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NEWS CAPSULE

Special session

GUWAHATI, May 7: The Special Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly will commence from tomorrow. The session will have three working days and conclude on May 11. The State GST Bill is expected to be passed during the session. — Staff Reporter

Bridge opening
DOOMDOOMA, May 7: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the country's longest road bridge – the 9.15-km Dholak-Sadiya bridge over the Brahmaputra river on May 25. Earlier, the NHAI claimed that the bridge would be inaugurated on May 24. — Correspondent

Bail petition

GUWAHATI, May 7: The bail petition of Rakesh Patowary, suspended chairman of the Assam Public Service Commission (APSC), which was scheduled to come up for hearing in the Supreme Court tomorrow has been delisted with many other matters. — Staff Reporter

Sabha decision

GUWAHATI, May 7: Controversial Assam Sahitya Sabha general secretary Dr Paramanand Rajbanshi, who stepped down temporarily a few months back, resumed his duties today.

This follows a decision of the April 9 Sabha central executive. — Staff Reporter

Ultras nabbed

SILCHAR, May 7: Based on specific information, suspected members of the Hmar People's Convention Democrat were today arrested by the Assam Rifles from Lakhipur. They have been identified as Bana Hmar and Israel Hmar. — Correspondent

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The Assam Tribune @ Campus

Media and Entertainment industry in India – II

Anu Jain

How to make the most of your Engineering years – IV
Sankhya Chakravarty

Meet your IT Guru
Manjiri Barua
& Q&A Career
And many more...



Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu flagging off Naharlagun-Guwahati Shatabdi Express through video conference at Maligaon in Guwahati on Sunday.

Saw Kejriwal receive Rs 2 cr in cash: Mishra

NEW DELHI, May 7: Sacked Delhi Water Minister Kapil Mishra on Sunday claimed he saw Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal take Rs 2 crore in cash from Health Minister Satyendar Jain, a charge rejected by Arvind Kejriwal as "unsubstantiated". Mishra's charge triggered calls for Kejriwal's resignation from the BJP and Congress.

"Day before yesterday (Friday), I saw Jain hand over Rs 2 crore in cash to Kejriwal at his residence. When I asked about the money, Kejriwal refused to answer," Mishra told the media, a day after being sacked on Saturday.

Mishra said he had informed Lt Governor Anil Baijal about the issue and will provide details to investigating agencies as well.

Kejriwal rejected the allegation. "The kind of allegations against Kejriwal are unsubstantiated. No one will believe them. There is no substance in this allegation."

Kejriwal pointed out that the allegations came after Mishra was removed as minister.

Mishra also claimed Jain of corruption a deal worth Rs 50 crore for a Kejriwal relative.

"Jain himself told me about the deal," Mishra said, adding he was sure Jain would soon be put behind the bars.

Mishra's allegation have plunged the AAP into further crisis, soon after its defeat in the municipal polls. Mishra is

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CBI unearths 393 shell cos used to divert Rs 2,900 cr

NEW DELHI, May 7: A complex web of 393 shell companies used for allegedly diverting funds unscrupulously to the tune of Rs 2,900 crore has been unearthed by the CBI during its probe into such cases over the last three years.

CBI sources said the shell companies were allegedly being used by the accused to divert loan funds meant for specified purposes, creating fake invoices, and "round-tripping" of funds to evade taxes and generate black money.

Round-tripping is sending money abroad to tax havens in the guise of payments for fake imports through shell companies and bringing back that money showing it as foreign investment.

The findings of the CBI are just a tip of the iceberg as these are only those cases where the agency has been able to find legally-tenable evidence of money trail, cheating and diversion of funds to cheat the banks, said the sources not willing to be named.

The murky activities have been exposed during the CBI probe into various loan fraud cases involving 28 public sector banks and one private bank, the sources said.

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Appointment letters distributed to TET-qualified teachers in Kokrajhar

CORRESPONDENT

KOKRAJHAR, May 7: BTC chief Hagrama Mohiyar today distributed appointment letters to 1,134 TET-qualified teachers at the Bododa Cultural Complex here in the presence of BTC deputy chief Kampa Borgoyary, who is also in charge of the Education department. Other higher officials of the Education department of the council were also present on the occasion.

Talking to media persons,

the deputy chief of the Council, Kampa Borgoyary, said that the Department of Education today distributed engagement letters to 1,134 teachers who have cleared the TET. He said the Council has been pursuing with the Government of India the issue of filling up the vacancies in the Council region with relaxations for teachers who have not cleared the Diploma in Elementary Education (DEIED) course. He said the appointment letters were given under the SSA, and that the teachers

would be sent to the schools which lack teachers. He also warned that action would be taken against teachers finding appointment in schools of their choice by unfair means if any evidence surfaces. The officials involved in the deal would also be taken to task, he added.

The appointment letter distribution programme was also attended by the EM of BTC, Doneswar Goyary, Rajiv Brahma and Mritunjoy Narzary and Director of Education Rabi Sankar Borgoyary.

Sivasagar DC feted

ANN SERVICE

SIVASAGAR, May 7: Sivasagar Deputy Commissioner Narayan Meleng Konwar was accorded a warm felicitation by the people of the town recently on being awarded by the Prime Minister for his outstanding service to the rural people under the Deendayal Upadhyaya Gramjyoti Yojana, and also for achieving the Chief Minister's special award for extending educational service to poor

tribe students in the district.

In the programme held at the Officers' Club, several organisations, including employees' association in the Deputy Commissioner's Office, journalists' association, press club, etc., offered the Deputy Commissioner gamas, sarvis, and other tokens of appreciation, and lauded the proactive role Konwar has played in taking government services to the doorsteps of the needy and the backward

people of the district.

Subodh Sonowal, SP, Sivasagar, ADBA Tapan Gohain, Mun Baruah, Aswini Doley, Somesh Deka, president, Sivasagar District Journalists' Association, Inamul Hazarika, secretary, Sivasagar Press Club, Sarat Hazarika, ASAU leader, Dr Ripon Borupuri, MBI Borah, member, Minority Development Board, and other senior citizens were present in the function, which was presided over by Rumin Boruah.

The appointment letter distribution programme was also attended by the EM of BTC, Doneswar Goyary, Rajiv Brahma and Mritunjoy Narzary and Director of Education Rabi Sankar Borgoyary.

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KAZIRANGA, May 7: The Kaziranga Study Centre at JDSG College, Bohakhat, which was set up with an objective to espouse the cause of conservation of biodiversity as well as protection of environment and forests, is organising a national-level seminar on 'Emerging issues of biodiversity and its conservation' on June 29 and 30, in association with the Kaziranga National Park authorities, Wildlife Trust of India, Aaranyak and Corbett Foundation. Deliberations and presentations on different issues like 'Biodiversity conser-

vation – management system and approaches,' 'Modernisation, urbanisation and industrialisation: impact on biodiversity and conservation,' 'Biodiversity-demography-economy,' 'Corporate, social responsibility and biodiversity conservation,' 'Sustainable development and biodiversity in NE India,' etc., are scheduled to be organised.

JDSG College sources stated that interested academicians, researchers, NGO activists, social workers and students may submit their abstracts or on before June 5. Full papers should be submitted on or before June 15.

The ATMs were inaugurated by the Chief General Manager, North Eastern Circle, SBI, local head office, Guwahati, PVSLN Murty. Speaking on the occasion, Murty said that the SBI would adopt a village in Biswanath district to make it digital. He urged the public to avail of agricultural loans offered by the Govern-

ment.

Asitaksha Chakravarty, Deputy Commissioner of Biswanath, lauded the initiative undertaken by the SBI in tea gardens. The SBI DGM, Zonal Office, Dibrugarh, Tilak Chandra Dhar, Regional Manager Alok Das, Monabari TE manager A Hazarika and others were present on the occasion.

The programme was conducted by Dimbeswar Bora, Chief Manager, SBI, Biswanath Chariali branch. Two more such ATMs will be opened at Gingia TE and Duhil TE soon to facilitate easy payment of salaries to the workers of the tea gar-

dens.

The programme was conducted by Dimbeswar Bora, Chief Manager, SBI, Biswanath Chariali branch. Two more such ATMs will be opened at Gingia TE and Duhil TE soon to facilitate easy payment of salaries to the workers of the tea gar-

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26 killed after 2 buses collide in Nigeria

WARRI (Nigeria), May 7: Authorities say at least 26 people have died after two buses collided and caught fire on a busy highway in western Nigeria.

Oyo state police spokesman Adekunle Ajisebutu said today that 11

others were injured in the crash.

Police said the two buses were trying to overtake other vehicles on the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway and ended up striking each other.

Road accidents are common in

Nigeria, where more than 5,000 people died in crashes last year, according to national statistics. Many accidents are caused by reckless driving, while others are attributed to poorly maintained roads and vehicles. — AP

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We provide quality Yoga Classes at Home & at centre for all Ph: 8472049583, 9706098613, Yoga/P/9160/4

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New 3 BHK flat/3rd floor for office at Hatigun Main Road. Ph: 8134913716. OS/PAC/RSV/1

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Sandip Chowdhury S/o Sudhu Chowdhury residing at Ramkrishna Nagar, Ward No.11, P.O/P.S.- Lumding, Dist.-Hojai, Assam, changed my name to Sandeep Chowdhury vide affidavit dated 02.05.2017 at Hojai Court, Sankarbari Nagar. PN/.../1

I, Devraj Baishya, S/o. Sarat Chandra Baishya, have changed my name from Devraj Baishya Peen to Devraj Baishya vide an affidavit before the Notary, Kamrup (Metro) in 05.05.2017. Henceforth I shall be known as Devraj Baishya for all purposes. PN/P9923/1

I, Bhupen Kalita changed my name to Bhupendri Adhikari vide affidavit dated 20.04.2017 sworn Notary, Dibrughat. PN/P9922/1

I, Padmabati Mahanta w/o, Late Jarjanan Mahanta Adhikari, resident of Sanbarheda, Kamrup, have changed my name from Padmabati Mahanta to Padma Bala Mahanta by an affidavit sworn before the Judicial Magistrate 1st class Kamrup (M) on 25.1.17. Henceforth I shall be known as Padma Bala Mahanta in all purposes. PN/P9923/1

It is notified for the information that my original pass Certificate of Class 10, on 2010, Roll No. 3124553 pass out from CBSE Delhi has been lost. Name and address: Binimatra Deka, C/o: Monoranjan Deka, Dist: Nalbari, State: Assam, PIN: 781334. PN/P9923/1

LEGAL NOTICE

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL AT GUWAHATI
Case No. 12066 Dibrugarh - Guwahati
NAGALAND, MEGHALAYA, MANIPUR,
TRIPURA, MIZORAM, ARUNACHAL
PRadesh, Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand
O. A. No. 87 of 2017
CARA BANIK Applicant
M/S. JAHNA FOOD PROCESSING
AND ORS. Defendants
To:

1. M/S. JAHNA FOOD PROCESSOR
Parbatia, Teertha, Dibrugarh, Assam.
Pin-786125, represented by its
legal representative, Sri Dilip Deb.

2. Sri Dip Deb
Son of Pradyumn Deb
Parbatia, Teertha, Dibrugarh, Assam.
Pin-786125, represented by its
legal representative, Sri Dilip Deb.

Witness: O. A. No. 87 of 2017 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer on 28.04.2017.

Whereas, the Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summary notice on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (O.P. dated 28.04.2017) for hearing the date of 31.08.2017.

The AAP leader insisted that he would not quit the party. "I will never quit the party nor anyone can ask me to go," — IANS

Top Obama officials to testify

WASHINGTON, May 7: The scandal over Russian meddling in last year's presidential election returns to the forefront of Washington politics after weeks of quiet tomorrow, when two top officials from the Obama administration are set to testify in Congress.

Sally Yates — acting attorney general in the Trump administration for 10 days before being fired — could bring new pressure on the White House over what it knew about former national security advisor Michael Flynn's communications with Russian officials.

Obama's director of national intelligence James Clapper is also set to testify, after repeatedly warning of the need to get to the bottom of how the Russians interfered in the election, and whether anyone on President Donald Trump's team colluded with Moscow.

The case has simmered for weeks as attention focused elsewhere on what key legislation the president could push through in his first 100 days, starting on Sunday.

Congressional investigations into the matter have also been held up by infighting between Democrats and Republicans over how aggressively to pursue a matter that continues to cast a cloud over Trump's election win.

This week repeated his dismissal of US intelligence chiefs' conclusion that Moscow had sought to boost his campaign over his Democratic rival Hillary Clinton in an effort overseen by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

In an interview with CBS's "Face the Nation" program marking his 100 days, Trump again rejected the official view that Russians hacked Democratic Party computers and communications.

"It could have been China, could have been a lot of different groups," he said.

On Tuesday, he again branded the whole

story as fake.

"The phony Trump/Russia story was an excuse used by the Democrats as justification for losing the election," he said on Twitter.

Trump's dismissals notwithstanding, the Senate Judiciary Committee — where Yates and Clapper appear tomorrow — and the House and Senate Intelligence Committees are stepping up their probes, calling numerous current and former government witnesses to testify, mostly behind closed doors. And the FBI continues its own active investigation into possible collusion.

The country's top intelligence officials have no doubt Moscow tried to swing the election against Clinton last year through hacking and disinformation.

Nor is there any doubt that people closely associated with the Trump campaign — including Flynn, sometime foreign affairs advisor Carter Page and campaign chairman Paul Manafort — all had ongoing contacts with Russians.

But whether those contacts resulted in any collusion with Moscow remains unproven.

Asked on CNN this week if he had yet seen any evidence of collusion in private intelligence briefings, Senator Diane Feinstein, the top Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee, responded: "Not at this time."

In tomorrow's hearing, Yates — an Obama deputy attorney general who was fired by Trump for refusing to support his immigration ban — reportedly could testify that she warned the incoming administration in January that Flynn's discussions with Russia's US ambassador left him vulnerable to blackmail.

A former military intelligence chief, Flynn was Trump's national security advisor for 24 days before he was fired for lying about the substance of the calls. — AFP

Russian poll interference

The Sunday Times Rich List says that uncertainty triggered by Britain's vote to leave the European Union (EU) last June have not impacted the country's billionaires' ability to make money, as they grew in numbers with a 14 per cent rise in their fortunes since last year to earn a record 658 billion pounds collectively.

Srichand and Gopichand Hinduja, aged 81 and 77, lead an elite group of 134 UK-based billionaires in the list and have made these fortunes from investments in industries such as oil and gas, automotive, IT, energy, media, banking, property and healthcare sectors.

Their latest 350-million-pound project is converting the Old War Office in London into a five-star hotel and luxury apartments, the newspaper notes. "The Hindus have also recently bought British assets including Careline, an outsourcing business, and the bus

and steel tycoon Lakshmi N.

Mittal is at fourth with 13.2 billion pounds. "The furnaces are roaring again in the steel industry," Mittal, 66, the largest steelmaker in the world, is feeling the effect in his bank balance and on the 'Rich List', where his 6.1 billion increase from last year is one of the highest annual rises to date," the list reads.

However, he remains a long way from his 2008 peak as the UK's richest with then fortunes of 27.7 billion pounds. The second spot, occupied by the Hinduja brothers until 2016, has been taken over by Ukrainian businessman Len Blavatnik (15.9 billion pounds).

"While many of us worried about the outcome of the EU referendum, many of Britain's richest people just kept calm and carried on making billions," said Robert Watty, compiler of the list for the newspaper. — PTI



Children wear tradition Tyrolean clothes during a parade at the annual Gauner Festival in Zell am Ziller, Austria on Sunday. — UNI

Hinduja brothers top UK's rich list

LONDON, May 7: The Hinduja brothers have topped the 2017 list of the richest people in the UK with an estimated fortune of 16.2 billion pounds, a massive 3.2 billion pound hike in their fortunes over the previous year.

Besides the Hinduja brothers, there are over 40 Indian-origin super-rich in this year's list of the UK's 1,000 wealthiest people, who seem to be reaping a so-called "Brexit bonanza".

maker Optare. There are assets in Switzerland of about 3.6 billion pounds, according to Bilan's 2016 'Swiss Rich List'. Their six-story mansion, a sapphire's throw from Buckingham Palace, adds 300 million pounds," it adds.

Another set of India-born entrepreneurs, brothers, David and Simon Reuben, who had topped the list last year have moved down to third place with a fortune of 14 billion pounds



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Big cats...

(Contd from page 1)

tiger makes it imperative to have a healthy prey base," he said, adding that grassland management in Manas also required urgent attention of the authorities.

One of the militants detonated his suicide vest while police entered the single-story building at Bazaar around Jhajhida district, officer-in-charge of Mohesphur Police Station Ahmed Kabir was quoted as saying by the Daily Star. The second militant died in another suicide blast inside the building, he added.

The first militant was identified as Tuhun. The security forces now await arrival of a special bomb disposal unit at the scene to launch the "final assault" to flush out the rest of the militants, the official said.

Gangladesh witnessed an intensified anti-militancy clampdown across the country as the police headquarters recently circulated a list of nearly 5,000 suspected militants to all district police chiefs. — PTI

Naharlagun...

(Contd from page 1)

The superfast fully air-conditioned train will cover the distance in six hours. It will start from Naharlagun at 5 am to arrive Guwahati at 11 am every Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. From Guwahati, it will leave at 3:20 pm and reach Naharlagun at 9:20 pm every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

This new train is expected to fulfil a long standing demand of the people of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

Flagging off the new train, the Railway Minister said that the train will cover the distance in six hours. It will start from Naharlagun at 5 am to arrive Guwahati at 11 am every Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. From Guwahati, it will leave at 3:20 pm and reach Naharlagun at 9:20 pm every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Prabhu said that currently projects worth about Rs 90,000 crore are being executed in the Northeast. He said that the Indian Railway is committed for not only providing better connectivity but also better passenger experience.

He said the Indian Railway will launch a new application for mobile platform to address passenger grievances very soon.

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu, Union Minister of State for Railways Rajen Gohain and Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju were among the dignitaries present at Naharlagun railway station during the function held simultaneously there.

Deeply...

(Contd from page 1)

"It was because of the anti-corruption fight in Delhi that Kejriwal became the Chief Minister. And today, when he (Kejriwal) is accused of corruption, I cannot tell how deeply sad that makes me," Hazare said.

The social activist said he will talk in detail after studying the accusation made by Mishra. — IANS

CANCELLATION OF TRAIN SERVICES

Due to attention of track maintenance work & excess time taken for imposing of temporary speed restriction between Dulabcherra - Baragram the following trains has been cancelled.

CANCELLATION

1. 55689 Dulabcherra - Badarpur Jrn. Passenger scheduled to leave from Dulabcherra will remain CANCELLED from 08-05-2017 & 15-05-2017.

2. 55690 Badarpur Jrn. - Dulabcherra Passenger scheduled to leave from Badarpur Jrn. will remain CANCELLED from 08-05-2017 & 15-05-2017.

3. 55691 Sichar - Dulabcherra Passenger scheduled to leave from Sichar will remain CANCELLED from 08-05-2017 & 15-05-2017.

4. 55687 Dulabcherra - Sichar Passenger scheduled to leave from Dulabcherra will remain CANCELLED from 08-05-2017 & 15-05-2017.

Inconvenience caused to the Passengers is regretted

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General Manager (Operations)

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

NEW STOPPAGE OF GUWAHATI - NAHARLAGUN SHATABDI EXPRESS AT Tangla, Udalguri & Vishwanath Chariali

It has been decided to provide stoppage of 12087/1/2018 Guwahati - Naharlagun Shatabdi Express at Tangla, Udalguri & Vishwanath Chariali station from the date of regular run. Arrival and departure timings are as under.

Train No. 12088
From Guwahati on every Monday, Wednesday & Friday

STATION ARR DEP
Guwahati 15.20 11.00 —
Rangiya 16.35 09.35 10.00

Tangla 17.05 08.50 08.52
Udalguri 17.25 08.30 08.32

Rangapara North 18.22 07.43 07.45

Vishwanath Chariali 19.10 06.47 06.49
Harmuti 20.38 05.24 05.26

Naharlagun 21.20 — 05.00

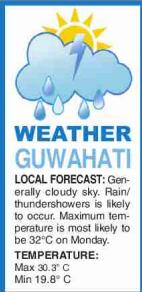
CANCELLATION: 12086 Dibrugarh - Guwahati Shatabdi Express will remain cancelled on 08-05-2017 (Monday).

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General Manager (Operations)

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

"SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE"

**WEATHER
GUWAHATI**

LOCAL FORECAST: Generally cloudy sky. Rainy thundershowers are likely to occur. Maximum temperature is most likely to be 32°C on Monday.

TEMPERATURE:
Max 30.3°C
Min 18.8°C

HPC staff demo at Dispur today
STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 7: The officers and staff of Nagaon Paper Mill of the Hindustan Paper Corporation (HPC) will stage a demonstration at Dispur on May 8, the first day of the ensuing special session of the Assam Legislative Assembly, to demand immediate steps by the Government for revival of the mill.

In a statement here, the Officers' and Supervisors' Association of the mill said the mill stopped production in December last year while the Cachar Paper Mill stopped production in December 2015. The statement said the mills stopped production mainly due to shortage of working capital and the Central and State governments must take immediate effective steps to ensure early revival of the mills.

The association said the officers and employees of the mills have not got their salaries for the last six months, while the statutory dues like CPE, pension, income tax etc., have not been deposited for the last couple of years.

The association said that the State Government must put pressure on the Centre for immediate steps for revival of the mills. It had taken up the issue with the Central and State governments on several occasions, but till date they have received only assurances, and nothing else.

It should be mentioned that State Industries and Commerce Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary had announced that the mills would be reopened and the headquarter of the HPC would be shifted to Assam. But till date, no effective step has been taken on the issues.

Book released
STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 7: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal released a book titled *Lal Nadi Nile Pahar* (Red River Blue Mountain) at a function held at the conference hall of the Chief Minister's Block at the Janta Bhawan here on Saturday.

Penned by senior journalist Ravishankar Ravi, the book has a detailed account of the writer's experience on several aspects of the North East.

Chief Minister Sonowal, while lauding the step of Ravishankar Ravi on writing a book on the North East, said that the book will act as a bridge between India's North East and the perception about the region held by people across the country.

Yoga classes
STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 7: The Vivekananda Kendra at Panbarh here will conduct a 10-day introductory yoga class from May 11 in its premises.

The course will conclude on May 20. Interested participants have been advised to contact the Kendra office during office hours, a press release stated.

Scholarship prog brings ray of hope to special students

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 7: A scholarship specially designed to assist persons with disabilities across the North Eastern region has reached out to 117 students, helping their dream come true.

With the scholarship given by telecom tower infrastructure provider Bharti Infratel, 13 specially able persons are pursuing professional or technical courses, 87 students are pursuing graduation and 17 are pursuing post-graduation.

When financial constraint became a roadblock for Azmal Hussain, a hearing impaired student, despite his selection to the IIT Delhi, the scholarship programme helped him to fulfil his dream of studying in the premier institution. "I am immensely thankful

to support the scholarship programme, which has assisted me to pursue higher studies in a prestigious institution. I believe the project comes as a big encouragement for disabled students like me who want to pursue higher education and dream of a bright future," Azmal, who hails from Barpeta district, said.

Similarly, Visazo Kikhi from Nagaland, a student with locomotor disability, who is pursuing his MBBS at the Government Medical College at Kozhikode in Kerala, said that the scholarship reduced his family's burden and helped him in fulfilling his dreams.

According to DS Rawat, MD and CEO of the company, in the very first year of scholarship programme, Bharti Infratel has been able

to support the scholarship pro-

gramme, which has assisted

me to pursue higher studies

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Meet discusses skill development among youths

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 7: The ICA's Zoo Road Centre organised a meeting recently to discuss skill development among youths and their placement in rural Assam.

The meeting was followed by an ICA alumni meet and a Bihu programme.

All the students, teachers and members of ICA participated in the programme.

The centre's role in the Central Govern-

ment's Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gramene Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) was highlighted in the programme.

"Under the scheme, three batches of students in rural Assam have been trained up by the centre and 60 per cent of the students have been placed till date. At present, a batch of 140 girl candidates are undergoing free training on computer and accounts. By July this year, another batch of 140 girls will be trained under the scheme," a statement said.

ICC hails appointment of new Tea Board Chairman

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 7: The Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) has hailed the appointment of Prabhat Kumar Bezboraoh, a leading planter from Jorhat, as the first-ever non-IAS Chairman of the Tea Board of India.

"The Union Commerce Ministry recently changed the Tea Act and decided to make an IAS officer the Deputy Chairman, the industry was apprehensive of someone with least knowledge about the tea industry and it is difficult to find solutions and help bring viability back to the ailing industry."

"ICC is further delighted that Bezboraoh recently accepted the responsibility as Co-Chairman of North East Initiative of ICC and is also at the same time Chairman of the Tea Research Institute, the oldest tea research organisation in the world," it added.

Stating that the tea industry is passing through trying times with ever-increasing input costs, labour wages and prices remaining stagnant, ICC said the industry was further burdened with several social costs such as arranging ration for workers at market price.

Maheesh Saharia, Chairman of Indian Chamber of Com-

merce, North East Initiative, while welcoming the announcement, expressed the hope that with the rich experience and practical knowledge about the tea industry, Bezboraoh would be able to highlight the burning issues facing the industry and guide it to solutions and help bring viability back to the ailing industry.

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Stating that the tea

MESSAGE FOR TODAY

The reputation of a thousand years may be determined by the conduct of one hour.

- JAPANESE PROVERB

The Assam Tribune**Sensible decision**

There has been too much tinkering with India's education policy, as though students were guinea pigs to be constantly experimented upon. In 2009, an inexplicable decision was taken to allow school students free passage up to Class VIII – according to the Right to Education (RTE) Act passed that year, "no child admitted to a school shall be held back in any class or expelled from school till the completion of elementary education". The rationale behind this was to make at least rudimentary schooling universal and inclusive, so that children from weaker sections of society have access to the education system and the brighter among them have the option of going on to the higher classes. Despite complementing measures such as free midday meal, the experiment did not work, with dropouts from schools, in particular government institutions, continuing unabated. On the other hand, this rule of no-detention led to complacency amongst a section of the students and teachers, the result being a marked decline in the quality of school education. Now the Union Ministry of Human Resources is planning to introduce a Bill to amend the RTE Act and reintroduce evaluation and detention. After the Bill becomes law, students would have to sit for exams in Class V and Class VIII, but will be given two chances to pass an examination and detained only if they fail in both.

This is a sensible decision and, though it will involve more tinkering, needs to be taken. No less than 25 States have approached the Centre contending that the no-detention policy has made it difficult for them to improve the quality of education, a telling testimony to the harm that this policy has been causing. At present, though many institutions have yearly in-house evaluation of their students, many amongst the latter do not take these seriously enough because they know that they will not be detained even if they perform poorly. The reason behind giving two chances is also logical – a child who fails in the first try can be given extra attention and help by the teachers to enable him or her to pass in the second attempt. However, the Human Resource Ministry needs to be cautious while implementing another proposed measure – upgrading books prepared by the NCERT. It is true that the last 'upgrade' was undertaken 10 years ago. With the kind of rapid social and technological changes witnessed in this decade, books have to be upgraded to keep up with the times. However, the Ministry needs to ensure that only academicians and educationists are involved in the exercise. In recent days there have been attempts, for example, to rewrite history. If political ideology is allowed to infringe on the process of textbook upgrade, the very purpose of providing quality education would be defeated.

Railway network

Railways have for long played a major role in not only transportation of passengers but also for growth of trade, commerce and industry. The expansion of railway network in the North-east has brought the region closer to the mainland of India. Yet all these decades since Independence, the growth of rail network in the region was sluggish and it acted as a barrier to the overall development of the region. Successive regimes in New Delhi only paid lip service while failing to act on the ground with regard to improvement of railway infrastructure in Assam and the other States of the North-east. The State governments of the north-eastern region also did not play their assigned role and have always shown a marked reluctance to take up with the Centre issues related to improvement of railway infrastructure and expansion of network. The entire NE region falls under the supervision of the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) which is headquartered at Maligaon. But NFR also has areas which are geographically part of West Bengal and Bihar. Over the decades, the people and various organizations of the North-east have alleged that the areas falling under Bihar and West Bengal have cornered most of the resources and funds allocated by the Railway Ministry to the NFR. Not only that but there have also been a sense of deprivation due to the fact that most of the vacancies were filled up from those areas, thus depriving deserving candidates of the North-east. As such, organizations like the Assam Rail Passengers' Association (ARPA) have in recent years started making the demand for a separate railway zone which will cater exclusively to the seven States of the North-east, while the NFR areas of Bihar and West Bengal could be either converted into a separate zone or amalgamated with other existing zones headquartered in those States. The demand is very genuine. Even the previous Congress regime of Tarun Gogoi at Dispur had also, during its last year in power, supported the demand. Financially and logically also, the demand for bifurcation makes sense.

Therefore, it is heartening to note Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu's comment that his ministry will "discuss" and look into the issue of bifurcation of NFR zone and creating a separate zone which will have jurisdiction solely over the seven North-eastern States. The NDA regime has taken certain initiatives for development of the railways in the region – including completion of the gauge conversion project, increase in allocation of funds and commencement of electrification work – which are commendable. However, a lot more needs to be done. More emphasis must be put on double tracking, suburban services need to be augmented and there is a major need for a second railway bridge over the Brahmaputra at Saranghat. Only by addressing all such issues can the North-east achieve parity with other regions in railway network.

Teacher education management in Assam**■ Ravindra Kumar Mishra**

The reputation of the government-run schools in the State is generally dismal and the similar is true about teacher education and management. Significant numbers of posts are vacant, the infrastructure sucks, teacher educators do not care and lack abilities, book shelves are full of dust and books are not available in libraries. Student teachers do not turn up and when they do, it is questionable whether they are being prepared adequately with pace of advancement and development in the sector. There is inadequate inter- and intra-departmental convergence.

Teacher education is all about teacher education institutions (TEIs) preparing teachers who in turn teach, involving pupils in a student-driven classroom. To make teachers agent of change, the TEIs need to attract talented people, allow them to rise and come up with an alternative plan which is deliverable.

Besides a good number of private TEIs in the State, there are 27 District Institution of Education and Training (DIETs), 17 Basic Training Centres and seven normal schools that are supposed to offer Diploma in Elementary Education (DEIEED) and prepare teachers for schools. The State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), which came into being to streamline, integrate and coordinate academic and professional activities at the State level, has been declared as the academic authority and leadership academy of the State.

The plight of the TEIs of the State

DEIEED is the pre-requisite qualification to appear in the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET). Those who qualify TET may become teachers in schools. Only 20-25% of the candidates qualified TET in a given year since the beginning of this test. This is a big question mark on working of the TEIs. The TEIs should offer opportunity to the student teachers to get self-confidence, to explore and undergo robust and rigorous training that suits the demand of children in schools but the results are disturbing.

The SCERT is the apex level in the State for a pivotal role to play for formulating academic policies, planning, carrying academic researches in schools and TEIs, development of textbooks for elementary and secondary schools and review of curriculum and syllabi for TEIs and schools in consultation and coordination with TEIs and other institutions, experts and educationists. The SCERT is the vehicle to take the state education to a higher level, making productive and progressive human resources for the State. This apex institution has almost 40% vacancy, still library looking for books and supply of magazines and journals, poor infrastructure lacking basic amenities, computer labs and peripherals along with deficient faculty.

The RTE Act lays emphasis on professional qualified teachers and quality education that require regular in-service training and capacity

Institutions of teacher education ought to be in a position to think clearly and freely about the challenges our schools face. They are certainly not perfect, but their ability to take an independent stance on education policies and practices is crucial.

that fall under the ambit of the SCERT is nevertheless similar to its state counterpart, 50% of the faculty positions are lying vacant out of the 572 sanctioned positions in DIETs. Man can move mountains but institutions without human resources are as good as barren land.

Assam has a sizeable number of untrained teachers and to enable them to become a professionally qualified teacher is a gigantic challenge for the State Government in

building of teachers. Ironically, in-service training of teachers is the mandate of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA). It has limited expertise on textbook, curriculum, syllabus, etc. Convergence among the SCERT, RMSA and SSA is a prerequisite for capacity building and development conduct or participate in the pre-service and in-service training programmes. A mechanism needs to be evolved to strengthen coordination and decision making amongst these departments, societies and institutions besides availability of funds.

Teacher education is more important today than it has been in previous century. Education policy and practice are being radically transformed in education, and teacher preparation programmes need to fall in line with the pace of advancement and requirement of schools. Hence, it is highly desired to appoint professionally educated teachers. The institutions of teacher education ought to be in a position to think clearly and freely about the challenges our schools face. They are certainly not perfect, but their ability to take an independent stance on education policies and practices is crucial.

Timely availability of fund, its optimum and wise use

absence of human resource deficient TEIs. Needless to mention that regular robust and rigorous training full of learning by doing is the only way to prepare good teachers. Any other alternative mode of training like open and distance learning mode will necessitate rigorous transaction and assessment mechanism to produce effective teachers, more than certificate holders.

The RTE Act lays emphasis on professional qualified teachers and quality education that require regular in-service training and capacity

scenario. Denial of fund to teacher education by the government in one way or the other impedes teacher development and management. Governments should think twice before denial as quality education revolves round the teacher. The SCERT, SSA and RMSA must come forward with long-term perspective plan, commitment and passion to address this state of affairs by collaborating with CSR, IDA and other partners for teacher development.

Inter- and intra-departmental collaboration in SCERT, SSA, RMSA

and the TEIs at State, district and sub-district level is needed in designing and executing academic programmes including textbook/learning material development and training activities. It is important that the faculty involved in textbook/material development conduct or participate in the pre-service and in-service training programmes. A mechanism needs to be evolved to strengthen coordination and decision making amongst these departments, societies and institutions besides availability of funds.

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Teacher education is more impor-

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Timely availability of fund, its optimum and wise use

can change the scenario.

Denial of fund to teacher education by the government in one way or the other impedes teacher development and management.

Governments should think twice before denial as quality education revolves round the teacher.

The SCERT, SSA and RMSA must come forward with long-term perspective plan, commitment and passion to address this state of affairs by collaborating with CSR, IDA and other partners for teacher development.

Inter- and intra-departmental col-

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Naga body demands early settlement of border issue

CORRESPONDENT

DIMAPUR, May 7: United Naga Tribes Association on Border Areas (UNTABA) has urged Nagaland Chief Minister Shurhzelou Leizetsu to review the Interim Agreements of 1972, 1979 and other MoUs among Nagaland, Assam and Central Governments.

It alleged that such stop-gap arrangements were made under duress against the very history of Naga people and has become a stumbling block for development, peace and tranquility in the border areas.

UNTABA officials led by its chairman Hukavi T Yaphomi made the appeal through a memorandum when they met the CM in Kohima on Thursday.

Maintaining that the Nagas' movement for bringing back the transferred Naga lands in the border areas immediately and to establish polling stations in all the villages in the border areas at the earliest.

Garo woman goes missing

TURA, May 7: A 22-year-old woman from Makre Adap village under Kharutta Police Station in North Garo Hills has gone missing since March 26 with a desperate family suspecting trafficking to be the reason for her disappearance.

Satisha G Momin, who worked as a domestic help in the house of a sub inspector in Shillong was apparently on her way home to Makre Adap from Shillong but never reached home. She has since been missing with the last contact with the family being made in the middle of April last.

"Her number has been out of reach. But she called a few times from different numbers narrating that she was being led by different men and was most possibly in Manipur. We filed an FIR in Kharutta PS on April 13 but there is word on her whereabouts," said the father. — Correspondent

CINEMA PROGRAMME

SILVER SCREEN

9th Floor, UBC, Dabu Building, G.S. Road, Guwahati-781009. (2 Curved Screens, Dolby CP750 Sound System, 1000 Seats, Puch Back Seats, Air-conditioned and Multiplex Ambience)

At 10:00 am, 10:45 am, 12:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 8:00 pm BAUHABALI-2 (Hindi)

Stg: Prabhakar, Anushka Shetty etc. For booking: 97962-90872 & 88763-35234. Online Booking: www.bookmyshow.com

GRANDE CINEMA

9th Floor, UBC, Dabu Building, G.S. Road, Guwahati-781009. (2 Curved Screens, Dolby CP750 Sound System, 1000 Seats, Puch Back Seats, Air-conditioned and Multiplex Ambience)

At 10:00 am, 10:45 am, 12:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 8:00 pm BAUHABALI : THE CONCLUSION (Hindi)

For booking: 98880-4017777. Online Booking: www.bookmyshow.com

INOX MOVIES - JORHAT ABS MART (Jorhat)

(Terms & conditions apply) 15th May to 11th June 2017

At 10:00 am, 10:45 am, 12:00 pm, 4:45 pm, 6:00 pm, 8:00 pm BAUHABALI : THE CONCLUSION (Hindi)

Stg: Prabhakar, Anushka Shetty etc. Regular Ticket Rates: Rs. 250/-, 150/-, 100/-, 70/- Morning Shows: Rs. 150/-, 100/-, 70/- Online Booking: www.bookmyshow.com or any query please call on 0375-75789-4343.

PURANA MANGALDAI

2nd Floor Sunstar Shopping Complex L.N.Road, Mangaldoi (Doby Sound system, 1000 Seats, Puch Back Seats) 6th May to 11th May 2017

At 10:00 am, 10:45 am, 12:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 8:00 pm BAUHABALI : THE CONCLUSION (Hindi)

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AMBRA CINE PALACE

Duthnoi (Digital Picture & Dolby Sound Centrally Air-conditioned and Multiplex Ambience, Luxurious Puch Back Seats)

6th May to 11th May 2017

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GALLERIA CINEMA

HUB, G.S. Road, Guwahati is showing 28th April to 4th May 2017 with following

At 10:30 am, 15:45, 18:45 & 20:45 pm BAUHABALI : THE CONCLUSION (Hindi)

Enquiry No. 9641-98000, 08649-98000. For Online Booking: www.bookmyshow.com

BAUHABALI 2 : THE CONCLUSION (Hindi)

Stg: Prabhakar, Anushka Shetty etc. Regular Ticket Rates: Rs. 280/-, Rs. 350/- Morning shows: Rs. 180/-, 150/- Online Booking: www.bookmyshow.com or any query please call on 0375-75789-4343.

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Participants at a drawing competition organised by Ellora Vigyan Manch, on the occasion of its 14th foundation day at Bongaigaon, on Sunday. - UB Photos

BJYM State chief visits Bongaigaon

CORRESPONDENT

BONGAIGAON, May 7: Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha president Anup Barman visited Bongaigaon Friday to review the activities of the organisation in the district.

Barman also discussed some major issues of the State.

The Morcha's district leaders felicitated Barman for assuming presidential post of the State unit. They took Barman from the Bongaigaon circuit house to BJP office in a rally. He called upon the Morcha activists to spread awareness among the people about the schemes launched by the BJP Government for the benefit of the State.

The radiotherapy machine which is essential for treating

Radio therapy machine at AMCH inactive; cancer patients hit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DHIRGARH, May 7: The premiere medical institute of the North-east – the Assam Medical College and Hospital (AMCH), which takes credit for being the first in the country to open Radiology Department and often asserts its potential to manage at least one super specialty department on its own, however is functioning without a radiotherapy machine.

The machine provided service for about more than 10 years. Now, it cannot be used. We have received a new upgraded version of the machine and we are going to install it soon," Kotokey told *The As-*

the cancer patients, has remained inactive for the last few months causing a major problem to the patients.

Ratan Kumar Kotokey, Principal of Assam Medical College and Hospital (AMCH) said that the machine has outlined its longevity and cannot run anymore.

"The machine provided service for about more than 10 years. Now, it cannot be used. We have received a new upgraded version of the machine and we are going to install it soon," Kotokey told *The As-*

sam Tribune.

The absence of the radiotherapy machine has been a hurdle in the continuous treatment of the cancer patients as they have been referred to Guwahati for the treatment for the past few months. It is not possible for a BPL and economically weaker section family to afford the treatment at Guwahati, which is at a distance of around 450 km from here," said Arman Uddin Ahmed, founder member of the Dehing Welfare Society.

Meanwhile, Ahmed has already taken up the matter with the State Government.

In a letter to the Chief Minister, Ahmed has mentioned that BPL patients often have to purchase medicines for their treatment and even a syringe and gloves instead of getting them free of cost.

The condition is worse for the patients who are diagnosed with cancer and due to non-availability of medicine, especially chemotherapy, they have to face severe hardships, he mentioned in the letter.

Banned currencies seized

CORRESPONDENT

DHUBRI, May 7: In a major catch, the State Police seized currencies worth Rs 9.89 lakh from a house in Pub Tiyamari area under Garupur PS and arrested two persons in connection with this connection.

Police informed that the demonitised notes were seized from the house of Motilal Uddin Sarkar who had kept the currencies in a box. "We

have booked Deepak Soud of Hatiaguri, Guwahati and Rofigul Islam of South Salma area," police claimed.

It is learnt that the duo was arrested immediately after

highly-placed official sources told

this correspondent that security forces are now keeping a close vigil along the Indo-

Bangla border to prevent flow of demonetised currencies into Bangladesh. "We have received some intelligence inputs and we are working accordingly," they said.

Security forces step up vigil along Indo-Bangla border

arrival at Tiyamari area. Police, however, refused to disclose more about the development. It may be recalled that Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 8 had demonetised the

Rs 500 and 1000 currency notes in a bid to check the flow of black money in the country. Since then Rs 500 and Rs 1000 notes are no longer legal tender.

Highly-placed official

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this correspondent that security forces are now keeping a close vigil along the Indo-

Bangla border to prevent flow of demonetised currencies into Bangladesh. "We have received some intelligence inputs and we are working accordingly," they said.

ABSU workers donate blood

CORRESPONDENT

TEZPUR, May 7: The Sonitpur District Committee of ABSU organised a blood donation camp recently at Dhekiju's Marwari Panchayat Bhawan. Altogether, 70 ABSU workers from various anchalik committees donated blood. Four persons from a voluntary blood donation NGO of Jharkhand were present as observers. Doctors and medical staff from the Kamakoti Civil Hospital and Blood Bank cooperated in the camp by providing their service.

The machine provided

service for about more than 10

years. Now, it cannot be used. We have received a new up-

graded version of the machine and we are going to install it soon," Kotokey told *The As-*

Sadhini Smriti Divas observed

ANN Service

Khanikar, chief adviser of ATASU Aswini Chetia, AAC-SU president Jyoti Pd Chutia and vice president Rajani Chutia. A souvenir on the occasion was released by Debasish Sharma, Additional SP.

A cultural procession taken

out on the occasion was flagged

off by Basanta Gogoi, vice presi-

dent of ATASU, Pranadeep Mohan

Rotu Bhamali, Koch Rajbanshi

Sammilen, district committee,

Jyoti Pd Chutia released a book

titled *Chutia Jatra Krishi Sang-*

krishi aru Kisu Kotha.

Earlier, flag hoisting was

done by Ranjit Tamuli and Haven

Saikia, president of the district

committee of Sadou Chutia Jati

was released by Debasish

Sharma, Additional SP.

A cultural procession taken

out on the occasion was flagged

off by Basanta Gogoi, vice presi-

dent of ATASU, Pranadeep Mohan

Rotu Bhamali, Koch Rajbanshi

Sammilen, district committee,

Jyoti Pd Chutia released a book

titled *Chutia Jatra Krishi Sang-*

SILCHAR, May 7: A bid to commit facacy at the United Bank of India at Lakhimpur here was foiled due to vigilance of the employees, on Thursday.

According to sources, five youths entered the bank as customers. During lunch hour, one of the youths tried to snatch the cash box of the bank and run away. But employees of the bank pulled down the main shutter of the bank and foiled the attempt. According to police, one of the five youths was arrested.

Barman assured that he

would take up all major issues

with the Chief Minister for

their permanent solution.

On the other hand, a number of conscious persons of the

greater area said that following

this incident, the educational environment of the school has been

polluted. Eventually, the Principal of the school, as per the direction of the Circle Officer

lodged FIR against such

person.

In a meeting held recently at the office premises of the Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup (R) at Amininga, the president

of the Circle Officer

Public Works Department (Roads)

[Government of Assam]

Chandmari, Guwahati -781 003 Assam

No. CE/P/MGSY/105/2017-18/2

**PRADHAN MANTRI GRAN SADAK YOJANA
(PMGSY, 2017-18, Batch-1)
e-Procurement Notice**

S. No.	District	Package No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs In Lakh)		Total Cost (Rs in lakhs)	Period of completion (in months)	S. No.	District	Package No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs In Lakh)		Total Cost (Rs in lakhs)	Period of completion (in months)
				Construction	Maintenance							Construction	Maintenance		
41	Tinsukia	AS-23-141	Dihalhatia Na Melongang	180.19	17.46	197.65	12	118	Barpeta	AS-01-272	Kelalandia to 116a Baghara Chor	287.85	23.48	311.33	12
42	Tinsukia	AS-23-150	Nh-52 to Chumon Road	109.00	9.31	118.31	12	119	Barpeta	AS-01-281	Manda GP Office to 2 No Barondon Chorai	119.48	10.30	128.78	12
43	Tinsukia	AS-23-163	Daimukha Dighartang Road to Baghia TE 351	77.74	6.98	84.72	12	120	Barpeta	AS-01-286	Kismat Moinbait to Matupur Manas pranghat	82.90	7.74	90.64	12
44	Tinsukia	AS-23-164	Daimukha Dighartang Road to Dihalhatia to Beljan TE 297 (VR38)	86.68	8.73	95.41	12	121	Barpeta	AS-01-301	Road to Kharanchar	120.21	14.52	134.73	12
45	Tinsukia	AS-23-165	Daimukha Dighartang Road to Bissau TE 72 (VR38)	196.94	19.79	216.73	12	122	Barpeta	AS-01-304	TG to Khandanchar	70.59	8.99	79.58	12
46	Tinsukia	AS-23-169	Daimukha Dighartang Road to Daimukha TE 12 WI	60.50	5.82	66.32	12	124	Barpeta	AS-01-306	BB Road to Bokpura	95.80	12.47	109.27	12
47	Tinsukia	AS-23-177	Daimukha Joraiukchuk Road to Kardangi Ganu No 2	90.04	7.68	97.72	12	126	Barpeta	AS-01-309	BB Road to Panimancha	72.99	9.32	82.31	12
48	Tinsukia	AS-23-201	Chitwan to Tengnafu	58.78	6.40	65.18	12	128	Barpeta	AS-01-310	Nalagon to Baktarabro	73.31	9.77	83.08	12
49	Tinsukia	AS-23-222	NH-52 to Bap Utan Gaon	93.16	9.31	102.47	12	130	Barpeta	AS-01-311	Puriak to Balthahanga Bazar	121.01	14.53	135.54	12
50	Tinsukia	AS-23-224	NH-52 to Bap Utan Gaon No 1	103.10	8.89	112.99	12	132	Barpeta	AS-01-315	Bhengraon to Amduh	90.56	8.65	99.21	12
51	Tinsukia	AS-23-240	Chitwan to Chitwan	82.27	6.38	90.65	12	133	Barpeta	AS-01-321	Puthirhati to Darpara	216.20	21.42	237.62	12
52	Tinsukia	AS-23-241	Ambikapur to Barphar	121.10	11.64	132.74	12	135	Barpeta	AS-01-329	Chaukabat to Palla River	108.38	9.81	117.99	12
53	Tinsukia	AS-23-242	Simalguri to Sonowalgarh	124.55	11.64	136.59	12	136	Barpeta	AS-01-331	Barphar to Chorai	62.16	4.66	66.82	12
54	Tinsukia	AS-23-243	Chitwan to Chitwan No 2	96.05	10.48	106.53	12	137	Barpeta	AS-01-332	Jadavpur High School to Solimpur MPNA Road	78.32	6.61	84.93	12
55	Tinsukia	AS-23-244	No 1 nagan to Nagata Nedyal	109.85	9.31	119.16	12	138	Barpeta	AS-01-333	Patherbari Bazar to Machuhal via Hopperbar ME Madressa	133.11	11.64	144.75	12
56	Tinsukia	AS-23-246	Buraburi Deori to Buraburi Deori No 2	111.17	11.64	122.81	12	57	Tinsukia	AS-01-334	Tarakand (Joypur) Bazaar to Sikatani Gaon (Joypur Gaon)	147.89	12.80	160.69	12
58	Tinsukia	AS-23-248	20 Lakshimpura to Kapowher Deori	215.55	20.37	235.92	12	139	Barpeta	AS-01-335	116a Barphar to Barphar	62.16	4.66	66.82	12
59	Tinsukia	AS-23-251	116a Barphar to Barphar	269.67	23.28	292.95	12	60	Tinsukia	AS-01-336	Dharmapuri to Sofuly	164.85	18.89	183.84	12
60	Tinsukia	AS-23-252	Buraburi to Kukuhone road	374.45	34.92	409.37	12	61	Tinsukia	AS-01-338	Barukura to Cheki	194.10	18.38	212.48	12
62	Tinsukia	AS-23-253	NH-37 to Kanjikhowa Gaon	334.06	32.01	366.07	12	63	Tinsukia	AS-01-339	Malpa Chowk to Railway Gaek	87.74	9.03	96.77	12
63	Tinsukia	AS-23-255	Asomia Nepal to Malpa	243.45	23.28	269.73	12	64	Tinsukia	AS-01-340	Barphar to Barphar	122.82	8.73	131.55	12
64	Tinsukia	AS-23-256	Jhingam to Jyotish Nagar	196.24	20.37	216.61	12	65	Tinsukia	AS-01-341	Barphar to Barphar	78.73	8.73	87.46	12
66	Tinsukia	AS-23-257	Lakhimpur to Lakhimpur	181.27	17.46	198.73	12	67	Tinsukia	AS-01-342	Manikar to Charanari	100.55	9.78	110.33	12
68	Tinsukia	AS-23-258	Gorai to Gorai	173.14	17.46	190.60	12	69	Tinsukia	AS-01-343	Barphar to Barphar	106.41	10.79	117.20	12
70	Tinsukia	AS-23-259	Chitwan to Chitwan	107.00	10.48	121.48	12	71	Tinsukia	AS-01-344	Sapali Hukhuta Road	122.69	14.08	136.77	12
72	Tinsukia	AS-23-260	Rampur Meglia to Bishnupur	507.26	40.74	548.00	12	73	Tinsukia	AS-01-345	Salmara Saplik Road	87.29	9.99	97.28	12
74	Tinsukia	AS-23-261	12th Mile	135.62	14.55	150.17	12	75	Tinsukia	AS-01-346	Mahapukur to Bishnupur	82.82	8.73	91.55	12
76	Tinsukia	AS-23-262	Haripur Deori	144.74	11.64	156.38	12	77	Tinsukia	AS-01-347	Bholarbari Barrapar	78.73	8.73	87.46	12
78	Tinsukia	AS-23-263	10th Mile	142.63	14.55	157.18	12	79	Tinsukia	AS-01-348	High School Road	124.18	12.65	136.83	12
80	Tinsukia	AS-23-264	Haripuri Deori	109.65	11.64	121.30	12	81	Tinsukia	AS-01-349	Barphar to Subalchika	87.21	10.72	97.93	12
82	Tinsukia	AS-23-265	Nadipu	144.74	11.64	156.38	12	83	Tinsukia	AS-01-350	Bhalukpong to Ulubari	226.41	24.02	250.43	12
84	Tinsukia	AS-23-266	Chitwan to Torbari	175.25	17.46	192.71	12	85	Tinsukia	AS-01-351	Marasila Chowk to Barimukhi	149.50	16.81	166.31	12
86	Tinsukia	AS-23-267	Barbaran Deori to Torbari	192.10	20.37	212.47	12	87	Tinsukia	AS-01-352	Khurupi to Subnahuta R.F	178.13	19.67	197.80	12
88	Tinsukia	AS-23-268	Chitwan to Tengnafu	108.62	22.07	127.77	12	89	Tinsukia	AS-01-354	Narayenpr (T08) to Hanchara	166.43	19.22	185.65	12
90	Tinsukia	AS-23-269	Chitwan to Dhadungon	206.65	18.02	227.77	12	91	Tinsukia	AS-01-355	Naoikota to Pathanghat	104.79	13.84	118.63	12
92	Tinsukia	AS-23-270	Kukumora Road	143.81	15.56	158.36	12	93	Tinsukia	AS-01-356	T06 (PwC) (achukula)	87.21	10.72	97.93	12
94	Tinsukia	AS-23-272	12th Mile	143.81	15.56	158.36	12	95	Tinsukia	AS-01-357	Barphar to Barphar	89.95	11.24	101.19	12
96	Tinsukia	AS-23-273	Chitwan to Chitwan	109.65	11.64	121.30	12	97	Tinsukia	AS-01-358	Katalijai to Bilegoan	53.97	6.67	60.64	12
98	Tinsukia	AS-23-274	Chitwan to Chitwan	121.16	11.64	132.80	12	99	Tinsukia	AS-01-359	Chitwan to Dangolong	64.80	7.80	72.40	12
100	Tinsukia	AS-23-275	Chitwan to Chitwan	238.37	22.12	269.49	12	101	Tinsukia	AS-01-360	Chenjangar (T05) to Parahar	232.46	22.64	255.10	12
102	Tinsukia	AS-23-276	Megeba Te No 349	451.78	34.92	486.70	12	103	Tinsukia	AS-01-361	Kalikota to Gengapara	140.20	17.25	157.45	12
104	Tinsukia	AS-23-277	Haikhati to Lakhimpur	162.65	14.55	177.20	12	105	Tinsukia	AS-01-362	Kalikota to Gengapara	155.56	16.45	171.02	12
106	Tinsukia	AS-23-278	Haikhati to Lakhimpur	167.38	16.98	184.86	12	107	Tinsukia	AS-01-363	Haikhati to Haikhati	87.37	10.89	98.36	12
108	Tinsukia	AS-23-279	Haikhati to Lakhimpur	259.35	23.28	282.63	12	109	Tinsukia	AS-01-364	Jogdola to Gaon	60.11	5.86	65.97	12
110	Tinsukia	AS-23-280	Haikhati to Lakhimpur	180.75	23.28	204.03	12	111	Tinsukia	AS-01-365	Rajibpur to Bilegoan	138.15	16.79	154.97	12
112	Tinsukia	AS-23-281	Haikhati to Lakhimpur	368.06	32.01	400.07	12	113	Tinsukia	AS-01-366	Lengthbaria to Dangolong	53.97	6.67	60.64	12
114	Tinsukia	AS-23-282	Haikhati to Lakhimpur	344.91	34.92	379.83	12	115	Tinsukia	AS-01-367	Lengthbaria to Ambukhola	164.80	14.44	181.24	12
116	Tinsukia	AS-23-283	Haikhati to Lakhimpur	181.75	23.28	204.03	12	117	Tinsukia	AS-01-368	Lengthbaria to Dangolong	127.86	16.48	144.14	12
118	Tinsukia	AS-23-284	Haikhati to Lakhimpur	180.75	23.28	204.03	12	119	Tinsukia	AS-01-369	Lengthbaria to Dangolong	50.75	7.92	58.67	12
120	Tinsukia	AS-23-285	Haikhati to Lakhimpur	180.75	23.28	204.03	12	121	Tinsukia	AS-01-370	To Ssugor II	172.66	14.44	194.14	12
122	Tinsukia	AS-23-286	Haikhati to Lakhimpur	264.91	26.19	294.00	12	123	Tinsukia	AS-01-371	Chittagong to Ssugor II	178.92	16.05	195.97	12
124	Tinsukia	AS-23-287	Haikhati to Lakhimpur	267.81	26.19	294.00	12	125	Tinsukia	AS-01-372	Chittagong to Ssugor II	178.92	16.05	195.97	12
126	Tinsukia	AS-23-288	Digholi Penger to Bihmapur	257.81	26.19	294.00	12	127	Tinsukia	AS-01-373	Chittagong to Ssugor II	178.92	16.05	195.97	12
128	Tinsukia	AS-23-289	Digholi Penger to Bihmapur	257.81	26.19	294.00	12	129	Tinsukia	AS-01-374	Chittagong to Ssugor II	178.92	16.05	195.97	12
130	Tinsukia	AS-23-290	Digholi Penger to Bihmapur	257.81	26.19	294.00	12	131	Tinsukia	AS-01-375	Chittagong to Ssugor II	178.92	16.05	195.97	12
132	Tinsukia	AS-23-291	Digholi Penger to Bihmapur	257.81	26.19	294.00	12	133	Tinsukia	AS-01-376	Chittagong to Ssugor II	178.92	16.05	195.97	12
134	Tinsukia	AS-23-292	Digholi Penger to Bihmapur	257.81	26.19	294.00	12	135	Tinsukia	AS-01-377	Chittagong to Ssugor II	178.92	16.05	195.97	12
136	Tinsukia	AS-23-293	Digholi Penger to Bihmapur	257.81	26.19	294.00	12	137	Tinsukia	AS-01-378	Chittagong to Ssugor II	178.92	16.05	195.97	12
138	Tinsukia	AS-23-294	Digholi Penger to Bihmapur	257.81	26.19	294.00	12	139	Tinsukia	AS-01-379	Chittagong to Ssugor II	178.92	16.05	195.97	12
140	Tinsukia	AS-23-295	Digholi Penger to Bihmapur	257.81	26.19	294.00	12	141	Tinsukia	AS-01-380	Chittagong to Ssugor II	178.92	16.05	195.97	12
142	Tinsukia	AS-23-296	Digholi Penger to Bihmapur	257.81	26.19	294.00	12	143							

Forest officials rubbish contractors' claim

Construction works hit by shortage of building material

RITURAJ BORTHAKUR

citing "restrictions" by the departments concerned.

Sources said road works worth around Rs 80-100 crore were being currently implemented by the PWD under the Performance Based Maintenance Contract (PBMC), while the GDD was executing projects mostly related to the drainage system, worth a similar amount.

In a letter to the Commissioner of PWD (Roads), Guwahati-based contractors, while mentioning the problem, said they would not be able to complete the works within the stipulated time. The Government had asked

the contractors to complete all the road works within May 30.

When contacted, the All Assam PWD Contractors' Association general secretary Utpal Medhi told *The Assam Tribune* that the construction activities in the city were mostly dependent on material from Meghalaya.

During the last 15 days, no material were coming from Meghalaya due to restrictions imposed by the Government of the neighbouring State, and all works, even individual constructions, have come to a standstill.

"They say the mahan system is being revamped. Police and Forest officials have seized a number of vehicles carrying construction material over the last few days,"

they said.

The PWD alone has awarded works over Rs 600 crore in the State this year under the PBMC system.

Senior Forest officials, however, rubbished the claim of the contractors.

"Nobody has given us anything in writing. We haven't got any requisition or demand. The Forest Department is giving priority to developmental agencies. If there are any specific cases, we will try to sort it out," they said, but added that laws are now being strictly enforced, due to which some sections may be facing problems.



Students and parents after completion of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) at the Don Bosco School in Guwahati on Sunday. - UB Photos

Regional consultation on open water fisheries development

CORRESPONDENT

JALUKBARI, May 7: The ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (ICAR-CIFRI) of Barrackpore in West Bengal organised a regional consultation on 'Open Water Fisheries Development in the North East Region' in the city recently.

A total of 40 delegates, including scientists and researchers from ICAR-CIFRI, participated in the consultation.

Dr BK Bhattacharjya, Head of ICAR-CIFRI Regional Centre, Guwahati, welcomed the participants and sought inputs from the delegates on the roadmap for open water fisheries development in the North East prepared by the institute, before publishing it.

In his inaugural address, Dr BK Das, Director of ICAR-CIFRI, emphasised the need for developing open water fisheries in the region and assured of providing

research support to the State Fisheries Department. He explained the background and purpose of the regional consultation and stressed the need to prepare an effective roadmap for developing open water fisheries of the region through consultation among the stakeholders.

In his inaugural address, Parimal Suktaldaiya, Minister of Fisheries stressed the need for making the region self-sufficient in fish production by utilising all available

fishery resources. He urged all the fisheries departments of the region to work with the common goal of achieving self-sufficiency in fish production through concerted efforts. He also highlighted the recent initiatives of the Government of Assam to bring about a Blue Revolution in the State through the 'Ponds For All – Fish For All' scheme launched by the Government.

The technical session was chaired by Dr BK Das and co-chaired by Dr PK Pan-

dey, Dr BK Bhattacharjya and other scientists from the Centre proposed State-specific roadmaps for open water fisheries development in the region.

The updated data showed that the total fish production in the North East stood at 4,23,749 metric tonne (mt) during 2015-16—(Assam 2,97,000 mt, Tripura 68,331 mt, Manipur 32,000 mt, Nagaland 8,220 mt, Mizoram 6,828 mt, Meghalaya 6,560 mt, Arunachal Pradesh 4,410 mt and Sikkim 400 mt). This was four

per cent of the country's total fish production and met 86 per cent fish requirement of the region (present requirement estimated at 4,82,384 mt). The presentation showed that the region has tremendous potential for enhancement of fish production from inland open waters. The potential of fish production in open water fisheries of the North East has been estimated at 1,26,846 tonnes (14,142 tonnes from rivers, 8,358 from reservoirs, 1,17,346 from wetlands, lakes and swamps).

S. No.	District	Package No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs In Lakh)		Total Cost (Rs in lakhs)	Period of completion (in months)	S. No.	District	Package No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs In Lakh)		Total Cost (Rs in lakhs)	Period of completion (in months)								
				Construction	Maintenance							Construction	Maintenance										
198	Karingari	AS-13-165	NH44 to Jorjori	316.97	24.44	341.41	12	247	Udalguri	AS-26-103	Simaluguri No 1 to Pachim Paneri	143.11	12.51	155.62	12	307	Kamrup	AS-11-291	Sankardev Sishu Niketon to Lakhapara Road	31.22	3.71	34.93	12
199	Karingari	AS-13-169	Kaliigarh - Khasi	466.44	38.95	505.39	12	248	Udalguri	AS-26-104	Junglepara Daklin to MB Road	117.21	16.06	133.27	12	308	Kamrup	AS-11-301	Dakapara No 2 to Mukanpur	66.28	1.90	68.18	12
200	Karingari	AS-13-170	F/N Road to Prabhat Horni Angura	178.07	14.54	192.61	12	249	Udalguri	AS-26-106	Palekhora - NH44 to Track 53	194.45	5.88	200.33	12	309	Morigaon	AS-17-104	Dikheri Tengnari to Rupnagar Nandipur	227.36	23.28	250.64	12
201	Karingari	AS-13-172	Khingar - Khasi	188.55	14.65	203.20	12	250	Udalguri	AS-26-76	Khongi Baroto to Khatihuri (Track 53)	164.00	18.41	182.41	12	310	Nagpur	AS-19-443	Tiraili Road	116.96	15.54	132.50	12
202	Karingari	AS-13-178	A road from Karabazar to East Fankuria	252.24	18.23	270.47	12	251	Udalguri	AS-26-79	Majorgeon to Bharapukur	98.18	9.89	108.07	12	311	Nagpur	AS-19-552	Shillongram to Bhakatgong	55.48	6.40	61.88	12
203	Karingari	AS-13-179	T02 to Burungura	318.22	26.24	344.46	12	252	Udalguri	AS-26-80	Belgaon to R.U. Purni	46.91	1.50	48.41	12	312	Nagpur	AS-19-584	Diljuly TE to Diljuly Colony (Track 58)	219.23	22.23	241.46	12
204	Karingari	AS-13-180	T01 to Samalchita	241.15	19.73	260.88	12	254	Udalguri	AS-26-82	Rownam No 1 to Thengapara	321.34	10.81	332.15	12	313	Nagpur	AS-19-591	K.A Road to Kathalgut Milagkon	94.26	10.65	104.91	12
205	Karingari	AS-13-182	T02 to Athiga	366.22	25.39	381.81	12	255	Udalguri	AS-26-86	T01 to Banjuri to U.T. Road	139.73	17.68	157.41	12	314	Nagpur	AS-19-603	Ramguri to Sutarkund	87.88	8.67	96.55	12
206	Karingari	AS-13-183	T03 to Chanderapur	99.95	13.73	113.68	12	256	Udalguri	AS-26-88	Sonaiuli M 1 to U.T. Road	105.03	12.19	117.22	12	315	Nagpur	AS-19-605	Nagan Dikhipat Road to Autoly	69.99	8.73	78.72	12
207	Karingari	AS-13-184	T02 to Dalskin	331.91	27.49	359.40	12	257	Udalguri	AS-26-90	Bhutiahar to U.T. Road	160.75	4.34	165.09	12	316	Nagpur	AS-19-616	Nagaon Dikhipat Road to Mir	29.93	4.25	34.18	12
208	Karingari	AS-13-185	Churang - Kathail	512.07	41.01	553.08	12	258	Udalguri	AS-26-91	Bardanguri No 2 to Bandanguri	189.90	19.47	209.37	12	317	Nagpur	AS-19-624	Diljuly TE to Diljuly Colony	219.23	22.23	241.46	12
209	Karingari	AS-13-186	T03 to Erav V	372.63	30.79	403.42	12	259	Udalguri	AS-26-93	T01 to Tengapara Tangla Dimlakhuri	145.00	14.61	159.61	12	318	Nagpur	AS-19-605	Miss TE No 1 to Miss TE No 3	90.55	10.59	101.14	12
210	Karingari	AS-13-187	Anjor - Dullachera	116.46	8.65	125.11	12	260	Udalguri	AS-26-94	Purni Brangson to Nekhram Road	453.61	45.12	498.73	12	319	Nagpur	AS-19-609	Kadangim to Muwanam Cut Post	81.20	9.52	90.72	12
211	Karingari	AS-13-188	T05 to Kohla PT II	405.94	22.58	458.52	12	261	Udalguri	AS-02-120	No 2 Kachihar TE to Phukumura	201.21	25.20	228.41	12	320	Nagpur	AS-19-610	Miss TE to Sakeshalya	74.00	8.36	82.38	12
212	Karingari	AS-13-189	Kachihar - Dunglung	265.89	25.61	291.30	12	262	Bongaigaon	AS-02-108	Chokhakata to Hepachara	156.37	15.13	171.50	12	321	Nagpur	AS-19-612	Nir Sardaria to Pub Sadaria	265.92	31.80	297.52	12
213	Karingari	AS-13-190	Magura	206.33	17.62	225.95	12	263	Bongaigaon	AS-02-110	T02 to Sipansila Pt-IV	112.85	10.48	123.33	12	322	Nagpur	AS-19-614	Debarphupi 2/o Koch Ghati	97.61	11.35	108.96	12
214	Karingari	AS-13-191	L.K. Road to Shrampar	258.11	17.34	275.45	12	264	Bongaigaon	AS-02-114	T01 to Bhupatia PhII	58.80	5.24	64.04	12	323	Nagpur	AS-19-624	Asi & Mukanpur	51.94	5.96	57.88	12
215	Karingari	AS-13-194	T02 to Bherama	303.57	26.51	330.08	12	265	Bongaigaon	AS-02-117	T02 to Bherama Park II	120.73	11.64	134.37	12	324	Nagpur	AS-19-631	Road to Krishnapur	46.53	6.81	53.34	12
216	Karingari	AS-13-197	T01 to Bherama Pt II	233.72	22.41	246.13	12	266	Bongaigaon	AS-02-107	Phukumura to Dorda Mandir	167.07	21.77	188.84	12	325	Nagpur	AS-19-632	Khuruk to Kurukh to NH 36 Road	80.33	11.00	91.33	12
217	Karingari	AS-13-198	T05 to Kohla Pt II	268.69	25.74	294.43	12	267	Bongaigaon	AS-02-120	Pachim Bhadrabhan to Phubadha	97.79	12.20	110.59	12	326	Nagpur	AS-19-633	Tengapara - Tengapara	166.27	21.19	207.46	12
218	Darang	AS-16-73	Khomora - Kharai	265.89	25.61	291.30	12	268	Bongaigaon	AS-02-128	Mulapara Cherrapara	33.06	4.30	37.36	12	327	N.C. Hills	AS-19-206	T03 to Path II	513.97	41.44	555.41	12
219	Darang	AS-16-74	Arman No 2	230.88	22.70	253.28	12	269	Bongaigaon	AS-02-140	Jhachan to Bishnumura	159.57	13.33	177.90	12	328	N.C. Hills	AS-19-207	T01 to Leiri	955.61	90.91	1046.52	12
220	Darang	AS-16-74	Arman No 1	230.88	22.70	253.28	12	270	Bongaigaon	AS-02-141	Bojania to Bojania	127.00	12.12	138.56	12	329	N.C. Hills	AS-19-208	T01 to Chotolaisong	501.25	45.37	546.62	12
221	Darang	AS-16-75	Medelungan to Tenglia	153.55	16.34	169.89	12	271	Bongaigaon	AS-02-151	Bojania to Bojania	121.51	17.27	138.78	12	330	Sonitpur	AS-21-187	Gorakhpur 2/o Koch Ghati	51.94	9.49	106.35	12
222	Darang	AS-16-76	Duhukhali	704.60	69.14	773.74	12	272	Dhubri	AS-05-108	T01 to Tenglia	81.25	8.68	89.03	12	331	Sonitpur	AS-21-188	Bojania to Tenglia	123.68	13.82	137.30	12
223	Darang	AS-16-77	Salsojan to Gobhara	131.65	4.32	135.97	12	273	Dhubri	AS-05-104	T02 to Kambari	129.13	13.03	142.16	12	332	Sonitpur	AS-22-118	Kachirongia to Chemirani to Ghogra	154.40	17.14	171.54	12
224	Darang	AS-16-78	Salsojan to Jorhat	122.40	13.73	136.13	12	274	Dhubri	AS-05-105	T05 to Melakuri	214.02	18.26	232.29	12	333	Sonitpur	AS-22-191	Ubulan to Meghal Ali (T01 to Meghal Ali)	123.68	13.82	137.30	12
225	Darang	AS-16-79	Salsojan to Sonai	261.86	20.37	282.23	12	275	Dhubri	AS-05-106	T02 to Lalgupara	57.55	6.75	64.77	12	334	Sonitpur	AS-22-192	Ubulan to Meghal Ali (T02 to Meghal Ali)	297.61	27.75	325.36	12
226	Darang	AS-16-80	Suklaguri No 2 to Dumuruchow	200.89	10.90	210.79	12	276	Dhubri	AS-05-107	T02 to Sonai	88.37	7.57	95.94	12	335	Sonitpur	AS-22-194	Chirang to Dihing to Dihing	102.50	10.12	112.62	12
227	Darang	AS-16-81	Gangapuri Kharai	174.19	18.45	192.64	12	277	Dhubri	AS-05-115	T02 to Kachihar	121.80	14.35	136.16	12	336	Sonitpur	AS-22-205	Nurjyoti No 2/o Singli	285.69	31.41	317.10	12
228	Darang	AS-16-82	Neopanji (VH42) Road	125.33	13.97	139.30	12	278	Dhubri	AS-05-116	Jharkhola to Kachihar	101.01	10.12	123.13	12	337	Sonitpur	AS-22-206	Singli 2/o (T03 to Shakti Punin Village)	123.68	13.82	137.30	12
229	Darang	AS-16-83	Chirang to Shympru No 4	261.86	20.37	282.23	12	279	Dhubri	AS-05-117	NH-37 to Chilabdu	59.02	5.75	64.77	12	338	Sonitpur	AS-22-208	Borongora to Dihing	183.18	19.53	202.71	12
230	Darang	AS-16-84	Suklaguri No 2 to Dihing	318.19	10.90	339.08	12	280	Dhubri	AS-05-118	T02 to Dagon No.5	265.74	24.09	289.83	12	339	Sonitpur	AS-22-209	Gohpur to Gohpur TE (T01 to Gohpur TE No 556 (Gra))	140.01	11.91	151.92	12
231	Darang	AS-16-85	Khongra No 1 to Dihing	44.89	4.35	49.24	12	281	Dhubri	AS-05-119	Halongi												

IRDAI issues new outsourcing guidelines for insurers

MUMBAI, May 7: The sectoral watchdog IRDAI has issued new guidelines on outsourcing activities by insurers by clearly defining the areas of work that should be done in-house and those which can be handed over to third parties.

The regulator said the regulations dated April 20 will put on the Gazette of India on May 5, aimed at ensuring that insurers follow prudent practices on management of risks arising out of outsourcing so as to prevent negative systemic impacts on one hand and to protect the interests of the policyholders on the other.

The move is also to ensure sound and responsive management practices for effective oversight and adequate due diligence while outsourcing activities by insurers, it added.

Accordingly, the new regulations ban insurers from outsourcing investments

and related functions to third parties, apart from not allowing fund management, including NAV calculations; compliance with AML and product design.

Insurers are also expected to do all risk management in-house, apart from decision-making on underwriting and claims functions excluding procedural activities related to payment of survival benefit claims in life insurance; policyholders' grievances redressal; decision to appoint insurance agents; surveyors; loss assessors and finally, appraising advertisements.

IRDAI said the new regulations called 'Outsourcing of activities by insurers Regulation of 2017,' will come into force from the date of their publication in the Official Gazette and supersede the guidelines issued earlier.

However, these norms are not applicable



Assam Governor Banwarilal Purohit visiting a stall during the concluding function of Vibrant North East-2017 at Veterinary College playground, Kharapara in Gauhati on Saturday. — UNI

CAPSULE

OVL output

NEW DELHI, May 7: ONGC Videsh, the overseas arm of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corp, produced a record 12.57 million tonnes of crude oil and equivalent gas from its assets abroad in 2016-17. The output was up from 8.92 million tonnes of oil and oil equivalent gas in the previous fiscal 2015-16. OVL MD Narendra K Verma said. — PTI

SBI directors

MUMBAI, May 7: The country's largest lender SBI has invited applications for appointment of four independent directors to its central board who will be elected by shareholders on June 15. The election has been necessitated after the resignation of Sunil Mehta and the expiry of the three-year-term of the three other directors – Deepak Arora, Sanjiv Malhotra and MD Mallya, the bank said in a notice. — PTI

Toyota plans

NEW DELHI, May 7: Toyota Kirloskar Motor plans to enhance exports for which it is in discussion with parent Toyota Motor Corporation for support in export markets for its Etios series. The company, which is a joint venture between the Japanese auto major and Kirloskar group, is looking for better capacity utilisation from its second manufacturing plant in Bengaluru. — PTI

NSE mechanism

MUMBAI, May 7: Top stock exchange NSE has set up a seamless announcement filing mechanism to provide information to investors without any loss of time. The announcements filed by the new company under the new system will be disseminated directly on the NSE website without the exchange's intervention. — PTI

Parle target

MUMBAI, May 7: With an aim to give Parle a distinctive identity for its premium products, biscuits and confectionery maker Parle has created a new division – Parle Platina, and is eyeing a quarter of its revenue from the segment over the next two to three years. "Biscuits like Seekh, Milano, Maxox and Simply Good are more futuristic and aspirational," Parle Products Category Head Mayank Shah told PTI.

Intex accessories

NEW DELHI, May 7: Home-based handset maker Intex expects to post 40 per cent growth and Rs 140 crore in revenues from its accessories business – a segment that is presently dominated by unbranded products. "Our accessories business has already clocked a growth of Rs 100 crore last year. We have seen a strong acceptance of our products... Intex Technologies Business Head Manish Gupta told PTI.

Vistara menu

NEW DELHI, May 7: Full-service airline Vistara plans to introduce a "signature drink" and rework its menu choices for passengers onboard. — PTI

TRAI to 'look into' complaints

NEW DELHI, May 7: Telecom regulator TRAI will "look into" the complaints about operators doing out customised retention offers to influence subscribers who want to shift to their network.

TRAI Chairman RS Sharma asserted that all offerings by operators to be transparent and non-discriminatory and filed with the regulator but refused to be drawn into the specifics.

"If these complaints come, we will certainly look into them. Because the tariff has to satisfy the criteria of being transparent and being non-discriminatory. So these principles have to be followed... We will look into that," Sharma told PTI.

He was responding to a query about TRAI views on newcomer Reliance Jio's recent allegations that incumbent operators are lining up customised retention offers for subscribers wanting to shift to a rival network.

Jio had termed such methods as being "unfair and deceptive," and claimed that the offers were being presented to customers "surprisingly" on one-to-one basis and not available to the general public.

Nor are the companies openly publicising such offers on their website as is stipulated, Jio charged, demanding that "strongest action" against the three operators – Airtel, Vodafone and Idea Cellular – for what it termed as a gross violation of TRAI's norms.

"I remember having discussions in TRAI in one of the meetings that such complaints have come. But I have not seen the specific complaints," Sharma said.

While it may be natural for operators to play up offerings and the strength of their networks to the competing customers, telcos cannot offer plans that they do not file with TRAI, he said.

"If someone tries to leave, people will tell him ours is the best network, that is part of the business. (But) I don't think any operator should be giving a plan which is not given to TRAI... Or is not a part of their standard set of plans," he said.

As per the norms, while tariffs are under forbearance, every plan has to be filed with the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) within 7 working days from its launch. — PTI

Customised retention offers

NEW DELHI, May 6: India's FDI inflow momentum may slow down this year and exports too may not revive with "full gusto" as domestic bottlenecks remain, says a report.

Although the world growth is likely to have improved, a strengthening rupee and worsening domestic bottlenecks could limit the increase, it said.

"Stronger exports and higher FDI inflows have likely contributed to the strong performance of the INR in recent times. While both are likely to remain buoyant, we believe it is important to note that in incremental gains over the short term, growth may not be limitless," HSBC said in a research note.

The global financial services market noted further that world growth explains just a third of India's exports performance and as long as domestic bottlenecks remain a constraint, exports may not revive with full "gusto".

Besides stalled investments, domestic constraints include cotton availability for textiles, irrigation facilities for agriculture, FDI for engineering goods, hubs for software exports and tariff rates for all. FDI inflows have dropped to \$4 billion in 2016 from \$22 billion in 2013.

Moreover, FDI outflows have also been falling, resulting in a rapid rise in net FDI gains for the economy. So much so, net FDI alone has completely funded India's current account deficit over the last three years, HSBC said. — PTI



Union Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences Dr Harsh Vardhan witnessing the signing of an MoU between CSIR and CII at a function in New Delhi on Saturday. — UNI

Saregama's Carvaan banking on nostalgia value

NEW DELHI, May 7: At a time when smartphones and digital devices have disrupted the way we listen to music, popular label Saregama is seeking to turn the clock back with its radio-cum-music player Carvaan that is pre-loaded with 5,000 evergreen Hindi songs.

With golden hits of the 1970s-80s from legendary singers such as Lata Mangeshkar, Mohd Rafi and Kishore Kumar, the company, once known as the Gramophone Company of India, is seeking to tap customers in the age group of 35 years and above.

"These were the groups, which helped our CDs and cassettes. Now all those homes would find a new convenient way of listening to music," Saregama India MD Vikram Mehra told PTI.

The company has designed Carvaan in the old radio style while incorporating modern features such as USB port and Bluetooth, allowing listeners to choose their preferred songs.

Carvaan is priced at Rs 5,990.

When asked how confident was the company of Carvaan's success considering the change in consumption pattern of music in the new digital age, he said: "We at Saregama believe that still lot of scope is left in the physical world."

He further said: "Our focus is to ensure that this music goes to people through every means possible. We would not take a judgemental call that this is right or that is wrong."

Optimistic about Carvaan getting good response from the market, Mehra said: "We are retailing it from all major e-commerce platforms such as Cromax and Reliance Digital and other conventional TV and electronic stores."

The company has already put a network of 100 distributors and 1,200 retailers and has plans to double it to 2,500 before Diwali, focusing on large and small towns.

Mehra, however, said that in order to keep pace with changing times, Saregama has also focused on the digital medium.

"We are growing a lot digitally. It is helping us not only to expand in the Indian market, but also in foreign shores, where people of Indian diaspora are present in large numbers," he added.

The company has a catalogue of over 1.17 lakh songs in 14 languages and would keep on adding new titles from Hindi and Tamil films, along with devotional and classic music in all languages, he said.

"Our focus is on creating newer and newer music while finding alternative ways to retain that music to the customers, both in the digital world and the physical world," he added.

"We are growing a lot digitally. It is helping us not only to expand in the Indian market, but also in foreign shores, where people of Indian diaspora are present in large numbers," he added.

The company has a catalogue of



Assam Governor Banwarilal Purohit visiting a stall during the concluding function of Vibrant North East-2017 at Veterinary College playground, Kharapara in Gauhati on Saturday. — UNI

FDI momentum may slow down this year: Report

NEW DELHI, May 7: India's FDI inflow momentum may slow down this year and exports too may not revive with "full gusto" as domestic bottlenecks remain, says a report.

In a letter to TRAI last month, Jio had termed such methods as being "unfair and deceptive," and claimed that the offers were being presented to customers "surprisingly" on one-to-one basis and not available

NPCI to roll out RuPay credit cards soon: Hota

NEW DELHI, May 7: National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the nodal agency for digital payment systems, is going to launch its RuPay credit cards in the country, will soon

through non-cash mode.

He said installation of micro ATMs by banks through their business correspondents and Aadhaar pay platform will help acceptance of digital payments in rural areas.

"Last year, for all the banks together installed 100,000 micro ATMs by banks through their business correspondents and Aadhaar pay platform will help acceptance of digital payments in rural areas.

"We will start these interoperable tap-and-go cards for transit payment for metro and bus ride. We are starting this pilot project, about 7,200 transit cards have been issued with Bangalore first. From June, the service will be expanded to Kochi and Ahmedabad," Hota said.

Speaking about digital payment expansion in the country, he said NPCI has now about 2.30 lakh bank ATMs and 3 crore point of sales (PoS) terminals under its fold that will help it reach to a maximum people

Junked notes

ICAI asks auditors to ensure proper disclosure

NEW DELHI, May 7: Chartered accountants' apex body ICAI has asked its members to ensure that companies have made adequate disclosures about transactions involving called notes post-dematerialisation till December 30, 2016.

Companies are required to disclose details about transactions involving scrapped notes from November 8 till December 30 in the annual financial statements and auditors are required to mention in their reports about such details.

In this regard, the Corporate Affairs Ministry has made amendments to certain provisions under the Companies Act, 2013.

Following the Ministry's decision, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has issued a communication to its members about the disclosure requirement pertaining to the scrapped notes.

In its efforts to fight the black money menace as well as curb corruption, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 8 last year announced cancelling old Rs 500 and 1,000 notes.

From November 8 till December 30, 2016, entities, including individuals, were allowed to deposit the invalid notes with banks. For a brief period, exchange of junked notes was also permitted.

"Every company shall disclose the details of Specified Bank Notes (SBNs) held and transacted during the period from November 8, 2016 to December 30, 2016" in a given tabular form, the Ministry said in a recent notification.

SBNs are the demonetised notes.

The companies are required to mention closing cash in hand as on November 8 and on December 30.

Besides, the ministry has directed auditors to state whether the company had provided requisite disclosures in its financial statements as to holdings as well as dealings in SBNs during the period from November 8, 2016 to December 30, 2016 and if so, whether these are in accordance with the books of accounts maintained by the company.

Citing these directions from the ministry, the ICAI has issued the communication to its members - who carry out the audit of companies.

"We request you to please note the amendment and take care in your professional capacity for disclosure requirements and reporting requirements while accounting/auditing the financial statements for the year 2016-2017," the ICAI communication said. — PTI

India-specific TVs on anvil: Sony

NEW DELHI, May 7: Bollywood's vibrant colours and dynamic music have turned out to be key reference points for Japanese consumer electronics major Sony, which is seeking to strengthen its dominance in premium TV panel segment in India by selling more products tailored for the market.

Having tasted success, the company is now even looking to come up with high-end ultra-high definition (4K) technology at affordable price range even as it steps up its consumer research here.

With internet-enabled TV becoming popular, the company will also launch a new range, which will have YouTube button on remote control, later this year.

"India is a quite unique and big market for us, so we have made lot of research and development to make best product for India," Sony India Pvt Ltd Managing Director Kenichiro Hibi told PTI in an interview.

The company's research in India conducts studies about consumer behaviour, pattern of TV usage, kind of programme watched, preference for particular picture and colour; and the kind of sound they like.

These feedback are then shared with global engineers along inputs as to what kind of features, picture quality and sound is required for India so as to develop product to meet Indian requirements, Hibi added.

Citing example of Sony's popular 46 and 49 inches model range developed specially for India, he said: "The Indian people, they like Bollywood movies. They are crazy about sound and they never compromise on sound. Even they like to be very colourful. So, the colour reproduction should be very precise."

The effort, thus, was to highlight colour reproduction as much as possible, while a subwoofer was added to cater to their preference for sound with the TV, he said. — PTI

Rajnath, 10 CMs to meet today over Maoist menace

NEW DELHI, May 7: Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh and chief ministers of 10 Maoist violence-hit States will brainstorm tomorrow over ways to tackle the menace, a fortnight after 25 CRPF men were massacred by underground guerrillas in Chhattisgarh's Sukma.

Ahead of the crucial meeting, the strategic command headquarters of CRPF's anti-Naxals operation was shifted from Kolkata to Chhattisgarh.

The conclave would discuss ways to revamp intelligence gathering mechanism, take a close look at ongoing operations against Naxalites, identify problem areas and devise ways to minimise casualties among the security forces, a home ministry official said today.

Altogether 37 CRPF personnel have been killed by Naxalites in the worst-hit

Chhattisgarh in less than two months. The April 24 assault on a CRPF road opening party that claimed lives of 25 personnel was the deadliest since the April 2010 attack in Dantewada, also in Chhattisgarh, in which 76 personnel were slain.

Chief ministers of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Bihar, Maharashtra, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh have been invited to meeting which would be chaired by Singh.

District magistrates and superintendents of police of 35 worst-hit districts, besides heads of paramilitary forces and intelligence agencies will attend the meeting.

On top of the agenda will be the issue of re-calibrating the anti-Naxal strategy

to make it more effective, and to minimise casualties, the official said.

The Home Minister has asked security officials to look for out-of-the box solutions to the problem of successive attacks by Naxalites on security personnel providing protection for road repair or development work in the troubled areas.

Road construction and other developmental activities in the affected areas will also be discussed. Ways to cut down on time spent on laying roads are also likely to be discussed. Road opening parties of central paramilitary forces have repeatedly come under savage assault by Naxalites here tomorrow.

Home ministry sources said currently 90 per cent of Maoist activity is limited to 35 districts, though the ultra-Left guerrillas have pockets of influence in 68

districts in 10 states.

Meanwhile, in a move to shore up its capabilities to tackle Maoist violence, the CRPF has ordered "immediate" shifting of the command headquarters of central zone of the force from Kolkata to Raipur.

The move comes roughly seven years after it was shifted from Raipur to Kolkata due to logistical and connectivity issues.

Official sources said the newly appointed CRPF Director General Rajeev Rai Bhattacharya has been asked to ensure the command begins functioning from Raipur before the high-level meeting of Left Wing Extremism (LWE)-hit states here tomorrow.

After the order was issued on May 4, CRPF ADG (central zone) Kuldeep Singh was air-dashed to Raipur and he took charge of the command on Friday.

The central zone, an operational field formation, was set up on August 7, 2009, and was tasked with the responsibility of deployment of CRPF troops in the entire "red belt" of states hit by Naxalite violence including West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. Uttar Pradesh has been largely free from Naxalite violence in the last few years.

It was moved to Kolkata in July 2010 after the Dantewada attack exposed the problem of poor rail and air connectivity. 75 CRPF personnel and a constable of Chhattisgarh police were massacred by Maoist guerrillas on April 6.

"The idea is to base the Naxal command headquartered where the exact fight and the LWE challenge is.

"The ministry felt that having this strategic office, headed by an ADG rank officer, in far off Kolkata was not serving the purpose of strategising quick, intelligence-based and coordinated offensives against Naxals right where the guerrillas are posing the biggest threat to internal security of the country," a senior officer said.

The command office has been tasked with strategizing on launching joint operations with the Indian Air Force, Border Security Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police and the state police along the southern tip of Bastar in Chhattisgarh where its border meets with Odisha, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, all of which are affected by Maoist violence. Maoist rebels quickly move to other states after launching an attack in one. - PTI

Over 500 cops for Justin Bieber show

MUMBAI, May 7: The police have prepared a detailed security plan for international pop sensation Justin Bieber's concert, which includes a cover of 500 personnel and use of drone cameras.

Bieber is set to perform at DY Patil stadium on May 10 in neighbouring Navi Mumbai and around 45,000 people are expected to attend the show.

Twenty five officers will also be deployed for security, said Hemant Nagale, Navi Mumbai police commissioner.

Organisers have hired private security agencies for crowd management and ticket checking, he said.

Nagale added plain-clothes police personnel would keep a watch inside the stadium. - PTI

J&K govt to act against 34 channels

SRINAGAR, May 7: The Jammu and Kashmir government has asked all the deputy commissioners of the state to take action against transmission of 34 TV channels, including those from Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, saying they have the potential to incite violence and create law and order situation.

The directive comes after the Centre asked the State government to take immediate steps to stop the unauthorised broadcast of Pakistani and Saudi Arabian channels in the state.

It has been reported that the cable operators in the Valley have been transmitting certain TV channels (which are not permitted by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India). - PTI

Over Rs 2 crore donations made for martyrs' families

NEW DELHI, May 7: A modest Rs 2.1 crore has been donated by the people to a fund set up a month ago by the Home Ministry to help families of paramilitary personnel who laid down their lives fighting extremists.

Rs 60 lakh of the said amount has been received for 25 personnel who were massacred by the Naxals in Chhattisgarh on April 24.

"Encouraging response to #BharatKeVeer website. Within a month, the portal has received more than Rs 2 crore for helping martyrs' families," Home Minister Rajnath Singh tweeted.

The app and the website 'BharatKeVeer' was launched last month by Singh along with Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar, who mooted the idea. General public can visit the portal and make the contribution to support the families of those jawans who died in the line of duty.

"The monetary contributions made on the website go straight into the bank account of martyred soldier's family," the home minister said. - PTI

Female candidate asked to remove innerwear

KANNUR (Kerala), May 7: In a shocking incident, a female candidate who appeared at a NEET centre here on Sunday claimed she had to remove her innerwear before sitting for the entrance test. Other women candidates too faced a harrowing experience due to a strict dress code in force.

The anguished candidate told media persons after attempting the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) – conducted for admission to undergraduate medical courses in government and private medical colleges in the country – that she was asked by the examination centre's officials to remove her innerwear.

"My daughter went inside the centre, only to return later and hand me her top innerwear," said her mother.

Another candidate, who was wearing a pair of jeans, was asked to remove a pocket as well as metal buttons from the clothing. Her father said, "She was weeping jeans. Since it had pockets and metal buttons, they needed to be removed. I went to a shop about three km away from the exam centre and bought a new dress for her after getting the shop opened." - IANS



Flower pots hanging with electric poles at Budshah bridge leading to civil secretariat, the seat of the Government to start function from Monday in Srinagar, ahead of reopening of biannual 'Darbar' office, on Sunday. - UNI

India behind 161 nations in ratifying treaty on torture

NEW DELHI, May 7: India stands behind 161 nations, including Pakistan, as it is yet to ratify the 30-year-old United Nations' Convention Against Torture by making a law on it despite signing it way back in 1997.

This will sound bizarre, but India is among the only nine countries worldwide which are yet to ratify this crucial convention, an essential condition for a signatory state to ratify the international human rights treaty.

The facts have been taken strong note of by the Supreme Court which has asked the government why it was not making at least a "good faith commitment" about its intention to legislate in the matter.

"We do understand that the legislative process can take time, but tell us why

can't you (Centre) make a 'good faith commitment' on the law before us," a bench headed by Chief Justice J S Khehar said.

"This is an extremely important issue in the national interest and moreover, there is no conflict," the bench, also comprising Justices D Y Chandrachud and S K Kaushal, said.

The remarks were made when Congress leader and former Law Minister Ashwani Kumar pointed out that India was among the only nine nations left in the world which have not yet ratified the treaty despite signing it.

The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment', also known as United Nations Convention against

Torture, is an international human rights treaty aimed to prevent torture and other acts of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment around the world.

Solicitor General Ranjit Kumar, appearing for the Centre, sought some time on the ground that some states are yet to be consulted before a fresh bid is made to legislate.

The top court said "it is nice to say that we are committed to the treaty, but there has to be a law".

The Solicitor General had referred to the fact that the Bill on torture was moved in 2010 in Lok Sabha by the erstwhile UPA-II regime, a process in which Kumar, former law minister and senior advocate, was a part. But the legislation had lapsed. - PTI



Caparisoned elephants at a temple ritual in Thiruvananthapuram on Sunday. - UNI

World's tallest rail bridge soon over river Chenab in J&K

KATRA (J&K), May 7: India will soon boast the world's tallest railway bridge, construction of which is in full swing, over the river Chenab in the hostile terrain of Jammu and Kashmir.

Designed by consultants from Finland and Germany, the 1,315 km-long bridge will soar to a height of 359 metres over the Chenab, which is 353 metres taller than the Eiffel Tower.

Once completed, it will be an iconic bridge and an engineering marvel of the world, said Railway Chief Engineer B B S Tomar who is involved in the project.

The bridge forms the crucial link in the 111-km stretch between Katra and Banihal which is part of

the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla section of the Kashmir Railway project.

Since the area is in a high seismic zone and also near the border, special care is being taken by the DRDO to equip the Rs 12,000-crore bridge to withstand any major blast in the militancy-affected region. Currently, 1,400 men are working through the day to complete the behemoth structure by March, 2019.

"It is an incredible undertaking because you are building a very large steel bridge in a very remote location and getting those competent contractors to get the job done," said David Mackenzie, a UK-based quality consultant.

About his role in the project he said "My role is about quality control and advising them what is acceptable and not acceptable."

This is a major work of world class standard and the international community will be fascinated to know and read about it. It is definitely an engineering marvel and India should boast about it".

The area was inaccessible earlier and the railways have to make 22 km of roads access path for the construction of the bridge.

The area was inaccessible earlier and the railways have to make 22 km of roads access path for the construction of the bridge.

According to the plan, a ring of aerial security will be provided to safeguard the bridge. An online monitoring and warning system will be installed on the bridge to protect passengers and trains in critical

conditions. Footpaths and cycle tracks will be provided adjacent to it.

Railways will install sensors on the bridge to check the wind velocity and as soon as the wind speed exceeds 90 kmph, the signal on the track will turn red, preventing train movement.

"The construction of the bridge is the most challenging part of the Kashmir rail link project," said Tomar. There will also be a ropeway on the bridge for inspection and maintenance purposes.

Steel was the chosen material to construct the humongous bridge as it is more economical and able to resist temperatures of minus 20 degrees Celsius and wind speeds above 250 kmph.

It will require a mammoth 24,000-plus tonnes of steel to construct the bridge. In order to enhance safety and security, the bridge will be made of 63 mm-thick special blast-proof steel in the region prone to frequent terror attacks.

The concrete pillars of the bridge are designed to withstand explosions. The bridge will include a 14 metre-wide dual carriageway and a 1.2 metre-wide central verge.

The structure will be painted with a special corrosion-resistant paint which lasts for 15 years. It will also contribute to the economic development of the state and help in providing better transportation accessibility within the state and the country. - PTI

Cong seeks FIR against Kejriwal, his resignation

NEW DELHI, May 7: The Congress on Sunday demanded the Modi government to initiate criminal action against Arvind Kejriwal over bribery allegations and asked him to step down as Delhi's Chief Minister.

A day after being sacked as Water Minister, Aam Aadmi Party legislator Kapil Mishra claimed he saw Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain handing out Rs 2 crore to the Chief Minister at his residence.

Mishra also alleged that Kejriwal informed him about "settling land deals worth Rs 50 crore for Kejriwal's relative".

Delhi Congress President Ajay Maken told the media that Mishra's claims were not mere allegations but testimony of an eyewitness warranting initiation of criminal proceedings against Kejriwal.

"Mishra's claim that Kejriwal took Rs 2 crore is not mere allegation rather an affidavit before the public of what he saw. He is saying what he saw as an eyewitness. The Centre, the Anti-Corruption Bureau and the CBI should immediately take action and register an FIR against Kejriwal.

Kejriwal should quit as Delhi CM on moral grounds: BJP

NEW DELHI, May 7: The Delhi unit of BJP today demanded resignation of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who has been accused by AAP MLA and sacked minister Kapil Mishra of taking Rs 2 crore illegal cash on moral grounds.

Manoj Tiwari, the city chief of the BJP, said Kejriwal should step down if he has any moral left with him, within hours of Mishra's charging of corruption against Kejriwal and Health Minister Satyendar Jain, Tiwari said he would meet Lt Governor and Lt Governor Ajai Bajaj in the day and urge for his intervention in the matter.

"In case Kejriwal doesn't resign, the Lt Governor should examine the possibility of recommending 'dismissal' of the AAP-led Delhi government to the President," Tiwari said in a press conference.

"Kejriwal should resign if has any moral left with him because Kapil Mishra, who

termed it as a 'lie'. - PTI

Vishwas defends Delhi CM

NEW DELHI, May 7: Senior AAP leader Kumar Vishwas today came out in support of Arvind Kejriwal, saying he has known him for 12 years and even his enemies cannot imagine him taking a bribe.

His remarks came after Kapil Mishra, who was yesterday sacked as Delhi water minister, alleged that he saw Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain giving Kejriwal Rs 2 crore.

We can disagree, fight or be disappointed with each other ... I know Arvind for 12 years and I can say that I cannot imagine him taking a bribe or being corrupt ... Even his enemies cannot imagine this," he told reporters.

Kejriwal has said 100 times that he

should be removed if he is corrupt. I have called Satyendar Jain and asked him to explain his position in the PAC ... Whether he is being framed or has there been a mistake, we are ready for an investigation ... Be it an ED or a CBI probe," Vishwas said.

He told reporters that the AAP's Political Affairs Committee will meet either in the evening or tomorrow.

"I feel sad about the allegations. Be it about the party's internal talks, discrepancies in ticket distribution, loopholes in political agenda but it is wrong to level such allegations publicly," he said. Mishra is considered close to Vishwas, who had recently threatened to quit the party. - PTI



I choose projects that leave me sleepless," Mozart of Madras' AR Rahman tells Sandeep Sharma in an interview

Oscar-winning composer AR Rahman says whether a project comes from Bollywood, Hollywood or from any part of the world, it catches his interest as long as passionate people are involved in it and it leaves him sleepless about giving it his best shot.

"I love music. I always tell my team that we have to move forward and look into projects that excite us. If something doesn't excite me, I don't show interest in doing it. I don't want to let my listeners suffer," Rahman told IANS in an interview at the India prelude launch of his *Le Musk* directorial debut.

"Before taking up a project, there is research done first. It needs to excite me. So far I have done what I had energy to do and will keep doing that. The project needs to make me sleepless to deliver something satisfactory."

"I just look how passionate the other person is about the project, irrespective of the language or place that he belongs to," added the 50-year-old, who has completed 25 years in the music industry since the release of the 1992 film *Roja*.

Besides India, where he is known by the 'Mozart of Madras' sobriquet, Rahman has carved out a niche for himself in the West through his impactful and award-winning compositions in films like *Slumdog Millionaire*, *12 Years a Slave* and *Pride*. He has also composed music for Iranian and British movies.

About Hollywood, he feels watching movies from the American market has been part of India's movie-going culture.

"We have been seeing Hollywood films since a long time now. It has become a part of our culture. I have been watching them since childhood. It's

part of my now," Rahman said.

On whether his approach to Hollywood projects is any different as compared to his work in Indian movies, the composer said: "It's about wearing different hats... When we go to a party, we speak in a different way, and when we speak to our mother or a friend, then we speak in a different way. It comes naturally when you are involved in it."

For now, Rahman is upbeat about his latest tryst with technology — *Le Musk*, a virtual reality (VR) multi-sensorial episodic film which has been shot across various locations in Rome. He has not just directed it, but has also written it.

Rahman said his introduction to the technology in 2015. He was hesitant to try it, but got so hooked on it that he would spend as many as six hours a day working with it.

But how did the concept of *Le Musk* emerge?

"One day I was chatting with my wife (Sara Banu) and she is fond of perfumes. So, she said, 'Why don't you make a movie on perfumes?' It was actually her initiative. That time I wanted to create a theatre with projections all over and have seened to add it — just as an experiment."

"But, in three months, somebody gave me a headshot and their wife said don't create a theatre and rather do it with VR, which is evolving. It was a kind of experiment and I loved doing it. So now I will look at doing more of it," he added.

Rahman is also gearing up to perform at a musical night called IIFA Rocks as part of the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) festival to be held in New York in July. He guarantees "surprises" — IANS

"But it's a kind of experiment and I loved doing it. So now I will look at doing more of it," he added.

Rahman is also gearing up to perform at a musical night called IIFA Rocks as part of the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) festival to be held in New York in July. He guarantees "surprises" — IANS

Know your DAY

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, May 8, 2017.

This year you are opening up to different energy, whether by choice or circumstance. You will grow and gain a greater understanding of your immediate circle of friends. If you are single, you will meet someone with ease; however, the nature of the relationship could be somewhat volatile. Part of the reason you are going to meet someone is because you won't worry about who is likely to be your mate; someone who is easier to relate to in the next 12 months. If you are attached, you often take the opposite point of view from your sweetie. Though you love to play devil's advocate, you also express a great deal of compassion. LIBRA often touches you with its love and concern.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

**** Defer to others as you try to loosen up what could be a difficult situation. More information comes forward that might add a level of confirmation that even though the heat of the chaos, solutions are on the horizon. Tonight: Choose a stress-buster.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

**** You have what it takes to deal with various problems. The fact that you are logical and stoic helps others trust you. Some of what you see in the future may not be back and take another look. A financial matter will be affected to some degree. Tonight: Choose a stress-buster.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

**** Your imagination provides lightness when you're faced with challenges. Make sure that others understand where you are coming from. A boss may express a more challenging perspective. Do whatever you can to get things off your plate. Be spontaneous.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

**** Your emphasis is on family matters. Confusion surrounds various areas of your life, but it seems to funnel mostly into your personal life. The unexpected keeps shaking up the status quo. You could feel exhausted and become overly tired if tried to rest. Tonight: Make it an early night.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

**** You generally are upbeat and direct. You know when to pull out a pad of paper. What you hear and how you hear it makes from the least to the most important instantly of the present situation. Try to turn down the emotional temperature. Tonight: Work through stress.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

**** You understand that the money isn't everything. However, you need to learn to deal with a partner being unpredictable and challenging when it comes to your finances. Do your best to keep your cool, despite what goes down. Tonight: Make it easy and play it low-key.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

**** Choose your words carefully, and don't say anything that could cause more upset. Remember, you are a master of diplomacy. Don't be afraid to speak up. This will pay off in a difficult situation. Others trust your behavior. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

**** Kick back and relax. The less involved you are in the less you will feel the pressure of instability of the present situation. Try to turn down the emotional temperature. Tonight: Work through stress.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

**** Your natural inclination is to withdraw and quietly observe. Others can't seem to gain control of a situation or their emotions. You are more likely to play it safe and take a role with a loved one. Your creativity peaks as the day goes on. Tonight: You have a reason to smile.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

**** You might feel as if someone is holding you back. Understand that it is a lot going on with this person right now. Be patient, and you will see better results in the long run. Try not to personalize others' attitudes or words. Tomorrow is a new day. Tonight: A must appearance.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

**** Your ability to make a difference marks your behavior and your long-term desires. Let go of a feeling of frustration. Identify who the other person involved is and what would be like to be in this same situation. Tonight: Go to a jam session, or watch a concert.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

**** Defer to someone whom you care a lot about. Someone who has influence over your life might be extremely difficult and challenging right now. Let this person's attitude wash right over you. As a result, you will prevent this moment from becoming more serious. Tonight: Be a duo.

*** ***

Learning never exhausts the mind.
— LEONARDO DA VINCI

Music for AR: products of passion

Kids

CN
Cartoon Network

12:00 Ben 10 Omnitrix
12:30 Klettu
13:00 Ben 10 Alien Force
14:00 Ben 10 Omnitrix
15:00 Robot No. 1
15:30 Ben 10 Alien Force
16:00 We Bare Bears
17:00 Ben 10
17:30 Ben 10 Go
18:00 Larva
18:30 Ben 10
19:00 Ben 10 Go
20:00 Dragon Ball Z
23:30 Telephoning

PACO

12:00 Takashi Castle
12:30 Mr. Potato Head: The Animated...
13:00 Tom and Jerry Show
13:30 Chhota Bheem
21:30 Teletubbies
21:30 Takashi Castle
22:00 Chhota Bheem
22:30 Chhota Bheem
23:30 M.A.D.
23:30 Telephoning

Infotainment

ANIMAL PLANET

12:00 Predators
12:30 Animal Kingdom
13:00 Animal Kingdom
13:30 Jungle Safari
17:00 Fit for the Wild
17:30 Natural Born Huntress
18:00 Hello World
18:30 Animal Kingdom
21:00 Animal Adventures
22:00 Reptile Kingdom
23:00 Jungle Safari

Discovery

12:30 Food Fighters
13:00 River Monsters
13:30 Mystery of the Megalodon
14:00 Untamed & Uncut
15:00 Man Vs. Wild
15:30 Untamed & Uncut
16:00 Food Fighters
18:00 Man Vs. Wild
18:30 Untamed & Uncut
20:00 River Monsters
21:00 Untamed & Uncut
22:00 Naked and Afraid

NAT GEO PEOPLE

12:30 The Game Chef
12:50 Living Free With Klim...

ANIMAL FIGHT CLUB

17:00 Animal Fight Club

Entertainment

StarPlus

12:00 Kya Queen Hai Amala Ka?
12:30 Chhota Bheem
13:00 Shakti-Astha Ke Ehsas Ki
13:30 Shakti-Astha Ke Ehsas Ki
14:00 Ishqbaaz
15:00 Rani
15:30 Yeh Rishta Kehna Hai
16:00 Meri Dungri
16:30 Sath Nibhanay Shasthya
17:00 Suhani Bi Es Ladi
17:30 Jaana De Do Do
18:00 Meri Dungri
18:30 Pades Mein Hail Meri
19:00 Pades Mein Hail Meri
20:00 Pades Mein Hail Meri

colors

12:00 Ek Shringeri - Swabhiman
12:30 Kasam
13:00 Shakti-Astha Ke Ehsas Ki
13:30 Shakti-Astha Ke Ehsas Ki
14:00 Dil Se Dil Tak
15:00 Meri Dungri
16:00 Sath Nibhanay Shasthya
17:00 Suhani Bi Es Ladi
17:30 Jaana De Do Do
18:00 Meri Dungri
18:30 Pades Mein Hail Meri
19:00 Pades Mein Hail Meri
20:00 Pades Mein Hail Meri

SONY

12:00 The Kapil Sharma Show
12:30 Comedy King 100
13:00 Yeh Moh Moh Ke Dhage
13:30 Shakti-Astha Ke Ehsas Ki
14:00 Dil Se Dil Tak
15:00 Meri Dungri
16:00 Sath Nibhanay Shasthya
17:00 Suhani Bi Es Ladi
17:30 Jaana De Do Do
18:00 Meri Dungri
18:30 Pades Mein Hail Meri
19:00 Pades Mein Hail Meri
20:00 Pades Mein Hail Meri

HBO

12:00 The Kapil Sharma Show
12:30 Comedy King 100
13:00 Yeh Moh Moh Ke Dhage
13:30 Shakti-Astha Ke Ehsas Ki
14:00 Dil Se Dil Tak
15:00 Meri Dungri
16:00 Sath Nibhanay Shasthya
17:00 Suhani Bi Es Ladi
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18:30 Pades Mein Hail Meri
19:00 Pades Mein Hail Meri
20:00 Pades Mein Hail Meri

SONY PIX

12:00 The Grey
12:30 The Grey
13:00 Batman Begins
13:30 The Descent Part 2
14:30 Shrek
15:00 2 Guns
16:00 The Campaign
17:00 2 Guns

WB

12:00 Batman Begins
12:30 The Descent Part 2
14:30 Shrek
15:00 2 Guns
16:00 The Campaign
17:00 2 Guns

STAR GOLD

12:00 Bol Bachchan
12:30 Bol Bachchan

Star Gold

12:00 Bol Bachchan
12:30 Bol Bachchan

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12:00 The Grey
12:30 The Grey
13:00 Batman Begins
13:30 The Descent Part 2
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STAR MOVIE

12:00 Resident Evil
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TEN 46



Russian army troops rehearse before the World War-II anniversary in Moscow. - UNI

Hamas elects Haniya as new chief of Islamic movement

GAZA, May 7: Ismail Haniya was named the new chief of the Islamic Hamas movement on Saturday after he won in the recent internal elections, a spokesman for the movement for Gaza announced.

Abdulatif al-Qanou, Hamas spokesman in Gaza, said in a statement that Haniya replaced Khaled Meshal, the Hamas leader who has been the chief of the movement for eight years, Xinhua news agency reported.

Meshaal's first announcement was made to al-Jazeera News Channel in Qatar.

Meshaal announced from Doha that Haniya has been elected as the new chief of the movement. The announcement was made jointly between Qatar and Gaza via the video conference system.

The Hamas spokesman said the announcement was jointly made after Haniya and other Hamas leaders here were unable to travel to Qatar due to a blockade that is imposed on the Gaza Strip and the closure of Rafah crossing with Egypt.

"Elected Haniya and holding the well-organized internal elections on time were made in spite of the situation that Hamas is passing through," said al-Qanou, adding "this reflects how powerful Hamas movement is". - IANS

'50 Afghan soldiers killed, 100 hurt in border firing'

ISLAMABAD, May 7: Fifty Afghan security personnel were killed and 100 others injured as Pakistani forces retaliated to unprovoked firing in Balochistan's Chaman area last week, a top official claimed here on Sunday.

Major General Nadeem Anjum, Inspector General (IG) of Frontier Corps (FC) - Balochistan, however, said that "we are not happy over their losses since they are our Muslim brothers", Dawn online reported.

The Frontier Corps IG was briefing media persons here over a cross-border attack in Chaman on May 5, in which 12 Pakistani civilians were killed and 40 injured when Afghan border forces opened fire at security personnel guarding a census team, although Kabul was informed of the exercise in advance.

The attack caused residents in Killi Luqman, Killi Jangir and Badshah Adda Kalak to evacuate their homes as Chaman was shut down and security ramped up in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan.

The FC Balochistan chief said four or five check posts were also destroyed when Pakistani border guards retaliated to the cross-border attack.

Maj. Gen. Anjum said that on May 5, Afghanistan pleaded for ceasefire, which Pakistan accepted.

He said Afghan border forces targeted civilians even though they had been informed about the ongoing census exercise.

Earlier, Pakistan Army's Southern Command chief Lt General Aamir Riaz termed the cross-border attack as "shameful", Dawn online reported.

"This was a shameful act to target civilians at the border villages of Pakistan," Riaz had said earlier when he visited Chaman.

In response to the attack, Pakistan had closed its borders with Afghanistan at Chaman and Torkham on February 18 after a series of terrorist attacks in the country killed over 100 people.

After over a month of closure, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif ordered reopening of the borders as a goodwill gesture. - IANS

Protesters march in Venezuela, destroy Chavez statue



The faithful from Venezuela hold crosses with names of people who died during protests in Venezuela, before the Regina Coeli prayer led by Pope Francis in Saint Peter's Square at the Vatican, on Sunday. - UNI

CARACAS, May 7: Women banged on pants and some stripped off their white shirts as they protested Venezuela's socialist government in an event the opposition billed as a "women's march against repression."

As they marched yesterday, local media carried a video showing people toppling a statue of the late President Hugo Chavez the day before in the western state of Zulia.

Thousands of women took over streets in major cities all around the South American country. Wearing the white shirts of the once-thriving country's increasingly embattled government, the women sang the national anthem and chanted: "Who wants? Venezuela! What do we want? Freedom!" Some sported makeshift gear to protect against tear gas and rubber bullets. Others marched topless. One woman came in her wedding dress.

As they have near-daily for five weeks, police in riot gear again took control of major roads in the capital city. Clashes between police and protesters have left some three

dozen dead in the past month.

Local news media carried a video circulating on Twitter of the Chavez statue being pulled down. The media reported that students destroyed the statue as they vented their anger with the food shortages, inflation and spiralling crime that have come to define life here.

Several young men could be seen bashing the statue that depicted the socialist hero standing in a saluting pose, as onlookers hurled insults at the late president.

Defence Minister Vladimir Padrino Lopez on Friday denounced the protest movement, and said opposition "terrorists" were attempting a kind of non-conventional warfare.

The protest movement has drawn masses of people into the street nearly every day since March, and shows no sign of slowing. Yesterday, some of the women marchers approached soldiers in riot gear to offer them white roses and invite them to join the cause.

"What will you tell your kids later on?" one woman asked. - AP

Macron, Le Pen face off as France elects Prez

PARIS, May 7: French voters went to the polls today to pick a new president, choosing between young centrist Emmanuel Macron and far-right leader Marine Le Pen in a watershed election for the country and Europe.

Polling day follows an unprecedented campaign marked by scandal, repeated surprises and a last-minute hacking attack on Macron, a 39-year-old who has never held elected office.

The run-off vote pits the pro-Europe, pro-business Macron against anti-immigration and anti-EU Le Pen, two radically different visions that underline a split in Western democracies.

Le Pen, 48, has portrayed the ballot as a contest between the "globalists" represented by her rivals those in favour of open trade, immigration and shared sovereignty – versus the "nationalists" who defend strong borders and national identities.

Voting began at 0600 GMT in 66,546 polling stations. Most will close at 1700 GMT, except those in big cities which

will stay open an hour longer.

A first estimate of the results will be published around 1800 GMT.

"The political choice the French people are going to make is clear," Le

Pen said in her opening remarks during an often vicious debate between the pair on Wednesday night.

The last polling showed Macron – winner of last month's election first round – with a widening lead of around 62 per cent to 38 per cent before the hacking revelations on Friday evening.

US intelligence agencies believe state-backed Russian operatives were behind a massive hacking attack on Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton's campaign ahead of America's presidential election last November. - AFP

A campaigning blackout entered into force shortly after.

Hundreds of thousands of emails and documents stolen from the Macron campaign were dumped online and then spread by anti-secrecy group WikiLeaks, leading the candidate to call it an attempt at "democratic destabilisation."

France's election authority said publishing the documents could be a criminal offence, a warning heeded by traditional media organisations but floated by Macron's opponents and far-right activists online.

"We knew that there were these risks during the presidential campaign because it happened elsewhere. Nothing will go without a response," French President Francois Hollande told AFP on Sunday.

US intelligence agencies believe state-backed Russian operatives were behind a massive hacking attack on Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton's campaign ahead of America's presidential election last November. - AFP

Pen said in her opening remarks during an often vicious debate between the pair on Wednesday night.

The last polling showed Macron – winner of last month's election first round – with a widening lead of around 62 per cent to 38 per cent before the hacking revelations on Friday evening.

US intelligence agencies believe state-

backed Russian operatives were behind a massive hacking attack on Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton's campaign ahead of America's presidential election last November. - AFP

Merkel challengers fight to hang on in north Germany

FRANKFURT AM MAIN, May 7: Voters in northern Germany go to the polls today, in a regional election being scrutinised over the centre-left's chances of unseating conservative Chancellor Angela Merkel in September.

The vote in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany's northernmost state, comes as a recent surge in nationwide polls for the centre-left Social Democratic Party (SPD) since new leader Martin Schulz was crowned in February has faded.

Supporters are increasingly fearful that the momentum imparted by their new leader will not carry them into the chancellery, which Merkel and her Christian Democratic Union (CDU) have held against all comers since 2005.

As at the national level, neither the SPD nor the CDU are expected to achieve an absolute majority in the regional parliament in the state capital, the Baltic Sea port city of Kiel.

If the CDU emerges leading a governing coalition, it will be a further blow to left-wingers' confidence –

one week ahead of yet another knife-edge regional vote in SPD stronghold North Rhine-Westphalia.

"For Angela Merkel, an election victory for her party would be a turning point," commented conservative daily Die Welt.

"For the first time since the beginning of her chancellorship in 2005, the CDU could reconquer one of the states they've lost."

A recent survey of around 1,800 people for public broadcaster ZDF

showed the CDU with 32 per cent support in Schleswig-Holstein and the SPD with 29.

The liberal Free Democratic Party (FDP), in the midst of a comeback attempt after humiliation at national elections in 2013, appears on the way up, while the ecologist Greens have fallen back.

One key unknown is whether the Germany-wide collapse in support for anti-euro, anti-Islam party Alternative for Germany (AfD) after a vicious internal falling-out between moderates and hardliners will be reflected in upcoming state elections.

Polls show the AfD uncertain of passing the five-percent threshold to enter parliaments in both Schleswig-Holstein and North Rhine-Westphalia — where at the end of last year it was the third-most popular party nationwide.

But if the AfD or the far-left party Die Linke enter the legislatures, this could make for an upset larger players' coalition calculus.

Beyond its significance as the last-but-one regional election before September, there are plenty of local peculiarities in Sunday's vote.

Popular SPD state premier Torsten Albig, 53, has led a coalition of SPD, Greens, and local Danish minority party SSW since 2012.

He squares off against CDU challenger Daniel Guenther, who is 10 years younger and an energetic opposition leader at the regional parliament.

The centre-right group there has sparked debate across Germany in recent years with populist proposals like requiring pork to be served in school canteens – a nod to voters' fear of Islam's influence on public life.

This year's campaign has seen battles over education, policing and roads, a top concern in a state with a population of 2.8 million thinly spread across almost 16,000 square kilometres.

Another battleground is wind farm construction near residential areas – no small matter in a windy coastal region whose turbines are a key element in Germany's "energy transition" away from nuclear and fossil fuels. - AFP

US city council votes to support Trump's impeachment

LOS ANGELES, May 7: The Los Angeles City Council on Saturday passed a resolution saying President Donald Trump should be investigated for any high crime or misdeemeanor sufficient to warrant impeachment proceedings.

It calls for the city's 2017-18 federal legislative programme to include support for any legislative action to investigate whether Trump violated the Foreign Emoluments Clause of the US Constitution or committed any other high crime or misdeemeanor, Los Angeles Daily News reported.

Since taking office, Trump has been criticised by ethics experts for not divesting himself of his vast real estate empire, which could be in violation of a provision in the Constitution barring officials from accepting gifts or benefits from foreign leaders or states.

"If he is not going to come clean and show the US that his hands are clean of potentially illegal foreign money in investments, then we must demand that Congress use their power to investigate the situation," said Councilman Bob Blumenfeld, who introduced the resolution.

"With this resolution, the city of Los Angeles calls on our Congress members and senators for the good of the country to investigate Trump's international finances, and make sure that he is actually working on behalf of the American people and not his own pocketbook."

The resolution passed on a 10-0 vote. Councilman Mitchell Englander, the City Council's lone Republican, was not present during the vote, although he was in the chamber immediately before and after. - IANS

The Beatles to get their personal Sirius radio channel

LOS ANGELES, May 7: Legendary rock band The Beatles are gearing up to get their own radio channel on Sirius XM.

The Beatles Channel will air popular tracks by the music group along with rarities, live-cuts and music material from their respective solo careers, reported People magazine.

"I still remember the thrill of when we first heard our music on the radio but I don't think any of us would have imagined that we'd have our very own Beatles radio channel more than 50 years later. The SiriusXM channel will have it all, 8 Days A Week," former Beatle Paul McCartney said in a press release.

While his Fab Four compatriot Ringo Starr added, "Great news, the Beatles will have their own channel on Sirius XM. Now you can listen to the Beatles, any time at all."

The channel will also broadcast tracks by the "musicians who have inspired, and have drawn inspiration from, the Beatles".

It will also feature multiple recurring shows including, "Daily morning show Breakfast with the Beatles" and "Daily Beatles history digest A Day in the Life" among others. Apart from The Beatles, artists such as Bruce Springsteen, Pearl Jam and the Grateful Dead also have their own 24/7 SiriusXM channels. - PTI



Boko Haram frees 82 schoolgirls in Nigeria

LAGOS, May 7: At least 82 of the more than 200 Chibok girls that were kidnapped by Boko Haram in 2014 in Nigeria's northeastern Borno State have been released, a government source said. The source told Xinhua news agency late Saturday that the girls were released following a negotiations between the extremist group and the Nigerian government.

"Yes, 82 girls are freed and they are due to fly to Abuja from Banki town in Borno State," Xinhua news agency quoted the source as saying.

The release came barely a month after President Muhammadu Buhari said his administration has engaged local and international intermediaries in reaching out to Boko Haram for the release of the Chibok schoolgirls in captivity. He said the government was in constant touch through negotiations and local intelligence to secure the release of the remaining girls and other abducted people.

He appealed to the parents and all Nigerians not to lose hope on the return of the remaining schoolgirls.

More than 200 schools girls were seized by armed men who stormed their dormitories on the night of April 14, 2014, at the Girls Secondary School in Chibok. Some had managed to escape while others remained unaccounted for.

Boko Haram has been blamed for the deaths of more than 20,000 people and displacing of 2.3 million others in Nigeria since their insurgency started in 2009. - IANS

Real thrash Granada, Barca's 'MSN' hit 100 mark



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

'Not thinking much about points table'

HYDERABAD, May 7: Sunrisers Hyderabad mentor VVS Laxman today said that they are not thinking much about their play-off chances and trying to focus on executing the plans properly against Mumbai Indians here tomorrow.

"We are not thinking too much about the points table. We just want to take each game as it comes," Laxman said.

"We know that our next game against Mumbai Indians is an important game. Once we execute our plans, I am sure we will get the desired results," he said.

Hyderabad, currently placed fourth on the points table with 13 points, need to win its remaining two matches to completely seal their play-offs berth.



The Hyderabad team takes on Mumbai Indians in Hyderabad tomorrow.

Asked if the middle-order batting is a concern for the team, especially after their failure yesterday while chasing a modest target of 149 against Pune, Laxman replied in the negative.

"The batsmen have done well this season and it was a tough wicket to bat on yesterday," Laxman said during an interaction with mediapersons here. - PTI

RPS and GL won't get extension: Shukla

SRH, the defending champions, had lost to Delhi Daredevils by six wickets at New Delhi, but what hurt them most was their 12-run loss to Rising Pune Supergiant at home yesterday. It was their first home defeat of the season.

"No extension is being given to both the teams (RPS and GL). Agreement was only for two years. Even if we make it a 10-team league, the two new teams would have to be freshly bid, so RPS and GL are not being given any extension or anything," Shukla told reporters today.

The general mood of the IPL Governing Council is to stay put with eight teams as a 10-team league would increase the number of matches to 84.

"Next year, as per SC order, the two (suspended) teams would be back. The issue of whether 8 or 10 teams will come up at the IPL GC meeting. So far the plan is to go ahead with 8 teams. A 10-team league has to be endorsed by the Governing Council."

All players were supposed to go back into the auction pool after the 10-year cycle but Shukla indicated that retention policy may still be considered.

"It was decided that retention policy but retention policy also needs to be decided. The mega auction is not going to take place immediately and it will be just before next IPL, so we have enough time to decide."

It was also learnt that the IPL media rights (broadcast/digital/mobile) will now be given for five years instead of 10 years. - PTI

MADRID, May 7: Alvaro Morata and James Rodriguez scored twice as a much-changed Real Madrid moved within three victories of winning La Liga with a 4-0 demolition of Tony Adams's already-relegated Granada.

Earlier, Neymar, Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez were all on target to take their combined tally for the season to 102 as Barcelona kept pace at the top with a 4-1 win over Villarreal.

Barca remain top thanks to their superior head-to-head record with the two locked on 84 points, but Real have three games remaining to the Catalans' two.

Real coach Zinedine Zidane continued his rotation policy of recent weeks with nine changes from the side that beat Atletico Madrid 3-0 in the first leg of their Champions League semifinal on Tuesday as hat-trick hero Cristiano Ronaldo was left out of the squad entirely.

However, it mattered little as Real maintained their perfect La Liga record in nine games without Ronaldo this season.

Barely two minutes had gone when Lucas Vazquez got in behind the Granada defence and squared for Rodriguez to tap home the opener.

The Colombian then powered home a header from Fabio Coentrao's cross

just nine minutes later.

Adams made a substitution after just 16 minutes as Uche Agbo replaced Aly Malle, but it couldn't prevent the one-way traffic.

Morata blasted home Danilo's low cross then bent Martin Hontla out of the way to fire home his 20th goal of the season.

Vazquez then hit the bar and Casemiro somehow shot over with the goal at his mercy as Madrid's dominance of the first 45 minutes left some Granada fans in tears.

Real had mercy on the hosts after the break, but now just need seven points from their last three games against Sevilla, Celta Vigo and Malaga in five years.

Barca maintained the pressure on the European champions with all of their front three on top form against Villarreal.

Neymar took advantage of a blocked shot from Messi to prod home the opener from close range after 21 minutes.

However, Villarreal striker Cedric Bakambu continued his brilliant form to bring the visitors levels just 11 minutes later when he streaked clear of Gerard Pique before slotting home his seventh goal in six games.

Barca got a slice of luck to regain the lead just before the break as Messi's effort from the edge of the area deflected beyond Andres Fernandez for the Argentine's 50th goal of the season and to bring up a combined 100 for him, Suarez and Neymar for the campaign.

Suarez took that tally to 101 and killed the game off as a contest when he turned Jaume Costa and fired low and hard past Fernandez.

Costa was also the man at fault as he was harshly adjudged to have handled inside his own box after a sensational piece of skill from Neymar eight minutes from time.

"Any football fan should value what Neymar does," said Barca coach Luis Enrique.

"Often it seems much more like ballet than a football move. It is exceptional, beautiful, effective and spectacular."

And Messi chipped the resulting penalty down the middle of the goal to round off the scoring.

Atletico guaranteed a top-four finish as Saul Niguez's winner 21 minutes from time earned a 1-0 win over Eibar.

At the other end of the table, Sporting Gijon kept their hopes of staying up alive with a 1-0 win over Las Palmas. - AFP

Man City thrash Crystal Palace, Leicester ease past Watford

NEW DELHI, May 7:

United States joined Costa Rica, Honduras and Mexico in qualifying for the FIFA Under-17 World Cup to be held in India later this year following their latest action at the CONCACAF U-17 Championship in Panama City.

The Americans beat Cuba

6-2 in their Classification Stage group match and sealed a berth for the prestigious tournament in India as well as booked a spot in continental final after finishing top of their group.

Mexico, Costa Rica and

Honduras have already

sealed their places for the U-17 World Cup, CONCACAF

the continental football

federation of North, Central America and the Caribbean, has got a quota of four for the U-17 World Cup.

Fifteen countries have al-

ready qualified for the Octo-

ber 6-28 Under-17 World

Cup to be held in six cities

across India.

Iran, Iraq, Japan and North

Korea besides hosts India

have qualified from Asia,

while Brazil, Chile, Colom-

bia and Paraguay have done

so from South America. New

Zealand and New Caledonia

will represent Oceania.

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Zealand and New Caledonia

will represent Oceania.

The qualifying tourna-

ment for Europe is underway

(May 3-19) in Croatia while

the African qualifiers will be

held from May 14 to 28 in

Gabon. Five countries will

qualify from Europe while

four will make the grade

from Africa.

Welcoming the teams, Tour-

namento Director for the Local

Organising Committee Javier

Cepi said, "The teams of

CONCACAF promise to be

very strong and will delight

the fans in India." - PTI

The Bianconeri started on the

upcoming second leg, but the

changes backfired in a disjointed per-

formance.

On the opening second leg, but the

changes backfired in a disjointed per-

formance.

Paulo Dybala's cross found Leon-

ardo Bonucci inside the area, but

11 minutes.

Despite enjoying a superb

afternoon as he pulled off a

string of excellent saves, denying Sam

Lucas Lazar Markovic and Abel

Hernandez as Hull pressed for-

ward relentlessly but were let

down by poor finishing.

Bournemouth secured their

top-flight status for another year

after a 2-2 draw against Stoke at

Dean Court.

When a Stoke corner curled

into the penalty area in

the 33rd minute, Bournemouth's

Frances Under-20 internation-

al Lys Mousset, making his

first Premier League start,

glanced the ball into his own

net, giving the visitors their

first away league goal in more

than 10 hours.

Junior Stanislas equalised

for Bournemouth in the 62nd

minute before Stoke's Mamé

Biram Diouf bundled in his

first goal for 12 months in the 73rd

minute.

Eddie Howe's side rescued

their precious point thanks to a

an 81st minute own goal from

Stoke defender Ryan Shaw-

cross. - Agencies

Higuain's stoppage time strike foils 10-man Torino

TURIN, May 7: Ten-man Torino were cruelly denied a shock win away to their more illustrious neighbours Juventus on Saturday when Gonzalo Higuain struck in stoppage time to salvage a 1-1 draw for the Serie A leaders.

Despite Higuain's equaliser against Torino, the two dropped points meant that they must wait at least another week to secure the Serie A title.

Juve had won every game at home so far this season, but went behind to their city rivals in the second half after Adem Ljajic's sublime 25-yard free-kick.

Arijit Acquah was sent off shortly before the hour mark, and coach Sinisa Mihajlovic was sent to the stands following protests before a much-changed Juventus finally drew level thanks to Higuain's 24th league goal of the season.

Allegri made eight changes to his side following the 2-0 win over Monaco in the Champions League on Wednesday, with one eye undoubtedly

on the upcoming second leg, but the

changes backfired in a disjointed per-

formance.

On the opening second leg, but the

changes backfired in a disjointed per-

formance.

The Bianconeri started on the

front foot and had the first opportu-

nity to break the deadlock after just

11 minutes.

Despite enjoying a superb

afternoon as he pulled off a

string of excellent saves, denying Sam

Lucas Lazar Markovic and Abel

Hernandez as Hull pressed for-

ward relentlessly but were let

down by poor finishing.

Bonucci missed another golden

chance minutes later after Mehdi

Benatia crashed a header onto the

underside of the bar. The ball re-

bounced to his defensive partner,

who volleyed over from six yards

with the goal at his mercy.

Torino struggled to get out of

their half for much of the first per-

iod, with Iago Falque and Andreia

Belotti both failing to trouble the

goalkeeper.

The deadlock was finally broken

in the 52nd minute after Kwadwo

Asamoah was harshly adjudged to have handled.

Ljajic stepped up to

curl a precise free-kick right into the

corner and leave keeper Neto with

no chance.

However Higuain stepped off the

bench to fire the ball into the bot-

tom corner from the edge of the area

in stoppage time and kept Juve eight

points clear of Napoli as they seek a

sixth straight title. - Agencies



Gonzalo Higuain of Juventus scores against Torino during the Serie A match at the Juventus Stadium in Turin, on Saturday.

centre-back was put off and failed to test Joe Hart in the Torino goal.

Bonucci missed another golden chance minutes later after Mehdi Benatia crashed a header onto the underside of the bar. The ball rebounded to his defensive partner, who volleyed over from six yards with the goal at his mercy.

Torino struggled to get out of their half for much of the first period, with Iago Falque and Andreia Belotti both failing to trouble the goalkeeper.

The deadlock was finally broken in the 52nd minute after Kwadwo Asamoah was harshly adjudged to have handled. Ljajic stepped up to curl a precise free-kick right into the corner and leave keeper Neto with no chance.

However Higuain stepped off the bench to fire the ball into the bottom corner from the edge of the area in stoppage time and kept Juve eight points clear of Napoli as they seek a sixth straight title. - Agencies

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