



The Assam Tribune

79 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE NATION
PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM GUWAHATI & DIBRUGARH

RN-1127/57 TECH/GH - 104/2015-2017, VOL. 79, NO. 77, GUWAHATI, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2017, Pages 16

Price Rs. 6.00



NEWS CAPSULE

Revival package

NEW DELHI, March 21: Union Minister of Heavy Industries Santosh Goyal declared that a special package to revival of the Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited has been sent to the Ministry of Finance. He was replying to a question by Kalaihar MP Gurav Gogoi in Lok Sabha today. — *Spl Correspondent*

Bodoland fears

NEW DELHI, March 21: Stating that disruptive elements have again reared their ugly heads in Bodoland areas, Kokrajhar MP Nahar Saranin in Lok Sabha today cautioned the government of the possibility of Bodoland violence flaring up again in the State. — *Spl Correspondent*

Speaker visit

NEW DELHI, March 21: Assam Assembly Speaker Hitenranjan Goswami today called on President Pranab Mukherjee and Vice President Hamid Ansari here. He also met top media persons that they exchanged notes on conduct of legislative practices in the House. — *Spl Correspondent*

Strt called off

GUWAHATI, March 21: The striking petroleum workers suspended their agitation on Tuesday after the government assured to implement their demands like minimum wages, PF and ESI benefits, etc., by that date. The decision was taken after a meeting with representatives of the government. — *Staff Reporter*

The Assam Tribune on Internet
<http://www.assamttribune.com> &
<http://paper.assamttribune.com>

Ayodhya dispute SC calls for out-of-court settlement

NEW DELHI, March 21: The Supreme Court today suggested an out-of-court settlement of the lingering Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute at Ayodhya, observing that issues of "religion and sentiments" can be best resolved through negotiations.

"These are issues of religion and sentiments. These are issues where all the parties can sit together and arrive at a consensus decision to end the dispute. These issues are best decided jointly. All of you may sit together and hold a cordial meeting," the bench, also comprising Justices JS Khehar and KM Sudarshan, said.

The observations were made after BJP leader Subramanian Swamy mentioned the matter seeking urgent hearing, saying that it has been

over six years after the High Court decided the civil appeal and that it needed to be heard at the site in Uttar Pradesh.

The three-judge bench, by a majority of 2:1, had said the land be partitioned equally among three parties, Sumit Waqf Board, Nirmohi Akhara and the 'Ram Lalla' (nascent Lord Ram).

(See page 7)

Theme song of Namami Brahmaputra released

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 21: The theme song of the Namami Brahmaputra, a mega event being organised by Assam Government to offer collective gratitude to the mighty river, was launched by Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today.

The programme, held at the Madhab Deb Auditorium of Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra here, was attended along others singer Angaraag Mahanta (Papon), Transport Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary, Chief Secretary Vinod Kumar Pipersenia and DGP Mukesh Sahay.

(See page 7)



With the Bohag Bihu round the corner artisans are busy making dholis, at a shop in Golaghat on Tuesday. — UB Photos

SC notice to State Govt in APSC scam case

SANJOY RAY

GUWAHATI, March 21: The Supreme Court of India has issued a notice to the State Government in connection with the cash-for-jobs scam in the Assam Public Service Commission (APSC) asking the latter to reply in two weeks' time.

The apex court issued the notice today after the Special Leave Petition (SLP) of Rakesh Paul, the key accused in the scam, came up for hearing before it. The bench comprising Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose and Justice Deepak Gupta, through the notice, has sought the opinion of the State Government in the matter. Senior lawyer Kapil Sibal appeared on behalf of Paul in the Supreme Court.

Paul had moved the Supreme Court after his bail petitions were rejected by the lower court and the Gauhati High Court both before and after the chargesheet was filed by

Dibrugarh Police, which is probing the case. The matter would now come up for hearing after two weeks when the apex court is expected to take a call on the SLP filed by the arrested former chairman of the APSC.

State Government sources said that it would oppose Paul's release in the apex court as the investigation into the scam is at a very crucial stage. "We will plead before the Supreme Court not to allow his release as many accused are still at large and Paul's release may disturb the ongoing investigation," sources added.

Meanwhile, Dibrugarh Police is still awaiting the prosecution sanctions sought from the President of India against Paul and APSC members Sameer Rahman and Basanta Kumar Doley. Dibrugarh Police has so far arrested six accused in connection with the APSC scam and they continue to stay in judicial custody ever since their arrest.

Rhino poaching has come down: Minister

SPL CORRESPONDENT

cluting in Kaziranga Tiger Reserve, has gone down.

There have been instances of poaching of rhinoceros in Kaziranga National Park (KNP) besides reports of sale of their horns clandestinely in the international market. The number of rhinoceros poached in Kaziranga during the last three years has gone down from 27 in 2014 to 18 in 2016. In 2015, 17 rhinos were poached in KNP.

(See page 7)

Sophisticated arms for forest guards soon

RITURAJ BORTHAKUR

GUWAHATI, March 21: Faced with a daunting task to tackle crafty and well-equipped poachers, the forest guards in the State are now being trained by Assam Police commando tracers to handle sophisticated weapons, including AK and INSAS rifles, as also SLRs.

Following a clearance from

(See page 7)

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
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Directorate of Cultural Affairs Assam

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Presents

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Renowned Actor

Shri Dhirendra Nath Paul
Eminent Terracotta Artist

All are Cordially invited

ALL ARE REQUESTED TO TAKE THEIR SEATS BY 4.15 PM

Bid to make Majuli carbon neutral

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 21: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today launched initiatives to develop Majuli as India's first carbon neutral district and as a biodiversity heritage site coinciding with the celebration of the International Day of Forest here.

While also launching the 'Forests are Lives' campaign to celebrate the importance of Assam's rich forest and biodiversity, Sonowal directed that only till trees exist humans live on this planet and he urged the people to take a pledge to conserve its biodiversity to make the State pollution-free.

Stating that steps must be taken to generate more awareness among students to conserve nature, Sonowal directed the forest department to celebrate the International Day of Forest from next year in every school of the State.

(See page 7)

Dalai memoir in Assamese

STAFF REPORTER

notable works of the Dalai Lama in Assamese one by one.

"The spiritual guru has even written the foreword for the book in Assamese. The book was first published in 1962 and later it was translated into various other languages. The Assamese translation has been done by Indrani Laskar."

(See page 7)

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Anomalies in
Housing Board
allotments alleged
STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 21: The Greater Guwahati Tenants' Rights Protection Committee has demanded a probe into the alleged anomalies and corruption under the previous Congress government in allotting houses under the Assam Housing Board.

In a statement, it said a large number of people were allotted houses in gross violation of norms during the Congress rule since its first term in 2001. "Moreover, many of the occupants in Housing Board residences later constructed their own homes and have been renting out their Housing Board accommodations to others," it said.

The committee demanded that the State government immediately probe the matter and take action against the guilty, besides evicting the non-occupant occupants from the Housing Board flats.

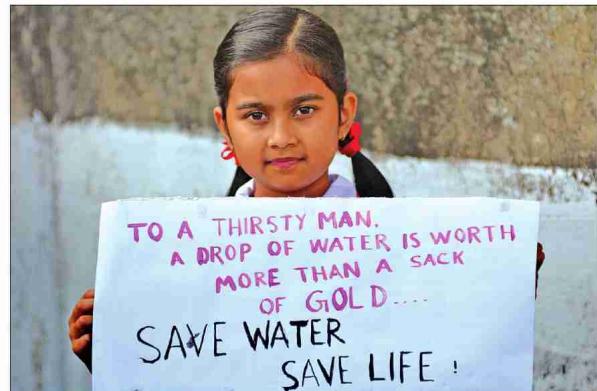
Concern over growing NPAs of banks

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 21: The extended state committee meeting of UCO Bank Employees' Association (North Eastern States' Council) was held here on Sunday. It was attended by representatives of UCO Bank employees from different NE states.

Addressing the meeting, Joydev Dasgupta, national president of UCO Bank Employees' Association highlighted the problem of non-performing assets (NPAs) in the banking industry which has already crossed the Rs 13,00,000 crore mark and the need for stringent measures against the wilful defaulters.

Opposing the "anti-worker" labour reforms contemplated by the government, he called for adequate recruitment and opening of branches in the unbanked areas of the NE.



A girl holding a placard with an awareness message on water saving on the eve of World Water Day in Guwahati on Tuesday. World Water Day is observed on March 22 every year to draw attention to the importance of freshwater and sustainable management of freshwater resources. - UB Photos

DC reviews performance of banks in Kamrup (M) district

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 21: Kamrup Metro Deputy Commissioner Dr M Angamuthu today reviewed the performance of the banks located in the district for the quarter ended December 31, 2016, and called upon the bankers to contribute their best for development of the economy.

Dr Angamuthu, who is also the Chairman of the District Constitutive Committee and District Level Review Committee, said the bankers have proved that they have the ability and capacity to handle any situation in times of need and there is now a need for development of the economy of the district.

The DC expressed his satisfaction with the work performed by the bankers, especially during the demonetisation period and thereafter. He appreciated the bankers for their cooperation in the digitisation work in the district.

"We are the first district to achieve

various milestones like digitisation of oil and LPG marketing points and government hospitals. And even the DC's office has been brought under the digital payment system," he said.

As on December 31, 2016, the priority sector achievement stood at 94 per cent against the Annual Credit Plan Target for 2016-17 at Rs 2,000 crore with its sector-wise achievements in agriculture at 95 per cent, for MSME at 109 per cent, while for Kisan Credit Cards it stood at 90 per cent of the financial target. For the district as a whole both in the priority sector and non-priority sector, it was 126 per cent against the Annual Credit Plan Target.

Expressing satisfaction with the figures, Dr Angamuthu hoped that the performance of the banks would be even better in the last quarter ending March 2017 and the achievement would be more than 150 per cent of the target set for this district for the 2016-17 fiscal.

With regard to the banks' non-perform-

ing assets, Dr Angamuthu assured the bankers of providing all support for recovery of NPAs. He asked the banks to take stern action against the defaulting State government employee borrowers whose accounts have become NPAs with the banks.

Commenting on the performance of the "Stand-up India" programme where the district is in the first position among all the north-eastern states as on date by financing 131 proposals with an exposure of Rs 29.67 crore.

The DC also asked the bankers, who have no rural operation or rural branches within the district, to open at least one rural branch each within the next fiscal.

He further asked the bankers to dispose of the loan applications pending with them immediately and to ensure zero holding at bank level as on March 31. He said that if any loan application is found pending with the banks after that date then it would be dealt with seriously.

Ordeal for former Director General of Nat'l Museum at US airport

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 21: Former Director General of National Museum, New Delhi, and Vice Chairman, Indian Archaeological Society, New Delhi Dr Rabha Dev Choudhury had a "harrowing and humiliating experience" during a security check at a New York airport on March 15.

Taking strong exception to the incident, Dr Choudhury, in a letter to the US Ambassador to India, New Delhi, sought his intervention in stopping such "unnecessary harassment and insult" to Indian passengers.

Dr Choudhury in his letter, stated that while he was travelling to New Delhi from New York by an Air India flight (No AI 102) on March 15, he was subjected to body search in a most embarrassing and humiliating manner during security check at the airport.

"When I expressed my unhappiness to the security personnel over the humiliating body search, he told me that it was a routine search and that he was only doing his duty," he said.

Calling for an end to such abusive security checks, Dr Choudhury said that he had visited the US in the past but never did he endure such an ordeal during security check.

Stating that he has decided never to visit the US again, Dr Choudhury said that he has also asked his son currently working in the US to come to India and contribute to his motherland "instead of living in a foreign country to be humiliated."

Meet of SBI pensioners

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 21: The monthly meeting of SBI Pensioners' Association, North East Circle, Guwahati, will be held on March 25 at 11 am at the State Bank Learning Centre in the city, said a statement.



Artists enacting the play Andhayog, translated and directed by Dulal Roy at Rabindra Bhawan in Guwahati on Tuesday evening. - AT photo

Blocking of road dividers

Most of the dividers, mainly on GS Road and GNB Road, have been blocked by the city traffic police to control traffic congestion and facilitate smooth movement of vehicles. But, in our view, instead of reducing traffic congestion, it rather creates more problems. It becomes a nightmare for the general public, particularly the vehicles coming from the opposite direction. We have noticed that the dividers are blocked by placing plastic barriers, or by using bamboo and ropes, so that vehicles cannot cross over to the other side. But, in reality, people driving autos, auto-rickshaws, cycle rickshaws and two-wheelers cross over by removing the temporary blocks, which creates a lot of problems for the vehicles travel-

ling on the other side at normal speeds, particularly at night time. It often results in accidents. We feel the city traffic police arbitrarily decided to block the dividers without considering the likelihood of difficulties to the general public.

Further, the blocking of the dividers compel all types of vehicles to take a U-turn to reach the opposite side after covering a long distance, thus losing valuable time and wasting a lot of fuel. To avoid such problems, we request the authorities concerned to consider keeping one divider

Citizens' voice

Citizens are requested to express their Guwahati views within 100 words and mail the same to citizenvoice365@gmail.com

Urinating on walls

Urinating on walls in public places is a crime. People are also seen urinating right under the GMCH signboard which specifically requests people not to urinate there. Such practices form a bad impression about the place we live in, besides creating unhygienic conditions. As citizens, we should do our part too, rather than leaving everything to the government.

The municipal corporation should also install or construct more public toilets at every two to three-km radius for both male and female persons, where cleanliness should be maintained by keeping cleaning staff. This would lead to employment generation as well.

- Abhishek Das,
Rajdhani Nursery, Guwahati



Call to tap resources to enhance State's fish output

CORRESPONDENT

JALUKBARI, March 21: A day-long conference on the Central Institute of Fisheries Education under Chief Minister's Samagra Gramya Unnayan Yojana was held yesterday at the Assam Administrative Staff College Jalukbari.

In his welcome address Principal Secretary to the Government of Assam MC Jauhari urged the officials to identify the potential resources for pisciculture activities for enhancing fish production in the State. He also stressed utilisation of the untapped resources for fish production which may help in employment generation in ru-

ral areas.

Attending as resource persons, Dr Dilip Kumar, former Director of the Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai; Dr KK Tamuli, Dean of College of Fisheries, Raha; Dr BK Bhattacharya, Principal Scientist and Head, CIFRI, Guwahati Centre; Padma Hazra, Nodal Officer (Fishery), BTC and Tiwa Autonomous Council and Dr Ramen Barman, Nodal Officer (Fishery), Blue Revolution, highlighted the various issues relevant to development of the fisheries sector in the State.

Fishery Minister Parimal Suklabaidya attended the conference as the chief guest.

In the interactive session the participants interacted with the resource persons and all were of the opinion that the Fisheries Mission under the Chief Minister's Samagra Gramya Unnayan Yojana would help in rural employment generation and make the State self-sufficient in fish production within a short span of time.

Alongside two hundred fishery officials from different parts of the State attended the programme. Director of Fisheries SK Das explained the objectives of the conference, while Dr DJ Sharma, Fishery Officer, Department of Fisheries anchored the programme, stated a press release.

Appeal for aid to ailing playwright

Arun Sarma

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 21: Progiti Shilpi Sangha has requested the State government to assist the medical treatment and renovation of playwright and litterateur Arun Sarma, who has been admitted to Medanta Medcity after being diagnosed with some critical ailment.

"Sarma has brought laurels to the State with his work and is a worthy recipient of the Sahitya Akademi and Sangeet Natak Akademi awards, apart from other awards and recognition nationwide. We hope that Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and the State government would come forward to bear the cost of his treatment," said Satyen Doloi, secretary of the Sangha.

Sarma is the former president and lifelong adviser to the Sangha. At a meeting organised in the Sangha premises at Uzambazar here, prayers were offered for his speedy recovery.

Village Rockstars to be screened at Cannes

STAFF REPORTER

first film. Since there was no fund I completed shooting entirely on my own camera," Das said.

Interestingly, the artistes of the film are the local kids of the village, who in course of the film-making, developed the love for acting and deep understanding of the craft of cinema making, frames, lighting and the mood.

"Village Rockstars is a very personal film and close to my heart. It almost changed my life. The film got recommended at the NFDC Film Bazaar this year and also was a part of Tallinn Work in Progress," Das added. The film was shot around 120 days in three years.

OPD clinic at Press Club

GUWAHATI, March 21: Gurgaon-based Medanta – The Medicity hospital will conduct the next evening OPD clinic at the Guwahati Press Club (GPC) here on March 25.

Dr Prasun Ghosh (urology) and Dr Nabajit Talukdar (cardiology) from the healthcare institution will be available for free urology and cardiology-related consultations for the benefit of GPC members along with their dependants. The camp will begin at 4 pm and continue till 6 pm, said a statement. – Staff Reporter

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Awareness programme on electrical safety

GUWAHATI, March 21: An awareness programme on electrical safety and burn (special reference to electrical burn) organised by the Guwahati Electrical Division (South) of the Assam Power Distribution Company Ltd (APDCL) on the Assam State Electricity Board (ASEB) campus at Six Mile here a few days back.

According to a press release received here today, the objective of the programme was to create awareness among the consumers and workers under APDCL on the electrical safety and burn with emphasis on electrical burn, in view of the growing incidence of such accidents during the last few years.

DK Sarma, AGM GED (South), welcomed the participants and explained the aims and objectives of the awareness programme. It was followed by an elaborate audiovisual presentation by chief guest Dr Seema Rekha Devi, Head of the Department of Plastic Surgery, Gauhati Medical College and Hospital and the president, National Academy of Burn, India, on electrical burn and its consequences. Special guest Dr RK Kalita,

Free coaching

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 21: Medical and Engineering aspirants of Baihata will be given free coaching by Concept Education under the initiative of Kamalpur MLA Satyajit Kalita, a press release stated.

SC calls ...

(Contd from page 1)

"You (Swamy) must make fresh attempts to arrive at a consensual decision. If required, you must choose a mediator to end the dispute. If the parties want me (CJI) will sit with mediators chosen by both the sides for negotiations, I am ready to take up the task. "Even the services of my brother judges can be availed for the purpose," the CJI said.

The top court said that it may also appoint the principal negotiator if the parties want and asked Swamy to consult the parties and inform about their decision on amicable resolution of the matter on March 31. - PTI

Devaluationised...

(Contd from page 1) that the militants managed to exchange some old currency notes immediately after the Government announced the demonetisation move, particularly in a few banks in Nagaland, the ULFA(I) could not exchange most of its funds. The Nagaland based outfit managed to exchange some of the money held by them, but the other outfit including the ULFA(I) did not manage to do so and most of the extorted money is totally useless.

Army sources said that facing severe financial crisis, the ULFA(I) stepped up its extortion bid in upper Assam districts. Citing one example, sources said that one tea estate manager received as many as five calls from the ULFA(I) leaders within a span of one week demanding money. Sources said that the ULFA(I) has not even spared small businesses as such people are also receiving demands for money from the militant outfit.

Dai ...

(Contd from page 1)

Some of the other notable works of the Dalai Lama includes *Beyond Religion – Ethics for a Whole World* (2012), *The Universe in a Single Atom* (2005), *Ethics for a New Millennium* (1999), *The Art of Happiness* (1998), and *Freedom in Exile* (1991). In 2016, he co-authored *The Book of Joy with Archbishop Desmond Tutu.*

As part of its platinum jubilee year, the LBS is also planning to publish and reprint a series of unique and groundbreaking books that are of unmatched value to Assam and Assamese literature, Dutta Baruah said.



Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal addressing the International Day of Forests celebration function, in Guwahati on Tuesday. - UB Photos

Belgian envoy, Purohit discuss bilateral ties

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 21: Belgian Ambassador to India Jan Lukx today called on Assam Governor Banwarilal Purohit at the Raj Bhavan and discussed a gamut of issues ranging from inland water transport to river port development.

The Governor drew the Belgian Ambassador to the fact that the sectors like food processing, tourism etc have vast potential and Belgium can invest in these sectors for the mutual benefits of both Assam and Belgium. The Governor added that if Belgium shows keenness in investing in the industries in Assam, the Raj Bhawan would facilitate all support.

The Belgian envoy, reciprocating, said that he would request industrialists from Belgium to invest in Assam and also added that a dele-

gation of investors is most likely to visit an investment summit in the country.

The Governor told the envoy that it would be a pleasure if the King Philippe of Belgium can also visit Assam during his proposed visit to India.

Lukx hailed Assam's pristine tourism and said the State's tourism can be extensively used to facilitate people to people contact between India and Belgium.

Purohit also acknowledged the Belgian envoy's gesture of visiting Assam as he said that both the geographical entities will keep working to strengthen bilateral relations.

The Ambassador was accompanied by Guillaume Choquet, Counsellor, Economic Affairs, Alexis Bossuyt, Trade Counsellor for Flanders, Investment and Trade, and Christophe Van Overstraeten, Trade Counsellor for the Wallonia Export and Investment agency.

Seminar on identity politics, regionalism

GUWAHATI, March 21: A two-day seminar on the theme 'Identity politics, ethnic movements and regionalism in the context of India's North East' is being organised by the Kumaon Das Institute of Social Change and Development with a two-day programme at the Conference Hall of the Institute here from March 24.

According to a press release, the seminar will focus on the political trajectory of regionalism in Northeast India, whose experience of regionalism is markedly different from the rest of the country. One of the primary focuses of the seminar will be to throw light on the historical development of regionalist political perspective in Northeast India and how that perspective got accommodated within the pan Indian discourse after Independence.

The seminar will also propose to critically analyse the violent assertion of ethnic identities in the Northeast. Interested people are invited to attend the seminar, said the press release.

Old notes seized

GUWAHATI, March 21: GRP today seized old notes of value Rs 34,500 from a person travelling on the Dn Kamrup Express.

Sources said the accused, Hussian Ahmed, was travelling from Hojai to Kolkata with the demonetised notes of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 denomination. "He claimed he would exchange the notes at Kolkata. But we are verifying his claims and the documents. We are also in touch with the Income Tax department. He is yet to be arrested," GRP sources said. - Staff Reporter

Ganja seized

GUWAHATI, March 21: The Government Railway Police (GRP) today seized ganja weighing over six kilograms from the Rajdhani Express and arrested two persons in this connection.

One of the arrested, Pappu Singh (41) is believed to be a teacher in Jorhat. Ranjit Kumar Sarmah (34), the other accused, hails from Bihār. Official sources informed that the contraband, which originated from Dimapur, was concealed in a number of packets and was being taken to Bihar. "The cost of the seized ganja is estimated at lakhs of rupees," sources pointed out. - Staff Reporter

Rhino poaching...

(Contd from page 1)

Under the ongoing centrally-sponsored scheme of Project Tiger, Central assistance is provided to Assam for Kaziranga, which includes support for protection infrastructure, 24x7 e-surveillance, deployment of local workforce, support for purchase of sophisticated weapons, constitution of the Special Tiger Protection Force for use in KNP.

While intelligence inputs are provided to the State by the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, Government of India, besides coordination with other security agencies, the Assam Government has taken a number of steps to strengthen rhino protection.

These include recruitment of 423 number of Assam Forest Protection Force personnel equipped with arms, 175 armed home guards, besides the regular forest staff, enhancing punishment for offenders through an amendment to the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (Assam amendment, 2009), empowering the forest staff to use firearms while providing immunity from prosecution without prior sanction.

For developing cooperation among fringe villagers around Kaziranga National Park and curbing rhino poaching, 35 eco-development committees have been registered through which development work in the villages are also being taken up. A Special Task Force (STF) headed by an additional director general of police has also been constituted by the Government of Assam to curb rhino poaching in KNP where the number of anti-poaching camps has also been increased to ensure effective surveillance.

Altogether 204 offenders have been arrested in Assam during the last three years. The Government of Assam has also constituted fast track court for speedy disposal of wildlife cases including rhinoceros.

Theme song ...

(Contd from page 1)

The Assamese version of the song, penned by Monmohit Baishya, is sung by Papon, Archana Mahanta, Mridula Das, Zubeen Gurung, Palak Banerjee, Jitul Sonowal, Tarali Sarma, Namita Bhattacharya, Kalpana Patowary, Malabika Bora, Mayukh Hazarika, Rupam Bhuyan, Manjotsuva Goswami, Nilima Khatun, Sana Uji, Jui Bania and Shillong Choir Group.

The forest guards so far had just .303 and .315 rifles which are in no match to the weapons used by poachers, like AK and even M16 rifles today," the official said.

"The forest guards so far had just .303 and .315 rifles which are in no match to the weapons used by poachers, like AK and even M16 rifles today," the official said.

Billed as India's largest river festival, Namami Brahmaputra Festival will be held along the mighty river from Sadiya to Dibrugarh in 21 districts, from March 31 to April 4.

Training prog on meat marketing from March 27

STAFF REPORTER

gramme themed 'Production, processing and marketing of meat and meat products', from March 27.

GUWAHATI, March 21: The All India Coordinated Research Project on Post-Harvest Engineering and Technology under the Directorate of Research (Veterinary), in collaboration with the Department of Livestock Products Technology, College of Veterinary Science, Assam Agricultural University (AAU), Kharanapara, is organising a four-day skill development and entrepreneurial training pro-

gramme themed 'Production, processing and marketing of meat and meat products', from March 27.

The training programme is primarily for field veterinarians who are looking after the inspection and hygienic production of meat in municipal corporations, town committees and blocks and for front level meat entrepreneurs who have started a meat trade or are planning to start a meat enterprise as a livelihood avenue in future, said a statement.

Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati
Guwahati-781039, Assam

Walk in interview for the post of JRF and Project Assistant under a DBT sponsored project in the Centre for Linguistic Science and Technology, IIT Guwahati. For detailed advertisement may please visit <http://www.iti.ernet.in>

CLSTSPNxDTBT00510SRMP009 Dy. Registrar (R&D)

Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati
Guwahati-781039, Assam

Walk in interview for the post of Research Associate (3)

under an ONGC sponsored project in the Department of

BSBE, IIT Guwahati. For detailed advertisement may please

visit <http://www.iti.ernet.in>

BSBESPNONGC00810xxDD006 Dy. Registrar (R&D)

Office of the Registrar
GAUHATI UNIVERSITY:: GUWAHATI-14
NOTICE INVITING EOI

Expressions of Interest (EOI)s are invited for design and execution of works of dining hall of Gauhati University Guest House. For details please visit the website: www.gauhati.ac.in.

Sd/- Deputy Registrar
Gauhati University

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GUWAHATI
GUWAHATI - 781039 - ASSAM
PHONE : 0361-2530300, FAX : 0361-2690762

Ph.D, Dual (MTech+Ph.D), Dual (MS(Engg.) + Ph.D), M Tech, MDes, MTech (Rural Technology), MS (R) in Energy and MA (Development Studies)

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While assistantships are available for all full-time "Regular" MTech, MDes, MTech (RT), MS(R) in Energy, Dual (MTech+Ph.D), Dual (MS(Engg.) +Ph.D) and PhD students, MCM scholarships are available for eligible MA students. Details about Information Brochures and Online Application Forms can be seen from the institute's website <http://www.iti.ernet.in/acad>. Starting of online application process: from 10.00 a.m. of 22/03/2017 onwards. Closing of online application process: by 5.00 p.m. of 17/04/2017

ADVT. NO. ACAD/admissions/01/2017

ASSAM ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
REB
A.S.E.B. Campus, Dwarangati, G. S. Road, Sixth Mile
Guwahati-781022, Ph.: 0361-223442, Fax: 223442
e-mail: aerc_ghy@hotmail.com; website: www.aerc.gov.in
No. AERC/65826173
Dated Guwahati the 21st March, 2017

NOTICE
Sub-Draft AERC (Grid Interactive Solar PV Systems) Regulations, 2015, (First Amendment), 2017

The existing Draft AERC (Grid Interactive Solar PV Systems) Regulations, 2015 need some changes, amendments and modifications in the prevailing situation of the power sector of the state of Assam in particular and India in general.

The Commission decided to draft the AERC (Grid Interactive Solar PV Systems) Regulations, 2015, (First Amendment), 2017 and these Regulations shall supersede the Draft AERC (Grid Interactive Solar PV Systems) Regulations, 2015. The proposed Draft AERC (Grid Interactive Solar PV Systems) Regulations, 2015, (First Amendment), 2017 are placed in the official website of the Commission, www.aerc.gov.in. Any person who is likely to be affected by the provision of these Regulations may submit his/her comments /objections, suggestions to the Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission on or before 12/04/2017.

By order of the Commission
Secretary
Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission

IN THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL AT GUWAHATI

ASSAM, MEGHALAYA, MANIPUR, MIZORAM, TRIPURA, ARUNACHAL PRADESH & NAGALAND
(Apres Building, 1st Floor, Dr. B. Baruah Road, Ulubari, Guwahati-781019)

Summon Under Section 4 of the Act read with sub-section 5 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rule, 1993

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 37 OF 2017

Vijaya Bank
.... Applicant

.... And-

M/S S.R. TEXTILES & ORS.
.... Defendants

To,

1) M/S S.R. TEXTILES
Prop. Sri Satish Kumar Joshi
S/o Ram Prasad Joshi
Resident of Luchi Bagan
Luchi Bagan
Nepalipatty, Tezpur, Sonitpur
Assam, PIN-784001
SRI SATISH KUMAR JOSEPH

2) Sri Satish Kumar Joshi
S/o Ram Prasad Joshi
Resident of Luchi Bagan
Luchi Bagan
Nepalipatty, Tezpur, Sonitpur
Assam, PIN-784001
SRI SATISH KUMAR JOSEPH

SUMMON

WHEREAS O.A. No. 37/2017 was filed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer on 15th March, 2017.

WHEREAS the Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summon/Notice on the said application under Section 19 (4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 (O.A.) filed against you for Recovery of Rs. 23,92,248.52 (Rupees Twenty Three Lakh Ninety Two Thousand Two Hundred Forty Eight and paise Ninety Two only) Application along with copies of documents etc enclosed herewith

In accordance with sub section (4) of the section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:

(i) To show cause within ten days (10) days of the service of the notice and summons why you should not be granted.

You are directed to file the Written Statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 18.04.2017 at 10.30 A.M. failing which the same shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this 18th day of March, 2017.

Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Guwahati

Anomaly alleged in transfer of management of Kamini TE

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DIBRUGARH, March 21: Gross irregularities have been alleged in the transfer of management of Kamini Tea Estate to another business group by the Assam Tea Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (ATEPFO) authority.

The ATEPFO has been accused of conducting the transfer of management in an arbitrary and unusual manner by publishing Expression of Interest (EOI) in only the website portal of the department and refraining from extensive publicity in local English and Assamese language newspapers.

Aggrieved business groups in the tea sector have also alleged that the concerned authority did not issue any public notice on the matter due to which very few people related to the tea industry knew about the opportunity.

It may be pertinent to add here that Kamini Tea Estate was attached and taken over by the Assam Tea Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (ATEPFO) authority on February 18 last due to default of provident fund and related dues.

Chandpur Tea Planters & Industries, which is a Chabua-based business group, has in the meantime lodged a writ-

ten complaint to the concerned authority and has also brought the matter to the notice of the Chief Minister, Labour Minister, Commerce and Industry Minister and Deputy Commissioner of Dibrugarh respectively.

The management of Chandpur Tea Planters & Industries has expressed surprise as to how the ATEPFO completed all the formalities of acceptance of EOI against a single tender and handed over the property within a short span of 3-4 days. This is gross injustice to all our tea concerns. This act has demoralised all our tea concerns in the area and de-nied any irregularity.



Porcupines being installed to prevent erosion of Gamiri River in Gohpur, on Monday. — UB Photos

Shopping mall inaugurated at Biswanath

BISWANATH CHARIALI, March 21: The first-ever super market/shopping mall in entire Biswanath district was inaugurated on Monday by State Minister for Irrigation, Handloom and Textile, Ranjit Dutta in the heart of the town.

In his inaugural address, Dutta expressed the hope that the newly-opened mall would be able to fulfil the aspirations of the customers as well as generate employment.

Biswanath MLA Pramod Borukar, Biswanath DC Astiksha Chakravarty, Biswanath Municipal Board chairperson Rul Sharma, scribe Parney Bordoloi and Bedarhat Borah, besides eminent writer Anuradha Sharma Pujan and singer Samanta Sekhar, among others, graced the occasion. The welcome address was delivered by Akhil Saikia while the programme was conducted by actress Aisengfa Baruah. — Correspondent

CORRESPONDENT

GOLPARA, March 21: The Golpara district administration from Monday followed an eviction drive against road side encroachments from Bhadralukhuli bazaar by demolishing illegal structures, mostly shops built by the encroachers on both sides of the Agnia-Panchantra Road and the eviction drive which will be continued till March 25 will continue up to the BOC point of the town.

Besides this, the eviction drive will include the riverside land encroachments from Ganidai Maidan from Boor Bazar to Bakurpara touching the riverside of Natun Basti and Shantinagar revenue village under Baladhamari gaon panchayat. However, according to reliable sources around 900 to 1000 families have been residing on the riverside land as illegal encroachers till date.

The eviction is being carried out in the presence of a large contingent of police and the supervisor of the circle office, Balijana Addl DC Dhiman Kr Choudhury and on the instruction of the Deputy Commissioner JVN Subramanyam.

Conscious people have welcomed such an initiative from the district administration but they are also apprehensive as to how the administration will deal with the eviction of the riverside land now, as previous records on the issue of selective anti-encroachment drives seemed to be an eye wash only.

But even though official figures narrate a different side of the story on the sensitive is-

sue of encroachment as the previous Governments had failed to take action against the encroachment of the entire 962 bigha, 1 katha, 15 lessa reserved under Village Grazing Reserve (VGR) along with the entire area of 80 bigha, 2 katha, 10 lessa reserved for government or community purposes under the Balijana circle.

Also under the Matia Revenue Circle, encroachment has taken place in 17 1/4 bigha, 2 katha, 71 lessa reserved under Village Grazing Reserve (VGR), 7 bigha, 1 katha, 15 lessa under road side land. Under Lakhipur Revenue Circle, a total of 27 bigha, 3 katha, 0 lessa encroached under Village Grazing Reserve (VGR), 7 bigha, 1 katha, 15 lessa under road side land. Under Lakhipur Revenue Circle, a total of 27 bigha, 3 katha, 0 lessa under Village Grazing Reserve (VGR), 7 bigha, 1 katha, 15 lessa under road side land and under Ronguli Revenue Circle, encroachment has taken place in a total area of 246 bigha, 0 katha reserved under Village Grazing Reserve (VGR).

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Tourism potential of Dima Hasao district highlighted

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 21: Travel and tourism industry representatives have come up with wide-ranging suggestions to boost tourism in Dima Hasao district.

A discussion was organised here on Monday by Guwahati-based research think-tank Centre for Development and Peace (CDPS) as part of an initiative by the Department of Tourism, North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council, to come up with a Tourism Vision Document for the district.

More than 30 representatives, that included hoteliers, tour operators, adventure tourism professionals, and academics from hotel management institutes, attended the meeting. Director of Assam Tourism, Palash Baroah, and officials of India Tourism, also

attended the meeting.

Addressing the gathering, Kulendra Daubangpu, executive member of Tourism, North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council, spoke about the problems and prospects in developing tourism in Dima Hasao. He said that picturesque Dima Hasao has three of Assam's highest peaks, abundant flora and fauna, diverse ethnic groups, waterfalls as well as megalithic remains of the past. He urged entrepreneurs to invest in the tourism sector in Dima Hasao, which can act as the engine of growth in the otherwise underdeveloped district.

Some of the suggestions from the participants included organising hiking tours to the district, organising calendar events so that tourists can plan their itinerary well in advance and training local people in ar-

eas like hospitality, home-stays, adventure tourism and as tour guides. The participants also stressed on the need for sensitisation of police to make them tourist-friendly. CDPS will hold a similar consultative meeting at Hailong next month to be attended by various local stakeholders and Council and district authorities.

Death condoled

GUWAHATI, March 21: An executive committee meeting of the All Assam Kerosene Dealers' Federation met at their Chandmari office here recently and condoled the demise of their Late vice president Nanda Dulal Saikia and prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul.

A condolence message was subsequently sent to the bereaved family members, a press release stated.

Machkhowa Lekhika Samaroh Samiti meet

CORRESPONDENT

as assistant secretary and Rashmirekha Burugohain as cultural secretary. The meeting also decided to form a self-help group with Gunarani Saikia as president and Diparekha Phukan Dutta as secretary in order to strengthen the fund of the organisation.

On the other hand, simultaneously, the organisation observed the International Women's Day on the spot by holding a meeting. The meeting was inaugurated by Bhabani Boruah, vice-president of the women literary organisation. The meeting was addressed by several distinguished ladies including Anjana Dutta, subject teacher, Jorhat Higher Secondary School who dwelt on the importance and relevance of observance of the International Women's Day with reference to the rights of women. An intimate get-together was also held later in the celebration which was followed by *dhanyaam* competition.

The delegates' meeting of the conference was held with Kushalata Gogoi in the chair. In the meeting, the body of the women literary organisation was reconstituted with Tarulata Gogoi as president, Aruna Konch as chief secretary, Diparekha Phukan Dutta as secretary, Dipali Senapati as treasurer.

Basanti Puja at Kaithalkuchi

TIHU, March 21: The 99th Sri Basanti Puja Mahotsav under the args of Kaithalkuchi Brahma Samaj will be celebrated with religious fervour at the premises of Sri Sri Basanti Puja Mandir Misipur, Gamari with a five-day long programme beginning from April 2.

The first day's programme will begin with the cleanliness drive at 8 am. This will be followed by hoisting of religious flags, *smrili tarpan*, tree plantation and other religious programmes etc. A religious discourse will also be held on April 6 which will be attended by Umakanta Sarma, retired professor and Jayanta Sarma, Lecturer, Sanskrit College, Nalbari. — Correspondent

Man killed in broad daylight at Bhanga

CORRESPONDENT

began investigating the case.

Sources said that Mahatabur Rahman was a witness to the killing of Gazi Toufel and Naz.

On the other hand, riot locals put up a blockade on NH-6 at Bhanga in protest against the incident and demanding immediate arrest of the miscreants.

The first day's programme will begin with the cleanliness drive at 8 am. This will be followed by hoisting of religious flags, *smrili tarpan*, tree plantation and other religious programmes etc. A religious discourse will also be held on April 6 which will be attended by Umakanta Sarma, retired professor and Jayanta Sarma, Lecturer, Sanskrit College, Nalbari. — Correspondent

Safari closure for elephant census

CORRESPONDENT

element population estimation. This was stated in an official notification issued by the office of Eastern Assam Wildlife Division (Kaziranga).

Similarly, the elephant ride for visitors in Kaziranga National Park would remain closed on March 25 and 26 for all ranges of Agarhatoli would remain closed on March 26, for

The first day's programme will begin with the cleanliness drive at 8 am. This will be followed by hoisting of religious flags, *smrili tarpan*, tree plantation and other religious programmes etc. A religious discourse will also be held on April 6 which will be attended by Umakanta Sarma, retired professor and Jayanta Sarma, Lecturer, Sanskrit College, Nalbari. — Correspondent

The eviction drive was conducted by Manjeet Borkakoti, Circle Officer of North Lakhimpur Revenue Circle and Patrick Ronghang, Additional Superintendent of Police, North Lakhimpur.

The eviction was carried out on either side of the Garjaiya river under North Lakhimpur Revenue Circle from Friday and conducted by the Land Revenue Depart-

ment in the presence of police personnel. The river bank was cleared of illegal constructions and blockades erected over the years by the encroachers. Houses, boundary walls, business establishments and other installations were demolished with the help of excavators and earth movers.

A total of 129 families, who were notified earlier, were evicted in the operation in which 24 houses were completely demolished and 83 others partially destroyed. The eviction drive was conducted in a stretch of 6.5 km in which 34 bighas, 4 kathas and 15 lechas of land were recovered.

The eviction drive was conducted by Manjeet Borkakoti, Circle Officer of North Lakhimpur Revenue Circle and Patrick Ronghang, Additional Superintendent of Police, North Lakhimpur.

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ment in the presence of police personnel. The river bank was cleared of illegal constructions and blockades erected over the years by the encroachers. Houses, boundary walls, business establishments and other installations were demolished with the help of excavators and earth movers.

In Guwahati, he said that in 2015, IIT-Guwahati's study in the RG Baruah Road area revealed that the groundwater table in that area was sinking at an average annual rate of above 20 cms. This finding is alarming.

According to the Central Groundwater Board data collected for the purpose belonged to the 20-year period, between 1996 and 2015. It may be mentioned that a 2008

NASA study found the Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi groundwater table sinking at an average annual rate of 33 cms. This situation is simply incalculable. Guwahatians should learn a lesson from it. Guwahatians must not allow themselves to face such a situation, said the Professor.

The groundwater recharge rate in Guwahati is getting reduced at a rapid rate due to the speedy growth in its built-up/paved areas. The city's population is also burgeoning at a faster rate. Notably, an overwhelming majority of the Guwahatians use groundwater to quench their thirst.

According to a study conducted by IIT-Guwahati's Civil Engineering Department for its Union Ministry of Urban Development-sponsored Integrated Land Use Planning and Water Resource Management Project, the city recorded a ten-fold

growth in its built-up area between 1972 and 2000.

From 38.7 sq kms in 1972 in its plains areas, the built-up area grew to 126 sq kms in 2000. On its hills, such areas grew from 4.8 sq kms to 40 sq kms during this period. During the past 16 years, there was further growth in the city's built-up areas and now the situation in this respect is alarming.

Similarly is the situation in many other parts of the State. For example, Karbi Anglong district has reported that all its tubewells upto a depth of 50 metres dry up in the winter months necessitating sinking of deep tubewells to a depth of at least 80 metres for irrigation purposes. Sivasagar and Charaideo districts too have experienced an identical situation.

In Golaghat district, whenever some tea gardens use deep tubewells,

people of their neighbouring areas al-

legedly do not get water for daily use. In some areas around Dimakuchi in Udalguri district, groundwater level appears to be very low and the residents there are facing scarcity of drinking water. The situation demands a thorough study.

The State has 3,12,210 hectares of its land under tea cultivation and most of the TEAs located between Biswanath and Dhubri districts on the north bank and between Sivasagar and Goalpara districts on the south bank are using deep tubewells to irrigate their plantations between November and April.

In 1951, the State had a popula-

Bhagawat paath at Kalibar

KALIBAR, March 21: The fifth annual Bhagawat paath and exposition will be held April 1 and 2 next on the Chaitali Hazar premises, one of the oldest hazar under Kalibar subdivision.

The day's programmes include religious flag hoisting by Narendra Nath Hazarika, president Chaitali Hazar Samittee, Bhagawat bhraman, naam

prasanga by Bharat Goswami, executive president Hazar samittee, Bhagawat shabbon followed by Akshay Bonli (lamp) lighting by Deben Hazarika. The Bhagawat paath will be inaugurated by Babin Boruah at 11 am.

On April 2, Bhagawat paath and exposition and closing up at the paath followed by prasad distribution for the devotees.

JIT PATOWARY

Dr Kailash Baishya, a distinguished inhabitant of Tezpur, a resident of La-chi Chowk left us for his heavenly abode on February 18. Born in 1939 at Tezpur, after completing his schooling from Tezpur Govt Boys High School, he joined Gauhati Medical College and graduated in 1969. A

good sportsman, he represented the district and college teams in various sports like cricket and football. He was also involved in many social activities and was a former member of the Lion's Club. He lent his services to the society and was loved and respected alike by all sections.

He is survived by his wife and two daughters. May his departed soul rest in eternal peace.

— Swasati Baishya

Dr Kailash Baishya:

a tribute

 Dr Kailash Baishya, a distinguished inhabitant of Tezpur, a resident of La-chi Chowk left us for his heavenly abode on February 18. Born in 1939 at Tezpur, after completing his schooling from Tezpur Govt Boys High School, he joined Gauhati Medical College and graduated in 1969. A

Eviction drive under way in North Lakhimpur

CORRESPONDENT

NORTH LAKHIMPUR, March 21: A massive eviction drive is being undertaken in the heart of the town here since Friday last to clear a river bank of illegal encroachers.

The eviction was addressed by several distinguished ladies including Anjana Dutta, subject teacher, Jorhat Higher Secondary School who dwelt on the importance and relevance of observance of the International Women's Day with reference to the rights of women. An intimate get-together was also held later in the celebration which was followed by *dhanyaam* competition.

The delegates' meeting of the conference was held with Kushalata Gogoi in the chair. In the meeting, the body of the women literary organisation was reconstituted with Tarulata Gogoi as president, Aruna Konch as chief secretary, Diparekha Phukan Dutta as secretary, Dipali Senapati as treasurer.

The first day's programme will begin with the cleanliness drive at 8 am. This will be followed by hoisting of religious flags, *smrili tarpan*, tree plantation and other religious programmes etc. A religious discourse will also be held on April 6 which will be attended by Umakanta Sarma, retired professor and Jayanta Sarma, Lecturer, Sanskrit College, Nalbari. — Correspondent

The eviction drive was carried out on either side of the Garjaiya river under North Lakhimpur Revenue Circle and Patrick Ronghang, Additional Superintendent of Police, North Lakhimpur.

The eviction drive was conducted by Manjeet Borkakoti, Circle Officer of North Lakhimpur Revenue Circle and Patrick Ronghang, Additional Superintendent of Police, North Lakhimpur.

State, most of the irrigation projects are groundwater-based. Even the tea estates (TEAs) are using groundwater for the purpose. The groundwater-related practices in the State are only whimsical and not based on any scientific study. Sustainability of these practices is yet to be established.

Prof Rajib Kumar Bhattacharya, who predicted this catastrophe, has called for a groundwater management policy to prevent this looming disaster.

Professor Bhattacharya, who is studying the State's groundwater-related issues for the past several years, told this Correspondent further that the groundwater-related situation in Guwahati is alarming.

For the present groundwater extraction scenario in the city remains only groundwater 'mining'.

Elaborating, he said that in the

Guwahati, he said that in 2015, IIT-Guwahati's study in the RG Baruah Road area revealed that the groundwater table in that area was sinking at an average annual rate of above 20 cms. This finding is alarming.

In Guwahati, he said that in 2015, IIT-Guwahati's study in the RG Baruah Road area revealed that the groundwater table in that area was sinking at an average annual rate of above 20 cms. This finding is alarming.

It may be mentioned that a 2008

NASA study found the Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi groundwater table sinking at an average annual rate of 33 cms. This situation is simply incalculable. Guwahatians should learn a lesson from it. Guwahatians must not allow themselves to face such a situation, said the Professor.

The groundwater recharge rate in Guwahati is getting reduced at a rapid rate due to the speedy growth in its built-up/paved areas. The city's population is also burgeoning at a faster rate. Notably, an overwhelming majority of the Guwahatians use groundwater to quench their thirst.

According to a study conducted by IIT-Guwahati's Civil Engineering Department for its Union Ministry of Urban Development-sponsored Integrated Land Use Planning and Water Resource Management Project, the city recorded a ten-fold

growth in its built-up area between 1972 and 2000.

From 38.7 sq kms in 1972 in its plains areas, the built-up area grew to 126 sq kms in 2000. On its hills, such areas grew from 4.8 sq kms to 40 sq kms during this period. During the past 16 years, there was further growth in the city's built-up areas and now the situation in this respect is alarming.

Similarly is the situation in many other parts of the State. For example, Karbi Anglong district has reported that all its tubewells upto a depth of 50 metres dry up in the winter months necessitating sinking of deep tubewells to a depth of at least 80 metres for irrigation purposes. Sivasagar and Charaideo districts too have experienced an identical situation.

In Golaghat district, whenever

some tea gardens use deep tubewells,

people of their neighbouring areas al-

legedly do not get water for daily use.

In some areas around Dimakuchi

in Udalguri district, groundwater

level appears to be very low and the

residents there are facing scarcity of

drinking water. The situation demands a thorough study.

The State has 3,12,210 hectares

of its land under tea cultivation and

most of the TEAs located between

Biswanath and Dhubri districts on

the north bank and between Sivasagar

and Goalpara districts on the

south bank are using deep tubewells

to irrigate their plantations between

November and April.

In 1951, the State had a popula-

tion of 80,28,856. According to As-

sam Government figures in 2016, it

swelled to 3,39,05,039. Again,

2,19,016 hectares of the State's cropland were irrigated in 2014-15. Of

this area, 10,367 hectares were irrigated with tubewells.

Immunisation drive

CORRESPONDENT

KAZIRANGA, March 21: In view of outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in areas like Dungjan and Ghosanibor villages near the central range of Kaziranga National Park, an immunisation programme was undertaken jointly by the authority of Kaziranga National Park and the Cobbett Foundation today. The programme is aimed at controlling further spread of the said disease to other areas.

Already an important meeting between the officials of Kaziranga National Park and Cobbett Foundation was held in this regard prior to the immunisation drive. The Forest department was represented by Dr Saikia, a Forest Veterinary Officer (FVO) and Albarha, a senior Forest officer, who had facilitated the vaccination drive.

It is worth mentioning that FMD, which is a viral disease can affect the cattle and other livestock on a large scale at a very short time. As the affected areas are very much close to Kaziranga National Park, so

there is a concern for the safety of wild animals as they are also cloven footed like cattle and other livestock and susceptible to FMD. Sources from vaccinated area said that more than 511 domestic animals have been vaccinated till now and some other adjoining villages would be covered soon to control the disease.

General symptoms of FMD are lesions in the oral cavity, between hooves and around udder. It causes serious economic loss to the owners of the livestock. This disease also makes the animals lame and worthless. Prevention can be done through massive immunisation. So there is a need on the part of State Veterinary department to organise awareness camps at village level in order to apprise the villagers to do regular vaccination against FMD and prevent the occurrence of the disease.

Sources at Cobbett Foundation informed that the vaccination drive was supervised by Albarha, a senior official of Kaziranga National Park and Dr Navin Pandey from TCF.

STATE CM lays foundation of four projects in Nalbari dist



Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal laying the foundation stone of an RCC bridge over Pagladiya river in Nalbari district on Tuesday - UBS Photos

CORRESPONDENT

NALBARI, March 21: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal laid the foundation stones of four new projects in Nalbari district besides inaugurating a RCC bridge and a digital library here today.

The four new projects, of which foundations were laid are: 1) Rs 31-crore Sandhya-Barkura road connecting the NH-31 on both sides; 2) Rs 49-crore flyover at Harimandir level crossing; 3) a guest house to be constructed at Sri Sri Hari-mandir premises at a cost of Rs

one crore and 4) an RCC bridge at Damalghat over the Pagladiya river with a ten-kilometre road stretch to be constructed at a cost of Rs 27 crore.

The Chief Minister, who visited the district today for the first time with a development agency after taking oath, also formally inaugurated the digital library constructed at Nahar College premises and a RCC bridge at Kamarkuchi, who over the

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Hagrama tables surplus BTC Budget

CORRESPONDENT

has allocated fund of Rs 20000 lakh as development grants and Rs 2500 lakh to strengthen infrastructure under education sector the current State Budget of 2017-18 over and above of allocation of fund for State Own Priority Development (SOPD) to BTC.

Mohilyari also underlined

the major thrusts being given by the BTC with active support of State government in the financial year 2017-18. "State government has earmarked Rs 25 crore for Bodoland University, Koirajpur, Rs 10 crore for BB Engineering College in the name of 'Tejasvi Navadhamastu' funds for infrastructure development of professional colleges and universities to be spent over a period of three to four years. Moreover, BTC government has decided to acquire additional land for BTC Secretariat and Helpatid attached to BTC Secretariat, for which an amount of Rs 2300 lakh has been earmarked in a phased manner. Again out of 1133 contractual teachers engaged by the BTC, 1193 will be converted to SSOA contractual teachers after getting relaxation of professional qualification from government of India, he said.

Meanwhile, BPF party today expelled the organising Secretary of BPF Sahadev Das from the party who is also one of the master minds of Sipatbar incident. The decision has been taken in a CWC meeting of BPF party held today.

It may be mentioned here that the regular appointment and salaries of TET qualified candidates of BTC was the

central point of today's Council session, among other issues.

In reply to queries, BTC deputy chief Kamal Borgohain who is also the in-charge of Education department, said that there were 3361 TET qualified candidates in BTC area and they were not engaged as regular teachers.

Presenting the Budget on the first day of the two-day BTC Legislative Assembly Budget session that began today at the BTC Legislative Assembly House, Bodofa Ngwngre Mohilyari, who is also the head of the Finance department, said that the Council is committed to achieve the growth target as per the Plan allocation.

At the same time he also said that in view of active role taken by the BTC government, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his public rally in Kokrajhar, encouraged the State government to facilitate developmental activities in BTC area. In order to meet the critical infrastructure gap to usher the development in this area, the govt of Assam

is invited here to get the regular appointment and salaries of TET qualified candidates of BTC was the

main agenda item of the BTC legislative assembly budget session.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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Acharya highlights achievements of Nagaland govt

CORRESPONDENT

DIMAPUR, March 21: The 12th Nagaland Legislative Assembly began this morning with Governor PB Acharya highlighting the achievements and policies of the government.

Addressing the session, he said the year gone by has been an eventful one for the State. While progress was made in several fronts on one hand, the State government faced various problems on the other hand in conducting elections to the Urban Local Bodies in the State, leading to violence

and the elections being ultimately declared null and void on February 2, the Governor said.

He informed the House that a judicial inquiry has been ordered into the matter and the government will hold consultations with all stakeholders, civil societies and tribal bodies for arriving at a consensus approach towards Urban Local Bodies elections and related matters at the right time.

Acharya said he is happy to announce that through the collective efforts of the civil society organisations, the State government and the Government of India, it had

been possible to impress upon the Myanmar government to stop the border fencing work. He added that the State government will continue to make efforts to ensure that no such fencing works are carried out in the international border areas in Nagaland.

He said the government will support the ongoing political dialogue between the Government of India and the NSCN(M) and will continue to strive for a final solution to the decades-old Nagaland issue in a peaceful, inclusive and honourable manner. The State government has also recent-

ly constituted the 'Political Affairs Mission' to spearhead the Government's efforts and has replaced the Political Affairs Committee of the State government, he added.

The Governor also informed the House that the IT infrastructure has been created at customary courts in all the 11 districts of the State.

The State government took a major step towards clearing a clear road map for development by bringing out the Nagaland Vision 2030 last year, adding that the government would strive to align its various programmes accordingly so as to accelerate the develop-

ment activities in the State with focus on creating employment for the educated unemployed youth and ensure that the fruits of development percolate equitably to all parts of the State.

On agriculture and allied sectors, the Governor said the Nagaland Vision 2030 will emphasize on growth of the sectors. The Jhumi Land Survey of the State has already been published and the State Waters Policy is under active consideration of the government, he added.

On the activities of the Department of Land Resources he said

the department has taken up spring shed development in 11 springs as a pilot project of the watershed programme with technical support from the Peoples' Science Institute, Dehradun targeting one village in each district during 2016-17. Around 300 hectares of land have been developed under rubber plantation and 13,40 lakh coffee seedlings have been distributed to farmers, with coffee plantation covering 670 hectares during 2016-17.

The Governor said because of global warming and climate change the Department of Environment

will help in achieving the objectives.



The elected members of the Manipur Assembly during a photo session with the Governor in Imphal on Tuesday. — Photo: Imphal Correspondent

Rajen Gohain to inspect Tripura railway works

CORRESPONDENT

AGARTALA, March 21: Union Minister of State for Railways Rajen Gohain will be arriving here tomorrow to inspect the ongoing railways projects, official sources confirmed here.

Gohain is scheduled to inspect the ongoing railway extension work from Dibrugarh to Sambutan, besides having a meeting with NFR officials on Wednesday, said an official.

The 70km railway extension project has made good progress with BG trains running between Agartala and Dibrugarh. And, the same train will run up to Garoie in Goalpara district by March itself.

The project, connecting Agartala with Sambutan, is supposed to be completed by June 2019.

"We are hoping to complete the project within the stipulated time and the NFR is giving priority to it," said the official.

Gohain would also address a BJP rally at Jorhat in South Tripura district as part of the party's plan to garner support for the 2018 Assembly elections. Before leaving the State on the same day, the Union Minister will also have a meeting with party leaders on organisational matters.

'State govt to ensure a blockade-free Manipur'

CORRESPONDENT

IMPHAL, March 21: Governor Dr Najma Heptulla today said the State government will make all-out efforts to "ensure a blockade and blockade-free Manipur for unhindered all-round development of the State".

Addressing the first session of the 11th Manipur Legislative Assembly here, the Governor said, "My government, to address the issues of unemployment and insurgency faced by the State, will utilize all resources in the State for creation of employment opportunities for the youths through skill development and capacity building in both the organised and unorganised sectors."

Stating that the government is fully committed to establishing a pro-people government for the service and welfare

of the people of Manipur, she added that the government will make all-out efforts to make Manipur one of the most developed States in the region by harnessing the potential of the 'Act East Policy'.

On Planning and Finance, the Governor said that the State had made a tentative Plan size of Rs 4,349.55 crore and based on the likely availability of additional resources, it has been revised to Rs 2,555.27 crore as Central Sector, while the remaining 158 villages will be covered in the near future. All urban households and 80 per cent of rural households have access to power and the remaining ones shall be covered by 2019, she added.

On agriculture and allied sectors, she said the Manipur Organic Mission Agency has been created under which farmers are mobilised to promote certified organic commodities focusing on specific crops.

Informing that four towns have been declared Open Defecation free (ODF), she said plans are on to declare all the urban areas of Manipur as ODF before October 2 this year.

"My government is also committed to improve the digital or internet connectivity all over the State," she said.

problems like shortage of manpower, infrastructure and other logistic constraints.

Ensuring effective implementation of the National Food Security Act in the State, she said the government will work towards providing free education to women till graduation.

On power sector, she said 2,424 of the 2,582 villages in Manipur (2011 Census) were already electrified as of December 2016 and the remaining 13.77 crore as Central Sector will be covered in the near future. All urban households and 80 per cent of rural households have access to power and the remaining ones shall be covered by 2019, she added.

On agriculture and allied sectors, she said the Manipur Organic Mission Agency has been created under which farmers are mobilised to promote certified organic commodities focusing on specific crops.

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"My government is also committed to improve the digital or internet connectivity all over the State," she said.

Confusion over allocations since

NDA govt formed: Sangma

CORRESPONDENT

SHILLONG, March 21:

Chief Minister Mukul Sangma today told the Assembly that Rs 7,893.17 crore was formed by the total budgetary savings during 2014-15 and 2015-16.

Replying to a question by Leader of the Opposition Donkipar Roy, Sangma said, the cause of the huge anticipated savings is because of several factors and one of them being non-release of funds from the Central Sponsored Schemes (CSS).

During the year 2014-15 the overall budgetary savings for the State was Rs 5,055.08 crore and in 2015-16 the savings were Rs 2,838.09 crore.

Sangma said since the new NDA government was formed there was confusion regarding release of budgetary allocations for various CSSs.

To another question, Sangma informed that the total amount collected from non-tax revenue from April 1, 2016 till January 1, 2017 was Rs 422,71,33,794 crore.

On the other hand, Minister-in-charge Taxation Zenith Sangma said that the Goods and Service Tax, soon to be implemented in the country, would be one of the "most important indirect tax reforms in the country".

Maj Gen Dwivedi takes over as IG, AR East

CORRESPONDENT

AGARTALA, March 21:

General Upendra Dwivedi has taken over as the Inspector General of Assam Rifles (East) from Major General MV Chandran, a relief released conference here today.

While admitting his lack of requisite parliamentary maturity and experiences, he expressed confidence and faith in the democratic deals and the spirit of cooperation assured by the representatives.

The Speaker called on the members of the 12th Nagaland Assembly to work with zeal to do justice while assuring that he will spare no effort to uphold the cherished traditions and the non-partisan character of the seat of the Speaker. He mentioned that the 12th Nagaland Assembly is a unique House because of the absence of opposition which is a rare case in a democratic form of government. This peculiar character of the House but also at various national and international level functions. The Chief Minister hoped that Dr Aier would definitely dispense justice to all the members in course of deliberation and debate in the House.

He expressed hope that the members will be more alert and vigilant in delivering the wishes of the people. "There might be conflict of views or ideas during deliberation, but it should not deviate from our common goal, which is the welfare of the people and for social uplift and ultimately to have economic freedom," the Speaker added.

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SBI to shut down half of associate banks' offices post-merger

NEW DELHI, March 21: State Bank of India (SBI), which will see five associate banks merge into it on April 1, has decided to shut down almost half the offices of these banks, including the head offices of three of them. This process will start from April 24.

"Out of the five head offices of the associate banks, we will retain only two. Three head offices of the associate banks will be unbound along with 27 zonal offices, 81 regional offices and 11 network offices of the associate banks," SBI Managing Director Dinesh Kumar Kharla told IANS in an interview.

"We will keep their structure in place till April 24 and post that, we will start dismantling the associate banks' controlling offices, which includes head offices, regional offices, zonal offices and network offices," Kharla said.

The five associate banks that will merge with SBI are: SBBJ (State Bank of Bihar and Jharkhand), SBM (State Bank of Mysore), SBT (State Bank of Travancore), SBP (State Bank of Patiala) and SBH (State Bank of Hyderabad).

SBI is India's largest bank with assets of Rs 30.72 lakh crore and figures at No 64 in the global ranking of banks (as of December 2015; December 2016 ranking is still awaited). Post-merger, with assets of approximately Rs 40 lakh crore, it will be among the top 50 banks in the world. SBI Chief Economist Soumya Kanti Ghosh told IANS that post-merger, the bank will be at No 45.

The shutdown move is to avoid overlapping offices in the same area and "we intend to remove any kind of duplicacy in the controlling structure", Kharla said.

The five associate banks will cease to exist as legal entities and become a part

of SBI from April 1, but the various merger processes will start only after April 24, once the balance sheets of the five entities are audited and added.

"We will have to get the balance sheets of the associate banks audited a day prior to the merger that is, on March 31. The balance sheets of the branches will be drawn up and added; it takes 15-20 days. Soon after the audit is done, the branches will be completely merged with SBI," Kharla told IANS.

There are currently 550 SBI offices while its associate banks have 259. The target for the number of controlling offices after the merger is 687 - a reduction of 122 offices.

Employees directly affected by these shutdowns – estimated at 1,107 – will be redeployed, mostly in customer-interface operations, Kharla said.

The net result is that people in controlling functions will be available for deployment on the ground for improvement-related processes. – IANS

ing reach to the consumer," he said. "There are about 5-7 people in every regional office and 20-odd people in each zonal office. One regional office controls 30-40 branches, while 4-5 regional offices are controlled by one zonal office," he told IANS.

The associate banks have also offered a Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) to employees who do not wish to relocate. "VRS is only an option, else they will be relocated. They will have a different role," he said.

Along with the winding up of these offices, a number of merger processes will come into effect simultaneously, including the date merger of the five entities.

"Date merger will also start from April 24 and we will finish it by May-end. That is the plan of action," he said, adding that the bank had given itself six months to complete all merger-related processes. – IANS

Not possible to pinpoint impact of note ban on GDP: Govt

NEW DELHI, March 21: The government today said it is not possible to pinpoint the impact of demonetisation on GDP as economic growth is contingent on a number of factors.

"The economic growth of a country depends on a number of factors including structural, external, fiscal and monetary factors (which is partly reflected by demonetisation). Therefore it is not possible to pinpoint the impact of demonetisation on India's GDP," Minister of State for Finance Arjun Ram Meghwal said in a written reply to Rajya Sabha.

Meghwal, however, added that as per the second advance estimates released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) on February 28 based mostly on information for the first nine months of 2016-17, the growth rate of gross domestic product (GDP) at constant market prices is estimated to be 7.1 per cent in 2016-17.

The CSO had projected the same growth rate in the first advance estimates released on January 6 based mostly on the information for the first seven to eight months of the current fiscal. – PTI

HUL starts production at new unit in State

NEW DELHI, March 21: FMCG major Hindustan Unilever (HUL) today said it has commenced commercial production at its new manufacturing unit in Assam from March 15.

The company has commenced the commercial production in its new manufacturing unit at Assam on March 15, 2017," it said in a BSE filing.

In July last year, the company said it planned to invest about Rs 1,000 crore to set up a new facility at Doom Dooma in Assam, which will augment the production capacity of personal care products for HUL.

Shares of the company closed at Rs 903.80, up 0.60 per cent from the previous close on BSE. – PTI

BORDER ROADS ORGANISATION NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)

Director General, Border Roads Organisation on behalf of the Chief Engineer (P) Sewak C/O 99 APO invites tender from the eligible contractors at CPP web site <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> (Manual bids shall not be accepted). Particulars of work: 1 DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF 40 MTR SPAN STEEL SUPER STRUCTURE (THROUGH TYPE) MAJOR PERMANENT BRIDGE ON OPEN FOUNDATION OVER RIVER TAGGI AT KM 25.050 ON ROAD MON-LUNGWA UNDER 15 BTFT PROJECT SEWA IN NAGALAND STATE-(R) TENDER).

Cost / Time of work: (a) Cost: Rs 340.95 Lacs. (b) Period of execution: 12 months from the date of award. (c) Details of Tender documents: (a) Cost of tender: Rs. 20,000. (b) Availability: On or after 27 Mar 2017. (c) Submission: On or Up to 1500 Hrs 27 Apr 2017.

Note:- Full notice of tender, any change in above details, tender document (including eligibility criteria) and other details may be obtained from Central Public Procurement Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>. Tenderers are advised to refer to the terms and conditions in the 'Instructions to Bidders' for e-submission of the bids through Central Public Procurement Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>. For any queries, please contact on telephone 011 25686914/ 25686876 Fax 011-25696026. dadv 37/102/11/0752/1617

CAPSULE

United India Insurance CMD

CHENNAI, March 21: The Finance Ministry has approved United India Insurance Director and General Manager Ar Girija Kumar holding additional charge of Chairman and Managing Director with immediate effect. – PTI

Spi iPhone 7

NEW DELHI, March 21: US-based tech major Apple will from April start selling in India its special 'RED' edition of iPhone 6 and iPhone 7 Plus, targeting the fight against AIDS. "The introduction of this special edition iPhone in a gorgeous red finish is our biggest (PRODUCT) RED offering to date in celebration of our partnership with (RED)," Apple CEO Tim Cook said in a statement. – PTI

WR-V export

CHENNAI, March 21: Japanese automaker Honda, which has been shipping some of its models to the overseas market, would introduce its latest product WR-V in Brazil, a top official said here today. The company had earlier launched the upgraded Sedan City last month would also bring its premium sedan 'Civic' later this year. Honda Cars India, Senior VP, Jnaneshwar Sen said here. – PTI

Gionee plan

NEW DELHI, March 21: Smartphone maker Gionee plans to almost double its marketing budget to around Rs 750 crore in 2017-18 from Rs 400 crore in the current fiscal. "We will be investing up to Rs 750 crore in 2017-18 onwards. It will be mainly used for above the line and below the line marketing activities," Gionee India Country CEO and Managing Director Arvind R Vohra told PTI.

Titan

NEW DELHI, March 21: Watch-maker Titan Company has adopted IBM Watson Customer Engagement solution to design marketing campaigns targeted at individual customers. "Working with IBM, we will be able to personalise all customer interactions both online and in the store...," Titan Company Ltd Chief Digital Officer Kurnivali Markose said in a statement. – PTI



Union Minister for Railways Suresh Prabhu chairing a round table conference on improving quality of catering services provided in Indian Railways, in New Delhi on Tuesday. – PIB

IWAI carries out berthing operation at State Ro-Ro terminal

NEW DELHI, March 21: The government said today berthing operation of a vessel was carried out at the newly-constructed Ro-Ro terminal on the Brahmapuri Assam.

The IWAI vessel will be deployed for Ro-Ro (roll-on, roll-off) service between Dhubri and Hatisingimari with a total waterway length of 29 km.

Ro-Ro ships are vessels used for carrying wheeled cargo.

The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWA) carried out successful berthing operation of a vessel at its newly constructed permanent state-of-the-art roll-on/roll-off (Ro-Ro) terminal built at the Dhubri terminal.

"Built at a cost of approxi-

mately Rs 10 crore, MV Gopinath Bordoloi is 46.50-metre long and 13.30-metre wide with a draft of 1.50 metres. It has a capacity to transport eight trucks and 200 passengers at a time," the statement said.

This new service will avoid the circuitous route of 220 km to reach Meghalaya through an official press release said.

The MoU was signed by Manjula Sakya Bhuyan, Additional Director, Industries and Commerce and NN Baishya, General Manager, AGVB.

The basic objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance in the form of loan with interest subvention through Assam Gramin Vikas Bank covering whole of Assam. The loan so availed by the beneficiaries will be supported by the State Government through interest subvention @ 5 per cent per annum.

All innovative start-up industrial activities and new individual applicants shall be eligible to avail benefits under the scheme. Priority will be given to the applicants having any kind of skill development training, the release said.

This initiative has been undertaken to remove the hurdle of equity or fund crunch for the interested entrepreneurs.

The scheme shall be operational from the financial year 2016-17 and shall be valid for a period of five years.

All General Managers (GMs) have been instructed to invite applications from eligible beneficiaries and to convene a district-level committee along with AGVB for selection of those beneficiaries, the release added.

Govt signs MoU with AGVB for start-up scheme

GUWAHATI, March 21: The Department of Industries and Commerce and Assam Gramin Vikas Bank (AGVB) signed a memorandum of understanding to launch a new scheme called Chief Minister's start-up fund 'Sarothi' at Udayog Bhawan, Bananindia here today, an official press release said.

This new service will avoid the circuitous route of 220 km to reach Meghalaya through an official press release said.

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Media, entertainment industry to grow at 14% in next 5 yrs: Report

MUMBAI, March 21: The Indian media and entertainment sector is expected to grow at 14 per cent in the next five years but it will be slower in 2017 due to demonetisation and GST-related uncertainties, according to a FICCI-KPMG report.

Advertising revenue of the industry is anticipated to increase at a CAGR of 15.3 per cent in the next five years but it will be slower in 2017 due to demonetisation and GST-related uncertainties, according to a FICCI-KPMG report.

Advertising revenue of the industry is anticipated to increase at a CAGR of 12 per cent in the next five years but it will be slower in 2017 due to demonetisation and GST-related uncertainties, according to a FICCI-KPMG report.

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India set to become 3rd largest consumer economy by 2025, says report

NEW DELHI, March 21:

With the nominal year-over-year growth at 12 per cent and with consumption set to triple to \$4 trillion, India will be the third largest consumer market by 2025, a report said today.

"Consumption in India is set to triple to \$4 billion by 2025 as rising affluence drives changes in consumer behaviour and spending patterns that have big implications for companies," said the report, released by the Boston Con-

sulting Group's (BCG) Centre for Customer Insight (CCI).

"Nominal year-over-year expenditure growth of 12 per cent is more than double the anticipated global rate of five per cent and will make India the third largest consumer market by 2025," the report said.

According to the report, titled 'The New Indian: The Many Facets of a Changing Consumer', among the factors that will shape consumption is the country's unique pattern of urbanisation, in which

emerging cities are the fastest growing.

"About 40 per cent of India's population will be living in urban areas by 2025, and city dwellers will account for more than 60 per cent of consumption," the report said.

"This ongoing shift is significant to marketers because nuclear families spend 20 per cent to 30 per cent more per capita than joint families," it added.

The report pointed out that digital influence on broader consumer spending is significant and another important trend is shift-

ing family structures to nuclear households, the proportion of which has been on the rise during the past two decades, reaching 70 per cent and projected to increase to 74 per cent by 2025," the report said.

The BCG CCI's most recent consumer survey in India included 10,000 consumers in 30 locations nationwide and studied consumption in more than 50 categories. – IANS

For detailed information including details of vacancies, age limit, educational qualifications, plan of examination, mode of payment of application fees, availability of examination slots / sessions at various centres, etc., please refer to the Notification of the examination available on websites www.asrb.org.in and www.icar.org.in.

(S.P. Sanwal)
Controller of Examinations

RSS reiterates off-court solution to Ayodhya issue

COIMBATORE, March 21: The RSS today welcomed the apex court's suggestion for a negotiated settlement to the Ayodhya dispute, saying it should be resolved at the earliest and a grand shrine should be built with participation of all.

"We welcome the suggestion of Supreme Court. RSS always supported a settlement outside the court or a legislation to solve the sensitive issue," RSS Joint General Secretary Dattatreya Hosabale told reporters here.

The top RSS brass is here to attend a three-day meeting of its highest decision-making body, Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha, which concluded today.

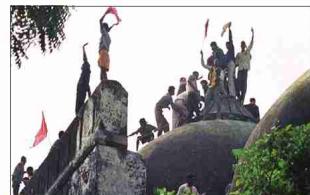
"It is to be decided by the Dharam Sansad as they are the people who organised the entire Ram Janambhumi movement and the parties who went to the court. The RSS will not decide," Dattatreya Hosadale

Hosabale was responding to a question on the suggestion by the Supreme Court bench headed by Chief Justice JS Khehar that such religious issues can be solved through negotiations and its offer to mediation for arriving at an amicable settlement.

He said though the RSS was not directly involved in the litigation, it would support any decision taken by the 'Dharam Sansad', which spearheaded the Ram Janambhumi movement.

"It (the Ram temple issue) is to be decided by the Dharam Sansad as they are the people who organised the entire Ram Janambhumi movement and the parties who went to the court. The RSS will not decide," he added.

BJP veteran LK Advani also welcomed the Supreme Court suggestion of an out-of-court settlement of the Ayodhya dispute and said all concerned parties should reach a consensus to resolve it. - PTI



A file photo of Babri Masjid demolition in 1992.

A long-standing dispute

- 1528: Emperor Babar built a mosque in the site which, as believed by a section Hindus, is the birthplace of Lord Ram.
- 1853: Hindus accused that the mosque has been erected in place of Ram temple. First recorded incidents of religious violence at the site.
- 1949: In December, idols of Lord Ram appeared inside the mosque, allegedly put there by Hindus. The government declared the site as disputed and sealed the gates.
- 1950: Mahant Paramans Ramchandra Das, the chief of Ram Janmabhumi Nyas, and Gopal Singh Vishwanath filed suits in Faizabad, seeking permission to pray before the installed idols.
- 1959: Nirmohi Akhara, one of the main parties to the dispute, and others filed a case and sought permission again to conduct prayers.
- 1984: The Vishwa Hindu Parishad constituted a group to continue the movement as BJP leader LK Advani was made the leader of the campaign.
- 1989: The then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi allowed shilanyas or a ground-breaking ceremony in an undisputed site close to the structure.
- 1990: Advani launched a rath yatra (pilgrimage procession) from Somnath to Ayodhya to galvanise support for the issue nationwide.
- 2003: The Allahabad High Court ordered the Archaeological Survey of India to excavate the disputed site in order to determine whether a temple existed where the mosque stood.
- 2003: The ASI submitted its report to the Allahabad High Court, saying it had found features of a 10th century temple beneath the site of the masjid.
- 2010: The Allahabad High Court pronounced its verdict on the long-standing Ayodhya Ramjanmabhumi-Babri Masjid issue and ruled for a three-way division of the disputed area, between the Sunni Waqf Board, the Nirmohi Akhara and the party for 'Ram Lalla'.
- 2016: The Supreme Court permitted BJP leader Subramanian Swamy to intervene in the pending matters relating to the Ayodhya dispute with his plea seeking construction of Ram temple at the site of the demolished disputed structure.

Bharti, Giriraj for building Ram temple

NEW DELHI, March 21: Union minister and hardline Hindutva leader Giriraj Singh today wondered if the Ram Temple is not built here, would it be built in Pakistan and, along with another Union minister Uma Bharti, demanded construction of the temple at the disputed site in Ayodhya.

They were reacting to the Supreme Court suggestion of an out-of-court settlement on the 'sensitive issue'.

"All (parties) should take the initiative now. Lord Ram is at the centre of faith of crores of Hindus. Muslims should also come forward, let there evolve a cordial atmosphere," Singh said. "Will the temple be built in Pakistan or Bangladesh, if not in India? I

"All (parties) should take the initiative now. Lord Ram is at the centre of faith of crores of Hindus. Muslims should also come forward, let there evolve a cordial atmosphere," Giriraj Singh said

am confident that the minorities will take the issue forward in a cordial manner," he added. Bharti, who was associated with the Ram Janmabhoomi Andolan in the 1990s, insisted that the issue of ownership of the disputed site be settled through talks. She said whoever owned the land should profit it to Lord Ram as a "gift".

"There can't be a bigger gift than this... We should arrive at a solution which will be remembered for thousands of years," she said.

Bharti also suggested that a "huge" Ram temple be built at the site on the lines of the Somnath temple in Gujarat.

The apex court said today that fresh attempts must be made by all the parties concerned to find a solution to the dispute which is a "sensitive and sentimental matter".

A bench headed by Chief Justice JS Khehar said such religious issues could be solved through negotiations and offered to mediate in order to arrive at an amicable settlement to the dispute. - PTI

Modi pulls up BJP MPs for absence in Parliament

NEW DELHI, March 21: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today pulled up BJP MPs for skipping Parliament proceedings following incidents of lack of quorum and even warned that he will keep a tab on them by calling any member any time during the session.

Modi's tough talk to his party MPs at the weekly BJP Parliamentary Party meeting came following frequent delay in start of work in the two Houses due to lack of quorum — the minimum number of members required for valid proceedings.

He told them that attending Parliament is their basic responsibility and added wryly that he can do a lot of things but cannot be present there on their behalf.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ananth Kumar spoke about incidents of lack of quorum in both the Houses, including yesterday, prompting Modi to say that it should not be about "requesting the MPs to be present" as it is their basic responsibility.

BJP members said that the PM told them that it did not matter to him if they were in the Central Hall, a place to host joint sittings of Parliament where MPs often meet for informal conversation, as what is important is that they should be inside the Houses.

"I can call any of you any time," the PM was quoted as saying by a member. He added that Modi was visibly unhappy over absenteemanship.

Centre nod for 18 new airports

NEW DELHI, March 21: The government has given in principle approval for setting up 18 airports which together are estimated to cost nearly Rs 30,000 crore. Minister of State for Civil Aviation Jayant Sinha today said the government has granted "in principle" approval for the greenfield airports. Citing information provided by developers, the total estimated cost for setting up of the 18 airports "comes out to Rs 30,000 crore (approximately)", Sinha said.

Stressing the government's commitment to the issue, the minister said "India will treat anyone with HIV and AIDS. Anyone in India having HIV or AIDS, the Government of India will take care of the treatment."

He said there will be a provision in the rules to provide justification for denying treatment to the patients.

A large number of members were of the view that the phrase "as far possible" would defeat the purpose of the bill as it provides a leeway to the Centre and the States. - PTI

The 18 airports which have received in principle nod for construction include Mopa (Goa), Navi Mumbai, Shirdi and Sindhudurg (Maharashtra), Bijapur, Gulbarga, Hasan and Shimoga (Karnataka), Kanour (Kerala), Pakyong (Sikkim), Karakal (Puducherry), Dholera (Gujarat) and Bhogarpuram (Andhra Pradesh). - PTI



AIADMK MPs K Parasuraman, K Gopal and RK Bharathi join the farmers on hunger strike demanding for the write-off Farmer's Bank loan, in New Delhi on Tuesday – UNI

Anti-Romeo squad: UP police to come hard on eve-teasers

LUCKNOW, March 21: The Uttar Pradesh police today issued orders to constitute "anti-Romeo squad" in 11 districts of the Lucknow zone to prevent eve-teasing, as BJP had promised during the Assembly polls in its 'sankalp patra'.

"In a bid to check incidents of eve-teasing and passing of comments on them (women and girls), 'anti-romeo' dal' would be constituted at the police station

levels and action under Goonda Act taken against wrongdoers," IG (Lucknow Zone) A Satish Ganesh said.

The Lucknow zone comprises 11 districts adjoining the state capital. The IG's order said that attempts should be made to check cow slaughter and cattle smuggling effectively and those involved should be booked.

The IG said that in cases

Man behind 141 theft cases held

KENDRAPARA, March 21: A 44-year-old man allegedly involved in at least 141 cases of motorcycle theft was today arrested by the police here.

"The accused, Ranjan Kar, used to trick people into believing that he is a priest and then stole their two wheelers and other household valuables," Inspector in-charge of Nikirai police station, Pramod Kumar Lenka said.

"Ranjan was well versed in 'mantras' and 'shlokas' and deceived people through his knowledge in Sanskrit," Lenka said.

The accused was involved in various theft cases and nabbed when he was fleeing with a stolen bike from Nikirai village, the officer said.

"He has confessed to have been involved in as many as 141 cases of bike theft. His first offence dates back to 1992 in Salipur near Cuttack," Lenka said.

"Ranjan had earlier been apprehended four times. He mostly operated in rural pockets of Keonjhar, Jajpur, Cuttack and Kendrapara districts," Lenka said adding "we are trying to nab those who had purchased stolen bikes from him." - PTI

Maximum Kashmiri youths joined militancy in 2016, says Centre

NEW DELHI, March 21: A total of 88 Kashmiri youths joined militancy in 2016, the highest in last six years, the Centre has said, adding that infiltration almost tripled last year as compared to 2015.

It, however, said the situation in Jammu and Kashmir has "improved to a large extent" in the current year.

In written replies to two separate questions in Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Home Affairs, Hansraj Gangaram Ahir shared data about Kashmiri youths taking up arms, infiltration attempts and law and order situation in the valley.

The data shows a steady increase in the number of youths taking up arms in the valley from 2014 onwards as compared to ones between 2010 and 2013.

According to the data, 88 Kashmiri

youths have joined militancy in 2016, which is highest in last six years.

In the year 2010, 54 youths joined militancy, in 2011, the number came down to 23. It further dipped to 21 in 2012 and 16 in 2013, it said.

In 2014, the number shot to 53 and in 2015, it reached 66 before touching the highest mark in six years (88) in 2016, the data said.

"The state of Jammu and Kashmir has been affected by terrorism sponsored and supported from across the border. The levels of terrorist violence in the hinterland of Jammu and Kashmir are linked to infiltration from across the border," Ahir said.

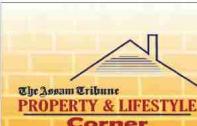
The data on infiltration shows that about 121 terrorists had sneaked into the country in 2012, highest in six years, followed

by 119 in 2016. "The counter terrorism efforts saw the best figures in 2010, when 81 per cent of infiltration attempts were thwarted by security forces, with only 95 terrorists entering the country as against 489 attempts," the data said.

In 2011, 52 terrorists had crossed over against 247 infiltration attempts, while in 2013, 97 ultras managed to sneak against 277 attempts, it said.

In 2014, 222 terrorists tried to enter the country, but only 65 could do it and in 2015, 121 ultras attempted but 33 of them were successful, the data said.

"Under the surrender policy notified by the state government, since January 31, 2004 till date, 219 surrendered militants have been benefited under the scheme in – Ahir said. - PTI



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Making a difference



Hard work above all else is the mantra to success, Bollywood actor Anushka Sharma tells Durga Chakravarty in an interview

Cricketer Virat Kohli shared a romantic Valentine's Day message with a photograph of Anushka Sharma, and then, on International Women's Day, he tagged her in a social media post. But the actress has always chosen to stay mum about their bond. She says she values privacy.

"I value privacy, so I will always hope that people let me be when it comes to my personal space," Anushka told IANS in an interview, when asked if she finds it stifling being constantly under scrutiny, and how she handles it.

Having said that, Anushka feels blessed to get the love and affection of her fans.

"Scrutiny might not be easy, but it's a minor aspect of a much more gratifying experience in the long run," she added.

In her past, Bollywood celebrities have spoken out more openly about their personal issues - be it about relationships or dealing with depression.

"I think it's a personal decision that each celebrity takes individually," said the actress.

The 28-year-old star has been part of the industry for almost nine years and has worked in films like *Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi*, *Band Baaja Baaraat*, *Jab Tak Hai Jaan*, *PK*, *NH10*, *Dil Dhadakne Do*, *Sultan* and *AAK*.

During this period, she has also landed plum endorsement deals, the latest of which is her appointment as ambassador for the eyewear brand Polaroid. And she is also a film producer.

Talking about her journey, she said: "What I have realised so far is that one should just let one's work do all the talking. I stayed focused on choosing to work in roles that made a difference to a film, and in films that entertained and engaged viewers."

Giving the roles and scripts priority has paid off for her.

"I have worked with filmmakers who matter today and have won audience approval with my commercial successes. So, hard work above all else is the mantra to success. That's perhaps my biggest learning," Anushka added.

Be it as the vivacious Tian from *Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi*, fun-loving Shruti from *Band Baaja Baaraat* or the strong-headed Meera from her maiden production *NH10*, Anushka has always shared equal ground.

Is that a conscious decision?

"I wanted to become an actor, to be part of films that will remain with an audience much after they have left the theatre, films that you remember with fondness. So, my decision to take up roles that have something to say and make a difference to how a film shapes up, emerges from that."

Anushka says she took all chances by focusing on strong, empowered actresses to relate to roles.

"Since audiences today remember the characters that I have played, and the roles that I have done, it indicates that I chose the right direction. I hope to continue to be part of films where what I play matters," she said.

Anushka's next film is *Philkari* under her home banner Clean Slate Films, and she features it in a friendly ghost. Besides her, the film also stars Diljit Dosanjh, Suraj Sharma and Meehreen Pirzada and is slated to release on March 24.

"It's a funny and entertaining role with an element of intrigue also in play," Anushka said of the main character.

Then there is filmmaker Imtiaz Ali's upcoming film with superstar Shah Rukh Khan.

"At this stage, I can't say anything about Imtiaz Ali's film other than the fact that it's been absolutely fantastic collaborating with them. The film is visually and emotionally rich and engaging," she said. - IANS

Know your DAY

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, March 22, 2017.

This year you may feel a profound change that could affect your status in the outside world. For some of you, this transformation is the result of a job change or a commitment to your community. Others prove beneficial to you, as they help you reach as they grow. If you are single, you will meet potential mates, yet you still won't want your space. Finding someone with the same need could be challenging. If you are attached, the two of you take off to seek out new experiences together. Travel and play a significant role in your relationship. AQUARIUS is a loyal friend.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

**** You won't push yourself past a certain point, especially if you are marked by someone who gives you a new perspective. You are marked by good luck, if you are willing to receive it. You gain unusual power by detaching and becoming more of an observer. Maintain a sense of humor. Tonight: Go cold for the wee hours.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

***** Sorting through what is real and what is speculation might challenge today. You know how to honor a fast change and get more of what you want by tapping into your creativity. A friend surprises you and catches you off guard. Tonight: Stay away from the crowds.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)

**** You are likely to be sick and a contagious person in your life. Slow down, and try not to go right away. Come from a more secure place before deciding how to handle this matter. Don't play into his or her manipulations. A boss or parent might surprise you. Tonight: A must show.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)

**** As much as possible, you have the ability to use light words at the right times, which helps to melt others' resistance. You also have the ability to accept new ways of thinking and new insights. You will need to use that skill today. Tonight: Nap, then decide.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

**** You have what you seem to lack right now, which is a positive attitude and perspective of what is right. Tonight: As a result, what is a boulder in someone else's path is only a pebble in yours. Use care with any risk-taking. Tonight: Act as if there were no tomorrow.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

**** An associate will need to be handled, and if you don't handle it, the issue will waste through the next few days. An associate continues to be too independent for your taste; try to rope him or her in before the situation gets worse. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

**** Refuse calls, stay on top of emails and know what you want. You could face several discussions in which you'll need to reveal more of your inner self. Some nerves might be frayed, so take a timeout if you can; even if only for a short time. Tonight: Run some errands.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

**** Beware of what is happening around you financially. Take a strong stance with your finances and investments. You understand what you need to do, but you might be hesitant. Use your creativity when dealing with these matters. Tonight: Make it your treat.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

**** Opportunities naturally seem to knock on your door. You might need to make some choices that you were not prepared to make. A family member is likely to shake up the status quo. Tonight: Make it easy.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

**** You are likely to be around you. How you view what you express yourself might be quite unique and different. Tonight: You get a second wind.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

**** Spend time with supportive friends who help you achieve what you want. First, make sure that your goals are still attainable. A close associate or loved one might discuss some key issues that are likely to surprise you. Use care financially. Tonight: Get some rest.

Man loves little and often, woman much and rarely.

LOCKHORNS



DENNIS THE MENACE



THE PHANTOM



By Lee Falk

BLONDIE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



- BASTA

"I have worked with filmmakers who matter today and have won audience approval with my commercial successes. So, hard work above all else is the mantra to success. That's perhaps my biggest learning," Anushka added.

Be it as the vivacious Tian from *Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi*, fun-loving Shruti from *Band Baaja Baaraat* or the strong-headed Meera from her maiden production *NH10*, Anushka has always shared equal ground.

Is that a conscious decision?

"I wanted to become an actor, to be part of films that will remain with an audience much after they have left the theatre, films that you remember with fondness. So, my decision to take up roles that have something to say and make a difference to how a film shapes up, emerges from that."

Anushka says she took all chances by focusing on strong, empowered actresses to relate to roles.

"Since audiences today remember the characters that I have played, and the roles that I have done, it indicates that I chose the right direction. I hope to continue to be part of films where what I play matters," she said.

Anushka's next film is *Philkari* under her home banner Clean Slate Films, and she features it in a friendly ghost. Besides her, the film also stars Diljit Dosanjh, Suraj Sharma and Meehreen Pirzada and is slated to release on March 24.

"It's a funny and entertaining role with an element of intrigue also in play," Anushka said of the main character.

Then there is filmmaker Imtiaz Ali's upcoming film with superstar Shah Rukh Khan.

"At this stage, I can't say anything about Imtiaz Ali's film other than the fact that it's been absolutely fantastic collaborating with them. The film is visually and emotionally rich and engaging," she said. - IANS

Kids

CN

SONY

StarPlus

colors

23:00 Shakti - Ashira Ke Dhaisa
23:30 Ek Stringer - Swabhiman

Entertainment

23:00 Padmaavat
17:00 Crime Patrol - Satark

18:00 Star Plus Super Show

19:30 Padmaavat

20:00 Samai Moshan

21:00 Beyhadh

21:30 Rotti No. 21

21:30 Rotti No. 21

22:00 Padmaavat

22:30 Crime Patrol Day 100

23:00 Star Plus Day 100

23:30 Telephonic

23:30 Telephonic

23:30 The Tom And Jerry Show

23:30 The Tom And Jerry Show

23:30 Yo-Kai Watch

India to halt progress on Miyar plant design

ISLAMABAD, March 21: India has agreed to halt the progress on the Miyar hydroelectricity project's design after objections by Pakistan, a media report here claimed today.

The development came as the Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) meeting of the Indus Water Commissioners of Pakistan and India held discussions today on water issues for a second day in Islamabad, Geo News reported.

The Indian delegation led by Indus Water Commissioner PK Saxena agreed to halt the progress on the Miyar hydroelectricity project's de-

sign, the report said.

"India will create and share a new design of the project," Pakistan's Indus Water Commissioner Mirza Asif Baig was quoted as saying.

Pakistan has raised objections over the designs of three projects, including the Miyar hydroelectricity project, located in Himachal Pradesh's Lahaul Spiti district, Lower Kalahoi and Dhaul, both being built in Jammu and Kashmir, and demanded access to the sites, the report said.

Baig was quoted as saying that India also agreed to review the design for the Lower Kalahoi hydroelectric project. — PTI

New US travel rules for 8 Muslim-majority nations

WASHINGTON, March 21: Passengers travelling to the US from 10 airports in eight Muslim-majority countries, including from global hubs like Dubai, cannot carry large electronic devices like cameras and laptops as cabin baggage under a new Trump administration order today, citing terrorism concerns.

According to the tough restrictions, passengers will have to check in any devices bigger than a smartphone—including iPads, Kindles and laptops—before clearing security or boarding. US officials said.

The nine airlines are Egyptair, Emirates Airline, Etihad Airways, Kuwait Airways, Qatar Airways, Royal Air Maroc, Royal Jordanian Airlines, Saudi Arabian Airlines and Turkish Airlines.

The nine airlines are

Egyptair, Emirates Airline, Etihad Airways, Kuwait Airways, Royal Air Maroc, Royal Jordanian Airlines, Saudi Arabian Airlines and Turkish Airlines.

ports covered by the ban are in Cairo, Egypt; Dubai and Abu Dhabi, UAE; Istanbul, Turkey; Doha, Qatar; Amman, Jordan; Kuwait City; Casablanca, Morocco; and Jeddah and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The nine airlines are

Egyptair, Emirates Airline, Etihad Airways, Kuwait Airways, Royal Air Maroc, Royal Jordanian Airlines, Saudi Arabian Airlines and Turkish Airlines.

It is necessary to enhance security procedures for passengers at certain last-point-of-departure airports to the United States, "The Washington Post" quoted an official as saying.

The officials said US carriers are not affected because none of them fly from the airports in question to the US.

The ban involves some of the widest reaching aviation security measures taken since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

It means all laptops, cameras, tablets, e-readers, port-

SHORT TENDER NOTICE

Sealed quotations are invited from the suppliers/firms for Bags/Diary/Identity cards under RRSK programme. The tender should be submitted to the undersigned, from 21.03.17 to 27.03.2017 within 2.00 PM. The detailed specification etc. may be collected from the DPMU, NHM, Golaghat during office hours in all working days from 11 AM to 2.00 PM as per specified date.

Sd/- Jt. DHS, Golaghat

PUBLIC NOTICE

The advertisement Notice Published on 28th January 2016 (Reference No. Jansanyog/12854/15) from Directorate of Health Services, Assam under the State Health Care Programme, Assam as mentioned below has been CANCELLED due to the change of Administrative Heads from April 2016 of the said programme.

Sl. No.	Name of the District/TDCC Cell	District Consultant	Psychologist	Social Worker	Data Entry Operator
1.	Kamrup (M)	1			
2.	Jorhat	1			
3.	Morigaon	1	1	1	1
4.	Sonitpur	1	1	1	1
Total		4	2	2	2

Sd/- Directorate of Health Services, Assam, Hengrabari, Guwahati-38

(Short Notice Inviting Quotations)

No.KDP/2016/MdP/Tender/04: In pursuance of the letter No. 13/2008-PPL dated 7.12.2011 issued from the Ministry of Minority Affairs, GOI, Delhi dated 16.07.2016 to the Govt of the North Eastern Council, Shillong, Meghalaya, for supply of Solar Lamps under MdP-11th plan per specification of MNRE, GOI. To be distributed among the selected students of religious minorities residing in the development blocks under Kamrup District.

The interested firms may submit their quotations which must reach the Planning & Development Branch, office of the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, Assamigan or before 28.02.2017 by 1.00 PM/ Speed Post/ Registered Post or by telex to be dropped in a Box specifically meant for the purpose.

The received quotations will be opened on 27.03.2017 at 3.00 PM in presence of the concerned officials. The tenders will be rejected if the tenders are not submitted by the District Development Commissioner, Kamrup, Assamgan. Absence of any postulated representatives will not be taken to open the quotations. Quotations received after the scheduled date & time shall be rejected. The tenders will not be held responsible for any postal delay.

The Authority reserves the right to accept/ reject any or all quotations & modify the quantity of articles to be supplied temporarily without notice & without assigning any reason thereof. The description of the item to be supplied follows:

Item	Quantity approx
Solar Lamps Model/ITA as per specification of MNRE/Annexure-II GOI (SPV Model-6V, Lamp-3w LED based, Battery- 6V, 4Ah sealed maintenance charge) with mobile charging port, AC charging facility with charge. The lamp should be high or low beam mode. In solar SPV there must be an embossed logo of MdP-Kamrup	3240 Nos

Detail of Items & Terms & Condition may be seen in the undersigned office.

Sd/- Deputy Commissioner
Kamrup, Assam

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
অসম রাজ্যিক গ্রাম জীৱিকা আভিযান
**ASSAM STATE RURAL LIVELIHOODS
MISSION SOCIETY**
NABAJYOTI NAGAR, SIVA NATH GOGOI PATH,
GUWAHATI, ASSAM-781037

No.ASRMLS/HRR/RECRUITMENT/276/2013-14/137

ADVERTISEMENT

Applications are invited in prescribed form for filling up of following positions on contractual basis under Assam State Rural Livelihoods Mission Society, Assam.

Sl. No.	Positions	No. of Posts	No. of Reservation
1	State Project Manager (HR, Administration & Capacity Building of Staff)	1	UR
2	State Project Manager (Financial Inclusion)	1	UR
3	Project Manager (Financial Inclusion)	1	UR

1. Last date of receipt of duly filled in application by the State Mission Director, Assam State Rural Livelihoods Mission Society, Siva Nath Gogoi Path, Nabajyoti Nagar, Panbari Road, Guwahati-781037 is 21.04.2017. 2. For application format, eligibility criteria, age, salary and other terms and conditions, applicants are advised to visit the society's website www.asrlms.assam.gov.in.

Sd/- State Mission Director,
Assam State Rural Livelihoods Mission Society

No.ASRMLS/HRR/RECRUITMENT/276/2013-14/138

Applications are invited in prescribed form of publication published in the official website of ASRLMS www.asrlms.assam.gov.in for engagement on contractual basis, for following positions under Assam State Rural Livelihoods Mission Society, Assam.

Sl. No.	Positions	No. of Posts	No. of Reservation
1	Project Manager-Finance & Accounts (Skills & Placement)	1	UR
2	Project Manager Procurement & Finance (Skills & Placement)	1	UR
3	Project Executive - Finance & Accounts (Skills & Placement)	1	UR
4	Project Executive - IT & MIS (Skills & Placement)	1	UR
5	Project Assistant-I & MIS (Skills & Placement)	1	UR

1. Last date of receipt of duly filled in application by the State Mission Director, Assam State Rural Livelihoods Mission Society, Siva Nath Gogoi Path, Nabajyoti Nagar, Panbari Road, Guwahati - 781037 is 21.04.2017. 2. For application format, eligibility criteria, age, salary and other terms and conditions, applicants are advised to visit the society's website www.asrlms.assam.gov.in.

Sd/- State Mission Director,
Assam State Rural Livelihoods Mission Society

Jansanyog/1718/16

Migrants, women left behind in human development: UN

STOCKHOLM, March 21: Impressive advances have been made in human development over the past 25 years on many fronts, but ethnic minorities, refugees, migrants and women are being left behind, a United Nations report said.

"People now live longer, more children are in school and more people have access to basic social services," said the report by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), released in Stockholm.

"Yet human development has been uneven." Even though the global population increased by two billion from 1990 to 2015, the report found that more than one billion people escaped extreme poverty; 2.1 billion gained access to improved sanitation and more than 2.6 billion had access to an improved source of drinking water.

But still, in 2016, one person in nine was hungry and one in

criminated against in terms of both rights and opportunities. "Only 10 to 20 per cent of landowners in developing countries are women," it said.

Meanwhile, ethnic minorities often face discrimination and exclusion from education, employment and administrative and political positions, resulting in poverty and "higher vulnerability" to crime, including human trafficking, income inequality remains a problem as well.

Just one per cent of the global population holds 46 per cent of the world's wealth, the report said.

The UN programme recommended several measures to reach those being left behind. It said countries needed to pursue "inclusive growth" such as employment-led development strategies, frameworks to tackle informal work, and renewed focus on sectors where poor people live and work. — AFP

To some unavoidable circumstances the work "Sasoni" Merdeek, Eel Toush, Dibong, Bokai, Barak, work for construction of Resettlement Type-B / 3 Nos. Restaurant, Sanitary & Water supply works, Electricity, Area Lighting, Landscaping etc." published vide Third Tender Notice dated 28/02/2017 under Ref ID: ATCDS/SS/2016/8391 dt. 18.02.2017 is hereby cancelled.

Fourth Time Extension Press Notice (QCB) is being published. Sd/- Managing Director Assam Tourism Dev. Corp., Ltd. Jansanyog/2481/16

The rates of every item must be mentioned, without which quotations would be rejected. The selected suppliers will have to supply the indented articles at his own cost at the office of the undersigned within 24 hrs. from the date / time of receipt of supply order. Failure to supply in time would result into cancellation of the contract deed and forfeited of the security money.

LIST OF RATION COMMODITIES :
1. Rice (S/F) – Govt. controlled rate plus approved commission etc. for 100 kg
2. Meat (Mutton) – per kg.
3. Milk – Per ltrs.
4. Bread – Per kg.
5. Vegetable – Per kg
6. T/Powder – Per 100 gram
7. Garlic – Per 100 gram
8. Atta – Per kg

Sd/- Superintendent of Police
Dibrugarh, Assam

Jansanyog/1718/16

No.ASRMLS/HRR/RECRUITMENT/276/2013-14/139

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No.ASRMLS/HRR/RECRUITMENT/276/2013-14/140

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No.ASRMLS/HRR/RECRUITMENT/276/2013-14/141

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No.ASRMLS/HRR/RECRUITMENT/276/2013-14/142

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No.ASRMLS/HRR/RECRUITMENT/276/2013-14/143

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No.ASRMLS/HRR/RECRUITMENT/276/2013-14/144

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No.ASRMLS/HRR/RECRUITMENT/276/2013-14/145

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No.ASRMLS/HRR/RECRUITMENT/276/2013-14/146

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No.ASRMLS/HRR/RECRUITMENT/276/2013-14/147

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No.ASRMLS/HRR/RECRUITMENT/276/2013-14/148

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No.ASRMLS/HRR/RECRUITMENT/276/2013-14/149

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No.ASRMLS/HRR/RECRUITMENT/276/2013-14/150

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No.ASRMLS/HRR/RECRUITMENT/276/2013-14/151

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No.ASRMLS/HRR/RECRUITMENT/276/2013-14/152

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No.ASRMLS/HRR/RECRUITMENT/276/2013-14/153

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No.ASRMLS/HRR/RECRUITMENT/276/2013-14/154

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No.ASRMLS/HRR/RECRUITMENT/276/2013-14/155

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No.ASRMLS/HRR/RECRUITMENT/276/2013-14/156

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No.ASRMLS/HRR/RECRUITMENT/276/2013-14/157

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No.ASRMLS/HRR/RECRUITMENT/276/2013-14/158

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No.ASRMLS/HRR/RECRUITMENT/276/2013-14/159

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No.ASRMLS/HRR/RECRUITMENT/276/2013-14/161

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No.ASRMLS/HRR/RECRUITMENT/276/2013-14/162

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No.ASRMLS/HRR/RECRUITMENT/276/2013-14/164

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No.ASRMLS/HRR/RECRUITMENT/276/2013-14/168

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No.ASRMLS/HRR/RECRUITMENT/276/2013-14/170

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No.ASRMLS/HRR/RECRUITMENT/276/2013-14/171

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No.ASRMLS/HRR/RECRUITMENT/276/2013-14/172

Rohit, Parthiv named captains in Deodhar Trophy

NEW DELHI, March 21: The Indian selectors today named Rohit Sharma and Parthiv Patel as captains of the India 'Blue' and 'Red' side for the Deodhar Trophy tournament with senior off-spinner Harbhajan Singh coming back in contention after good performances in the Vijay Hazare Trophy.

Veteran Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Yuvraj Singh have been rested while Suresh Raina's non-inclusion among 28 players raises doubts about his future in the 50-over format.

The third team in the tournament will be Vijay Hazare champions Tamil Nadu. The three wicketkeepers will be Parthiv for the Red team, Rishabh Pant for the Blue team and Dinesh Karthik for Tamil Nadu. Ishant Kishan is out with calf muscle injury.

Harbhajan has been economical in both Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy as well as Hazare Trophy. In the 50-over format, he bowled his quota in all six matches with an economy rate of 4 runs per over taking nine wickets.

His inclusion means that he is being seriously considered for the Champions Trophy in England.

The tournament which will be the last 50-over competition before

Champions Trophy also features the likes of Shikhar Dhawan, Ambati Rayudu, Manish Pandey all staking claim for a couple of batting slots that are up for grabs.

According to reliable sources in the BCCI, even Ashish Nehra is not

Mohammed Shami, who got four wickets in Hazare final is not there as he may be picked for the final Test in Dharamsala.

Nehra will next be seen in action during IPL. The Deodhar Trophy gives them a chance to test some

out of favour for some time also gets a chance to stake a claim for the third opener's slot.

Kedar Jadhav is a certainty while Manish Pandey and Dinesh Karthik are likely to fight for one available slot in the middle-order.

The selectors have kept a nice blend of talented players as well as performers in domestic tournaments. Shreyas Iyer, Mandeep Singh, Ambati Rayudu, Manoj Tiwary are there in the teams. Hardik Pandya's elder brother Krunal, Punjab's Gurkeerat Mann have been rewarded for good show in Hazare Trophy.

The inclusion of Khejriwala with five List A games and Karnataka's Prashid Krishna with seven over 50 matches under his belt shows that selectors are ready to punt on talent keeping on the future.

India Blue: Rohit Sharma (Captain), Mandeep Singh, Shreyas Iyer, Ambati Rayudu, Manoj Tiwary, Dinesh Karthik, Hardik Pandya, Harbhajan Singh, Kural Pandya, Shobhan Nadeem, Sardar Kaul, Shardul Thakur, Prashid Krishna, Pankaj Rao.

India Red: Parthiv Patel (Captain) & wk, Shikhar Dhawan, Manish Pandey, Naresh Apoorwal, Kedar Jadhav, Ishant Jaggi, Gurkeerat Mann, Axar Patel, Akshay Kamekar, Ashok Dinda, Kulwant Khejriwala, Dhawal Kulkarni, Govinda Poddar. — PTI



Maharashtra beat Kerala, finish 3rd

VASCO, March 21: Last year's runners-up Maharashtra scored a comfortable 2-0 win over Kerala but failed to qualify for the semifinals of the Santosh Trophy since they finished third in Group B, here today.

Maharashtra scored through Vaibhav Shirley (34th) and Shrikant Veeramulu (59th) to finish third with six points. They needed not only a win but also required Mizoram to draw against Railways but Mizoram spanked Railways 5-1 to finish second with seven points.

Mizoram had same point as Kerala but were placed second since they had lost to them 1-0. Top two teams made it to the semi-final stage.

Mizoram will meet West Bengal while Goa will clash with Kerala in the semifinals on Thursday.

Kerala rested three of their key players and did not look threatful today in their attack, allowing the rivals to do most of the attacking who needed a victory to stay afloat in their tournament.

Kerala who held their forte intact relied on quick counter moves and had the first chance to surge ahead in the 19th minute when Muhammed Parakkottil sent a high cross inside the box from the left but Usman P headed over after rival keeper Aditya Mishra left his charge to punch the aerial ball but failed.

Maharashtra, who did bulk of the attacking, had the best chance to equalise in the 32nd minute but Shrikant Veeramulu's feeble shot from close was collected by rival keeper of a pass from Arun Dcosta. — PTI

Vardy got death threats after Ranieri sacking

LONDON, March 21: England and Leicester striker Jamie Vardy says his alleged role in getting Claudio Ranieri sacked after a terrible slump in form placed the champion in danger of relegation has earned him and his family death threats.

The 30-year-old – whose goals last season helped Leicester to the title and the one-time non-league player a place in the England team – added it was barely credible the only punishment the perpetrators of the

threats on Twitter received was a slap on the wrist.

"I read one story that said it (the meeting between several senior players and the club owner over Ranieri) was straight after the Sevilla game (a 2-1 first leg last 16 Champions League defeat in Spain which saw the Italian sacked soon after).

"It said I was personally involved in a meeting when I was actually set in anti-doping for three hours," said Vardy, who was speaking at the England training camp ahead of a friendly on Wednesday with Germany.

Vardy, whose vigour and form have returned since Craig Shakespeare replaced Ranieri,

said getting at him he could just about handle but attacking his family was another. "Then of course the story is out there and people pick it up and jump on it and you're getting death threats about your family, kids, everything," he said.

"On social media, you name it – walking down the street, to be honest I get them every week. Football fans don't seem to like me. I just get on with it, when people are trying to cut your missus up while she's driving along, with the kids in the back of the car, it's not the best. It's happened plenty of times."

"It is terrifying. All that can happen is they get banned on Twitter. People get cut up but if there's no cameras you're screwed." — AFP

Neuer to miss England friendly

BERLIN, March 21: German captain Manuel Neuer has been ruled out of Wednesday's home friendly against England while the Mannschaft's shooting-star Timo Werner is set to make his debut.

A calf injury has sidelined Bayern Munich goalkeeper Neuer, who misses both the friendly against Gareth Southgate's Three Lions in Dortmund and Germany's 2018 World Cup qualifier against Azerbaijan in Baku on Sunday.

Paris Saint-Germain's stopper Kevin Trapp has been called up to take Neuer's place for both internationals.

Up front for Germany, the 21-year-old Werner is set to feature against England.

Germany have struggled to settle on a striker to replace all-time top-scorer Miroslav Klose, who scored 71 goals in 137 internationals, and retired after they won the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

"I do wonder where the

next Miroslav Klose is?" Germany's head coach Joachim Loew asked a year ago before adding Klose to his coaching staff.

"Where is the striker, who plays in the middle, who is quick, has a strong header and is dangerous in front of goal?"

Löw believes he has his answer and wants to blood Werner with one eye on June's Confederations Cup in Russia.

The 21-year-old fleet-footed striker drew the attention of Löw, and Liverpool, according to reports, with a series of dynamic performances and has so far bagged 14 goals for Leipzig in their first Bundesliga season.

"I had just been shopping and had to pull over.

"If I play in my first international, it will be an honour."

As Löw breaks in a new striker, he will be waving goodbye to Galatasaray's Podolski.

The international England friendly doubles as swansong for Podolski, who retired from

international football last year, but has been called up for a farewell appearance.

The 31-year-old has scored 48 goals in 148 appearances for Germany, but has not held down a first-team place since the Euro 2012 finals.

Löw is likely to start with Mario Gomez, who has scored for Wolfsburg in his last three games, with RB Leipzig's Werner either alongside him or coming off the bench with Podolski on the wing.

When the European powerhouses last met, Germany raced into a 2-0 lead in Berlin last March, with goals by Toni Kroos and Gomez, before Harry Kane, Jamie Vardy and Eric Dier scored to seal England's 3-2 comeback win.

As well as Neuer, Löw is without winger Marco Reus, who is sidelined with a hamstring injury, while World Cup-winner Mario Goetze is recovering from a metabolism disorder. — Agencies



Timo Werner

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England left Germany a year ago with confidence sky-high after goals from Harry Kane, Jamie Vardy and Eric Dier saw Roy Hodgson's men come from 2-0 down to beat the world champions 3-2 in Berlin.

Hodgson's young team were expected to make a splash at Euro 2016 in France, but after limp group-stage draws against Russia and Slovakia, they were stunned 2-1 by Iceland in the last 16.

Hodgson's resignation saw Allardyce handed the job he had long coveted, only for him to fall foul of undercover Daily Telegraph reporters who secretly filmed him making indiscreet comments in a hotel bar.

Promoted from his role as England under-21s coach, Southgate was given four games to prove himself worthy of the top job.

Results and performances were mixed as

England beat Malta and Scotland in World Cup qualifying, but could only draw 0-0 in Slovenia and let a 2-0 lead slip to draw 2-2 in an end-of-year friendly with Spain.

But it proved a successful audition and Southgate – abetted by a glaring lack of other strong candidates – was awarded a four-year contract in November.

His first significant act was to sideline Rooney, four months after the 31-year-old had to apologise for being pictured looking the worse for wear alongside wedding guests at the England team hotel.

Rooney became England's leading scorer during the Euro 2016 qualifiers, but he has lost his place at Manchester United and may never get an opportunity to add to his 53 international goals.

In Rooney's absence, Southgate has indicated he intends to allocate the captain's armband on a match-by-match basis.

Theo Walcott was another casualty of Southgate's first squad, the manager explaining that the Arsenal forward had not impressed him during England's most recent games. — AFP

Southgate picks up pieces as England rebuild again



LONDON, March 21: After a year scarred by scandal and sporting catastrophe, Gareth Southgate will begin his attempt to steer England into calmer waters in Wednesday's friendly against Germany in Dortmund.

England began 2016 with a stirring 3-2 win over Germany, but they were humiliated by Iceland at Euro 2016 before new manager Sam Allardyce was brought down by a newspaper after just one game in charge.

Southgate, 46, has been left to pick up the pieces and he asserted his authority by omitting captain Wayne Rooney from his first squad, explaining that it is time for England to build for the future.

"When you're in the role temporarily, you are always thinking, 'Do I make decisions for the long term or do you just need points for the country?'" said Southgate, who initially replaced Allardyce on an

interim basis.

"Now there's an opportunity to put down things I think are important. We've got a clear longer-term vision of how we want to work as a group of staff, so the last few months have been about putting that into place."

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Jadeja grabs top spot in bowling, Pujara 2nd in batting list

NEW DELHI, March 21:

India's Ravindra Jadeja piped spin twin Ravichandran Ashwin to grab the pole position in the latest ranking for IC Test bowlers while Cheteshwar Pujara reached a career-high second rank among batsmen.

Ravindra Jadeja

Cheteshwar Pujara

Smith has reached a career-high rating of 941 points after scores of 178 not out and 21.

While Jadeja has closed in on a major landmark as his tally of 899 rating points has put him on the brink of becoming only the second Indian bowler after Ashwin to touch the 900-point mark, Ashwin, who had a highest rating of 904 points, has slipped 37 points behind Jadeja to 862 points after finishing with just two wickets in Ranchi.

Meanwhile, the race for the second spot in the ICC Test team rankings has become interesting as South Africa compete ahead of the cut-off date of April 1, on which India is assured of finishing first and getting a cash award of USD 1 million.

Australia will finish second and get a cash award of USD 500,000 with at least a draw in the last Test in Dharamsala while South Africa can finish second if Australia loses with South Africa either winning or drawing the last match against New Zealand in Hamilton.

The third-placed team on April 1 will receive USD 200,000 while the fourth-placed team, which will be England, will get USD 100,000. — PTI

Los Angeles has eyes for 2024 amid deal speculation

LOS ANGELES, March 21:

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti has insisted that the city remains solely focused on staging the Olympics in 2024 amid speculation of a deal which could see rival bid Paris hand the games. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) confirmed last week it will study the possibility of awarding both the 2024 and 2028 Olympics at the same time when the body meets for a crunch vote in Lima in September.

Under one scenario, Paris could be chosen as hosts for the 2024 Olympics – 100 years after last staging the Games – with Los Angeles handed the right to host the extravaganza four years later.

LA 2024 officials have consistently played down speculation surrounding a possible joint award, maintaining that the focus remained on a 2024 bid. And Garcetti, one of the leaders of the Los Angeles bid, reiterated his position in an interview with the insidethegames.biz news website.

"We are competing for 2024, full stop," insidethegames quoted him as saying on Monday. "I would love to visit my friends in Paris in 2028. We have never contemplated anything else," Garcetti said, adding that he was sympathetic to the views of IOC chief Thomas Bach, who is concerned that the bidding process creates "too many losers."

"I support those kind of conversations," Garcetti said. "There are too many cities that lose, it costs way too much (to bid). I support those kind of reforms but that is a bigger question for the future. — AFP

are old-fashioned in approach which translates as strokes in front of the stumps and wickets with their lives. India could have been under the pump but for these two gentlemen.

Pujara at crease is worth a battalion. You simply can't break his cordon of defence. No slight of hand, gunfire or attrition could deconstruct him. Saha is lean, gaunt and similarly blood-minded. They are good men to be manning a crumbling gate. Ravi Jadeja too has raked up many miles to his statue. He is now a match-winner with the ball. There is more variety and nuances to his skills, without any loss to his accuracy. He hurt Australia likewise with the bat on the fourth evening. The intense battle of the last three Tests, with no less the drama of DRS, has frayed the nerves of two insanely competitive teams. Nothing is being held back. We have been witness to a theatre, all good, bad and ugly. As long as it doesn't fall foul with the spirit of the game, a little spice only adds to a riveting drama.

One more Test and India would have negotiated a strenuous season with aplomb. All that remains is for Kohli to end the season as the batsman we all know. — TCM

It will turn around, I will score runs: Warner

RANCHI, March 21: It has been a barren run for David Warner since arriving in India but the Australian opener is hopeful of a turnaround, saying he will soon be among men.

The left-handed opener has managed just 131 runs in six innings with a 33-run knock in the first innings of the Bengaluru Test being his best so far. Warner said there was nothing wrong with him as he was striking the ball quite well.

"I feel fantastic, I couldn't be hitting the ball any better but it's just that the runs aren't coming for me at the moment. That will come, it will turn around," Warner told reporters.

"I just have to keep being disciplined and making sure that my preparation is still the same – not change anything, and just go about my business as I do," he said. — PTI

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Solution of last problem

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5	2	0	4	1	7	3	8	6
7	6	2	9	3	8	1	5	4
3	1	4	2	5	6	9	7	8
9	5	8	7	4	1	6	3	2
4	9	7	1	8	2	5	6	3
6	8	1	5	3	2	4	9	7
2	3	6	9	4	8	1	7	5

