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Email your applications to info@qualitypharma.in and for any queries please contact Mr. Shekhar Das at 0976913912/ 0373-2300427/0373-2300527. SV/P/722/1

WANTED AT GUWAHATI FOR ESTABLISHMENT COMMERCIAL HOUSE, 1) SALES EXECUTIVE: BE/DIPLOMA IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING WITH 2/3 YEARS EXPERIENCE 1) MARKETING OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCT/ GOVERNMENT PROJECTS IN NORTH EASTERN REGION. CANDIDATE SHOULD BE SMART/ DYNAMIC AND BUSINESS ORIENTED WITH KNOWLEDGE OF COMPUTER APPLICATION AND WILLING TO TRAVEL IN NORTH EASTERN REGION. 2) ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT: GRADUATE WITH EXCELLENCE IN COMMERCIAL SUBJECTS AND KNOWLEDGE OF INCOME TAXES/TAX SERVICE/TAX MATTERS AND COMPUTER TALLY OPERATIONS. 3) OFFICE ASSISTANT MALE/FEMALE: GRADUATE WITH EXPERIENCE IN OFFICIAL JOBS AND COMPUTER OPERATIONS PREFERABLY KNOWING SHORTHAND. THE ABOVE CANDIDATES SHOULD BE FLUENT IN ENGLISH AND HINDI BESIDES LOCAL LANGUAGES. GOOD PROSPECTS FOR DESERVING CANDIDATES. APPLY WITH COMPLETE BIO-DATA BOX NO. 3295, THE ASSAM TRIBUNE, CHANDMARI, GUWAHATI. SV/CS/224/1

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Quality Pharma Products Pvt. Ltd. requires a trainee Quality Control Chemist for its production unit at Laheoal, Dibrugarh. Candidates must be B.Pharm/M.Pharm/M.Sc. in chemistry. Please immediately send your biodata to info@qualitypharma.in and for further queries contact Mr. Shekhar Das at 0976913912/ 0373-2300427/0373-2300527. SV/22/1

Quality Pharma Products Pvt. Ltd. wants to recruit a trainee PMT Executive at its Head Office at Dibrugarh, Assam. B.Pharm graduates with minimum 1-2 yrs experience in Pharma Marketing can apply for the post. Interested candidates immediately send your biodata to info@qualitypharma.in and for any queries please contact Mr. Shekhar Das at 0976913912/ 0373-2300427/0373-2300527. SV/22/1

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ADYAS SHRADDHA

In Loving Memory of LL. Umesh Ch. Baishya Umesh Ch. Baishya a resident of Dhemaji, Assam. He passed away on 08/17 following a cardiac arrest. LL. Baishya served as SDO in BSNL and he was actively associated with various associations in his locality. We pray for his departed soul so that he may rest in peace.

Mrs. Mirakha Baishya (Wife) Kani Baishya (Daughter) Bandita Baishya (Daughter) From relatives, friends and family.

CD/InMemo/P/...../1

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PUBLIC NOTICE

By an affidavit before the Notary Delhi 22.03.17 it is declared that Chhandita Roy Choudhury D/o. Smt. Jharna Roy Choudhury (Mother) & late Sh. Anil Baru Roy Choudhury (Father), & W/o. Sh. Partha Pratim Bhattacharya, R/o. Flat No. 27, Pocket-33, Sector-3, Rohini, Delhi-110085, holder of Passport No. V047781 (First) & Z1706162 (last), that Chhandita Roy Choudhury is one & same lady person hereinafter will be known as Chhandita Roy Choudhury for all purposes. My date & place of birth mentioned in my previous Passport, No. V047781 (First) & Z1706162 (last) & my school records & some other documents of 14.12.1968 is incorrect & my correct date of birth is 14.12.1967 as per Birth Certificate issued by Office of the Councillors of Bishnupur Municipality.

"And it was felt to improve the system for computation of disproportionate assets was formulated several years ago when access to information was limited and the extent of disproportion had to be arrived at using cumbersome procedures and that too manually.

"And it was felt to improve the system for computation of disproportionate assets, including development of a software to capture all the events related to income and expenditure during the check period," according to official document.

It was also observed by the CVC that in the present system, data availability with banks, FIU, taxation departments, etc are not being mandatorily obtained and utilized for computation of disproportionate assets.

Following which a committee comprising officers from the CVC, the CBI, the FIU and the Department of Personnel and Training – the nodal department for anti-corruption measures, was formed.

The panel has submitted its report which is now with the CBI for its further input before it is eventually accepted, a senior CVC official said.

"The new system will be more scientific and help investigators get information of all hidden income using modern tools," he said. – PTI

IN MEMORIAM

Late Mrs. Nafisa Ahmed Date of demise: 17/04/2016 Your memories are always cherished...

FAMILY MEMBERS
Kalyanpur, Ganeshguri, Guwahati-6

CD/InMemo/P/AP066/1

BUSINESS

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US Vice President Mike Pence, left, burns incense at the National Cemetery in Seoul, South Korea on Sunday. — UNI

British Muslim ISIS fighter calls for London attacks

LONDON, April 16: A 30-year-old British Muslim Islamic State fighter has been allegedly using an encrypted messaging service Telegram to call on his supporters to launch bomb attacks in London.

Omar Hussain, a former supermarket worker from Buckinghamshire who had fled to Syria in 2013, has also posted bomb-making guidelines using the same service. Hussain has called on his followers to carry out a nail bomb assault similar to the attack in St Petersburg which killed 15 people earlier this month, the *Mirror* reported.

He reportedly posted a picture of a finished explosive device with a caption that said: "Looks like creme brulee."

Hussain had left his UK home to join the al Qaeda affiliated group Jabhat al-Nusra before switching allegiance to the ISIS terror network. In December last year, he had delivered a Christmas message urging followers to rob party-goers in order to gain money for knives and bombs.

"At Christmas the kuffar (non-Muslims) are loaded with money so it's the best time. Wait around the corner from a pub for a drunk kafir (non-Muslim) to exit and go down an alleyway," he wrote on a secure message service.

"Once in the alleyway it only takes a few punches for a drunk kafir to fall unconscious. Take a few ikhwa (brothers) and u can rob them. They could stab a kafir or slit his throat. I had friends in the UK who would do this in London and they never once got caught," he wrote.

Hussain, who had completed a university course in IT in Britain, has now reportedly taught graphic design to students in the ISIS terror group in the war zone. He first came in news when he appeared in an ISIS propaganda video, urging then Prime Minister David Cameron to send troops to fight the terror group, vowing "we'll send them back one by one in coffins". — PTI

North Korea 'attempts to launch missile but fails'

WASHINGTON, April 16: North Korea launched a missile today but it blew up almost immediately after its launch, the US military said, a day after Pyongyang warned Washington that it is "prepared to respond to an all-out war with an all-out war".

The attempted launch occurred a day after the regime of Kim Jong Un showed off a bevy of new missiles and launchers at a large-scale military parade.

"The missile blew up almost immediately. The type of missile is still being assessed," the US Pacific Command (USPACOM) said in a statement. The US Pacific Command detected and tracked what it assessed was a North Korean missile, the statement said.

"The launch of the ballistic missile occurred near Sinpo," US Pa-

cific Command spokesman CDR Dave Benham said. Sinpo, a port city in eastern North Korea, was also the site of a ballistic missile test earlier this month in which the projectile fell into the Sea of Japan, also known as the East Sea.

"USPACOM is fully committed to working closely with its allies in the Republic of Korea and in Japan to maintain security," Benham said.

Meanwhile, US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis has said that President Donald Trump and his military team are aware of the missile launch.

"The President and his military team are aware of North Korea's most recent unsuccessful missile launch. The President has no further comment," said Mattis.

South Korea and US intelligence officials are trying to de-

termine what type of missile was used today, said it was described as a land-based missile.

The launch came just hours before Mike Pence, the US vice president, arrived in Seoul for talks with the South Korean government over how to deal with Pyongyang's nuclear ambition.

North Korean state media has made no comment on the launch.

Choe Ryong Hae, who is believed to be the second-most powerful official in North Korea, said in a speech yesterday that the country is ready to stand up to any threat posed by the United States. He criticised the new US administration under President Donald Trump for "creating a war situation" on the Korean Peninsula by dispatching strategic military assets to the region. — PTI



Theresa May

People coming together, uniting post-Brexit: May

LONDON, April 16: British Prime Minister Theresa May today used her Easter message to strike a conciliatory note post-Brexit, saying people were "coming together" and uniting behind the opportunities that lie ahead following the vote.

She also said that people should feel "confident" about Christianity's role in the society and feel free to speak about their faith.

"This year, after a period of intense debate over the right future for our country, there is a sense that people are coming together and uniting behind the opportunities that lie ahead. For at heart, this country is one great union of people and nations with a proud history and a bright future," May said in her video message released by the Downing Street.

"And as we face the opportunities ahead of us – the opportunities that stem from our decision to leave the European Union and embrace the world – our shared interests, our shared ambitions and

above all our shared values can and must – bring us together," she noted. The daughter of a vicar who has been vocal about her faith in the past, May said, "We should be confident about the role that Christianity has to play in the lives of people in our country."

"We must continue to ensure that people feel able to speak about their faith, and that absolutely includes their faith in Christ."

"We must be mindful of Christians and religious minorities around the world who do not enjoy these same freedoms, but who practise their religion in secret and often in fear," she said.

She asserted that more needs to be done to stand up for the freedom of people of all religions so that they can practice their beliefs openly and in peace and safety. Opposition leader and Labour party's chief Jeremy Corbyn used his Easter message to call on the people to use the principles at the heart of Christianity to overcome society's problems. — PTI

Rescuers race to find Lanka garbage mishap survivors, toll 23

COLOMBO, April 16: Rescuers raced against time today to find survivors after a mountain of garbage collapsed on dozens of homes following a fire near the Sri Lankan capital two days ago, as the death toll in the tragedy climbed to 23.

Several heavy earth-moving equipment were digging through the dump in Mettawella area in Colombo to find survivors. Hundreds of soldiers have been deployed for rescue operation.

The army said troope of the Sri Lanka Light Infantry, Commandos, Gemunu Watchi and Vijayabahu

Turkey votes in landmark presidential referendum

ANKARA, April 16: Voting began on Sunday in Turkey in a landmark referendum that will determine whether President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will be granted new powers, the media reported.

Erdogan is seeking to replace Turkey's parliamentary system with an executive presidency, the BBC reported.

A "yes" vote could see Erdogan remain in office until 2029 and would give him vastly enhanced powers to appoint Cabinet ministers, issue decrees, choose senior judges and dissolve parliament.

On Saturday, Turkish politicians made their final appeals to voters preparing to cast their ballots on one of the most sweeping programmes of constitutional change since Turkey became a republic almost a century ago.

Some 55 million Turkish voters are eligible to cast their ballot, according to Hurriyet Daily News.

The referendum is expected to attract a high turnout, with 1.2 million young people eligible to vote for the first time.

The Supreme Board of Election has announced that 167,140 ballot boxes will be ready for voters; another 461 boxes have also been set up in prisons.

The election process for Turkish citizens living abroad ended on April 9. Over a million registered citizens voted at 120 foreign missions in 57 countries.

For those who have missed the two-week election period, 120 boxes at 31 customs gates will be open for Turkish citizens living abroad until 5 p.m. on Sunday. The campaign for the referendum was launched last October. — IANS



Military vehicles carry missiles with characters reading 'Pukkuksong' during a military parade marking the 105th birth anniversary of country's founding father, Kim Il Sung in Pyongyang, on Saturday. — UNI



Priscilla Presley uncomfortable with fame

LONDON, April 16: Priscilla Presley says she is still not comfortable with being in the lime-light.

The 71-year-old star, who was married to Elvis Presley for six years until 1973 and has daughter Lisa Marie with the iconic singer, says she is always on (her) guard for prying photographers, reported Contactmusic.

"I'm still not comfortable being in the limelight. Memphis was pretty good about protecting him and letting us live our lives. But in California though, we'd be lying out by the pool in our backyard and hear the rustling of trees and, sure enough, the paparazzi would be hiding behind them."

"You'd always be on guard, always looking around. I don't think you ever get that comfortable being in the limelight. Sure, there are a lot of people who love it, but it still doesn't seem normal to me," Priscilla says. — PTI



Novice nuns receive food from people during the Songkran Festival at the Sathira-Dhammasathan Buddhist meditation centre in Bangkok, Thailand on Saturday. — UNI

Nepal braces for 'traffic jam' at Mt Everest

KATHMANDU, April 16: Nepalese officials are bracing for a "traffic jam" at Mount Everest this season due to a surge in the number of climbers eyeing to conquer the world's tallest peak.

This time, there would be around 400 climbers who will embark the journey to scale the 8,848-metre-high Mt Everest from mid-May, according to the Department of Tourism.

As climbers are accompanied by high altitude workers, whose number is usually more than that of climbers, there could be around 1,000 individuals on their way to

the summit, creating a queue whose slow-paced movement will be punctuated by frequent halts, The Kathmandu Post reported.

Expedition teams have started arriving at the base camp a month before the start of the season to acclimatise.

"Everyone will be in a hurry to reach the peak when the weather clears; there is no management up there to fix turns for the climbers," said Sonam Sherpa, who has scaled Mt Everest five times working as an aide to climbers.

"So there is a possibility of a

"This is the final year of the three-year period and the climbers who had taken permission earlier have also arrived to ensure that they do not miss the chance. That is why the number of climbers this season is high," Durgadatta Dhakal, information officer at the Department of Tourism, was quoted as saying.

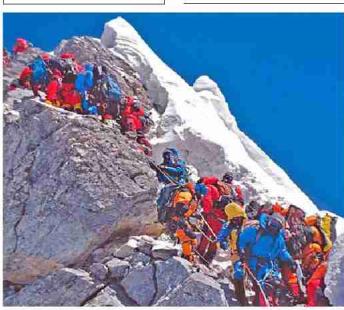
Those with 2014 permission are likely to return to scale the peak this year as in 2015, the government introduced a new law allowing climbers a three years' window to scale Mt Everest with a single permit and fare.

Arrived at the base camp after acquiring permission to climb Mt Everest last year when hundreds were able to reach the summit following two years of disasters on the mountain.

The 2015 season was called off after 19 climbers were killed and 61 injured by an avalanche triggered by a massive earthquake. In 2014, 16 Sherpa guides died in an avalanche.

More than 3,000 people have scaled Mt Everest since 1953.

Over 280 climbers have died attempting the scale the world's tallest peak. — PTI



Joy, enthusiasm mark Rongali Bihu celebrations

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 16: Joy and enthusiasm marked the Rongali Bihu celebrations organised by the All Guwahati Students' Union at the Judges Field here on Friday.

On the occasion, the Bihu flag was hoisted by noted litterateur Upendra Barakatky while AASU president Dipanika Kumar Nath unfurled the organisation's flag. AASU general secretary Luringoti Gogoi paid tributes to the martyrs. Students of Handique Girls' College presented two chorus – *Srimoyi Assoni* and *Hai Swadid*.

During the programme which was attended by a number of artistes, sportspersons, litterateurs and prominent citizens, the students' body felicitated noted personalities for their contribution to the State's social life. Among them were Padmashree Eli Ahmed, JN Goswami, Satiya



Distinguished personalities being felicitated for their contribution to Assamese social life at the Mukali Bihu organised by the All Guwahati Students' Union at the historic Jagnath Field, on Friday – UB Photos

Akadeemi Award winner Jnan Pujari, Anjali Basumatary,

Gita Upadhyay, Harapriya Barukal Borgohain, Rashmi

Narzary, Tapeshwar Sarma, Jnan Bahadur Chettri, Dr

Birham Gri Basumatary, Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar recipient Prarthana Saikia and Bijit Goyari, Sangeet Natak

Mukali Bihu. A group from Karbi Cultural Society also performed the traditional Karbi dance *Ritong Chingdi*, while Rabha artistes also presented their numbers. Children dressed in traditional Bihu groups as they performed in the programme. A special programme was organised in memory of lyricist Keshab Mahanta, Hemanta Hazarika and Dwijen Mohan Sarma. Singers Manjotshna Mahanta, Rupan Bhuyan, Subhasisna Dutta and Bina Bhagawati respectively performed at the programme.

A number of prominent troupes participated in the

programme.

Announcement : Under the MCI ethics and Regulation 61

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Cardiology (Heart)	Dr. Nabajit Talukder	22 April, 2017 Senior Consultant 11:00 AM-1:00 PM
Nephrology (Kidney)	Dr. Amit Mahapatra	25 April, 2017 Consultant 11:00 AM-3:00 PM
Neurology (Nerve)	Dr. Rajeev Goyal	27 April, 2017 Sr. Consultant 11:00 AM-3:00 PM
Neuro Surgery (Brain & Spine)	Dr. Karanjit Singh Narang	29 April, 2017 Director 11:00 AM-3:00 PM
Cardiology (Heart)	Dr. Kardikeya Bhargava	3 May, 2017 Sr. Consultant 11:00 AM-3:00 PM
Rheumatology (Arthritis)	Dr. Vinay Singal	6 May, 2017 Sr. Consultant 11:00 AM-5:00 PM

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CM pays tributes to Dr BR Ambedkar

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 16: Paying rich tributes to Dr Bim Raob Ambedkar on his 126th birth anniversary at a function held at the Janata Bhawan in Dispur on Friday, Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said that developing

all sections of society by cutting across all divisions is the prime objective of the Government, and all efforts have been undertaken to achieve the same.

The Chief Minister announced that a memorial lecture would be held every year in the State by the Government in memory of Dr BR Ambedkar, which would be highlighted at the national level.

Stating that Dr Ambedkar has made tremendous contribution to the success of Indian democracy by drafting the Constitution of the country, Sonowal remarked that India was a shining example of unity in diversity and was thriving because of its Constitution, which protects the aspirations and rights of all Indian citizens.

Referring to Dr Ambed-

kar's immense contributions towards the uplift of the underprivileged and backward



Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal paying tributes to DR Ambedkar on his 126th birth anniversary at the Janata Bhawan in Dispur, on Friday – UB Photos

sections of society, Sonowal said that the Government is committed to equal development of all sections of the society and until the fruits of progress reach the poorest of the poor, the Government cannot be termed as successful.

Saying that there are small ethnic groups in the State with very little population, however, they would be equally developed along with other groups, Sonowal said. He urged the people to keep a close watch over the activities of the Government so that efficient governance can be delivered at all levels.

Media Adviser to the Chief Minister Hirishikesh Goswami, Chief Secretary VK Pimpreniya, Additional Chief Secretary WPT & BC, Rajiv Bora among others, were present on the occasion.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. Proverbs 9:10

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WEATHER GUWAHATI

LOCAL FORECAST:

Partly cloudy with sky Rain/ thunderstorm is likely to occur. Maximum temperature is most likely to be 33°C on Monday.

TEMPERATURE:

Max 30.4°C

Min 18.6°C

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WEATHER GUWAHATI

MESSAGE FOR TODAY

Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there.

— WILL ROGERS

The Assam Tribune

Discordant note

Rongali or Bohag Bihu is an occasion for feasting and merriment, when one can sing and dance and pulsate to the tune of the buffalo-horn pipe. However, the Rongali Bihu festival goes beyond merely the hedonistic aspects to focus on each and every positive trait of traditional Assamese society. This festival carries deeper connotations, such as care for Nature, enkindling of the community spirit, respect for elders, hospitality and love for peace and harmony. Unfortunately, these values are being eroded in contemporary Assamese society. Such a degeneration of the quality of life and traditional values must be arrested and enlightened sections work towards this objective. Today we are witnessing an onslaught by cultures of communities with greater resources, penetrating into those of small socio-cultural groups and bringing about a hybridized mass culture. Such a phenomenon will, slowly but surely, bring about not merely the loss of the pristine nature of folk culture, but also gradual commercialization detrimental to retaining its spontaneous, "culture of the soil," quality. The engulfment of the cultures of small socio-cultural groups by bigger and more powerful socio-cultural groups has today become a universal occurrence and led to the obliteration of the identity of many of the former. Unless a community like the Assamese consciously attempt to arrest cultural distortions, there is clear and present danger that the culture epitomized by Rongali Bihu would irrevocably be lost.

It is heartening to discover that enlightened segments of society are trying their best to ensure that, at least in the realm of the performing arts, original nuances are retained. Such a requirement invests great responsibility on those who perform on the kind of unique platform an urban Bihutoli represents; it entails that they, rather than contribute to the cultural hybridization which is going on in other spheres, spare the *Bihutolis*, which indubitably are the last bastions of folk culture, from being contaminated. In this context an incident, where a singer insisted on singing a Bollywood song at a Guwahati Bihutoli and walked off in a huff when not allowed to do so, needs to be held up as reprehensible. No doubt it was a trivial incident which might have been overlooked had it not been blown out of proportion by a sensation-seeking media. Given the power commanded by the Bollywood entertainment industry, today there are countless avenues where singers can perform songs in other languages and music-lovers listen to them. But a *Bihutoli*, by its very nature, must have a strict performance protocol so that non-local items do not yet get another avenue to strike at folk culture. It would have been more salutary for the singer to have sung songs of the numerous ethnic communities that go to make the bigger Assamese society. By insisting on singing a Bollywood song, he certainly has struck a discordant note!

ULFA recruitment drive

Assam and many other States of the North-east have over the past few decades suffered a lot on account of insurgency and presence of underground terrorist outfits in the region. Thousands of people, including terrorists, uniformed personnel, as well as innocent civilians, have been killed and maimed on account of terrorism perpetrated by secessionist groups as well as outfits who claim to be fighting for some particular tribe or ethnic group. Counter-insurgency operations by our armed forces have also at times resulted in allegations of human rights violations where innocent people have been made scapegoats in the name of eliminating terrorists. However, in recent times terrorist groups in Assam have suffered serious losses on account of pressure from the security forces and that has led many such outfits to come for talks and give up arms, while some hard core elements, which are still holding out, have been forced to take shelter in territories belonging to neighbouring countries. Assam's biggest and most infamous terrorist group has no doubt been the United Liberation Front of Assam or ULFA. For years the group created mayhem across the State and killed many in the name of fighting for a 'sovereign and independent Assam'. Its striking capacity has gone down in recent times, with many of its senior leaders captured or surrendered and the group suffering a split between the pro-talk and anti-talk factions. The ULFA (Independent), led by Pares Baruah, is still engaged in violence and use of arms, while the other faction led by ULFA chairman Arabinda Rajkhowa has entered into talks with the Indian Government.

In view of the reverse suffered by ULFA (I) in recent times, it is alarming to note that the Baruah-led faction has now started a drive to recruit youths from the upper Assam districts of Tinsukia and Dibrugarh by engaging linkmen. To thwart such attempts, the district police forces have been directed to keep in regular touch with the village defence parties and citizens' committees to keep tab on the youths reported missing from their respective areas. ULFA (I) is reportedly trying to increase its strength by launching a fresh recruitment drive. So, while the Government may well claim that a majority of the ULFA cadres have come forward for talks and a negotiated settlement looks likely in future, things on the ground may not be so smooth. The anti-talk faction is desperately trying to regroup. In such circumstance, the Centre and the security agencies must take urgent steps to thwart any such plans of ULFA (I). The anti-talk faction must be mercilessly hunted down and its cadres either apprehended or eliminated. No outfit should be allowed to threaten India's sovereignty. At the same time, all efforts must be made to fast-track negotiations with those former terrorists who have given up arms and come for negotiations. The Government must formulate a clear cut policy to deal with the issue.

Agriculture development in Assam

■ Dr Manoj Kumar Sarma

The backbone of the State's economy is largely based on agriculture. With more than 70% of the population being dependent on agriculture, this sector deserves the top most priority in the economic development panning of the State. It is worth mentioning that the new Government led by Sarbananda Sonowal has envisaged for doubling the farm income in the State covering around 26,000 villages. However, mere imagination and dreaming will not hold any good if the ground situation of the agriculture in the State is not properly assessed and addressed.

Our State has always been in backlog in terms of agricultural production in spite of the spectacular growth our country witnessed during the Green Revolution of the 60s. The entire eastern India was deprived of the Green Revolution. This has resulted in the widespread gap in agricultural growth in these areas. Assam is no exception to it. The major reason was the difficulty in adoption of the Green Revolution technologies directly in our situation. Of course, this region was the victim of policy mistake of the Green Revolution strategies. The dwarf crop varieties and other technologies developed at that time were not directly fit for our region. Primarily, the effect of Green Revolution was observed in the irrigated environment only which comprised of chiefly the western States of India.

Despite having a rich natural resource base, it is a matter of great concern that the entire North-east has failed to achieve a significant agricultural growth. It is worth mentioning that during 1950-51, our per-

capita income was 4% above the national level. This figure has now come down to 13% below the national level. About 32% of the population of the State is still below poverty line against the national figure of 22%. As against the national average of 2%, 3.6% of the population in Assam does not receive enough food to eat. Seventy-two per cent of the married women in the State against the national figure of 56% are suffering from anaemia. These are the important indicators to understand the status of food and nutritional security in the State. Increasing food production both in terms of quantity and quality is the key consideration to address these challenges.

In spite of a wide network of the Agricultural Department and institutions along with a good number of qualified human resources, there has not been any striking impact on the agriculture sector of the State. There has been no policy for efficient utilization of the natural resources and build up of infrastructure for a holistic agricultural growth.

Agriculture in this region is almost entirely rain-fed. Realizing the saturation of productivity increase in the irrigated environment, there has now been a national move that the second Green Revolution of the country should come from the rainfall. Rain-fed area contributes 44% of the country's total food grain production. Thus, doubling the productivity of this area is of great significance. This region is considered as

not currently under cultivation, which should be brought under economic use. A significant figure of 14 lakh hectare barren land out of the region linked with other parts of the country is the crucial need in this regard.

The area currently under cultivation suffers heavily due to the 'fragmented and small holding' nature of our lands. This is one of the major bottlenecks in implementation of the modern agriculture. A viable solution in this regard would be the promotion of farm coopera-

tives. The existing field management committee concept should be augmented into the formation of farmers' cooperative production units which will act as functional large holdings.

A policy must be adopted for appropriate manipulation of the rich natural endowment and priority should be focused on increasing the livelihood security of a large section of poor inhabitation in the region while putting simultaneous emphasis on market driven and industry associated commercial agricultural growth.

Promotion of organic agriculture with appropriate policy is required for enhancing the commercial capability of our agriculture. A holistic approach in the public sector for efficient land and water management, industry-agriculture linkage, farm mechanization and power supply and agricultural marketing and credit incentives is the need of the hour. Moreover, storage and transportation of agricultural produce along with exploitation of domestic as well as export

market has to be facilitated. Infrastructures related with cold storage and cold transport chain within the region linked with other parts of the country is the crucial need in this regard.

We must keep on record that one of the key factors for development of agriculture in the States of Punjab and Haryana is the availability of either free or cheap farm power in the rural areas. Our policy should take into account this issue seriously. Apart from farm power, availability of the farm machinery is of

utmost importance. The most effective way would be to arrange for custom hiring centres at the village level, where the required farm implements would be available. The current policy of the State Government to invest Rs 1.2 crore in each village should take this into consideration.

While discussing the issues on agricultural development in the State, we must not forget the inherent problem of the natural hazards. The climate change experience is also a matter of concern. Promotion of water harvesting for effective utilization of the excess rainfall and making the contingency measures available at the doorstep of the farmers is the immediate solution in this regard. Multipurpose river valley project is the ultimate solution for the effective utilization of the abundant surface water flow. Our neighbouring country has already set an example of converting the river Huang He from being the 'Sorrow' to 'Blessing' of China. If we can implement such a river valley project, this would be the one-time solution for the recurrent problem of flood, erosion and low productivity in agriculture.

While formulating such a policy we should not, however, forget the drawbacks of the country's Green Revolution of the past. The second Green Revolution must take into consideration the sustainability of our ecosystem and biodiversity and at the same time aim to bring about a striking change in agricultural growth targeting gainful employment to a large volume of unemployed youths. If we work out properly, there is ample scope to take advantage for capturing the global market using the upcoming North-east commercial corridors as well.

Health care management: a challenge

■ Dr Gitarthra Roymedhi

When a negative impression intrudes into the mind, it leaves a deep scar mark which is difficult to heal. Our local health care industry has also fallen as the victim of such negative impressions. As like other sectors, the private health care system also runs on demand, supply and quality. But the people from our State prefer to travel to other States seeking treatment. The local health care system in our State lacks demand, but why? Is there any deficiency in quality? Although quality choices of treatment are available nowadays in both the government and private health care sectors, people believe that the health care providers in the State are not up to date. The common mindset is that any hospital or medical institute in the State, either government run or a private one, is not technically sound and the health care is better in the other States. If we have the ability to meet every patient's needs, then why does our health care system share a scratched image? Actually our health care system lacks trust and

there are multiple reasons.

Where the money is to be spent, people definitely will go after the best option. Places like Mumbai, Chennai and Hyderabad are the preferred health care destinations for the people from our region particularly Assam. The health care centres in those cities have successfully created an impressive image in our people's mind and as a result, they are successfully attracting plenty of patients from our State and region. The perception that there is something better than our local health care centres that has made the hospitals and health care institutes outside the region a brand for the people of Assam and other North-eastern States. But what is the cause that has made the people from our State to trust a stranger? Do they receive a better response and services in those branded hospitals or are treated using some upgraded technology? May be those branded health care providers share a nexus of strong administration, management and marketing facilities following which our people get attracted towards them without any second opinion.

Letters to the EDITOR

Sir.— It is a painful experience to witness from a distance as to how Zubeen Garg recently found himself in a media cross hairs for failing to comply with a gentleman's agreement he made with the organizers of the Noonmati Bihu Committee that he would not sing Hindi songs at the function. For the people of Assam, irrespective of caste, creed or language, Bihu is more than merely celebrating the advent of Spring. It is a proud heritage, a statement of harmonious life and composite philosophy unique to this region. Even though culture is a fragile phenomenon and changes constantly, the fact remains that the body of cultural traditions distinguishes one's specific society. Bihu is the icon of the Assamese society that should remain pristine and untainted as far as possible. I am dismayed to see how a rural, agrarian festival has brazenly assumed a commercial character.

It seems, there is an attempt by some people of Assam to create sub-cultures within a culture. Simply put, if the process is

allowed by the Assamese society to continue unhampered, a time will come when Bihu will be stored in archive for study by the future generation. Is this what the society wants?

There is nothing wrong in assimilating other's cultures as long as it does not supplant our own. There is much of value in cultures of other regions of India, but assimilation coupled with alienation from our own values and customs is not only detrimental but also an unnecessary union that courts destruction. Only when we take pride in our traditions can we truly realize the best of cultures other than ours. Yours etc., KAMALIT DEKA Houston, Texas, USA.

(II)
Sir.— The incident at the Noonmati Bihu during Zubeen Garg's performance on April 14 night is really unfortunate. Stage culture is just a reflection of true culture. Today in the era of globalization, regional culture and ethnicity is gradually vanishing and we are bound to go with the present era. The people (read organizers) should introspect what is happening in our homes and

To some points our health care system is also guilty that has made our own people to lose trust on them. May be we are still behind in the field of management or public relations. To bring in betterment in health care and to provide quality health care to the people of the State, we must sort out the mistakes committed by us previously and at present. We do not lack quality but we do lack proper management. When a patient visits a private health care centre, he or she has to pay for every service that is offered. Nobody will deny from paying money if they are provided with satisfactory services. Everything that a visitor expects in a private hospital or health care centre is the quick response in exchange for money. Health care centres in other States have succeeded to provide a satisfactory and impressive service to the visiting patients as well as attending relatives or friends. This is the only reason these centres in places like Chennai, Mumbai or Hyderabad have become an attraction, particularly for the people from our State.

As in nowadays almost every

state

private health care facility is available and also at an affordable price.

Health care management indeed is a tough subject particularly in a private health care institution where we need to win the hearts of not only the patients but also their

attendants providing impressive services. Simultaneously we need to keep the employees pleased by paying them well.

Treatments matter but the most important is the proper response. If a hospital cannot deal with a patient's illness, it refers the patient to a higher centre. Such exchange process is also a part of the health care management. Patients have the absolute freedom to accept or refuse any treatment and they are at liberty to select the favourite place for treatment. Health care services in our local institutions are often compared with the institutions outside. Mostly it is tagged as inferior to the services provided outside. But there is an old saying in Assamese that the hills far away do always look beautiful. It's money that matters in every field. Branded hospitals outside the region have plenty of visitors from whom they receive huge money for the offered services and they utilize this money to upgrade those services to attract more visitors.

The health care centres in our region have to face the challenge because we are losing the patients to those branded hospitals due to deficiencies in proper services.

silver lining is that for every

product, who is endorsing these products, some from the industry has rejected it, such as Ranveer Hooda, Kangana Ranaut, Ranbir Kapoor and Swara Bhaskar claimed that such products only make racist stereotypes. Yours etc., ADHINAV SANKAR GOSWAMI, Narenji, Guwahati.

Syria crisis

Sir.— The statements from Russia and the USA have again turned the heads of those who keep their interests on international politics towards Syria. There is not a single disagreement that India's reputation in international perspective has been growing bigger since Narendra Modi took the charge as the Prime Minister. Modi is well known for his smartness and speeches, but India has been strangely silent over the Syria conflict. India has been a 'good friend' for both the USA and Russia. So, India's reaction is important. Yours etc., KANG-KAN GAYAN, Padumoni, Nagon.

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

Is Bihu the right occasion to sing Hindi songs?

'Racist' commercials

Sir.— In this past few days, Twitter and other social networking sites got busy with Bollywood actor Abhay Deol roasting his contemporaries on endorsing fairness cream. This is not the first instance when a prominent personality has slammed these commercials; there have been numerous examples where there have been attempts to bash these commercials promoting 'hidden' discrimination. This focus on fairer skin tone goes way back to the colonial times when the rulers were white, therefore to look equal, the Indians grew an obsession with fair skin tone. Thus, it has roots in racism as well. Isn't it ironical that after 70 years of Independence, the Indian people still have this inferior complex? And the commercials have supplemented this phenomenon even more. What is worse is that these advertisements for fairness products not only associate beauty with a lighter skin tone but also with success, something which gets amplified when we have extremely popular and impactful celebs like Shah Rukh Khan, John Abraham, Katrina Kaif, Deepika Padukone, etc., endorsing them. But, the

State panel on remission for release of 24 more life convicts

SANJOY RAY

GUWAHATI, April 16: The State-Level Committee on Remission (SLCR) has recommended release of another 24 life convicts languishing in different jails within the State, during the second phase.

Only seven out of nearly 250 life convicts have been released during the first phase so far and that too around six months back.

The slow pace of release of life convicts has not gone down well with a section of jail authorities, who are now facing constant pressure from the life convicts awaiting their release.

The SLCR, which is headed by Additional Chief Secretary TV Das and comprises senior officials of the Home Department, including Home Commissioner LS Changsan, has reportedly sent a fresh list

of 24 life convicts to the Chief Minister's Office – the Chief Minister also holds the Home portfolio – for the latter's nod.



The names and reports concerning the 24 life convicts were vetted by the members of the SLCR during the last two meetings held at Dispur, keeping in view various set factors, including age, period of stay, behaviour and health condition, and so on.

Sources informed that the requisite paper works facilitating release of the 24

life convicts are over and very soon the notification from the Home Department is expected in this regard.

"Reports of the District Magistrate, Prisons Department, respective superintendents of police, convicting/confirming court, superintendents of the respective jails have already been examined," the sources divulged.

The State Government had refrained from recommending release of any life convict since 2012 after the Supreme Court order put an embargo on such releases, although later the apex court relaxed the State Government's discretion, of course, with some riders.

On the day, official sources informed that the committee is trying its level best to expedite the process and there was no reason for the jail authorities to be wary of.



A faithful re-enacts Jesus Christ's crucifixion on Good Friday, at Guwahati on Friday. – UB Photos

Governor attends 318th Baisakhi Gurupurab
STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 16: Governor Banwarilal Purohit paid obeisance at the Gopinath Nagar Gurdwara on the occasion of 318th Baisakhi Gurupurab today.

Conveying his warm greetings on the joyous occasion of Baisakhi, Purohit expressed hope that the celebrations of would reinforce love and goodwill among the people and bonhomie among them. He also lauded the efforts of the people belonging to the Sikh community for their valor and courage.

The Governor also said that Sikhs are considered as large-hearted and urged upon them to continue their benevolence and contribute to the welfare of the society at large. He also called upon the Sikh sangat to emulate the ideals of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, whose deeds and actions speak for themselves.

9 gold bars seized, 3 held
by GRP
STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 16: GRP personnel seized nine gold bars from three persons, including a woman from Mizoram at the Guwahati Railways Station on Friday last.

The seizure was made during routine checking of the Dibrugarh Express at around 5.45 am.

The nine gold bars weigh around 15 kg.

The accused have been identified as Henhalon Vaiphei (32) of Haflong, L. Thanga (27) of Mamit (Mizoram) and Lalremnaimi (41) of Aizawl.

Earlier on Thursday night, during checking of the Dibrugarh Assam Express, GRP personnel recovered narcotics, suspected to be brown sugar, from one Md Khabil Ahmed of Uttar Pradesh. The narcotics weighed around 1.5 kg.

Sahitya Divas observed at Assam Jatiya Bidyalay

GUWAHATI, April 16: Sahitya Divas was observed on Wednesday at the premises of Assam Jatiya Bidyalay here at Noonmati under the aegis of Rasacari Sahitya Chora, Vice-Principal of Gauhati Commerce College, delivering a speech as one of the judges of the various literary competitions held on the occasion.

In the All Assam School Letter Writing Competition held among the students from Class-VI to VIII, the 1st prize was won by Kastury Kangana Mahanta of Cinnamora Jatiya Bidyalay, Jorhat, while the 2nd prize was won by Bhawati Choudhury of Assam Jatiya Bidyalay, Noonmati, Guwahati. The 3rd prize was won by Hrishikesh Goswami and Faridina Saleh of Silpukhuri, Vidya Mandir, Silpukhuri, Guwahati.

In the 2nd category, translation of stories and article writing competitions were held among the students of classes IX-XII. The 2nd prize was won by Bhaswati Choudhury of Assam Jatiya Bidyalay, Noonmati, Guwahati. The 2nd and 3rd prizes were won by Kingmum Mazumdar of Assam Jatiya Bidyalay, Noonmati, Guwahati, Sonitpur respectively.

The vote of thanks was subsequently offered by Aparajita Bora, senior teacher of the Assamese Department of Assam Jatiya Bidyalay, Noonmati, Guwahati, a press release stated.

In his speech, he focused on the reflection of society in literature as well as on the importance of translation literature. Dr Purna Bhatta, Vice-Principal of Gauhati Commerce College, delivered a speech as one of the judges of the various literary competitions held on the occasion.

In the All Assam Inter-School Letter Writing Competition held among the students from Class-VI to VIII, the 1st prize was won by Kastury Kangana Mahanta of Cinnamora Jatiya Bidyalay, Jorhat, while the 2nd prize was won by Bhawati Choudhury of Assam Jatiya Bidyalay, Noonmati, Guwahati and Itesam Khatun and Ankur Bora of Jatiya Bidyalay, Noonmati, Guwahati, a press release stated.

The 2nd prize was won by Pompi

Paul of Mot Ram Bora Girls' Higher Secondary School, Nagaon and Mary Queen Mahanta of Cinnamora Jatiya Bidyalay, Jorhat respectively. Sanjiv Pathak of Cotton State University won the judges' special prize. In the article-writing competition held among the students of classes IX-XII, the 1st prize was won by Bhaban Kalita of Assam Jatiya Bidyalay, Noonmati, Guwahati. The 2nd and 3rd prizes were won by Kingmum Mazumdar of Assam Jatiya Bidyalay, Noonmati, Guwahati and Ankur Bora of Jatiya Bidyalay, Noonmati, Guwahati and Itesam Khatun and Ankur Bora of Jatiya Bidyalay, Sonitpur respectively.

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Talk on archaeological sites of North Bengal

GUWAHATI, April 16: Dr Coline Lefrancq, an archaeologist and ceramicist working in the early medieval period in ancient Bengal delivered a lecture on, "The Archaeological Sites and the Pottery of North Bengal" in the conference room of the Department of History, Gauhati University here recently under the aegis of the Popular Lecture Series in History programme, stated a press release.

Dr Lefrancq is an associate researcher in the University of Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium. She has studied pottery from Mazar area on the archaeological site of Mahasthangarh in Bangladesh. She is presently working on Ancient Bengal from the 6th Century CE to 4th Century CE: Cartography of the Cultural and Trading Areas."

She said that preliminary studies have revealed some similarity of the Mahasthangarh pottery with the pottery discovered at Ambri area of Guwa-

hati, and that of Bhaithari and Barbhita in Goalpara district of Assam, but links have to be established through archaeological data and historical sources.

The lecture was attended by faculty, students and research scholars of the department. Faculty of the Department of History, Preeti Sarma and head of the Department of Archaeology, Manzil Hazarika of Cotton State University also attended the lecture along with their respective students.

The Popular Lecture Series in History was initiated in 2013 by the Department of History, Gauhati University, to emphasize the relevance of history in the contemporary world. Lectures in this series are delivered by eminent historians and scholars, whose historical judgements offer a rational and coherent understanding of the world and also generate critical thinking through interaction. – Staff Reporter

Proper conservation of Borgeet stressed

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 16:

The Department of Assamese at Beltola College organised a lecture programme recently on the topic, "Borgree of Mahapurush Sri Sri Sankaradeva and Mahapurush Sri Sri Madhabadeva".

The main lecture was delivered by noted scholar-cum-Professor Parikshit Hazarika, retired Head of the Department of Assamese, Gauhati University.

In his lecture, Professor Hazarika spoke about Borgree in the present times.

He laid stress on proper conservation and propagation of Borgree in regard to *raag* and *tala*, in keeping with its status and prestige at the international level.

Professor Hazarika also spoke about the day-to-day use of Borgree in Assamese *sattras*, which he felt, had greatly contributed to its popularity and preservation, besides propagation.

Earlier, the lecture programme started with lighting of the ceremonial lamp by Dr Ajit Borkotoky, Principal of Beltola College.

The lecture programme was chaired by the Head of the Assamese Department of Beltola College, Bharati Devi, Mrigendra Nath Sarma, Assistant Professor of the department.

The last date for submission of fees and form is May 5 for Assamese, Arabic, Anthropology, Botany, Micro-Biology, Mass Communication, Animal Ecology, Women Studies and Comparative Indian Literature (CIL).

This was stated in a press statement issued by the Gauhati University.

GU exams notice issued

STAFF REPORTER

date is April 27.

The last date for Bengali, Philosophy, Linguistics and ELT, Chemistry, Computer Science/IT, Instrumentation Science and USIC, is April 29, while for English, Economics, Education, Bio-technology, Electronics and Communication Technology, MLISc, LLM (first and third semester), MBE, MTM and Environmental Management, it is May 3.

The last date for submission of examination fees and forms for Sanskrit, Geography, Physics, Radiological Physics, Psychology, Statistics, Mathematics, Commerce, Zoology and Dual MBA is April 25.

For Political Science, Sociology, Bodo, Persian, History, Hindi, Environmental Sciences, Geology, Herbal Science and Technology, and MBA, the last

date is April 27.

The last date for Bengali, Philosophy, Linguistics and ELT, Chemistry, Computer Science/IT, Instrumentation Science and USIC, is April 29, while for English, Economics, Education, Bio-technology, Electronics and Communication Technology, MLISc, LLM (first and third semester), MBE, MTM and Environmental Management, it is May 3.

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This was stated in a press statement issued by the Gauhati University.

Bihu spirit ...

(Contd from page 1)

Hundred-odd *bihuolis* – suitably decorated for the purpose – hosted *Bihu* functions late into the night, drawing huge appreciating crowds.

Among the most sought-after *bihuolis* was the Guwahati *Bihu Sammelan* – the oldest *Bihu* organizers of the city – at the Latasti playground. The celebrations included diverse cultural activities including the widely-appreciated contests on *Bihu* Rani, *Bihu* Kunwor and *Bihu* Saramagi. Folk dances, *Bihu* dances and other attractions enhanced the *Bihu* flavour during the festivities.

The four-day celebrations at the 56-year-old Pub Guwahati *Bihu Sammelan* at the Assam Engineering Institute playground, Chandmari, also drew big crowds, with a host of artists, new as well as established, performing at the popular *Bihu* venue. A medley of *Bihu* dances and other cultural presentations drew big appreciating crowds on all the days of the festivities that also included an all-Assam marathon contest. A number of sports competitions, too, were part of the celebrations.

The 63-year-old Paschim Guwahati *Bihu Sammelan*, Bharlamukh, also drew big crowds on all the days as did the Beltola *bihuoli*. The cultural performances featured popular artistes from the State, including several much-admired artistes of yesteryears. Cultural events apart, sports and games added to the *Bihu* festivities.

In its 39th year, the Madhya-Pub Guwahati *Bihu Sammelan* celebrated the occasion in a befitting manner with a host of events.

BJP bid ...

(Contd from page 1)

MLA in the previous assembly but in the Assembly elections in 2017, BJP got 36.3 per cent of the votes and won 21 seats. At present, there is a government of BJP-led coalition in Manipur.

However, the Prime Minister called on the BJP leaders to maintain caution while making statements and not get carried away with emotions and make untoward remarks.

If there are any complaints, then the matter should be passed on to the party leaders who will convey it to me," he said.

The Prime Minister also called on the BJP to not get too excited over the recent State Assembly elections victory and ensure they keep the momentum going.

"The BJP will launch a special campaign for those 120 Lok Sabha seats, which have been out of our reach," he added.

The Prime Minister also hailed the efforts of President saying that he was the ideal model of an able strategist.

The two days BJP national executive meet concluded this evening in Bhubaneswar.

Creative workshop for children held

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 16: A

nine-day children's creative workshop organised under the aegis of Antaraanga, Mother's Genius and Taranga was held in the city recently.

The children were taught various creative activities, including staging of play, singing, recitation, drawing of comic strips, etc.

Devajyoti Sarma, Padmashri Patowari, Sapon Duwarwar, Apurba Ranjan Das, Hrishikesh Bora, Anusuya Baruah and Antara GG Choudhury were the resource persons at the nine-day children's creative workshop, a press release received here stated.



Former Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi and Member of Parliament Bijoya Chakravarty performing at the Guwahati Bihu Sammelan at Latasti, on Friday. – UB Photos



A husori group from Sivasagar Girls' College performing Bihu on the occasion of Makoli Bihu celebrations organised by the Demow unit of the All Tai Ahom Students' Union (ATASU) at Demow public playground, on Saturday. - UB Photos

New concept to propagate art, music, literature

CORRESPONDENT

NAGAON, April 16: A new concept to propagate Art, Music and Literature started on the first day of Assamese New Year christened 'Moving On'. The concept was formally declared open by well-known artist Kiran Sankar Roy in a function held at Chalachal, an old and famous restaurant of Nagaon. In his address, Roy hoped that this initiative will not only help the artists but will be able to create a group connoisseur of art and music.

A number of eminent per-

sonalities including Arati Borooah, Dr Dilip Kumar Barooah, Dr Naren Kalita, Dr Prayag Saikia and Mla Rupak Saikia were felicitated at the function.

On behalf of the organisers, Rubul Banerjee and Riwitwuk Saikia introduced the concept. The displaying of art work was supervised by Sidhartha Sankar Roy.

Riwitwuk Saikia informed that while taking a cup of tea in Chalachal, Sankar Roy will get a chance to enjoy the art work. Simple musical functions, poets meet, releasing of books

can be arranged in 'Moving On,' he added.

Felicitated: As a part of a programme of the Assam Sahitya Sabha, eminent personalities of Nagaon including political activist Baneswar Saikia, businessman Prahladrai Mital and Nemchand Agarwalla, singer Swez Bordoloi, retired professor Jyotirmoy Jena, Akhil Das Purkashastha, Maheemra Bora, Ajit Ch Bora, Mukut Ch Bhuyan, retired professor Khagen Sarma Rakhowa and Tilak Ch Majumdar were felicitated at their residences on the first day of

Bhog. They were felicitated with a Bihuwan and a citation by a team from Nagaon Sahitya Sabha including its president Ratimohan Nath and others.

The AJYCP also felicitated some persons of Nagaon with a Bihuwan and *seleng sador*. They also had a discussion with them on the burning issues of the State.

Rongali Bihu was also celebrated in different parts of Nagaon. Bihu dance and other competitions were arranged. Cultural functions also attracted a total of 82000 people at the Mangaldai Civil Hospital. The cyclone had come all the sudden at around 8.20 am causing devastation in villages namely Tangla, Teng, Ratanpani, Panipota and Tilak Ch Majumdar were felicitated at their residences on the first day of

Rongali utsav held at Jagi Bhakatgaon

CORRESPONDENT

JAGIROAD, April 16: Sports Star Club of Jagi Bhakatgaon under Mayong circle organised a daylong Rongali utsav on April 15 at the Durga Mandir premises with various programmes.

Noted culturist of the area, Sukram Deka hoisted the Bihu flag which was followed by *smriti tarpan* offered by Dibrupoyti Borthakur, president of the Club. A total of 120 senior citizens, both male and female, under Mayong circle were felicitated. The Sports Star Club also felicitated two meritorious students namely, Archana Bharali of Baba-Borjhar, who secured highest marks in HSLC examination, 2016 from Jagi HS School centre and a tennis player Tanishka Patowar of Jagiroad. A painting competition among the students was also organised on the occasion in which 40 children took part. A Mukoli Bihu exhibition was held where various ethnic groups participated. A cultural function was also organised in which local artistes of the area performed.

Obituary Pradip Kumar Gam

CORRESPONDENT

DHEMAJI, April 16: Pradip Kumar Gam, a radio artiste of Mising folk songs, a teacher, and an inhabitant of Dhakukhana Bakulguri gaon, breathed his last recently at the GMCH. He was 70.

Gam had been singing for Dibrugarh Radio Centre since 1975. He had received artiste pension also.

He leaves behind his wife, two sons, three daughters and several grandchildren. His demise was widely mourned at Dhakukhana.

Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and State Cultural Minister Naba Kumar Doley have deeply mourned his demise.

Satyaj Sankranti Puja rings in New Year at Mahamaya

CORRESPONDENT

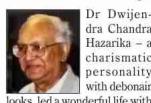
DHUBRI, April 16: To welcome the Assamese New Year with the blessings of the Goddess, the Mahamaya Temple at Baghrabari conducted the historic Satya Sankranti Puja.

Hundreds of pilgrims from various parts of the State and also from the neighbouring State of West Bengal thronged the historic temple to participate in the Puja which is being conducted in the temple since the 16th century. The deity was seen by a priest who was then given this venue to build this temple.

Bhattacharjee said that this is an important puja for the temple and it has many old beliefs attached with it. However, to welcome the New Year, special puja were also conducted in various other temples.

Meanwhile, under the initiative of various committees and clubs, Bihu as well as Bima programmes were organised in various nooks and corners of the district. Various cultural programmes, competitions and symposiums were also organised in various parts of the district.

Dr Dwijendra Ch Hazarika: a tribute



Dr Dwijendra Ch Hazarika – a charismatic personality

town of Jeypore in Upper Assam to a police officer, Late Golap Chandra Hazarika, who carved a name for himself during the Battle for Kohima / World War II and his graceful wife, Gunabala Rajkhowa from Dibrugarh; Mughal as he was called, was brilliant in his studies. A brilliance that saw him pass out with the second batch of doctors from the Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh.

Government service took him to many corners of erstwhile Assam. A good listener with an approach very thorough, the caring mind was

Bhupendra Sangeet contest held

CORRESPONDENT

DHEMAJI, April 16: A Bhupendra Sangeet competition titled 'Kanthamrit' was held at Machikhowa Degree College recently with a daylong programme. The programme started with a flag hoisting by Dr Dalimi Gohain, principal.

Machikhowa Degree College. It was followed by *smriti tarpan* by Ganraj Yein, vice-principal of the college.

Dr Sanjukta Patowari, associate professor, Dhemaji Commerce College, inaugurated the Bhupendra Sangeet competition. Earlier, the *mancha* was opened by a chorus. In the Bhupendra Sangeet competition anchored by Manoj Boruah, coordinator of the competition, Niharika Changmai of

also blessed with steady hands to make him a very good doctor. A reputation that he earned wherever he served, from Lakhimpur to Tura, now in Meghalaya.

Merit saw him to rise to the post of Assam's Director of Medical Education and Director of Health Services, with the World Health Organisation calling upon his services, particularly in the field of malaria eradication, which saw him travel far and wide. One still gets to hear about his administrative acumen, the command that he had on matters relating to

Prabhat Ch Goswamy

most of the Bank's work were done manually. The cash department, with duties like safe keeping of notes and coins received from mints and note presses, their counting, examination, exchange and distribution, dealing with soiled and mutilated notes, destruction of withdrawn from circulation notes, careful accounting of each piece of note and coin required a huge workforce. Managing it efficiently was not for feeble hearted people. As young direct recruit officers

On the evening of April 7, 2017, Prabhat Chandra Gos-

wamy, in good health till the last days, said final goodbye. He was one of fortunate few to be surrounded by six well established children and a good number of grand children. One with unique personality of old age charm, with him an era of central banking experience in this region ended. I on behalf of his colleagues scattered all over India, pay sincere and respectful tributes to him on this day of his *adya shraddha*.

— Sewali Choudhury

Enthralling folk culture show at Nalbari AASU Bihu

CORRESPONDENT

NALBARI, April 16 : The Nalbari anchalik unit of the AASU and the Nalbari Nagar Umanati Sabha organised a daylong Mukoli Bihu at the premises of Nalbari Swadhi Bhawan with the presentation of folk art and culture on the first day of Bohag.

The daylong programme began with the hoisting of AASU and Assom Students' Union (ASOM) flags by Rubul Barman, president of the Nalbari anchalik unit of AASU and Dr Dimanami Bhagawati, president of the Nalbari district unit, Assom Umanati Sabha. The Bihu flag was hoisted by Dr Basanta

Kumar Bhattacharya, former president of Nalbari zila Sahitya Sabha. The Mukoli Bihu was inaugurated by Dipankar Kumar Nath, president of the All Assam Students' Union (AASU). In his speech, Nath said that he has been bearing a special identity of Assamese culture and strength of indigenous people. "We should uniquely keep it alive," he added. He inaugurated the mukoli bihu playing a bihu dhol. On the occasion, a total of 60 senior citizens, artistes, litterateurs were felicitated with *bihuwan* and other bihu gifts. Besides, *bihuwan* were presented to a hundred leading citizens of the district.

In the mukoli bihu, bihu troupes Nayantara and Hepah performed bihu dances. A good number of artistes including Chetana Das, Nuruddin Ahmed, Asha Bardoloi, Virgu Kashyap among others also took part in the mukoli bihu. The Thespian, a cultural troupe presented colourful cultural programme which enthralled the audience. Besides Hirak Jyoti Sarma also played the dhol. The guests and other people attending the mukoli bihu were served *doi, chira, gur* and *milhat* as bihu jalpan.

Meanwhile, the Nalbari district unit of AJYCP offered bi-

huwan to the senior citizens of the Nalbari town at their doorstep on the first day of Bohag.

Earlier on Goru bihu, the community bathed their cattle heads at the rivers Paraglada, Baralia, Buhadiya and Mora Pugladiya besides the ponds and *beels* with traditional fervour. The Dakshin Ulabari Rongali Bihu Sammeli also celebrated Rongali bihu on April 14, 15 and 16 with a three-day programme. On the occasion, a cultural procession was also taken out in this locality on April 14. One act play and bihu dance competitions were also held on the occasion.

One killed in cyclone

CORRESPONDENT

KALAILGAON, April 16: A cyclone caused destruction in and around Tangla under Harisinga Revenue Circle in Udalguri district on the first day of Assamese new year on April 15, killing one person and damaging several hundred houses. One Puran Sama (75) of village Panipota near Tangla was injured seriously and later succumbed to his injuries at the Mangaldai Civil Hospital. The cyclone had come all the sudden at around 8.20 am causing destruction in villages namely Tangla, Teng, Ratanpani, Panipota, Murmela, Sartrapara, Paneri, Suklia etc. The fierce cyclone uprooted trees and carried away house roofs at many places.

Aikya lauded for efforts to spread unity message

ANN Service

KALAILGAON, April 16: Aikya, a premier socio-cultural organisation of Sivasagar observed their special Bihu function and 'konji-juj' competition inaugurating the Rongali Bihu celebrations in the town in Muktinath Chariali, Sivasagar on April 14 with a daylong programme.

Abhijit Boruah, ADC, Sivasagar inaugurated the 'konji-juj' competition and lauded Aikya for the consistent effort to spread the message of unity through Bihu.

Subudhi Sonowal in his speech said that 'konji-juj' (egg fight) was a tradition among the peasants to predict a result through the contest as to who would make the best harvest that year. Jehiruddin Ahmed, an environment worker and Mirsa Sinha, sports organiser Sofi Rahman, a police officer, Ananya Gogoi, promising archer of the State, Manoj Kr Gogoi, reporter and Rajiv Hazarika, paraglider were felicitated by Aikya in the function.

The cultural function later in

the evening was enjoyed by thousands who were enthralled by singing star Priyanka Bharali.

Dr Somerjyoti Mahanta, president Bihu committee hoisted the flag in the morning. Anamuddin Ahmed, executive president, addressing the meeting said that Rongali Bihu is in essence a truly secular and non-religious festival. Dhananjay Sarika, president Aikya, thanked the people of Sivasagar town for supporting the cause of people's unity through Aikya Bihu for the last 24 years.

Heavy tourist rush to Kaziranga

CORRESPONDENT

KAZIRANGA, April 16: Kaziranga witnessed a heavy rush of tourists during these Bihu festival days, as people from adjoining States including West Bengal reached here to enjoy Bihu. Hotels and resorts saw a high occupancy. Special Bihu delicacies were arranged in restaurants where the tourists including foreigners were seen eating *pitha, ghila pitha, narikella* and *doi-chira*. At Bogorjuri, a section of foreigners were seen celebrating Rongali

Bihu and danced with the local Bihu troupe, besides undertaking both elephant and jeep safaris. Sources at the Jeep safari said that due to cloudy weather, the sightseeing at both the safari remained unsatisfactory for the tourists.

A local Bihu festival committee has been formed at Kohora which has decided to organise a cultural Bihu show from April 24-26. Singers viz., Simanta Shekhar, Rupankita and Antika have been invited to perform at the show, besides local artists were seen celebrating Rongali

Sharma, a member of Kohora Bihu Samity, adding that this year their budget for Bihu Cultural Show would be around Rs six lakh.

Local Bihu *hussoori* teams from the adjoining villages including Bogorjuri have been performing Bihu from door to door during night time braving cloudy and windy weather.

A heavy storm had yesterday created turmoil in Kaziranga, during the day time when many trees were uprooted, although no report of any major disaster was received.

Tinsukia AASU celebrates Rongali Bihu

CORRESPONDENT

TINSUKIA, April 16: The Tinsukia District Students' Union (TDSU) centrally celebrated Rongali Bihu on the first day of Assamese new year on April 15 at Chalilia Nagar here.

On the occasion, the flag of the Union was unfurled by Sunil Dubey, president, TDSU. The *smriti tarpan* programme was initiated by Samyajyo Gohain, general secretary, TDSU. In the function, several eminent persons and meritorious students were felicitated by the student body.

The entire student body took blessings from the elder persons of the society on the occasion. *Gati*, the yearly souvenir published on the occasion, was released by the general secretary of the central committee of the All Assam Students' Union (AASU).

Many cultural troupes pre-

Man kills son, commits suicide

CORRESPONDENT

MORIGAON, April 16: In a sensational case, a father murdered his own son and committed suicide by hanging himself from a tree.

According to police sources, one Surendra Das

presented their respective traditional songs and dances besides other Bihu Husori parties. A cultural show was also organised at the venue. Besides, all the office bearers of the district committee and regional committees, several other members and office bearers of the central committee of All Assam Students' Union (AASU) were also present along with people from all sections of the society.

Organized by

ICAR-Indian Institute of Rice Research

&

ASSAM AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY



Popular singer Anirban Das performing at the ghazal nite on the occasion of the 52nd national annual conference of the Assam Agricultural University auditorium, Jorhat recently.

WEATHER
NORTHEAST

Forecast for North Eastern States: Moderate rain/thundershower is very likely to occur at a few places over Nagaland, Manipur, Assam & Tripura; light to moderate rain/thundershower is very likely to occur at a few places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam & Meghalaya.

Wind: Thundergust with wind speed exceeding 60 kmph accompanied with hail is very likely to occur at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Assam & Tripura; strong wind speed exceeding 50 kmph is likely to occur at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya on April 17, 18 and over Nagaland, Manipur, Assam & Tripura on April 17. Heavy rainfall is likely to occur at isolated places over Assam & Meghalaya on April 20.

Temperatures :	
	Max (°C) Min (°C)
Dibrugarh	22.6 20.2
Tezpur	26.8 20.0
Silchar	28.0 20.2
Guwahati	28.4 21.2
Dibrugarh	23.2 19.6
W. Lakhimpur	26.4 19.9
Shillong	19.2 9.9
Imphal	24.0 16.9
Itanagar	27.6 18.2
Aizawl	32.2 7.6
Kohima	30.4 16.9
Dispur	22.4 12.3
Pasighat	24.9 19.3
Cherrapunjee	23.6 12.3

Ambedkar birth anniversary observed

CORRESPONDENT

IMPHAL, April 16: Manipur Tribal and Hill Areas Development and Fisheries Minister N Kayasi has expressed the need to address issues confronting the hills and valleys divisions to bring a positive change in the State.

The Minister was speaking at the 126th birth anniversary observation of Dr B R Ambedkar on Saturday.

With the launch of the Mission, the State hopes to shift to organic farming in a phased manner and become a hundred per cent Organic State in the days to come. Besides, the State also planned measures to discontinue the use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides



Tripura Chief Minister Manik Sarkar paying tribute to Dr BR Ambedkar on the occasion of his birth anniversary at Agartala on Friday. — UB Photos

Arunachal launches 'State Organic Mission'

CORRESPONDENT

ITANAGAR, April 16: Arunachal Pradesh took a major leap forward towards sustainable agricultural practices for producing healthy and quality food crops with Union Minister of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Giriraj Singh launching the State Organic Mission in a function at Banquet Hall here on Saturday.

With the launch of the Mission, the State hopes to shift to organic farming in a phased manner and become a hundred per cent Organic State in the days to come. Besides, the State also planned measures to discontinue the use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides

in Arunachal and gradually substitute plant nutrients by organic manures and bio-fertilisers and manage control of weeds and insect pests by biological control measures along with developing markets for organic food products of the State.

The Union Minister, terming Arunachal Pradesh as an agriculture heaven, said the people here have been abundantly blessed with all-nature's resources and opined that organic farming will ensure Arunachal becoming a major agro-tourism destination.

He, however, said, it is pertinent to add value addition to our agriculture and horticulture produces by changing the raw product into something new through different processes.

Without value addition, it would be a meaningless venture.

State's Agriculture Minister Wangki Lowang said that Arunachal has always been traditionally organic, with the farmers having the excellent advantage of natural farming system. Picking the problem of marketing, he said that the government is looking at opening agro-based incubators in all districts of the State.

Lowang appealed to the Union Government to reserve one bogie per month in the express train from Naharlagun to Delhi exclusively for carrying the agri-horti produces from the State, besides identifying a dedicated market in Delhi to sell these produces.

Industries Minister Tamiya Taga pleaded the Union Government to provide some sort of fencing scheme for the State to help farmers save their crops from being destroyed by wild and domesticated animals like cows and mithuns.

Chief Secretary Shakuntala D Gamlin, in her keynote address, said by default, Arunachal Pradesh is an organic State as the use of chemical fertilisers is infinitely small in the region as compared to the rest of the nation.

She said the State has vast resources of its own including cultivable lands, agriculture and horticulture produce that are world class.

With proper connectivity, she said, the State will be able to make agricultural products the main contributor to its GDP. She also said that organic farming will ensure that the State has remittance economy and that the youth need not depend on government jobs.

Union Agriculture Secretary SK Pattnayak 'assured' that sufficient funds will be provided to meet any kind of requirements for promoting organic farming in Arunachal Pradesh.

The Union Secretary, meanwhile, informed that Government of India will fund a 'centre of excellence' at Dirang in West Kameng to promote floriculture and orchids in the State. With this, the import of flowers from outside can be stopped and the State can use its own resource.

Indian envoy to Myanmar visits AR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SHILLONG, April 16: Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, Vikram Misri visited Assam Rifles (AR) Headquarters at Laitkhor here on Saturday during his two-day visit to the State Capital.

Misri was briefed on the operational and administrative aspects of AR which guards the Indo-Myanmar border. He also interacted with AR Director General Lt Gen Shukin Chauhan.

The Ambassador complimented AR for guarding one of the most challenging and inhospitable terrain of North East. He urged officials of the force to continue the good work and maintain peace and tranquility in the region.

Misri had earlier visited four Northeastern States — Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram which share international border with Myanmar.

6 kg ganja seized in Meghalaya

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SHILLONG, April 16: BSF today seized 6 kg of ganja in South West Khasi Hills district and nabbed three Bangladeshi nationals while the trio were infiltrating into India.

According to BSF, the border troops deployed at Chick-enbari in the district launched a special operation and seized the ganja. However, the smugglers managed to escape taking advantages of the terrain.

In the same district, Borsora, three Bangladeshi nationals were nabbed while trying to sneak into India.

The individuals were on their way to collect their waggons from one Good Luck Coal Quarry at Nongiuri located in the district. The BSF seized from their procession Indian currency, two mobile phones and Bangladeshi SIM cards.

Moreover, the border troops seized 56 cattle at Balughat, Beldova and Rithingpara, South West Garo Hills district. The seized cattle are worth over Rs 4 lakh.

The BSF informed that it has seized 163 cattle and contraband items worth over Rs 24 lakh while being smuggled out from India to Bangladesh on the International Border along Meghalaya during last four days.

Mizoram-HPC (D) talk on April 28

NEWMAI NEWS

from Manipur and Mizoram.

AIZAWL, April 16: The fourth round of peace talks between Mizoram Government and Hmar People's Convention (Democratic) is scheduled to be held on April 28, Mizoram Home Minister R Lalzirliana said on Saturday.

Speaking to reporters here at a press conference, the Home Minister said, "The next round of parley will discuss measures taken by both sides to arrive at lasting peace."

The State Government delegation would be led by Additional Secretary, Home department, Lalbiakzama while HPC (D) delegation is expected to be headed by working chairman of HPC (D) LT Lalmar and comprising Hmar leaders.



Manipur Speaker Yumnam Khemchand flagging off a cycle rally in support of plastic-free rivers, in Imphal on Sunday. — Photo: Correspondent

Kaladan transport project behind schedule

SPL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, April 16: Union Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Wednesday admitted that the construction of the road component of Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport project is behind schedule.

The work on road construction has already been awarded on March 17, and the construction period is 36 months, said Minister of State for External Affairs, M J Akbar in a Lok Sabha reply.

Mentioning that Government of India is developing the Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project in Myanmar, he said that the project includes a waterways component and related facilities at Paletwa; navigational channel along Kaladan river from Sittwe to Paletwa and six self-propelled IWT vessels have been completed, Akbar said.

Underwater components comprises Sittwe Port, Inland Water Transport (IWT) terminals, backup facilities and navigational channel, he added.

Under waterways component, Port and Inland Water Transport (IWT) terminal at Sittwe and related back up facilities and the trans-shipment terminal and related facilities at Paletwa; navigational channel along Kaladan river from Sittwe to Paletwa and six self-propelled IWT vessels have been completed, Akbar said.

Pala in his letter to PM said,

Meghalaya MPs plead for extension of visas of missionaries

SHILLONG, April 16: Two Meghalaya MPs have requested the Centre to extend the visa permits of three leading foreign Christian missionaries, arguing that their "pro-poor" missions were at stake.

MPs Vincent H Pala and Conrad K Sangma have sought the "personal intervention" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Rajnath Singh in the matter.

While former Congress Minister of State and Shillong MP Vincent H Pala wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Conrad K Sangma wrote to the Home Minister.

Pala in his letter to PM said,

"I shall be personally highly grateful to you if these three eminent Christians are allowed to stay in India and continue their social and educational work for the poor."

NDA ally and National People's Party president Conrad K Sangma in his letter to Union Home Minister said the missionaries had never in the past faced any problem in getting their visas extended.

"This has led to a lot of confusion and difficulties for these missionaries who have been working tirelessly for the poor and needy of our country," he said in the letter. The copies of both the letters have been made available to the press.

The three Christian missionaries the MPs referred to are: Fr Ignacio Zuaiza from Spain, associated with Gujarat-based Iman Jyoti Society since 1951, Sr Laurel Judith Seaton from Australia, who served at Missionaries of Charity in Bihar for 42 years, and Belgian Aurelie Brys associated with Shuklakha Mission of Jesus Christ Society for 51 years.

Pala had told Lok Sabha last month that the government had refused to renew licences of over 1,400 NGOs last year over violations of Foreign Contributions Regulation Act, 2010, majority of which were of Christian missionaries working in the North East. — PTI

Fertiliser meant for Mizoram smuggled into Myanmar

CORRESPONDENT

"Urea is highly subsidised by the government for farmers as their productivity heavily depends on the fertiliser.

As urea is in high demand in Myanmar where it is not subsidised, the unauthorised diversion costs the State's exchequer dearly. Therefore, the Mizoram Government must take steps to curb the menace, he said.

The State quota of urea is determined by the number of farmers in that State. Mizoram has its quota from Barak Valley Fertiliser Corporation Ltd, Guwahati.

"The entire quota of Mizoram is directly transported to Myanmar via Zokhawthar border trade route, leaving nothing for Mizoram farmers," he said.

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Rongali Bihu celebrated with gaiety in Arunachal

CORRESPONDENT

ITANAGAR, April 16: The Assamese community residing in Arunachal Pradesh celebrated Rongali Bihu, the most popular festival of Assam, on April 14 last with traditional gaiety and enthusiasm.

Considered as the festival of merriment, Rongali Bihu that marks the beginning of the Assamese New Year, starts on the last day of the month of Chot (Chaitra) according to the Hindu calendar and continues for seven days but in towns the celebrations continue for the whole month.

At Itanagar, apart from the Assa-



these community, people from all walks of life thronged the Vivekananda Hall of KR Mission Hospital complex here to enjoy the Bihu festivities. Besides Bihu songs and dances, cultural troupes from other tribes also performed enthraling the jam-packed house.

Citing the age-old relationship between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, the lawmaker appealed the Assamese community to continue to serve for the State's development. He called upon one and all to respect each other's festival and religion to lead a harmonious life.

Recollecting the Assam-Arunachal traditional ties, State's Chief Information Commissioner Dr Joram Begi, who was the guest of honour, said that political barriers should not be a hurdle for the people of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. The inter-State relationship needs to be further strengthened as we were same once upon a time, he said.

On the occasion of Bohag Bihu, Governor PB Acharya also extended his warm greetings to the people of Arunachal Pradesh. He exhorted hope that the spring festival heralds a new era of harmonious relations and prosperity. He further wished that the festivity ushered in peace and progress in the whole of the Northeastern region.

E-commerce definition too wide in GST dispensation: Assocham

NEW DELHI, April 16: The government must clearly outline the scope of 'e-commerce' under the GST, as the current definition can include even commodity derivatives exchanges where there is no actual delivery of goods, an industry body has said.

The term 'e-commerce' may get misinterpreted in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) law, industry chamber Assocham said.

"E-commerce definition, as given in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) dispensation, has been left so wide that it could go well beyond Amazon or Flipkart marketplace platforms and may even cover the commodity exchanges," it said.

The chamber has sought clarity from

government to remove uncertainty among businesses as the law is set for a rollout either in July or September.

"The scope of the term 'electronic commerce' is very wide and does not restrict it to cover electronic marketplace service providers like Amazon, Flipkart.

"It covers all businesses where the supply of goods/services is through a digital or electronic network," Assocham said in a communication to concerned ministries.

There are possibilities of unwarranted interpretations as futures and commodity exchanges may get treated as electronic marketplaces even though derivatives trading means no delivery of actual goods, it said.

"In our opinion such an interpretation will not be in consonance with the object and intent of special provisions for the electronic commerce business."

There are distinguishing legal and operational factors between e-commerce operators and commodity exchanges," the industry body said.

"The commodities exchanges cannot be treated as electronic commerce operator in their legal capacity as well as in common parlance."

It has also sought clarity on treatment of goods and services under GST for exports, gems and jewellery, MSME sector, banking and telecom.

"The Assocham would like a seamless and flawless rollout of the GST to infuse a sense of confidence among the consumers, trade and industry. Eventually, the GST should become a showpiece of our reforms," its Secretary General DS Rawat said in the statement.

The Central GST, one of the components of the law, is silent on exemptions provided on interest on loans.

"The exemption under services tax, which exempts interest, should be replicated under GST," it said.

GST is unification of multiple indirect taxes into a single law, hence, it is presumed current exemption would be continued for banking and other financial institution including non-banking financial company as these exemptions create the basic foundation for taxing services provided by them, it added. - PTI

Govt may soon allow 100% FDI in cash, ATM management cos

NEW DELHI, April 16: Cash and ATM management companies will soon be allowed to attract 100 per cent foreign direct investment as they are not required to comply with the Private Security Agencies (Regulation) Act (PSARA).

A clarification to this effect is likely to be issued by the Home Ministry shortly.

The clarification will be against the backdrop of confusion among firms in cash and ATM management relating to compliance with the Act, under which they can receive FDI only up to 49 per cent.

The issue was discussed at a meeting convened by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) last month.

"In that meeting, it was decided that the Home Ministry would be asked to issue a clarification that these companies will not have to comply with PSARA and would be eligible to attract 100 per cent FDI," a official said.

There are about a dozen cash management players in the country, including Writer Safeguard, SIS Securitas, CMS, Secure Value, Logicas, Brinks Arya, Securitram and Scientific Security Management Services.

According to experts, companies managing cash for banks have so far been caught in a policy tangle, with the Home Ministry insisting that 100 per cent FDI could not be allowed for them if they provide private security

guards or armoured vehicles. Companies that make devices such as currency authenticators and sorting and currency counting machines will also benefit from this clarification, they added. Several players, including TVS Electronics and ITL, are in such businesses.

Cash Management companies handle over Rs 40,000 crore of cash per day.

The government in 2015 permitted 100 per cent FDI under the automatic route for white label ATM operations with an aim to promote financial inclusion.

FDI into the country grew 22 per cent to \$35.85 billion during April-December of 2016-17. - PTI

CAPSULE

Merc focus

MUMBAI, April 16: Buoyed by its widening customer base, Maruti Suzuki is cementing its No 1 position for the second year in a row, luxury car-maker Mercedes is now shifting its focus to after-sales services. "The average age of our customers is down to 37 now... This has resulted us in investing more on after-sales service by massively lowering the time to resolve customer complaints," Mercedes-Benz India's Vice-President (After-Sales), Santosh Iyer told PTI.

Spicejet flight

NEW DELHI, April 16: No-frills airline SpiceJet has started a direct flight from the national capital to Bangkok. The service would be available six days a week and after May 9, the flight would be operated daily, the airline said in a release. - PTI

Hidesign plan

MUMBAI, April 16: Premium leather goods manufacturer Hidesign is looking to launch 15 stores across airports and malls this financial year. "Hidesign plans to open 15 new stores, nine of which will be in airports, and about 6-6 will be across malls," its president Dilip Kapur told PTI.

Dish TV

NEW DELHI, April 16: Dish TV, group's direct-to-home (DTH) service arm Dish TV expects to complete its merger with Videocon Group's DTH arm Videocon d2h by October this year after receiving necessary regulatory approvals. The merged entity would have a subscriber base of 27.2 million, creating the largest DTH service provider in the industry. - PTI

Axis Bank

MUMBAI, April 16: Private lender Axis Bank has touched 1 million micro-borrowers mark and is not keen to expand further in any micro-lender, a senior official has said. Three years after getting into the segment, the bank touched 1-million borrowers mark recently and all of them are women who have availed of credit through the joint lending group model, Axis Bank's retail banking head Rajiv Anand told PTI.

ITC strategy

NEW DELHI, April 16: FMCG major ITC is spicing up its food portfolio, with master chefs from its hotels curating different blends of spices for a range of products to be sold under its ITC Masala Chai brand. The company, which is pursuing to create world class brands by leveraging on enterprise strengths, is banking on spices sourced by its agri business division from different States, including Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. - PTI

JK Tyre target

NEW DELHI, April 16: JK Tyre & Industries is eyeing over 20 per cent market share in the two-wheeler segment over the next 18 months as it strives to roll out new products and aims to expand reach across the country. The tyre major entered the segment last year with the Rs 2.195 crore buyout of BK Birla's flagship firm Kesoram Industries' tyre manufacturing plant at Hardwar. - PTI

Refinery expansion

NRL signs MoU with IOCL, Paradip Port for crude transport

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 16: Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) today signed a historic memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Paradip Port Trust and Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL) for transport of imported crude oil from Paradip Port, Odisha for its proposed refinery expansion at Numaligarh from 3 MMTPA to 9 MMTPA.

The tripartite MoU was signed between Chairman Paradip Port Trust Rinkesh Roy, Director (Technical) NRL, BJ Phukan and ED (Pipelines), IOCL, AK Tiwari in presence of Union Minister for Road Transport, Highways and Shipping Nitin Gadkari at Paradip, Orissa.

The MoU provides for utilising IOCL's spare capacity of existing SPMs (Single Point Mooring) at Paradip. Paradip Port Trust will extend land space for installation of crude storage tanks, pump house and township at Paradip, an official statement said.

IBBI plans to fast-track resolution for start-ups

NEW DELHI, April 16: The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board plans to fast-track the resolution process for "smaller cases", including for start-ups, and complete them within 90 days.

The Board has been set up under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, which came into force from December 1, 2016.

While a final decision is yet to be taken, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) is looking at the possibility of fast-tracking resolution process for smaller cases and those having less complications.

An idea is being discussed wherein smaller cases could have slightly different procedures in terms of insolvency resolution. There could be differential treatment in terms of time-frame, IBBI Chairman MS Saod said.

"Fast-track is a process which has to close in 90 days

and these are likely to be applied to cases with less complications.... The example could be start-ups," he told PTI.

The code provides for completing insolvency resolution process within 180 days and the time-frame starts from the date of filing of the application for resolution.

Now, the idea of bringing it down to 90 days for smaller cases is being looked into.

The code seeks to consolidate and amend laws relating to reorganisation as well as insolvency resolution of corporate persons, partnership firms and individuals in a time-bound manner.

Presently, at least 35 corporate insolvency resolution treatments are going on.

Among various provisions, the code provides penal powers to the IBBI in case an insolvency process has been triggered in a fraudulent manner. - PTI

Round-the-clock updates on BSE-listed cos

NEW DELHI, April 16: From board meeting outcomes to regulatory actions, investors are now getting updates about BSE-listed companies even at midnight with a new corporate announcement filing system where the delay in dissemination is less than 10 seconds.

Moving away from the earlier practice of "pre-verification", the exchange is seeking to provide price sensitive information about companies at the earliest with the new system.

Now, most filings by listed firms on the BSE come with two sets of timings and their difference shows the gap in dissemination of the information by the exchange after receiving the information from the entity concerned.

A cursory glance at the timings of filings on the bourse shows that some of them have come even close to midnight, making the dissemination almost a round-the-clock affair.

Under the new system, introduced last month, corporate announcements would be disseminated "without pre-verification", according to the BSE. - PTI

EPFO weighs exit policy to maximise returns on investments

NEW DELHI, April 16: Retirement fund body EPFO has decided to bring out an exit policy to liquidate its investments in government securities, ETFs and State loans to maximise returns for its members.

The Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) had decided to propose 8.65 per cent interest on EPF deposits for 2016-17 in December last year. But the EPFO has not yet issued an exit policy at present as it largely invests in government securities that have a definite maturity window.

The issue was discussed at the meeting of EPFO's apex decision-making body, the Central Board of Trustees (CBT) on April 12, where its Chairman and Labour Minister Suresh Datta Ray had addressed the trustees of bringing out an exit policy.

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out an exit policy.

The EPFO is under pressure to offer higher interest rate to EPF to its around 4 crore subscribers.

The CBT had decided to propose 8.65 per cent interest on EPF deposits for 2016-17 in December last year. But the Finance Ministry had not approved the same and asked the EPFO to reduce it by up to 50 basis points to avoid any deficit.

The EPFO had entrusted a Bengaluru-based management institute with the task of framing the exit policy, which is expected to provide a basic blueprint.

"The policy will be vetted by the EPFO's advisory body

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"The policy will be vetted by the EPFO's advisory body

Finmin expects 6 banks to raise funds via FPO

NEW DELHI, April 16: With stock prices on the mend, the Finance Ministry will muddle at least six public sector banks to hit markets to raise funds and ease the pressure on the exchequer of pumping in capital as per the Indradhanush plan.

"Time has come for banks to tap capital market and we think that at least half-a-dozen banks would take advantage of the opportunity and raise capital from the market during the current fiscal," a senior Finance Ministry official told PTI.

"It is up to individual banks to decide when they want to raise capital and how much, but in our assessment, there are a few fit candidates for this, including State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda and Punjab National Bank," the official said.

As per the scheme, public sector banks need to raise Rs 11.10 lakh crore from markets, including follow-on public offer, to meet Basel III requirements, which kick in from March 2019.

This will be over and above Rs 70,000 crore banks will get as capital support from the government. Of this, the government has already infused Rs 50,000 crore in the past two fiscal and the remaining will be pumped in by the end of 2018-19.

SBI has already taken board approval for raising up to Rs 15,000 crore through various means, including public offer and overseas issuance of shares, minorities and women. - PTI

The spend is 92 per cent of the required CSR budget of Rs 8,900 crore, using up to 80 per cent of average net profits of three financial years. The companies collectively had budgeted Rs 10,257 crore, which is 15 per cent more than the minimum budget required.

"CSR is a matter of board-level accountability and the boards should be allowed the space to conduct their job without interference or influence from certain stakeholders that have tendencies to exploit CSR legislation for their narrow self-interest," CII President Naresh

Forbes said.

The absolute amount of money contributed to PM's Relief Fund reduced by 25 per cent to Rs 80.55 crore, the report noted.

The report considered the contribution towards the PM's Relief Fund as contribution to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund or any other fund set up by the Central Government for socio-economic development and relief and welfare of Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, other backward classes, minorities and women. - PTI

85% Indian cos optimistic about economic recovery: Survey

NEW DELHI, April 16: Corporate India is among the fourth most optimistic global as 85 per cent of the businesses are hopeful of economic recovery, compared to 48 per cent in China, a survey said.

The Grant Thornton International Business Report says that in the first quarter of 2017, 85 per cent respondents were optimistic about economic recovery.

India is ranked fourth on the global optimism index during the January-March quarter of 2017, and is behind economies like China, US, Europe including UK and India's leadership team, Harish HV said.

This shows the confidence of the business and a positive reflection on government policies, he said adding implementation of GST should give further boost.

"The overall increase in global optimism is a positive signal that we can expect businesses to perform even better

in future and that is reflected in the Indian stock markets," Harish HV said.

The report was prepared on the basis of results of a quarterly conducted global business survey of 2,600 businesses in 37 countries including India.

The survey said lack of finance and strong ICT infrastructure remain the biggest concerns for corporates in India.

While India ranks second in citing regulations and red tape as growth constraints, there is a constant decline in number of respondents who agree with this.



Rashmi Thakur (R), Miss Planet India, Miss Asia International and Esha Hindocha, fashion blogger, at the inauguration of a three-day Tiends Expo Exhibition of fashion wear and jewellery, in Hyderabad on Thursday. - UNI

BJP yet to achieve its peak: Shah

BHUBANESWAR, April 16: Setting a new target for party leaders and workers, Bharatiya Janata Party President Amit Shah said that despite being in power at the centre and in 13 states, the party is yet to achieve its peak and urged them to devote themselves to the cause.

Shah also hit out at opposition parties for questioning EVMs and said that blaming EVMs is disrespecting the Election Commission.

Shah's remarks came here at the inaugural address of the two-day National Executive of BJP being held at Bhubaneswar after a gap of 20 years.

"Many (people) declared after the 2014 general elections that the BJP reached its peak, but it was not so. They then said in 2017 (after elections to the five states, including Uttar Pradesh) that the BJP has now attained its peak, but it is not the case," Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad quoted Amit Shah as saying at the inaugural session.

"But the BJP is yet to be at its peak. The BJP will attain its peak when BJP will have Chief



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other senior BJP leaders at the inaugural session of the National Office Bearers' Meeting in Bhubaneswar on Saturday - UNI

Ministers in all the states and it has members everywhere from panchayats to Parliament," Shah added, according to Prasad. "Let's resolve to make BJP a pan-India party from panchayats to Parliament. BJP's golden period should be associated with country's golden period," Shah said.

Noting that the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi will complete three years in office on May 26 and had worked hard during this period, he said: "...we have done work which other parties should do in two-three terms."

The BJP Chief also said that earlier there was a perception that BJP was doing well only where there was Congress and not against the regional parties, but the recent election results of Uttar Pradesh has proved this perception wrong.

Targeting the opposition for questioning EVMs, Shah said despietakingexcuses these parties should have honestly introspected the reasons.

"It was expected from the defeated parties that after their defeat, these parties should have honestly accepted it but they began making excuses. Among the excuses EVMs are being discussed.

Urging party workers "not to be lethargic" after winning victories in recently-concluded assembly polls, Prasad also said that the BJP chief would tour, for 95 days, different parts of the country till September. - IANS

"Such talks are not only about accepting defeat honestly but to dishonour the Election Commission," he said.

In a sarcastic attack, Shah said that when United Progressive Alliance won the 2004 and 2009 general elections of the Bahujan Samaj Party and Samajwadi Party won the Uttar Pradesh elections in 2007 and 2012, then there was no problem, but now all of sudden questions are being raised about EVMs. The BJP also challenged Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to accept the open challenge of Election Commission to hack EVMs.

"The EC has publicly asked to hack EVMs. Why don't he (Kejriwal) and hack it. He is an IIT graduate. An experienced hacker is Chief Minister of a state," Prasad told reporters in response to a query.

Urging party workers "not to be lethargic" after winning victories in recently-concluded assembly polls, Prasad also said that the BJP chief would tour, for 95 days, different parts of the country till September. - IANS

Virtual museums to be set up in 50 places: PM

BHUBANESWAR, April 16: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said virtual museums would be set up at 50 places in the country to highlight the "significant" role of the tribals in the freedom struggle.

Facilitating family members of 16 freedom fighters, who fought in the 1817 Paika rebellion in Odisha against the British rule, Modi said: "Unfortunately, the history of freedom struggle was restricted to a few families, yes and a few incidents. It was a massive people's movement for many years and the present generation must know about it."

Hailing the role of tribals in the war of independence as "significant", the Prime Minister said in order to recreate and remember their contributions, steps were being taken to have virtual museums at 50 places in the country.

The government seeks to present before the present and future generations the

sacrifices made by the tribal communities in the country's freedom struggle, he said at a function organized at the Raj Bhavan here.

As several events took place for many years of the freedom struggle, it is important to remember all such events, he said.

Noting that the contribution made by the people of Odisha was significant, Modi said the glorious chapters of history serve as inspiration and people should link themselves with the past.

History plays an important role in fulfillment of dreams in the journey of human life, he said.

Remembering and knowing about the lives of those who made supreme sacrifice for the country is necessary, the prime minister said after honouring the family members of the freedom fighters with shawls and citation.

"It is a proud moment for me to remember the sacrifices made by the martyrs. I

am fortunate to meet their family members," said Modi while describing the Paika rebellion as one of the major historical events in the war of independence.

Modi honoured the family members of freedom fighters - Jayen Rajguru, Buxi Jagabandhu, Samant Madhab Chandra Routray, Pindiki Bahubalendra, Krutibas Patani, Dama Subudhi Mangaraj, Chakra Bisoyee, Rendo Majhi, Veer Surendra Sai, Chakhi Khuntia, Madho Singh, Raghunath Mohanty, Dibakar Parida, Laxman Nayak, Laxmi India Pandit and Dinabandhu Samantray Mohapatra.

The Paikas were the traditional landed militia of Odisha and in 1817, Paikas of Khurda and other parts of the state had raised their strong voice against the British rule and waged a war against them.

The Paikas were led by Bakshi Jagabandhu Bidyadhar, the former bakshi or commander of the forces of the king of Khurda. - PTI

Modi for justice to Muslim women

BHUBANESWAR/LUCKNOW, April 16: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today made a strong pitch for the divisive issue of 'triple talaq', insisting the exploitation of Muslim women should end and justice be done to them.

He, however, deprecated any attempts at creating a "conflict" within the Muslim community on the issue and suggested tackling it through social awareness.

"(He) (Modi) talked about social justice. He said our Muslim sisters should also get justice. Injustice should not be done with them. Nobody should be exploited," Union Minister Nitin Gadkari told journalists briefing about Modi's address to the delegates at the BJP's national executive

in Bhubaneswar.

"We do not want that there is conflict within the Muslim community over this issue. What we have to do is that there are any social evils, we have to wake up the society and make efforts to provide justice to them (Muslim women)."

Triple Talaq

en. That was the Prime Minister's spirit," Gadkari said quoting Modi.

The Prime Minister's comments came on a day when the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) asserted Muslims have a "constitutional" right to follow their personal law of which 'triple talaq' was a part.

AIMPLB general secretary Maulana Wali Rehmani said the board has decided to issue a code of conduct and warned that those who give talaq (divorce) without following the 'Sharia' (Islamic law) will face social boycott.

"A code of conduct for talaq is being issued. With its help, the real picture of Sharia directives will be brought out on the talaq issue. If talaq is given without Shariah reasons those involved will be socially boycotted," Rehmani told reporters in Lucknow.

The board is issuing appeals to all maulanas and imams of mosques to read out the code of conduct during Friday "namaz" and emphasize on its implementation, he said. - PTI

FICN seizure by BSF

KOLKATA, April 16: Fake currency notes of Rs 2,000 denomination with the face value of Rs seven lakh have been seized by the BSF after an operation along the Indo-Bangla border International Border (IB) in West Bengal's Malda district.

The incident occurred around 8:30 PM last night when a Border Security Force (BSF) patrol had an encounter with the Churni-Nashri tunnel post area of Malda to nab fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN) smugglers active along this border.

While the smugglers managed to escape when they were challenged by BSF personnel, the patrol party seized five packets which had 350 fake notes of Rs 2,000 denomination having a face value of Rs 7 lakh. - PTI

New tunnel creates problems

UDHAMPUR, April 16: The state-of-the-art transverse ventilation system in the newly-opened 3.2 km Chenani-Nashri tunnel on the Jammu-Srinagar highway may not be working effectively as commuters are complaining of high pollution levels, eye irritation and suffocation inside which has been termed as one of India's infrastructure wonders.

Some of the commuters using the strategically-important tunnel in Jammu and Kashmir on a regular basis told TNN that they were also breathing poor visibility caused by high pollution levels inside what is India's first and the world's sixth road tunnel that uses a hi-tech ventilation system to extract polluted air

and maintain a constant flow of fresh air.

Balvinder Singh, a Delhi-based orthopedic surgeon from Jammu, said he suffered breathing problems while he was inside the tunnel, built with Austrian technology at a cost of Rs 2,900 crore (\$450

million) and inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 2.

"The ventilation system inside the tunnel probably does not work effectively. As soon as we enter the tunnel during peak hours, the visibility starts plummeting. If we travel with the windows down, the pollution level rises as it causes breathing issues as well," the surgeon with Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital told IANS.

"It feels as if we are passing through a gas chamber," the surgeon said.

Anil Manhas, who works with the Jammu and Kashmir

Education Department, uses the ventilation system to reduce the 41-km distance between Chenani in Udhampur to Nashri in Rambhan to just 11 km, slashing his travel time from two-and-a-half hours to a mere 10 minutes.

"I took it lightly when I used the tunnel for the first time. I had irritation in my eyes. It was also smoke-filled. This is happening regularly now and I think the ventilation system is not working. If this prevails for long... there are chances of vehicles meeting with accidents due to poor visibility," Manhas said.

Asked about the problem, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) spokesperson Vishnu Darbari said since Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS) had constructed the tunnel, only they would be able to answer queries about it.

But Ashutosh Chandwar, Vice President, IL&FS, contended that the problem has to do with claustrophobia caused by travel though such a long and confined space. - IANS

IT'S ONCE AGAIN THE TRANSMISSION TIME OF JAPANESE ENCEPHALITIS

Be alert!

Acute fever, headache, mental irritability, vomiting tendency, convulsion and loss of consciousness may be the symptoms of Japanese Encephalitis

If any of the symptoms is observed contact nearest health workers (ANM/MPW), report to the nearest hospital and get right treatment

To prevent this disease

Use LLIN mosquito net while sleeping

Keep pigs and piggeries away from compound of your house

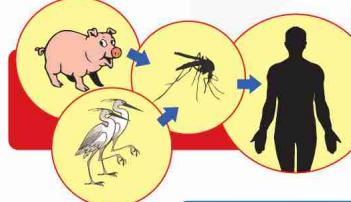
To stop breeding of mosquito keep your house compound and drains clean

Always wear fully covered clothes to get rid of mosquito bites

Smoke your house in the evening

Allow health worker to spray DDT inside of your house

Keep doors and windows open during fogging and allow the smoke to come inside



Transmission cycle of Japanese Encephalitis

Government Services

Free diagnostic facilities for Japanese Encephalitis are available at all the district hospitals and medical colleges

Respective doctors of all the district hospitals are taking the required measures for treatment on an emergency basis

ICU facility is available at every medical college of the state to treat patients suffering from Japanese Encephalitis

Paediatric ICU facility is available at Golaghat, Sivasagar and Lakhimpur Civil Hospitals

For any help, dial 104

National Health Mission, Assam

Progressive & healthy nation
is our mission



Reprint/NHM/2017



Coping with bad bosses

Dealing with emotional exhaustion at work can boost happiness, finds a study

Have an unsupportive boss? It may be good for you, according to a new study which shows that dealing with emotional exhaustion at work can boost happiness.

Researchers, including those from University of East Anglia in the UK, conducted three complementary studies involving a total of 500 employees in Portugal and the US.

The participants worked in multiple occupations including management, architecture and engineering, business and financial operations, as well as office and administration support, sales, education and healthcare.

The studies used different measures of emotional exhaustion, happiness and perceived supervisor support (PSS) and the participants were asked to complete questionnaires.

Researchers found that perceiving low supervisor support stimulates the employee's engagement in developing an action plan which, when paired with what the researcher call instrumental social support - the activity of searching for advice, support or information from others – boosts happiness.

Low PSS enhanced the relationship between emotional exhaustion and planning activities, whereas searching for instrumental social support enhanced the relationship between planning and happiness, researchers said.

"Perceived supervisor support appears to be a double-edged sword, on the one hand preventing the emergence of emotional exhaustion but on the other hand diminishing the likelihood that employees will engage in planning to deal with the emotional exhaustion they are experiencing," said Ferreira Peralta of University of East Anglia.

"It is important to note that it is not emotional exhaustion per se, but rather how people cope with it, that is beneficial for individuals," Peralta said.

"Our findings suggest that the activities people engage in have a key role in building happiness from an internally stressful experience and that emotional exhaustion can have a silver lining," Peralta said.

The study was published in the journal *Work and Stress*. - PTI

Know your DAY

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Monday, April 17, 2017.

This year you act on your need to be a pioneer and break precedent. You might not like what is happening around you, but you have the ability to create change. Others will admire your efforts and are likely to join you. If you are single, you open up to the possibility of relating to a different type of person. You will learn a lot from this person, no matter what ends up happening with him/her. If you are attached, you need to make sure you spend enough time with your partner; otherwise he/she could be caught up in what you are doing elsewhere that you could lose sight of your priorities. CAPRICORN always appreciates your intervention.

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

ARTISTS March 21-April 19

***** Your actions and decisions are the result of a lot of thought and research. You might spend a lot of time in your heart playing out "what if" scenarios. The more you toy with an idea and brainstorm about it, the better the results will be. Tonight: Could be up till the wee hours.

TELEVISION March 21-April 20

***** Reach out to someone at a distance whose opinion you value. However, remember that just because this person is usually correct does not mean you need to follow it or his/her path. Make sure that you feel comfortable as well. Tonight: Research and/or the web.

GENERAL March 21-April 20

***** A come-up conversation keeps reappearing in your thoughts.

Apparently, what was said has triggered a strong response from you. Touch base with your creativity and understanding when revisiting this lurking thought; there is something there for you. Tonight: Visit over dinner.

COMPETITION March 21-April 20

***** You don't always oppose a situation, but you could be irked by what is going on right now. Ask yourself what is bothering you, and try to root out the cause. An enlightening discussion will allow greater flow. Others will bend to your will. Tonight: So many choices.

LEO April 21-May 20

***** Do, dream, and accomplish what you need to do. At first, you might find this to be a difficult task, but it will get easier with time. The unexpected occurs just when you want to be free to participate in a fun happening. Adjust your plans accordingly. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

VIRGO August 23-September 22

***** Allow your personality to emerge when dealing with a stubborn friend. This person has an impact on your personal life, and for many reasons, this situation is likely to last for a while. A loved one will be on target about what is happening with you. Tonight: Be silly for a change.

LIBRA September 23-Oct. 22

***** Your words can move weight than reality. Others respond, some of whom might turn the other way not wanting to deal with the issue at hand. You understand the strength of teamwork and cooperation, whereas those around you are still learning. Tonight: Happy at home.

SAGITTARIUS November 22-Dec. 21

***** One's heart is loud and clear, though you might feel as if your words aren't carrying much weight. Know that you will see the impact of your communication soon. Let your imagination be a bigger part of your decision-making process. Tonight: Be a little naughty.

TAURUS April 20-May 19

***** Your mind might be focused on a personal matter that seems to demand a lot of attention. Remember, there is a world around you. Take some time to let go and return to your normal routine. Tonight: Pay bills first.

CANCER June 21-July 20

***** You might peek over the door, and then decide to screen your calls. Taking some personal time is important, but try to leave someone out of the loop. Postpone any money decisions for now. Tonight: Play it low-key.

SCORPIO October 23-Nov. 21

***** How you want to handle a personal matter. Success will happen if you stretch your mind and find an unusual solution. Just because you hit a brick wall does not mean that you can't bypass it. Bring the issue up with others. Tonight: Act as if there were no tomorrow.

Thought for the day

Any fool can tell the truth, but it requires a man of some sense to know how to lie well.

- SAMUEL BUTLER

LOCKHORNS



DENNIS THE MENACE



THE PHANTOM



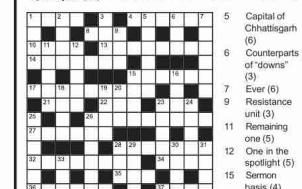
BLONDIE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



Tribune CROSSWORD - 5954



Across
1 Harbour (4)
4 Wound or shoot (6)
8 In favour of (3)
10 Campus org. (4)
13 Portable power saw (6)
15 Best of best (7)
16 Superstars (6)
19 Best of ICC WT20 2016 (6)
20 Best of ISL 2016 (6)
21 From now on (9)
21 Bone of our body joined to the spine (3)
22 Slack (3)
23 Duo (3)
26 Surpassing (9)

Down
1 Prefix with "normal" or "misten" (4)
2 Biblical woman (4)
3 Mythical sea monsters (4)

SOLUTION TO TRIBUNE CROSSWORD - 5954

Across
1 Dumb 17, Tuesday 17, Wednesday 21, Thursday 25, Friday 29, Saturday 31, Sunday 2, Monday 6, Tuesday 10, Wednesday 14, Thursday 18, Friday 22, Saturday 26, Sunday 30, Monday 3, Tuesday 7, Wednesday 11, Thursday 15, Friday 19, Saturday 23, Sunday 27, Monday 4, Tuesday 8, Wednesday 12, Thursday 16, Friday 20, Saturday 24, Sunday 28, Monday 5, Tuesday 9, Wednesday 13, Thursday 17, Friday 21, Saturday 25, Sunday 29, Monday 6, Tuesday 10, Wednesday 14, Thursday 18, Friday 22, Saturday 26, Sunday 30, Monday 1, Tuesday 5, Wednesday 9, Thursday 13, Friday 17, Saturday 21, Sunday 25, Monday 2, Tuesday 6, Wednesday 10, Thursday 14, Friday 18, Saturday 22, Sunday 26, Monday 3, Tuesday 7, Wednesday 11, Thursday 15, Friday 19, Saturday 23, Sunday 27, Monday 4, Tuesday 8, Wednesday 12, Thursday 16, Friday 20, Saturday 24, Sunday 28, Monday 5, Tuesday 9, Wednesday 13, Thursday 17, Friday 21, Saturday 25, Sunday 29, Monday 6, Tuesday 10, Wednesday 14, Thursday 18, Friday 22, Saturday 26, Sunday 30, 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Around the WORLD

First Lady Melania to move into White House

WASHINGTON, April 16: US First Lady Melania Trump and her 11-year-old son are set to move into the White House this summer, according to a media report.

President Donald Trump moved to Washington DC upon his inauguration while Melania and their son Barron stayed behind in New York City so that he could finish out the school year.

Trump's wife and their young son will officially be moving into the White House this summer, following the end of the school year, a senior White House official told Fox News.

The move is in line with what senior Trump transition officials said in December about Melania and son Barron's timeline for moving from Trump Tower in Manhattan to Washington. — PTI



Britain's Prince William and Catherine, the Duchess of Cambridge, arrive at the Easter Sunday service in Windsor Castle, in Windsor, Britain on Sunday. — UNI

'Brain zapping'

GENEVA, April 16: Scientists have found that a person's honest behaviour can be increased using non-invasive electrical brain stimulation.

In a die-rolling experiment, study participants could increase their earnings by cheating rather than telling the truth.

The researchers found that people cheated a significant amount of the time. However, many participants also stuck to the truth.

"Most people seem to weigh motives of self-interest against honesty on a case-by-case basis; they cheat a little bit but not on every possible occasion," said Michel Maréchal, Professor at the University of Zurich (UZH) in Switzerland.

However, about eight per cent of the participants cheated in whenever possible and maximised their profit.

The researchers applied transcranial direct current stimulation over a region in the right dorsolateral prefrontal cortex (DLPFC). This non-invasive brain stimulation method makes brain cells more sensitive as they are more likely to be active. — PTI



World's oldest person dies aged 117

LONDON, April 16: The world's oldest person - believed to be the last known living individual to be born in the 19th century - has passed away at the age of 117.

Born on 29 November 1899, Emma Martina Luigia Morano from Italy held the Guinness World Records titles for Oldest living person and Oldest living woman.

Morano, who passed away on Saturday, was confirmed as holding both Guinness World Records titles in May last year following research conducted by the Gerontology Research Group.

Raised in Vercelli - the oldest of eight siblings - Morano later moved to Verbania on the shores of Lake Maggiore, Italy where she remained for the majority of her life.

She followed the same extraordinary diet for around 90 years - three eggs per day (two raw, one cooked), fresh Italian pasta and a dish of raw meat, only changing her routine within the final years of her life.

Morano was engaged to a man who died during the First World War.

She got married to another man in 1926, but chose to end the abusive marriage after her six-month-old child passed away. She never got married again. — PTI



A farmer burns a paddy field in Nakhonsawan province, north of Bangkok, Thailand on Saturday. — UNI

Protesters across US demand Trump release tax returns

NEW YORK/CHICAGO, April 16: Thousands of protesters took to the streets across the United States on Saturday to call on President Donald Trump to release his tax returns.

According to organisers, demonstrators came out in large numbers in about 200 cities, including a few outside the US, CNNMoney reported.

Images of tax protesters in cities including Washington, Philadelphia, Chicago, Denver, Los Angeles and New York flooded social media.

Comedy writer Frank Lesser, whose tweet in January sparked the idea for the "Tax March", said the participation in the nationwide march proves that people want to see Trump's returns, Xinhua news agency reported.

Trump has said Americans "don't care at all" about his tax returns, but polls show 74 per cent of Americans say he should release them. Many lawmakers, including some Republicans, have also called on him to make them public. And a petition demanding that Trump release his returns has garnered more than 1 million signatures.

For the past 40 years, every US President and presidential candidate has released tax documents. Still, the White House has not indicated that Trump has any intentions of releasing his returns.

Trump has repeatedly said he can not release his tax returns because they are under audit, though many tax experts have said he is not barred from releasing the information



during the audit.

"We march to demand that the President releases his returns, as he has repeatedly promised, but failed, to do," the Tax March website reads.

"We march because it is in the best interest of the American people to know what financial entanglements and conflicts of interest our leaders have."

Much like the "Pussyhats" symbolised by the Women's March in January, the hallmark of this protest are the inflatable chickens.

Organisers have nicknamed the march's symbol "Chicken Dot".

On Saturday morning, chickens could be spotted on the steps of the Capitol building and outside the Trump Hotel. — IANS

Top US official visits Kabul after huge bomb attack

KABUL, April 16: US National Security Advisor Gen. H.R. McMaster arrived in Kabul today days after the American military dropped its largest non-nuclear bomb on Islamic State group hideouts in eastern Afghanistan, killing nearly a hundred militants.

On his first visit to the country as President Donald Trump's envoy, McMaster said on Twitter he was set to hold "very important talks on mutual cooperation."

"Welcome Lt Gen HR #McMaster to Kabul and thank you for your continuous support," Afghanistan's presidential palace tweeted.

On Thursday the US military in Afghanistan dropped its GBU-43/B Massive Ordnance Air Blast, dubbed the "Mother of All Bombs", in combat for the first time on IS hideouts in the Achin district of Nangarhar province.

Afghanistan's defence ministry on Sunday put the death toll at 95 militants and no civilians.

The attack triggered global shock waves, with some condemning the use of Afghanistan as what they called a testing ground for the weapon, and against a militant group that is not considered as big a threat as the recent Taliban. — AFP

Taking to ramp for charity in Singapore

SINGAPORE, April 16: Indian-origin top executives of multi-national corporations in Singapore took to the ramp at a fundraising fashion show for underprivileged students.

DBS Group CEO Piyush Gupta, SilverNeedle Hospitality Group CEO Igbal Jumabhoy, business executives Prajesh Bassi and Pradeep Pant among others turned models for the charity dinner to raise funds for Indian-origin students under the Singapore Indian Development Association's (SINDA) tuition scheme.

They were joined by Singapore's Senior Minister of State for Finance and Law Indranee Rajah, who sang a number of songs in Tamil, Mandarin and Chinese, making it an Indian-origin, yet multinational appeal for funds.

The executives are part of the 100-member-strong Indian Business Leader Roundtable (IBR) which organises a series of programmes for the underprivileged students and assists SINDA, a self-help group. — PTI



Women run as men throw water at them as part of traditional Easter celebrations in Szenna, Hungary. — UNI

Public charging stations may put your phone at risk of hacking

NEW YORK, April 16: Plugging your smartphone to public charging stations or computers using USB cables can make your device vulnerable to hackers, warn scientists including one of Indian origin.

Experts have long known the risks of

sites a user has visited while charging a device. Researchers, including NYIT Kiran Balagani, warn that "a malicious charging station" can use seemingly unrelated data - such as a device's power consumption - to extract sensitive information.

As a walk through any airport will show, most people are happy to plug their phones into public charging stations, putting their phones at risk of "juice-jacking," when a compromised outlet steals data through a USB data cable, researchers said. The study is the first to show that even without a data cable, hackers can analyse a device's power needs to get at users' private information, with speed and accuracy depending on a number of factors.

The side-channel attacks were successful as "websites have a signature that reflects the way they load and consume en-

ergy," said Paolo Gasti, assistant professor at NYIT. The remaining power traces act as "signatures" and help hackers discover which websites have been visited.

The researchers conducted the study using power use signatures they had previously identified and tested the attack under various conditions.

After collecting power traces via a range of smartphones browsing popular websites, researchers launched attacks and checked the accuracy with which their algorithms could determine which websites were visited while the phones were plugged in. Various factors such as battery charging level, browser cache enabled/disabled, taps on the screen, and Wi-Fi/LTE influenced the accuracy rate in tracing websites visited.

Some conditions, such as a fully charged battery, facilitate a fast and accurate penetration, while others, such as tapping the screen while a page is loading, lessen hackers' ability to determine what website is being viewed. — PTI



charging a smartphone using a USB cord that can also transfer data.

The new research at New York Institute of Technology (NYIT) shows that even without data wires, hackers using a "side channel" can quickly find out what web-

Nepal, China hold first-ever joint military exercises

KATHMANDU, April 16: Nepal and China today began their first-ever joint military exercise with a special focus on combating terror, a move that could make India uneasy.

The 10-day-long military drill *Sagarmatha Friendship 2017* that will last till April 25 is being organised by the two countries as part of their preparedness against terrorism that has posed as a security threat globally, the Nepali Army said.

Sagarmatha is the Nepali name of Mt Everest, the world's highest peak. The Chinese People's Liberation Army's squad has already arrived in the capital to participate in the military exercise that will focus on counter-terrorism and disaster response, it said.

The joint training with China marks Nepal Army's extension of military diplomacy. The Nepal Army has long been conducting joint military drills with Indian and American Army. "A small Chinese troop will be participating in the first ever drill with an equal number of Nepali Army personnel,"

Pope urges end to Syria 'horror' in Easter address

VATICAN CITY, April 16: Pope Francis urged an end to "horror and death" in Syria today as he celebrated the traditional Easter Day mass in Rome.

The Easter mass, the highlight of the Christian calendar began under a cloudy sky where worshippers had gathered since the early hours to gain access amid tight security.

After a short bout of heavy rain, the pontiff gave his traditional Urbi et Orbi blessing from the balcony while he prayed for the suffering from war, famine and political unrest, highlighting Syria, but also Ukraine and conflict zones in Africa.

He expressed hope that Jesus' own sacrifice might "sustain the efforts of all those actively engaged in bringing comfort and relief to the civilian population in Syria, prey to a war that continues to sow horror and death."

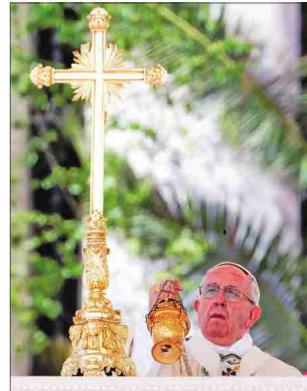
And he prayed for peace for the entire Middle East "beginning with the Holy Land, as well as in Iraq and Yemen."

He also spoke out against the hostilities and famine in Africa, notably in South Sudan, Sudan, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo. He further urged world leaders to hear the message of peace to the people with "the love and often dramatic situations of today's world," and to work "to prevent the spread of conflicts and to put a halt to the arms trade."

Without mentioning Venezuela by name, Pope Francis also alluded to political and social tensions in Latin America, expressing the hope that the "common good of societies" would prevail.

"May it be possible for bridges of dialogue to be built, by continuing to fight the scourge of corruption and to seek viable and peaceful solutions to disputes, for progress and the strengthening of democratic institutions in complete respect for the rule of law," he said.

Turning his attention to eastern Europe, he asked that "the Good Shepherd come to the aid of Ukraine, still beset by conflict and bloodshed." — AFP



Pope Francis leads the Easter mass in Saint Peter's Square at the Vatican on Sunday. — UNI



Tottenham's Mousa Dembele (centre) races off to celebrate with supporters after scoring the opening goal against Bournemouth during the Premier League match at the White Hart Lane, on Saturday.

Man City move to 3rd, Spurs keep title hopes alive

LONDON, April 16: Title-chasing Tottenham thrashed Bournemouth 4-0 to move within four points of Premier League leaders Chelsea, while Manchester City climbed to third place after a 3-0 win at Southampton on Saturday.

Mauricio Pochettino's side are hot on Chelsea's heels as the title race enters the final furlong and their dominant play at White Hart Lane keeps them in with a chance of being crowned champions for the first time since 1961.

Mousa Dembele opened the scoring with a close-range strike in the 16th minute and Son Heung-Min's cool finish doubled Tottenham's lead three minutes later.

Harry Kane, making his first start since suffering an ankle injury five weeks ago, scored his 20th league goal this season with a predatory 48th minute effort.

Vincent Janssen bagged a rare goal in second-half stoppage time. Tottenham chalked up seven successive league wins for the first time since 1967.

Kane is the first Tottenham player to score at least 20 league goals in three consecutive seasons since Jimmy Greaves in the 1960s.

Chelsea responded last weekend after Tottenham had trimmed their lead, beating Bournemouth 3-1, but Antonio Conte's men face a far more testing trip to Manchester United on Sunday. - AFP

We were pretty average against Delhi: Maxwell

NEW DELHI, April 16: Kings XI Punjab skipper Glenn Maxwell lamented the opportunities lost in their 51-run defeat against Delhi Daredevils and rebuffed suggestions that the Indian bowlers in their attack are ineffective.

Maxwell said they had opportunities to snatch momentum right from the first ball when home opener Sanju Samson offered a half-chance but could not be converted into a catch.

"The weaknesses tonight was everything, the batting, the bowling, the fielding, it was pretty average. We let opportunities to slip. We drop Corey Anderson when he was in single figure as well. They were not straight forward chances but in T20 cricket, half chances needs to be taken, especially when they won toss and batted, we need to make sure we take our chances," Maxwell said at post match press conference.

"They did not let us settle and get into the game. That was frustrating because we have got skills. The guys are good enough but it's not happening."

When asked if lack of international bowlers in the attack is affecting their chances, Maxwell chose to back the Indians bowlers in his team.

Their attack has Sandeep Sharma, Mohit Sharma, Axar Patel, Varun Aaron and KC Cariappa.

"They were good enough to dominate batsmen in the first two matches. It's not really it's about execution on the day," he said. Meanwhile, Kiwi all rounder Anderson, who played a crucial role in Daredevils' win with his unorthodox 39-run knock and a wicket, said 190 was too good a total to not defend.

"It was great by Sanju but in the middle overs we should not have lost those wickets that affected our run-rate. We thought 160 was a good total. Getting those 20-30 runs was vital in the end and winning by 51 was comprehensive," the Kiwi said. Anderson said he thinks of himself more of a batsman, who can bowl. - PTI

SU DO KU

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

Solution of last problem

Originating from Japan, 'su' ku is a mind game and a puzzle that can be solved with paper, pencil and pen. Fill the grid with numbers in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3 x 3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9 without repeating any.

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

Messi keeps Barca in the hunt, Real escape in La Liga

BARCELONA, April 16: Lionel Messi kept Barcelona's title hopes alive with two goals and an assist to see off Real Sociedad 3-2 as Spain's top two edge five-goal thrillers ahead of next weekend's El Clasico.

Earlier on Saturday, Isco struck at the death to keep Real Madrid three points clear and with a goal in hand at the top of the table after twice coming from behind to beat Sporting Gijon 3-2.

Barcelona will need Messi on this form if they are to produce another miracle Champions League fight-back against Juventus on Wednesday from a 3-0 first leg defeat suffered in midweek.

"I am more than happy with the performance of the players and their ability to manage the frustration after what we experienced in the Champions League this week," Barca boss Luis Enrique told Spanish TV station Movistar.

The Argentine is now just two off his 500th Barca goal as he smashed home an effort from 25 yards to open the scoring.

Messi then took his tally to 45 goals in 44 games this season with

a far less spectacular finish as he bundled home from close range after Geromino Rulli had saved from Luis Suarez.

However, Barca passed up the chance to enjoy a comfortable evening in a three-goal spell in as many minutes just before half-time.

Firstly, Santi Umtiti turned Iago Martinez's driven effort into his own net. Paco Alcacer, deputising for the suspended Neymar, briefly restored Barca's two-goal lead with a composed finish from Messi's pass.

Yet, Sociedad scored again almost straight from kick-off as Xabi Prieto cushioned William Jose's cross into the bottom corner.

Madrid can all secure a first league title in five years with victory when they host Barca next weekend.

But not for the first time this season they needed a late show after Diego Cop and Mikel Vesga put Sporting in front early in both halves.

Cristiano Ronaldo and Karim Benzema were left out of the squad entirely alongside the injured Gareth Bale, while Toni Kroos, Luka Modric and Marcelo had to settle for a place on the bench. - Agencies

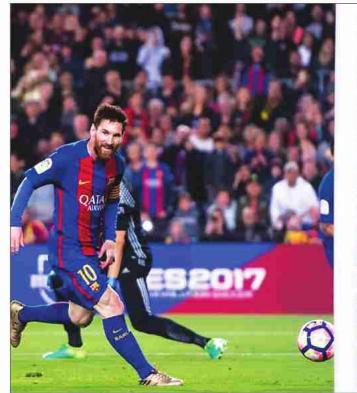
And Isco sealed the comeback when he drilled home from the edge of the box. "This is the spirit of Real Madrid," said Isco. "It is in the DNA of this shirt and this badge, we have shown it so many times and again today. Until the referee blows the full-time whistle it is not over."

The Spanish international is yet to agree a new contract with his current deal expiring at the end of next season. And Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane insists he wants Isco to stay despite his lack of starts and interest from Barcelona.

"You know what I think of Isco, he is a player I like a lot and his place is here."

Isco's late intervention bailed out his coach after Zidane made nine changes from the side that beat Bayern Munich in the first leg of their Champions League quarterfinal in midweek.

Cristiano Ronaldo and Karim Benzema were left out of the squad entirely alongside the injured Gareth Bale, while Toni Kroos, Luka Modric and Marcelo had to settle for a place on the bench. - Agencies



Barcelona's Lionel Messi celebrates after scoring the second goal against Real Sociedad during the La Liga match at the Camp Nou in Barcelona, on Saturday.

Bangalore have to make a serious move now

Mumbai, the other day, hurt Bangalore badly. A hat-trick was still not enough to defend a lowly total. Returning Kohli did his best to pick up the broken pieces but to no avail. Bangalore have to make a serious move now.

The account book tells us that it had lost three of their four matches by Saturday. Five of the 10 remaining are at home. The evidence from two home games so far points at a sluggish pitch. It's been of little aid to its bat. As the Bangalore top order, and Gayle is the man Bangalore should persist with.

wrote the game last night would have started and all eyes would be on the pitch. The ball gripped and came up to the bat with reluctance in the last

game. It's an unkink cut to Chris Gayle who needs a pitch where the bounce is true and the ball comes on to the bat. As would the Bangalore top order. And Gayle is the man Bangalore

should persist with.

The other high-profile import, Tymal Mills, too is out of sorts. It's like as if a polar bear is being asked to survive in Sahara desert. Mills'

It's almost obligatory on Bangalore's curator to do whatever he could for the home batsmen. He must call up a sorcerer, if need be, to change the DNA of the relaid pitch. Gayle simply can't stop being fun for the home audience.

It's not to say that teams aren't wary of Bangalore. This is a team which can hurt the most. It's just that its key batsmen aren't at home in the true sense. The home, for the moment, is a hostile sanctuary.

- TCM

Mumbai beat Gujarat by 6 wkts

MUMBAI, April 16: Nitish Rana smashed 53 before skipper Rohit Sharma hit an unbeaten 40 to lead Mumbai Indians to a comfortable six-wicket win over Gujarat Lions in an Indian Premier League (IPL) match here today.

Earlier Brendon McCullum raced his way to a quickfire 64 while Dinesh Karthik's cameo provided the late flourish as Gujarat Lions scored a competitive 176 for 4.

The former New Zealand captain bid the foundation while Karthik smashed 48 of 26 balls which was largely responsible in Lions crossing 175-run mark.

The Tamil Nadu wicket-keeper-batsman struck two fours and as many times in his breezy knock but McCullum had the last word.

Malinga, conceded 12 runs in his first over at the Wankhede track, where the ball came

mered the MI bowlers all round the park, striking six boundaries and three towering sixes.

It was an off day for Sri Lankan pacer Lasith Malinga, who replaced Kiwi Tim Southee. Malinga went for 51 in his four overs – his most expensive spell in the tournament.

Put into bat, Gujarat Lions,

had a disastrous start losing opener Dwayne Smith for a duck. He gave an easy catch to Nitish Rana at backward point off Mitchell McCullum's maiden of the very second ball.

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Put into bat, Gujarat Lions – at home. However, they lost their next two matches away from home – against Mumbai Indians and Kolkata Knight Riders.

Come tomorrow, it would be an opportunity for SRH to bounce back on their home turf. The team features one of the best bowling attacks in IPL-10 with the likes of pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Afghanistan's Rashid Khan, the experienced Ashish Nehra, Ben Cutting, Bangladesh's Mustafizur Rahman and all-rounders Yuvraj Singh and Moises Henriques in their ranks. Bhuvneshwar has been outstanding, especially in death overs, and the young Rashid has emerged as a crucial bowler for the side with his unique leg-spin bowling.

The other bowlers, including Ashish Nehra, Ben Cutting, and Rahman, can put any batsmen to test. Bangalore pacers Hameed and Venkatesh, who conceded 19 runs from his first over to return with poor figures of 2.4-0-34-0 against Mumbai, would be keen to make amends and demonstrate his capabilities.

SRH openers David Warner and Shikhar Dhawan have been giving good starts to their innings but the other batsmen, especially those who batted at the middle order would do well by raising the bar. The middle order, comprising Moises Henriques, seasoned Yuvraj Singh and Deepak Hooda, did put up a strong show to see their side romp home in the first two matches.

On the points table, both SRH and KXIP have four points each from an equal number of matches.

The Punjabi side has won their first two matches and lost the next two, much like SRH, and they too would aim to get their momentum back.

The visiting side have some dangerous batsmen, especially the three Ms – David Miller, Glenn Maxwell and Eoin Morgan – who can pile up runs.

Their bowling unit includes the reliable Moht Sharma and Ishant Sharma who is familiar with the conditions in Hyderabad as he played for SRH and also Central Changers earlier. - PTI

Pandey has been among runs in last three matches, while Uthappa's gritty 68 off 39 deliveries last night helped KKR post a 17-run win over defending champions Sunrisers Hyderabad.

Despite a jittery start, Uthappa and Pandey (46) helped the team reach a challenging 172/6, before the spin trio of Kuldeep Yadav (1/23), Sunil Narine (1/18) and Pathan (1/2) gave team breakthroughs to dent Sunrisers' chase. - PTI

SRH seek to put campaign back on track against KXIP

HYDERABAD, April 16: Back-to-back losses denting their confidence, defending champion Sunrisers Hyderabad would look to put their campaign back on track when they take on Kings XI Punjab in their IPL match here tomorrow.

The Sunrisers had a perfect start this season by winning their first two games – against Royal Challengers Bangalore.

Bangalore and Gujarat Lions – at home. However, they lost their next two matches away from home – against Mumbai Indians and Kolkata Knight Riders.

Come tomorrow, it would be an opportunity for SRH to bounce back on their home turf. The team features one of the best bowling attacks in IPL-10 with the likes of pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Afghanistan's Rashid Khan, the experienced Ashish Nehra, Ben Cutting, Bangladesh's Mustafizur Rahman and all-rounders Yuvraj Singh and Moises Henriques in their ranks. Bhuvneshwar has been outstanding, especially in death overs, and the young Rashid has emerged as a crucial bowler for the side with his unique leg-spin bowling.

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Their bowling unit includes the reliable Moht Sharma and Ishant Sharma who is familiar with the conditions in Hyderabad as he played for SRH and also Central Changers earlier. - PTI

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Despite a jittery start, Uthappa and Pandey (46) helped the team reach a challenging 172/6, before the spin trio of Kuldeep Yadav (1/23), Sunil Narine (1/18) and Pathan (1/2) gave team breakthroughs to dent Sunrisers' chase. - PTI

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Praneeth lifts maiden Super Series title

SINGAPORE, April 16: Promising Indian shuttler B Sai Praneeth clinched his maiden Super Series title at the Singapore Open after defeating compatriot K Srikanth in a historic all-Indian final here today.

World No.30 Praneeth, who had won the Canada Open Grand Prix last year and reached the Syed Modhi Grand Prix Gold final this year, outmaneuvered Srikanth 17-21, 21-17, 21-12 in the summit clash of the USD 350,000 event.

"It's always difficult to play someone with whom you play everyday. I am very happy to win today. The way I played in the tournament, I'm very happy. The support here for the Indians has also been very nice," an overwhelmed Praneeth said after the 54-minute clash.

It was the first time in the history of international badminton that two Indians were playing a Super Series final and it turned out to be a historic contest.

The two trainees of the Gopichand academy exploited every chink that they were aware of in each other's game.

In the first game, Srikanth played some angled shots to set up his points and then used his accurate smashes to seal them. He gathered many points on Praneeth's forehand with his brilliant returns.

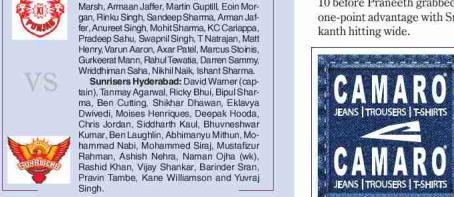
Srikanth started with two lame returns but as the game progressed, he showed his class to outmaneuver his compatriot. The duo didn't go for long rallies and varied the pace with their repertoire of strokes.

It was Srikanth who grabbed an 11-7 advantage during the first break with a cross-court smash which Praneeth couldn't return despite a full stretch dive.

Praneeth too made Srikanth run for every point before closing in to make it 14-15.

Srikanth did not relent either and came up with down the line smashes to grab five game points.

In the second game, Srikanth rushed to a 4-1 lead but Praneeth clawed back at 7-7. The duo, which trains together at the Gopichand Academy, moved neck-and-neck till 10-10 before Praneeth grabbed a one-point advantage with Srikanth hitting wide.



Parents, take note! Inflatable toys and swimming aids, such as beach balls and arm bands, may have potentially hazardous substances that can put your child at the risk of cancer, a new study warns.

Researchers from Fraunhofer Institute for Process Engineering and Packaging IVV in

tense.

The majority of these odors were identified and among these were several fatty smelling mono- or di-unsaturated carbonyl compounds and their epoxidised derivatives, but also odouractive organic solvents such as cyclohexanone, isophorone and phenol.

Cyclohexanone can be harmful if inhaled, phenol is known to be acutely toxic and to presumably have mutagenic potential and isophorone is a category 2 carcinogen, which means that it is a suspect substance in the development of cancer in humans.

A panel of trained volunteers sniffed each product and ascribed common odour attributes to them. They also rated the intensity of each odour and had to guess whether these could be hazardous, researchers said. Three of the products reminded the panelists of almonds, plastic and rubber, while the fourth more pungent one reminded them of glue and nail polish.

"A range of these substances are not yet resolved in their chemical structures. Likewise, potential negative effects on humans, such as irritation, smell nuisance, or other physiological or psychosomatic effects still need to be resolved," said Christoph Wiedner of Fraunhofer Institute for Process Engineering and Packaging IVV. "Modern products, such as toys, and children's products are sourced from a wide variety of chemical and physical manufacturing processes, and this complexity often makes it difficult for us to identify those containing contaminants and unwanted substances, and to determine their causes," Wiedner said.

"However, we found that in a number of cases our noses can guide us to 'sniff out' problematic products," he said.

The study was published in the journal *Analytical and Bioanalytical Chemistry*.

(Source: PTT)

Germany conducted tests using an inflatable beach ball, a pair of swimming armbands and two bathing rings.

A small piece of material from each sample was analysed using a variety of material analysis techniques, including one that takes infrared measurements, and it was concluded that the inflatable objects were all made from polyvinyl chloride (PVC).

Researchers then investigated the molecular make-up of the distinctive smells arising from the pool toys.

They extracted detectable odours from each sample using solvent extraction and high vacuum distillation methods, and then identified the main odourants using a combination of sensory and common analytical approaches.

They detected between 32 and 46 odours in each sample, of which up to 13 were quite in-

Inflatable pool toys may put your kid at cancer risk, warns a study

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Know your DAY

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO FISH, April 14, 2017.

Fish are able to express their feelings with greater precision and more emotional expression. Others hear what you say loud and clear. The responses you receive will be equally dynamic. If you are single, you easily will meet someone of interest, if you have not already. You will learn how differences can be very attractive, and will come to respect them as a result. If the ones you are interested in, you and your spouse often surprise each other just by being yourselves. You can learn to embrace and enjoy these unexpected moments. SAGITTARIUS tries to encourage you to be a wild thing.

The Stars Show That Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Possessive; 3-Adventurous; 2-Playful; 1-Difficult.

ARIES (Mar. 21-Apr. 19) You're thoughtful reveals a genuine compassion that is not missed by others. Surprises pop up throughout the day and your imagination speaks to you. Stay centered, despite all the adventurous suggestions coming from those around you. Tonight: TIGER!

Taurus (Apr. 20-May 19) Despite all your energy, you'll want to focus only on a special someone. This person will be so flattered that he or she might not know how to respond. Don't try to provoke a response that is not there. Let the cards fall where they may. Tonight: TIGER!

GEMINI (May 20-June 19) Add a little more romance.

Cancer (July 2-22) You might not have enough time to respond to what is happening around you. In fact, someone's reactions could be so swift that you will likely catch you off guard. Ask more questions, and you will learn a lot about this person. Tonight: Go along for the ride.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) Attempt to reign in the constant internal chatter. If you do, then you will learn a lot more about those around you, as they will reveal their authentic selves. Letting go of judgments and just living in the moment for a few hours could be enlightening. Tonight: Push yourself.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You are in the perfect space to take a leap of faith. You have weighed the pros and cons, and you finally can make a decision. News from a very knowledgeable friend proves you to break past a mental barrier that has been holding you back. Tonight: Let the night unfurl.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You might feel cornered by what is happening around you. You could experience some tension where you normally would not. Values are changing. Don't fight the inevitable. Decide to go with the flow, and you will bypass any hassles. Tonight: Dinner for two.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You will find yourself surprised by what comes up for you today. Curb a need or desire to be more persuasive than you typically are. You suddenly might decide to change your afternoon plans. Check out the ramifications before taking action. Tonight: Easy does it.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You enjoy others' spontaneity. It is as if you are shaking off the workweek, and are ready to rumble. What a way to start the weekend! Make sure your friends are up the same type of celebration. A child or new friend might surprise you. Tonight: Go along with someone's idea.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You might want to stand back some and observe more. Don't take someone else's comments personally. You will learn a lot about this person by listening to what he or she has to say. You don't need to comment on what they are saying. Tonight: Surprises happen.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You are in a position of authority, and will want to be around those who handle power well. You enjoy watching and learning. A take-charge attitude goes far. Use care when taking a risk. You might opt to go on an impromptu shopping trip. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

★★★

A liar is not believed even though he tells the truth.

- CICERO

LOCKHORNS



DENNISTHEMENACE



THE PHANTOM



By Lee Falk

BLONDIE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



Kids

CN

Entertainment

Movies

WB

Zee

Star

cafe

Regional

NEWS

LIVE

Discovery

Entertainment

ANIMAL

National

People

National Geographic

Science

Discovery

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Entertainment

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Movies

Entertainment

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Diarrhoea kills over 500 in Somalia since Jan: UN

GENEVA, April 13: Cholera and acute diarrhoea have killed more than 500 people and left tens of thousands of others sick in drought-hit parts of Somalia since January, the United Nations said today.

The UN's health agency said the epidemic had left more than 25,000 people sick, warning that number was likely to double by the end of June.

WHO put the number of deaths since the beginning of the year from the epidemic at 524, while the UN humanitarian agency OCHA said 533 people had died.

The case fatality rate, which measures the severity of an epidemic by defining the proportion of fatal cases within a specific timeframe, is currently 2.1 per cent – more than double the emergency threshold of one per cent.

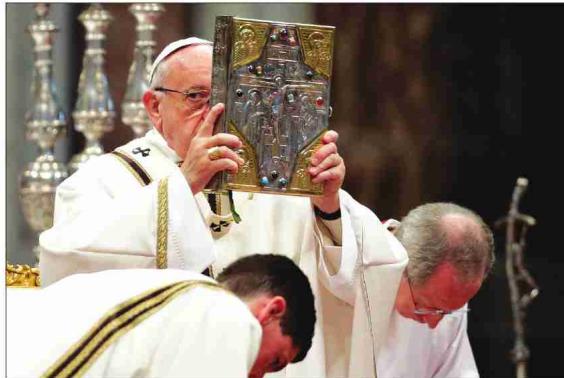
OCHA spokesman Jens Læsrke said the situation was particularly alarming in the Middle Juba and Bakool regions, where the case fatality rates have surged to 14.1 per cent and 5.1 per cent respectively.

The epidemic comes as the Horn of Africa country of 12 million people faces the threat of its third famine in 25 years of civil war and anarchy.

At least 260,000 people died in the 2011 famine in Somalia – half of them children under the age of five, according to the UN World Food Program.

Currently, 6.2 million people are in urgent need of humanitarian aid in Somalia, including 2.9 million who are facing "crisis or emergency levels of food insecurity", Læsrke told reporters. That means they are at levels three or four on a five-level scale, where level five is famine.

The dire drought and food crisis has forced more than 500,000 people to flee their homes since last November, in a country where 1.1 million people are already internally displaced. – AFP



Pope Francis holds Book of the Gospels as he leads the Chrism Mass in Saint Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, on Thursday. – UNI

Russia vetoes UNSC action condemning Syria

UNITED NATIONS, April 13: Russia vetoed a UN Security Council resolution that would have condemned the use of chemical weapons in Syria last week and called on the government there to cooperate with an investigation into the incident.

Russia, a permanent member of 15-nation Council, exercised the veto yesterday when a draft resolution drafted by France, the United Kingdom and the US was tabled here.

While 10 of the Council's 15 members voted in favour, Russia rejected the text, as permanent member China, as well as non-permanent members Ethiopia and Kazakhstan abstained.

"...With its veto, Russia said no to accountability. Russia said no to cooperation with the UN's independent investigation. And Russia said no to a resolution that would have helped promote peace in Syria," US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley said after the resolution was failed to be adopted.

Chemical weapons attack

condemned "the reported use of chemical weapons in [Syria], in particular the attack on Khan Shaykhun," the site of last week's incident that has drawn increasing global attention.

The measure would also have called on the Syrian government to comply with relevant recommendations of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons' (OPCW) Fact Finding Mission (FFM) and the OPCW-UN Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM).

"Russia once again has chosen to side with Assad even as the rest of the world – including the Arab world – overwhelmingly comes together to condemn this murderous regime," she said.

This was the 8th time during Syria's six-year-old civil war that Moscow used its veto power to block a resolution against Assad's government.

The resolution would have strongly

Before the vote, Russia's deputy UN envoy Vladimir Safronkov said in the course of negotiations between his country's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, Moscow had suggested a joint communication asking the OPCW Director-General to immediately put together an international mission to visit Khan Shaykhun and the Shayrat air base.

The US Secretary of State was considering that proposal, he said, adding that the whole gamut of issues would be discussed by OPCW on April 13 at The Hague.

Putting the draft to a vote a day before that would serve no useful purpose, he emphasised.

He said Russia voted against the draft because of its "erroneous" contents, emphasising that his country's concerns and priorities had been pushed aside.

The main problem was that the "troika" of drafters had named a perpetrator before a proper investigation had been conducted, he said. – PTI

Trump offers trade deal to China for support over N Korea

WASHINGTON, April 13: Ditching his anti-China bombast, US President Donald Trump has said he would not label China a "currency manipulator" and offered a "good trade" deal in exchange for Beijing's help in dealing with the nuclear threat from North Korea.

Trump said he was confident that Chinese President Xi Jinping would support America to confront North Korea's nuclear ambitions, but cautioned that he was prepared to tackle the crisis alone if needed.

"President Xi wants to do the right thing. We had a very good bonding. I think we had a very good chemistry together. I think he wants to help us with North Korea. We talked trade. We talked a lot of things," Trump told reporters at a joint news conference yesterday with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg at the White House.

Trump had spent two days with Xi at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida last week. He also spoke to him over phone yesterday.

Tensions are escalating sharply over fears that North Korea may carry out another nuclear test on Saturday.

"I said, the way you're going to make a good trade deal is to help us with North Korea. Otherwise, we're just going to go it alone," Trump said referring to the latest telephonic conversation with the Chinese President.

"That'd be all right, too. But doing it alone means going with lots of their nations," he cautioned China.

Trump said he was "very impressed" with Xi.

"I think he means well, and I think he wants to help. We'll see whether or not he does," Trump said.

In an interview with "The Wall Street Journal", Trump said the US has "tremendous trade deficits" with everybody, but the big one is with China. – PTI

In no position to comment on Jadhav's death term: UN

UNITED NATIONS, April 13: The UN has asked India and Pakistan to engage in a dialogue to find a peaceful solution to their problems, but refrained from commenting on the death sentence given by a Pakistani military court to Indian national Kulbhushan Jadhav.

"We're not in a position to judge the process or to have a position on this, on this particular case," UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres' spokesman Stephane Dujarric said at the daily briefing here yesterday in response to a question by PTI on the death sentence awarded to Jadhav by military Field General Court Martial under the army act for his alleged involvement in terrorism and espionage.

Dujarric was asked that India is strongly disputing the sentence, saying that the due process of law and justice was not observed in this case and that it will consider the sentence as "a premeditated murder". – PTI

N Korea may be capable of gas-loaded missile attack: Japan

TOKYO, April 13: North Korea may have the capacity to launch a warhead loaded with sarin nerve gas, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said today, as tensions rise over the country's missile and nuclear programmes.

Sarin has been used in deadly domestic attacks in Japan, notably in 1995 when the Aum Supreme Truth cult released it in the Tokyo subway killing 13 people and sickening 6,000 others.

"There is a possibility that North Korea is already capable of delivering (via missile) a warhead containing sarin," Abe told a parliamentary diplomacy and defence committee, referring to the poison nerve agent.

His remarks were reported by public broadcaster NHK and leading national newspapers.

Abe did not elaborate or say where he obtained the information, according to the reports.

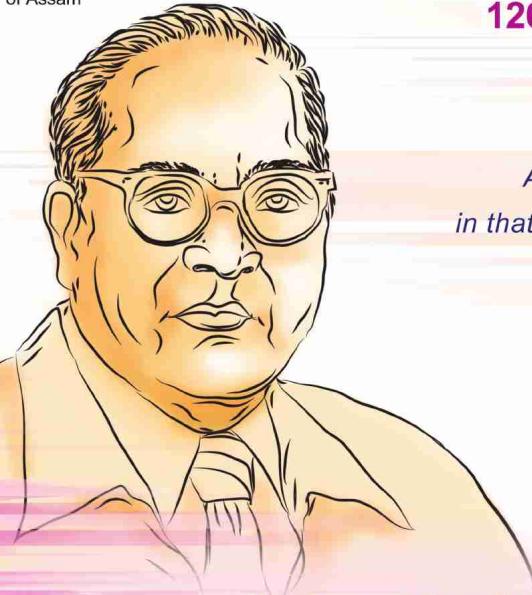
Tensions on the Korean peninsula have spiked in recent days amid concerns that Pyongyang could be on the verge of executing its sixth nuclear test and as a US air-

craft carrier-led strike group heads to the region.

Originally conceived as a pesticide, sarin was used by Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's regime to gas thousands of Kurds in the northern town of Halabja in 1988.

The US believes the Syrian government employed a sarin-like nerve agent in a deadly attack in the country's northwest last week.

The Aum Supreme Truth cult also used the nerve agent in a 1994 attack in the Japanese city of Matsumoto, killing seven. – AFP



Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar
126th Birth Anniversary
14th April, 2017

*A great man is different from an eminent one
in that he is ready to be the servant of the society.*
- B.R. Ambedkar

We pay our deep tribute to
Bharat Ratna awardee Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar
on his 126th Birth Anniversary.


Sarbananda Sonowal
Chief Minister, Assam

Janasanyog/433/17

SPORTS

Ronaldo hits 100th European goal as Real win at Bayern

MUNICH, April 13: Cristiano Ronaldo netted his 100th European goal to give holders Real Madrid a 2-1 comeback win at 10-man Bayern Munich in the Champions League quarterfinal first-leg.

"I wanted to reach this record. To be able to reach this mark is an honour and against a team like Bayern it is even better," Ronaldo, who scored both goals, told BeIN Sport Spain.

Arturo Vidal headed Bayern into a first-half lead yesterday, but then skied a penalty attempt on the stroke of half-time before Ronaldo volleyed the defending champions' level.

Bayern played the last half an hour a man down after centre-back Javi Martinez was sent off for two fouls on Ronaldo within three minutes of each other.

Four-time world player of the year Ronaldo then slotted in the winner between goalkeeper Manuel Neuer's legs for a total of 13 minutes from time.

"We believe we can still do it,

we were the better team in the first half, could have made it 2-0 or 3-0," Neuer told ZDF.

But Bayern were outplayed in the second-half and most of Real's 23 shots on goal came after the break.

"We had everything under control in the first half, but didn't use the room consistently," said captain Philipp Lahm. "The tipping point was the red card."

Security was tight at the Allianz Arena in the wake of Tuesday's attacks on the Borussia Dortmund team bus and both teams arrived with a heavy police escort.

There was a large police presence and inside the stadium there was polite applause when the announced made reference to Dortmund's ordeal in the preceding 24 hours.

Bayern suffered a blow before kick-off when top-scorer Robert Lewandowski, who has netted 38 goals this season, dropped out with a bruised shoulder and Thomas Müller deputised as striker.

Bayern were also missing in-



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates scoring during the UEFA Champions League quarterfinal first leg match against Bayern Munich in Munich, Germany, on Wednesday.

jured Germany defender Mats Hummels against Real's formidable BBC attack - Gareth Bale, Karim Benzema and Ronaldo.

Bayern went ahead on 25 minutes when playmaker Thiago Alcantara swung in a corner from the right which Vidal powered through Real goalkeeper Keylor Navas's hands.

The Chile midfielder could have added a second when he headed Arjen Robben's cross wide of the post soon after.

Real made a poor start, rarely threatening Germany's goalkeeper Neuer, back after minor foot surgery a fortnight ago.

A strong drive from Ronaldo on 41 minutes which Neuer blocked having palmed a Benzema header onto the woodwork with 15 minutes played were their best first-half chances.

Vidal could have finished with a first-half hat-trick when he stepped up to take a penalty after Dani Carvajal's handball from a Franck Ribery shot.

However, the Chilean

smashed the spot-kick high over the crossbar.

It was a miss Bayern were soon to regret.

Real were level two minutes after the break when Carvajal found space on the right and fired in a cross which Ronaldo volleyed past Neuer.

Bale, who has laboured with an ankle injury recently, came off on 58 minutes and Real raised the tempo after he trudged off.

Having already picked up a yellow card for pulling Ronaldo back on 58 minutes, Martinez was shown a red for again fouling the Portugal captain just three minutes later.

Real's superstar then hit the winner as substitute Marco Asensio, on for Bale, put in a low pass for Ronaldo to tap the ball home between Neuer's legs.

Real defender Sergio Ramos had the ball in the Bayen net with time running out, but the goal was ruled offside but the Spaniards have the upper hand for the second leg at home next Tuesday. - AFP

Juventus renews Dybala contract

TURIN, April 13: Argentine striker Paulo Dybala renewed his contract with Serie A side Juventus until 2022, the Turin club announced on Thursday.

The Bianconeri explained in a statement that Dybala's original contract, valid until June 2020, has been extended until June 30, 2022, reports Efe.

The striker, who scored twice in Juventus' 3-0 victory against Barcelona in the Champions League quarterfinals on Tuesday, arrived at the club in summer 2013 from Palermo for 32 million euros (\$34 million).

Even though the club did not reveal his salary, Italian media hinted his income could reach 7.5 million euros (\$7.9 million) a season.

Dybala has been referred to as Lionel Messi's possible successor, while the Barcelona star recognised him as the future of the Argentina national team. - IANS

Gayle, Pollard, KP marquee players

JOHANNESBURG, April 13: Dashing T20 players Chris Gayle, Kieron Pollard and Kevin Pietersen are among eight marquee internationals, who will be representing various franchises in the inaugural edition of Cricket South Africa's #T20 Global Destination League.

The other five marquee stars are Lasith Malinga, Jason Roy, Eoin Morgan, Dwayne Bravo and Brendon McCullum. All these players have a contract of two years.

The eight international marquee players will be entered into a mini-draft with the highest bidding franchise owner having first pick and the rest following the same process.

Franchise owners will be asked to consider the fact that some of these players, by virtue of having played for some years in South Africa, already hold strong ties to certain cities in South Africa. - PTI

Kohli returns for RCB ahead of IPL clash against MI

BENGALURU, April 13: India captain Virat Kohli will return to bolster Royal Challengers Bangalore's campaign when they take on arch-rivals Mumbai Indians in the Indian Premier League here tomorrow.

Kohli had undergone rehabilitation after sustaining an injury to his right shoulder while fielding during the third Test against Australia in Ranchi and has been missing in action ever since.

However, the Delhi batsman has been declared fit today

by BCCI Medical Team and will look to boost the confidence of RCB, who lost two out of the three matches that they have played so far in his absence.

Kohli, who had dropped hints of making a return after posting a video on his Instagram account of his gym session on April 11, did some fielding drills during the team's net session, yesterday.

Last year, Kohli had scored a staggering 973 runs in 16 matches with four centuries to guide RCB to the finals against Stevens Hyderabad and he would look to improve Bangalore's current sixth place standing on the points-table.

In Kohli's absence, AB de Vil-

liers made his presence felt as he smashed his way to an unbeaten 89 off just 46 balls to help RCB post a respectable 148-4 on his comeback match after recovering from an injury.

The single-handed show by the South African, however, couldn't save the blushes of his team as RCB went down by eight wickets to Kings XI Punjab in their last match.

The poor form of Chris Gayle is also a concern for RCB. The West Indian power-hitter has been struggling to carve out big scores, which is reflected in his failure to score even one half-century in his last 10 innings.

Gayle will be hoping to make a comeback in the team, especially after being dropped from the team against the Sunrisers Hyderabad in their opening two matches.

And come tomorrow, Gujrat Lions will be desperate to turn their fortunes around in front of home fans at the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium here.

Gujarat Lions got a much-needed boost in the form of Jadeja, who is likely to play his first IPL match tomorrow.

Jadeja missed Gujarat Lions first two games after he was taken off for two weeks by the BCCI medical team soon after the India's fourth match Test series against Australia.

Jadeja has had a terrific home season with both bat and ball for India and his return will definitely boost Gujarat Lions morale.

Gujarat gets Jadeja boost in their quest for 1st win

RAJKOT, April 13: Struggling Gujarat Lions is set to receive a much-needed boost with the imminent return of all-roundr Jadeja from Rising Pune Super-Giant in the Indian Premier League here tomorrow.

Gujarat Lions, who finished as the only undefeated third in their maiden IPL appearance last year, did not have the best of starts in the ongoing edition of the tournament.

The Suresh Raina-led side suffered consecutive defeats against two-time champions Kolkata Knight Riders and title holder Sunrisers Hyderabad in their opening two matches.

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TEAM:
Gujarat Lions: Suresh Raina (capt), Akashdeep Nath, Shubham Agarwal, Basil Thampi, Dwiyane Bravo, Chirag Suri, James Faulkner, Aaron Finch, Manpreet Gony, Ishan Kishan, Ravindra Jadeja, Shadab Khan, Dhaval Kulkarni, Dinesh Karthik, Preveen Kumar, Shivil Kaushik, Brandon McCullum, Munaf Patel, Pratham Singh, Jason Roy, Pradeep Sangwan, Shreyas Sait, Shreyas Shetty, Shreyas Naik, Dwayne Smith, Tejas Baroda, Andre Tye.

Rising Pune Super-Giant: Steve Smith (capt), Fal du Plessis, Adam Zampa, Usman Khawaja, M S Dhoni, Ajinkya Rahane, Ashok Dinda, Ankit Chahar, Rajat Patidar, Arindam Shrestha, Ishant Pandey, Jayasri Singh, Babu Aparajith, Deepak Chahar, Mayank Agarwal, Dinesh Christy, Tejas Baroda, Luke Ferguson, Ben Stokes and Manish Pandey.

MATCH STARTS AT 8 PM

But the likes of McCullum and Finch have failed to live up to their reputations so far, garnering just 40 and 18 runs respectively in the first two games. Opener Jason Roy started the innings well on both occasions against KKR and SRH but failed to convert the good starts into big knock.

Only skipper Raina, who struck unbeaten 68 against KKR at home and Karthik (47.30) have shouldered the responsibility in the middle-order. - PTI

CAMARO JEANS | TROUSERS | T-SHIRTS
CAMARO JEANS | TROUSERS | T-SHIRTS

Mumbai found a new star in Rana

The Mumbai Indians are on a roll. This is one of their best starts to the tournament and that's simply because not only have they found a new star in Nithish Rana and more crucially after their loss in the first game have made the changes that give them a more balanced attack. Harbhajan Singh has bowled superbly after being left out of the team for the opening game but Rana too is getting his yards spot on.

The Royal Challengers Bangalore's show by the South African, however, couldn't save the blushes of his team as RCB went down by eight wickets to Kings XI Punjab in their last match.

Gayle and Pollard have made the changes that give them a more balanced attack. Harbhajan Singh has bowled superbly after being left out of the team for the opening game but Rana too is getting his yards spot on.

The Royal Challengers Bangalore has been a problem for some time which is why despite having the world's best destructive batsmen in Gayle, de Villiers and Kohli they have struggled to contain the opposition.

Unless they get over 200 runs they find it tough to defend a score and that's why most of their wins come when they are chasing. The other game will also be quite interesting as the Gujarat team has not got the

talented Sarfaraz Khan too hurt himself on the field during a practice match ahead of the tournament. Kedar Jadhav, meanwhile, has showcased his utility by slamming a 37-ball 69 to help his side score 157 runs during a 15-run win over Delhi Daredevils. He also hit 31 in the opening match against Sunrisers Hyderabad.

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GRAPHICS DEBASISH SINHA

Of Bihu and *Bohag*

KC Bhattacharya unravels the astronomical origins of this spring festival.

As winter draws to an end, and spring announces its arrival, nature is also getting ready in its new attire. The raindrops sprinkled on the dry earth by the *Bordoloi* on her annual visit spreads an aroma of liveliness in the air. Everybody eagerly waits to welcome *Bohag*. Bihu. Astronomically, the first day of *Bohag* is the beginning of a solar or tropical year based on the apparent movement of the Sun as seen from the Earth.

Two days in a tropical year are known to have equal durations of sunshines (day) and darkness (night). The astronomers of ancient India had named them as *mashavishwa*, falling in spring, and *jala-vishwa*, falling in autumn. The western astronomers call them vernal equinox and autumnal equinox, respectively. *Vishwa* in Sanskrit means division into two equal parts. The imaginary line dividing the northern and southern hemispheres of the globe equally is called the *vishvarekha* (equator). The distinctiveness of the *mashavishwa* from the rest of the days, and also due to its occurrence in the clear weather of spring, led to count a tropical year from one *mashavishwa* or vernal equinox to the next.

Just as the tropical year was divided into 12 months, the apparent annual path of the sun in the sky was also divided into 12 sectors of 30 degree angles, each identified by a constellation of stars, and named as a *Rasi* (zodiac) – *Mesha*, *Brisha*, *Mithuna*, etc. These zodiac signs have close similarity with those of western astrology. On the *mashavishwa* day, the sun is exactly overhead at midday, at any place on the *vishvarekha*. The Sun enters the *Mesha rashi* on this day, hence the special status of *Mesha* as the *adhistari*. The first day of the year having such astronomical or astrological significances must have been celebrated with great pomp, and was probably named as *vishwa* festival.

The astrological tradition in India was to name a month by the *rakshatra* or star in whose vicinity a full moon occurs. In the first month, the full moon happened to occur near the star *Vishabha*, hence the name *Vaisakha*. In the next month,

was the *Jaitrhna nakshatra*, giving the name *Jaitrhya* and so on. From *Vaisakha* to *Bohag*, and from *Vishwa* to *Bihu* – this is the link we can trace back to ancient astronomy. In the Malayalam calendar of South India, this *tithi* is celebrated in present time as *Vishu*, while in Odisha, it is celebrated as '*maha-vishvavasankranti*'.

According to modern astronomy, the vernal equinox (*mashavishwa*) comes every year on March 20. If *Bihu* originated from *Vishwa*, then how is it that we celebrate it in April? This again is found explained in astronomy. Due to the 23.45 degree tilt of the rotational axis of the planet earth, the equatorial plane of the earth is also inclined at 23.45 degree angle with respect to the orbit plane. These two planes intersect at a line which meets the orbital path at two points, named in astronomy as vernal equinox and autumnal equinox, respectively. The rotational axis of the earth is generally said to be fixed towards the pole star. But in reality, it has a slow cyclic motion completing one round in 25,772 years.

Due to this slow cyclic movement of the spin axis, the angle between the equatorial plane of the earth and its orbit plane keeps on changing. As a result, the vernal equinox point keeps on drifting westward on the orbit of the earth around the sun. Accordingly, the tropical year will start about 20 minutes earlier every year compared to the previous year. The ancient astronomers of India knew about it and determined the cycle period to be about 25,500 years, as mentioned in the *Surya Siddhanta* by Bhaskara-II, the astronomer of 12th century CE.

In present days, we celebrate *Bihu* (*vishwa*) in April, but the actual *mashavishwa* has already taken place on March 20, that is 24 days earlier, according to modern astronomy. At the rate of 20 minutes a year, the drift of 24 days requires 1728 years. That is, the *vishwa* must have been celebrated in April during the 3rd century CE. The *mashavishwa* has since drifted to March 20, leaving behind the *vishwa* festival in April, probably due to the enchanting environ of spring. Thus *Bihu*

or *vishwa* has a heritage of at least 1700 years.

The Gregorian calendar, introduced in 1582 CE, was so adjusted as to have the vernal equinox to fall every year on March 21. According to the International Astronomy Union, in the present era, the sun resides in *Meen rashi* from April 19 to May 15. According to Vedic astrology also, the sun enters *Meen rashi* on April 15. Thus, the new solar year starts when the Sun enters *Meen*, but the *vishwa* happened 24 days earlier when the Sun was in *Meen rashi*.

The Gregorian year and the Vedic astrological year match with the tropical year very closely. Therefore, the Bohag *Bihu* will continue to visit us every spring in April. But there is a danger of a different kind, not very far away, threatening the Bohag so dear to us. Since the advent of the industrial revolution, millions of tonnes of fossil fuels are burnt every year to meet the energy demand of human civilisation. Forests are being cleared to set up new townships and industries, leaving no place for birds and animals to live. Rising concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere to an unprecedented level is causing the planet to warm up. Within the next 100-150 years, the rising temperature may cause the climate system to change unpredictably. If such a day comes, there will not be any spring to welcome the *Bohag*. The heedless cooing of the cuckoo will be missing. *Bordoloi* may turn very violent, destroying everything on her way. Nobody will venture out for *Bihu* dance in the open due to the intense heat. And for all these, Nature is not to be blamed. We have to blame ourselves.

Time is now to desist from destroying the environment. If *Bohag* is lost, then our existence will be also a thing of the past.

Perhaps Sudakshana was right in his thinking, "*Bohag matron eti ritu nobo...*" *Bohag* is indeed a testament of creation, derived from the radiance of the sun. Our survival rests on its preservation.

(The writer was the Director (Reit), North Eastern Space Applications Centre, ISRO. He can be contacted at k_c_bhattacharya@rediffmail.com)

schemes and contrivances to everyday tasks, our Mr Bean – Rowan Atkinson.

Moving into Bollywood, we have Raj Kapoor who is considered the 'Charlie Chaplin of Indian Cinema'. *Shree 420*, *Mera Naam Joker* are often viewed as adaptations of Chaplin's *Limeight*. A scuffly boy and a boisterous boy made his *Mera poota hai Japani* an exact replica of Chaplin's style. Indian cinema had some comedians like Keshito Mukherjee, Mehmood, Johny Lever, Asrani, etc. And a special mention must be made of Paresh Rawal as Baburao Gantipatio Apte, who wore an untidy *dhobi* and a torn vest all through *Hera Pheri*.

Though comedy in India is not at its peak, the last few years have shown a great hike in the number of comedians. Shows like *The Great Indian Laughter Challenge*, *The Kapil Sharma Show* and the laughter shows on SAB TV provide us with the right amount of comic relief. Also stand-up comedy is fast finding its feet in India. People are more inclined towards comedy than any other topic as is evident from the increasing number of comedy shows on TV. Thus adding the much-needed spice of laughter into our lives.

rta25march@gmail.com



The funny men!

Ria Chakraborty

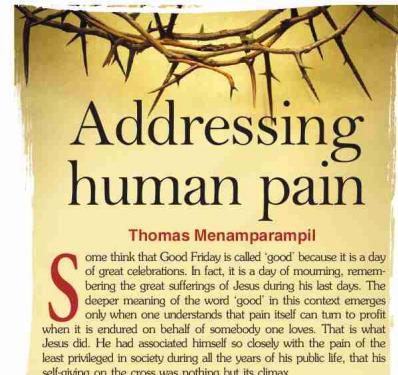
Charlie Chaplin once said that life is a tragedy when seen in close-up, but a comedy in long-shot. In our busy, over-committed world, laughter seems to have been lost along the way. We don't find much of it in our everyday lives. Laughter triggers the release of endorphins, the body's natural feel-good chemicals. Endorphins promote an overall sense of well-being and can even temporarily relieve pain.

When we talk about laughter, we instantly remember one of the greatest comedians of all time – Charlie Chaplin. He would take a serious subject, something you can relate to, and show you how funny life actually is. The king of the world of comedy who reigned in the 20th century is equally famous even today. Even today's generation, for whom silent, black-and-white comedy is anachronistic, if not alien, is

aware of Chaplin and his remarkable legacy. The variety of emotions that Chaplin could portray, even with a straight face, is what is still so riveting about him. He is dead serious, and yet the result is hilarious.

Two men, one's fat, while the other is lean and thin, one seems a little smart, and the other childlike; this contrasting duo can make you laugh until your stomach hurts – Laurel and Hardy, Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy's comic team is widely regarded as the greatest in film history. Before coming to comedy, the two were doing well in their individual acting careers, but as a duo their real magic became evident, with Laurel playing the bumbling innocent foil to the pompous Hardy.

For one reason the whole world will always be grateful to British Television – Mr Bean, the person who gets himself in trouble even while cleaning his nose. The man with an MSC in Electrical Engineering at The Queen's College, Oxford is the same childish buffoon who brings various unusual



Addressing human pain

Thomas Menampampil

Some think that Good Friday is called 'good' because it is a day of great celebrations. In fact, it is a day of mourning, remembering the great sufferings of Jesus during his last days. The deeper meaning of the word 'good' in this context emerges only when one understands that pain itself can turn to profit when it is endured on behalf of somebody one loves. That is what Jesus did. He had associated himself so closely with the pain of the least privileged in society during all the years of his public life, that his self-giving on the cross was nothing but its climax.

All his active life, Jesus kept moving from one village to another in Galilee, a Roman province known for its frequent uprisings against the rulers. The imperial authorities crushed the insurrection each time, and executed hundreds of dissidents mercilessly upon the cross. Unexplainable, the helper of the poor and the 'prophet of peace' would meet with the same fate.

The mission of Jesus had been to heal the sick, encourage the heartbroken, motivate people who had lost their sense of direction, and assure everyone that no effort of theirs was wasted. The crowds that flocked to him were the sick, the excluded, the desperately poor, the debt-ridden, grief-ridden, guilt-ridden. For everyone he had a word of encouragement. He never suggested rebellion or violent resistance. He planted courage and determination into their hearts. He asked them to have confidence in their own resourcefulness and look beyond. He sweat blood in the Garden of Gethsemane while praying to God in their behalf. His mind was in agony, thinking of their pains, and those like them.

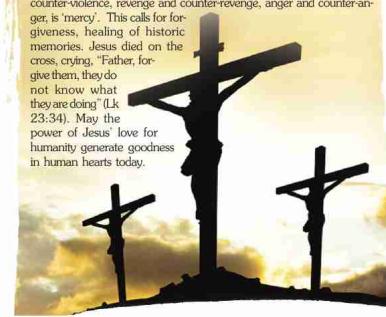
What proved his undoing was the fact that he was critical of injustice, unfairness to the poor, misuse of religion. He exposed hypocrisy. He emphasised the deeper dimension of religion: worshipping God "in spirit and in truth" (Jn 4:23). He was against excessive legalism, ritualism and superficiality in religion. No wonder he got into trouble with the Establishment, which first sought to marginalise him; then, later to eliminate him. Thus, he too dies on a cross placed between two violent men.

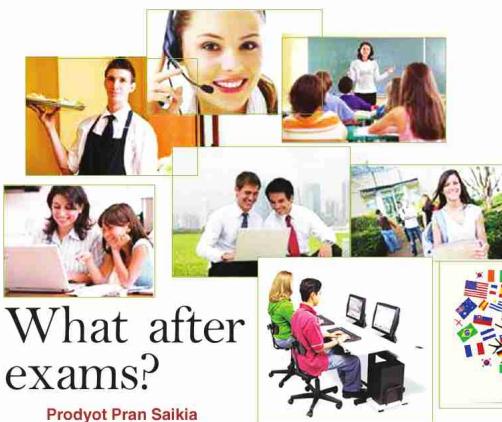
Despite the relevance of his words and works to the immediate context, his concern was for the whole of humankind. He says, "Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest" (Mt 11:28). His message on the Mount, "Happy are the poor, who mourn, the humble, the merciful, those who work for peace, the persecuted," (Mt 5:3-10) touched the heart of Mahatma Gandhi profoundly. They have brought consolation to millions of people on every continent. Jesus' suffering was then a co-suffering with the human family: 'pro-suffering' in their behalf. He, thus, summarised his life-mission, "I have come in order that you might have life – life in all its fullness" (Jn 10:10). Good Friday is called good because people remember that Jesus died for the well-being of humankind, that all may have life in its 'fullness'.

Let us place Jesus' pain side by side with the pain of humanity in our times. Not a day passes without some group or other dying as victims of violence. It is heart-rending that horrendous human tragedies are reported today as though they were merely about names and numbers. When gruesome tales of violence come up in the media again and again one gets lost in incidents, like in the case of the downing of the Russian Metrojet plane which killed 224 at Sinai; the bomb attack at Ankara; the suicide strike at Beirut butchering 46 innocent bystanders; the ghastly murder of four sisters of Mother Teresa's with 12 of their helpers in Yemen; the Istanbul Ataturk Airport blast, wiping out 44 lives; the violence in a restaurant in Dhaka annihilating 20 foreigners; and recently the use of chemical weapons in Syria. One fails to grasp the contextual significance of these hideous events and the human depth of the problem.

In the immediate excitement of the horror we forget that every victim is an individual with his/her own personal history, ideas, aspirations, dreams, and internal agonies; that he has a family whose future is thrown off the rails; that he belonged to a community in which he played a dynamic role, and possibly an entire society felt inspired by him. We fail to hear the sighs; the sobs, and the loud wailings of his/her dear ones. An inspiring voice silenced, amazing stamina extinguished, long-cherished hopes crushed, in each single case. When we keep hearing of similar mishaps overtaking dozens, hundreds, thousands of people, we wonder whether Thomas Hobbes was right in *Leviathan* that 'man is a wolf unto man'. No. But what is true is that a man, if he so chooses, can make himself a wolf to others.

In such contexts, we cry for help 'from on high'. Shakespeare wrote, "The quality of mercy is not strained. It droppeth as the gentle rain from 'heaven' upon the place beneath" (*The Merchant of Venice*). The saving word in the context of this terrible dialogue between violence and counter-violence, revenge and counter-revenge, anger and counter-anger, is 'mercy'. This calls for forgiveness, healing of historic memories. Jesus died on the cross, crying, "Father, forgive them, they do not know what they are doing" (Lk 23:34). May the power of Jesus' love for humanity generate goodness in human hearts today.





What after exams?

Prodoyer Pran Saikia

Even doing absolutely nothing at times could be painful activity. For example, when one is ill and recuperating, then doing absolutely nothing helps one regain health. When a student finds his syllabus daunting and overwhelming, his psychotherapist may offer him a completed dissociation from textbooks for a brief period of time as a valued option. But doing absolutely nothing worthwhile for a longer period of time when one is at the threshold of facing the rigours of the world could not only be catastrophic but may also adversely affect one's future prospects.

Exams could be stressful. Board exams could be more stressful. Once the board exams are over, a brief 'cooling off' period should follow to de-stress oneself. This is the period when you can lounge about without feeling guilty. This is also the period to make up for the lost sleep. But worse are those students who, after their board exams, go into just a brief cooling-off period, and then pick up skill development activities to gainfully utilise this period (till the results are out) instead of whiling away their time. Usually it takes about two months time for the boards to declare the results. This interim can

be used to pick up or develop a skill, prepare for competitive tests to enrol into higher courses, learn a trade, do a job, or learn a language among a plethora of other possibilities.

Two years ago, after completing his matric exams, Sagar (name changed) took up a part-time job in a shoe retail franchisee of an international brand. In addition to earning a hefty monthly sum for pocket money, he also gained first-hand work experience. The money he earned helped him pay for the college enrollment fees. And, in that brief period, he also learnt a lot about life, human behaviour, customer care and above all, he learnt about discipline, punctuality, time management, and the economics of life.

But not everyone will be equally inclined to get into a part-time job. Learning a language or strengthening the existing language skills could be useful areas. Say for example, the English language. The board exams had given you enough opportunities to assess how good you are in English (or, the medium of your education). If you had struggled to construct sentences to express your

thoughts, then it will be appropriate for you to enrol yourself into a course to brush up the basics of English grammar and writing skills. The same will be true for any other language. Irrespective of whether you are aiming to pursue higher studies in science, arts or commerce streams, a good grasp in the language of the medium of instruction and learning is must if you wish to earn good grades.

Or, maybe you always wanted to be an actor. Why not get into it by enrolling for a short term course in acting? If you live in bigger towns or cities then you may be privileged to find institutions that offer basic courses in acting. In the absence of such institutions, you may reach up to a noted actor in your locality and request him to guide you. If you always wanted to learn some musical instruments then just get into it. There are bound to be a few musical instrument training centres that charge nominal fees, in addition to providing access to the instruments too. Just ask around. Or you wanted to be a painter? Find a guru and seek guidance. If your budget is a constraint, you don't need to go shopping for costly wares. Start with pencil sketching and crayons.

Skill development in Computer Science is always going to be a huge bonus. Learning the basics of Desktop Publishing software and Tally could help you earn, while you later pursue your higher studies. Learning programming languages like C, C++, and Java can bring out the software engineer in you. If you are aiming to work abroad, a serious programming course could be your work visa. Picking up the basics of the trade, even if only as a hobby, could stand you in good stead any time.

Your biology teacher may have introduced you to the Darwinian theory of the survival of the fittest. Your parents, relatives and well-wishers may have been constantly bombarding you with the fact that it is becoming increasingly difficult to earn a living. They are not wrong. In 1947, the population of India was only around 30 crores. It stands at more than 120 crores now. You may have read news items like 70 per cent of engineering degree holders are unemployed; doctorate holders are applying for menial jobs. In such contexts, any additional skills will help you move ahead in the queue. And remember that time and tide waits for none. The one who stiches in time, indeed, saves nine.

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Indrajit Kaitla

There is hardly any individual, who does not like to scale the success ladder. Indeed, success is an inseparable entity everybody aspires for. It goes without saying that there is no short cut to success. It does not come overnight. Success involves hard labour, perseverance, devotion, time management, patience, and an indomitable spirit. Often a person might not attain the desired goal even after waging relentless effort. We call them unsuccessful, which is too simple an observation. We fail to acknowledge the effort made, and considering the dignity of this, it carries little significance, whether the package of success is pocketed or not. In fact, real beauty lies in the way one tries to attain success, and not in success itself.

Success carries much more meaning once it entails concern for the betterment of society, and not simply for individuals. If the success of an individual is confined to personal interest, it is partial in nature, and fails to come to real help to the larger spectrum of society. Blessings of science and technology, achievements in arts, etc., no longer remain in the custody of those who have taken painstaking measures in realising them. They surpass petty boundaries and enter the domain of wider interest. The recognition they get because of serving people is far higher than the success confined to a select few.

Most people think that

success brings stability in life. The ups and downs that people usually experience come to an immediate halt, and life goes along a positive frame. But this is partially true since it cannot say that successful persons always lead a decent life with no trace of instability. Success is not an end in itself; rather a consolidated move towards an unexplored territory.

Success is not to be measured in terms of material gain, which is narrow and limited in nature. One's material affluence may bring happiness, but only till a certain point. Success and its consequence should be long-lasting and directed towards the betterment of society.

It is sad to see people becoming disheartened once they fail to scale the desired height in pursuit of success. Indeed, failure may be looked at as something very natural. The end of failure should not necessarily

Scaling success

ly lead to disappointment or despondency. On the contrary, it warrants a positive frame of mind and an indomitable spirit to navigate one towards the right direction. The most important thing is to try our best and undo the wrong course of action so that success may find its way to us.

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Autism and Northeast India

When it comes to dealing with autism in the Northeast region of India, resources, including skilled manpower, are at the minimum. Do the children from this region vary from the rest of the country and the world in terms of care and rehabilitation from parents?

We attempted to study the above in our research work by assessing parental stress, social support, coping mechanisms, as well as resilience in the face of the challenges faced by the parents of the children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) attending a multi-specialty centre – Astiava – located in Guwahati. Children with ASD are among the service users in this centre. Astiava is one of the few such centres in Northeast India.

The outcome, presented in the research paper, titled 'Impact of stress, coping, social support, and resilience of families having children with autism: A North East India-based study' by Shyamanta Das, Bornali Das, Kokil Nath, Arunima Dutta, Priyanka Bora, and Mythili Hazarika has been published in the Asian Journal of Psychiatry. Some of the highlights are: definite stress and time constraint, discontinuation of jobs held earlier, coping well in spite of problems, mixed social support, religiosity and spirituality as the resorted avenues.

Our research throws light on pertinent issues regarding families having children with ASD from a region where specialty centres are a rarity. This work also has future implications as far as these children's future, rehabilitation, and care from the parental perspective are concerned in Northeast India.



MIND MATTERS

Dr Shyamanta Das

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The top two topics doing the round now are the Windows 10 Creators Update and Samsung's Bixby. However, for me, the most interesting topic is the unique single speaker surround system. Imagine a sound base that acts like a home theatre in a box! Here is the Playbase by Sonos Inc, an American consumer electronics company known for its smart speakers.

The Sonos Trueplay tuning software processes adapt the speaker to the layout of your room. You can also manually tweak the output in the Sonos app. With window-jarring bass, crisp mid-range and a surprisingly wide soundstage, the Playbase is kind of a surround sound setup with a single speaker.

Apart from being very slim, almost like our JioFi set, Playbase is a breeze to set up. Put it in, download app, tap a few buttons, and you are ready. If you already own Sonos products, it is even simpler. Since it is so small, it will fit underneath almost any TV. The Playbase works great even when the TV is off, since it is still part of the Sonos system. Want one? It is available online.

More Windows!

This column will do great injustice to its nomenclature, if I fail to mention the latest Windows update, launched

The strong fragrance of the *keteki* and the flowering of *kopou* are harbingers of spring, signalling the dawn of a new year in the Brahmaputra Valley. *Kopou phul* is the most sought after orchid in Assam during the New Year festivities in April. Assamese women adorn the pink flowers as ornamentation on their head during the celebration of Rongali Bihu. Found in the Northeast and South India, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia, Java and Philippines, the *Kopou phul* or *Seeta pushpa* in Sanskrit, *Rhyncostylis retusa* is commonly named Fox Tail. Declared the State flower of Assam, the *Rhyncostylis retusa* is intrinsically associated with the mosaic of tradition and culture of the State's diverse ethnic groups. The cultural symbolism of orchids

– that have long been a symbol of love and beauty – could be traced to many tropical and subtropical countries where they enjoy the status of national flower. Orchids are found in almost every habitat, except for Antarctica. The term 'orchid' was introduced by John Lindley in 1845 as a shortened form of *Orchidaceae* – the largest and diverse family of the flowering plants (Angiospermae). The Royal Botanical Gardens of Kew lists 800 genera and nearly 22,000 accepted species of orchids, while thousands more remain unknown or unclassified.

Of some 1,300 species (140 genera) of orchids found in India, the Northeast alone hosts 800 species. Jharkhand has more than 500 species. Meghalaya too has some undisturbed areas providing

on Tuesday.

Microsoft, which has been testing its latest Windows 10 Creators Update in recent months, says that it is now ready to roll out to existing machines. The Creators Update includes some small and welcome additions, like...

Cortana: In this update you will notice Cortana guiding you through the set-up process. Cortana will use the microphone and speakers to listen to commands, including setting up a Wi-Fi network and keyboard layout.

Game Mode: The new Game Mode in the Xbox app prioritises CPU and GPU resources for a game by reducing unnecessary usage of system resources so that games run as best as they can.

Dynamic Lock: This new feature lets you automatically lock a PC when you are away from it. You can pair Bluetooth devices like a phone or wearable, and Windows 10 will sense once the Bluetooth connection is too far away and lock the PC.

Microsoft Edge: The new feature in the Edge browser lets you set tabs aside and save them for use later on. Microsoft has added e-book support and the ability to view 360 videos to Edge. The update includes some more features. However, this is as much update for you now.

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habitat for wild orchids. Silvian's floral wealth has a treasure chest of some 600 orchids. About 300 species of orchids are reported in Assam that represents 44.39 per cent of the Northeastern species and 24.42 per cent of species occurring in India. *Ranenatha insignis* or Red Vanda is one of the most rare and beautiful orchids in Northeast India. The Blue Vanda is equally cherished. There are many other rare varieties found in the Lakhimpur district and Dibrugarh. Of them *Rhyncostylis retusa Alba* is one of the most unique and rare genus of fragrant flower.

Many orchids are highly valued for their medicinal properties. In traditional medicine they are used as a cure for many diseases and ailments and an important ingredient in herbal remedies. The dried seed pods of

Vanilla planifolia are commercially used as flavouring agent in bakeries, for perfumery and aromatherapy. Orchids are cultivated on a commercial basis through intervention from biotechnology. Horticulturists created over 100,000 hybrids for commercialisation, as wild orchids are protected under various conservation laws. While government plans for conservation and propagation of orchids, and development of gene bank for endangered species found in this part of the country are yet to be implemented,

the Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti (KMSS) has come up with a sprawling three hectare Kaziranga National Orchid and Bio Diversity Park. It houses almost all the wild orchids found in the region. - newwildflowers@gmail.com

Orchids: ornaments of nature

SEEDS OF CHANGE

Mubina Akhter

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TITANIC

AS legend goes – Titans were Gods – the children of Uranus (heaven) and Gaia (earth). Cronus was their leader and, Zeus his son. Zeus possessed immense strength and power, and rose up against the Gods, defeated convincingly and became the chief God. Backed by this story, the word titanic came to use since the early 18th century with the meaning 'of exceptional strength, size and power'. So, the huge British passenger liner was named titanic considering her size and expected durability. The expression 'rearranging the deck chairs on the titanic' is used to refer to futile actions against inevitable disaster.



VETO

In Rome, a tribune was an elected representative of the common people. In order to protect their interests, the representatives opposed measures of the Senate or actions of magistrates, they uttered 'veto', that meant 'I forbid', in Latin. This word found its use in English in the early 17th century to express opposition against a proposed Act, especially one made by a law-making body.

TRUANT

THE word came from old French, but is thought to be of Celtic origin. The use of this word has been traced to the 13th century and was used to denote a beggar who was averse to work, and begged out of choice rather than necessity. The idea of self-imposed idleness ultimately found application in the later medieval period to children staying away from school without permission. It is used to mean anyone shying away from one's duties using all plausible pretenses.



WORDSPACK

The story behind words

Bibekananda Choudhury



The cult of the face

Facial expressions are a very important part of communication. Though nothing is said verbally, there is much to be understood about the messages we send and receive through the use of non-verbal communication, such as facial expressions. Facial communication has become an area of utmost importance during the present times. A little bit of self-introspection would really help us get better at communicating better with our facial expressions.

A face that stands out in a crowd gathers optimum accolades. But how to stand out in a crowd of numerous faces? Out of all the facial expressions – frowning, eye rolling, making eye contact, scowling, and appearing bored or interested, looking shocked – the one which always seems to exude warmth and speak of an amiable nature is the smile. It makes you look friendly and approachable.

When it comes to facial language, one of the most important aspects is the tilt of the face. A face that tilts towards the right or the left indicates aggression. While engaging in a conversation, need to keep the face straight, and maintain eye contact with the other person. Eye contact and facial expressions provide important social and emotional information to the one on the other side. Ideally, we suggest you keep a neutral face, devoid of a broad smile. Smile or laugh if the situation demands. Else, keep a neutral expression.

Eye gestures complementing your face will let the other person know that you are interested in the conversation. We would advise you to draw an imaginary straight line from the right eye to the left and back again, dragging it to the tip of your nose. An imaginary 'T' will make the speaker feel that you are being attentive.

Words, as per their meanings, also need a comprehensive modulation of the voice, and matching facial expressions.

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WEST SIDE STORY

Junior Cowell's charms

IT appears Simon Cowell's 3-year-old son Eric is following in his father's footsteps, having bagged himself five girlfriends already. Cowell was known for being a ladies' man in his heyday, boasting an impressive host of exes.

The media mogul, 57, said this about his only child with Lauren Silverman, 39: "I think he has my charm with the ladies."

I asked him how many girlfriends he has got and I think he has five currently, so he's doing okay... Eric is absolutely incredible and so funny. It's the best thing that ever happened to me."

Sienna spotted with ex

SIENNA Miller was spotted in New York with her former fiance Tom Sturridge earlier this week. The British actress, 35, looked deep in conversation with Tom, who she shares four-year-old daughter Marlow with. Speaking to *Harper's Bazaar* recently about Tom, who she split with in 2015, she described him as her 'best friend in the world'.

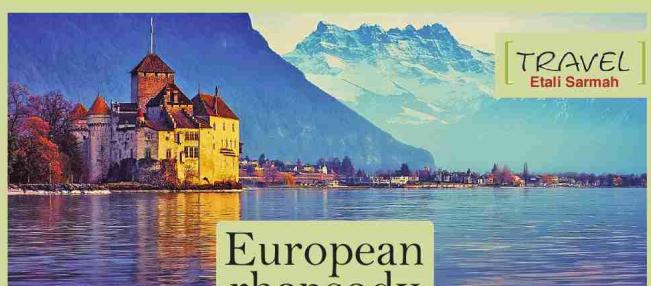
Meanwhile, Brad Pitt, 53, was reportedly seen getting flirty with Sienna, the star of his new film, in Los Angeles, according to *Page Six*.

Sheryl is 'losing faith'

LAST year, Sheryl Crow started a petition on Change.org to shorten the US presidential election cycle. The Grammy-winning singer-songwriter said she was exhausted by the mudslinging and divisive language that had dominated the discussions.

"I felt like it was becoming so hateful that I had to watch to make sure my lads didn't pick up the remote and turn the TV on... Now we have this forum for haters to come out and say the worst thing you could possibly say to someone without having the experience of the reaction. We've learned to be a society without empathy and without compassion."

AGENCIES



European rhapsody

After completing all the shopping, packing and planning, finally the most awaited holiday of the year began. Though (me, my husband and our toddler) had taken short trips to UAE and Egypt earlier this year, this holiday was special – five countries, 18 days and some major relief from the scorching summer heat of Kuwait where we stay.

Our first destination was Geneva, and the bird's eye view of Lake Geneva and the mountains from our Emirates flight added to our excitement. Without wasting much time, we rushed to our hotel and after some rest, started exploring the city. Throughout the trip, we kept our travel style common, we bought Euro rail passes for travel between countries, and respective city passes for local transport with access to some places of touristic importance. We hopped on to a train and reached our first destination the Palais des Nations. Close to this building is a structure called the Broken Chair by Daniel Berset, which was built as a symbol of fragility and strength, precariousness and stability; a desperate cry of war-torn civilian population.

Next morning, we started early, accompanied by a light drizzle to see the spectacular Lake Geneva, one of the largest lakes in Western Europe. We sat in a cafe and enjoyed the sight of the Jet d'Eau, a fountain which is the city's landmark attraction. As we sipped our morning cup of coffee, along with our breakfast, our happy toddler was hopping all around with joy at the sight of the swans enjoying the rain.

Our second destination was Bern. We covered the beautiful Zytglogge, an ancient clock tower belonging to the 13th

century and a UNESCO world heritage site with an astronomical clock belonging to the 15th century. We had to tailormake our travel plan taking into account our little fellow passenger's requirements. So next we decided to go to the Bear Park. I had assumed it to be a zoo. But I was wrong, it was located along the banks of river Aar, next to the Nydeggbrücke (a bridge), with the bears in the lower section and beautiful walkways for tourists on the top and bottom. Our girl saw three big bears from the top. It made me very happy.

Next day, after a city tour on a tram, we came back, checked out of the hotel and boarded the train to Lucerne, a small city from where we based up to go to Mount Titlis and the Rhine Falls. Our guide explained to us about Swiss cheese and chocolate making and showed us some of the oldest houses along the way in the Engelberg area. We were taken to the mountains to see the glaciers by Gondola, ice fly and revolving aerial cable car. We also walked over Europe's highest suspension bridge, while marveling at the extensive panoramic views.

We soon bid adieu to Switzerland, as we still had four countries to explore. We sat in a morning train to Innsbruck, where we spent two days. This small and beautiful Austrian town is known for its Swarovski Kristallwelten. I especially liked the mechanical theater inside with no human performers, but only some stylish machines doing musical moves. We went to the mountains on the Hungerburgbahn, a futuristic vehicle to see the Alpine zoo which is considered to be the highest zoo in Europe.

goes about making moolah. There triggers a bout of parent-swapping as Laaddoo's father (Darshan Jarwala) disowns him and treats Laali as his daughter and Laali's alcoholic father (Saurabh Shukla), on the other hand, considers Laaddoo a son despite all that he has done to his own daughter.

Meanwhile, a royal stud, Veer (Gurmeet Choudhary), appears on the scene who is advised by his family priest to marry a pregnant girl. Wow! When Laaddoo lands up in the marriage venue where Veer and Laali are going to tie the nuptial knot, the drama is set up.

Akash Hora, who made her debut carrying an atrocious hairstyle in *Sharmabh* (2015), looks pretty in this one. But like her elder sister Shruti, she too has not inherited the acting genes from their famous father, Kamal Haasan. But Vivian Shah is more disappointing. With such meagre talent, it is hard to believe that he is the son of thespians Naseeruddin Shah and Ratna Pathak Shah. Strangely, the gawky Gurmeet Choudhary is the better performer. Seasoned actors Saurabh Shukla and Sanjay Mishra are funny, but they are more or less wasted in inconsequential roles.

Vipin Patwa's music has no novelty value and may in fact turn off the listeners as the romantic numbers pop up one after the other.

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AT THE THEATRES

Jitu Changmai



LAAL KI SHAADI MEIN LAADDOO DEEWANA

DIRECTOR: MANISH HARISHANKAR
STARRING: VIJAYA SHAH, AKSHARA HAASAN, GURMEET CHOURDHARY, SAURABH SHUKLA, DARSHAN JARIWALA, SANJAY MISHRA

It's the title of the movie does not put you off, the story that unfolds on the screen definitely will. Manish Harishankar's *Laal Ki Shaadi Mein Laaddoo Deewana* is a complete drivel right from the start. You get to know what the hubbub is all about in the first few scenes and then you have to sit for more than two hours to see how the zany details are worked out. Save for the picturesque locales captured beautifully and a fun moment or two, nothing really clicks in the overdone film. As the narrative moves back and forth in multiple flashbacks, it turns out to be a real test of patience.

Laaddoo (Vijaya Shah), a small town boy from a modest family, arrives in Vadodara to work as a steward in a food joint owned by his father's friend, Kabir (Sanjay Mishra). There, he falls for the charms of Laali (Akshara Haasan) who is a frequent visitor to the restaurant. After a few meetings complete with the mandatory songs, Laali finds that she is pregnant. But Laaddoo ditched her as he

has no novelty value and may in fact turn off the listeners as the romantic numbers pop up one after the other.

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Techno-time management!

Since school days, we have been hearing about the concepts of time management. 'A stitch in time saves nine' and 'time and tide wait for none' are two of the most famous proverbs on time. Our parents, teachers, seniors, colleagues have left no stone unturned teaching us about time.

In the advent of information boom, the digital era has taken a leaf out of time management and brought out some cool tech and tools relating to time management. Let us have a look at these techno-savvy, time-saving applications:

Rescue Time: If you have doubt that you are using your time wisely, this app will send you weekly reports to indicate your time thieves. You may be shocked to discover how much time you are wasting.

Togg: This tool tracks how much time you spend on different projects. Effective time management starts with being clear on exactly how much time you actually spend on your projects and tasks, and then analyse how you can manage them more effectively.

MANAGEMENT MOVES

Saurav Soman



Mind42: Mind42 is a free mind-mapping app. It helps you to get more organised by focussing your thoughts, thereby gaining clarity on what needs to be done.

MyLifeOrganised (MLO): This task management system helps you to target what you should be focusing on to reach your objectives. It automatically generates to-do lists with priority actions for your immediate attention so that you can track your progress systematically.

Universal Password Manager: This app allows you to keep all your passwords in one encrypted database, protected by one password. This saves your precious time when you forget your passwords and need to retrieve them, and also allows you to use various passwords so you don't compromise on security issues.

Focus booster: This app is designed for those individuals who procrastinate and feel overwhelmed by tasks. It is designed to enhance your focus and remove any anxiety you might have with time.

Syncback Freeware: This free software allows you to back up, restore and synchronise your files easily. It not only saves your time but enhances productivity. If you have never backed up your files before, you should certainly not overlook this pivotal tool.

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