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## NEWS CAPSULE

### Mob violence

SILCHAR, June 3: At least 20 people have been arrested here after involved in a mob violence following the death of a minor girl in Hmarhawlen in Cachar district. People blocked road after the girl was ran over by a truck on Friday. — Correspondent

### Transfer racket

NEW DELHI, June 3: A special court here has sent a Lt Colonel and a 'middleman' to CBI custody for three days in connection with a transfer racket at Army headquarters here in which officers allegedly paid lakhs of rupees to manipulate their postings. — PTI

[The Assam Tribune on Internet](http://www.assamttribune.com) &  
<http://epepper.assamttribune.com>

### Sunday

#### Harmony for ages

Dr Manash P Goswami

#### ■ UP CLOSE:

On a green mission

Rinkumari Pathak

#### Viable alternative

Ravi Deka

#### ■ WOMEN PLUS:

Breaking the taboo

Zeba Zooriah Ahsan

#### ■ FICTION:

A small name

Indranil Bhattacharya

#### ■ IN SPACE:

Grandpa, you know

nothing!

Parag Phukan

#### ■ ALL THINGS CONSIDERED:

The global Bihu

Mita Phukan

Plus all our regular features



Asom Chatra Yuva Sonmilan activists staging a demonstration demanding death penalty for rapists, in Guwahati on Saturday. — UB Photos

## India, France to work on climate change

PARIS, June 3: India and France today vowed to work together for the successful implementation of the landmark Paris climate agreement and fight the challenge posed by terrorism, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi met newly-elected French President Emmanuel Macron here.

Modi said India was committed to "go above and beyond" the Paris deal to protect climate for future generations as he termed the UN-brokered agreement a shared legacy of the world, a day after the US

President walked out of the accord.

Speaking after holding two hours of wide-ranging talks with Macron at the presidential Elysee Palace here, Modi said the Paris climate deal reflects "our duty towards protecting the mother Earth and our natural resources. For us, this (protection of environment) is an article of faith."

Addressing a joint press event with Macron, Modi said, "Paris climate agreement is a shared legacy of the world. It will benefit the future genera-

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tions well." He said India is committed to the Paris accord, and "even beyond it, India will work and walk together with others to leave a gift for the future generations."

Describing the city of Paris as an important part of his political journey, Modi said the Paris climate deal reflects "our duty towards protecting the mother Earth and our natural resources. For us, this (protection of environment) is an article of faith."

His remarks came after US President Donald Trump announced plans to withdraw from the Paris climate change

bulletin here this evening.

According to the bulletin, the two phenomena have affected a total population of 13,962 in these districts. However, no report of loss of human lives was received from any part of the State till the filing of this report, even as 11 people were evacuated by the State Disaster Response Force personnel from different parts of Lakhimpur district where 126 people are taking shelter in relief camps.

Jorhat Deputy Commissioner adds: The first wave of the rising waters of the Brahmaputra river today washed away

### STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, June 3: Leader of Opposition in the State Assembly Debrajata Saikia has written to the Union Home Minister requesting him to initiate a judicial inquiry into the March 30, 2017 incident of fake encounter and also take stern action to prevent recurrence of such incidents.

The allegation was levelled by Rajnish Rai, Inspector General, CRPF North East Sector. The CRPF official had reportedly sent a report in this connection to the CRPF headquarters, to the Chief Secretary of the State, the GOC 4 Corps, Director Generals of Assam Police and SSA and the CRPF (NE Zone).

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(See page 13)

## Saikia demands judicial probe

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, June 3: Leader of Opposition in the State Assembly Debrajata Saikia has written to the Union Home Minister requesting him to initiate a judicial inquiry into the March 30, 2017 incident of fake encounter and also take stern action to prevent recurrence of such incidents.

In the March 30 incident, two youths – Lucas Narzary (30) and David Islary (25) – were alleg-

edly shot dead by security force personnel in cold blood. The security forces involved in the incident included the Army, Assam Police, CRPF and the SSB, said Saikia.

The allegation was levelled by Rajnish Rai, Inspector General, CRPF North East Sector. The CRPF official had reportedly sent a report in this connection to the CRPF headquarters, to the Chief Secretary of the State, the GOC 4 Corps, Director Generals of Assam Police and SSA and the CRPF (NE Zone).

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Jorhat Deputy Commissioner adds: The first wave of the rising waters of the Brahmaputra river today washed away

away a considerable portion of the black-topped approach road to Neamatighat, compelling the Inland Water Transport Department (IWTD) authority to shift the Neamatighat Ghat about 70 metres away from the original location.

Jorhat Deputy Commissioner Virendra Mittal said Section 14(4)(CrPC) was imposed in the

chines (EVMs) used by the poll-conducting body.

The CPM (said it would not like to participate in the challenge, while the NCP too decided to opt out after raising some questions regarding EC's "failure" to provide it with some details it had sought.

The NCP, however, has been extended another chance to return at a later date to hack the machines as an "academic exercise", the CEC said.

The BSP and AAP had alleged that the machines used in the recent assembly elections were tampered with and favoured the BJP.

Over a dozen opposition parties, including the Congress, BSP, SP, DMK, JDU and the Left

had urged the EC in April to revert to the paper ballot system in future elections, saying tampering allegations have created "trust deficit"

on the reliability of the electronic voting ma-

2 jawans killed as ultras attack Army convoy in J-K

SRINAGAR, June 3: Two jawans were killed and four others injured when militants attacked an Army convoy on the Srinagar-Jammu national highway in south Kashmir's Kulgam district today.

The militants attacked the convoy near Lower Munda toll post in Qazigund area of the district, 100 km from here, injuring six Army personnel, an Army official said. He said the injured were evacuated to Army's 92 Base Hospital here where two jawans succumbed to their injuries.

Ceasefire violation: A woman was injured when the Pakistani Army violated cease-

fire twice in two sectors of

(See page 13)

## State rivers in spate

### Road to Neamatighat washed away

#### STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, June 3: With rainfall activities continuing for the past several days in various parts of the northeastern region, the rain-fed rivers of the State are in spate and the first wave of flood has hit the districts of Lakhimpur, Jorhat and Biswanath, while rain-induced landslides has affected some parts of Dima-Hasao hill district, said an official bulleten here this evening.

According to the bulletin, the two phenomena have affected a total population of 13,962 in these districts. However, no report of loss of human lives was received from any part of the State till the filing of this report, even as 11 people were evacuated by the State Disaster Response Force personnel from different parts of Lakhimpur district where 126 people are taking shelter in relief camps.

Jorhat Deputy Commissioner Virendra Mittal said Section 14(4)(CrPC) was imposed in the

(See page 13)

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## Gogoi cries foul over new cattle rules

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, June 3: Crying foul over the recently notified new rules under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, former Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi today slammed the BJP government's move to "interfere into the food habits" of the people.

The Environment Ministry had recently notified new rules under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, which disallows the sale of cattle – cows, buffaloes, bullocks, calves and camels – for slaughter in animal markets.

"The move shows how sensitive the BJP is to the people of the Northeast where a large section of people consumes

beef. Even some BJP members in the region are opposing the move. (Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema) Khandu has himself said he is not in favour," Gogoi said.

"The former Chief Minister said the Constitution gives exclusive powers to the states to make laws regarding livestock, and hence the BJP government's move is destroying the country's federal system."

"On one hand they say *sabha saab saab kuh vibas* and on the other they interfere in the food habits of a particular section of people," Gogoi said, adding that the move would add to the rural economy.

"Now they are banning cow, buffalo slaughter. Tomorrow

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## Member shortage hits APSC functioning

R. DUTTA CHOWDHURY

GUWAHATI, June 3: The delay on the part of the State Government in filling up the vacant posts of members of the Assam Public Service Commission (APSC) has adversely affected the functioning of the Commission. Meanwhile, efforts are on to restore the image of the Commission, which was badly hit by the cash-for-job scam, in which three of its members, including the chairman, were put behind the bars. As per directive of the Chief Minister, the APSC has also started making efforts to declare the results of the interviews within the shortest possible time to avoid any misgiving.

The APSC now has only three members, including the acting chairman, while according to recommendations of various committees such as the TL Baruah Committee and MP Bezbarua Committee, ideally the Commission should have six members and the chairman so that more interview boards can be constituted for smooth conduct of the

(See page 13)

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A 3 bedroom apartment with parking at Dunfur Apartments, AIPDCCL, Rajguru stop, R.G. Barua, Road 1/2, Dibrugarh. Contact: 9435152126. TuLP/I/1125/1

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Area 9100 sqft. ground first second floor building near Kaliapuri Chariali, Chirang. Contact: 943510061. TuLP/I/1127/1

3 BHK flat available at Lachitgarh, near R.G. Barua, Road 1/2, Dibrugarh. Contact: 943510061. TuLP/I/1127/1

2 BHK flat, 24 hours running water, carpeting completely floor, small family, lift and parking facilities, near Kaliapuri, Dibrugarh. Contact: 943510061. TuLP/I/1128/1

2 spacious tiled rooms attached washroom, balcony available for office at Rehbari. (M) 9637363569, 9127433256. TuLP/I/1128/1

CCRC 2nd floor at Lachitgarh, near R.G. Barua, Road 1/2, Dibrugarh. Contact: 943510061. TuLP/I/1128/1

2 BHK flat with parking near R.G. Barua, Road 1/2, Dibrugarh. Contact: 943510061. TuLP/I/1128/1

Two rooms 4th floor Paltan Plaza, near Tinsukia, 2nd floor, 4th floor, 5th floor, 6th floor, 7th floor, 8th floor, 9th floor, 10th floor, 11th floor, 12th floor, 13th floor, 14th floor, 15th floor, 16th floor, 17th floor, 18th floor, 19th floor, 20th floor, 21st floor, 22nd floor, 23rd floor, 24th floor, 25th floor, 26th floor, 27th floor, 28th floor, 29th floor, 30th floor, 31st floor, 32nd floor, 33rd floor, 34th floor, 35th floor, 36th floor, 37th floor, 38th floor, 39th floor, 40th floor, 41st floor, 42nd floor, 43rd floor, 44th floor, 45th floor, 46th floor, 47th floor, 48th floor, 49th floor, 50th floor, 51st floor, 52nd floor, 53rd floor, 54th floor, 55th floor, 56th floor, 57th floor, 58th floor, 59th floor, 60th floor, 61st floor, 62nd floor, 63rd floor, 64th floor, 65th floor, 66th floor, 67th floor, 68th floor, 69th floor, 70th floor, 71st floor, 72nd floor, 73rd floor, 74th floor, 75th floor, 76th floor, 77th floor, 78th floor, 79th floor, 80th floor, 81st floor, 82nd floor, 83rd floor, 84th floor, 85th floor, 86th floor, 87th floor, 88th floor, 89th floor, 90th floor, 91st floor, 92nd floor, 93rd floor, 94th floor, 95th floor, 96th floor, 97th floor, 98th floor, 99th floor, 100th floor, 101st floor, 102nd floor, 103rd floor, 104th floor, 105th floor, 106th floor, 107th floor, 108th floor, 109th floor, 110th floor, 111th floor, 112th floor, 113th floor, 114th floor, 115th floor, 116th floor, 117th floor, 118th floor, 119th floor, 120th floor, 121st floor, 122nd floor, 123rd floor, 124th floor, 125th floor, 126th floor, 127th floor, 128th floor, 129th floor, 130th floor, 131st floor, 132nd floor, 133rd floor, 134th floor, 135th floor, 136th floor, 137th floor, 138th floor, 139th floor, 140th floor, 141st floor, 142nd floor, 143rd floor, 144th floor, 145th floor, 146th floor, 147th floor, 148th floor, 149th floor, 150th floor, 151st floor, 152nd floor, 153rd floor, 154th floor, 155th floor, 156th floor, 157th floor, 158th floor, 159th floor, 160th floor, 161st floor, 162nd floor, 163rd floor, 164th floor, 165th floor, 166th floor, 167th floor, 168th floor, 169th floor, 170th floor, 171st floor, 172nd floor, 173rd floor, 174th floor, 175th floor, 176th floor, 177th floor, 178th floor, 179th floor, 180th floor, 181st floor, 182nd floor, 183rd floor, 184th floor, 185th floor, 186th floor, 187th floor, 188th floor, 189th floor, 190th floor, 191st floor, 192nd floor, 193rd floor, 194th floor, 195th floor, 196th floor, 197th floor, 198th floor, 199th floor, 200th floor, 201st floor, 202nd floor, 203rd floor, 204th floor, 205th floor, 206th floor, 207th floor, 208th floor, 209th floor, 210th floor, 211th floor, 212th floor, 213th floor, 214th floor, 215th floor, 216th floor, 217th floor, 218th floor, 219th floor, 220th floor, 221st floor, 222nd floor, 223rd floor, 224th floor, 225th floor, 226th floor, 227th floor, 228th floor, 229th floor, 230th floor, 231st floor, 232nd floor, 233rd floor, 234th floor, 235th floor, 236th floor, 237th floor, 238th floor, 239th floor, 240th floor, 241st floor, 242nd floor, 243rd floor, 244th floor, 245th floor, 246th floor, 247th floor, 248th floor, 249th floor, 250th floor, 251st floor, 252nd floor, 253rd floor, 254th floor, 255th floor, 256th floor, 257th floor, 258th floor, 259th floor, 260th floor, 261st floor, 262nd floor, 263rd floor, 264th floor, 265th floor, 266th floor, 267th floor, 268th floor, 269th floor, 270th floor, 271st floor, 272nd floor, 273rd floor, 274th floor, 275th floor, 276th floor, 277th floor, 278th floor, 279th floor, 280th floor, 281st floor, 282nd floor, 283rd floor, 284th floor, 285th floor, 286th floor, 287th floor, 288th floor, 289th floor, 290th floor, 291st floor, 292nd floor, 293rd floor, 294th floor, 295th floor, 296th floor, 297th floor, 298th floor, 299th floor, 300th floor, 301st floor, 302nd floor, 303rd floor, 304th floor, 305th floor, 306th floor, 307th floor, 308th floor, 309th floor, 310th floor, 311th floor, 312th floor, 313th floor, 314th floor, 315th floor, 316th floor, 317th floor, 318th floor, 319th floor, 320th floor, 321st floor, 322nd floor, 323rd floor, 324th floor, 325th floor, 326th floor, 327th floor, 328th floor, 329th floor, 330th floor, 331st floor, 332nd floor, 333rd floor, 334th floor, 335th floor, 336th floor, 337th floor, 338th floor, 339th floor, 340th floor, 341st

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## PRAGJYOTISH COLLEGE

Bharalumukh, Guwahati - 781 009

### ADMISSION SCHEDULE

Session 2017-2018

Admission to the HS First year (**Arts, Science & Commerce Stream**). TDC First Semester (Arts, Science & Commerce Stream), BCA, BBBA, PG (Assamese) & MTM will be held as per schedule given below.

Class	Last Date of Submission of Form	Date of Interview & Admission
HS 1 <sup>st</sup> Year Arts	20.06.2017	24.06.2017
HS 1 <sup>st</sup> Year Science	24.06.2017	28.06.2017
HS 1 <sup>st</sup> Year Commerce	27.06.2017	29.06.2017
BA 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester	15.06.2017	19.06.2017
B.Sc 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester	16.06.2017	20.06.2017

#### Self-Sustaining Courses :

B.Com 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester	20.06.2017	22.06.2017
BBA 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester	28.06.2017	30.06.2017
BCA 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester	28.06.2017	30.06.2017

#### Post Graduate Courses :

MA in Assamese Forms will be issued 7 days after Master of Tourism declaration of TDC 6<sup>th</sup> Semester Management (MTM) Examination (GU) results

Application Forms along with Prospectus can be obtained from 07-06-2017 on payment of Rs. 300/- (Rupees Three hundred) from the College Office between 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and for online submission Rs. 250/- (Rupees Two fifty) only. For online submission of admission form please visit college website: [www.pragjyotishcollege.org.in](http://www.pragjyotishcollege.org.in)

Sd/-  
Principal i/c  
Pragyotish College  
Guwahati

Date : 03-06-2017

## Glitches in website give candidates a tense time

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, June 3: As the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) declared the results for the Class X board exams today, candidates and their guardians in the region had a harrowing time to check their scores online due to technical glitches in the website which was restored only after 4 pm.

However till the time of filing of results the regional office in Guwahati could not provide the region-specific statistics pertaining to the region, which include the eight north-eastern states.

The statistics that the Guwahati office could provide was the overall pass percentage of the

region which was 65.53, the lowest among all the regions.

The CBSE has ten regions - Delhi, Chennai, Guwahati, Ajmer, Panchkula, Allahabad, Patna, Bhubaneswar, Thiruvananthapuram and Dehradun. Thiruvananthapuram has fared best by registering a pass percentage of 99.85 per cent.

Results for the other regions were declared at 1 pm.

In Guwahati and other states of the region, the students and guardians struggled to log on to the website to get their scores. When the board had declared its Class XII results a few days back.

**Cotton's identity lost: Gogoi**  
STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, June 3: Disapproving the move to upgrade the Cotton College to a university, former Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi insisted that the identity of the heritage institution should have been preserved.

"Cotton College is the only heritage college... the only centre of excellence in the State. The institution has made immense contribution in the fields of culture, literature, academics, etc. It has now lost its identity, it is not appropriate. The government should have kept its identity as a heritage institution intact, on the lines of St Stephen's College and Ramjas College in Delhi," Gogoi opined.

He said the decision to set up the Cotton College State University was taken by his government, but the previous government had kept Cotton College as a separate entity under the university.

Prof Thakar spoke on the management of early throat cancer and Dr Srivastava delivered a talk on advanced diagnostic methods named 'Narrow Band Imaging endoscopy for head and neck cancers.'

The topic of the conference was 'laryngo-tracheal diseases'. Laryngo-tracheal narrow-

ing or stenosis is a common complication in patients who are put on long-term ventilator support, and also, it is rarely seen in newborn babies.

The management of laryngotracheal diseases requires high level of skill and multidisciplinary team effort. The conference was preceded by a live surgical workshop. The conference was attended by over 50 delegates from all the states of the North East.

Invited speakers for the conference were Prof Alok Thakar from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi and Dr Rakesh Srivastava, consultant ENT specialist from Lucknow.

Prof Thakar spoke on the management of early throat cancer and Dr Srivastava delivered a talk on advanced diagnostic methods named 'Narrow Band Imaging endoscopy for head and neck cancers.'

The Sabha further stated that by merely blaming it on the farmers the authorities cannot shrug off their responsibility. "Due to the inadequate supply and delay in supplying the seeds by the government, the farmers had to buy seeds from private parties. Along with ensuring adequate supply of seeds to the farmers, the government should also take steps against the dealers selling adulterated seeds," the Sabha demanded.

It also demanded adequate compensation to the farmers affected by the chaffy crops.

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## Kisan Sabha flays Minister for remarks

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, June 3: The State Kisan Sabha has flayed Agriculture Minister Atul Bora for blaming it on the farmers for chaffy panicles of paddy crops and demanded a thorough enquiry to find out the truth behind the crop failure.

"Very conveniently, the State Agriculture Minister shifted the blame on farmers for buying seeds from unrecognised dealers, which according to him caused the chaffy panicles in paddy cultivation. Whereas the truth is that many farmers who bought seeds from government sources also faced a similar fate," Sabha general secretary Tiken Das said.

It also demanded adequate compensation to the farmers affected by the chaffy crops.

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### ADMISSION NOTICE 2017-18

Application are invited from eligible candidates for admission into H.S. (AHSEC) Commerce & Arts and B.Com. 1st Semester (Under G.U.) -

SL. No.	Name of the Course	Last date of submission of filled in Application Form	Date of Admission
01.	H.S. (Commerce & Arts) 1 <sup>st</sup> Year	17.06.2017	19.06.2017
02.	B.Com 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester	19.06.2017	20.06.2017

The Prospectus along with Application Form will be available on payment of Rs. 250/- during office hours.

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  - Deptt. of Nephrology - Deptt. of Medicine
  - Deptt. of Anaesthesia
4. Staff Nurse Experience in Cardiac ICU / Neuro ICU / Neuro OT / ICU / Ward / OT
5. System Executive- Experience in Hardware & Networking- Diploma in IT
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LOCAL FORECAST:  
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**TEMPERATURE:**  
Max 32.0°C  
Min 22.4°C

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Class	Last date of Submission of Forms	Date of Admission
BA First Year (Sem. I & II)	21.06.2017	23.06.2017
BC First Year (Sem. I & II)	20.06.2017	22.06.2017
HS First Year (Arts)	19.06.2017	21.06.2017
HS First Year (Com)	23.06.2017	24.06.2017

**N.B.** • Students can submit admission forms online by clicking the Link 'Online Admission' in the college website. Price of forms and Prospectus for Online submission will be subsidized at Rs.230/-  
• Admission form and Prospectus will be issued from College office from June 10, 2017 on payment of Rs. 250/-  
• Admission will be strictly on merit.  
• Seats in the girls Hostel will be allotted on merit basis.  
• Wi fi and Internet facility available.  
• Classes will commence from 01.08.2017.

(Dr. Dharmendra Nath)  
Principal  
S B Deorah College

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- Registration ends : 08/06/17
- Entrance/ Scholarship Test : 12/06/17
- Conditions apply

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**ADMISSION NOTICE : 2017-2018**  
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e-mail:[mail@dispurcollege.org](mailto:mail@dispurcollege.org)  
[www.dispurcollege.org](http://www.dispurcollege.org)

CLASS / STREAM	Last Date of Submission of Form	Date & Time of Admission (10 AM to 2 PM)
H.S. 1 <sup>st</sup> Year (Arts)	17-06-2017	20-06-2017
H.S. 1 <sup>st</sup> Year (Commerce)	17-06-2017	21-06-2017
B.A. 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester (Section - A & B)	20-06-2017	22-06-2017
B.Com. 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester (Section-A & B)	22-06-2017	23-06-2017
BBA 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester	23-06-2017	23-06-2017
BCA 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester	24-06-2017	24-06-2017
PGDCA	Admission Going on	

► Prospectus & Application Form will be issued from 05-06-2017 (Monday) during office hours on payment of Rs. 150/- only.  
► Admission will be strictly on merit basis.  
► College Hours: 9.00 AM to 4.00 PM.  
► Admission will be held on the said date from 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM.  
► No claim of admission will be entertained after the date of admission & time.  
► Regular classes will be held from 01/08/2017.  
► BBA/BCA Students will be provided Computer Accounting Course at Free of Cost.  
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## MESSAGE FORTODAY

Peace is the only battle worth waging.

— ALBERT CAMUS

**The Assam Tribune****Exploding anger**

Incidents after incidents of bombings and other outrages show that there has been a total failure of the US administration's grand design to erect a security infrastructure to prevent the reentry of the Taliban into the political epicenter of Afghanistan. For instance, in March this year terrorists, defying internationally accepted norms of the sacrosanct status of hospitals, attacked the Sardar Mohammad Daud Khan hospital at Kabul in which 30 people, including doctors, nurses and patients, were killed and over 50 wounded. This was followed by an enormous bomb-blast last Wednesday in the highly secure "Green Zone" of the Afghan capital, in which 80 persons lost their lives and hundreds suffered injuries. One needs to recapitulate the events of the past which had led to changes in US policy in Afghanistan in order to understand this failure. Americans are bad learners from history and despite the previous ignominious exit of the USSR which should have deterred them, US forces under George W Bush's orders intervened and launched a war against the Taliban. Confronted with enormous firepower the Taliban chose to retreat and bide its time, so in a sense it was "victory" for the US. However, the cost in terms of expenses and American lives lost was unacceptable high leading to furious anti-war protests at home and Obama was elevated to the Presidency promising disengagement.

Keeping to his pledge, Obama withdrew a bulk of US forces while establishing democracy in Afghanistan. The strategy included keeping some American troops to train up and equip Afghan soldiers so they could defend the nation against the Taliban. This has not worked as is revealed by the continued violence and the resurgence of the hard-line Islamic group which has once again wrested a sizeable chunk of the country. However, the Taliban has asserted that it was not involved in the recent bombings since it had never targeted innocent civilians, its target being soldiers. This gives rise to the suspicion that the dreaded Islamic State, which has no kindred qualms, has infiltrated into Afghanistan, thereby adding another insidious element. Now, apparently, the Afghan people themselves are enraged at the inability of the Government and foreign forces to protect their country and their anger has exploded into violent protests demanding the resignation of President Ashraf Ghani's Government in which a number of protesters were killed by Afghan security forces. This new development is of serious concern since it is likely to assist both the Taliban and IS in carrying out their agenda. By further complicating an already convoluted scenario, the disaffection of the civil population against an ineffectual Government jeopardizes the American strategy further. It is, therefore, moot whether Donald Trump's plans to enhance US troops would achieve desired results, though the tragic reality that Afghans are in for a bleak future is almost certain.

**Tobacco ban**

It has been more than three years since the State Government banned gutkha and all forms of smokeless tobacco products by enacting a piece of legislation. The next and most crucial step of implementing the ban and at the same time creating mass awareness on the front for enabling the campaign to hit at the root of the habit of tobacco consumption has left a lot to be desired. Apparently, the amount of sincerity and hard work needed on the part of the authorities for this crucial exercise is lacking. As the district administrations in particular will be directly involved in implementing the ban by way of monitoring clandestine sale, transportation, etc., of tobacco products, they need to be extra vigilant. Unless the Government goes the extra mile to ensure that the Act actually contributes towards eradicating the scourge of tobacco consumption, it will merely remain a useless piece of legislation. Rampant sale of banned tobacco products under the very nose of the authorities who seem to be looking the other way makes one wonder whether the Government has made a surrender before the powerful tobacco lobby. The widespread habit of consumption of gutkha as also other forms of tobacco among the masses is a disturbing development having long-term implications on human health. More worryingly, a vast segment of the tobacco consumers in different forms happens to be schoolchildren and youth – thanks to its easy availability. Medical research has confirmed the direct link between tobacco consumption and different throat-related ailments including cancer. This disturbing trend of tobacco consumption has also a lot to do with low awareness levels, stemming largely from the absence of a sustained campaign against the menace. The fight against tobacco, however, should not be restricted to government initiatives alone, as voluntary organizations can be very effective here. We need a concerted campaign that can strike at the social and cultural influences that invariably entices young people into becoming tobacco-chewers and smokers. Tobacco manufacturers often make liberal use of lifestyle advertising, sports sponsorship and popular role models to convey the message that smoking enhances one's personality.

**The 'Last Mile' challenge**

■ Dipok Kumar Barthakur

**T**he United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has announced the 2030 Agenda which committed to "leaving no one behind, and to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for all nations and all peoples and segments of society". This has thrown up a huge challenge to countries like India to come up with new approaches that specifically ensures the "last mile" is delivered successfully i.e. the marginalised and peripheral sections of the society, the people, places and small and unorganised enterprises that have been traditionally underserved and excluded are explicitly targeted and prioritised.

In economic parlance, the "last mile" is the final distance of service delivery; in International development terms, reaching the last mile is the successful outreach of programmes and public services to the remotest of communities. Reaching the last mile therefore has become the latest *mantra* for poverty alleviation and equitable development. Government policies and services are often delivered by a top-down administrative structure. What is often overlooked are circumstances and reasons that block delivery of the last mile to some or many of the schemes' or services' intended recipients.

Very often the last mile is where the breakdown occurs. In a recent speech Prime Minister Narendra

Modi while answering questions on good governance, the economy and the health sector, said, "Last mile delivery is as important as policies. The benefits must reach the intended beneficiaries". Policy makers need to make certain that development is more inclusive and relevant to the lives of all our citizens and communities, and programmes and strategies address the barriers of socio-economic environment or structural hurdles that prevent equity and participation in development. Delivery priorities in development include material infrastructure like roads, power, water and sanitation systems; they also include services like education, healthcare, and security.

Assam and the North-East has historically suffered from issues of access, poor infrastructure and development lag which forms a vicious cycle resulting in poverty and deprivation. Majority of Assam's population still live in rural areas with insufficient access to education, healthcare, clean water and sanitation. A disproportionate ratio of our children do not have access to proper schools, school dropout rates are high and many more of our children are likely to die before their fifth birthday in comparison to rest of India. Despite almost two years of "Swach Bharat Abhiyan" the practice of

open defecation is still prevalent. Investment in rural areas, despite programmes like MNREGA, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, several rural housing and power distribution schemes, Project Golden thread and other self-help schemes, has been slow on actual grass root effectiveness. Agricultural investment, which most rural families depend on, has not kept up with growing demands for food or in terms of technology upgradation. In Assam, we very often know the broad policy direction.

**The difficulty in reaching the last mile in a state like Assam, is the lack of infrastructure, manpower and financial resources on one hand, and the leakages in the system on the other which allows for only a proportion of the development monies and services reaching the actual beneficiary.**

tions that we should adopt to reduce poverty and build prosperity. But we are not sufficiently getting the results we want. For every Government, budget after budget, the greatest challenge has been delivery.

The difficulty in reaching the last mile in a state like Assam, is the lack of infrastructure, manpower and financial resources on one hand, and the leakages in the system on the other which allows for only a proportion of the development monies and services reaching the actual beneficiary. Moreo-

ver many schemes, interventions and services are not designed or equipped to the needs of the diverse environments and population cohorts they are intended for. In order for effective last mile delivery, we must address challenges specific to low-resource settings, we must move away from "one size fits all" solutions.

Very often, our centralized schemes and plans are well intended but fail to ensure actionable programmes and adequate quality control and monitoring to ensure effective implementation; or in many cases once these schemes are announced their execution and monitoring, beyond the contract stage are simply non-existent! Systemic leakages, grafts and intentional wastage are major constraints that we face today in delivery of government services. Tax

payers monies are not given the due respect it deserves; it is treated as an intangible commodity to be spent without accountability. The use of technology and innovation to plug systemic leakages, be it through unavoidable reasons, graft or neglect, has become increasingly important.

Our Government should map and identify the consistent barriers and issues that come up in programme implementation at the last mile. And they should develop targeted approaches that will overcome these challenges, develop the

monitoring frameworks to track progress, and put together the resources to turn plans into action which are tracked and evaluated for outcomes and results. Reporting mechanisms should be strengthened and technology enabled; it should not be a tick box exercise to merely utilise budget allocations.

Last mile challenges will be different in different places and environment. "If you want to deliver a last-mile solution, the best way is to ask those affected how they might do it"—OmoRuhil, World Bank Country Director said in a press interview. Our Government should tailor interventions to the specific last mile context and empower local authorities (with suitable oversight) to adapt interventions and services increasingly to the environment and context they are operating in. Thus, interventions at the last mile need to be flexible and adaptive to local needs. This would include empowering and working with local authorities to make certain programme evaluation and monitoring become part of their routine activities. This is where probably decentralised planning also has an important role to play. As Assam and India makes a paradigm shift in the way we set our development goals and agenda, co-operative federalism needs to go one step further to embrace the village, block and districts in each state in this planning process.

(Writer is the Vice Chairman, State Innovation and Transformation Aayog; the views expressed are the author's own.)

**Heavy school bags**

■ Chandan Barman

**H**earing a Public Interest Litigation, the Division Bench of Bombay High Court directed the Maharashtra Government to issue a circular to all the schools for reducing the weight of school bags carried by children. The Court also directed that the circular should fix the responsibility for monitoring the implementation of the recommendations of the expert committee to be appointed by the Government. Often it has been seen that while going to school small children are likely to collapse with heavy school bags. Carrying a school bag by a student which is heavier than the prescribed limit vis-à-vis their age and class, violates the right to development of a child in a healthy manner and also affects the health of the child severely. It also causes low back pain and may also cause other risks which includes muscle strain, curve of spine and rounding of the shoulders as a result of carrying heavy weight of school bag by students disproportionate to their age and class. Many multistoried school building class rooms are so designed that junior students have to climb up to upper floors along with their heavy school bags, thereby causing physical stress and strain on the spine.

Every child has the right to develop in a healthy environment. This has been echoed in the Constitution of India.

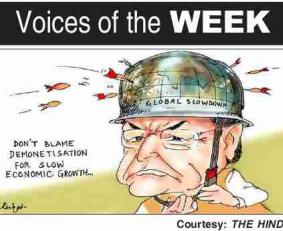
The Directive Principles of State Policy provides that the tender age of children are not abused and that the children should be given opportunity to develop in a healthy manner and their childhood are to be protected against moral and material abandonment. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by India, recognizes the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development. It also recognizes that while ensuring right of child to education, the State shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that school discipline is administered in a manner consistent with the child's human dignity.

weight will not exceed 6 kg.

During the study, it was found that though the school authorities were aware of the circular issued by CBSE regarding weight of school bag to be carried by students however the school did not receive any formal circulars/communication from any authority including CBSE. Some of the students said that they feel physical discomfort when they carry heavy school bags. Even few of the students informed that they were suffering from back pain. In one school it was observed that in all the classes book shelves for each student have been built to keep books.

Thus it is imperative that school authorities should take immediate steps to sensitize the teachers as well as the parents about the weight of school bags to be carried by the students. Parents must also be sensitized to send their children to the schools with the books as per the time table. Teachers should do random checking of the bags of the students about the excess books being carried by students. Further, every class should have book shelves for every students with locker facilities.

Time table should be framed in such a way to ensure that the students do not carry more text books on regular basis. In this regard, Education Department must take necessary action by issuing circulars, notifications etc. immediately regarding weight of school bags. Moreover, the Education Department and school authority may take initiatives for creating awareness on problems of heavy weight of school bags to be carried by children. Parents should be counselled to select school bags and items which are made of light-weight materials. Furthermore, Education Department should work with SCERT, NCERT and CBSE to develop lighter version of text books and may take initiatives to introduce various ICT materials as substitute of textbooks. Initiatives may also be taken to sensitize teachers on child rights and child protection and may provide information on weight of school bags during teachers training education/B.Ed course, DIET etc.



"I think I always enjoyed playing against Pakistan, but it is very important to respect whatever the government's decision is because it is beyond sport at the moment." — VVS LAXMAN, former cricketer

★ ★ ★

"We are happy the city students have fared well, our students have started realizing that the board exams are crucial in their careers." — PANCHALI ROY, principal, MVM, Barsajai

★ ★ ★

"People are throwing stones at us; people are throwing petrol bombs at us. If my men ask me, what do we do? should I say just wait and die, I will come with a nice coffin, with a national flag and I will send your bodies home with honour." — BIPIN RAWAT, Army chief

★ ★ ★

"Dibrugarh University was established in 1965 with the basic objective of providing quality education... there were some limitations for students coming from Sadiya and beyond. The bridge (Dhola-Sadiya) has closed the gap." — Prof Alok Kumar Buragohain, VC, Dibrugarh University

★ ★ ★

"Totally agree with Indian Army chief's statement that the drifitng war in Jammu and Kashmir calls for innovation." — M Venkata Naik, Union Minister on backing the use of human shield against stone pelters

★ ★ ★

"The Opposition is divided and that is why BJP and Narendra Modi is winning elections." — TARUN GOGOI, former Chief Minister, Assam

★ ★ ★

"Indians neglecting traditional knowledge for modern development." — DALAI LAMA, spiritual leader

★ ★ ★

"BJP will surpass itself in 2019 LS polls.... with improved performance in Bengal, Telangana, Odisha and Kerala." — AMIT SHAH, BJP chief

★ ★ ★

"India needs to become an important defence manufacturing hub." — ARUN JAITLEY, Union Defence Minister

★ ★ ★

"Was victim of broad assumption that I was going to win. I'm leaving Trump. I think it's pretty hard not to." — HILLARY CLINTON, former Secretary of State, USA

★ ★ ★

**Rail slogans**

folded railway map.

• If the cistern in your compartment's lavatory is dry, it is because the monsoons have failed for the 4th consecutive year.

• If the windows in your compartment are not having protective glass and iron bars, it is because we want you to enjoy the passing scenery.

• Buy the latest railway time table and guide and enjoy the best in current fiction.

• If two superfast express trains get on the same track and head towards each

other at 160 knts an hour, it is all part of the railways technological upgradation.

• Patronize our pantry car and dining service and you will go off food for the rest of your life.

• Book your luggage by the brake van if you do not want to see them again.

• Be sure to write flattering compliments about the railways in the complaints book.

• Have you noticed the station master the name and address of your next of kin at the time of booking your ticket?

• Be sure to write your last will and testament before embarking on a rail journey.

**The Assam Tribune****From THE PAST****Middle East Crisis****SHARP SPLIT AMONG U.N. MEMBERS**

UNITED NATIONS, June 3: A sharp split among members of the UN Security Council over the course it should take to try to calm the Middle East crisis cast doubt that effective action would emerge from Saturday's scheduled council meeting.

The key stumbling bloc appeared to be United Arab Republic's announced determination, as yet untested, to bar Israeli shipping from the Gulf of Aqaba.

Ambassador Hans Tabor of Denmark, Council President for June, called the council into session to-day after two days of inconclusive private conversations, principally among the 10 non-permanent members. Representatives of Britain, Argentina, Israel, Bulgaria, Syria and Morocco were listed to speak. The council had before it two resolutions — one by the United States urging a cooling off period and a search for a solution through diplomatic means, and the other presented by UAR, blaming Israel for the trouble and calling for reactivation of the UAR-Israel mixed Armistice Commission.

SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 1967

## Loot attempt behind Geetanagar shootout: Police

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, June 3: The assailants who shot at and injured an employee of a cash management services firm at Geetanagar last night were trying to loot cash, police said citing leads into the incident so far.

Anjan Paul (32) was shot in his stomach by two unidentified miscreants around 10.40 pm last night.

Anjan and his driver were parking their official vehicle at their office on Simaki Path at Geetanagar when the incident took place. They were returning after depositing cash at their firm's vault at Lachit Nagar.

Radiant, where Anjan works, is engaged in collecting cash from business establishments and depositing it in banks. The agency was founded by a group of ex-servicemen. Its Guwahati branch is housed in a rented accommodation on Simaki Path at Geetanagar.

"Anjan had gone to open the gate of the office when two youths accosted him. There was an argument for while. Apparently, they were trying to get hold of a bag which had the keys to the cash vault. First the assailants hit Anjan

on the head with the pistol and then he was shot at," police quoted Anjan's driver as saying in FIR.

Two shots were fired, according to locals. Police suspect it was a handgun 7.65 mm pistol. Anjan sustained injuries to his stomach. He was operated upon at the GMCH, but police said he is out of danger.

Meanwhile, former Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi today slammed the BJP-led State government for "misérably failing" to check the deteriorating law-and-order scenario.

"Growing extremist activities of late have been a matter of grave concern. More and more boys are joining the underground groups," he said, addressing a press conference here.

"A CRPF IG has exposed how secret killings are going on under this government. Lack of security of women in Jharkhand has also emerged as a matter of concern. Police are yet to apprehend the culprits of the MP Jewellers robbery case. The probe into the case has slowed down. The law-and-order situation has deteriorated badly after BJP came to power," the veteran Congress leader said.



Singer Neha Kakkar addressing a press conference on the upcoming Viacom18 music festival to be held at the Sarusajai Stadium, in Guwahati on Saturday. — UB Photos

## Doley reviews progress of Govt schemes

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, June 3: Naba Kumar Doley, Minister of Pancharat and Rural Development (P & RD), Assam, on Friday visited the Commissionerate of P & RD at Jirupar in the city and reviewed the progress of various programmes like MGNREGA, PMAY-G, NSAP etc.

The minister stressed successful implementation of every RD scheme for the benefit to percolate down to the grassroots. All the branch officers briefed him on the initiatives taken by the present Government. He added that officials should be alert about the release of required funds by the Government of India to complete the schemes.

**Restriction on vehicular movement**

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, June 3: With a view to introducing a "pedestrian-friendly walking zone" without vehicular movement in the city, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Amanjeet Kaur has issued an order to temporarily restrict plying of all kinds

of vehicles from 5 am to 7 am and from 7 pm to 8 pm on the stretch of the MG Road from Panikar (residence of the DC of Kamrup Metro) to the Raj Bhawan.

The order has been issued under Section 115 of the MV Act, 1988, and Section 93 of the Assam Police Act, 2007, stated an official release.

## B Borooh College team wins Manash Borah debate

GUWAHATI, June 3: The 8th Manash Borah Memorial North East Inter Institutional Debating Competition was held recently at the Pragjyoti ITA Auditorium, Machikhawa here, said a press release.

The gathering was also addressed by Brig (retd) Ranjit Borthakur, president, OBASSG.

More than twenty institutions from across the State participated in the competition. At the end of a fierce competition, Bishaldeep Kakar of Pandu College was adjudged the best debater, while Nandini Chakraborty of B Borooh College and Tahmina Rahman of Gauhati University came 2nd and 3rd respectively. The team from B Borooh College comprising Nandini and Kuldeep Soren was adjudged the best team. The prizes were Rs 7000, Rs 5000 and Rs 3000 respectively for the best three debaters, while the best team got the Manash Borah Memorial Running Trophy.

The competition was held in Assamese as well as in English. Inaugurating the competition, Prof Amanjit Choudhury, former Pro-Vice Chancellor of Tezpur University stressed the importance of such debating competitions as they help generate opinions and conclusions on important issues. He also stressed the need for inculcating respect for opposite views that he found lacking in the contemporary political system.

Earlier, Dr Shahnaz Rahman, president, Manash Bo-

rah Memorial Trust, delivered the welcome address and recounted a brief history of the competition.

The topic for the competition was, in the opinion of the House 'Use of social media has increased indifference towards politics.'

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## Plans finalised for implementation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

PRANJAL BHUYAN

GUWAHATI, June 3: The State Government has finalised plans for implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) during this Kharif 2017 season and all the districts of Assam have been divided into clusters for coverage under the scheme.

Senior officials told *The Assam Tribune* that the scheme, for the major crop of *sali* paddy at the level and with each GP to be considered as one unit for the purpose of Crop Cutting Experiments (CCE).

For other crops like *ahu* paddy, jute and black gram the unit of insurance will be revenue circle district and subdivision," said an official.

The decision to implement the scheme in Kharif 2017 was taken during a recent meeting of the State Level Coordination Committee on Crop Insurance (SLCCI) which also finalised the modalities.

For the Kharif 2017 season all the old 27 undivided districts of Assam have been compartmentalised into eight clusters. There will be implementing agencies for all clusters.

"For each crop, specific districts or areas within the eight clusters are selected for implementation of

the scheme. For the major crop of *sali* paddy the scheme will be implemented at gram panchayat (GP)

and with each GP to be considered as one unit for the purpose of Crop Cutting Experiments (CCE).

Crop loans through Kisan Credit Cards (KCC)

are covered under compulsory coverage.

"Actuarial Premium Rates (APR) would be charged under PMFBY by the implementing agency. However, farmers would be paying maximum of two per cent of sum insured or Actuarial Rate, whichever is less, during the Kharif season. The difference between the actuarial premium rate and rate of insurance charges payable by the farmer shall be treated as rate of normal premium subsidy which shall be shared equally by the Central and State," said an official.

With regard to assessment of loss or shortfall in yield, the State government department overseeing conduct of CCEs will submit yield data as per cut-off date decided by SLCCI along with results of individual CCEs.

Yield data will be furnished to the insurance com-

pany by the State government in accordance with the cut-off dates fixed, and crops and areas notified, based on total number of CCEs being conducted.

"The government has decided to strengthen the audit process of conduct of CCEs and digitizing the CCE process, including geo-coding, date and time stamping and photographic evidence is must for all CCEs. To increase the reliability, accuracy and speed of CCE data, it has been made mandatory to use smart phones and other hand held devices for capturing images, location of CCEs and for online transmission of data and quick claim settlement," the official said.

Under the provision of 'On account payment of claims due to mid-season adversity', insured farmers can get immediate relief in case of adverse seasonal conditions during the crop season like floods, prolonged dry spells, severe drought, unseasonal rains and so on wherein expected yield during the season is likely to be less than 50 per cent of threshold yield.

There is a provision for failed sowing, post harvest losses and localised risks also.

Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd will be the implementing agency for cluster 1 (undivided Nagaon, Dima Hasao and Kamrup Metro districts), cluster 3 (Kamrup, Baksa, Morigaon and Golaghat districts) and cluster 7 (undivided Sonitpur, Chirang and Dibrugarh districts).

HDFC Ergo General Insurance Company Ltd will implement the scheme in cluster 6 (undivided Sivasagar, Darrang and Nalbari districts) and cluster 8 (Jorhat, Bongaigaon and Karimganj districts).

ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Ltd will be the implementing agency in cluster 2 (Lakhipur, Kokrajhar, Golaghat and Hailakandi districts) and cluster 4 (Barpeta, undivided Karbi Anglong, Cachar and Tinsukia districts).

Royal Sundaram General Insurance Company Ltd will be the implementing agency in cluster 5 consisting of undivided Dhubri, Udalguri and Dhemaji districts.

## UGC recognition for college journal

GUWAHATI, June 3: The bi-annual research journal of the Department of History of Cinnamara College in Jorhat district recently received a UGC recommendation, a press release received here stated.

Titled *The Mirror*, the research journal published several scholarly papers by nationally and internationally-reputed social scientists. Further,

the journal has secured the prestigious 'Impact Factor' from the Australia-based International Institute of Organized Research.

## A boat tragedy brings to light pathetic state of 4 villages in North Lakhimpur



The site of the May 31 boat tragedy. — Photo: N Lakhimpur Correspondent

FARHANA AHMED

Ranganadi Hydroelectrical Power Project at Yazali, Arunachal Pradesh.

The flood of 2008 widened the two other small rivers – Zohing and Kinnin that confluence in that area with the excess waters of Ranganadi. The illegal sand mining by some villagers also contributed towards the widening of the river separating the four villages from the right bank side of Ranganadi river. Since then the residents of these four villages have been forced to use boats to cross the river for all purposes.

In 2014, the State PWD started con-

structing a bridge to connect the four villages with North Lakhimpur. But due to reasons unknown to the villagers, the construction stopped after some initial works. To meet their daily communication with the town, the villagers had constructed a bamboo bridge over the river on the same spot. But unfortunately that bridge too was swept away on May 31. After crossing the river to the island on boat, this correspondent found the four villages devoid of all basic amenities from roads to toilets, drinking water facilities to health care. The four villages, which fall under Dejo Gaon Pancharat, now fall under Revenue Circle has a population of 2000 villagers, and they have not been able to avail any government schemes and services. There are six

schools – four LP schools, one ME school and one high school. The teachers coming from outside the village have the daily ordeal of crossing the river by boats twice a day. The four villages have only four toilets provided by Public Health Engineering department for which the rest of the villagers have no option but to go for open defecation. Only one tube well was provided by the PHE in the last five years in this river island where the availability of pure drinking water is a dream for its residents. The villagers are forced to drink water from *kachha* wells.

This river island of four villages on Ranganadi belongs of 110 Nowbocha LAC though it is very close to 111 Lakhimpur LAC. Though for school and college education, health care and daily buying and selling, the villagers cross the river to North Lakhimpur town, for any other official matter they have to travel to Nowbocha, which is far away. The area is neglected by the elected representatives of both the LACs.

The villagers here demand only a

bridge to connect them to North Lakhimpur town. The State PWD minister was approached by the villagers in April this year to complete the construction of the RRC bridge. But their demands are yet to be fulfilled.

**Debojani Saikia: a tribute**



Born at Hailiborgaon in Nagaon town, Late Debojani Saikia was married to Thanumur Saikia at an early age of 16, immediately after her schooling. But due to her determination to stand on her own feet, which was definitely a rare feat those days, the lady pursued her higher studies and eventually completed her masters in Hindi over-coming all odds.

Later, she joined Nagaon Government Girls' School as a Hindi teacher and retired in 1993. A successful mother too, she could make all her six siblings well educated and competent. Associated with many social organisations, Late Debojani Saikia was an example of women empowerment and a guiding force to the departed soul.

— Dibyendu Goswami

## Extraordinary performance by a differently-abled girl

MAYUKH GOSWAMI

MANGALDAI, June 3: This is the story of the unbelievable will power, determination and hard work of a teenage girl of Jyoti Nagar, ward no-8, Mangaldai who actually has made the hard work of all the other meritorious students look pretty small. The girl who reminds everyone about none other than 'Stephen Hawking', the world famous scientist is Rupsika Nath.

Differently-abled Rupsika, the youngest of the three children of SI Kamleshwar Nath and SI Hemanti Nath (both now working in the District Special Branch in Darrang) of Jyoti Nagar here, since her birth had to accept their struggle for life as a daily routine as she was suffering from locomotor disability. The lower portion of her body and left hand has remained paralysed since birth leaving her completely bed-ridden. The wheelchair and the bed became her only resort. This bed-ridden

special girl with extraordinary will power, determination and hard work has proved that physical disability can never be a barrier to showcase one's academic potential and secured star marks in HSLC with letter marks in five subjects.

She obtained 83 in Assamese, 80 in English, 84 in General Science, 82 in Social Science, 80 in Hindi and 69 in General Mathematics.

The alleged negligence committed by the attending doctor at the time of her birth has compelled Rupsika to accept her physical disability. The parents while serving in the State Police department with very less time to spare for the family, however took it up as a challenge and decided to take every possible measure for the child. Rupsika completed her primary education from Utara Mangaldi Primary School but was not allowed admission in any government school to pursue her education in upper primary level. However, the management and

the kind-hearted Principal of Bhupendra Narayan Jatiya Vidyalaya allowed her admission and arranged for a special chair without causing any disturbance to other students.

Rupsika who likes reading books on subjects related to the society and humanities considers Dr Bhupendra Nath Saikia and Anuradha Sarma Pujari as her two favourite authors. While talking to the media Rupsika expressed her future goal to become an officer of the Civil Services following completion of graduation with Major in History. She hopes that if she can become an administrative officer, it will inspire other differently-abled students like her.

Meanwhile, a large number of well-wishers including the Superintendent of Police Shreeraj Thiraviam visited Rupsika at her residence and congratulated her on her wonderful achievement and assured her all kinds of guidance and support from his end.

## Gaurav urges ADB to step up anti-erosion work at Kaziranga

CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI, June 3: Kaliabur MP Gaurav Gogoi met Kenichi Yokoyama, Country Director and L Boenaiwa Sondija, Deputy Country Director, Asian Development Bank on May 31 last. The meeting took place at the ADB India Head Office at San Martin Marg, New Delhi, a press release stated.

Gogoi suggested that the ADB should step up its erosion prevention work in Kaziranga citing delays in land acquisition and necessary approvals. The Kaziranga

project is 20-km-long and is essential to protect the people of Dhansiriukhul, Bokakhat and the wildlife population in the park.

Yokoyama assured that the work will be looked into.

Yokoyama also informed about the key projects that the ADB has undertaken in Assam. The projects relate to hydropower, power transmission and water management. He further informed that there is a positive opinion on Assam and the ADB's project will expand soon.

Gogoi stressed on the sen-

## Nalbari district among top three in HSLC, HSSLC exam results

CORRESPONDENT

NALBARI, June 3: Students from Nalbari district have once again proved that the academic atmosphere of the district is still congenial as the district itself among the top three in the HSLC and HSSLC examination results.

The Nalbari district secured top position with 65.86 pass percentage in the HSLC examination. Students from the

district got the first, second and 10th positions among the ten rank holders. A total of 10,647 students from the district appeared in the HSLC examination 2017. Of them, 7,012 students successfully passed the examination with 2,440 students getting first division, 3,296 second division and 1,280 students third division.

While the State achieved only 47.94 pass percentage the district proved its academic strength with a brilliant performance.

## School boy dies

ANN Service

BADARPUR, June 3: The Badarpur Nabin Chandra College (NCC) and the Badarpur Paragon Junior College have shown excellent results in the Higher Secondary Final Examination 2017, conducted by the AHSEC.

These two renowned colleges secured maximum letters, stars, and divisions,

said the principals of the colleges, Dr Motruza Hussain and Pankaj Choudhury respectively.

## 2 detained

CORRESPONDENT

DHUBRI, June 3: Police apprehended two persons on Friday in connection with an alleged gang rape.

Shah Alom and his relative Tara Banu were picked up by police on Friday. According to police the accused allegedly had connections with the four members of a gang that allegedly raped a woman from Nayabati inside a garage at Jhagrapara Link Road area on Thursday night.

## Talk on 'yoga and health'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

ence and health benefits.

The programme was moderated by Dr Bharati Dutta, retired faculty of DHSK College and Nagar Pramukh of Vivekananda Kendra. A patriotic song was presented on the occasion by Ramkripal Yadav.

The interactive session was conducted by Shantanu Dev. The programme was attended by large number of audience including academicians, social workers and students.

PATACHARKUCHI, June 3: Pinku Kalita (13) a school boy of Patacharkuchi (Kuwar) died on the spot while his father and brother sustained injuries on Friday morning when a speeding dumper truck registration hit them suddenly in front of St John School, Barana. Though the dumper driver fled from the spot, an angry mob set later ablaze two trucks. Meanwhile, the body of the deceased was cremated at Kuwar village.



A farmer ploughing his field at Marian, on Friday.— UB Photos

## Two women hacked

BISWANATH CHARIALI, June 3: Two women, namely Bodhwan Goswami (40) and Bhanu Mallik (42) of No. 2 Diringathar village situated under Biswanath Chariali Police Station in Biswanath district were wounded last evening by one Ahmed Ali with a machete. According to information available, a section of women of the said village reached Ahmed's home when they came to know that he was about to slaughter a cow. The women reportedly asked the person not to kill the cow, following which Ahmed attacked the duo and fled. However, timely arrival of officials of the district and police administration with forces prevented the situation from further deterioration. Ahmed Ali was subsequently arrested while the injured women were admitted to hospital. The situation in the meantime is under control. — Correspondent

**OFFICE OF THE MISSION DIRECTOR**  
RASHTRIYA MADHYAMIK SHIKSHA ABHIJAN, ASSAM  
Kahlipara, Guwahati-19

**NOTICE FOR CANCELLATION OF RECRUITMENT PROCESS OF GRADUATE TEACHERS FOR ADARSHA VIDYALAYAS**

Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhijan, Assam hereby informed that due to some unavoidable circumstances, the recruitment process of Graduate Teachers for Adarsha Vidyalayas of Assam vide advertisement No. RMSA/RS/17/2014/PI-17/15 Dated 9th February 2017 has been cancelled.

Sd/- Mission Director  
RMSA, Assam  
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A5.45pm

**PATRIOTS VS GARBAGE:**  
SALAZAR'S REVENGE (Eng-3D)  
A3.30pm

**HANUMAN DA DAMAAR (Hindi U)**  
A8.15pm

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**SWEETIEE WEDS NRI**

## NE making remarkable growth during Modi regime: Sonowal

PRABIR SIL

AGARTALA, June 3: Under the Narendra Modi-led Government, the Northeastern region has witnessed a remarkable progress of the past three years, said Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal.

Many news things have happened in the region over past three years in the field of infrastructure - rail, road and air connectivity and electricity, he told the media in BJP party headquarters here on Saturday.

"Modiji firmly believes development is not possible without massive infrastructure development and that's why he is pushing infrastructural development in the region", Sonowal, who arrived here to inaugurate MODI Fest at Santir Bazar in South Tripura district reiterated.

"Now, the NE will grow in a faster way after so many initiatives by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Assam alone attracted Rs 6,500 crore investment in a single year which is a record", he pointed out.

In Assam, the BJP Government is



Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal speaking to mediapersons in Agartala on Saturday - Photo: Correspondent

NE woman alleges harassment on social media

NEW DELHI, June 3: A 45-year-old woman from North East, who holds a senior position in Bharat Scouts and Guides, has accused some men of making vulgar remarks against her on social media, police said.

The woman is posted in Arunachal Pradesh and had come here for a meeting on May 28, they said.

She alleged she was added in a WhatsApp group of people with Bharat Scouts and Guides. In the group "scandalous remarks" were posted.

She also alleged that a man, who is not an employee of Bharat Scouts and Guides, along with some other persons posted obscene comments about her on Facebook too, police said.

The woman also claimed that they targeted her since she is from NE. The police said they have registered a case and are probing the matter. - PTI

**Political problem affects development'**

NEWMAY NEWS

KOHIKA, June 3: Nagaland Chief Minister Shurhozelie Lieziesha has expressed his regrets that due to the Naga political problem, Nagaland could not be developed to the expectation. However, he expressed confidence that once "permanent settlement" comes, development will take place at a faster pace.

Shurhozelie said this while interacting with the eight-member delegation from Virginia Baptist Mission and Baptist Collegiate Ministry led by Rev Jeffrey S Buffkin who called on the Chief Minister in his office recently.

The Chief Minister expressed his appreciation to the Americans particularly the American Missionaries for bringing Christianity to the Naga people. He said, "Had the American Missionaries not entered into our land and spread the gospel, the Naga people would not have been what we are now."

## Acharya wants NEC renamed as NAMASTE

BHADRA GOGOI

DIMAPUR, June 3: Nagaland Governor PB Acharya has urged the North Eastern Council (NEC) to consider the proposal of renaming the Council as NAMASTE as this acronym includes the names of all the Northeastern States of the country.

Acharya also requested the NEC to bring into its ambit the promotion of organic farming in the region and brand "Make in North East". In this regard, he suggested that NEC draw up a suitable scheme to emulate the success of Sikkim in the field of organic farming, a Raj Bhawan release said on Friday.

Addressing the 66th Plenary of NEC in New Delhi, he said NEC as a

## Cattle ban: Meghalaya CM writes to Tripura counterpart

TURA, June 3: Meghalaya Chief Minister Mukul Sangma has written to his Tripura counterpart Manik Sarkar seeking to form a joint opposition to the Centre's ban on sale and purchase of cattle at livestock markets for slaughter.

Sangma said the move "infringes" on the rights of States to regulate items on the State List which includes cattle markets.

"State Government must assert collectively to dissuade the Union Government from such actions which directly dilute the federal structure of our great nation," he said in the letter to Sarkar last evening.

He added that the notification will set a "very wrong precedent" in negating the spirit of the federal structure.

"The Union Government should tread carefully after due consultations with State Governments before proposing changes in the regulation of livestock markets under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act," Sangma said.

Calling for strong joint resistance from States, Sangma said the move by Central Government to regulate cattle markets in the "garb" of environmental regulation is "a complete infringement of power of the States."

The Meghalaya CM pointed out that like other Northeastern States, Meghalaya has 85 per cent indigenous people and cannot afford to ban the sale of cattle for slaughter.

He said the butchers' association in Khasi-Jaintia Hills had recently met him and expressed concerns over the new notification.

This piquant situation can lead to a clash of subjects between the Union and State Governments, which are clearly delineated in the VIIIth Schedule to the Constitution and does not behove well for healthy federal relations in the larger context of cooperative federalism which the Prime Minister espouses so dearly," he said. - PTI

## Mizoram NGOs press for fresh postmortem

NEWMAY NEWS

in Mizoram.

They alleged that the two students were murdered along railway track in the outskirts of Guwahati on Sunday last.

A meeting of NGO Coordination Committee involving Young Mizo Association, Mizo Hmeichhia Insukhawm Pawl, Mizoram Upa Pawl, Mizo Zirai Pawl and Mizo Students' Union recently did not accept the postmortem reports and

said that they will take initiative so that postmortems are re-conducted in Mizoram.

The meeting decided to send representatives to Guwahati to investigate into the alleged murder and to meet officials of the Assam Government over the mysterious death.

The meeting further decided to appeal to President Pranab Mukherjee, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and National

Commissioner for SC and ST to intervene in the case.

As reported earlier, two Mizo students of Assam Down Town University, C Lalmahangsa and R Lalmaswami were found dead under mysterious condition along railway track at Panikhaiti area in the outskirts of Guwahati on Sunday. Their bodies were brought home on Monday and were laid to rest on Tuesday.



AICC general secretary, in-charge Meghalaya CP Joshi along with Meghalaya Chief Minister Dr Mukul Sangma during a meeting of Meghalaya Pradesh Congress Committee at Congress Bhawan, Shillong on Saturday. - UB Photos

forum has been a significant and effective platform for discussing and deliberating upon the developmental issues of the region since 1971.

The Governor felt that to put in practice the Act East Policy, the Regional Plan of NEC has identified only flight connectivity and stated that besides air connectivity, road and rail connection between India and South East Asian countries are equally important.

While calling for taking advantage of the opportunity of the India-Japan strategic partnership, he opined that we should embrace the interest shown by Japan and hence urged NEC and DoNER Ministry to work out modalities to avail such investment offers.

Acharya also appreciated the Centre for allowing Air India and Indigo flights from Dimapur to Delhi via Kolkata. However, he urged Air India to operate flights seven days a

wards preservation and protection of indigenous tribal culture, tribal scripts, rituals and identity.

Informing the meeting on setting up of a Medical College in Nagaland, the Governor said the State Government has acquired 40,251 acres of land near Kohima for the project. He said the Union Ministry of Health & FW under the scheme Upgradation of District Hospital to New Medical College has approved one time grant of Rs 189 crore. The Centre has already released Rs 52.50 crore and construction works have started, he added.

The Governor also appreciated the Centre for allowing Air India and Indigo flights from Dimapur to Delhi via Kolkata. However, he urged Air India to operate flights seven days a

week from Dimapur to Delhi from the present six days. He also said currently, there are no flights from Dimapur connecting Guwahati/Imphal and requested NEC to take up with the Ministry of Civil Aviation to include Dimapur in the Guwahati/Imphal route.

He also spoke on the importance of skill development in the region while stating that India is grappling with the problem of unemployment as a consequence of the prevailing education system. In this regard, the Governor appreciated NEC for taking cognizance of the imperative of skill development for economic prosperity of the region and pointed out that all universities should have skill development in their curriculum.

## 3 AR men hurt in Manipur blast

CORRESPONDENT

IMPHAL, June 3: Three Assam Rifles personnel were injured in a bomb attack across the border at any cost", he said, adding that road blockade and shut down in Manipur is a cause of concern for the entire North East.

Sonowal said the BJP will alone form the next government in Tripura by ending a long Marxist regime. "The Marxist regime has failed to live up to the people's expectation as the government lacks in vision. Due to corrupt practice of flagship programme including MGNREGA, Tripura could not grow in the Left regime", he alleged.

Asserting that the CPI(M)-led Government can't bring any change in Tripura, Sonowal said the BJP will certainly form the next government here that will ensure speedy development of the State. On the alliance issue, he said the BJP alone can topple the Marxist regime in Tripura but anything can happen in politics and the party's pradesh committee will take a final call on it at the right time.

The injured personnel identified as Subedar Sher Ram, Rifleman Sachin and Biswamitra have been airlifted to a military hospital here for treatment. Additional security forces rushed to the area soon after the incident and conducted a search operation.

The incident occurred days after the State Government constituted a committee to study the recent increase in incidents of bomb blasts, ambush on security forces and killing of civilians in Mores and nearby areas.

The seven member Committee headed by Additional DGP Pramod Asthana as chairman, will study the circumstances and reasons behind these incidences and recommend remedial measures. It is scheduled to submit its report within 15 days.

## TMC gears up for polls

ARTICLE

FORCAST FOR NORTH EAST

STATES: Moderate rain

Understandably it is very likely to occur in most places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram &amp; Tripura.

WEATHER NORTHEAST

Forecast for North Eastern

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WEATHER NORTHEAST

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT

## IN MEMORIAM



Master Luit Nath

(16.12.2002 - 04.06.2016)  
Babu, you came to this world for the love of your son and enlightened your parents, relatives, friends with bright hope and big dreams. But all at once you have been taken away, like a budding flower that随ers in the wind or a full moon that is suddenly lost from sight. We are unable to touch you, but we will always keep you alive by remembering your good thoughts & deeds in our heart. On this occasion of your 1st Anniversary, pray to the Almighty that you are in peace with heavenly deities and ready to come back to this beautiful planet to fulfill your unfilled mission.

Your Pa & Ma  
Panjhar, Guwahati,

CD/Memor/1160/1

## ADYA SHRADDDHA

Lily Choudhury  
01.12.1945 - 23.05.2017

Today on the occasion of your Adya Shradddha pray to the Almighty for the eternal peace of your noble soul.

In grief

Family members and all the Staff members of Pardhan Dresses and Pardhan Plus, Dhemagong, Guwahati-21

CD/Adya Shandhu/P/AP570/1

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'Sanjog Matrimony' choose your life-partner, Any Castes/ Assamese/ Bengali/ Nepali/ Muslim/ Bodoland/ Marwari/ Bihari- Govt./ PSU/ MNC/ Businessman. Contact Bride/ Groom- Assam & Outside of Assam/ India, Guwahati, Ulubari, @8638153087/ 9706036644. Mat/GP/A1577/1

**ARELIABLE MATRIMONY CENTRE "SANDHAN", GUWAHATI (AIDC), JORHAT (UNNAYAN BHAWAN), DRIBURAGI (CHIRING CHAPARI), GOLAGHAT (NEAR COURT), NAGAON (KUSHALI, NAGAR). 9767107771, 8011630847. Mat/P/1129/1**

'Borjatri' Assam's first Professional & confidential Matrimonial organization for all Caste & religion with complete wedding services. For detail contact : 7670022200. www.borjatri.com. Mat/P/A1643/1

## GROOM WANTED

Suitable match invited for an Ahom Advocate girl of 33 years. Height 5'4" feet. If any contact in mother's Ph. No. 8761048184. Mat/GP/1116/1

Kalita girl 33+, fair and good looking M.Sc (Biotech), working in Bangalore MNC seeks suitable match. Father resident of Guwahati. Contact (M) 9401280298. Mat/GP/111105/1

Assamese/ Kayastha/widow/ one issue/ 33/ 5'4" M/B/A/ Guwahati/ working. Widow or divorcee may apply. 9864824052. Mat/GP/1113/1

Wanted Bengali/ Kayastha girl found for qualified 31/ 5'3" girl residence at Guwahati. Contact : 07896777854. Mat/GP/AP543/1

**SEEKING SUITABLE MATCH FOR KALITA GIRL 27+, M.TECH, PARENTS HIGHLY QUALIFIED, GOVT. OFFICERS. CONTACT FATHER 8473932115. Mat/GP/11118/1**

Groom for fair, beautiful, B.Tech, working, 35 yrs, 5'2" girl from a decent family. Mob No. 9435108417. Mat/GP/11117/1

Kalita/ Assamese/ 30/ 5'4"/ MA, B.Ed/ pursuing Ph.D/ Asstt. Professor Govt. College, #0613435785 (Casto no bar). Mat/GP/A1558/1

Brahmin Assamese, 25+, 5'5", B.Tech Engineer Guwahati (2) Brahmin 27, B.Tech, Engineer Bangalore (3) Brahmin 29, MA, B.Ed, working in Guwahati. #Matchmaker (M) 9854063198. Mat/GP/H1175/1

Seeking Engineer/ Doctor/ Advocate Professor/ Subject Teacher Govt. Service holder Officer Rank, an match for Advocate Kalita girl 38+, 5'8" of educated & cultural family. Accepted Guwahati/ Nalbari candidate. Direct : 9435010440/ 9876367400. Mat/GP/H1126/1

Hindu Assamese girl 33+, MA, B.Ed, Govt. School Teacher. Contact No. 766282305, Mat/GP/AP562/1

Bengali/ Kayastha/ beautiful/ slim 26/ 5'7" MA/Double. Only child. Casto no bar. @8638153087/ 7399215520. Mat/GP/A1570/1

Kalita/ Assamese/ Beautiful/ 26/ 5'4", Tech MBA. Engineer in reported MNC at Metro, 9864809793/ 7670030400. Mat/GP/A1571/1

Assamese/ Kalita/ divorcee/ beautiful 29/ 5'3", M.Sc. Working Govt. Sector, Casto no bar. @7399475723/ 970636644. Mat/GP/A1572/1

Bengali/ Kayastha/ beautiful/ 26/ BE, MBA, Asstn. Engineer. Casto no bar. @8822230669/ 7576026601. Mat/GP/A1573/1

Bengali/ 27.B.Sc (Zoology) PG Diploma in Banking Sr. Branch Manager in Nationalized Bank. @8822230669/ 7576026601. Mat/GP/A1574/1

Beautiful Assamese/ Brahma/ 25/ 5'3", B.Tech, MCA, Engg. at Public Sector Unit, Govt. Sector, Casto no bar. @7086730669/ 970636644. Mat/GP/A1575/1

Assamese/ Kalita/ 24/ 5'4"/ MBA/ PRVT job in Guwahati. Convent educated. #7086730669/ 970636644. Mat/GP/A1576/1

Bengali/ 27.B.Sc (Zoology) PG Diploma in Banking Sr. Branch Manager in Nationalized Bank. @8822230669/ 7576026601. Mat/GP/A1577/1

Beautiful Assamese/ Brahma/ 27, 5'5", M.Sc (Microbiology), working MNC in Delhi, Father Executive in Oil Sector, Contact (M) 9401469139. Mat/GP/11177/1

Ahomi girl 27 yrs, very fair, slim & pretty girl. B.Tech seeks suitable match working in Assam or any Indian metrocity. Contact (M) 9854063196. Mat/GP/11178/1

Fair & good looking Kalita girl 27, 5'5", M.Sc (Microbiology), working MNC in Delhi, Father Executive in Oil Sector, Contact (M) 9401469139. Mat/GP/11177/1

Alliance invited for Kalita girl 27, 5'4", B.Tech, slim, fair, good looking father Rd. Govt. Officer. Guwahati resident. Contact (M) 9854203706. Mat/GP/11178/1

Assamese Hindu 26, MBBS, (Assam) 27, MBBS, Lawyer in (Supreme Court) Delhi, 9170272992. Mat/GP/11190/1

Beautiful Assamese, Brahma, 27, BE (Guwahati), Engineer in (IBM), Bangalore, 98540-82844. Mat/GP/11179/1

Alliance invited for Kalita girl 27, 5'4", M.B.A, Executive working MNC in Metrocity. Fair & good looking. Any Indian Metrocity. (M) 9854063196. Mat/GP/11179/1

Wanted a suitable Bengali/ Cast Hindu Govt/ Bank/ PSU job as a brido. 35/ 5'2" Bishwa Rashmi Na Gana/ M/B/A Govt. Bank Officer/ Ans. MNC/ home/ Faridpur Dist. Direct Contact : 943503807/ 8724975190. Mat/GP/AP4982/

Groom for fair, beautiful, B.Tech, working, 35 yrs, 5'2" girl from a decent family. Mob No. 9435108417. Mat/GP/11117/1

Slim, fair & good looking, Assamese, Hindu girl General Cast, 25, 5'4", Master in Business Economics from GU seeks suitable match. (M) 9854203706. Mat/GP/H1184/1

Wanted Brahmin groom (Assamese/ Bengali/ North Indian for a beautiful Assamese Brahmin girl (Kaniz) Doctor (MD, Anaesthesia) 30 yrs, Krishnayore Gora, Makar Rashi, working in Delhi. Contact Parents : 9435010440/ 9876367400. Mat/GP/H1126/1

Hindu/ Assamese/ 28 yrs, 5'8" BE, working as Electronic engineer/ lives in Bhubaneswar. Contact : 8235960545. Mat/GP/A1610/1

Assamese/ Muslim/ 28/ lives issueless divorcee/ lives in Assam. Contact : 8822423823. Mat/GP/A1611/1

Hindu/ Assamese/ Kalita/ 27 yrs/ MBBS/ MD/ lives in Metro. Contact : 8822242823. Mat/GP/A1612/1

Hindu/ Assamese/ Brahma/ 25 yrs/ M.Sc/ Teacher/ lives in Guwahati. Contact : 8822242823. Mat/GP/A1613/1

Groom Age 34, height 5'6", qualification-Diploma Engineer (Mech). In Service in Railways as TTBs. Wanted bride from SC/ community. Qualification to be graduate, fair & beautiful. Correspondence : 8408396139 & 9854734189. Mat/BP/H1115/2

Suitable bride for 54 years unmarried Hindu boy Government service Annual income eight Lakhs, Guwahati settlement. 8414085675. Mat/BP/H1162/1

Bengali/ ground/ 33 yrs/ MB/ AE, working repuned MTA/ Metro, Early marriage. @8638153076/ 7399215520. Mat/BP/A1564/1

Bengali/ Brahma/ 34/ 5'8"/ MB/ Tech, Working Govt. Doctor, Early marriage. @8408396139 & 9854734189. Mat/BP/A1565/1

Bengali/ Brahma/ 34/ 5'8"/ MB/ Tech, working repuned MTA/ Metro, Early marriage. @8638153076/ 7399215520. Mat/BP/A1566/1

Bengali/ Kayastha/ 34/ 5'8"/ MB/ Tech, Working Govt. Doctor, Early marriage. @8408396139 & 9854734189. Mat/BP/A1567/1

Assamese/ Kalita/ 33/ 5'10"/ MB/ Tech, Original Govt. Devout/ original Scholar. Contact No. 9132646701. Mat/BP/H1221/1

Assamese/ Kalita/ 33/ 5'10"/ MB/ Tech, Service, Govt. Employee, original Scholar. Contact No. 9132646701. Mat/BP/H1221/2

Age 42 Kalita, Graduate, Govt. job, divorcee, Ghy (2) 32, General, Graduate, Service, Ghy (3) 32, SC, MBA, Service, divorcee, (4) Kalita, MBA, Service, Ghy, divorcee, Sandhani, 8011630847. Mat/GP/H1307/1

27. Nith, B.Tech, MNC, Punc (2) 27, Kalita, B.Tech, MNC, Mumbai (3) 29, Kalita, B.Tech, MNC, Delhi (5) 27, Ahom, M.C, Service, MNC, Punc (2) 28, Brahma, 5.M.Com, Service, Ghy (5) 28, Kalita, Masters, Service, Panikhaiti (6) 28, OBC, M.Sc/ NEU/ GATE qualified/ pursuing P.DL, Ghy (7) 33, Kalita, M.Sc, Service, Ghy, Sandhani, 8011630847. Mat/GP/H1307/1

Assamese/ Kalita/ 24/ 5'4"/ MBA/ PRVT job in Guwahati. Convent educated. #7086730669/ 970636644. Mat/GP/A1576/1

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Assamese/ Kalita/ 24/ 5'4"/ MBA/ PRVT job in Guwahati. Convent educated. #7086730669/ 970636644. Mat/GP/A1579/1

Assamese/ Kalita/ 24/ 5'4"/ MBA/ PRVT job in Guwahati. Convent educated. #7086730669/ 970636644. Mat/GP/A1580/1

Assamese/ Kalita/ 24/ 5'4"/ MBA/ PRVT job in Guwahati. Convent educated. #7086730669/ 970636644. Mat/GP/A1581/1

## BRIDE WANTED

Handsome Kalita 34 yrs, 6', University topper in BE, SAP boy working as Senior Executive in MNC Bangalore (innocent divorcee) seeking cultured & qualified girl as thin age group 29-33 yrs, for early marriage. Residency Guwahati. Contact : 94015-95839. Mat/BP/H1113/1

Wanted suitable alliance for a Brahmin groom (Assamese/ Bengali/ North Indian for a beautiful Assamese Brahmin girl (Kaniz) Doctor (MD, Anaesthesia) 30 yrs, Krishnayore Gora, Makar Rashi, working in Delhi. Contact : 9435010440/ 9876367400. Mat/GP/H1126/1

Assamese/ Kalita boy 31, 57+, handsome, BE/ MBA, Engineer working in Oil India Ltd. Father Doctor. Contact : 08540-63196. Mat/BP/H1117/1

Bengali/ Kayastha 31/ 5'11" M.Tech, Working reputed MNC at Metro, Early marriage. @8638153087/ 7399215520. Mat/BP/H1118/1

Required vegetarian girl for a 31 years Jain Advocate boy, Mat/BP/H1126/1

Age 42, General MBA, service, Nagaland (divorcee) seeking culture & qualified girl as thin age group 29-33 yrs, for early marriage. Residency Guwahati. Contact : 94015-95839. Mat/BP/H1127/1

Assamese/ Kalita/ 31/ 5'8"/ M.Tech/ pursuing Ph. Assst Professor in Govt. University. @9840849793/ 8011630847. Mat/BP/H1128/1

Kayastha/ Assamese/ 33/ 5'8"/ BE, Working in reputed MNC at Metro, Early marriage. @8638153087/ 7399215520. Mat/BP/H1129/1

Age 33 Bengali/ B.Tech, MNC, (Delhi) 2/ 36 Bengali, B.Com, Contractor, Shillong (3) 30, Brahmin, B.Tech, MNC, Kokrajhar, B.Com, Contractor, Sandhani, 8011630847. Mat/BP/H1130/1

Bengali/ Brahmin/ 30/ 6'0"/ MBBS/ MS/ MB/ Tech/ Working Govt. Doctor, Early marriage. @8408396139 & 9854734189. Mat/BP/H1131/1

Bengali/ Kayastha 30/ 6'0"/ MB/ Tech/ Working Govt. Doctor, Early marriage. @8408396139 & 9854734189. Mat/BP/H1132/1

Bengali/ Brahmin/ 30/ 6'0"/ MB/ Tech/ Working Govt. Doctor, Early marriage. @8408396139 & 9854734189. Mat/BP/H1133/1

Bengali/ Brahmin/ 30/ 6'0"/ MB/ Tech/ Working Govt. Doctor, Early marriage. @8408396139 & 9854734189. Mat/BP/H1134/1

Bengali/ Brahmin/ 30/ 6'0"/ MB/ Tech/ Working Govt. Doctor, Early marriage. @8408396139 & 9854734189. Mat/BP/H1135/1

Bengali/ Brahmin/ 30/ 6'0"/ MB/ Tech/ Working Govt. Doctor, Early marriage. @8408396139 & 9854734189. Mat/BP/H1136/1

Bengali/ Brahmin/ 30/ 6'0"/ MB/ Tech/ Working Govt. Doctor, Early marriage. @8408396139 & 9854734189. Mat/BP/H1137/1

Bengali/ Brahmin/ 30/ 6'0"/ MB/ Tech/ Working Govt. Doctor, Early marriage. @8408396139 & 9854734189. Mat/BP/H1138/1

Bengali/ Brahmin/ 30/ 6'0"/ MB/ Tech/ Working Govt. Doctor, Early marriage. @8408396139 & 9854734189. Mat/BP/H1139/1

Bengali/ Brahmin/ 30/ 6'0"/ MB/ Tech/ Working Govt. Doctor, Early marriage. @8408396139 & 9854734189. Mat/BP/H1131/1

Bengali/ Brahmin/ 30/ 6'0"/ MB/ Tech/ Working Govt. Doctor, Early marriage. @8408396139 & 9854734189. Mat/BP/H1132/1

Bengali/ Brahmin/ 30/ 6'0"/ MB/ Tech/ Working Govt. Doctor, Early marriage. @8408396139 & 9854734189. Mat/BP/H1133/1

Bengali/ Brahmin/ 30/ 6'0"/ MB/ Tech/ Working Govt. Doctor, Early marriage. @8408396139 & 9854734189. Mat/BP/H1134/1

Bengali/ Brahmin/ 30/ 6'0"/ MB/ Tech/ Working Govt. Doctor, Early marriage. @8408396139 & 9854734189. Mat/BP/H1135/1

Assamese Kalita boy 31, 57+, handsome, BE/ MBA, Engineer working in Oil India Ltd. Father Doctor. Contact : 08540-63196. Mat/BP/H1117/1

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Required vegetarian girl for a 31 years Jain Advocate boy, Mat/BP/H1126/1

Age 42, General MBA, service, Nagaland (divorcee) seeking culture & qualified girl as thin age group 29-33 yrs, for early marriage. Residency Guwahati. Contact : 94015-95839. Mat/BP/H1127/1

Assamese/ Kalita/ 31/ 5'8"/ M.Tech/ pursuing Ph. Assst Professor in Govt. University. @9840849793/ 8011630847. Mat/BP/H1128/1

Kalita/ Assamese/ 31/ 5'11" M.Tech, Working Govt. Doctor, Early marriage. @8408396139 & 9854734189. Mat/BP/H1129/1

Bengali/ Brahmin/ 31/ 5'11" M.Tech/ Working Govt. Doctor, Early marriage. @8408396139 & 9854734189. Mat/BP/H1130/1

Bengali/ Brahmin/ 31/ 5'11" M.Tech/ Working Govt. Doctor, Early marriage. @8408396139 & 9854734189. Mat/BP/H1131/1

Bengali/ Brahmin/ 31/ 5'11" M.Tech/ Working Govt. Doctor, Early marriage. @8408396139 & 9854734189. Mat/BP/H1132/1

Bengali/ Brahmin/ 31/ 5'11" M.Tech/ Working Govt. Doctor, Early marriage. @8408396139 & 9854734189. Mat/BP/H1133/1

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Bengali/ Brahmin/ 31/ 5'11" M.Tech/ Working Govt. Doctor, Early marriage. @8408396139 & 9854734189. Mat/BP/H1131/1

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Bengali/ Brahmin/ 31/ 5'11" M.Tech/ Working Govt. Doctor, Early marriage. @8408396139 & 9854734189. Mat/BP/H1135/1

Assamese Kalita boy 31, 57+, handsome, BE/ MBA, Engineer working in Oil India Ltd. Father Doctor. Contact : 08540-63196. Mat/BP/H1117/1

Bengali/ Kayastha 31/ 5'11" M.Tech, Working reputed MNC at Metro, Early marriage. @8638153087/ 7399215520. Mat/BP/H1118/1

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**BOOKING OPEN FOR 3 BHKFLATATS.K.BHYUAN ROAD DIGHALIPUKHURI, CONTACT IMMEDIATELY. 9854132454, H&F/P/1123/71**

**PREMIUM 3 BHK 1475 SQ. FT FLAT AT VIP ROAD @ 3350, 8811072908, 9435541929, H&F/P/1124/31**

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1200 sq. ft. independent floor Three room Kitchen, Bathroom, Ph: 7086373880 Prime location Roadsides, H&F/P/1287/1

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50% work completed 3 BHK flat at Jayanagar (near NRL Petrol Pump), Contact: 9864310641, H&F/P/1121/81

3/4 BHK flat 75% work completed at Beltoia, Contact: 9401285078, H&F/P/1121/91

Premium 2400 sq. ft. flat with 1200 sq. ft. private terrace, square carpet, 2 car parking and one 3BHK flat 1310 sq. ft for immediate sale at Lachit Nagar, Contact: 8474077703, H&F/P/1120/9

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Under construction 2 BHK flat at Jorhatkuchi near Basistha Chariali, 9 5 7 7 8 9 7 9 2 1 . www.mepconstruction.co.in

BOOKING OPEN FOR 2/3 BHK FLAT @ RS. 3150 PER SQ. FT. AT PALACHIA WOODSTOCK NEAR RADISON BLU HOTEL, JALUKBARI, GHY-33, CONTACT: M. P. CONSTRUCTION, 0361-3238099, 9864107847, 9 5 7 7 8 9 7 9 2 1 . H&F/P/1131/41

LAND REQUIRED: REPUTED CONSTRUCTION COMPANY REQUIRES LAND ON AGREEMENT/ CONDITION BASIS FOR A PARTMENT/FLAT CONSTRUCTION IN GUWAHATI, PH: B.B. CONSTRUCTIONS, 763881, L&P/P/APC93/8

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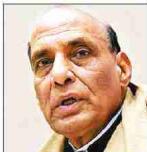


## ISIS has failed in India: Rajnath

NEW DELHI, June 3: Terror outfit ISIS has not been able to set foot in India despite the presence of the world's second largest Muslim population, Home Minister Rajnath Singh said today.

Barring two terror attacks in Punjab in 2015-16, the security situation in the country had by and large remained under control, the minister said at a press conference on three years of the BJP-led Government at the Centre.

More than 90 sympathisers of the ISIS had been arrested due to better coordination between State and Central security agencies.



er by and large provided security to the country.

"India is the second largest country as far as the Muslim population in the world is concerned. I can say with full responsibility that despite such a large population (of Muslims), the ISIS has not been able to set foot," he said.

The ISIS and the Ansar-ul-Ummah, frontal organisation of the Pakistan-based Khalid-ul-Mujahideen group, have been included in the list of banned terrorist organisations in order to check terrorism. Singh said.

"The Home Ministry has a major responsibility to provide security to the country. We have been successful in countering the chal-

lenges posed by the ISIS," the Home Minister said.

Comparing the previous UPA regime with the NDA tenure, he said a total of 239 militants were neutralised from 2011 to 2013. "This number has gone up to 369 during 2014-17."

He said there had been 45 per cent reduction in infiltration attempts from Pakistan since the surgical strike by the Army in September 2016, compared to the corresponding six months in the previous year. "We will end Pakistan-sponsored terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and ensure peace," he said. - PTI

## Rahul elevation issue likely on CWC agenda

NEW DELHI, June 3: The Congress Working Committee (CWC), the highest decision-making body of the party, will meet on June 6 when it is likely to discuss the issue of forging a larger Opposition unity and Rahul Gandhi's elevation.

Meeting after a gap of seven months, senior members of the CWC, in all likelihood, will push for appointing Rahul the next Congress president, party sources said today. In the November 7 meeting, all members, including former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and senior leader AK Antony, had made a strong pitch for Rahul to take over the reins of the party.

Sources said the CWC is expected to ratify the schedule for organisational polls. According to the schedule, the next Congress president has to be elected by October 15.

The CWC is meeting at a time when the Congress is seeking to unite Opposition parties ahead of the Presidential election. It wants a broad

## NIA conducts raids in terror fund case

SRINAGAR/NEW DELHI, June 3: In a pre-dawn swoop, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) today raided 23 locations in Kashmir, Haryana and the national capital in connection with a case of alleged funding received by separatist groups for carrying out subversive activities in the valley.

After registering an FIR earlier this week, various NIA teams, which had been camping in the valley for few days, moved under heavy escort from their camp office located at Humama, on the outskirts of the Srinagar city.

Among those raided by the NIA were

Altaf Fantaos, the son-in-law of hardline leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani, businessman Zahoor Watali, Shahid-ul-Islam, leader of Awami Action Committee led by Mirwaiz Umer Farooq, and some second-rung separatist leaders belonging to both factions of the Hurriyat Conference and the JKLF.

The agency seized nearly Rs 1.5 crore from various locations in the Kashmir valley, besides documents which were being scrutinised, officials said.

This is for the first time since majority of a Central probe agency has carried out raids in connection with terror funding to sepa-

ratis which has been used for carrying out subversive activities in the valley.

The NIA, which had earlier registered a preliminary enquiry, also raided around eight hawala dealers and traders in the national capital, besides two in Sonepat, Haryana.

The raids were carried out following the questioning of three separatist leaders in the national capital last month. The separatists were allegedly receiving funds from the chief of Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Hafiz Saeed, to carry out subversive activities in the Kashmir valley. - PTI

**CAPSULE****SpiceJet net dips**

MUMBAI, June 3: Budget carrier SpiceJet today reported 43 per cent fall in net profit for the quarter ended March 31, 2017 due to higher fuel cost and lower yield on account of demobilisation. The Gurgaon-based carrier had reported a net profit of Rs 3 crore for the January-March quarter of the 2015-16 fiscal. – PTI

**Skilling by NITI**

COMBINE, June 3: NITI is in the process of creating a huge supply of freshers with required digital skills within a short period, considering the need for more such hands by the industry, a top official said today. Since the university system was not geared to do so in the short term, NITI is helping the industry to re-skill the existing professionals and create a huge pool of highly skilled IT-skilled and full stack product engineering IP creators. NITI Ltd CEO Rahul Patwardhan told reporters here. – PTI

**Fimmin website**

NEW DELHI, June 3: Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on Friday launched a revamped mobile-friendly website of his ministry (www.fms.gov.in) which will act as a single-point access for information on all the five departments under the ministry. Jaitley also launched the new website of the Department of Expenditure – www.doe.gov.in – PTI

**AirAsia discounts**

MUMBAI, June 3: Malaysian budget airlines giant AirAsia today announced discounted fares, starting as low as Rs 1,099 for domestic destinations operated by its Indian joint venture carrier and Rs 2,999 for international flights operated by other group airlines under a limited period offer. – PTI



Union Minister for Finance, Corporate Affairs and Defence Arun Jaitley chairing the 15th meeting of the GST Council, in New Delhi on Saturday. – UNI

## GST Council completes fixing of rates; gold to be taxed at 3%

**Fabric of all categories will have 5 per cent tax, while for 'made-up apparel' it will be 12 per cent,** Jaitley said in the GST Council meeting

NEW DELHI, June 3: The GST Council today completed the exercise of bringing all items under a four-slab tax structure with gold to be taxed at 3 per cent, ending the suspense on the rate due to Indians, even as all States barring West Bengal agreed on the rollout of the new indirect tax regime from July 1.

"Gold, which currently has an excise of 1 per cent and States

charge around 1 per cent VAT ... keeping these various taxes in mind, and after a lot of debate in the GST Council, we have finally reached a consensus on 3 per cent for gold and gold jewellery," Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, who heads the GST Council, told reporters here after the 15th meeting of the Council.

Besides, rough diamonds have been levied a nominal tax of 0.25 per cent in order "to keep the audit trail" of transactions, he said.

While *beedi leaf*, or *kendu* will be taxed at 18 per cent, *bedi* will be levied tax at 28 per cent.

"*Beedi* and *bedi* leaf will not attract cess over and above these taxes, but cigarettes will have cess," Jaitley said.

Footwear costing below Rs 500

will be taxed at 5 per cent, while those costing more will attract 18 per cent tax.

Regarding items of use by the common man, the minister said that even manufactured apparel costing less than Rs 1,000 would be taxed at 5 per cent.

Revealing that textiles was a major topic of discussion at the

meeting as it is a mass consumption item, he said that while cotton and all other natural fibres are in the 5 per cent bracket, "man-made" fibre will attract a levy of 18 per cent.

All yarn will be taxed at 5 per cent, subject to man-made fibres being charged at 18 per cent.

"*Fabrics* of all categories will have 5 per cent tax, while for 'made-up apparel' it will be 12 per cent," Jaitley said.

"Packaged food items sold under registered trademarks, which are sold at a much higher price (than food) would carry a rate of 5 per cent," he added.

Jaitley also said that biscuits,

both of the cheaper and more expensive varieties, would be taxed at 18 per cent. – IANS

## CAIT demands review of auto spare, FMCG items rates

NEW DELHI, June 3: Traders body CAIT has demanded a review of the GST rates proposed for automobile spare parts, certain FMCG products and handbags, saying they will severely impact business and shrink demand.

In a letter to Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, CAIT said the recent rate fitment exercise has resulted in categorisation of some important items such as daily consumables or raw materials being bracketed in the highest 28 per cent slab which was originally intended for luxury or demerit goods.

"While this move may augment revenue no doubt, yet it would severely impact not just millions of traders, stockists, distributors and retailers, but will also impact consumption through higher pricing of items which either have

nutritional value like malt-based drinks or food items such as ghee and butter which are mass consumption items," it said.

The CAIT sought reduction in the tax rates on malt-based drinks like Horlicks, Boost, Bournvita, Complan and Amul Pro from current 28 per cent to 12 per cent.

It also sought reduction in the rate of taxation of auto spare parts from the proposed 28 per cent to 5 per cent by treating them as raw material. Besides, it sought a similar tax slab for tractor spares.

As regards a 28 per cent tax rate proposed for handbags and wallets, CAIT said a higher rate of taxation will trigger a price rise, resulting in reduced sales and inevitable layoffs, which are undesirable situations. It sought a reduction of the rate to 5 per cent. – PTI

## NTPC forays into EV charging stations

NEW DELHI, June 3: State-run power giant NTPC today entered into the new business segment of setting up charging stations for electric vehicles (EVs) and has installed first such points at its offices in Delhi and Noida.

The main objective in setting up EV charging points is to be part of promoting clean energy transportation, it said, adding that it will also eventually push demand for such vehicles as well as power generated by its plants.

A senior official said that NTPC has forayed into EV charging business and started setting up charging stations at multiple locations.

He further said that the first charging station has been set up at

NTPC offices in Noida and Delhi with a plan to set up many such charging stations across Delhi/NCR and other cities in near future.

NTPC is among state-run firms like PowerGrid which are looking at creating new business segment of EV charging points, in line with India's ambition to have all electric vehicles by 2030 to cut fuel import bill and running cost.

In April, Power Minister Piyush Goyal said: "We are going to introduce electric vehicles in a very big way. We are going to make electric vehicles self-sufficient like Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA). The idea is that by 2030, not a single petrol or diesel car should be sold in the country." – PTI

## BoI loan disbursement drive

### STAFF REPORTER

es under Guwahati Zone.

On the occasion, sanction letters were handed over to customers at all branches of BoI. Customer Meets were also organised at various branches where customers were sensitised about Bank of India's special focus on the North-East region and its continuing efforts to provide better and efficient banking services to the people of this region.

"In the coming days, Bank of India plans to strengthen its presence in the North-east and is determined to play a significant role in the economic development of the North-east region," a press statement said.



### Harley-Davidson to recall 57,000 motorcycles

CHICAGO, June 3: Motorcycle manufacturer Harley-Davidson announced on Friday to recall about 57,000 motorcycles worldwide, as improperly installed clamps on oil cooler lines could cause a crash.

The recall covers certain 2017 Electra Glide Ultra Classic, Police Electra Glide, Police Road King, Road King, Road King Special, Street Glide, Street Glide Special, Road Glide and Road Glide Special motorcycles built from July 2, 2016, through May 9, 2017, Xinhua reported.

"This is a voluntary recall in the interest of customer safety," Harley said in the statement. Harley says a clamp on an engine oil cooler line may not have been installed correctly, which can cause oil line leakage, spewing oil into the path of the rear tire.

The company says it has nine reports of oil lines coming off. The problem caused two crashes and one minor injury. Dealers will inspect the clamps and fix them free of charge. The recall is expected to start next Tuesday. – IANS

## Patowary highlights State's investment potential

### STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, June 3: "When you think investments, think of Assam," said Industries and Commerce Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary while attending the ongoing St Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) in Russia.

Addressing the 'State Showcase – Assam Session', the Minister said that the State had recorded Rs 6,500 crore of investment last year generating over 40,000 employments – directly and indirectly. Giants like Dabur, Hindustan Lever, Patanjali had invested in Assam, he added.

Patowary underlined the healthy industrial ecosystem prevailing in the State and highlighted the strategic locational advantage of Assam as the centre of South-East Asian market. He deliberated at length on the business opportunities and possibilities in sectors like sugar, plastic, jute, food processing, energy, etc., an official release said.

SPIEF-2017, which is being held from June 1 to 4, is a global economic forum in the world of business and economics. This time, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the chief guest at SPIEF-2017. Patowary is representing the State in the forum while Commissioner & Secretary of Industries & Commerce Ashutosh Agnihotri has accompanied him.

The minister laid emphasis on Assam as an investment destination and manufacturing hub for trading with South-East Asia and ASEAN in line with the Government of India's Act East Policy. The St Petersburg International Economic Forum-2017 has witnessed huge participation by representatives from 133 countries, including heads of states and governments from emerging economies, heads of major corporations, and the world's leading experts in the fields of science, media and civil society.

Being held since 1997, SPIEF has come to be held under the auspices of the President of the Russian Federation since 2006. Over the last 20 years, the forum has become a leading global platform for representatives of the business communities to meet and discuss the key economic issues facing the world.

### St Petersburg International Economic Forum

## NPPA move to ensure uninterrupted drug supply

NEW DELHI, June 3: National drug pricing regulator NPPA has said it had held meetings with pharma sector associations on GST and ensured uninterrupted supply of drugs across the country.

The regulator had earlier said it would hold meetings on June 1-2 with various industry bodies on GST and ensure supply of drugs, besides discussing other issues related to the sector.

These bodies include Indian Drug Manufacturers Association (IDMA), Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA), Organisation of

Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) and All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists (AICOD).

"NPPA holds fruitful discussions with industry and trade associations to ensure uninterrupted supply of drugs on implementation of GST," National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) said in a statement.

The regulator implements and enforces the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order.

The regulator is also entrusted with the task of recovering amounts overcharged by manufacturers for the controlled drugs from the consumers. – PTI



## Retail industry to reach \$1,150 bn by 2020, says Care Ratings

NEW DELHI, June 3: The retail industry in India is expected to grow at a rate of 12-14 per cent over the next four years and reach about \$1,150 billion by 2020, Care Ratings said on Friday.

As per the rating agency, retail industry in India constitutes over 10 per cent of the country's GDP with around 8 per cent of employment and is valued at \$672 billion at present.

The growth in the industry will be on the back of more

demand with higher incomes, job creations and improved standard of living, among others, Care said in a statement.

Other factors include higher discretionary spends and higher participation of producers/retailers in the organised retail market, discounted and promotional pricing, increased number of products and more private labels, it added.

Currently, India's organised retail market is valued at about \$60 billion, only about 9 per cent

of the sector, whereas unorganised retail market accounts for the rest. The agency said that the industry growth has been influenced by factors, including favourable demographics, rapid urbanisation, rising income levels and per capita expenditure.

Easy credit availability, increased use of plastic money, increased discretionary spending, growing female working population have also contributed to the growth, as per the rating agency. – PTI



## As Trump ditches climate deal, Putin says 'don't worry, be happy'

WASHINGTON, June 3: While other world leaders have strongly condemned President Donald Trump's decision to abandon the Paris climate accord, Russian President Vladimir Putin has said he won't judge.

"Don't worry, be happy!" Putin quipped yesterday after being asked for his reaction at an economic forum in St Petersburg, Russia. He said the climate deal doesn't formally go into effect until 2021, giving nations years to come up with a constructive solution to combating global warming.

For Putin, leader of the world's biggest crude oil producer and fifth-largest emitter of greenhouse

gases, there was plenty to cheer in Trump's rejection of the agreement painstakingly negotiated by the Obama administration and signed by 195 countries.

Trump's move drives another wedge between the United States and its traditional European allies, while aligning its stance closer to Russia in burning fossil fuels while deferring action to curb climate change.

While Putin's government signed the 2015 Paris accord, he has delayed formally ratifying the



agreement for at least two more years. Russia's voluntary reduction goals under the deal are among the weakest submitted by any country, potentially allowing it to spew more planet-warming emissions in future years, not less.

Russia pledged to reduce its carbon emissions by at least 25 per cent below 1990 levels by 2030. That gives Putin lots of wiggle room because the fall of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s triggered the collapse of the country's centrally planned

economy, greatly reducing carbon emissions in subsequent years.

Russia also insisted in its Paris submission that it be given the maximum potential credit for carbon adsorbed out of the atmosphere by Siberia's vast undeveloped forests. Under current projections, Russia could step up its carbon emissions and still claim to meet its 2030 goals.

That gives Putin's government little economic incentive to invest in green technologies. There are currently no utility-scale wind turbines or solar farms in Russia, which like the US continues to get most of its electricity from burning fossil fuels. - AP

## India has active territorial dispute with China: report

SINGAPORE, June 3: India has an active territorial dispute with China and is unhappy about the Communist nation's apparent efforts to stifle its ambitions in multilateral fora such as the UN and NSC, according to a report released at a defence forum here today.

The report, titled 'Asia Pacific Regional Security Assessment 2017' and released at the Shangri-La Dialogue, notes that India is increasingly worried about China's build-up of military forces and infrastructure along the disputed Sino-Indian border.

New Delhi has also been unhappy about China's apparent efforts to stifle Indian ambitions in multilateral forums such as the United Nations and Nuclear Suppliers Group, said the report prepared by

the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS).

"India has sought to improve its defence partnerships with the US, and several regional powers, based on shared concern about China's rise of China," it said.

The report states that Indian officials and analysts remain wary of any formal military alliances, as indicated by the fierce public debate and opposition by some Indian political parties to the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA), a logistics-service agreement that the US has signed with dozens of countries.

"Nevertheless, the most dramatic change in India's foreign policy over the last two decades has been its energised relationship with Washington, and the prevailing security rationale for this change – namely, a shared concern about China's rising power," said the report which pointed out the concern of Indo-Pacific countries about China's economic and military rise.

India has an active territorial dispute with China, and is increasingly worried out China's build-up of military forces and infrastructure along the disputed Sino-Indian border, it said.

The Shangri-La Dialogue is held annually by independent think tank International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) in Singapore and is attended by defense ministers and heads of armed forces from Asia-Pacific nations. The current dialogue will take place from June 2-4. - PTI



A Zulu priest looks out at the ocean in Durban, South Africa on Saturday. - UNI

## Indian-origin gay minister set to be Irish PM

LONDON, June 3: Leo Varadkar, an Indian-origin doctor and Ireland's first openly gay minister, today won the leadership race for the ruling party to become the country's youngest-ever and first homosexual Prime Minister-in-waiting.

Varadkar, 38, will officially take over as Taoiseach, as the Irish prime ministerial title is known in Ireland, in Parliament later this month after he was declared the winner in the leadership race for the Fine Gael party.

After the win, Varadkar said: "Any election showing that it's that prejudiced has no hold in this Republic." "When my father travelled 5,000 miles to build a new home in Ireland, I doubt he ever dreamt his son would grow up to be its leader," he said.

Varadkar took a majority of the votes to be declared as the 11th

leader of the party as counting concluded at Mansion House in Dublin.

The final count, including all three electoral colleges, saw Varadkar win with 60 per cent to Housing Minister Simon Coveney's 40 per cent votes.

Polling had closed earlier today with a 100 per cent turnout in the general election.

The Dublin-born son of Mumbai-born Ashok Varadkar and Irish mother Miriam, served as Ireland's welfare minister and had emerged as the most popular choice since he announced his candidacy after current leader Enda Kenny stepped down as prime minister earlier this year.

Varadkar went up against housing minister Coveney in the leadership race, who bagged two-thirds of the party membership



votes but lost out to the more popular candidate in the end.

The voting for the Fine Gael leadership is decided in an electoral college system that gives the Fine Gael parliamentary party 65 per cent of the vote. The 21,000 rank-and-

members of the party have 25 per cent and 235 local representatives 10 per cent. The parliamentary party voted for Varadkar, overwhelmingly, as was widely expected.

Ireland's new Taoiseach is expected to be formally confirmed by June 13, when the country's Dail Parliament resumes following a week-long break.

Varadkar came out as a gay man in 2013, when Ireland became the first country in the world to legalise same-sex marriage through popular vote.

In a radio interview he had said, "It's not something that defines me, I'm not a half-Indian politician, or a doctor, or politician, I'm a gay politician for that matter. It's just part of who I am, it doesn't define me, it's part of my character I suppose." - PTI

tasks, they said.

The finding could lead to the development of brain rehabilitation interventions through musical training, researchers said. Researchers from Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care in Canada found that learning to play a sound on a musical instrument alters the brain waves in a way that improves a person's listening and hearing skills over a short time frame.

The brain waves of participants were first recorded while they listened to bell-like sounds from a Tibetan singing bowl - a small bell struck with a wooden mallet to create sounds.

After listening to the record-

ing, half of the participants were provided the Tibetan singing bowl and asked to recreate the same sounds and rhythms by striking it and the other half recreated the sound by pressing a key on a computer keypad.

"It has been hypothesised that the act of playing music requires many brain systems to work together, such as the hearing, motor and perception systems," Ross said.

"This study was the first time we saw direct changes in the brain after one session, demonstrating that the action of creating music leads to a strong change in brain activity," he added. The study was published in the *Journal of Neuroscience*. - PTI

## Playing guitar may protect brain health: study

TORONTO, June 3: Playing a musical instrument may be good for your brain as it helps retain listening skills and ward off age-

related cognitive decline, a new study claims.

The finding could lead to the development of brain rehabilitation interventions through musical training, researchers said. Researchers from Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care in Canada found that learning to play a sound on a musical instrument alters the brain waves in a way that improves a person's listening and hearing skills over a short time frame.

This change in brain activity demonstrates the brain's ability to rewire itself and compensate for injuries or diseases that may hamper a person's capacity to perform

tasks, they said.

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## Trouble with late-night eating

Late-night meals can increase weight, cholesterol levels, says a study

**E**ating late at night could cause several health problems including weight gain and increase in insulin and cholesterol levels, show the initial results of an ongoing study.

The findings suggest that eating the last meal of the day before 7 pm could help you stay in better health.

"We know from our sleep loss studies that when you're sleep deprived, it negatively affects weight and metabolism in part due to late night eating, but now these early findings, which control for sleep, give a more comprehensive picture of the benefits of eating earlier in the day," said lead author of the ongoing study Namni Goel, Research Associate Professor, Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania in the US.

"Eating later can promote a negative profile of weight, energy, and hormone markers – such as higher glucose and insulin, which are implicated in diabetes, and cholesterol and triglycerides, which are linked with cardiovascular problems and other health conditions," Goel said.

The new findings, to be presented at SLEEP 2017, the 31st annual meeting of the Associated Professional Sleep Societies LLC (APSS) in Boston, offer experimental evidence on the metabolic consequences of consistent

delayed eating compared to daytime eating.

In the study, nine healthy weight adults underwent two conditions, one of daytime eating (three meals and two snacks between 8 am and 7 pm) for eight weeks and another of delayed eating (three meals and two snacks eating from noon to 11 pm) for eight weeks.

There was a two-week washout period between conditions to make sure there was no carry-over effect. The sleep period was held constant, between 11 pm to 9 am.

The team found that when participants ate later, compared to the daytime condition, weight increased.

Respiratory quotient – the ratio of carbon dioxide produced by the body to oxygen consumed by the body that indicates which macronutrients are being metabolised – also rose during the delayed eating condition, indicating later eating led to metabolising fewer lipids and more carbs.

The researchers also found that a series of other measures reflecting negative metabolic profiles increased during the delayed condition, including insulin, fasting glucose, cholesterol, and triglyceride levels.

The researchers also found that eating earlier may help prevent overeating in the evening and at night. – IANS

### Kids



### Entertainment



### Movies



### Infotainment



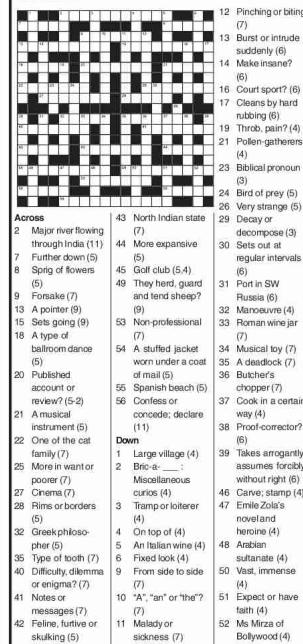
### Regional



### Sports



### Tribune SUNDAY CROSSWORD – 981



### HEALTH CAPSULES®

By Bron Smith

DOES MILK AFFECT THE AVAILABILITY OF ANTIOXIDANTS IN TEA?



A DUTCH STUDY REVEALED THAT THE ADDITION OF MILK TO HOT BLACK TEA DID NOT IMPAIR THE TEA-AVAILABLE ANTIOXIDANT LEVELS.

SO ENJOY MILK WITH TEA IF YOU LIKE.

Health Capsules is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature.

### SOLUTION TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD – 981

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## Mattis praises, criticises China on NKorea and South China Sea



China on the campaign trail – has turned to Beijing to help rein in North Korea's weapons program, prompting concerns among Asian allies that America might not ease on the South China Sea issue.

Calling North Korea's nuclear ambitions "a threat to us all," Mattis said the international community must work together.

"It is therefore imperative that we do our part each of us to fulfill our obligations and work together to support our shared goal of denuclearisation on the Korean Peninsula," Mattis said in a policy speech at the Shangri-La defence summit in Singapore.

Pyongyang on Monday test-fired another rocket, the latest in a series of launches and atomic tests that have ratcheted up tensions over its quest to develop weapons capable of hitting the United States – something President Donald Trump has said "won't happen."

The Trump administration is encouraged by China's renewed commitment to work with the international community toward denuclearisation," Mattis said.

The defence chief spoke directly to concerns that America might grant concessions to China in order to ensure its cooperation on North Korea, saying the issue was not "binary" and that the United States would continue to pressure Beijing elsewhere.

"The scope and effect of China's construction activities in the South China Sea differ from

those of other countries in several key ways," Mattis said. "This includes the nature of its militarisation... China's disregard for international law... (and) its contempt for other nations' interests."

The US Navy on May 25 conducted a "freedom of navigation" operation in the South China Sea, where the USS Dewey guided-missile destroyer sailed within 12 nautical miles of Mischief Reef in the Spratly Islands.

China claims nearly all of the South China Sea, despite partial counter-claims from Taiwan and several southeast Asian nations including the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam. It has rapidly built reefs into artificial islands capable of hosting military planes. – AFP

SINGAPORE, June 3: Pentagon chief Jim Mattis said today that North Korea posed a global threat and praised China's efforts to influence Pyongyang, while also criticising Beijing over its continued "militarisation" of the South China Sea.

President Donald Trump – who frequently denounced

the four climbers are Kunchok Tenda, Kelshang Dorjee Bhutia, Kalden Panjur and Sonam Phuntsok.

Out of total 14 members of the team, three mountaineers – Urgyen Topgye, Ngawang Gelek and Karma Zopa - successfully climbed Mt Everest with the support of supplementary oxygen.

"We had formed a team of 10 people with the aim to scale the Everest without using oxygen cylinder, and succeeded in sending four members to the top of the world without oxygen," Col Vishal

Dubey, leader of the Snow Lion Everest Expedition 2017, told PTI.

This was for the first time that any team had made attempt to climb the Everest without supplementary oxygen, he added.

"Our aim is to climb the Everest without carrying oxygen cylinder and create history," he said.

More than 4,000 people have so far climbed the 8,848-metre peak, of which only 187 people have done this without oxygen on individual basis.

Six Sherpa guides of the expedition also reached the top of the world with the supplementary oxygen. The team, which scaled the Everest on May 21 returned to Kathmandu yesterday. – PTI

The British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor said the SDF captured the town of Mansura yesterday and the adjacent Baath Dam on the Euphrates River, around 20 kilometres west of Raqa today.

SDF spokesman Talal Sello confirmed the force was advancing on the western front without providing details.

"This advance will allow the SDF to expand its control on

## US-backed force advances west of ISIS Syria bastion

BEIRUT, June 3: A US-backed Kurdish-Arab alliance has seized new territory west of the ISIS group's Syria bastion Raqa, bringing it closer to a final attack on the city, a monitor said today.

The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) launched an operation to capture Raqa in northern Syria last November, and have since surrounded the city from the north and east while closing in from the west.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor said the SDF captured the town of Mansura yesterday and the adjacent Baath Dam on the Euphrates River, around 20 kilometres west of Raqa today.

He said the SDF had received "weapons and advanced equipment from the international coalition... As part of preparations for the launch of the battle for Raqa, which is close". Sello said the SDF would launch the attack from the north, west and east of Raqa. – AFP

The southern banks of the Euphrates river and stabilise the western front of Raqa before launching the final battle to expel ISIS from the city.

Observatory director Rami Abdel Rahman said,

"We're nearing the major battle," he added.

Abdel Rahman said combatting operations were ongoing in Mansura and at the dam to dismantle mines and search for remaining jihadists".

Sello told AFP the advances on the western front were part of the final stage of operations before the launch of the assault on Raqa itself.

He said the SDF had received "weapons and advanced equipment from the international coalition... As part of preparations for the launch of the battle for Raqa, which is close". Sello said the SDF would launch the attack from the north, west and east of Raqa. – AFP

"The ISIS tried to force their way into the house and got in at the second attempt, so we hid in a tunnel beneath the house," she added, using the acronym for an alternative

## Dozens flee Islamist gunmen in war-torn Philippine city

MARAWI, June 3: Dozens of people ran to freedom through a terrifying gauntlet of military air strikes and Islamist gunmen today, nearly two weeks after being trapped in a deadly battle for a Philippine city.

The group of 38 said they ran from their hiding place in a part of Marawi city controlled by self-styled Islamic State group gunmen as soldiers seized a key bridge in the area to give the civilians safe passage.

"We lay on the floor in the dark each night whenever we heard gunshots or explosions. We barricaded the doors with furniture and a refrigerator," high school teacher Jeron Sedrome, 27, told AFP.

"The ISIS tried to force their way into the house and got in at the second attempt, so we hid in a tunnel beneath the house," she added, using the acronym for an alternative

name for IS.

Hundreds of gunmen rampaged through the city of 200,000, the Islamic capital of the mainly Catholic Philippines, on May 23 after government forces attempted to arrest their leader, Isnilon Hapilon.

Up to 50 gunmen continued to control downtown Marawi nearly two weeks later with at least 15 hostages including a Catholic priest, with some being used as human shields.

As many as 2,000 people also remained trapped in desperate conditions in these areas, the government said, likely without food and water and with some injured or silencing as security forces mount a relentless assault.

The military has said it is firing artillery and rockets from the air, as well as dropping

conventional bombs, as ground forces in armoured vehicles fight their way in dodging sniper fire, improvised explosives and anti-tank rockets.

At least 70 people were rescued Saturday as intense fighting continued, including 23 teachers from Dansalan College, who were with a year-old baby, seven other children, and seven other adults.

The gunmen set alight the college on the first day of the fighting, and the teachers said bombs and fires also destroyed many of the houses around the house where they hid.

Dansalan college is run by the Jesuit order of the Catholic Church, and all the teachers were Christians.

The teachers recounted to AFP between tears and gulps of coffee and bottled water how they survived on steamed rice and rainwater. – AFP

**Government of Assam  
Science and Technology Department**

**WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY - 2017**

**Focal Theme : "Connecting People to Nature"**

**I'm With Nature**

**UN environment**

**Programme Schedule**

- 9:30 am : Plantation drive to be inaugurated by Shri Pankaj Chakraborty, SDO, Kaliabor
- 9:45 am : Painting Competition among School Children
- 10:00 am : Interaction with Students
- Resource Persons:
  - Dr. Jitendra Nath Goswami, Advisor to the S&T Department, Govt. of Assam
  - Shri Jayanta Kr. Sarma, Environment Consultant
- 11:30 am : Open Session and Prize Distribution
- Chief Guest: Shri Keshab Mahanta, Hon'ble Minister of Science and Technology, Assam
- Distinguished Guest: Dr. Jitendra Nath Goswami, Advisor to the S&T Department, Govt. of Assam
- Guests of Honour:
  - Shri Gunin Hazarikam ex-Minister, Assam
  - Shri Samsher Singh, DC, Nagaon
  - Shri Debraj Upadhyay, SP, Nagaon
  - Shri Prabhat Ch. Goswami, President, Governing Body, Kaliabor College
  - Shri Subhashis Das, DFO, Nagaon

The Assam Science Technology and Environment Council (ASTEC) and its associate organiser, Kaliabor College, cordially invite you to all the events of the world Environment Day - 2017 celebrations to be held at the College premises.

Hon'ble Minister of Science and Technology, **Shri Keshab Mahanta** would grace the occasion as the Chief Guest of the Open Session to be held at 11:30 am, while internationally reputed Scientists and Scientific Advisor to the S&T Department, Government of Assam, **Dr. Jitendra Nath Goswami** would attend the function as a Distinguished Guest.

**Dr. Arup Kr. Misra**  
Director  
ASTE Council  
Guwahati

**Dr. Hiranya Kr. Chaliha**  
Principal  
Kaliabor College  
Kaliabor

**Jarasanyog/2898/17**

# India to take on arch rivals Pak today

BIRMINGHAM, June 3: Defending champions India will be aiming to shut off-field controversies when they lock horns with arch-rivals Pakistan in their ICC Champions Trophy opener – a marquee contest where tension and drama is never in short supply.

One of the finest fast bowlers of current times, Mohammed Aamir would be pitted against the talismanic Virat Kohli in what could turn out to be a battle primarily between India's vaunted batting line-up against Pakistan's potent bowling attack.

A line-up that boasts of Kohli, Rohit Sharma, Shikhar Dhawan, Yuvraj Singh and Mahendra Singh Dhoni can be intimidating for any bowling attack.

But facing Aamir and an equally talented Junaad Khan in English conditions, despite Edgbaston showing signs of being a bat-friendly track, will be testing for the Indian batsmen.

In any case, Pakistan can be brilliant on a given day and rubbish on several others.

For India, the bone of contention will be their bowling combination, with all-round Hameed Pandya being the balancing factor.



Indian captain Virat Kohli gestures during a press conference on Saturday.

Shami has a variety of skill in his repertoire to trouble the best batsmen.

With Pakistan's top-order full of right-handers, Ravichandran Ashwin may have a tough fight making it into the team in place of Ravindra Jadeja.

Like it or not, an Indo-Pak match is a bit different from other cricket-

Jasprit Bumrah and Bhuvneshwar Kumar are certainties, Umesh Yadav has more zip in his bowling after a successful Test season but Mohammed

rivalries purely due to its socio-political significance.

The current cross-border tension between the South Asian neigh-

bours also adds its distinct colour to the historical rivalry in which India have come up trumps more often than not in global competitions.

For cricketers, it's just "another match" for the die-hard fans, a win is not everything but the only thing that they expect from their heroes.

The 'Batsman' Virat Kohli knows

more than a thing or two about how to

win matches against Pakistan but for

'skipper' Virat Kohli the tournament as a whole would test his maturity

The unsavoury controversy related to his speculated rift with chief coach Anil Kumble couldn't have happened at a more inappropriate time – just when India were going into an important ICC event.

But Indian teams of the past have shown off-field issues becomes inconsequential, the moment they cross the boundary rope.

Ironical as it may sound, the Pakistan team, which has always been controversially-riden, has not had many major flare-ups till now save emanating terrible Umar Akmal being sent

back to the team.

White Champions Trophy is one ICC event where Pakistan enjoy a 2-1 lead-head record against India but on paper, Kohli's men are far superior in each and every department of the game. – PTI

Match starts 3pm IST.

## Kohli on Dhoni: We don't agree on everything but most things

BIRMINGHAM, June 3: India skipper Virat Kohli says he may not agree with Mahendra Singh Dhoni on all aspects of the game but seeks the advice of his illustrious predecessor to make right decisions.

"Obviously, we won't agree to everything, but more often than not we end up agreeing to the same thing because we are thinking in the same manner, which is to make the team win regardless of what we sort of plan," Kohli said when asked about how valuable Dhoni has been in the current set-up.

## 'Baffled' Gavaskar hits back at Guha

NEW DELHI, June 3: Sunil Gavaskar today mounted a stinging counter attack on Ramachandra Guha's 'conflict of interest' accusation against the former captain, saying it's "baffling" to find his integrity being questioned.

The well-known historian, who resigned as a member of the Committee of Administrators (CoA), wrote in his letter to Vinod Rai that the Supreme Court appointed panel had failed in curbing instances of conflict of interest among former players like Sunil Gavaskar.

"It's very, very disappointing if anyone is doubting my integrity. I do not have a conflict of interest. It's baffling to find my integrity has been questioned," Gavaskar told NDTV.

In his letter, Guha had stated that Gavaskar must step down/ withdraw himself from PMG completely or stop being a commentator for BCCI.

Regarding former captain MS Dhoni's Grade A contract, Gavaskar said, "MS Dhoni got Grade A contract because he is a superb player. How can you question Dhoni's contribution to Indian cricket?"

Gavaskar had written that there exists a superstar culture in Indian cricket and Gavaskar's reply was, "If there is a superstar culture, then there is also a jealous culture."

"Jealousy culture at people who have done something for Indian cricket, continue to do something for Indian cricket that they should not be allowed to do something for Indian cricket and those who have not done anything for Indian cricket, who have got a peripheral connection with Indian cricket should be allowed to do something." – PTI

## Nepal game is vital for next Asian Cup qualifier: Lyngdoh

MUMBAI, June 3: India are warming up for the June 13 AFC Asian Cup qualifier against Kyrgyzstan by taking on Nepal later on June 6 and media personality Lyngdoh feels it was a key game for the national team's players to gain jell well after playing for their respective clubs in the League.

"The mood in the team is great. We are all excited to be representing the country again after the long season. The Nepal game is important so that we are set up before the game against Kyrgyzstan," Lyngdoh told reporters here today ahead of his training session with the national team at the Football Arena in the Andheri Sports Complex.

Brief Report: Afghanistan 110 (R Khan 33, A Hariza 21, Narine 3/11, C Brathwaite 2/16, K Williams 2/19). West Indies 114/4 (M Samuels 95, E Lewis 26, C Wallon 22, S Sanderson 2/30). – PTI

## 'No problems with Kumble, don't spread rumours'

BIRMINGHAM, June 3: Indian captain Virat Kohli today dismissed the speculated rift with Anil Kumble, stating that there were "no problems" with the chief coach and the entire episodic was nothing but rumours.

"There are a lot speculations and lot of things were written by people without actually being part of the change room

which is quite strange. There are no problems whatsoever."

Kohli was curtail while addressing the media ahead of the Champions Trophy opener against arch-rivals Pakistan.

When the question was rephrased by another scribe about how his journey with Kumble has been through the past year, he answered with

"Agreements and disagreements happen. I would not com-

ment on things that I am not fully aware of. I would not speculate. I think there is lack of pattem right now and nobody admits mistakes. If you (media) write something and it goes wrong, have the heart to admit that you have gone wrong rather than saying that problem has been solved," Kohli said.

Kohli described the team as an equally deadpan expression. "It's been really good. The whole journey has been good," he said.

On alleged disagreements with Kumble, the skipper made it clear that one should only comment when aware of the situation.

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## ACA meeting held

SPORTS REPORTER

**GUWAHATI**, June 3: The technical committee of the Assam Cricket Association (ACA) today held a meeting to discuss the forthcoming domestic season.

ACA vice president Devjoti Saksia chaired the meeting which mainly discussed inclusion of outstation players in the Assam Ranji team for the inter-district tournaments.

The meeting also proposed to hold the ACA academy camp for the Ranji and U-19 players within a short time. The committee will seat again on June 8 at 5 PM to finalise the issues. After the meeting the fixtures committee will meet to finalise the dates of the inter-district and other tournaments.

The State cricket board is also planning to take stock of the indoor facilities in different districts for which funds were allocated.

## Raj Kakoti felicitated

SPORTS REPORTER

**GUWAHATI**, June 3: The former secretary of the All Assam Taekwondo Association (AATA) Raj Kakoti was felicitated by various sports organisations for being nominated as the secretary general of the Taekwondo Federation of India (TFI).

In a meeting held at the Assam Olympic Association (AOA) conference hall in the RG Baruah Sports Complex here today, organisations like AOA, AATA, Assam Judo Association, Koenig and Kayaking, Nagaon Sports Association, Hailakandi District Sports Association, Kamrup District Taekwondo Association among others, felicitated Kakoti. However, according to a letter issued by Chetan Anand, president of the TFI, Kakoti has been appointed as ad-hoc secretary general of the body after present secretary general Prabhat Kumar Sharma was suspended.

The decision was taken in a meeting of the TFI Executive Council held in New Delhi on May 31. The felicitation meeting was presided over by AOA joint secretary Pradip Kumar Hazarika.

AATA secretary Hiranya Saikia urged Kakoti to work for the development of the game in the State. Kakoti said, the TFI will approach the central government for its help so that India can produce Olympic medalist. He emphasised on inviting quality coach from abroad and setting up state of the art infrastructure.

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## India have edge over Pak in CT clash: Fleming

**MUMBAI**, June 3: Former New Zealand skipper Stephen Fleming believes that Virat Kohli-led India will have an edge over arch-rivals Pakistan when the two neighbours face off in their Champions Trophy opener in Birmingham tomorrow.

"India have quality players with experience, whereas Pakistan are probably on the way up. Pakistan are a very talented side, but they are unpredictable," Fleming told PTI in an exclusive interview.

"Pakistan are a little inconsistent given the young nature of their side and that's where India have an edge. India are more settled and played together a lot," he added.

Fleming said India were one of the favourites to lift the Champions Trophy.

"India are one of the favourites. There are four teams in particular stand out for me. They are England, South Africa, Australia and India. They are definitely in the top bracket," said former left-handed

skipper.

But when asked to predict the two finalists, Fleming said it would be "England versus South Africa" final.

Heaping praise on the Indian players, Fleming said: "I watched these players recently in the Indian Premier League. (Jasprit) Bumrah and Hardik Pandya in particular are outstanding players. They have also got great experience in senior players like Shikhar Dhawan, (Virat) Kohli, (MS) Dhoni, (Ravichandra) Ashwin and (Ravindra) Jadeja. You have got players all the way through, even Rohit Sharma," he said.

According to the Kiwi legend, defending champions India have a more experience side this time around than what they were when they lifted the Trophy in 2013.

Fleming, who is the coach of Rising Pune Supergiant in IPL and has worked closely with Ajinkya Rahane, termed the Indian middle order batsman a "technically sound". - PTI

## Praneeth advances to final in Thailand, Saina bows out

**BANGKOK**, June 3: India's Sri Praneeth sailed into the final with a straight-game win but Olympic medalist Saina Nehwal's campaign ended in the semifinal of the USD 120,000 Thailand Grand Prix Gold Badminton Tournament here today.

The third seeded Praneeth, who made the women's singles semifinal, was seeded second in the tournament, while her opponent entered the tournament as fourth seed.

Praneeth, ranked 24 in the world, will make on fourth seeded 19-year-old Indonesian Joanne Christie, who defeated Joo Ven Song of Malaysia 21-11, 21-18 in his 34-minute semifinal clash.

In today's match, Praneeth started strongly and went into the first break with a four-point lead, paving the way for an easy win in the first game. - PTI

## India lose 1-2 to Belgium

**DUSSELDORF** (Germany), June 3: Indian men's hockey team conceded one-goal lead to go down 1-2 to Belgium in their opening match of the three-nation invitation tournament here.

Despite taking a 1-0 lead in the third quarter through a penalty corner conversion by Harmanpreet Singh, India conceded two goals in the final quarter to lose the match last night.

For Belgian, Cefric Dahl (52nd minute) and Tom Boon (55th minute) netted the ball.

Riding high on an impressive 5-2 win against Germany in their first match on Thursday, Belgium got off the blocks against India with vigour.

However, the Indian defence led by Rupinder Pal Singh, Harmanpreet Singh and Surender Kumar, who played his 50th international match, prevented them from taking an early lead.

After ending the first quarter in a stalemate, India were quick to claim their first PC in the 19th minute. Though fluker Harmanpreet's attempt was well-struck and fierce, it was blocked by the Belgian defender's stick. - PTI

Singapore Open champion Praneeth, ranked 24 in the world, will make on fourth seeded 19-year-old Indonesian Joanne Christie, who defeated Joo Ven Song of Malaysia 21-11, 21-18 in his 34-minute semifinal clash.

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## WOMEN PLUS

Zeba Zoariah Ahsan on menstruation and the need to talk about it.

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Parag Phukan dwells on the generational gap.

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## ALL THINGS CONSIDERED

Mitra Phukan writes about the global presence of Bihu today.

# The Assam Tribune Sunday

Often ignored, deprived and underestiminated, the tribal population of our country lives mainly in geographical isolation, away from places with modern amenities. However, long before the idea of 'conservation of Nature' was introduced in the modern world, they developed highly effective practices to maintain the richness of Mother Nature.

It is often in the news that tribal people are being illegally dispossessed of their natural habitat in the name of conservation. They are accused of poaching as they hunt for food in the jungle. The incidents of tribal people facing arrest, beatings, torture and death are not rare. In fact, it is a sorry state of affairs that lives and lands of the tribal people are destroyed by large scale industrialisation, infrastructural development, urbanisation, etc.

With nearly nine per cent of the total population of the country, India is known to be home to the second largest population of tribes in the world. Since ages, the tribal



ship of certain patches of land or forest, as 'sacred groves', dedicated to a deity or village God among quite a few Indian tribes, help in the conservation of Nature too. In the Khasi hills of Meghalaya, there are several such groves. They believe that sylvan spirits reign in these groves and they often demand sacrifices. It is a religious belief that they should not cut any plant or kill animals inside such sacred forests.

Among many tribal communities, the sanctity of several plants and animals are imbibed in their cultural values. The religious belief associated with such plants and animals help to protect them. The concept of totem, an animal or plant or any natural object that serves as the emblem of a clan or family, among several tribal communities, contributes in the preservation of Nature. For instance, the Gond tribe of Central India believes that totemic characters serve as a reminder of their ancestry or mythic past. They believe eating, killing, or destroying the totemic animal or tree may lead to dreadful loss to the clan. The practice of totemic belief often acts as the basis for laws and regulations to protect Mother Nature among many Indian tribes.

The popular myths and folklores of many Indian tribes suggest the conservation of the creations of the Almighty. In the Idu Mishmi folklore of Arunachal Pradesh, the sparrow enjoys the right to take as much paddy as it wants from the fields. They never kill the sparrow as they believe that the sparrow taught them the art of cultivation. Similarly, the members of the Rimo tribe of Arunachal Pradesh do not eat or kill tigers, as the folklore of the tribe considers the tiger as their brother.

The Baiga tribals, who often call themselves as children of Mother Nature, have been an ardent worshipper of wildlife. The Baigas have always been known for playing a vital role in protecting the habitat of tigers and other wildlife in Central India. In the Kanha National Park, famous for tigers, located in Madhya Pradesh, the forest officials are highly dependent on the experience and acumen of the Baiga tribe for the tracking and protection of tigers and other wildlife. The affinity of the Baiga tribe towards the tiger revolves around the traditional belief that no Baiga marriage is successful without offering prayers to the tiger.

Even after seven decades of India's independence, the unease of the tribal people to mingle with mainstream communities at large, their resistance to modern lifestyle, living in geographical isolation, sticking to primitive traits, following a traditional livelihood, their low level of literacy, poverty, economic backwardness, among other reasons, may have left them disconnected from the mainstream of development, but their love and respect for Mother Nature has not diminished over the years.

(mpgoswami@gmail.com)



## Harmony for ages

**DR. MANASH P. GOSWAMI**  
elucidates how tribals of India exist in harmony with Nature.

people of the country have been living in close contact with forests. They take care of Nature as their deity. They are highly dependent on Mother Nature for their livelihood. They get shelter from forests and consume edible plants of the jungle for living. Nature provides them flowers and fruits, which they eat raw, whereas tubers, leaves and seeds are cooked to prepare meals. They are generally not known to cut down trees in the jungle. Rather, they collect woods of dead or dried trees.

The worshipping of Mother Earth is an essential practice among all tribal people living across the country. There exists numerous instances of festivals, rituals, songs and myths based on the gifts of Mother Earth among them, suggesting the close bonding between Nature and tribal societies. For example, the Baiga tribe, identified as one of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) of Central India, is religiously and spiritually attached to Mother Nature. Usually, the Baigas inhabit the forests of the Malakal extension of the Satpura ranges, along the hilly river Narmada. They never plough their land. They follow shifting cultivation to conserve earth. According to their belief, how can they ask Mother to pro-

duce food from the same patch of earth again and again? They believe that if they do so, Mother Nature would get weak. Therefore, the Baiga people practice bewar cultivation, where they slash and burn forests. A similar practice of shifting cultivation is also prevalent among several Northeastern tribes.

The Bhoytia tribe in the Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve of Uttarakhand has an ancient practice of conserving the medicinal plants of the region for centuries. It is a deep-rooted religious belief of the tribe that if someone, not from their village, uproots the medicinal plants from their village, then it is to be treated as an evil act. They believe that such act may bring misfortune to the villagers. Therefore, the conservation of medicinal plants is an integral part of the Bhoytia tribe.

The concept of 'sacred groves', based on religious faith of several Indian tribes play an important role in conservation of Mother Nature. They consider several plants as the habitat of gods and goddesses. Example, the Gond tribe, one of the largest tribes of India, does not axe the Neem tree as they consider the Neem to be the symbol of Goddess Durga. The practice of the maintenance, protection and wor-

(mpgoswami@gmail.com)

For over a century, way up to 1962, the Pandu River port served as the gateway to Guwahati. This was the first port of call in the city for boats and steamers heading upstream on the Brahmaputra and for people to cross the river to reach the railhead on the north bank to connect to the country's rail network. In 1908, a metre gauge railway line was built to connect it to Guwahati. It was also here that Mahatma Gandhi set foot in the State, travelling by a river steamer from Bengal, via modern-day Bangladesh.

In 1962, with the inauguration of the Saraiya Bridge, the Pandu port lost its importance. Over the years, river cargo volumes also dwindled and today, the port remains a faint shadow of its former glory, though with newly-rebuilt wharfs and facilities, but lacking vessels to berth. While reviving cargo transportation on the Brahmaputra may take its own time, the Pandu port can still play a significant role in easing Guwahati city's traffic congestion in the Adabari-Jalukbari stretch, and at the same time ease the lives of people staying in Aminigaon and economically revitalise the Pandu area. All it takes is the restoration of the Pandu-Aminigaon ferry link, a step that would be in tandem with the global trend of reviving passenger inland water transport in congested metropolises.

When the Pandu ferry was discontinued, Aminigaon and its vicinity consisted of no more than a cluster of villages, whereas today it is a densely populated suburb with a vibrant in-

## Viable alternative

**The Pandu port can play a significant role in easing traffic, writes RAVI DEKA.**



dustrial belt, educational institutions and sports complexes. But what hasn't changed for the better is that people living there still have to spend more than two hours one way to reach Guwahati via the circuitous Saraiya Bridge route. And this is precisely the reason why despite having two bridges and the third one being built, the Parani-Beltar Ferry across the Mandovi Estuary in Goa was never discontinued, even though the distances by road are much shorter than in Guwahati.

On the other side of the globe, in New

York, passenger ferries ceased plying on the Hudson and East River in 1967 due to the Metro and numerous bridge. Then, in 1981, a new ferry service, NY Waterway was launched and today it transports an average of 35,000 people per day with its fleet of 33 ferries, mostly Catamarans, making eight round passenger trips per year and servicing 21 routes. Their main business rival—the New York Water Taxi (NYWT) operates a fleet of 12 Catamarans while the newest competitor, the East River Ferry, launched in 2011,

met their three-year goal of 1.2 million riders in only 14 months.

In England, the river Thames was one of the busiest waterways in the world up to the 20th century, but its importance also diminished with expansion of road and rail networks. So from WWI onwards the river had no regular ferry service until 1999, when the MBNA Thames Clippers started a river bus service. Today they operate both commuter and tourist routes between eastern and central London, transporting about 8,500 passengers daily in 15 high-speed Catamarans.

Closer home, the city of Bangkok is divided by the 21-km course of the Chao Phraya River and criss-crossed by a series of Khlongs or water canals, most of which are serviced by regular ferries or boats on hire. But unlike the rest of the world where ferries first gave way to land transport before being reintroduced back, here the tradition of water-based transport always constituted a part of the Thai capital's lifestyle.

If we come back to Assam, a simple glance at the map of Guwahati and its surroundings will highlight the fact that many nearby towns are much closer in terms of river distance than by roadways. Silukuchi is 35 kms from Guwahati by road, but only 15 kms via river, likewise Kunua, again on the north bank is 38 kms by road and only 10 kms across the river. A little further north-east, the town of Mangaldai, which is only six kms from the banks of the Brahmaputra is 75 kms by road from Guwahati but only 30 kms by river, which is less than half the distance. On the

south bank, we have areas like Chandrapur and Mayong in the east, and Bilyonagar in the west, which are all a stone's throw away from Guwahati in terms of river distance.

In Upper Assam, most people living in North Lakhimpur, Dhemaji, Majuli and Sadiya areas have faced the ordeal of river crossing. In summer, the cross-river traffic comes to a standstill due the underpowered country boats and ferries being unable to traverse the river due to currents, and people have to use the long circumventing land route. The long overdue Bogibeel Bridge connecting Dibrugarh and Dhemaji, and the recently-opened Dholna-Sadiya Bridge would considerably ease the lives of the people there. But even with the opening of these bridges, river crossing by ferries would still provide utility by shortening travel time, distances and fuel on all the major rivers across the various parts of the State.

River travel is no doubt slower than road or railways, especially when features like the shallow draft and sandbanks of the Brahmaputra, won't allow speedy vessels like Hydrofoils or high-speed Catamarans to ply here safely, and the high-fuel consumption of Hovercrafts make them economically non-viable. But on the other hand, river crossing journeys are usually shorter distance wise, plus there are no traffic jams or bottlenecks to worry about and the only limiting factors are extreme weather conditions like fog, very heavy rainfall or overflow of the river, which affect all kinds of overland transportation anyway.

(rade.initiative@gmail.com)



## UP CLOSE

Rinkumani Pathak

rinkupathak125@gmail.com

## On a green mission

**BUDDHESWAR RAY** strives to save the earth, one tree at a time.

*We don't inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.*

A t a time when deforestation and other environmental issues have become a matter of serious concern, a man has single-handedly embarked on a green revolution. The sole motive of his life is to plant trees and keep the world green for our future generation. Buddheswar Ray, a resident of Telingiya of Bongaigaon district, has dedicated his life towards a green revolution.

Ray, who is a passionate lover of Nature, initiated his mission in 2001, when he was a college student. Despite belonging to a poor family, he bought saplings on his own and started planting at public places. Though people began laughing at him, calling him insane, the pessimistic attitude of those people couldn't demoralise him. He has been planting trees across NH 31 (within a range of more than 10 kilometres) and at various public places of Bongaigaon district, including a number of educational institutes.

Over the years, Buddheswar Ray, who is a lower primary teacher by profession, has planted more than 15,000 saplings. The success of Ray is that most of these saplings have turned into big trees which bear the testimony of his dedication and love for Mother Nature. The devoted lover of Nature believes that the responsibility doesn't end just by planting a sapling; we must also be careful in bringing it up. Therefore, Buddheswar Ray spends his hard-earned money not only in planting a sapling, but also taking special care in bringing them up.

Interestingly, newly-wed Buddheswar Ray began his conjugal life by planting trees. Most of the attendees of his wedding ceremony wished him a happy married life by gifting him saplings.

Besides his earnest love for Nature, Buddheswar Ray is an avid reader too. With his single-handed efforts, he could establish a library named the Manab Vikash Puthibhar, at his village.

Buddheswar Ray was felicitated by the North Sahman Sub-divisional Administration, but proper recognition and honour is still due for this Nature lover. But Ray, who doesn't pay heed to other things, except plantation, continues on his green mission.

## WOMEN PLUS

Zeba Zoariah Ahsan

zeba.ahsan@students.teriuniversity.ac.in

## Breaking the taboo

**It's high time we openly talk about menstruation and women's hygiene.**

All these years, I have seen people talking about safe drinking water, about the mushrooming of educational institutions for a secure future, better health facilities, toilets for girls, etc. In fact, there have been so many public campaigns on clean toilets for girls. There are many advertisements on television where we see celebrities emphasising on the need for *sauchalas*. It is, indeed, one of the many ways to prevent harmful diseases from spreading into an epidemic. Easier said than done. It has somehow been easier to send a mission to Mars than to universalise sanitation. With the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, it is possible to have a clean India, provided we give our 100 per cent. But there are many more things to talk about, discuss and create awareness about, than just public sanitation.

Yes! You got me right. I am trying to emphasise on the need to talk on issues pertaining to menstruation. How many of us actually bother to talk or spread awareness on this issue? The number is very less. Whenever there is a sanitary pad advertisement on TV, people get so edgy that they start changing channels. That's not what we should be doing. Accept the fact that women bleed on a monthly basis and that is absolutely normal. It is a sign that women have a healthy



reproductive system.

I have had many friends back in school who never talked about this with their fathers or brothers. If they ever did happen to talk about this with their brothers, it was only as a joke. I mean, it's absolutely fine if you let your father or your brother get you a packet of sanitary napkins. In my case, I was never embarrassed to ask my father to do so. But some of my friends gave me such disgusted looks when I told them about it.

I also remember this incident some six years ago when I had stained my white school skirt. I had to tell the boys in my class to leave for 10 minutes so that I could ink the large red patch in blue.

**How many of us actually bother to talk or spread awareness on this issue? The number is very less.**

me surprised. Some of the girls said, "What is wrong with her? How could she even tell that to a

Luckily the teacher was late. All of them had seen what I was going through. One of the boys even went on to comment, "has she been bitten by a leech?" I wasn't really hurt by his remark so much as by his ignorance. My condition got so bad that I had to go home. When the teacher asked me why I wanted to go home, I simply said, "Sir! I am on my period." He was understanding enough and immediately let me go. The reaction on everyone's faces left

male teacher?" This happened in Class-XII, when one is expected to be mature enough, and also the fact that most of them wanted to be doctors. For a gender-sensitive society, reforms have to begin in the classroom scenario itself.

Women, especially from the rural areas, suffer a lot as they do not find a voice when they are menstruating and are forced to use unhygienic means. There are instances when they are seen reusing the sanitary pads that are responsible for outbreak of deadly diseases, reducing lifespan and even affecting the subsequent generations. Women even face difficulties in delivering their babies due to lack of hygiene, let alone proper post-natal care. Not having access to proper menstrual hygiene is another reason for a high rate of girl dropouts from schools.

There are pioneers and change makers who work tirelessly amidst criticism and failures but with the hope that at the end it is for the greater good. One such personality is Arunachalam Muruganantham. Popularly referred to as India's 'menstruation man', he was obsessed with making the perfect sanitary pad for his wife after he saw her monthly ordeal of using old rags as she could not afford sanitary napkins. Everybody thought he was insane to be doing this, but nothing could deter him from achieving his mission. The result was an easy-to-use machine for producing low-cost sanitary pads. TIME magazine named him one of the 100 most influential people in the world in 2014.

Menstrual Hygiene Day was recently held on May 28, and the social media served as a great platform for spreading awareness with a plethora of videos, pictures, photo stories and even memes. It is high time we break such taboos.

After all, knowing your body and how it functions is one of the most essential things ever.

## FASHION

Perrie Samotin

## The summer closet

**Style tips for this hot season**

In addition to rising temperatures and weekend trips, summer brings with it a hard-to-shake urge to shop. Maybe it's because the weather's heating up and those weekend jaunts require cute new outfits, but refreshing our summer closet is an activity we're probably not alone in anticipating.

But before you bust out that credit card, there are a few tips to keep in mind when buying for the summer months: small pieces of advice that'll ensure you get the best deal for your buck and be as comfortable as you can be during the dog days. Read on for the essential summer fashion tips you need to know!

**Buy summer shoes a half-size or a full-size larger**

It's not the most pleasant of facts, but our feet swell during the summer. That's why it's key – when shopping for new shoes this time of year – to buy shoes a bit larger than you would in winter.

Natural materials like leather, canvas, and suede will definitely stretch, so going up half a size should be fine. For inexpensive trendy shoes made from faux leather, plastic, or any other man-made material, go a full-size up.

**Mind your fabrics**

We love fast fashion as much as the next shopper, but a great deal of merchandise from high-street stores are made from poly-blends that simply aren't breathable, and will often hold on to sweat stains. To stay cool on steamy days, it's best to seek out materials like cotton – any variety will do – as the fibres are hollow in the centre, allowing them to absorb perspiration and release it quickly.

Linen also is a solid summer material – it's stronger than cotton and a better conductor of heat, making it the most breathable fabric out there. Contrary to popular belief, silk is a good choice for summer as well, since it's natural, breathable, and cooling. The only downside: It has to be cleaned frequently if you sweat. Also great: super-thin denim.

**Reinvent your clothes**

We're huge proponents of utilising the tailors your city or town surely has, especially if you're on the fence about whether to get rid of certain items. A tailor can cheaply transform garments, making them look totally different.

A great tailor tip for those looking to try out the crop top trend without looking like a slave to fashion: Bring an old

T-shirt and tank top

you don't wear

anymore to your

tailor and have them hem it to

show a sliver of skin.

Then pair it with

super high-

waist pants,

skirts or shorts.

The result: an

easy-breezy crop

that's not too

tight, too trendy, or too revealing –

and can be worn comfortably all

summer!

**Keep your make-up from melting**

We're always hearing about ways to keep the make-up on our face from melting, but how about the products we tote around with us in our bags? Didn't think of that, did you?

Try this trick:

Freeze a Zip-Loc

freezer bag overnight, and before

you leave for work, toss in the

cosmetics you normally take for the

day (a lipstick, a foundation, etc.)

While it's not a long-term fix, it will

keep your products cool until you

get to work, or whichever airconditioned place you're headed to.



## RELATIONSHIP

Susie and Otto Collins

Dana never thought she'd still be single when she was in her mid-30s. She always figured that by that time of life, she'd be settled into a great relationship and maybe even married with kids.

This is not what's happened.

Although Dana has been in a few serious relationships, they've always gone sour at a certain point. These have always reached a place in which Dana could see that this guy was not her "Mr. Right" – from there, the break-up seemed inevitable.

Now Dana is getting serious. She doesn't want to spend her life alone, or in a string of casual romantic trysts.

When what you want most of all is for your perfect match come into your life and he or she doesn't seem to be coming, it can be frustrating, disheartening and maybe even a little scary.

**Stop trying so hard**

Our first advice to anyone who is searching for his or her true love is to ease up a bit.

As you might have encountered in other areas of your life, when you

## Looking for love

**Stay open and have fun**

Dana is beginning to choose how she spends her time differently. Instead of always thinking about where there might be more eligible men to meet and then going to those places or doing those things, Dana is starting to spend more time doing the activities that appeal the most to her.

This is new for her. It's also more fun!

Go to the places and do the activities that are fun and enriching for you. If you aren't sure what those things are, experiment and try new ones. Instead, go on about your life.

**Sweet apple and date chutney****Method:**

Place the tamarind pulp in a glass bowl and pour in the vinegar. Leave aside to soak.

Peel, core and grate the apples. Place in a large pan along with the dates.

Add sugar, tamarind and vinegar. Cook until the apples become soft and the mixture thickens.

Mix in the salt and spices. Taste and add more sugar, if required. Cook, stirring occasionally, until thick.

Remove from heat. Leave to cool a little for 10–15 minutes and then spoon into sterilised jars.

Serve with rice, Indian breads or with snacks.

**CULINARY corner**  
SHARMIN PASHA

Sharmin Pasha is a food writer currently based in Dubai, UAE, where she teaches privately-organised cooking lessons on different techniques of cooking. She also hosts an informative page featuring Assamese recipes on Facebook, which was created to showcase the culinary treasures of Assam to the world and to preserve ethnic recipes for generations to come.

**Creamed corn dip**

- Ingredients:**
- Boiled corn ..... 2 cups
  - Butter ..... 2 tbsp
  - Onion, chopped ..... 4 tbsp
  - Capsicum (small), chopped ..... 1
  - Green chilli, optional ..... 2
  - Flour ..... 1/2 cup
  - Milk ..... 1/2 cup
  - Cheddar cheese, grated ..... 1/2 cup
  - Pepper powder ..... to taste
  - Salt ..... to taste
  - Tabasco sauce ..... to taste

**Method:**

Heat the butter in a frying pan. Add chopped onion, chilli and capsicum pieces. Cook over medium heat until the onions are translucent.

Stir in the corn and sauté briefly.

In a bowl, whisk together the milk and flour until homogeneous.

Pour in the milk-flour mixture, and cook, stirring constantly, until the mixture has thickened and is smooth.

Add the grated cheese. Reduce heat and simmer until the sauce thickens.

Season the sauce with salt, pepper and Tabasco.

Serve warm with toasted pita bread or cream cracker biscuits.

## FICTION

Indrani Raiedhi

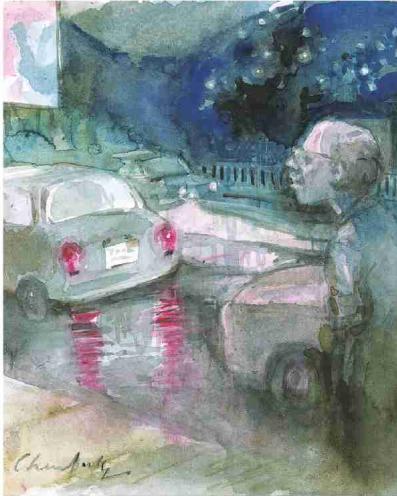
indrani.raiedhi@gmail.com

I am sitting in the dark on the couch that holds the shape of my gaunt body, as if waiting for something to happen. A rainy summer night, smelling of wet leaves, I can feel the soft winged insects touch my arm, my waiting face. When you are 68, you can feel every drop of life dribble out of you in a gentle matter of a leaky tap that will not let its stopper be mended. The thing is to be calm, not to panic. Most of all, not be sentimental. When you are an old man, a man as old as me, you play this mind game with your family. My son, his wife Manisha scold me for not exercising, forgetting to have my blood pressure pills, watching too much TV, that too without my latest Siemens hearing aid – trying to make it clear they care, they care desperately for one to continue to float around the spaces of the house like a moth looking for a source of light. Two years ago I had what my son and Manisha told their beer-swilling friends was a health scare. That's how they talk nowadays. It had been a mini stroke, leaving me with a slur that made me sound mildly drunk and my left hand had tremors that caused me to drop things. The sound of things falling... clanking, clattering... and then the accusing silence and Manisha coming in with her lips pursed. I am being tolerated.

My part of the mind game is to prove to my son and Manisha that I am a useful being to have around. I am the first to answer the doorknob, receive parcels, pay the garbage collector, tick off the newspaper boy for late delivery, attend the housing society meetings, set that the maid swabs all the corners. I get milk and bread from the grocers, even when not needed. I insist on going to the bank alone for my pension. Being alone is a useful condition when you need to smuggle home a Black Dog in your trouser pocket, wrapped in crumpled newspaper.

But this usefulness takes a lot out of you. An evening's conversation made me understand that I could be most useful by being absent. Not permanently, of course. Between five and six in the evening, I heard Manisha tell my son – I had my hearing aid on

## A small flame



– that Pilku was to have his new tutor coming over for Maths. It was discussed that I was to be stopped at that hour from occupying the living room couch and turning on the TV. Since I was a stubborn old fellow and would refuse to be confined to my room, something had to be done to get me out of the house between five and six thirty a week. Manisha's words.

Without mathematics, there is nothing you can do. Everything around you is numbers. Hadn't Einstein himself called it the poetry of logical ideas? If God used mathematics to create the world, Manisha was to it keep my awe inspiring in awe. I try not to look at young men in bikes zig-zagging through traffic. What brilliant mathematicians they are – to know in an instant the distance between vehicles. Every day I go a little further, return a little earlier, so that my son and Manisha can one day bask in the eternal sunshine of Pilku's exalted career. From Amalgam Nagar I crawl my way each day to Zoo Road Tiniuli, then Com-

Monday that I am visiting a friend and would be back in an hour. Pilku looks stricken. He had counted on my presence to wreak havoc on his tuition. I wink at him and depart.

I shuffle, Iamble, I try to break into a trot. My glasses catch the remorseless headlights of oncoming cars and I take them off, folding them onto my breast pocket. My knees ache, the acrid fumes of tyres burning somewhere snake insidiously into my nose. The pavements dip and rise without warning. I try not to look at young men in bikes zig-zagging through traffic. What brilliant mathematicians they are – to know in an instant the distance between vehicles. Every day I go a little further, return a little earlier, so that my son and Manisha can one day bask in the eternal sunshine of Pilku's exalted career. From Amalgam Nagar I crawl my way each day to Zoo Road Tiniuli, then Com-

merce College and finally to the flyover. I feel curiously light-headed as I walk the gently undulating sidewalk of the bridge.

Then halfway through, I see her. Against the scudding clouds of monsoon, on a huge billboard, lit by concealed lights, she looks at me, her face turned, as if beckoning, lips parted and moist, eyes midnight lashed and teasing. Her hair tumbles down the small of her back and she is in that aching unbearable bloom of her youth, caught in a moment of exquisite tenderness, and I felt a softness brushing against my damp skin, the gauzy wings of insects drifting into me in the darkness. In those moments I feel I had known her, somewhere lost in the long dim vista of my 68 years, and that no words are necessary between us.

That night I lie in the darkness, between pleasure and sleep, and for the first time feel a stab of regret that my life was dribbling out of me, drop by drop and she would be there, infinitely beautiful, a creature of air and light, as she, with liquid grace turned to the sunrise and I made my slow, stumbling way to the sunset.

As the days go by, I grow stronger, more sure-footed, more secretive about my movements before my family. It is a sweet, almost unbearable joy to stand by the bridge, see the stream of traffic below, the thousands of glittering cars, incandescent, and then look up at her, the last gift of my life.

Then comes a day when winds blow hard and rain falls in slanting sheets. Pilku misses school and I have to mind him because the tutor does not come. The TV is full of news about flooded streets, power outages.

On the third evening the clouds lifted and there is only a thin drizzle. I take my umbrella and leave the house before the evening tea. The pavements are full of puddles. The streets are jammed with traffic. I feel cold and feverish. Then I am on the bridge, short of breath, a peculiar sense of dread coming over me.

She is gone. The enormous flex sign had been ripped apart by the storm and lay in tattered shreds on the iron frame. No one would smile at me like that, the last gift of life had been taken away savagely from me. I went a week later, just in case. They had put up something else. A family in a car. But I had nowhere to go. Nowhere at all.

## People Speak

Today's topic

**"Why are educated people duped by quacks, promising cures?"**

**Q** uack', as the dictionary meaning suggests, is a fraudulent or ignorant pretender to medical skill. Quacks are on the prowl for potential victims almost everywhere. They operate by taking advantage of a patient's ignorance about medical facts, vulnerability in a delicate situation despite being educated, leaning towards the supernatural under pressure, tendency to succumb to unscientific alternative forms of treatment in desperate situations, etc.

We find them very often in the field of cancer treatment, in which we work. It is important to seek proper information from qualified medical practitioners and time-tested organisations before deciding upon any forms of treatment or a particular hospital. If one is not careful, there is always the risk of being misled, which in turn, would finally amount to not just losing one's hard-earned money without any positive outcome, but could also result in loss of life due to wrong and unscrupulous treatment by thugs.

– Dr. Mrinmoyee Baruah,  
Hon. Secretary, Deepshikha Foundation.



**T**he truly educated and conscious people cannot be easily duped. Generally, such types of trends are mostly found in the remote areas where the number of educated people is less. In such places, most people are unlettered and that's why quacks can easily influence these people. Moreover, superstitious conceptions have occupied a wide space among the people of our society since long. Thus, sometimes, even the so-called educated people living in the society are bound to be influenced by quacks. To check this weakness, practical education should be introduced among people so that they can understand and accept the real truth.

– Lohit Ch. Kalita,  
Guwahati.

**W**ith the availability of various alternate cures, the diversity, ranging from grass and weed to magic and voodoo, it is served that many people, even the educated lot, opt for these so-called 'guaranteed treatments', which are usually cheaper, instead of proper treatment. People who don't give a second thought about wasting money in lavish lifestyles, find it hard to spend the same on their health. It may be because in today's materialistic world we care so much about the outer show that we often tend to forget that without good health, everything else is futile.

– Plobita Baruah,  
Tezpur.

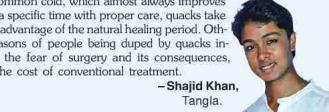


**S**urprisingly, even educated people are often duped by quacks. Nowadays, advertisements are seen mostly on the internet sites. These bogus advertisements attract many panic-stricken patients who desperately flock to these fly-by-night operators. Any cure is worth a try, regardless of the cost, although their claims have not been scientifically established. Quacks even use hired touts who reach out to the public through leaflets about the treatment and the promised cure. Because we are in need of such treatment, most of us are duped or fall prey to such advertisements, irrespective of our educational status.

Sufferers with embarrassing disorders, who wish to keep their ailments private, are usually duped by swindlers. If not cured, the patient just moves from one doctor to another without lodging any complaint. Moreover, quacks often use their patients' wish for anonymity against them.

– Rabin Prasad Kalita,  
Guwahati.

**T**he cost-effectiveness of medicines by quacks and their claim of quick results at a time when conventional treatment is beyond the reach of the lower middle-class society, have made educated people fall prey to quacks. Moreover, with illnesses like jaundice and the common cold, which almost always improves after a specific time with proper care, quacks take good advantage of the natural healing period. Other reasons of people being duped by quacks include the fear of surgery and its consequences, and the cost of conventional treatment.



Today, however old a person may be, he cannot simply shy away from knowing and using the digital boom. (You don't raise your hand any more to stop a taxi, the street-corner *pawna-walla* would accept Paytm only!) Digitalisation is logical. The Gen-next is far more logical and much better informed than I would ever be, in their knowledge and approach towards digital tools. Sitting in New Delhi, my son 'takes-over' my computer screen at Guwahati to work on! The speed at which digitalisation is happening, time may not be far away when the authorities would be able to peep into my bedroom, albeit, nothing much to be monitored in an old couple's bedroom though!

So, I must upgrade myself 'electronically' to avoid my grandson's caustic remarks. Pichai or Zuckerberg may be in their early 30s but Bill Gates or Steve Jobs belong to our generation. It's never too late. Must rewrite myself before others write me off!

## LEGAL EASE

Ankit Todt

E-mail your questions to:  
legalease@assamtibune.com

I am a Hindu boy and I want to marry a girl who is from another cast. But first, I want to get our marriage registered. How can I do it all by myself?

– Ravi

**Ans:** The Special Marriage Act, 1954, provides for a special form of marriage which can be performed and registered by any person, irrespective of religion. As you and your wife are from different casts, you need to approach the Office of the Marriage Registrar and give a notice of intended marriage, in writing, in the specified pre-printed form to the Marriage Officer.

There are certain necessary pre-requisite conditions for getting the

## Bonds of matrimony



marriage registered under this Act, namely, neither party has a spouse living at the time of marriage; neither party is incapable of giving a valid consent to the marriage due to unsound mind; neither party has been suffering from mental disorder of such a kind or to such an extent as to be unfit

such, in the notice, you are required to give a declaration of your age, your status of being presently unmarried or divorced or widow/widower, and that you and your spouse are not related within the degrees of prohibited relationship (as described under the Special Marriage Act). The notice given is then published by affixing it in some conspicuous place in the Office of the Marriage Officer so that before the expiration of 30 days any person can object to the marriage that it would contravene any of the conditions necessary for the marriage. After the expiry of 30 days from the date on which the notice was published, the marriage may be solemnised.

On the day of solemnising the marriage, you will be required to appear before the Marriage Officer, along with your spouse and three witnesses, and sign the declaration that was given with the notice of intended marriage. This declaration will then be counter-signed by the Marriage Officer.

for marriage and the procreation of children; neither party has been subject to recurrent attacks of epilepsy or insanity; the bridegroom has completed the age of 21 years and the bride the age of 18 years at the time of marriage; and the parties are not within the degrees of prohibited relationship. As

## MY SPACE

Parag Phukan

paragphukan13@gmail.com

Only the other day, my five-year-old grandson challenged me to a bout in his modern video-game toy. When I expressed ignorance, pat came the comment: "Grandpa, you know nothing, didn't you ever go to school?" Who would tell him that I too toiled through the rigours of schools and colleges for two decades? But, he was right. Not knowing the uses and applications of modern-day electronic gadgets actually amounts to illiteracy by present-day standards.

The days of 'A – for Apple, B – for ball' are long lost in oblivion. Probably now, the alphabets in school will be taught as 'A for Apple (not the fruit, but the Steve Jobs version), B for Blue-tooth, C for Computers... G for Google, and so on. But unfor-

unately, the kids need a calculator even for two plus three type of calculations; we don't. We learnt the tables by heart and those still occupy a few of my brain cells! We are becoming, may have become, slaves of the modern-day electronic tools and gadgets. No food, fine. But no mobile, strict no-no!

I believe, the people born a few years before and after Independence are a privileged lot. They have experienced the best (and the worst) of both the worlds. We grew up getting used to mathematical tables. Log-tables, etc. Before my engineering college days, I never saw a simple calculator, let alone computers. Instead, we used a funny device called "Slide Rule" to compute complicated engineering calculations. I am pretty sure that most of the Gen-next have never seen or heard about it. Then in

## Grandpa, you know nothing!



So, I must upgrade myself 'electronically' to avoid my grandson's caustic remarks. Pichai or Zuckerberg may be in their early 30s but Bill Gates or Steve Jobs belong to our generation.

a virtually paperless office. I came from a background of making a handwritten draft first, then getting it typed. And to make the situation worse, I was given a laptop that looked like a live bomb to me! But it became a matter of survival, chal-

lenge accepted.

Nowadays, we immediately approach "Google" for all information. There is an explosion of information today. One needs to know so many things for hassle-free living, unlike in olden times, when the ocean of information was much smaller. Moreover, Google was not necessary because our wives knew everything! Poor Christopher Columbus started his voyage to discover India but landed himself up in the West Indies instead, because he neither had Google Maps nor his wife accompanying him!

## The global Bihu

**T**he bunches of *kopour* that bloomed just as *Bohag* approached, have now more or less withered on their stalks. The birds of Spring, the *hull* and the *keteek*, are issuing calls that are listless and without much melody now. Soon, their calls will be heard but rarely, if at all, till the months of *Sor* and *Bohag* come around again. In the fields, and in the rural parts of the land, the changes are felt even more keenly. Skies are scanned for rain, the rivers are anxiously studied for floods and the resulting erosions. A thick blanket of heat and humidity lies on the land. The slightest physical effort makes one break out into sweat.

True, these days, the festival of Bihu seems to go on forever here. *Bohag* turns to *Jeth*, April becomes May, Spring turns to summer, and *Bordoli* has long ago returned from her mother's home to her husband's, taking the *Kaal Basakha*, the NorWester, with her. Yet the Bihu functions did go on with a vengeance, all over these valleys. Twirling dancers, energetic *dhuligas* and drummers did all their bit on the stages across the land, defying the discomforts of the season. Of course the actual Bihu, that is, those that happen spontaneously in the shade of a sylvan patch in the villages, have more or less stopped. The people who sing and dance in this form are farmers, and busy homemakers who have myriad duties to perform. Whereas, the ones we see on the stage are gradually becoming professionals, whose livelihood depends, significantly, on the fees they get from their stage performances throughout the year across the country, sometimes abroad. The stage Bihu is not a seasonal thing. It has now become a festival, as well as an art form, that transcends the season that gave birth to it.

It is no wonder then that these days, there is a bit of boredom, a bit of ho-hum, in urban areas after the first few days of Bihu. The joy of the season, depicted on stage through song and dance, tends to pall when it goes on for so many days. There is a sameness, a repetitiveness about the Bihu offerings that becomes obvious after a while. After all, these seasonal songs and dances were not really meant for year-round performances. In the rural areas, there are other songs,

other dances for these different occasions.

However, it is heartening to see the enthusiasm of participants during the Bihu season in one section of the Assamese people. Bihu is now being celebrated by the Assamese Diaspora worldwide. And thanks to social media, particularly Facebook and Instagram, the fun times that are had during this festival can be shared by all, back home and indeed across the globe. Besides, there are the write-ups in this paper, which,

### ALL THINGS CONSIDERED

Mitra Phukan



Global Bihus are participatory in nature, like the rural ones, with everybody jumping in to dance and sing. These are not "performances", not homogenised, choreographed and over-rehearsed, but are expressions of the emotions of the people.

along with the pictures, give news of Bihu in distant lands. This is certainly a joyful thing.

These Bihu celebrations away from the home State, are now all quite elaborately done. It's wonderful to see the pains that the participants take to make these celebrations enjoyable.

Halls are rented, caterers are hired. But because the usual Indian caterers cannot normally make *larts* and *pithas* of sesame and coconut, the men and women of the community themselves turn out these delicacies in vast quantities to be enjoyed by all.

Sometimes, if the Bihu gathering is large enough, a well-known singer from Assam is brought over, for the merrymaking and fun to have an added dimension. In any case, it is

heartwarming to see the Diaspora shed their work clothes on this day of Bihu celebrations, and wear ethnic clothes. Songs and dances are all beautifully done, with *dhuligas* and *nasonas* and singers adding sparkle to the event.

These gatherings serve multiple purposes. One is, of course, to meet people from Assam, on this occasion, so that stories may be swapped, and relationships nurtured. Usually, migrants from the same community form strong bonds among themselves, and by celebrating this festival in traditional ways, these ties are strengthened further. And through these celebrations, the second generation after the migrants themselves, get to learn a bit about the culture that their parents, or a single parent in some cases, came from.

There is also the NRI nostalgia. These gatherings, in which so many participate, allow them to relive what they have left behind. It also gives everybody a chance to be "Assamese" for a day. In present times, NRIs can come back to the country they migrated from very frequently. Some come once a year, others even more frequently. They take care, at these times, to stock up on *gamochas* and *mehela chadors*, which are lovingly taken out during Bihu, and weddings. Indeed, some of the latest *mehela chador* designs can be seen on NRI ladies.

In some ways, the diasporic Bihus are closer to the original Bihu that can only be found in Assam in the rural areas. The stage Bihus of the cities are all rehearsed and homogeneous, often performed by professionals. No doubt they are beautiful, but they lack the spontaneity of the rural ones. There is also a physical distance between the stage and the audience. Global Bihus, though, are participation in nature, like the rural ones, with everybody jumping in to dance and sing. There is no "audience", nor "performer". The Bihus of the Diaspora, too, are more spontaneous, because the dancers and singers are not professional Bihu "artists".

These are not "performances", not homogenised, choreographed and over-rehearsed, but are expressions of the emotions of the people.

What happens at these gatherings across the world is therefore in an important way closer to the original, than the stage Bihu of the cities is.

All Things Considered, these Bihus of the Diaspora are closer to the spirit of folk dances than the city Bihus of Assam are, today. And that, of course, is the irony of it all.

### 5 THINGS / Flying solo

## "Just pack your bags and go"

SIMONA CHOWDHURY lays down the ground rules for women travellers.

### 1 Know yourself before you set out

It's important to know how you feel about yourself and what you think of yourself before taking the rest of the world into consideration. In pursuit of myself, six years ago, I took up travelling solo. It can be scary, exhilarating and entertaining, all at the same time. Any woman can be a solo traveller, provided she is willing to take the plunge and step out of the door.

### 2 Safety is a priority

As a solo woman traveller, the choice of accommodation should top the list of your safety precautions. Ladies, your safety is in your hands. So, don't compromise on your lodging. Couch surfing or cheap hotels is definitely not what I'd suggest to solo woman travellers.

Keep your friends and family posted of your whereabouts, meet new people, learn new cultures, lifestyle, geo-political and economic scenarios and return rejuvenated and more conversant.

### 3 Respect the culture of a place

While travelling, there are some modesty and conduct requirements. Don't blame the men and society. If you don't respect the traditions, culture and lifestyle of a place, then there's a high probability of you falling prey to disrespect and humiliation.

### 4 Being a woman should not stop you

When it comes to choosing a destination for your travels, do not form an impression looking at those destructive images on news channels because that's how the media sells stories. Just pack your bags and go if you really want to explore that particular place. Just because you are a woman, that shouldn't stop you from going to Syria or Afghanistan.



### 5 Travel, only when you can afford it

Travel, only when you can afford to. Fix a budget, there are both medium and expensive travel itineraries, plan whatever suits your pocket.

On the road, while travelling solo, avoid getting intoxicated and dozing off to avoid trouble. Do not get men to your room nor go visit their homes or their hotel rooms. Partying is fun, but avoid alcohol or opium. Do not damage the beautiful world of travel and tourism.

(As told to Indrani Raimedhi)

## FORECAST

JUNE 5 – 11, 2017

### ARIES



This is a joyous, lively, bubbling period of energy. In case you should still lack self-confidence, you will now discover: it has been there for a while! Uranus can help you establish distance with yourself.

### TAURUS



The stars give you a voice so that your desires do not have to remain unspoken. Knowing this can stimulate your world of desires. Go ahead, say it out loud. Your time has come.

### GEMINI



This is a week of new possibilities, positive changes, of a good attitude towards life. It is also a time for many joyous encounters, for socialising and festivity. Friendships are revived, even those that you had not expected.

### CANCER



There are surprising developments in your love life. In case you had recently believed you were too old or "unreliable" for something, events convince you of the opposite. Suddenly, everything is conceivable. The limits are lifted or at least displaced.

### LEO



If your partner does something that you did not put past them, they become especially interesting to you. The heroic magically attracts you. You yourself are heroic. You do not have to stand on the sidelines.

### VIRGO



Behind every weakness lies a strength or another positive thing. It is a consolation when you remember that even the rich and beautiful do not always have it easy. Maybe you even feel some compassion now.

### LIBRA



If you have been waiting for "something to happen," perhaps you have been waiting for this very week, and specifically for Tuesday, Wednesday or Sunday. The constellations fire up your partnership situation and bring a new kind of result.

### SCORPIO



You are very skilled, and use spontaneous opportunities that offer themselves. It is a good week for business activities, which also depends on the people you trust. Relationships get better now.

### SAGITTARIUS



Detours are opportunities to get other perspectives. Life offers very pleasant sides now, which is good above all, because you are in connection to special people. You are a gift to one another.

### CAPRICORN



If you feel particularly brave now, it almost feels like a matter of course to you. It is so easy to get used to flying high. You do your work because it appears meaningful and brings you joy. More cannot be expected, and you are also fully satisfied.

### AQUARIUS



A desire for movement is also strongly indicated. If you are already active, you will want to preserve this desire for movement for the future. It is best if you have an athletic partner and make arrangements to meet.

### PISCES



The Venus-Uranus conjunction is the starting shot for your new path: less fearfulness, more courage to be outside the ordinary. But what is ordinary anyway? The sign of Pisces is inherently limitless.

### MOVIE WATCH

Bidisha Singh

## Wonder Woman

**Cast:** Gal Gadot, Chris Pine, Robin Wright.  
**Director:** Patty Jenkins.

Based on the DC Comics character, Wonder Woman is the fourth film instalment of DC's extended universe. A princess of the Amazons, Diana or Wonder Woman is an unconquerable warrior secure in her sheltered island. But when an outsider, an American pilot (Chris Pine), tells her about the waging wars in the outside world, she decides to leave home for the first time to save the world. In doing so, she takes the first steps to becoming the hero that she was destined to be.

## Weekly Top Grossers

1. Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales
2. Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2
3. Baywatch
4. Alien: Covenant
5. Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Long Haul

## Gifted

**Cast:** Chris Evans, McKenna Grace, Lindsay Duncan, Octavia Spencer.  
**Director:** Marc Webb.

A emotionally stirring drama, *Gifted* revolves around a seven-year-old child prodigy whose mathematical acumen lands her in the middle of a custody battle between her uncle and her grandmother. While her uncle Frank Adler (Chris Evans of Captain America fame) wants her to have a normal childhood, the grandmother has big plans for this genius child. A fairly predictable premise, no doubt, but the charming cast, led by the little protagonist, makes an absolutely engaging movie.

### FOOTALK

Dr. Ritu G. Goswami

## Bhedailota benefits

**S**kunk Vine, known as *bhedailota* in Assamese, has a distinct odour due to the presence of carbon bisulphide. In Ayurveda, *bhedailota* is considered as an antiflammatory, antispasmodic, cardiac, diaphoretic, expectorant, stomachic, anodyne, aphrodisiac, emollient, carminative, diuretic, health tonic and vermifuge plant. Each 100gms. of *bhedailota* leaves contain carbohydrates (9.6 gms.), proteins (2.57 gms.), fats (0.6 gms.), calcium (200 mg), potassium (844 mg), iron (4.67 mg) and Vitamin C (271 mg). The leaves are taken in the form of juice, vegetable, curry, dumplings and sometimes, wrapped in a banana leaf and cooked over fire. Cooking diminishes the odour significantly, but a mild bitterness in taste persists. The leaves are valued for their medicinal properties. The flowers are small and pink in colour, which also have some medicinal values.

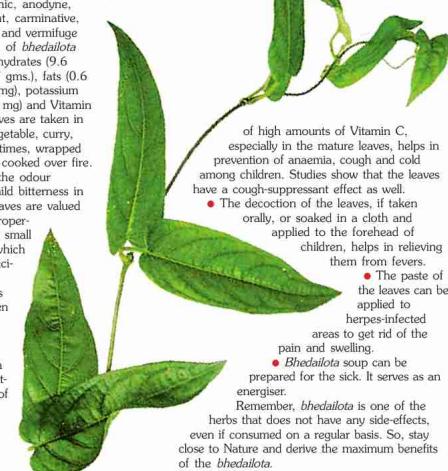
The health benefits of *bhedailota* are given below:

- Inclusion of *bhedailota* leaves in everyday diet helps in getting rid of rheumatic pain and stiffness of the joints.
- The poultice of the leaves, when applied to the abdomen, helps in relieving distension and flatulence.

The paste of the leaves, when applied to the forehead of children, helps in relieving them from fevers.

- The paste of the leaves can be applied to herpes-infected areas to get rid of the pain and swelling.

• *Bhedailota* soup can be prepared for the sick. It serves as an energiser.



of high amounts of Vitamin C, especially in the mature leaves, helps in prevention of anaemia, cough and cold among children. Studies show that the leaves have a cough-suppressant effect as well.

- The decoction of the leaves, if taken orally, or soaked in a cloth and applied to the forehead of children, helps in relieving them from fevers.
- The paste of the leaves can be applied to herpes-infected areas to get rid of the pain and swelling.

Remember, *bhedailota* is one of the herbs that does not have any side-effects, even if consumed on a regular basis. So, stay close to Nature and derive the maximum benefits of the *bhedailota*.

(ritugeu\_goswami@yahoo.in)

