indian defence and scored. Down by a goal, India colts tried to hit back in the 78th minute tapping home from a cross from Rahul.

Estoril rounded off the tally in the 88th minute when Andrade's effort found the back of the net. – PTI

**India move up to 3rd place in ICC rankings**

DUBAI, May 1: India gained five points to move up to 3rd place with South Africa maintaining its pole position in the latest ICC ODI team rankings. Australia remained in the second position while India, which will defend the ICC Champions Trophy title in the UK in June, has swapped places with ICC Cricket World Cup 2015 finalist New Zealand.

Both the sides have gained points following the update but India's five-point gain ensures that they are now ranked third with 117 points and New Zealand a notch below at fourth with 115 points in their kitty.

Eighth-ranked Pakistan has opened up a nine-point advantage over ninth-ranked the West Indies. – PTI

## Nadal eases past Thiem to lift Barcelona Open title

BARCELONA, May 1: Rafael Nadal won a record-extending 10th Barcelona Open title by thrashing Dominic Thiem of Austria 6-4, 6-1, collecting his second clay-court title in a row.

The Spaniard also claimed his 10th title at the Monte-Carlo Masters last week as he gears up to go for his 10th French Open title next month.

"It is two consecutive weeks winning in Monte-Car-

lo and here, two special tournaments for me; it is a dream start on clay," said Nadal.

Nadal won in Barcelona between 2005-2009, 2011-13 and now in the last two years.

The 14-time Grand Slam

champion also looks like the man to beat at Roland Garros after winning on a Barcelona court named after him and where he didn't drop a set all week.

Thiem had shocked world number one Andy Murray in Saturday's semifinals and showed some early resistance.

The world number nine even had his only break point of the match in the first game.

But Nadal, returning to top form at age 30, upheld his intensity at the crucial moment and took the set with the only break in the 10th game.

"The first set was vitally important," added Nadal.

"It was hard. I was having a few more chances than him but it was very even and that is why I celebrated with so much energy at the end."

The second set was a procession as Thiem's frustration at his inability to break through Nadal's defences saw him consistently fire long. – Agencies



Rafael Nadal poses after winning his 10th Barcelona Open title, on Sunday.

## Struggling DD have onerous task at hand against SRH

NEW DELHI, May 1: Enduring an embarrassing run so far, Delhi Daredevils face the enormous task of presenting a decent challenge when they take on defending champions Sunrisers Hyderabad in an IPL encounter, here tomorrow.

It will be extremely difficult for Daredevils to

pick up the pieces from their 10-wicket drubbing against the Kings XI Punjab, being shot out of their lowest ever IPL total of 10 runs.

Their bowlers have still managed to make an impression but the batsmen have let the side down with an unending poor run.

Languishing at the bottom of the table with four points from eight games, facing an in-form team like Sunrisers (13 points from 10 games) will be a tough proposition especially with the kind of form opposition captain David Warner is in.

Except for the initial period, Daredevils have struggled badly and have only gone from bad to worse. It is turning out to be yet another nightmare season for the hosts and compounding their misery is a hamstring injury to captain Zaheer Khan, forcing him to miss out.

It is still not known if he will be able to make a come back and their England import Sam Billings is also leaving home to honour his international commitments. Even Chris Morris and Kagiso Rabada are set to leave

this week.

Expectations that a number of all-rounders will do the job for them in absence of quality top-order batsmen have fallen flat.

They lack an inspirational leader and handing the reins of the team to out-of-form Karun Nair shows how bad the situation is for them.

On the other hand, the defending champions have gone from strength to strength and have a captain who is leading from the front.

On Sunday, the contrasting performances of the two sides tells the story.

Daredevils were shot out for 67 and Hyderabad out on the board 209 for 3 against the most consistent and table-toppers Kolkata Knight Riders for a convincing 48-run win.

Hyderabad's dominance was a result of an exceptional knock from captain Warner, who smashed 126 off 59 balls, punishing the KKR bowlers with 10 fours and eight sixes.

Not only Warner (current 'Orange Cap' holder with 459 runs) but New Zealand captain Kane Williamson has also been in great touch.

He has been hitting exceptionally well since joining the side.

Yuvraj Singh is due for a big score and if he also gets his touch back, it will make Hyderabad more dangerous. – PTI

MATCH STARTS: 8 PM

## We've been sloppy throughout: Gambhir

HYDERABAD, May 1: Kolkata Knight Riders skipper Gautam Gambhir today blamed his fielders for their 48-run loss to Sunrisers Hyderabad in an IPL encounter.

David Warner smashed a 126 to power Sunrisers to an imposing 209-4. They then returned to restrict KKR to 161-7 from their stipulated 20 overs.

Disappointed at their fielding effort, Gambhir said: "We need to improve in our fielding; we've been very sloppy throughout the tournament. We really need to pull up our socks."

"It all depends on concentration, how much you can focus and how much every run means to you, it's not like we don't know how to field. We dropped Warn-

## Ton-up Chase, Holder give West Indies edge

BRIDGETOWN (Barbados), May 1: Roston Chase's second Test hundred and fine support from captain Jason Holder in a record unbroken partnership lifted the West Indies to 286 for six at stumps on the opening day of the second Test against Pakistan at Kensington Oval on Sunday.

Called upon to repair another debacle at the top of the order after Holder chose to bat first, Chase's unbeaten 131 was characterised by calm assurance and elegant strokeplay after he came to the crease at 37 for three.

Even if he lived a bit dangerously, the skipper played positively and will resume on the second day alongside Chase on 92, their partnership so far worth 132 runs and establishing a new record for the seventh wicket in Tests for the sev-

enth Indies against Pakistan.

Chase has so far faced 207 deliveries in five hours at the crease, striking 17 fours while Holder's innings has occupied 125 deliveries over three-and-a-half hours with eight fours

decorating his knock.

On a surface offering very little assistance to the faster bowlers, the Caribbean team still managed to slip to 154 for six in mid-afternoon and at that stage it looked as if the tourists would have been well into their reply by the end of the day.

Opening bowlers Mohammad Amir and Mohammad Abbas claimed a wicket apiece in each of the first two sessions while Shadab Khan, selected for a Test debut in support of senior leg-spinner Yasir Shah, earned his first success in the shape of Shaine Dowrich after Shah had

been dismissed for 11 in the first session.

Having patiently done all the hard work for the longest time, the club took a giant step towards realising its dream of winning India's top league when Zohm-

an interview.

It seems the club from nowhere, is now known to everyone.

The wild celebrations by heads totting the stands at Rajiv Gandhi Stadium were appropriate after they got the better of Mohun Bagan, a club that stands for almost every-

thing in Indian football.

Aizawl FC needed a draw against neighbouring rivals Shillong Lajong FC in the concluding round to walk away with the crown.

And a 1-1 stalemate it was,

leading to another round of celebra-

tions for Shai Hope.

**SCORECARD**  
West Indies: K Brathwaite c Sarfaraz b Amrit 9, K Powell lbw b Abbas 38, S Chanderpaul lbw b Abbas 3, S Chanderpaul lbw b Sarfaraz 13, R Chase not out 131, V Singh c Younis b Abbas 3, S

b Amrit 1, S Chanderpaul lbw b Abbas 18-47-2, Yosif 25-2-83-1, Shadab 23-3-90-1, Azhar 1-0-4-0. – AP

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## Vikas, Gaurav in Asian boxing qtrs

TASHKENT, May 1: Top seed Vikas Krishan (75kg) and Gaurav Bidhuri (56kg) advanced to the quarterfinals, giving India a good start at the Asian Boxing Championships here today.

Vikas took barely two minutes to sail past Thailand's Pathomsak Kuttinya after his opponent sustained a cut above his left eye just over a minute into the opening round. The bout was halted twice before the referee decided to stop the contest in favour of the Indian.

Vikas will face Indonesia's Baturama Brama Hendra in the last-eight stage.

Gaurav also defeated a Thai in his first contest, going past Yuttopong Tongdee. Gaurav has a tough contest coming up as he will be squaring off against second seed Jiwei Wang of China.

However, it was curtains for Asian youth silver-winner Ashish Kumar (64kg), who was defeated by Uzbekistan's Ikboljon Kholdarov.

All the three were competing in the pre-quarterfinal stage after getting first-round byes.

The tournament, featuring 179 boxers from 28 countries, is a qualifier for the August-September World Championships in Hamburg, Germany.

The top-six in each of the 10 weight categories in this tournament will make the cut for the big event. – PTI

## Aizawl FC story is harbinger of hope

NEW DELHI, May 1: Aizawl FC's fairytale run to I-League glory is a rare and incredible story in present-day Indian football, a harbinger of hope for reviving its once glorious past.

There could be few stories more treasured in the country's football history than the crowning of a club born and bred in the hill town of the Northeastern State of Mizoram.

That it has done it in only its second season, makes the achievement all the more special.

The air is optimistic in that part of the world, and people in high places have begun to harbour high hopes.

"After we finished eighth in our debut season we promised to ourselves that we will have to secure a top-four finish. But as things turned out, look where we are right now," Aizawl FC owner Robert Royste told PTI in

an interview.

It seems the club from nowhere, is now known to everyone.

The wild celebrations by heads totting the stands at Rajiv Gandhi Stadium were appropriate after they got the better of Mohun Bagan, a club that stands for almost every-

thing in Indian football.

Aizawl FC needed a draw against neighbouring rivals Shillong Lajong FC in the concluding round to walk away with the crown.

And a 1-1 stalemate it was,

leading to another round of celebra-

tioning for Shai Hope.

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# Rohit stars as Mumbai rout Bangalore

MUMBAI, May 1: Skipper Rohit Sharma's unbeaten 56 guided Mumbai Indians to a five-wicket victory against Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) in a thrilling encounter of the Indian Premier League (IPL) here on Monday.

Sharma, who slammed six boundaries and one six in his 37-ball knock, and Jos Buttler (33) were the major contributors to Mumbai's cause.

With this result, Mumbai now sit atop the IPL standings with eight wins and two losses while Bangalore have lost eight matches and are now decidedly out of the play-off race.

Chasing 162-8 posted by Bangalore, Mumbai started off on a poor note as opener Parthiv Patel (0) was dismissed on the very first ball of the first over by Anil Chahar.

While trying to pull a short ball, Parthiv mistimed it and Yuzvendra Chahar took a brilliant catch

at short mid-wicket.

Incoming batsman Nitish Rana (27) and Buttler then added 61 runs in 7.2 overs to stabilise Mumbai's innings before the latter was sent packing by spinner Pawan Negi. Buttler played 21 balls and slammed four boundaries and one six. After one over, in-form Rana was sent back to the pavilion by Negi to reduce the hosts to 703 in 10 overs. Rana's 28-ball knock comprised of four boundaries.

Unperturbed by the fall of Rana's wicket, skipper Rohit Sharma and Kieron Pollard (17) helped the Bangalore bowlers all around the park as they slammed 28 runs in 3.4 overs before the West Indian hitman was dismissed by Chahar.

Krunal Pandya (2) and Karmal Negi (35 from 23 balls) and Jadhav (28 from 22) raised a 54-run stand for the sixth wicket to rescue the visitors, who lost the top five players with just 108 runs on the board. — IANS

all-rounder Hardik Pandya, who along with Rohit Sharma played some good shots to entertain Mumbai's crowd.

In the process, Rohit completed his 50 with a single at the end of the 19th over.

With seven runs required in the last over, Pandya and Sharma took single strokes from the first four balls and then the skipper slammed a boundary to give the hosts a comfortable victory.

For Bangalore, Negi scalped two wickets while Chahar, Chahal and Shane Watson chipped in with one wicket each.

Earlier, a late surge from Kedar Jadhav and Pawan Negi helped Bangalore to 162-8 against Mumbai.

Joining forces in the 15th over, Negi (35 from 23 balls) and Jadhav (28 from 22) raised a 54-run stand for the sixth wicket to rescue the visitors, who lost the top five players with just 108 runs on the board. — IANS

**SCORECARD**

**Royal Challengers Bangalore** vs **Mumbai Indians**

Team	P	W	L	pts	Net RR
1. MI	10	8	2	16	+0.427
2. KKR	10	7	3	14	+0.849
3. SRH	10	6	3	13	+0.794
4. RPS	9	5	4	10	-0.240
5. KXIP	9	4	5	8	+0.228
6. GL	9	3	6	6	-0.318
7. RCB	11	2	8	5	-1.441
8. DD	8	2	6	4	-0.156

<b>POINTS TABLE</b>					
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TILL THE FIRST MATCH OF MAY 1

**SPORTS REPORTER**

GUWAHATI, May 1: The maiden edition of the Oorja-CAPF U-19 Football Talent Hunt Tournament, organised by Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) kick started at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium, Sarusajai here today.

Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal formally inaugurated the championship which has been organised in memory of international footballer Babul Phukan.

Inaugurating the championship, the Chief Minister urged the youths of the State and the entire Northeastern region to take the game of football seriously as this region is packed with football talents.

He further said sports is an universal unifying factor through which qualities such as honesty and dedication can be imbibed. Sonowal also revealed that by hosting nine

matches of the upcoming U-17 World Cup, Guwahati will definitely give a new dimension to games and sports in this part of the country. He also called upon the people of this region to extend all possible support so that the World Cup could be organised in a befitting manner.

He added that the youths must draw inspiration from legendary footballers like Babul Phukan and Gilbertson Sangma, the brand ambassador of the tournament.

There is no bigger advantage like playing at 'home' and that's precisely the reason why Sunrisers captain David Warner wants his team to turn the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium in Upali into a virtual 'fortress'.

"These (Hyderabad) are different conditions. The thing here is that we are trying to turn this ground into our fortress. Every team tries to win as many games at home as they can," said Warner, who enthralled one and all with his 59-126 against Kolkata Knight Riders.

"Whether you win or lose the toss, you have to have a positive mindset and tell the guys to play freely. I expect my guys to go out there and give their 100 percent," said Warner.

The defending champions are in firm contention to seal a berth for the play-offs.

"We never take anything for granted. You don't be complacent. It's all about momentum in this game. You get to keep winning. Keep playing every game to win as we always do and try to get up in the position. We know the finals going to be played here."

"The teams are going to be thinking of how they are going to beat us at our home venue if we manage to make the final. That's an added bonus for us. So we try to make our way up to the top two and give ourselves the added bonus of making it to the final. We just got to wait and see how it pans out," he said.

On his own knock, Warner said: "It's always pleasing to go out there and score runs. It's also great that I went out there and had a clear gameplan. Sometimes against quality bowling opposition where there is a lot of pace, it's easy." — PTI

**ACA asked to complete works within 2 months**

**SPORTS REPORTER**

GUWAHATI, May 1: City Cricket Coaching Centre moved ahead in the 7th Sisaram Agarwala Memorial U-17 Inter School/Organisation Cricket Tournament, organised by the Bud Cricket Club in association with Assam Cricket Association (ACA).

At the ACA secretariat Pradip Buragohain informed that the BCCI today sent letter to the ACA asking to complete the works at the press gallery,

dressing room, umpires' room, flood light system at the practice pitches among others at the earliest so that an One-day International (ODI) match could be allotted to Guwahati.

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