



# The Assam Tribune

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RN-1127/57 TECH/GH - 104/2015-2017, VOL. 79, NO. 219, GUWAHATI, SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 2017, Pages 24

Price Rs. 6.00



## NEWS CAPSULE

### JD(U) decision

NEW DELHI, Aug 12: The JD(U) today removed party leader Sharad Yadav as chief of its parliamentary party. The decision was taken a day after the party suspended its rebel MP Ali Anwar Ansari from the parliamentary party for taking part in a meeting of opposition parties. — IANS

### Twins drown

BONACCOMA, Aug 12: Two-year-old twins — Ganga and Jamuna, daughters of Dhrum Dutta, drowned in flood waters today when they were fishing near their house at Malpana under Abbayapuri PS. In another incident, the body of one Radha Ballari Saha was found today in a ditch at Borpather. — Correspondent

### Telecom down

GUWAHATI, Aug 12: Telephone and internet connectivity was down across the Northeast since last night following snapping of a fibre cable at North Bengal. Sources said internet services in Airtel, Vodafone and BSNL would be restored by tonight. — Staff Reporter

### Body found

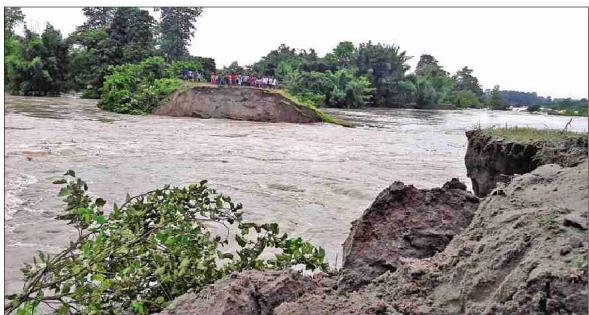
JORHAT, Aug 12: Police recovered a decomposed body of a woman, who was suspected of being raped and murdered — from a rented house at Central Market area of Sivasagar town today. The deceased, Dikhya Rajkumari worked in a private company. — Staff Correspondent

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## Sunday

The clarion call  
Dr. Sripuram Patnek  
■ UP CLOSE  
Tossing and turning  
Indrani Raimedhi  
The call of faith  
Ruma Phukan  
■ WOMEN PLUS:  
Under siege  
Munmunaz Zamani  
■ FICTION:  
A mother's cause  
Debutan Barooah Saikia  
■ MY SPACE:  
For theenate  
Pratibha Buraphain  
■ IN BLACK AND WHITE:  
Taking it slow  
Jahnavi Barua  
Plus all our regular features

## 10 killed in 2nd wave of flood in State



A breached portion of the Besamara-Halodihari embankment in Majuli on Saturday. — UB Photos

### STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 12: Ten persons died in the last 24 hours as the number of people affected by the second wave of floods in the State rose to nearly 11 lakh.

According to an evening bulletin of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority, those killed in the flood included six in Kokrajhar district, two in Dhemaji and one each in Lakhimpur and Morigaon.

A total of 10,99,217 people have been affected in the floods in 1,752 villages of 66 revenue circles in 19 districts — Dibrugarh, Lakhimpur, Biswanath, Sonitpur, Baksa, Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Chirang, Kokrajhar, Dhubri, South Salmara, Morigaon, Golaghat, Jorhat, Majuli, Sivasagar, Charaideo, Dibrugarh and Tinsukia. Dhemaji, Bongaigaon, Kokra-

### Nearly 11 lakh people in 19 districts affected

where a large area of the Besamara-Halodihari embankment was breached in Jengamukh and Nayabazar areas.

According to the Central Water Commission, the Brahmaputra was flowing above the danger level at Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Tezpur and Dhubri. The Burhidihing in Dibrugarh district, Subansiri

jhar and Dhubri have been the worst hit in this wave of floods.

A report from Lakhimpur said that NEEPCO has been releasing waters from its Ranganadi project since Thursday, leading to flooding in the downstream areas.

The situation worsened in Majuli

in Lakhimpur, Dhansiri in Golaghat, Jia Bharali in Sonitpur, Putumari in Kamrup, Bekti in Barpeta, Gaurang in Kokrajhar and Sankosh in Dhubri were also flowing above the red mark.

Altogether 268 relief camps have been set up in the State and 63,797 flood-hit people are taking shelter in them.

Army personnel were deployed in the rescue-and-relief operations in Kokrajhar while additional NDRF personnel were being rushed to Dhubri, Kokrajhar, Majuli and Chirang districts following requests from the respective Deputy Commissioners.

At least 56 houses have been washed away in the floods which have caused damages to several infrastructure across the State.

Around 1,00,441 hectares of cropland (See page 13)

■ More reports on Pages 8 and 9

## Pending cases cross 1.78 lakh mark

### R DUTTA CHOWDHURY

GUWAHATI, Aug 12: Though the number of Tribunals set up under the provisions of the Foreigners Act has been increased to 100, even more than 1.78 lakh cases are pending before the Tribunals. Worse, a large number of persons declared 'foreigners' by the Tribunals over the years are reported missing as there is no mechanism to keep a watch on the suspects while the trials are on.

In fact, since 1985, only a small number of persons, who were declared as foreigners, could be deported and the process slowed down even further since 2013 when the new rules for deportation of foreigners came into effect.

According to records available with the State government, during the period from 1985 to July-end this year, 624,016 cases had been initiated by the Border Police Organisation against the suspected foreigners, of which investigations have been completed in 616,092 cases and 471,994 cases have been referred to the Tribunals. The Tribunals disposed of 206,386 cases, declaring 86,409 persons as foreign

### Foreigners Tribunal

ers who came to Assam after the midnight of March 24, 1971, but of them only around 900 could be pushed back.

During the same period, 1,547 persons were expelled from the country under the provisions of the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act, which was scrapped by the Supreme Court in 2005. The process of pushing back declared foreigners slowed down drastically after a new system was intro-

(See page 13)

### Forest dept seeks power to check CDR, intercept calls

#### RITURAJ BORTHAKUR

GUWAHATI, Aug 12: The forest department has written to the State government seeking powers to the forest officers to call for CDRs (call detail records) and intercept calls.

These powers would add teeth to the capacity of officers of the department investigating the multi-million-dollar wildlife trade which is also linked to terror funding, a senior forest official told *The Assam Tribune*.

Now, all the investigations are based on human intelligence. There is absolutely no use of technology and so the scope is very limited. When the investigating forest officers need to analyse a CDR, they have to write to the police. The process is long-drawn and by the time the CDR comes, its relevance is lost," the official said.

In some states like Karnataka and Uttarakhand, forest officers are empowered to call for record and intercept calls.

The forest department contends that nearly 90 per cent of the police cases are cracked based on telephone records and interception. "It is a major tool for investigation and tracking criminal networks. We are hopeful that if these powers are given to us, the forest staff can crack 90 per cent of the wildlife crime cases," the official insisted.

As of now, the official said, most investigations fail to lead to unearthing of the bigger network. The forest staff are not able to track the links due to technological shortcomings.

The State also has a very poor conviction rate of poachers. In 2013, 71 poachers were caught in and around Karizanga. The following year, 47 were arrested and in 2015, the number of arrests was 88. Last year, 59 poachers were arrested. But only nine have been convicted so far.

(See page 13)

### AGP against naming colleges after Upadhyaya

#### STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 12: Opposing the move of the Sarbananda Sonowal government to set up model colleges and name them after Jan Sangh leader Deendayal Upadhyaya, alliance party AGP today said the decision should be withdrawn and the new institutions be named after eminent personalities from the State.

Addressing a press conference here, AGP general secretary Dr Kamalakanta Kalita said there are many prominent personalities who had contributed immensely to the State's social life. "Scholars, like Krishna Kanta Handique, Lakshminath Bezbaroa, Syed Abdul Malik, Sitananan Brahma Choudhury, Anundoram Borooah, Padmanath Gohain Baruah, Hemchandra Baruah, Banikanta Kakati, Maheshwar Neog, etc., have enriched the Assamese language, culture, literature through their contributions. It will be a befitting tribute to them if the colleges are named after such great men," Kalita said.

The State also has a very poor conviction rate of poachers. In 2013, 71 poachers were caught in and around Karizanga. The following year, 47 were arrested and in 2015, the number of arrests was 88. Last year, 59 poachers were arrested. But only nine have been convicted so far.

(See page 13)

## PM monitoring situation in Gorakhpur

NEW DELHI, Aug 12: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is constantly monitoring the situation at Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh where at least 30 children died in a hospital and is in touch with central and state authorities, the PMO said today.

Minister of State for Health Anupriya Patel and the Union health secretary took stock of the situation at Gorakhpur, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said.

Gorakhpur district magistrate Rajeev Rautela had said yesterday that at least 30 children died in the state-run Baba Raghav Das Medical College within 48 hours since August 10.

Uttar Pradesh Health Minister Siddhartha Nath Singh had said that according to reports from the medical department of the college, 60 children died due to various diseases since August 7. Though the Gorakhpur district magistrate had not given any reason for the deaths,

### Death of children at hospital

an official here had said that according to the Gorakhpur SP, 21 children died due to oxygen supply shortage.

Modi, the principal of BRD Medical College, was today summoned for his "irresponsible act" of allegedly delaying payments to the oxygen supplier, which led to the death of 30 infants,

Uttar Pradesh Health Education Minister Ashutosh Tandon said. He said a probe, led by the chief secretary, had also been ordered.

The Congress today said Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Health Minister Siddhartha Nath Singh should resign taking "moral responsibility" for the death of 30 infants at the state-run hospital.

In Lucknow, terming the death of infants as an outcome of the Uttar Pradesh government's "gross criminal negligence", the SP and BSP today demanded a high-level inquiry into the incident. — PTI

### Jawan, woman killed in J-K

JAMMU, Aug 12: An Army jawan and a woman were killed as Pakistani troops today violated ceasefire twice along the LoC in the Poonch sector of Jammu and Kashmir.

A defence spokesman said the Pakistan Army launched unprovoked firing on the Indian posts at around 5 pm today killing Naib Subedar Jagran Singh Tomar.

Earlier in the day a 40-year-old woman was killed in Gohald Kalan village after the Pakistani Army resorted to indiscriminate firing for nearly one-and-a-half-hour. — PTI

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### AREIDA (CREDA) Helping the Helpless

We are overwhelmed by the blessings and gratitude of the suffering people in the interior areas of Morigaon, where we carried out a massive relief operation, reaching out to the villagers whose lives have been ravaged by floods. An AREIDA team travelled to Bhuragaon carrying three truck loads of essential items and distributed a bag each containing rice, dal, chira, salt, mustard oil, potato, 2 types of biscuits, milk, mosquito coil, match box, ORS packets, phenyl and candles to hundreds of people of eight villages in Bhuragaon. In the entire endeavour no donations/sponsorships was sought from any party, but funded by members' contributions only.

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**OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL JAWAHAR NAVODAYA-RANGIA KAMPUR-ASSAM WALK-IN-INTERVIEW**

JNVRangia, Kamrup (Assam) is requiring Teacher for the posts of TGT-Maths (02) and PGT-Drawing (01). Application form basis for the session 2017-18. Eligible candidate may visit JNVRangia in Walk-in interview to be held on 18.08.2017 from 10.00 am onwards.

For details candidates are requested to visit the Vidyalya Website ([www.kamrup.jnv.ac.in](http://www.kamrup.jnv.ac.in))

PRINCIPAL  
Mobile No. 9127089993

CD/SV/2165/1

Urgently required full time, experienced Computer Designer with vast knowledge of Corel Draw & Photoshop, at Adabari, Guwahati, Assam. 8399001969, SV/P/A324/8

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Required Experience DTP Operator (M.A. for a Present at Zoo Road, Guwahati). Knowledge of Pagemaker, Photoshop, English, Assamese and Hindi composing must. Email CV/Bio-data to dekanayon07@gmail.com, or call 99543/2424. SV/P/A447/1

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17. Rheumatologist.  
18. General Surgery.  
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20. Acupuncturist.

Please contact

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CD/SV/P/3343/18

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SV/P/A336/2

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CD/SV/2107/3

**REQUIRES**

**RADIOLOGIST (MD/ DMRD)**

with experience in USG/ X-RAY/CT/MRI Resume

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CD/SV/KP075/1

Recruitment required contact with bio-data Guwahati Eye Hospital Opp. Hanuman Mandir, Lachit Baruah St. Bus. G.S. Road, Guwahati. Ph. 0361-2529655, 99579-98191. SV/P/A334/8

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SV/P/A466/2

Walk-In interview 1. Personal Trainer (Only Certified Trainer) 2. Gym Trainer / Fitness Trainer (Fresh/ Certified) 3. Software Developer - Salary (Rs. 12000 - 15000) Language PHP+ with PDO MySQL. Interview Date: 13th August 2017 2pm onwards. Place: NITY GYM. ABC Bus Stop, Guwahati. 88222-00088. SV/P/A466/2

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CD/SV/2167/1

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Required experienced Site Engineer for our Six-mile site Guwahati. Salary negotiable. Contact- 9707051530. SV/P/PA464/1

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Required M.A (Education/ English/Political Science) Teacher for a School. Contact No. 9864851138/7035871170. SV/P/1595/1

Experienced Restaurant Manager, Delivery Boy required in Guwahati. Call 9401727143, 876599971. SV/P/1596/1

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 2017

## NATIONAL

### Shah sounds BJP poll bugle in Karnataka

BENGALURU, Aug 12: Sounding the poll bugle in Karnataka, BJP president Amit Shah today kicked off his visit to the State, declaring that the party stands united and said, "Ab ki baar, BJP sarkar" (This time, BJP Government).

Shah, who is in Karnataka on a three-day visit to re-energise a faction-riven State unit, asserted that the party was ready for the electoral battle to win the Assembly polls under the leadership of BJP State unit chief BS Yeddyurappa.

"Friends, our party stands united, and is geared up to take to the electoral battlefield under the leadership of Yeddyurappa in the coming days, and see to it that we form a BJP Government in the State," Shah told party workers near the Kempe Gowda International Airport here.

Assembly polls in Karnataka are due early next year for which the party has a 150-plus seats goal to come back to power.

Shah is scheduled to interact with partymen at various levels and expected to give a pep talk to senior leaders to remain united the open bickering between some of its leaders until recently had embarrassed the party.

Yeddyurappa has come under criticism from a section of partymen over his alleged "arbitrary style" of functioning with another senior leader KS Eswarappa openly flagging the issue until both were told to shun display of differences.

"I am hopeful that the way the party, for the last five years,

has been fighting against the corrupt, oppressive and polarising rule of the Congress, the people of this great State of Karnataka have decided to vote the BJP to power," Shah said.

Addressing the party workers who gave him a rousing reception near the airport, Shah said he had come here to realise the goal of forming the next BJP Government in Karnataka.

"I have come here amidst BJP workers to realise 'Ab ki baar, BJP sarkar,'" he added.

He said when Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "vijay Rath" (victory chariot) would reach Karnataka next February-March, party workers should be ready with their quest to make inroads into the southern India by winning Karnataka.

BJP's first ever Government in the South had ruled Karnataka from 2008-2013 that saw internal fights leading to change of Chief Ministers thrice and paved the way for the return of the Congress to power.

The ruling Congress is going all out to retain power, but the BJP has said it has a counter-strategy to fight its "polarisation politics."

The BJP will neither interfere in the Lingayat religion issue nor use the Kannada language row as a political tool to counter the "polarisation politics" of the Congress in Karnataka, senior BJP leader Suresh Kumar said.

The Congress support to a separate religion cause of Lingayats, the largest community in the State, ahead of the 2018 Assembly polls, is seen as an

attempt to cause damage to the BJP which enjoys considerable support from the community.

The BJP also does not want to use the language issue as a tool to create hatred towards other communities and sections of the people, Kumar said.—PTI

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Department, Gaushala University

Died on: 14.8.1987

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**Late Sardar Jagjit Singh**  
Partner of Vandana Cinema Hall & Ex  
President of Gurudwara  
Singh Sabha, Guwahati

Date of Birth: 24.06.1935

Date of Death: 05.08.2017

You were and are our bright light of inspiration and strength. Papa—so simple and honest that we feel proud to call our daughter's name after you left us on 5th August 2017. Be with us forever. We miss you & love you.

Amit Ardas : 4.00 AM to 11.30 AM to 1 PM

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**Nayanananda Gohain**  
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Our most respected husband/father / brother / father in law and founder member of Akash D Medicos, Nayanananda Gohain passed away to heavenly abode on 3rd August 2017. His Shuddha Snan and Pashupati conducted today (13th August 2017) at his Dibrugarh residence located in Jibin Phukan Nagar. All well-wishers are hereby invited to attend the same and join us to pray for his departed soul.

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**The Assam Tribune**

**Engineering blues**

In a disturbing development having long-term implications for technical education, the All India Council for Technical Education has decided to close down engineering colleges due to a drastic fall in admission seekers in recent years. In fact, of the 37 lakh seats across the country's 10,000-odd engineering colleges, as many as 27 lakh have been lying vacant. This is indeed a frightening scenario, which has at its roots the diminishing demand for engineers and the resultant unemployability of engineering graduates. It may be recalled that till two-and-a-half decades back, there was a huge demand for engineers in the country, with engineering and medical remaining the most preferred career choices for our students. Apparently the demand for engineers has reached its saturation point and consequently more and more youths are opting for higher studies in disciplines other than engineering, triggering a drastic fall in admission in engineering colleges. The AICTE's decision to close down engineering colleges without having the minimum student norm is welcome and pragmatic. The Assam Government which of late has been according a lot of thrust on opening new engineering colleges needs a rethink on its education policy in view of the emerging developments. Perhaps a better option would be to focus more on medical colleges (as we have a large shortage of doctors) and technical institutes imparting vocational skill training such as ITI and polytechnics. Generation of self-entrepreneurship through training, exposure and bank linkage should be another imperative. If necessary, the Government can outsource such training through qualified NGOs and private institutes.

The importance of skilled manpower in a backward State like Assam having a high incidence of unemployment can hardly be reiterated. The State Government needs to accord utmost thrust on this crucial area. Lack of employability of our youth has been a persisting bane, throttling human resource development and fueling unemployment at the same time. The Centre, too, needs to recognize this as a critical sphere of governance. This in turn calls for a major policy shift but at the same time the State Government needs to convince the Centre that a universal, fit-all policy for the entire nation will serve little purpose, given the diversities and challenges present region-wise. A State-wide consultation with stakeholders and experts will have to precede the roadmap that the Government intends to put in place to propel the nation into the fast-track growth path through a revamp of the educational system.

**Ominous portent**

For quite some time now scientists have been warning that increased carbon footfalls and emission of greenhouse gases by humanity was leading to a global ecological crisis. The depletion of the Ozone Layer and enhanced emission of heat trapping gases such as carbon dioxide have resulted in the gradual warming of the Earth's atmosphere and consequent climatic changes. Severe natural calamities across the world are constant reminders of the dangers being faced by us. Polar ice-caps and Himalayan glaciers are melting at abnormal speed causing a rise in the level of oceans, which will threaten coastal communities and lead to mass migration and climate-refugees. The numerous adverse outcomes of global warming had finally induced nations of the world to discard self-interested policies and hammer out a protocol to contain average global warming to two degrees Celsius over that which prevailed prior to the Industrial Revolution. The climate summit held in Paris last December, which arrived at a climate deal agreed upon by 195 nations, was a historic occasion. Unfortunately, some people wielding enormous power, like the US President Donald Trump, consider climate change to be a hoax. He has pulled the US out of the Paris climate deal, causing deep perturbation amongst the international community.

He has also set a bad example by encouraging revival of the US coal-industry and discarding previous policy of gradual switch over to non-fossil based power sources. Individuals like Trump, who are a threat to global ecology, need to read the State of the Climate report painstakingly compiled by 500 scientists across the world and published each year by the American meteorological Society. The 2017 issue, which contains data and developments during the year 2016, makes for dire reading. According to it, the temperature of the earth reached record-breaking heights that year, especially in places like Mexico and India. Other indicators of climate change, such as ocean temperature, rise in sea level and greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere too had broken all previous records. The most ominous aspect of this development is that it was not a one-off event but part of a continuous trend, a gradual increase being discovered from year to year. This implies that unless entire mankind puts the planet before the self the Earth is headed for disaster.

**The Assam Tribune**

**From THE PAST**

**MAJOR BID TO CHECK INFLATION**

NEW DELHI, August 12: The Government is considering "total attempt" to curb profits, dividends, incomes and ostentatious expenditure in a major bid to check inflation and maintain economic stability, report UNI & PTI.

This was stated here today by Deputy Prime Minister Narendra Desai in an informal talk with newsmen.

He said the Government would take a decision both on the broad policy issues and the question of dearness allowance to Central Government employees before September 11, the date they have set for a token strike.

Asked which would come first – a wage freeze or a profit and dividend freeze – Sri Desai replied that the whole thing would come in a comprehensive form.

Questioned how he could stabilize prices at the present level in the face of scarcity of goods, Sri Desai said the position might continue to be tight only up to September or October. If monsoon turned out in September as good now, much of the present anxiety might disappear.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 1967

**Loan waivers: Short-term relief to farmers****Geetima Das Krishna**

**T**he monsoon session of the parliament started with opposition accusing the government of failing to address the problems of the farmers. "There is an agrarian crisis....The number of farmers committing suicide has been rising by the day", said leader of Congress party, Mallikarjun Kharge with a demand for loan waiver. Not very far from the parliament, are the farmers from drought-hit Tamil Nadu protesting in Jantar Mantar demanding loan waiver by nationalised banks.

After resisting against populist measures, the BJP state government in UP was the first one to announce farm-loan waiver of Rs 36,359 crore. This opened the Pandora's Box. Four states have already announced and another four is threatening to join the caravan as distressing news of farmers' suicide make headlines. Maharashtra government announced Rs 34,000 crores of farm-loan waiver for individual loans below 1.5 lakh.

On the other hand, Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in April warned that farm loan waiver undermines an honest credit culture and impacts credit discipline.

It is true that a loan waiver may short-change a farmer who has definitely paid back his loans. But empirically there is no evidence that such waivers undermine the

culture of farmers. There has not been any such cases reported after the large-scale farm waiver in 2008. We did not even see any demand during the two years of back-to-back droughts in 2014 and 2015.

However, these waivers do have fiscal costs, rightly pointed out by RBI. As the state governments take the burden to repay the loans, it raises their fiscal deficit. This will result in deterioration of hard-won fiscal discipline of the states squeezing out the much-needed public capital expenditure.

On the other hand, if these loans are not waived and farmers' distress is so acute that it leads to large scale default of bank loans, then the central government will have to step in to capitalise these banks. In both the cases, there will be transfer of taxpayers' money to borrowers, increases in overall Government borrowing, rise in borrowing costs and eventually crowding out of private investments. So, these loan waivers have an adverse domino effects on macroeconomic factors.

Can these loan waiver solve the problem? Even in 2008, a total of Rs 52,500 crore was spent on the loan waiver by UPA government after severe drought. This did not help provide any permanent solu-

tion to farmers' problems. In the nine years till March 2017, a total of Rs 88,988 crore loans have been waived off. Despite the recent announcements, sadly enough, these waivers have not been able to stem farmers' suicide.

The farmers' distress is genuine and the loan waivers are needed. However, the benefit may not reach all distressed farmers. Most of the small and marginal farmers

**Can these loan waiver solve the problem? Even in 2008, a total of Rs 52,500 crore was spent on the loan waiver by UPA government after severe drought. This did not help provide any permanent solution to farmers' problems. In the nine years till March 2017, a total of Rs 88,988 crore loans have been waived off.**

do not have access to formal bank loans. The NSSO data shows that less than half of these marginal farmers in UP owe money to banks. A mere 28% of farmers with land holding less than an acre have outstanding bank loans. Most of them are indebted to local money lenders, traders or big farmers. In Maharashtra, loan waiver is expected to help farmers in Western sector where the landholdings are fragmented and number of marginal farmers are higher. But this region is also well irrigated that has hard-

ly reported farmer suicides. Therefore, on the ground, these waivers may not provide relief to needy farmers. In addition, a blanket loan waiver may benefit a farmer who does not even need it. Eventually, poor and vulnerable farmers would lose access to formal credit in future forcing them to the mercy of money-lenders.

The loan waivers does not address the systemic issues in the sector. Surprisingly, farmers' distress surfaced in a year when we had a good monsoon along with bumper crop. The primary reason for the distress is plummeting prices of produce below minimum support price (MSP) or seasonal price. Supply glut caused by bumper crop along with higher imports caused prices of pulses to crash- albeit below MSP. Demonetisation in November last year added to the problem. Severe cash crunch experienced by the traders led the farmers to dump their perishables at throw-away prices. Lower food price which was a boon for urban India, caused severe pain in rural India.

One of the primary problems in the agriculture sector is the small size of landholding per farmer that prevents any major investment like irrigation or mechanisation. It is reported that 83% of rural

households are landless or own less than 1 hectare of land. These marginal farmers do not have access to formal credit. There is a need for farmers' cooperatives for gaining economies of scale along with bargaining power against large buyers.

Even though government procureures from farmers at MSP, only the rich farmers manage to sell at that price. The small farmers either sell their produce at low price to cartels of licensed traders at nearest mandi or cannot even bear the transportation cost to government centres or cannot afford to wait for payment for more than a month. Despite subsidies in fertilizer and diesel, input costs are rising while output prices are falling, thus making farming unviable. On top of that, weather vagaries and crop failures are pushing them to money lenders.

The government aims to double farmers' income in next seven years. This cannot be done through inefficient subsidies or loan waivers. Significant investment is needed in irrigation, cold storage, warehousing and transport infrastructure, and improving the agri-market by making it farmer-friendly and removing the cartels of middlemen.

Loan waivers can help in the short term to appease this constituency of farmers. However, without investments in the sector to address the underlying problem, the demand for loan waiver will keep haunting us in coming years.

**Neuro Rehabilitation****Priyam Goswami**

I am not a doctor. Nor am I related in any way to the medical profession. This piece is based entirely on my experiences as the spouse of someone who suddenly suffered from a severe brain stroke and the innumerable challenges that we had to negotiate since then. My husband, had always led a very disciplined life. He hardly ever missed his daily morning walk or his hour long yoga sessions. He has always eaten healthily, enjoyed his work and, in general, has led a full life. After every annual medical check up , his doctor would comment that he was in "perfect health" for his age.

We had just returned from a very relaxing two and a half month holiday with our children and grandchildren and were settling down once again to the regularity of life in Guwahati. Then all of a sudden in the early hours of the 25th of September last year it struck... something that caught us completely unawares and threw us off totally overnight. Binode woke up early morning sweating profusely and minutes later threw up. Even with my limited medical knowledge, I knew that these were not good signs. I immediately called for a doctor and an ambulance. Fortunately, both arrived within minutes and we rushed him to the hospital. By now he had become unconscious and his left side had become paralysed. A CT scan revealed that he had suffered from an ischaemic brain stroke. A clot buster injection was immediately administered. I was told that in order to be effective, this injection must be given within four and a half hours of the stroke. Luckily, we were well within that time. There was reason to cheer for by afternoon he had not only regained consciousness but had also started moving his left limbs and responding to commands. The crisis was apparently over.

Our happiness, however, was short lived. The following day his condition suddenly deteriorated and once again he slipped into a state of unconsciousness. Hectic consultations among the doctors, followed by more CT scans and an MRI, eventually resulted in the

case being transferred from the neurology department to the neurosurgery department. The tests had revealed accumulation of fluid in the brain resulting from a clot, which clearly the clot buster injection alone had not been able to solve. We were informed that immediate surgical intervention was the only way out.

The surgery, to remove damaged brain tissue and drain accumulated brain fluid, took several hours. A small opening was kept in the skull to drain out excess brain fluid. Once in the ICU, he was wired up to several machines and was on ventilator support. He remained unconscious for five days. On a scale of 1 to 6 measuring consciousness levels, he was at 2.5 when he was expected to be at or around level 5. We were told that the prognosis was not very positive and that our only hope lay in prayer. On the sixth day, he blinked his eyes.

But it was not before three weeks that the ICU, High Dependency ward and then the semi ICU that he was eventually shifted to a room, albeit with oxygen support. The massive stroke had reduced my husband to a pale shadow of his former self. His left side was completely paralysed making him practically immobile. He lost his speech and all his fine motor skills leaving him with little scope for communication. He was unable to swallow anything- solids or liquids and constant bouts of coughing often resulted in shortness of breath and increasing dependence on assisted oxygen.

We soon realised that after the initial treatment was over, the hospital had little to offer to aid the complex recovery process of the patient. Even the physiotherapy that was given was of an extremely basic nature. We were faced with a dilemma, for neither was the patient in a position to be taken home nor was there a rehabilitation centre where he could shift him. The doctors suggested that the only way out was to hire trained home help and bring him back to the hospital if an emergency arose. I was not convinced and did not consider this a viable solution

to the problem. After many frantic enquiries we zeroed down on APOKOS Rehabilitation Hospital, Hyderabad. Since he was not in a position to travel by a commercial aircraft, we transferred him to Hyderabad from Guwahati by an air ambulance.

In the last few months I have realized that for a stroke patient, rehabilitation constitutes the most important phase in the recovery process and that this can be provided only in a neuro rehabilitation centre. But what exactly is neuro rehabilitation? It is a doctor-supervised programme designed for people suffering from trauma or disorders of the nervous system. Rehab helps survivors to relearn skills that are lost when part of the brain is damaged. For example, these skills can include coordinating leg movements in order to walk. Rehab also teaches patients new ways of performing tasks to circumvent or compensate for any residual disability, for instance to dress or eat with one hand, or how to communicate when the ability to use language has been compromised.

Research has shown that the human brain has an amazing capacity to change and adapt. This is known as neuroplasticity and is the basis for much of our cognitive and physical rehabilitation practices. This "relearning" of the brain can make it possible for a function previously managed by a damaged area to be taken over by an undamaged part. The brain and spinal cord can actually form new connections once existing connections have been damaged. But for this to happen, experts say that the most important element in any rehab programme is carefully directed, well-focused repetitive practice. Repetitive Exercises therefore play an important role in neuro recovery. IDP, an individually programmed based on the patient's needs are set in place which can often improve functions, reduce symptoms and improve the general well-being of the patient. The goal of neuro rehab is to help the patient to return to the highest level of function and independence possible while improving the overall quality of life- physically, emotionally and socially.

**Voices of the WEEK**

Courtesy: THE HINDU

"Unfortunately, politics of narrow mindedness, enmity, revenge and intolerance has taken the centre stage in the last three years..." — ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI, senior Congress leader blaming the Modi government for misusing CBI and other agencies to target opponents.

★ ★

"Political laalash (greed) is far more dangerous than corruption..." — LALU PRASAD YADAV, President, RJD.

★ ★

"How much more evidence do we require to understand that we opposition parties are up against a ruthless finely tuned BJP political machine..." — OMAR ABDULLAH, former CM, J&K.

★ ★

"I am fully confident that our brave soldiers have the capability to keep our country secure, may it be challenges on the eastern border or the western border..." — ARUN JATTLEY, Defence minister.

★ ★

"(This Gujarat RS Poll) was the toughest election that I have fought in my life. I thank my party leaders and MLAs..." — AHMED PATEL, Political Secretary, Sonia Gandhi.

★ ★

"The RBI prints two types of currency notes. These are of different size and different design... How is it possible?" — KAPIL SIBAL, Congress leader.

★ ★

"North Korea's provocative actions are obviously provocative to the region. We can never tolerate this..." — YOSHIO HIDE SUGA, chief spokesman, Government of Japan.

★ ★

"There is no other work by Ramkinkar in Assam other than the statue (Mahatma Gandhi) at the Gandhi Mandap. I do hope the statue will remain where it is. Ramkinkar was an icon..." — BIREN SINGHA, noted Assamese sculptor.

★ ★

"It is a clear attempt to saffronize the education system of Assam at the behest of RSS. The model college named after Deendayal Upadhyay will be used to propagate Hindutva ideology and crush Assamese nationalism..." — AKHIL GOGOI, adviser, KMSS.

**Close shave****The last word**

**S RAGHUNATH**

Oh those hideous, blood soaked bandages all over my face! Please do not be alarmed and shay away with a terror stricken yip. It is not as though disillusioned by the note ban inflation and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's *Modi ki Baat* rhetoric, reaching for the nearest open razor, I have decided to end it all and those bandages cover "hesitation" cuts. It is just that I have tried manfully to shave with a "Made in India" blade and those fearsome blood drenched bandages are a mute testimony to my misdeeds.

If there is anyone around who deserves a quartful of heart-felt sympathy and condolences, it is the Indian male. Every morning, day after day he is faced with the daunting task of trying to remove the prickly stubble off his chin with a "swadeshi" blade – an ordeal calculated to daunt the stoutest heart.

I first go to a general store and buy an Indian blade and return home. I feel along its edges to see if they are really platinum and teflon coated as its manufacturer claims. The sensation I experience is just like rubbing my hands on sand paper and then and there I know that I am in for a sticky

time and slated to lose a (shaving)bulge of fresh blood.

I fit the blade into a rusty razor and place it gingerly against his hirsute chin and muttering a silent prayer for safe deliverance from the fearsome ordeal. I drag it down. There is a harsh grating noise followed almost immediately by a spurt of fresh blood. The "swadeshi" blade, true to its form has drawn first blood.

But let me put this in bolded compliment to our notorious blades. It is a tenacious fighter. It takes on the hairy growth mounting "surgical" strikes and

the latter resolutely repulsing all the frontal assaults mounted on it by the Indian blade and determinedly staying exactly where it was – all over my face.

The unmistakable loser in this blade versus beard mortal fight for supremacy is Yours truly and I stagger out of the bathroom crying out hoarsely to my household staff to come dousing up with surgical cotton and bandage rolls and triple strength antiseptic, lest I bleed to death, courtesy the Indian blade.

But there is a plus side to this chilling ordeal of trying to shave with a "Made in India" blade. I have discovered that my blood group is O-negative.

# Call to uphold democratic values

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 12: For our country and for our people – a cultural congregation and silent march with a call to ensure social justice and peace and to uphold democratic values of the country was organised at the Lakhnath Bara Kshetra here today.

A number of eminent citizens, concerned over the eroding democratic base of society and the rise of religious fanaticism, organised the march in which a number of prominent individuals and organizations of the State participated despite inclement weather conditions.

"All the right-thinking citizens and patriotic people should come forward to play their part for retaining the secular democratic basis of our society. At a time when some people are trying to teach patriotism by wielding the stick, people will have to come forward to protest," scholar and social scientist Hiren Gohain said while addressing the gathering.



The cultural congregation and silent march taken out in Guwahati on Saturday. - AT photo

With an objective to create social awakening through cultural programmes, songs, poetry and skits, the programme was also attended by a number of artists.

Renowned singer Sudakshina Sarma and Rishiraj Sarma enthralled the gathering with Dr Bhupen Hazarika's *Nomi Aha Xandorore Xena Shishi Dol*. Ganashilpi Ghani Deka

presented *Hilokte Anuk Gau* *Gobô Nidive* (they don't let us sing our songs). A number of young artists also participated in the programme.

Journalist Abinaya argued that the attack on the freedom of speech and expression was evident from the government decision to ban documentaries on Amartya Sen and banning the short

## 73 pc of State's youths suffer loneliness

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 12: As many as 73 per cent of Assam's youths suffer loneliness, while 72 per cent admitted they wished to consult a psychiatrist. According to a new study by the magazine *Jeevan* reveals.

The survey was conducted in July this year with a sample of 7,178 individuals.

Seventy-eight per cent of those surveyed were under the age of 35. Sixty-eight per cent of the respondents were from rural and semi-urban areas. The percentage of women who participated in the survey was 42. Forty-six per cent of the respondents were graduates.

*Jeevan* has been making various survey-based reports public in the last 12 years. The latest report is also available online at [jeevannmagazine.com](http://jeevannmagazine.com) now.

Seventy-three per cent of the youths below the age of 35

suffer from loneliness, and the loneliness scale for all ages is 62 per cent and for women 62 per cent. A whopping 72 per cent admitted they wished to consult a psychiatrist. According to the study, 51 per cent people residing in the city and overall 54 per cent women wished for psychiatric consultations.

In another alarming fact, 62 per cent of another 35 youth confessed to consuming 'injurious to health' products. Twenty-one cent of the surveyed women, 40 per cent city residents and overall 33 per cent people consume such substances.

The survey showed interesting social media behaviour in Assam. Twenty-nine per cent of the people spend average four hours on social media daily, while 40 per cent even spending eight or more hours. Another 50.2 per cent said they can't live a day without

Internet. A remarkable 71 per cent said the impact of social media on their lives had been good. Only six per cent admitted it was bad. The rest remained uncertain.

Twenty-eight per cent of those surveyed had 3,000 or more friends in Facebook. And how many of them are 'friends in need'? Just five, revealed 34 per cent of those surveyed, while it was the most ten for 40 per cent. For 6 per cent, none were 'friend in need'!

The effect of Internet in the young people's lives was best reflected in the fact that 83 per cent use search engines for knowing anything or a word meaning and only 5 per cent think of going to a library. Bedtime has also changed, with 38 per cent of those surveyed saying that they go to bed after 12 midnight and then sleep till four in the morning.

"The new age has brought about a new lifestyle, with Assam being no exception. Cultural changes and ever-updating tech-savvy tools have affected lifestyle and the same seems to be reflected in the survey conducted by the magazine," *Jeevan* editor Suresh Ranjan Goduka said.

Scholarship money was given to the students securing 1st, 2nd and 3rd rank in each school. Consolation prizes were given to two students from each school.

Scholarships were awarded to the students of Maragala LP School, Sanurati LP School, Tamuliukuchi ME School and Tamuliukuchi High School.

An official of Surya Gold Company said they organise scholarship programmes every year to inspire the students of the region.

For 55 per cent of the students and the unemployed are waiting for jobs. Thirty-six per cent are interested in other forms of employment. Forty-three per cent admitted they were not living their dream life and were instead leading a life of compulsions.

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about a new lifestyle, with Assam being no exception. Cultural changes and ever-updating tech-savvy tools have affected lifestyle and the same seems to be reflected in the survey conducted by the magazine," *Jeevan* editor Suresh Ranjan Goduka said.

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A scene from the children's play Topani Naha Raja, presented by Abhinoya Jonki Borthakur Performing Arts Academy, at Rabindra Bhawan in Guwahati on Saturday. - AT photo

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Assistant General Manager, Circle Office, Guwahati  
Date : 12/08/2017

## State to observe Sok Divas on Aug 16

STAFF REPORTER

and militant violence.

The national flag will be flown at half mast on August 16 at all government offices, educational institutions and at all other places where the national flag is normally flown. A public meeting will be convened centrally in all headquarters involving all leading citizens, members of civil society and all educational institutions to observe the Sok Divas.

Ministers, Members of Parliament and MLAs will attend the public meetings if available in the district or subdivision.

Besides this, the Deputy Commissioner of Dhemaji will convene a public meeting centrally inviting all leading citizens, members of civil society, teachers and students of educational institutions. He will arrange programmes like all-faith prayer, offering floral tributes in honour of the departed souls.

Sealed tenders for 1-2 days may be invited from the Electrical Firms/Contractors of relevant enterprises registered under Gauhati University, P.W.D., M.E.S and any other State or Central Govt. undertaking having valid Electrical Contractor's License & experience in execution of similar type of electrical work for the work of "Provision for electricity supply to complete root (155 Nos. Computer) in ATRIUM & KTH Library, Assam" for which the tender value is Re.2,55,000/- and Tender fees is Rs. 200/- The tender papers will be issued at the office of the undersigned from 14.08.2017 up to 17.08.2017 and tenders will be received at the office of The Registrar up to 2 p.m. on 18.07.2017. For further details, please contact the office of the undersigned during office hours or visit [www.gauhati.ac.in](http://www.gauhati.ac.in)

Sdr.- Superintending Engineer I/c,  
Gauhati University

movies on Kashmir, Rohit Verma and PNNU.

"The impact of demonetisation and GST on common people, when studied properly, presents a picture in contrast to what is being popularised," he added.

Editor of *Amar Aksam* Prashanta Rajguru, while delving on the role of media in the present circumstances, said that even the media has failed to bring a complete and impartial picture of the present situation to the common people.

"Even the media is an industry highly dependent on the corporate. A disturbing trend is being noticed, when media is flashing the news that suits the agenda of its corporate bosses. Even the social media that had the potential to reflect the situation of common people is highly being misused to silence the rational voices," he added.

Santana Bordoloi, Dilip Hazarika, Haider Hussain, Kher Krishna Deka, Kirti Kamal Bhuyan among others also attended the programme.

It is alleged that the ST candidates have been deprived of their due employment under 122,153 posts of various cadre under 59 states of government departments.

Altogether 547 regular posts of primary teachers reserved for the plains tribe candidates in the Barak Valley have been sought to be de-reserved on the pretext of non-availability of candidates who are fluent in Bengali.

It has also alleged that the State government has been

maintaining a soft corner towards those who are encroaching upon land in the tribal belt and blocks. These encroachers include people of doubtful citizenship, traders from outside the State, etc.

## Demonstration by tribal bodies' forum on Aug 24

STAFF REPORTER

JORABAT, Aug 12: The Coordination Committee of the Tribal Organisations of Assam (CCTOA) will hold a mass sit-in demonstration on the bank of the Dihingali River on August 24 in protest against the deprivation of people belonging to the scheduled tribes (STs) in matters of absorption in State government jobs.

The CCTOA will also organise a demonstration between Sonapur and Jagiroad on October 12 on the same issue.

It is alleged that the ST candidates have been deprived of their due employment under 122,153 posts of various cadre under 59 states of government departments.

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For details, Director & Head: CIPET, Guwahati; P.O.: Changsari Dist.: Kamrup, Assam; Ph. No.: 8811083297 / 8811083298

**JAGO GRAHAK JAGO**

**GOODS AND SERVICES TAX**

**1 NATION TAX MARKET**

**CLARIFICATION ON RATES OF GST FOR RESTAURANTS**

Rate of tax (CGST+SGST)/Composition Levy	
Composition Levy @ 5% of the turnover**	
Restaurant with no air-conditioning in any part thereof and not serving liquor	12%
Restaurant with partial or full air-conditioning or serving liquor	18%
Is there any restaurant where the rate of tax is 28%	No
Rate of tax on food parcel cooked as per order	As applicable to service of such food in that restaurant
Rate of tax on parcel of pre-packed and pre-cooked naankeens sold from restaurants	12%

Note:  
(1) The table above indicates GST rates applicable to supplies made by restaurants in different circumstances.  
However, the actual GST incidence will be lesser due to increased availability of input tax credit.  
(2) As alcoholic liquor for human consumption is outside the purview of GST, such liquor served in restaurants will attract local taxes as per state laws.  
\*This limit is Re.50 lakh for Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Sikkim and Himachal Pradesh.  
\*\*This is an amount to be paid in lieu of tax payable by restaurants opting for Composition Scheme & they shall not collect any tax from the customer on supplies made by them.

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ddsp 1550213013017/17

# Govt claim over Brahmaputra study false: Prof Deka

AJIT PATO沃RY

GUWAHATI, Aug 12: Leading academician and social worker Prof Basanta Deka has asserted that the announcement made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Guwahati on August 1, 2017 on the allocation of Rs 100 crore for conducting a study towards finding time-bound long-term solutions to recurrent problem of floods in the NE region had no mention of the Brahmaputra. The State Government has been making a wrong assertion by

linking the name of the Brahmaputra in connection with this study, he claimed.

Talking to this newspaper, Prof Deka said the Prime Minister's official website has stated, "The Union Government will also provide Rs 100 crore for carrying out a study to synergize efforts towards finding time-bound long-term solutions to recurrent floods in the region."

There is no mention of the Brahmaputra in this sentence. Contrary to the claims made by the Assam Government, this amount is

obviously meant for the other rivers of the NE region, besides the Brahmaputra. And significantly, this amount is a very meagre one for the NE rivers, and the time-frame for initiating and completing the study is also not mentioned here, which exposes the lack of home work on the part of both the Government and the Centre.

Again, the next paragraph of the August 1, 2017 news

## Allocation of Rs 100 crore

update of the Prime Minister's website under the head - PM reviews flood situation in North-Eastern States at a series of high-level meetings in Guwahati; announces assistance of over Rs 2000 crore," - states. "The North-Eastern region, with eight per cent of India's land area, contains one-third of the country's water resources. The Union Government will constitute a High Level Committee,

with representation from Ministries of the Government of India and the States, for proper management of the region's vast water resources."

Here, there is no mention of the engagement of the experts in this exercise. Rather, Government officials will be engaged in this exercise. Without the involvement of the experts working in different areas of river dynamics, this exercise will

be a futile one.

Moreover, the announcement concerning sanction of an amount of Rs 400 crore for improving the water holding capacity of the Brahmaputra, which will assist in flood control, is obviously for carrying out dredging operations in the Brahmaputra bed. But the announcement has no mention of the express highways, which have been repeatedly announced by the Union Surface Communi-

cation Minister and the Assam Government.

The Union Surface Communication Minister and the Assam Government have been giving the impression repeatedly that two express highways would be built along both banks of the Brahmaputra utilizing the silt dredged out from the river's bed.

But in the case of the dredging operations, sought to be carried out in the bed of the Brahmaputra by the Governments in the State and at the Centre, should be preceded by a proper DPR.

This DPR should also get the environmental clearance and public approval.

The Assam Government is talking about dredging the Brahmaputra bed, without knowing the official procedures to be followed in this respect. Without these steps, the whole project may land in trouble.

The Governments at the State and the Centre should come out with clear-cut statements on the objectives sought to be achieved in these areas, taking the people into confidence, Prof Deka said.



Villagers moving to a safer place at Jajimukh in Jorhat, on Friday. - UB Photos

## Durlav Chandra Deka: a tribute



My uncle Durlav Chandra Deka, a veteran freedom fighter and a senior citizen of Guwahati passed away on August 3 last. He was 92.

Born in 1926 at Bongaon village of Nalbari district, my uncle was a close associate of Bishnu Prasad Rava. He travelled to every nook and corner of entire Nalbari district with Rava during the freedom movement when he led the people of West Nalbari area. As a result, he was arrested and sent to jail. The Government of Assam conferred free-

dorm fighter pension to him. He started his political career in association with veteran Communist leaders Gobinda Kalita, Dhireswar Kalita, Kamini Mohan Sarma, Munday Baruch, Tarun Sen Deka and Gourishankar Bhattacharya.

He was also a renowned social worker of Nalbari area. He was one of the founders of the Bongaon High School (Now Bongaon HS School), a frontline educational institution of West Nalbari. He was also associated with many other social organisations of the locality. He was actively associated with co-operative movement for environment protection, a company release.

- Hiren Deka

## Nila Kanta Baruah

Nila Kanta Baruah, a resident of Morigaon, passed away on July 14 last at the age of 77, after prolonged illness.

Born on February 4, 1943 in Kochua, Dhalai village of Chirapuanukh under Nagaon district, he joined the NF Railways in 1962 and thereafter continued his studies and completed his BA from Panu College, Guwahati.

He was interested in what is known as "the king of hobbies", amateur or HAM radio. In the year 1985, he received his Amateur Radio Operators license with call sign VU2NKB. Since then, he had been communicating with fellow HAMs throughout the world.

During the late 80s & 90s,

most of the HAM radio enthusiasts from different parts of Assam used to visit his radio station located at railway quarter (T-18/A) in the Station Colony, Panu, Guwahati to gather information on HAM radio as well as to have a look at the Amateur Radio Station operated by VU2NKB.

He was a mentor and a guide to all HAM radio enthusiasts from across the State and helped them out a lot. In spite of his busy service life, he used to communicate with fellow HAMs across the world through his amateur radio station regularly. He was so much interested in the hobby that he used to collect different types of radio transceivers and associated equipment while he was

son of relatives. Today, on the day of *adhyashradha*, we the members of the Amateur Radio Society of Assam (ARSA) remember him for his immense contribution to the field of HAM radio and pray to the Almighty for his eternal peace.

- Parash Ch Brahma

## Barada Prasad Sarma



Barada Prasad Sarma, former Vice-Principal and a retired teacher of Sonaram Higher Secondary School, Guwahati breathed his last in the wee hours of August 4, 2017 at a private hospital of the city. Known for his simplicity and modest demeanour, despite the sweep and range of his knowledge, especially History and spiritual lore, Late Sarma was immensely popular with his students and colleagues alike.

Born to Siva Prasad Sarma of the illustrious Doloi family

of the Bordeuri clan of the celebrated Kamakhya temple and Shyamasundari Devi, daughter of the legendary Head pundit of Kamakhya, the Late Gobinda Chandra Sarma, Barada developed a taste for spiritual literature at a very early age and pursued it with an insatiable appetite throughout his adult years. He used to be a voracious follower of the now extinct *Bhavar's Journal* and would consume every issue of the journal with a gluttonous zeal. He had an enviable knowledge of English grammar and his literary sensibility too was of a high order. His love of the English Romantic poets was

- Dr Gautam Sarma

## Several villages submerged in Chabua

CHABUA, Aug 12: The mighty Brahmaputra river has submerged a vast area under the Chabua Revenue Circle. The flood-affected areas are Charisuti, Tengbari, Mirigan, Gericke, Nepali gaon, Mukul gaon, Kuli gaon etc.

The flood-affected people have taken shelter in several flood relief camps. Many domestic animals have been drowned in the flood and several areas of cultivated lands are reeling under the water. - ANN Service

## 100-year-old Ras Mandir goes under water

CORRESPONDENT

ChABUA, Aug 12: The century old Sri Krishna Ras Mandir at Kathoni village under Laborighat circle in Morigiong district was totally submerged on Thursday by the heavy erosion of the Brahmaputra. It may be mentioned here that the whole of Laborighat revenue circle was threatened by flood and erosion of the mighty river in the first week of July. The main dyke was breached at Kathoni last month affecting hundreds of families of Kathoni, Palghuri and Mirkongon villages. Kathoni LP School, health centres and rasmangar were shifted to other places. The century old Sri Krishna Ras Mandir was the last social institution in the area. Tents rolled down the eyes of the villagers as the Ras festival they observed every year will come to an end. In the Ras festival of Kathoni Ras Mandir, people irrespective of caste and religion took part. Even the Muslim community extended its full cooperation to Kathoni Ras festival for decades together. Meanwhile, the erosion of the Brahmaputra took a serious turn breaching the coffee dyke which was constructed by the Water Resource Department, at several points.

## OBITUARY Binod Chandra Goswami

GUWAHATI, Aug 12: Binod Chandra G o s w a m i , former Chairman of the Assam Gas Company, Duliani originally hailing from Teok, Jorhat and settled at Beltola Survey, passed away yesterday at his own residence due to old-age ailments. He was 92.

A senior citizen, Late Goswami was a soft-spoken, religious, bold and kind-hearted man.

During the Assam Movement, he was also a pioneer leader and one of the founder presidents (amongst three) of the AGP. He was also the president of the Assam Jatiyatabadi Dal for several years. Late Goswami was also a renowned pleader. He practiced in the Tinsukia and Dibrugarh courts along with the Gauhati High Court for a long time. He was actively involved with socio-religious activities of the Beltola area. Late Goswami leaves behind his wife, four sons, a daughter, son-in-laws, daughter-in-laws, several grand children, a host of relatives and a large number of well-wishers.



Flood-affected villagers preparing a funeral pyre on a hilly land due to floods, at Majuli on Friday. - UB Photos

## Flood water rising in Kaziranga National Park

CORRESPONDENT

KAZIRANGA, Aug 12: With incessant rainfall in Arunachal Pradesh followed by continuous rising of water level of Brahmaputra in Upper Assam,

the water level in Kaziranga National Park is now on the rise and has submerged vast areas of the park.

Already 11 forest camps, including five from Kohora central range, two from

Eastern range of Agarhatoli and two from Western range from Bagori have been submerged by rising flood water in Kaziranga.

According to information available from Eastern Assam

Wildlife Division, the water level is increasing at a fast rate inside the forest of Kaziranga at 2 feet per interval. Already patrolling has been further intensified in and around Kaziranga National Park.





## WEATHER NORTHEAST

**Forecast for North Eastern States:** Moderate rain/beginners over Assam & Nagaland, heavy rain over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura.

**Warning:** Heavy rain is very likely to occur at isolated places on August 13 over Arunachal Pradesh. Heavy rain is also very likely to occur at isolated places on August 13 and heavy rain is very likely to occur at isolated places on August 14, 15 & 16 over Assam & Meghalaya. Heavy rain is very likely to occur at isolated places on August 13 & 14 over Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura.

**Temperatures:**

	Max (°C)	Min (°C)
Dibrugarh	27.4	22.7
Tezpur	27.3	24.5
Silchar	28.6	24.2
Dibrugarh	27.0	23.7
Jorhat	25	24.7
Naharkuchi	26.2	23.4
Shillong	20.0	15.9
Imphal	26.0	21.4
Itanagar	26.0	21.8
Aizawl	25.5	19.0
Agartala	26.8	24.6
Kohima	25.0	18.6
Pasighat	28.4	22.4
Cherrapunji	21.0	17.8

## NE outfits to boycott I-Day

NEWMAI NEWS

IMPHAL, Aug 12: Security forces are intensifying frisking activities in Manipur especially in the valley districts ahead of the Independence Day celebrations.

Meanwhile, Co-ordination Committee (CorCom), Garo National Liberation Army (GNLA), United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) and United People's Liberation Army (UPLA) have announced today to boycott the Independence Day. CorCom, the conglomeration of four Meitei underground groups – UNLF RPF/PLA, PREPAK and PREPAR (Progressive).

The joint statement of the militant groups said, "During the protest hours of 1 am to 6.30 pm we are calling for total shutdown of educational institutions and other training facilities, shops, business establishments, factories and all forms of transport". However, emergency services including medical and religious activities have been exempted, it statement added.

## Security beefed up in view of I-Day

AIZAWL, Aug 12: Security has been beefed up in Mizoram in view of the coming Independence Day celebrations in the State, a senior police officer said.

SP of Aizawl, Neihchungnuna said that though there was no specific threat from any terrorist or militant groups, elaborate security arrangements were made to ensure peaceful celebrations of the Independence Day.

He said that strict vigil has been maintained in important government offices and vital installations while security was also beefed up in the Lengpui airport near Aizawl. – PTI

## Discourse on Manipur nationhood

CORRESPONDENT

IMPHAL, Aug 12: Coalition of Indigenous Rights Campaign (CIRCA) Manipur organised a day-long discourse on 'Manipur nationhood & Instrument of Accession, 1947' here on Friday.

Speaking on the occasion, spokesperson of CIRCA Ningthouja Lamcha expressed the view that the solution to the present situation lies in restoring the pre-merger political status to Manipur.

Dr K Sanantrao expressed his desire that the Instrument of Accession should be used as framework of creating a golden path to initiate dialogue and negotiation.

## SBI donates to Manipur relief fund

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 12: State Bank of India has contributed Rs 50 lakh to Manipur Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

PVSLN Murty, Chief General Manager, SBI, NE Circle, handed over the cheque to Manipur Chief Minister Biren Singh at his office on Thursday in presence of Kamal Kinal, Regional Manager, SBI Imphal Region.

# Flood creates havoc in Tripura



People fishing in a submerged Agartala road on Saturday – UNI

el

AGARTALA, Aug 12: Three districts of Tripura were affected by flash floods due to incessant rains and at least 4,500 families were rendered homeless, officials said today.

More than 2,000 families were forced to take refuge in different Government buildings as large part of the State and its low-lying outskirts were inundated. Revenue Minister Badal Chowdhury, who along with District Magistrate of West Tripura district, Milin Ramteke visited the affected areas, said,

He said there were leakages on the dam of Howrah river yesterday, but those were immediately repaired by the district administration. Chowdhury said the water was flowing above the danger lev-

el in Howrah river.

District Magistrate of Sipajhala Pradip Chakrabarty said that at least 2,500 families were affected due to flood in the district and were sheltered in 60 relief camps opened in the Government buildings and relief materials were distributed since yesterday.

Chowdhury said many parts of Khowai district were also inundated and many people were rendered homeless.

Chief Minister Manik Sarkar yesterday reviewed the flood situation in Tripura and asked the administration to arrange for shelter to the people who were rendered homeless and distribute relief materials to them.

The State Government in a notifica-

tion today declared holiday to all the schools in the State in view of the flood.

Director of Meteorological department Dilip Saha said the regional weather station here recorded 116.55 mm of rains.

He said there was possibility of widespread rain in the next two days.

The movement of people and vehicles came to a halt, many shops were closed and attendance in government offices, banks and schools and colleges was also thin due to incessant rains and water logging, sources said.

**Centre monitoring situation:** The Centre is closely monitoring the rescue and relief operations in flood-affected Tripura, where NDRF personnel have been rushed to assist the State adminis-

tration. "We are in touch with our teams," Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju said in Delhi.

Rijiju said one team of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) was mobilised from Agartala for Ashram Chhamani colony village in West Tripura dis-

trict yesterday as the water level had gone up due to an increase in water in Howrah river. During their operations, the team evacuated 357 flood affected people yesterday and 372 people today to safer place.

The NDRF personnel have now moved to Pratappur village in the district for rescue operations, Rijiju said.

Normal life was paralysed in Agartala yesterday since Friday night. – PTI

## Baghmara town submerged

CORRESPONDENT

TURA, Aug 12: Incessant rains throughout the Garo Hills region, over the past four days, has left the entire region on the throes of a flood. The current deluge has left Baghmara town literally submerged while also threatening other villages and hills in the region.

Flood waters in South Garo Hills have ensured that more than a 100 families being moved to safer ground while in the Dulu region, over the past four days, has left the entire region on the throes of a flood. The current deluge has left Baghmara town literally submerged while also threatening other villages and hills in the region.

"Our team is compiling reports on the extent of damages from different parts of the district," added Marak.

The venue for Independence Day celebration in the town is submerged while road communication has been disrupted between Baghmara and Tura due to flooding at Dimapara area, about 50 km from Tura. The Simsang river is flowing above danger level in different parts of South Garo Hills.

The other affected areas in South Garo Hills are – Karukol, Dimapara and Gasupara. Police and BSF personnel rescued sev-

eral persons stranded in their houses this morning. However, no loss of life has been reported so far.

There were also reports of flood in villages under Dulu Block in West Garo Hills district.

"There are currently four relief camps in Dulu where over one-hundred families are taking shelter. We are providing relief materials to the affected," said DC of WGH, Pravin Bakshi.

The plain belt of WGH has remained unaffected till now though the waters of Brahmaputra and its tributary Jinjiram is said to be steadily rising.

In South Garo Hills road links were disrupted due to landslides and floodwater touching roads in places like Damalgad and Mukdanga, official sources said.

The other affected areas in South Garo Hills are – Karukol, Dimapara and Gasupara. Police and BSF personnel rescued sev-

## 3 killed as Raj Bhavan trees fall on parked cars

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SHILLONG, Aug 12: Three

persons died this afternoon when trees inside Raj Bhavan here fell on parked vehicles outside its boundary wall.

The mishap could have taken a larger toll had it been a working day. Moreover, owing to the heavy downpour there were less people in the area, which possibly averted a higher toll.

The accident caused a major traffic snarl in the city as traffic had to be diverted from the area.

The rainfall has also caused disruption of power, telephone and Internet connection throughout the day. Elsewhere in the State, in several locations there were landslides reported. In Umsning there was a landslide which caused heavy traffic snarl on the Shillong-Guwahati Highway.

where the mishap occurred and

all office-goers.

The mishap could have taken a larger toll had it been a working day. Moreover, owing to the heavy downpour there were less people in the area, which possibly averted a higher toll.

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## Tripartite talks held in Manipur

CORRESPONDENT

ic level. Three Manipur Ministers V Hangkhalan, N Kayisini and Th Radheswari accompanied by two senior officials represented the State Government.

Joint Secretary of Ministry of Home Affairs (in charge of North East) Satyendra Ganguly representing the Government of India chaired the talk which aimed to find an amicable solution following the creation of seven new districts by the State Government.

As per the agreement reached in the talk today, UNC appreciated the State Government for elevat-

ing the talks to political level, sources said.

Besides agreeing to hold the next round of talk in September this year, both the State Government and NDRF reportedly agreed "to mutually respect the agreements signed in the previous talks and to avoid any provocation till the dialogue process is taken to its logical end."

Meanwhile, apprehending a



Ms Prabjot Kaur Ahluwalia of Dimapur was crowned as Ms Country wide India 2017 at a function in New Delhi recently.

## Union Home Minister to visit Tripura

CORRESPONDENT

AGARTALA, Aug 12: Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh will soon visit Tripura which goes to Assembly elections early next year, to find a way on how to empower Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAACD) constituted under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

Several tribal parties have been pressing for more power to the district council. While Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT) has raised Tripuraland demand to

protect the rights of the indigenous people, the INPT is of the view of giving more power to the Council.

The assurance to visit the poll-bound State came when INPT president Bijoy Kumar Hrangdhal and party general secretary Jagadish Debbarma called on the Union Home Minister in New Delhi today.

In the meeting, Hrangdhal alleged that the CPI-M led Government has not been giving power to the State's tribal council even though the party is running the autonomous body.

"Despite repeated pleas, the

State Government is yet to provide adequate funds which has affected the developmental work of the Council," he pointed out.

After giving a hearing, the Union Minister said that the Central Government has no reservation to give more autonomy or power to the autonomous tribal council under the constitutional framework.

"I will visit Tripura soon to explore ways for providing power to the TTAACD in order to protect the rights of indigenous people living in the backward region," he assured.

Barjala Assembly seat also went to by-election after Congress MLA Jiten Sarkar resigned allegedly under duress. In the by-election, CPI (M) candidate Jhumu Sarkar won the seat increasing the party's tally to 51.

In two more by-elections following death of two CPI (M) MLAs – Sudhir Das (Surma) and Samir Deb Sarkar (Khowai) both seats were won by CPI (M) candidates – Anjan Das and Biswajit Dutta.

## NSCN (R) militant held

ITANAGAR, Aug 12: Security forces in Arunachal Pradesh apprehended a cadre of NSCN (R) with arms and ammunition from Changlang district.

Assam Rifles troops undertook an operation at 17 Mile in the district last night and apprehended the rebel, Defence sources said.

A pistol and live ammunition were recovered from his possession. He had been previously apprehended by Assam Rifles at Changlang Town on October 8 last year while carrying out extortion and has been on bail since October 26 last year.

On interrogation, he admitted he had received three months weapons training at NSCN Pongphung Camp at Tizit under Mon district in Nagaland. – PTI

## Pema Khandu launches ISBT CORRESPONDENT

ITANAGAR, Aug 12: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu today dedicated the State's first Inter-State Bus Terminus (ISBT) to the people of the State by launching the much-awaited project at a function here at Lekhi village.

Inaugurating the project, Pema said, "The ISBT will go a long way in benefiting the people of the State by reducing vehicular traffic pressure in the twin city of Itanagar and Nohsarangum."

He informed that the new Inter-State Truck Terminus at the same location will be completed within this month and the new convention hall at IG Park here will be completed by December next. Also, on pipeline are MLA apartment, which will be completed on time, said the Chief Minister.

The Chief Minister also said that Union Railway Ministry has been asked to increase the service of Intercity Express from Guwahati to Naharlagun to five days a week.

He said that State Government will soon avail the UDAN - regional air connectivity scheme to start flight services from major cities in Assam to Arunachal Pradesh.

## 'Beef Fest' held in Mizoram

NEWMAI NEWS

AIZAWL, Aug 12: Opposing the decision of the BJP-led NDA Government at the Centre banning slaughter of cattle for sale in the markets, a group of people today organised a 'Beef Festival' at Lunglei town in south Mizoram on Friday.

The event was held at Lunglei Vengrai locality where a large crowd including non-tribals gathered to take delight at the festival.

A spokesman of the group said that all religious minorities must oppose if some 'religious bigots' try to impose their religious and communal agenda on others.

Earlier, a beef feast was organised in Aizawl on June 12, the day Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh and Union Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju were in the Mizoram capital to attend a meeting with Chief Ministers of the Northeastern States sharing international border with Myanmar.

## Ultra arrested in Manipur

CORRESPONDENT

IMPHAL, Aug 12: A combined team of Manipur police commandos and Assam Rifles troops arrested a member of the banned People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak during a frisking and checking operation at Heirok Part II in Thoubal district on Wednesday, police said.

In another incident, a team of Narcotics department and border police arrested one Hauliansima Mizo (33) during a checking in Imphal East district on Wednesday, a release said. About 350 grams of heroin number 4 and 4,000 number of WV tablets were recovered from his possession.

**Pineapple Fest:** Manipur Pineapple Festival Committee is getting ready to hold the two-day State level Manipur Pineapple Festival at Koushang village in Churachandpur district on August 25 and 26.

Assembly for Trinamool Congress and later they switched over to BJP to allow lotus bloom in the House. Observers feel, BJP's entry into the State Assembly just ahead of the 2018 Assembly polls could turn out to be a game changer in the State's political landscape.

BJP's strength is likely to increase to seven as another Congress nominee, joined Trinamool Congress and later all of them merged with BJP.

Interestingly, the Left has been able to increase its tally amidst the chaotic situation in

politics. His brother Prabhat Choudhury contested the by-election and won the battle of ballot.

For the first time in the Assembly history, a CPI (M) MLA – Manoranjan Acharjee was forced to step down following his alleged involvement in a sexual abuse case. In the subsequent bypoll, Parimal Debnath won the election for the CPI (M).

Ramu Das, a DYFI leader was fielded in Pratappur Assembly constituency which fell vacant after demise of Jitendra Choudhury's exit from State

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Bengali Nath Brahmin girl 35/ 54'/ BA, Ed, School Teacher, Guwahati (only for Bengali). Direct contact: 9085293648. Mat/GP/1479/5

Assamese Muslim girl M.Sc., 28 fair 53", Guwahati seeks matching Assamese Muslim professional. Contact parents directly: 8471096711. Mat/GP/1562/2

Bengali Seal community girl, 30 years, 52", B.Com (Post Graduate Diploma in Business Management) PGDM good looking girl. Residence Guwahati seeks suitable Casting bar. Contact: 9455706924, 9455707107. Mat/GP/PA27/2

Convent Educated Assamese girl 33+, 53" with good academic career, masters in English from Delhi University. Working in top multinational Company in high position in Metros. Seeking groom preferably working in Metros. Contact parents: 8724942651. Mat/GP/1590/1

Assamese Nath 30, 55", girl, working as Dental Surgeon for Assam Govt. serving in Upper Assam seeks suitable match. Contact: 9435831877. Mat/GP/KP009/1

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Alliance sought from employed bachelor only for 29, 56", MA (Sociology). TET-passed Guwahati-based Assamese Hindu working girl from respectable family. Contact: 9859431638 (M). Mat/GP/1591/4

Beautiful/ traditional/ Hindu/ Assamese/ 26 yrs/ 53"/ MBBS/ working as a Doctor/ good family background lives in Guwahati. Contact: 8822423823. Mat/GP/A337/1

Beautiful/ traditional/ Hindu/ Assamese/ 25 yrs/ 54"/ MBBS/ working as a Research scholar lives in Guwahati. Contact: 8898087445. Mat/GP/P337/1

Cute 33 yrs Assamese girl, working in Multinational Company seeking groom from Metrocity. Direct: 9437534982. Mat/GP/1597/3

Brahmin/ Assamese/ 27/ 54"/ BDS/ Medical Surgeon #7035343833. Mat/GP/A341/0

Assamese/ Brahmin/ 29/ 53"/ beautiful/ MBA/ working in Metro/ early marriage. 8471887825. Mat/GP/A341/1

Bengali Kayastha girl age 33, 54", Dehongan, BA, LLB good looking, Father engineer, retired GM. No caste bar. Direct: 9954707479. Mat/GP/A343/1

Assamese Hindu General Cast 27, 54", B.Tech, M.B.A, working in Gurgaon Delhi. Seeks suitable match working in any Indian Metrocity. Contact (M) 9854203706. Mat/GP/1592/1

**MATRIMONIAL**

Muslim Assamese 27, 54', B.Tech, Engineer working seeks suitable match working in Assam or any Indian Metrocity. Contact (M) 8011743736. Mat/GP/1592/6

Assamese Hindu 29, tall, slim, good looking, M.Sc, Biotech, NET plus GATE qualified. Guwahati residence. Contact (M) 887631596 (Cast no bar). Mat/GP/1592/1

Fair & pretty Assamese Hindu General Cast 30, 54", BE from Assam Engineering College, Lecturer in Private Institute at Guwahati. Contact (M) 8984063196. Mat/GP/1592/8

Assamese Hindu 26, 54", slim, very fair & good looking girl B.Tech, Presently working MNC in Guwahati, Father Rd. Executive, NEFCO. Contact (M) 8011743736. Mat/GP/1592/9

Brahmin Assamese 29, 55", B.Sc (B.Tech), M.Sc in Environmental Science working MNC, Cap Gemini in Indian Metrocity. Contact (M) 887631596. Mat/GP/1593/1

Kalita/ Assamese/ 26/ 53' B.Tech/ M.Sc in Environmental Science working MNC, Cap Gemini in Indian Metrocity. Contact (M) 887631596. Mat/GP/1593/2

Assamese Hindu 26, 54", slim, very fair & good looking girl B.Tech, Presently working MNC in Guwahati, Father Rd. Executive, NEFCO. Contact (M) 8011743736. Mat/GP/1593/3

Brahmin Assamese 26, 53' B.Tech/ M.Sc (Physics) in Central University, Father Central Govt. retired. Early marriage. #868153087/ 7399215520. Mat/GP/A338/1

Assamese/ Kalita 25/ 54' BE Govt. job, Upper residency. Guwahati seeks suitable Casting no bar. Contact: 9455706924, 9455707107. Mat/GP/PA27/5

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Assamese Hindu 26, 54", slim, very fair & good looking girl B.Tech, Presently working MNC in Guwahati, Father Rd. Executive, NEFCO. Contact (M) 8011743736. Mat/GP/1592/4

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Age 36, Kalita, Masters, Govt. job, divorcee, Ghy (2) 33, SC, MBA, service, Ghy, divorcee (3) 33, Kalita, MBA, Govt. job, divorcee, Sandhani, 8011630847.

Smart/ handsome Assamese/ Brahmin/ 27 yrs 50' M.Com/ working as a Chartered Accountant/ good family background/ lives in Guwahati. Contact : 8898078445. Mat/BP/A336/1

Brahmin/ Hindu/ Assamese/ 33 yrs/ Ph.D presently working as a Scientist in the State's Science & Technology under Government/ Guwahati based family. Contact : 9050801845. Mat/BP/A336/1

Smart/ handsome/ Assamese/ Muslim/ 36/ 50' Ph.D/ working as a Surgeon/ belongs from a very good family/ lives in Guwahati. Contact : 8898078445. Mat/BP/A336/1

Smart/ handsome/ Assamese/ Brahmin/ 30- 35'/ BE/ working as a Manager in a Metrocity/ well cultured family from Assam/ Caste no bar. Mobile No. 9508008145. Mat/BP/A337/1

Smart/ handsome/ Assamese/ Brahmin/ 34/ 50' BE/ working as a Manager in a Metrocity/ well cultured family from Assam/ Caste no bar. Contact : 8898078445. Mat/BP/A337/1

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Kalita/ Assamese/ 32/ 50' BE/ B.Tech NIT Silchar/ working at Central Govt. (BHEL). 9101345785. Mat/BP/A339/1

Kalita/ Assamese/ 30/ 57' BE/ Brahmin/ Assam State Govt. #961345785. Mat/BP/A339/1

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Booking 3BHK flat at Panjapuri, Baghbori, Tiniali, near Sankardev Kalakshetra, 2nd & 3rd floor available @ 3300 per sq.ft. with parking. Ph: 9864097777, H&F/P/14522/30

3 BHK deluxe flats at 7th floor of Home Ananda, 1234 sq.ft. Rs. 35,551. and 1419 sq.ft. Rs. 39,737. 5 flats @ 9040-81848 (M). H&F/P/KP0265

Booking open for 2/3 BHK super deluxe flats at Belota Tiniali, Guwahati. Contact : Shristi Properties #96784-13116. H&F/P/15640/4

Ready to move 3 BHK, 1442 sq.ft. at 4th floor roadacing at Bhetapara Chariali @ 55L, 9864125562. H&F/P/PA437/3

80% completed, 3BHK flat near Belota Tiniali @ 67 L, 9864125580. H&F/P/PA438/3

Booking open 2/3 BHK flat with all Amenities Radhanagar, Sixmills @ affordable price: 9854050009. H&F/P/PA439/3

Ready 4BHK 2010 sq.ft. +1000 sq.ft. terrace pent house, 6th floor, VIP road. 9864034646. H&F/P/PA440/3

**BOOKING ON FOR 2 BHK FLATS IN AMBIKAGIRI NAGAR, ZOO ROAD & 3 BHK FLATS IN GANDHIBAZAR NEAR KALIMANDIR BY ARYAN BUILDERS PL. CONTACT:- 919435012942, -91 8876544524. H&F/P/PA155/54**

**READY IN 3 MONTHS, FEW 3 BHK LUXURY FLATS AVAILABLE IN "IMPERIAL MENONZ", JIAPATHA, KHANAPARA, GUWAHATI, NESCON : 9947-07879. H&F/P/3060/1**

Book 2 BHK flats Rs. 2750 per sq.ft. 2 BHK flat 20 lakhs, good location Dhemrupara Manpara, 840/2040666. H&F/P/15743/3

VIP Road, Barberai, 840/2040666. H&F/P/PA322/7

Flat for resale 1400 sq.ft. at Kohinoor Residency, Bhagadatapur, Kalijipara. Ph: 9854050293. H&F/P/2668/1

Launching shortly 2/3 BHK flats at BG Colony, Maligaon. Flats available at Jalukbari, Khanamukh sites also. Contact: 94350-13222, 97063-87158, 70860-73966. H&F/P/A033/2

**FOR SALE: EXCLUSIVE 3 BHK FLAT MEASURING 1325 SQ. FT. ON THE 1st FLOOR IN ALMOST REAR CONSTRUCTION AT VIJAYA WHITE & ORCHID, ADJACENT TO REPOSE BAKERY, LAKHINATH BEZBARUAH, PATHI, HATIGAON, GUWAHATI. 6. CONTACT AT SITE OR ON MOBILE NOS.: 9864077693, 9854143101. PROMOTER: VIJAYA CONSTRUCTION. CONTACT AT SITE OR ON MOBILE NOS.: 9864077693, 8472802664. H&F/P/PA374/4**

**FOR SALE: EXCLUSIVE 3 BHK FLAT MEASURING 1700 SQ. FT. ON THE 3RD FLOOR IN ALMOST READY CONDITION AT VIJAYA GOLDEN CREST, MANGO LANE, PANJABARI. G U W A H A T I A - 3 - 7. PROMOTER: VIJAYA CONSTRUCTION. CONTACT AT SITE OR ON MOBILE NOS.: 9864077693, 8472802664. H&F/P/PA373/4**

1/2/3 BHK flat sale at Janapuri & 2/3 BHK at Sundarpur. Contact: 8822913727. H&F/P/15913/1

**2/3 BHK FLATS AVAILABLE FOR BOOKING AT CHATIBARAI GUWAHATI GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, BANK EXECUTIVES, ETC. PREFERRED PH. 94351-03529954249164. H&F/P/16061/1**



The Developers of HARMONY PROJECT Proudly launches CASA LIMITED HOME FOR SELECTED few, all 3BHK premium apartment with no common wall & all side openes for maximum Light, Air & Privacy at RAJ PATH, Opp. Hotel D. Sapphire, Hatigaoa Just 1.5KM from Ganeshguri, Contact : SKRE Group, 9706999840

CID/H&F/P/2164/1

One 3 BHK flat in 2nd floor road facing with lift facility in Lalighash, Rs. 395000/- ph. 9864337808. H&F/P/PA3344/1

Ready to move 3 BHK, 1305 sq.ft. 1st floor, @ 45 Lakhs at Baghbori, Sivamandal Path, Panjapbari, Ph: 8473895018. H&F/P/KP046/1

2 BHK flat, 1st floor ready for possession made near Chandmari Flyover, Guwahati at Rupees 45,00,000.00 fixed. Phone: 91010-43705/76373-52244. H&F/P/KP083/1

2 BHK 4th floor (Top) and 3 BHK 3rd floor @ 30,72,000/- & 44,00,000/- measuring 960 and 1400 sq.ft. at Bhagadatapur, Kalihipara 94355-48796, 88220-50323. H&F/P/1595/21

3 BHK flat for sale (1400 sq.ft.) in Belota Tiniali, Ph. Guwahati, 986388-07784. H&F/P/1597/51

Booking open for 2 and 3 BHK flat at Patarkuchi, Belota, BasisthaRoad@559/- per sq.ft. pay only 15% bank loan facility. Contact Jupiter Construction, 7009-24948. H&F/P/2143-2133

Used 3 BHK flat for sale, 1st floor, 1350 sq.ft. Wireless, Dispuri 98640-48530, 87218-14391. H&F/P/PA48/1

Booking open for 2/3 BHK flat at Chalmora (Nizabarapar). Contact : 98640-16041. H&F/P/1597/21

A flat @ BHK of 1500 sq.ft. in the 2nd floor at Doma Tower at G.S. Road, Bhagabanghar is ready for sale in reasonable price. Pls contact Mob. No., 98110-05704. H&F/P/1595/81

Used 3 BHK flat for sale, 1st floor, 1350 sq.ft. Wireless, Dispuri 98640-48530, 87218-14391. H&F/P/PA48/1

Used 3 BHK Apartments in New Guwahati with private Lawn/ Terrace for sale. 94350-32304. H&F/P/1593/41

3 BR East side flat available in Jorhat Town on 3rd floor at Drish Lakshminagar, 9957799091. 32 Lakhs only with all modern amenities. Loans available. Hurry!! Limited flats. Avail Spl. Freedom offer. Call: 986456287. H&F/P/PA347/1

Ready spacious 3 BHK & Pent House for sale at Kalihipara, Kalyaninagar, 9957799091, 7086640555. H&F/P/PA373/1

Used 1200 sq. ft. 3 BHK furnished flat sale at Lakshminagar, Dispur. @ 48 Lakhs. 9957799091. 7086640555. H&F/P/PA347/1

All branded Inverters & Exide Batteries @Gennine price exchange available. Saraf Motors Co. Ghy. 98640-38900. H&F/P/PA347/1

Booking open at Lamb Road, for 2 BHK, 3 BHK and 4 BHK. Contact: 9867787798. H&F/P/PA490/2

Hurriedly limited flat, 80% work has been completed in Geeta Mandir near Gurukul Grammar School for 2 BHK, 3 BHK and 4 BHK. Contact: 98678770798.

**2/3 BHK FLATS AT LACHIT NAGAR, GUWAHATI NEAR G.S. ROAD, BOOK YOUR FLAT BEFORE OF 31ST OF AUGUST, AND GET MODULAR KITCHEN FREE CALL 70860-22888, 88110-92347. VISIT : www.instegrp.com H&F/P/PA345/21**

Ready 1/2/3 BHK flat avl. Sixmiles, Hatigaoa, Bhetapara, Kalihipara, Ph. 97070-11164. H&F/P/16071/1

**BOOKING STARTED FOR 3 BHK 1245 SQ.FT. FLATS O P O S I T E J Y O T I C H I T R A B A N , KAHILIPARA # 9864152028. H&F/P/1604/73**

**BOOK 3 BHK 1630 SQ.FT. DELUXE FLATS FOR SELECTED few, all 3BHK premium apartment with no common wall & all side openes for maximum Light, Air & Privacy at RAJ PATH, Opp. Hotel D. Sapphire, Hatigaoa Just 1.5KM from Ganeshguri, Contact : SKRE Group, 9706999840**

CID/H&F/P/2164/1

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## INTERNATIONAL

## India behaving like mature power in Doklam standoff: US expert

WASHINGTON, Aug 12: India is "behaving like a mature power" in the Doklam standoff in the Sikkim section and making China look like an adolescent throwing a temper tantrum, a top American defence expert has said.

India and China have been locked in a face-off in the Doklam area for the last 50 days after Indian troops stood their ground to prevent the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) from occupying a disputed mountain pass in the Doklam plateau.

"It's as if India is saying, 'Look, we're here, you're here, let's work this out together,'" said Michael Armacost, a former US ambassador to India who now runs a think tank in Washington.

Armacost, who was US ambassador to India from 2001 to 2005, said India's behaviour has been "mature, measured and professional".

China, on the other hand, has been "more aggressive, more assertive and more uncompromising", he said.

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Praising India's behaviour over the matter, James R Holmes, professor of strategy at the prestigious US Naval War College, said, "New Delhi has done things right thus far, neither backing down from the dispute nor replying in kind to Beijing's over-the-top rhetoric."

"It is behaving as the mature power and making China look like the adolescent throwing a temper tantrum," he said.

India and China have been locked in a face-off in the Doklam area for the last 50 days after Indian troops stood their ground to prevent the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) from occupying a disputed mountain pass in the Doklam plateau.

&lt;p

## Cong demands UP CM's resignation over infant deaths

NEW DELHI/GORAKHPUR, Aug 12: The Congress today held the Uttar Pradesh government "responsible" for the death of 30 infants at a state-run hospital in Gorakhpur, demanding the resignation of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, and a probe by a Supreme Court judge.

Senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, who visited Baba Raghav Das Medical College in eastern Uttar Pradesh, along with party colleagues, expressed deep anguish over the death of 30 children allegedly due to shortage of supply of liquid oxygen in a span of 48 hours.

Azad said the probe ordered by the state government and the suspension of the college principal is just "an eyewash" and demanded that the matter should be probed by a sitting judge of the Supreme Court.

He said if the matter is properly investigated the state

government would be found to be squarely responsible for the "gross negligence" that led to the death of infants. He also said that the truth would come out only if an all-party delegation held an inquiry and the report would come in a week's time.

"This incident took place due to the laxity on the part of the state government. The state government is fully responsible for it. The chief minister, health minister and the health secretary must immediately resign and doctors should not be blamed for this," he said.

"The suspension of the college principal and holding of a probe by district authorities has no meaning as it is merely an eyewash. This matter should be probed by a sitting judge of the Supreme Court and the report should come in 15 days time," he said.

Earlier, Congress spokesperson Manish Tiwari said the

chief minister and UP's Health Minister Siddharth Nath Singh should resign taking "moral responsibility" for the deaths.

"There are clearly two dimensions to it, that of criminal culpability accounting to all those who were responsible - the hospital administration, the district admin-

istrative, the minister and the health minister must take responsibility for and resign immediately," he said.

Taking a swipe at the Uttar Pradesh health minister, the Congress leader tweeted, "UP Health Minister only seeks votes in Lal Bahadur Shastri ji's name - he doesn't follow Shastri ji's high morals in politics... Shastri ji resigned taking moral responsibility for railway accident. @sidharthsingh holds on to power even after death of infants (sic)."

Singh is the grandson of former prime minister Lal Bahadur Shastri.

Health Minister Singh had yesterday told PTI, "The deaths of children were very unfortunate and the government will set up an inquiry committee to ascertain if any lapse has been there and if anyone is found guilty he will be made accountable."

He said that according to reports from the paediatric department of the hospital, 60 children died due to various diseases since August 7.

Singh, however, asserted that the deaths were not because of paucity of oxygen. - PTI

### No hero from RSS ranks in freedom struggle'

NEW DELHI, Aug 12: The renaming of Mughalsarai railway station after RSS ideologue Deendayal Upadhyaya or the attempts to "cast out Nehru" reflect the absence of "heroes" among sartan ranks, historian Irfan Habib today said.

Delivering a lecture on "70 years of Freedom" here, Habib said the Indian freedom movement owes much to "new values and ideals".

"They might have put Deendayal Upadhyaya's name here and there, they might try to cast out (Jawaharlal) Nehru's name as far as they can, but the fact is that they have no hero out of their ranks for the national struggle," he said.

The omission of first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's name in the speech of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Lok Sabha on the historic Quit India movement attracted criticism from the Congress.

The party had also termed as "unfortunate" President Ram Nath Kovind's inaugural speech, where Nehru did not find any mention.

"Indian national movement owes much to new values and ideas that had nothing to do with any religion or our past culture. This historical fact is particularly important when we are faced with the recent insistence that all wisdoms have been obtained by Indians from in ancient times," he said. - PTI

### Union minister Pradhan slams critics of armed forces

PANAJI, Aug 12: Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan came down heavily on the critics of armed forces, saying India must be the only country in the world where its defence forces have to face criticism.

Earlier, only politicians were criticised but now a days this trend has extended to our security agencies and soldiers who operate in difficult conditions, the minister of state for petroleum and natural gas said.

He said that armed forces are subjected to unfair criticism by people who are not aware of their sacrifices.

"Those who criticise the Indian armed forces don't know their capability. They risk their lives everyday so that we are able to sleep peacefully in our homes," Pradhan said.

The minister was speaking in Vasco near here after commission-

ing an Indian Coast Guard ship, "Shurya".

India is a democratic country, initially, only politicians faced criticism. Now even the Army, Navy, Coast Guard and BSF (Border Security Force) have to face criticism," Pradhan said.

This stems from lack of understanding of the armed forces, the minister said. "It is unfortunate that today we are not able to understand and respect the armed forces. We should give respect to them which they deserve. There must be criticism but there should be a reason for it," Pradhan said.

"IG Shurya" has been designed and built by Goa Shipyard Ltd, a Central PSU, and fitted with advanced navigation and communication systems.

The vessel can carry one twin engine light helicopter and five high-speed boats. - PTI

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Jharkhand Mukti Morcha working president and Leader of Opposition Hemant Soren and other party MLAs staging a demonstration outside the Jharkhand Assembly on the last day of the Monsoon Session, in Ranchi on Saturday. - UNI

## Good intent is the best beginning: CBFC chief Prasoon Joshi

NEW DELHI, Aug 12: Newly appointed censor board chief Prasoon Joshi hopes to carry out his responsibilities in a constructive manner and make a "positive difference".

The government replaced Palaj Nihalani, who has hogged headlines for his controversial decisions, with Joshi in a surprise announcement last evening.

"Good intent is the best be-

ginning. Bearing responsibility and doing my best has been my endeavour. I have believed that right and responsibilities are better served with constructive contribution," Joshi told PTI after his appointment.

"One hopes to make a positive difference with the guidance and support of respected minds," he added.

The 45-year-old award-winning lyricist will serve as the chairperson of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) for a period of three years or until further orders, the information and broadcasting ministry said in a release.

The government has also reconstituted the existing board with new members such as Vidya Balan, Vivek Agnihotri, Gautami Tadimalla, Narendra Kohli, Naresh Chandra Lal,

Neil Herbert Nongkynrih, Waman Kendre, T S Nagabharana, Ramesh Patange, Vani Tripathi Tikoo, Jeevitha Rajashekhar and Mihir Bhuta.

Later speaking to reporters in Mumbai, Joshi said he is glad to have good people on board.

"All the people who have joined will make a difference. It has to be done together. I think there is some sort of understanding that has to be brought in," Joshi said.

Asked if he shared similar

views, Joshi said, "I am too early for me to answer a lot of questions. I will answer all the questions but let me get a hold on it."

"The whole process is still not fully known to me. I am not yet familiar with the nitty-gritties. It takes time."

Joshi, a two-time National award-winning lyricist, was

born in Almora (Uttarakhand). He is best known for writing songs such as "Maa" from "Bare Zameen Par", "Bolo na" from "Chittagong" and "Zinda" from "Blaag Milha Blaag".

The lyricist-writer was awarded the Padma Shri in 2015 for his contributions in the field of arts, literature and advertising.

His appointment comes at a time when the film industry and the board are at loggerheads. Nihalani, who was sacked six months before his tenure of three years was to end, was mostly in news for suggesting arbitrary cuts in films such as "Spectre", "Deadpool", "Udta Punjab" and most recently "Lipstick Under My Burkha" and a documentary on Amartya Sen. - PTI



### Swine flu claims 138 lives in Gujarat

AHMEDABAD, Aug 12: Swine flu has killed as many as 138 people in Gujarat since January this year, prompting Chief Minister Vijay Rupani to hold a review meeting today to take stock of the preparedness of the health authorities in tackling the disease.

Total 138 people have died due to swine flu in Gujarat since January this year. Thirty one people have died in the first week alone," Gujarat Minister of State for Health Shankar Chaudhary said in a press release issued today.

Till August 11, total 1,344 persons tested positive for swine flu, while 708 patients are still undergoing treatment.

Ahmedabad is the worst-affected district with 37 deaths, followed by Rajkot, where 17 people died since January, the release said.

The chief minister held a meeting with senior health department officials to review district-level preparedness to tackle the disease, the release said. "Rupani also held a video-conference with collectors and top health department officials regarding the preparedness of district administration in tackling the disease," it said.

Rupani later tweeted about his meetings with the health authorities. "Instructed officials to ensure necessary measures for prevention, control and treatment of the swine flu and to create mass awareness about the disease," he tweeted after the meeting held at Gandhinagar.

"Appealing the citizens not to panic. We have sufficient treatment facilities, doctors and medicines available for swine flu in the state," he tweeted. The state government said that 17,000 teams have begun intense door-to-door surveillance across the state with ASHA and Anganwadi workers as well as malarial surveillance squads. Around 40,000 anganwadi workers and more than 5,000 MBBS doctors and 3,000 AYUSH doctors are part of the team. - PTI

## Ram Vilas Paswan bats for JD(U) joining Union Cabinet

NEW DELHI, Aug 12: Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan today batted for NDA ally JD(U) to join the Union Cabinet, saying it was a misfortune that for 27 years the party which ruled Bihar was not part of the government.

He claimed that the Congress in Bihar was on the verge of a split as many of its MLAs were like fish without water after the fall of the coalition government.

Taking a dig at Sharad Yadav, Paswan said the JD(U) leader believed that a party having him was "kranti-kar" (revolutionary) and without him was "sarkari" (government's).

He was in government for many years of the NDA government's rule, the LJP president said, noting that Yadav was a minister in the Vajpayee government.

"There is nobody supporting him (Yadav). He says he is taking people's opinion. He is a Rajya Sabha MP and he should take opinion of MLAs who have sent him to the House. All of them are with Nitish Kumar," he said.

Paswan claimed Prasad's rally in Patna on August 27 was aimed at covering his corruption and that he resorted to similar "antics" after getting embroiled in the fodder scam.

Paswan, Yadav and Prasad were together for years as part of various socialist parties and alliances before they went their separate ways. Kumar was also with them before he formed his own party in 1994 to take on Prasad, then the Bihar's chief minister.

The Dalit leader also demanded tough action in the corruption cases involving the RJD chief and his family.

Paswan, he claimed, has so far not rejected his and his family's ownership of various assets, allegedly linked to corruption.

He also announced plans to strengthen his party. District presidents of the LJP would meet during October 5-6 in Rajbir and its national executive would meet on December 9-10. It also plans to celebrate its foundation day in a big way on November 28, he said.

Paswan was forced on this day 2000. His son and party MP Chirag Paswan would tour Bihar between September 4 and November 26 during which he would address workers in different places and hold public meetings. - PTI

### 10 killed ...

(Contd from page 1) have been devastated in the flood waters and many roads in the flood-hit areas were submerged, snapping communication lines.

It may also be mentioned that 11 anti-poaching camps at the Dibrugarh School in Dibrugarh district – and equipped with the latest technology – have been set up in the area.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today visited two relief food camps – at Dhemelhati in Tinsukia and Dimapur Hazarimal Higher Secondary School in Dibrugarh district – and enquired about the arrangements for the inmates. He also interacted with the inmates and enquired about the quality of relief material provided to them.

Later talking to the media persons, the Chief Minister said that the government's first priority is to provide relief materials to the flood-affected people at this hour and talk with them.

Saying that flood is not just a problem in Assam alone as it also causes havoc in neighbouring countries like Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, etc., Sonowal said that a multi-nation approach for finding a permanent solution to the problem would be adopted by the government so that recurring devastation can be tackled better in future.

Saying that embankments are major safeguards against floods, Sonowal added that due to lack of proper strengthening of these embankments during the past 70 years most of these have become vulnerable and prone to breach at

many areas. The present government has worked vigorously to repair and strengthen the embankments before the onset of monsoon and completed works on 88 embankments in the State, he added.

The Chief Minister also said that the Central government has taken the flood situation in the State very seriously and Prime Minister Narendra Modi had himself reviewed the relief and rehabilitation measures carried out so far in the State recently. Modi also announced a package for immediate relief and rehabilitation for the flood-affected people of Assam and other north-eastern States.

Saying that the river beds of Brahmaputra and its tributaries have become shallow thereby reducing their water carrying capacity, Sonowal said that increased rainfall this year also have made matters worse as the State has witnessed severe floods.

### AGP against ...

(Contd from page 1) its ideology. As such the party urges the State government to review the decision and name the colleges after eminent personalities of the State," he said.

The AGP leader admitted that there are ideological differences with its alliance partner BJP in the government. "We have been opposing anything that goes against our ideology, like we have been doing in case of the Citizenship

(Amendment) Bill. We will continue to oppose the proposed new law," he said.

Meanwhile, in view of the upcoming panchayat elections, the AGP will hold a convention of the party on September 15 in the city. "We will deliberate and devise our election strategy at the convention on how to strengthen our grassroots and contest the elections on our own," Kalita added.

### Pending cases ...

Sources pointed out that as there is no mechanism to keep a watch on the suspects when the trials are on, they go into hiding whenever they feel that the verdict would go against them and that creates a major problem as it is almost impossible to track such persons down when they shift from one district to another.

## Modi Govt making hollow promises: Rahul

RAICHUR (Karnataka), Aug 12: Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi today hit out at the Modi Government over farmer and unemployment issues, accusing it of making "hollow and false promises."

"We don't make big promises; rather we will perform and show. When Modi's Government came, farmers were promised full help, but across the country farmers are committing suicide," Gandhi said.

He said in Karnataka and Punjab, Congress governments had stood by the farmers. "Wherever there is a Congress party government, you will see them standing with farmers because we understand that farmers make India strong. If farmers are strong, India will be strong; if they are weak, India will become weak."

The Congress leader was speaking at the State Congress committee's 'Samman Samavesha' here to felicitate him for his role in providing special sta-

tus to the backward Hyderabad-Karnataka region during the UPA rule by an amendment of Article 371(J) of the Constitution.

Speaking about Article 371(J), Gandhi said the Congress has fought with the people for this for their development. Claiming that BJP veteran LK Advani as Union Home Minister was against Article 371 (J), he said after the Congress came to power in 2004, the special status was granted which has benefited people to a large extent today.

"I am happy to note that the amount that the BJP has put here in five years, that much amount is being put in three months by the Congress Government today," he said, taking note of various developmental activities in the region.

Chief Minister Siddaramiah, Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, general secretary in-charge KC Venugopal, KPCC president G Parashurama and several other party leaders were present at the event.

Stating that Congress believes in Gandhi's preaching of helping the poor and those at the fag end of the line, Gandhi said, "BJP and RSS's thinking is different; they believe that if they help those at the forefront of the line, things will be good. This is the difference between us."

He noted that Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had said in Parliament that a loan waiver was not the Government's policy and a BJP leader had said they did not want to make farmers lazy by doing it. "When you waive the loan by India's 10 richest industrialists, they don't become lazy; but when you waive farmers' loans, they will become lazy. How fair is this?" He lauded Siddaramiah for announcing the farm loan waiver in Karnataka.

Gandhi said when the Congress-led Government was at the Centre, every year minimum support price (MSP) on crops used to increase by about 15 per cent, but after the BJP came to power it has been increasing only by two to three per cent. - PTI

### Sappal resigns as RS TV CEO

NEW DELHI, Aug 12: Gurudeep Singh Sappal has resigned as the Rajya Sabha TV CEO and Prasar Bharati CEO Shashi Shekhar Venkata has been given the additional charge of the post.

"Consequent upon acceptance of resignation of Gurudeep Singh Sappal, CEO, RS TV, with effect from August 12, 2017, he is directed to hand over the charge of CEO, RSTV to Shashi Shekhar Venkata, CEO, Prasar Bharati," an order of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat said.

Rajya Sabha TV is owned and operated by the Upper House of Parliament and the Vice President is its chairman.

M Venkaiah Naidu was yesterday sworn in as the 15th Vice President. His predecessor, Hamid Ansari, had two successive terms. - PTI

### AIADMK factions will unite soon: Tamil Nadu ministers

COIMBATORE, Aug 12: Two senior Tamil Nadu ministers today expressed confidence that AIADMK factions, one led by Chief Minister K Palaniswami and the other by his predecessor O Panneerselvam, will soon come together and the Government would complete its full five-year term.

"What is going on at present is disagreement between brothers, which will be settled amicably at the earliest," Forest Minister Dindugal Srinivasan told reporters here.

Separately, Cooperation Minister Sellur L Raju said that "we will work together to fulfil the dreams of former Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa." The process of merger of the two factions has been going on for the last seven months and the days are not far for them to come together, Srinivasan said. "The present Government will complete its full term," he added.

The Government is ready to rectify the shortcomings pointed out by anybody, be it Dhinakaran or other leaders and provide good governance, he said. Stating that nobody can create confusion among AIADMK workers, Raju said not a single worker has switched

tongue, as he had clarified later and there was no need to play it up further. However, the minister said he was not aware of Palaniswami calling Dhinakaran a '420'.

To a question on reports of O Panneerselvam becoming the Deputy Chief Minister, Srinivasan said it had come out in some sections of the press. Any fact will be revealed by Palaniswami, as both the party and Government are working under him, he said. "It is my opinion."

Meanwhile, in a separate press conference, Cooperation Minister Sellur L Raju, on his way to Udhagamandalam, said he alone could not take a decision on participation in the MGR centenary celebrations convened by Dhinakaran in Melur on August 14. A decision will be taken after consultation with Palaniswami and other ministers, he added.

The Government is ready to rectify the shortcomings pointed out by anybody, be it Dhinakaran or other leaders and provide good governance, he said. Stating that nobody can create confusion among AIADMK workers, Raju said not a single worker has switched

### Delhi Police nab man with 22 pistols

NEW DELHI, Aug 12: Delhi Police have arrested a man for allegedly trying to smuggle 22 semi-automatic pistols in the capital from Madhya Pradesh ahead of the Independence Day officials said today.

Ugara Singh was part of a gang involved in the supply of illegal arms and ammunition from Madhya Pradesh to Delhi, the police said.

Yesterday, the police learnt that an arms supplier would come near Bhairon Marg in Central Delhi to deliver a consignment of illegal weapons to a local conduit of a gangster, said Madhu Verma, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime).

Around 9 pm, Ugara was nabbed near Udayan Nursery. Twenty semi-automatic pistols were recovered from his possession, the officer said. - PTI

### BJP hits out at Stalin over move against AIADMK Govt

CHENNAI, Aug 12: The BJP today attacked DMK leader MK Stalin over his announcement of moving a no-confidence motion against the AIADMK Government, saying it is "trying to fish in troubled waters."

In the backdrop of the likely merger of the two AIADMK factions after the removal of TTV Dhinakaran as AIADMK (Anna)

deputy general secretary, Stalin had said on Friday the DMK would move a no-confidence motion against the Government "if required."

"DMK working president Stalin is trying to fish in troubled waters. When he says he will move a no-confidence motion if required, it shows he is not confident about that," BJP State unit president Tamilselvi Soundarajan told reporters here.

She said the announcement was made with the intention of keeping the media spotlight on Stalin, who is also the Leader of Opposition. Speculations are also ripe that post merger, the AIADMK might join the BJP-led NDA.

The BJP is aiming to make inroads into the southern State where it has just one Lok Sabha MP and no representation in the 234-member Assembly.

Palaniswami, who was sworn in as the Chief Minister following a revolt by his predecessor O Panneerselvam against jailed party chief VK Sasikala earlier this year, had won a trust vote on February 18 in the Assembly.

On BJP national president Amit Shah's upcoming three-day tour of Tamil Nadu starting August 22, Soundarajan said it was aimed at strengthening the party's "fundamental structure."

Besides interacting with party office-bearers, Shah is scheduled to meet a range of people, including scholars and others from various fields, she added.

With an eye on the 2019 Lok Sabha polls,

the BJP national president is travelling across the country to strategise and find ways to strengthen the party at the grassroots level. The BJP-led Centre and the AIADMK Government in Tamil Nadu are maintaining "cordial" relations to ensure delivery of their various good schemes, Soundarajan said. - PTI



A security personnel stops a young boy riding on his bicycle on a deserted street amid restrictions imposed to prevent law-and-order problems, in Srinagar on Saturday. — UNI

### Kerala CM moves PM for ban on online Blue Whale game

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, Aug 12: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan today urged the Centre to take immediate steps to ban the online Blue Whale game in the country "to save precious lives."

"In view of the threat which is already at our doorstep, I would request that immediate action may be initiated to ban this game all over India so that we can save precious lives," Vijayan said in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a copy of which was released to the media here. "There is an Internet trend growing in popularity that encourages its participants to hurt themselves in real life called Blue Whale."

"This is not a video game, but the participants are required to receive instructions from an anonymous administrator and their final task is to commit suicide,"

Vijayan said in the letter. Media reports reveal that the game has taken a few lives in India and its popularity was growing, he said.

"The Blue Whale game is a challenge to the whole society and comprehensive action against this from all responsible agencies is of utmost importance," he said. The cyber wing of the police department in Kerala is striving to make people aware of the game through the social media and other effective channels, he said. He said the State Government by itself can do very little in the matter.

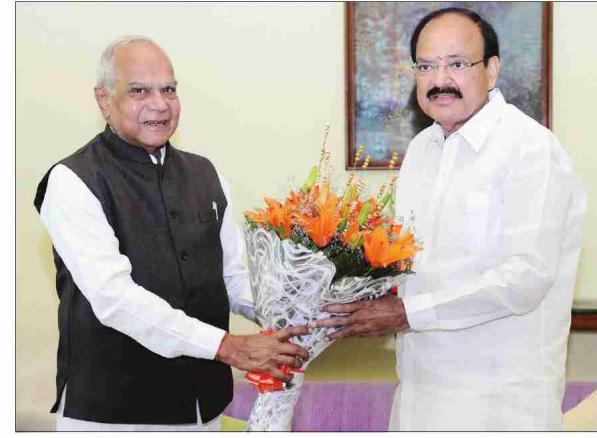
The only solution to arrest the menace was to ban the game and this can be done only with the help of the various Union ministries, including Electronics and Information Technology, and Home Ministry, he said.

The issue had been raised in the State

Assembly also and the Chief Minister had assured the members that the State police had already issued necessary alerts to make parents vigilant about the game and ensure that children do not get addicted.

According to media reports, over 4,000 children are said to have committed suicide worldwide due to this game. There were reports that a 14-year-old boy recently ended his life in Mumbai due to the influence of the Blue Whale game, the Chief Minister had said in the assembly.

The Blue Whale game, also called the 'Blue Whale Challenge,' is an Internet 'game' allegedly consisting of a series of tasks assigned to players by administrators during a 50-day period, with the final challenge reportedly requiring the player to commit suicide. - PTI



Assam Governor Banwarilal Purohit calling on Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu in New Delhi on Saturday. — UNI

**৭১ তম স্বাধীনতা দিবস উপলক্ষে**  
**কামৰূপ জিলা প্রশাসনৰ উদ্যোগত আৰু**  
**মহানগৰ আৰক্ষী আয়ুক্তালয়ৰ সহযোগত**

সৰ্বনন্দ সোণোৱাল  
মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী, অসম

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Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal addressing an interactive session on 'Taxation reforms', organised by the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), in Kolkata on Saturday. – PTI

#### SAT STAY ON SEBI ORDER

Trading in Parsvnath, 5 others to resume from Monday

NEW DELHI, Aug 12: Leading bourses NSE and BSE on Friday said trading will resume in shares of Parsvnath Developers and three others from Monday after the SAT stayed curbs imposed on these companies. Besides, shares of two companies – Kavit Industries and Kcalpana Industries (India) Ltd – listed only on the BSE will start trading from Monday.

Apart from Parsvnath, three other companies are listed on both the exchanges. These are SQS India, BPSL, Pincon Spirit, and Signet Industries. The shares of these companies will be moved out of GSM (graded surveillance measures) framework and will be available for trading with effect from August 14, the exchanges said in similarly-worded circulars.

Parsvnath had allowed to trade in a price band of 10 per cent while the same will be 5 per cent for Kavit Industries and 20 per cent for the other four.

The move comes after the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) on Friday stayed trading restrictions imposed on these six companies, which figured in a list of 32 "suspected shell companies" referred by the government to SEBI.

The appellants had submitted their respective financials, along with other filings, before SAT to establish that they are not shell companies and are in compliance with all regulations. – PTI

#### India making a strong statement: Teotaia

NEW DELHI, Aug 12: India has started to make its presence felt very strongly in the medical tourist sector that was initially dominated by developed countries like the US, Singapore and Malaysia, Commerce Secretary Rita Teotaia said on Friday.

She was speaking at a conference on the third edition of 'Advantage Healthcare India' summit, slated to be held in Bengaluru on October 12-14. Over 70 countries and 600 buyers from Africa, the Middle East, Europe, the US, the UK, and Asia are set to take part in the event.

The summit is meant to promote India as a premier global healthcare destination and streamline health-care services export.

The government, she said, has liberalised rules to make it "very easy" for foreign tourists to get a visa for medical treatment in India.

"Last November, the Govern-

#### 'India one of the most open economies globally for FDI'

NEW DELHI, Aug 12: India has now emerged as one of the most open economies in the world for receiving FDI, on the back of a host of liberalisation measures, the Economic Survey said on Friday.

It pointed out that measures taken by the government have resulted in FDI inflow in USD in 2016-17, which is not only an increase of 8 per cent over the previous year, but also the highest ever.

The mid-year survey of the economy described foreign direct investment (FDI) as an enabler of economic growth since it enhances

productivity by bringing capital, skills and technology to the host country.

"In 2016, the government has brought most of the sectors under the automatic approval route, except a small negative list com-

#### ECONOMIC SURVEY

prising atomic energy, manufacture of cigars and tobacco, real estate business, lottery, gambling and chit fund, etc. With these changes, India is now one of the most open economies in the world

for FDI," said the Survey tabled in Parliament on Friday.

In terms of the sectors receiving FDI inflows, services (finance, banking, insurance, etc) sector received the highest (19.9 per cent) followed by telecommunications (12.8 per cent) and computer software and hardware (8.4 per cent), the Survey added.

Mauritius, Singapore and Japan have been the top three source countries of FDI inflows to India contributing 36.2 per cent, 20 per cent and 10.8 per cent, respectively, during 2016-17, according to the Survey. – PTI

#### 3% GST rate on gold too low: Economic Survey

NEW DELHI, Aug 12: The goods and services tax (GST) rate of 3 per cent on gold was low and needs to be increased as it is consumed by the "very rich", feels Chief Economic Adviser Arvind Subramanian, the author of the Economic Survey.

According to the Economic Survey Volume II 2016-17, tabled in Parliament on Friday, "The tax on gold and jewellery products – items that are disproportionately consumed by the very rich – at 3 per cent is still low."

The document also stated that there was a need to tax education and healthcare. "Keeping health and education completely out is inconsistent with equity because these are services consumed disproportionately by the rich," it said.

Health and education are outside the tax net altogether, exempted under the GST and not otherwise taxed by the Centre and States.

Alcohol, petroleum, energy products, electric-

ity and some land and real estate transactions are outside the GST base but are taxed by the Centre or States outside the GST.

"Bringing electricity into the GST framework would improve the competitiveness of Indian industry because taxes on power get embedded in manufacturers' costs, and can be claimed back as input tax credit."

"Inclusion of land and real estate and alcohol in GST will improve transparency and reduce corruption," the Economic Survey said.

The Survey said that the GST Council will have to take up these issues in the coming months.

"The GST Council, a remarkable institutional innovation in the governance of cooperative federalism and one that has proven to be so already in its first ten months of existence, will need to take up these challenges in the months ahead to take India from a good GST to an even better one," it said. – IANS



Minister of State for Power, Coal, New and Renewable Energy and Mines (Ind Charge) Piyush Goyal delivering a speech on 'Goods and services tax (GST) and energy', at a state-level convention of MSME, organised by the Laghu Udyog Bharti, in Mumbai on Saturday. – PTI

#### Human-centric approach can better tackle cyber threats: Forcepoint

terprises.

To tackle threats like 'WannaCry' and 'Petya', Rajavel suggested use of a proactive, continuous and integrated human-centric security system.

"If I would have kept up with my patching, periodic checks and constantly evaluating my cyber posture, threats like 'WannaCry' and 'Petya' will not have any impact on me. They actually exploit a vulnerability," she said.

Though Rajavel maintained that there is no fool-proof solution that would guarantee 100 per cent safety from cyber threats, she believes Forcepoint can provide the system to minimise the risk.

"We recognise the digitisation happening around the world, the privacy and legal concerns and our approach is not just based on technology but is people-centric," the executive stressed. – IANS

KOLKATA, Aug 12: The number of tax slabs in the goods and services tax (GST) regime would be reduced with improvement in revenue, Union Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal said here today.

With the exempted category, the existing tax slabs are of 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent.

Defending the different slabs, he said the introduction of the new tax system will remove inspector raj and there will be no human interface. The government will improve the GSTN system

13 lakh new dealers have registered themselves in the system after the implementation of GST. Out of which, 56,000 were from West Bengal, the highest in India.

He said the total number of registered dealers in the indirect tax system in the pre-GST regime was 80 lakh.

Describing the GST Network (GSTN) as a "perfect system", he said: "We must be facing some teething problems but that was not done," the Minister said at an interactive session organised by the Indian Chamber of Commerce.

Meghwal also said as many as

would address the problems that are coming out in the reverse charge mechanism.

In GST, reverse charge means the liability to pay tax is on the recipient of goods or services instead of the supplier of such goods or services.

Later, at a session organised by the Merchants' Chamber of Commerce & Industry, the Minister said around 1.78-lakh small companies have been identified by the government.

With the objective to improve corporate governance and the ease of doing business, the Centre brought amendments to the Companies Act and the Companies (Amendment) Bill, which was passed by the Lok Sabha, is expected to be passed by the Upper House in the next session, he said. – IANS

#### Quality within tolerance parameters: RBI

##### NEW CURRENCY NOTES



In line with the same, banknote quality is maintained well within the various tolerance parameters for dimension, placement of design, print features, etc," the RBI said in a statement.

The central bank's statement assumes significance, as it comes days after the Congress party on August 8 alleged that two different kinds of Rs 500 and Rs 2,000 notes were printed post-demonetisation, "jeopardising the credibility" of Indian currency.

The Opposition party had also said the "discrepancies" in the printing of the new high denomination notes were in terms of their size, design and other features.

Noting that the central bank rarely receives complaints from the members of public on banknotes with features beyond the acceptable tolerance levels, it said, "A standard operating procedure is in place for dealing with such rare cases wherein each such note is examined and corrective steps taken, if necessary."

According to the statement, there are standard tolerance limits prescribed for certain features of the note, viz., security thread width, wandering of watermark and security thread, and cutting accuracy. – PTI



Avon Platinum Executive President Meghali Das will be leaving for Prague and Vienna on August 21 to attend the Avon Platinum Conference. Das is the only representative from Assam among the six persons from across the country, who have qualified to attend the conference.

#### CAPSULE

##### UBI posts loss

NEW DELHI, Aug 12: State-owned Bank of Baroda India (UBI) today reported a net loss of Re 211.46 crore during the first quarter ended June 2017, due to rise in Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) and higher provisioning. The bank had registered a net profit of Re 38.32 crore in the April-June quarter of previous fiscal. – PTI

##### India INX

MUMBAI, Aug 12: BSE-promoted firm India International Exchange (India INX) will launch trading in gold options from August 30, a move which will allow investors an opportunity to hedge their risk while trading during highly volatile market conditions. India INX, which has received regulator SEBI's nod to launch the product, has estimated that gold options, along with other gold contracts, would clock a daily average turnover of \$35 million on the exchange's platform. – PTI

##### Oil India Q1 profit drops 9%

NEW DELHI, Aug 12: State-owned Oil India Ltd on Friday reported a 9 per cent dip in its June quarter net profit after a drop in natural gas price offset gains made from higher oil production. The company posted a net profit of Rs 450.24 crore, or Rs 5.67 per share, in April-June compared with Rs 494.41 crore, or Rs 6.17 per share, in the same period of the previous fiscal.

"The reduction in profit after tax (net profit) was primarily due to the reduction in price of natural gas from \$3.06 per million British thermal unit in Q1 FY 2016-17 to \$2.48 per mBtu in Q1 FY 2017-18," Oil India said in a statement.

Total income revenues marginally higher at Rs 2,485.70 crore in the first quarter as opposed to Rs 2,460.85 crore in the same period of the previous year. Oil production rose 5.6 per cent to 0.848 million tonnes in April-June, for which it got \$48.41 per barrel as against \$43.09 in Q1 of the previous year. – PTI

**JK Cement net up**

NEW DELHI, Aug 12: JK Cement today reported 30.38 per cent rise in its standalone net profit to Rs 79.34 crore for the June quarter of the current fiscal, mainly on account of higher sales. Its net profit in the April-June period of last fiscal was Re 60.85 crore. JK Cement Ltd said in a BSE filing. – PTI

##### Gitanjali net rises

NEW DELHI, Aug 12: Gitanjali Gems posted a 21.2 per cent jump in consolidated net profit at Rs 69.46 crore in the first quarter ended June 2017 on robust sales. Net profit stood at Rs 57.31 crore in the year-ago period, the company said in a BSE filing. – PTI

##### SAIL loss widens

NEW DELHI, Aug 12: Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine (DSME) of South Korea's SAMSUNG group, owned 49 per cent by state-owned shipbuilder Larsen & Toubro (L&T), saw its consolidated net loss widen to Rs 801.38 crore for the June quarter due to higher coal prices and expenses. The steel-maker had reported a net loss of Rs 501.52 crore in the corresponding quarter of 2016-17, the company said in a BSE filing. – PTI





Anti-riot policemen arrive to disperse protesters in Mathare, in Nairobi, Kenya on Saturday. - UNI

## Egypt train collision kills 44, injures nearly 180

CAIRO, Aug 12: At least 44 people were killed and nearly 180 others injured after two trains collided near Egypt's coastal city of Alexandria, officials said.

The Egyptian cabinet said in a statement that the number of deaths may increase and the final toll will be announced after clearing the debris of the two trains.

The deadly collision took place yesterday after a train travelling to Alexandria from Cairo, crashed into the back of another train coming from the Canal city of Port Said, which was waiting at a small station in the district of Khorshid, east of Alexandria, the Egyptian Railways Authority said in a statement.

The area of the collision has been cordoned off by security forces as a rescue team is currently searching for survivors over the night and removing the wreckage off the tracks, it said.

Inam Hamdy, 26, a survivor of the accident, said that she was travelling in the train going to Alexandria and noticed that it was already in a bad condition.

The Al-Masri el-Youna Ara-

bic newspaper quoted her saying that the train abruptly stopped for 15 minutes in Elbas area near Khorshid station when she felt its collision with the another train.

Hamdy, who succeeded in escaping from the train through one of the windows, said that she will never forget the large number of injured, mostly women and children,

station in Alexandria for investigation, local media said quoting a health ministry official.

Egypt's prosecutor-general Nabil Sadiq has ordered an urgent investigation into the collision to find out the reason behind the crash.

President El-Sisi has expressed his condolences to the victims and ordered government bodies to follow up on



she saw at the accident site.

Another survivor, 10-year-old Karim Abdel Wahab, said that he couldn't find his mother and brother who were travelling with him in the train.

The driver of the Cairo-Al-exandria train has surrendered himself to police and has been transferred to El-Raml police

## Myanmar operation in Rakhine 'major concern'

GENEVA, Aug 12: A UN rights expert voiced alarm on Friday at a growing security operation in Myanmar's northwestern Rakhine State, where the government has been accused of widespread abuses against Rohingya Muslims.

Reacting to reports that an army battalion was flown into Rakhine today to help local authorities boost security in the region, UN special rapporteur Yanghee Lee warned the development was "a cause for major concern."

"The government must ensure that security forces exercise restraint in all circumstances and respect human rights in addressing the security situation in Rakhine State," she said in a statement.

"I am particularly reminded of the allegations of serious human rights violations which followed security force operations in the aftermath of attacks against three border guard police facilities in Maungdaw and Rathedaung in October and further clashes in November," she added.

Lee's comments came after a government-appointed commission on Sunday dismissed UN allegations of widespread developments from the deadly collision and identify the cause of the accident.

The rescue team is currently searching for survivors while ambulances are transferring the injured to nearby hospitals," said Magdy Hegazi, undersecretary at the Health ministry. - PTI

## Iran accuses Trump of 'bad faith' on nuclear deal

TEHRAN, Aug 12: Iran hit back on Friday at Donald Trump's warnings on Tehran's ballistic missiles programme, accusing the US President of showing "bad faith" over the 2015 nuclear accord.

"POTUS (President of the United States) always wanted to kill" the deal, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif tweeted.

"To avoid isolation, he's trying to blame it on Iran."

He charged that Trump was showing "bad faith on top of US violating the letter & spirit" of the deal.

Yesterday, the President accused Iran of not "living up to the spirit" of the deal it

struck with major powers including Washington, referring to it as a "terrible agreement".

"I don't think Iran is in compliance," Trump said. "I don't think they're living up to the spirit of the agreement."

The accord gave Iran relief from sanctions in exchange for accepting curbs on its ability to make material for nuclear weapons.

Last month, Trump was forced to back down from a key campaign promise to withdraw from the agreement.

Trump had described it as "the worst deal ever" and accused Tehran of continuing to back extremist groups in the Middle East.

But on July 17, the White House certified that the Islamic republic was in fact sticking to the nuclear agreement.

Still, a day later, the United States imposed new sanctions on Iran – targeting 18 individuals and entities – over its mis-

site programme.

The US Treasury punished Iran again later in July after Tehran tested a satellite launch rocket. The department singled out six companies Washington said were involved in the missile programme.

Iran was also slapped with a sanctions bill targeting its missile programme and alleged human rights violations, which Trump signed into law last week.

Tehran protested that the new sanctions violated the nuclear accord. Iran says its missile programme is for defensive purposes only. It has vowed to reciprocate US sanctions. - AFP

## Syria suicide blast kills 23

BEIRUT, Aug 12: At least 23 rebel fighters were killed and dozens more wounded in a suicide blast in southern Syria near the border with Jordan, a monitoring group said.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the bomber detonated an explosive belt yesterday at a base used by Jaish al-Islam (Army of Islam) near the Nasib border crossing.

The government is refusing to allow a UN fact-finding team to conduct its own probe into whether the security response amounted to "ethnic cleansing" of the stateless Rohingya minority.

Buddhist-majority Myanmar has long faced criticism for its treatment of the more than one million Rohingya who live in Rakhine, who are seen as interlopers from Bangladesh, denied citizenship and access to basic rights.

Lee said she had taken note of the report from the government commission,

pointing out that it had "admitted it was not able to verify many of these alleged violations or crimes including torture, rape and arson" and she asked that "these be properly addressed by the relevant authorities." - AFP

with widespread protests calling for the ouster of President Bashar al-Assad.

It has since turned into an all-out war that has drawn in international powers and killed more than 330,000 people.

Under a plan hammered out in May between Russia, Turkey and Iran at peace talks in Kazakhstan, four "de-escalation zones" were to be established across swathes of Syria to ease fighting between regime and rebel forces. - AFP



A firefighter aims water on shanties engulfed in flames during a fire in a residential area in Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines on Friday. - UNI

## Captives escape Philippine militants

MANILA, Aug 12: Three men kidnapped by Islamist militants in the southern Philippines escaped while their captors prayed, dodging bullets as they ran, police said today after a rescue using fake ransom money failed.

The fate of a fourth man who ran off in a different direction was unclear.

The construction workers were taken to the police on Jolo island yesterday, four weeks after being abducted by the Abu Sayyaf group, which is holding more than a dozen other hostages including several foreigners in remote jungles.

The gunmen had received an undetermined amount of cash for the hostages on Thursday, but refused to release them after realising the money was fake, regional police chief Reuben Sindac told AFP.

"While the abductors performed their afternoon prayer, the victims took advantage and (ran) but they were chased and fired upon," Sindac said, citing an official report.

The Abu Sayyaf, blamed for the worst terror attacks in the nation's history, is known to behead hostages unless ransom payments are made.

Sindac said a village official found three of the hostages near the Jolo town of Talpa early Friday, one with a gunshot wound to the head that was not thought to be life-threatening.

The official brought them to the police hours later.

The three told police their fourth colleague had run in another direction and it was unclear if he had escaped or been recaptured by the militants.

Sindac said he did not know who paid the fake ransom money. - AFP

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# Kim Jong-Un will truly regret threats to US and allies: Trump



WASHINGTON, Aug 12: US President Donald Trump has again issued a stern warning to North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un, saying he will "truly regret" any hostile acts against any American territory or ally.

He warned that the US will take action against Kim's regime "if he utters one threat, in the form of an overt threat – which, by the way, he has been uttering for years, and his fam-

ily has been uttering for years". The warning comes after Kim threatened the US this week to fire missiles at Guam after the US sponsored a resolution imposing new economic sanctions on Pyongyang over its missile and nuclear weapons programmes.

Trump said that if Kim does anything with respect to Guam, or any place else that's an American territory or an American ally, he will "truly regret it and he will regret it fast".

Earlier in the day, the US President said military solutions against the nuclear-armed North Korean regime were "locked and loaded" for use if Pyongyang acted "unwisely".

"Military solutions are now fully in place, locked and loaded,"

should North Korea act unwise. Hopefully (North Korean leader) Kim Jong Un will find another path," he tweeted.

Pentagon officials quoted by Fox News as saying that the US military stands ready to "fight tonight" on the Korean Peninsula.

Trump also met with his national security team and told reporters he's still hoping for a "peaceful solution".

"Hopefully it will work out," he said. "Nobody loves a peaceful solution better than President Trump, that I can tell you".

The president made the comments after meeting with US ambassador Nikki Haley, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and national security adviser H R McMaster. – PTI

## US Prez warns of military action against Venezuela



WASHINGTON, Aug 12: US President Donald Trump today warned of a military action against Venezuela in response to its president Nicolas Maduro's power grab, describing the situation in the country as a "very dangerous mess".

Protests rocked the streets of Caracas and other Venezuelan cities after a July 30 vote that allowed Maduro to replace the opposition-dominated National Assembly with a new 545-member Constituent Assembly filled with his supporters.

The Trump administration has called Maduro a "dictator" and issued sanctions against him and more than two dozen other former and current officials, accusing Maduro's government of violating human rights and undermining the country's democracy.

"We have many options for Venezuela. And by the way, I'm not going to rule out a military

option. We have many options for Venezuela," Trump said after a meeting with his Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley and National Security Advisor H R McMaster.

"This (Venezuela) is our neighbour. You know, we're all over the world. And we have troops all over the world in places that are very, very far away. Venezuela is not very far away. And the people are suffering. And they're dying. We have many options for Venezuela, including a possible military option if necessary," Trump said.

Venezuelan Defence Minister Vladimir Padrino described Trump's remarks as an "act of craziness" and "supreme extremism".

Earlier in a statement, the White House said Trump refused a phone call from Maduro. – PTI

Lanka minister criticised for opposing Cabinet decision

COLOMBO, Aug 12: Sri Lanka's Justice Minister Wijeyadasa Rajapaksha is facing the wrath of the Cabinet members after he opposed a recently signed deal with China on the strategic Hambantota port.

Rajapaksha in an interview said that the USD 1.12 billion deal to handover the loss-making Hambantota port to China on a long lease was a sell out and he would make sure that it would be taken back and given to the people in the future.

State Minister Harsha De Silva said Rajapaksha had expressed his own opinion on any subject but it is wrong to make a statement on a subject on which a collective decision was taken by the Cabinet of which he was a member. The govt backbencher Mujibur Rahim said, "It was wrong for him to criticise outside what had happened after Cabinet approval." – PTI



Units of Patriot Advanced Capability-3 missiles which are deployed at the compound of the Japan Ground Self-Defence Force's Kochi garrison are seen in Konan, Kochi prefecture, Japan, in this photo taken by Kyodo on Saturday. – UNI

## Japan deploys missile defence over N Korea threat to Guam

TOKYO, Aug 12: Japan is testing its Patriot missile defence system after North Korea threatened to fire ballistic missiles over the country towards the US Pacific territory of Guam, reports said today.

Regional tensions are mounting as Washington and Pyongyang ratchet up their war of words, with President Donald Trump warning Pyongyang would "truly regret" any hostile action against the US.

The defence ministry started deploying the Patriot Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) system in Shimane, Hiroshima and Kochi in western Japan, which Pyongyng warned could be along its missiles' flight path, public broadcaster NHK said.

It was also to deploy the anti-missile system in neighbouring Ehime, NHK said.

Tokyo can never tolerate provocations from North Korea and the country's military, will take necessary measures

North Korean missiles or rockets that threaten to hit its territory.

The government hopes to complete deployment of the system in western Japan by Saturday morning, Kyodo News said, quoting defence ministry officials.

Yoshihide Suga, Japan's chief government spokesman, said earlier this week that Tokyo "can never tolerate" provocations from North Korea and the country's military will "take necessary measures."

In 2009, a North Korean rocket passed over Japanese territory without incident or any attempt to shoot it down.

At the time North Korea said it was launching a telecommunications satellite, but Washington, Seoul and Tokyo believed Pyongyng was testing an intercontinental ballistic missile. – AFP

13 civilians killed in Afghan battle

KABUL, Aug 12: An Afghan official says at least 13 civilians, including women and children, have been killed after their house was hit by mortars during a battle in northern Faryab province.

Gen Dilawer Shah Dilawer, Faryab provincial police chief, said today that three other civilians were wounded after two mortars hit the house last evening.

Dilawer says it isn't clear who targeted the house in Dawlat Abad district the Taliban or Afghan National Security Forces. He said a delegation has been sent to the area to find out more about the attack.

There was no immediate comment from the Taliban. Faryab province has witnessed an increase in violence in recent months and both sides have been accused of targeting civilians. – AP

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## Bolt wins relay heats in his penultimate race

LONDON, Aug 12: Usain Bolt began the countdown to his final race by anchoring Jamaica to the 4x100m relay finals with an easy win in the heats here today.

Running in his penultimate race of his illustrious career, Bolt eased past the finishing line as he helped the defending champions Jamaica win the second heat in 37.95 seconds, their season's best, to enter the final round with third best time.

The Jamaican quartet of Tyquendo Tracey, Julian Forte, Micheal Campbell and Bolt led the eight-team second heat from beginning to the end.

Experienced Yohan Blake, who finished fourth in the men's 100m final and failed to qualify for the final round in 200m, did not start in the heats but Bolt later said that he will return in the final race.

In his trademark style, Bolt grabbed the baton from Campbell, who ran the third leg, and blasted ahead of all his rivals and slowed down while approaching the finish line to conserve energy for the finals.

The top three from each of the two heats and next two fastest finishers from the remaining qualify for the final round.

The United States team of Mike Rodgers, Justin Gatlin, Bee Jay Lee and Christian Coleman had the first heat in 37.70 seconds, the world leading time this season, to clock the overall best time going into the final round.

Great Britain clocked the second best time of 37.76, while France were fourth with their season's best of 38.03.



Usain Bolt of Jamaica competes in the Men's 4x100 metres relay heats during day nine of the 16th IAAF World Athletics Championships in London, on Saturday.

China (38.20), who had finished second in the 2015 edition at home, Japan (37.21), who took a surprise silver in the Rio Olympics, Turkey (38.44) and Canada (38.48) – third in both 2015 World Championships and Rio Olympics – completed the eight-team final round which will run later tonight. – PTI

## Golfer Lahiri drops to tied 46th at PGA C'ship

CHARLOTTE (North Carolina), Aug 12: Indian golfer Anirban Lahiri carded two-over 72 in the second round to tie for 46th as he made the cut for the weekend rounds of the PGA Championship at the Quail Hollow Club here on Saturday.

Lahiri, who was tied 33rd after a 72 in the first round, struggled with his start, carding a bogey on the first hole before making five par consecutive par effort.

In the next three holes, the 30-year-old got as many bogeys as he completed the front nine with a four-over.

In the back-nine, he corrected his mistakes and played holeless. Two birdies (12th and 18th holes) helped him finish the day at 72 which takes his 36-hole total to three-over 145. – IANS

## East Bengal drub Rainbow AC 4-1

KOLKATA, Aug 12: Defending champions East Bengal started their Calcutta Football League (CFL) campaign on a high as they brushed aside Rainbow AC 4-1 in a first round tie here on Saturday.

Sahrur VP scored a hat-trick while Brandon Vanhalenremika hit the fourth goal to add gloss to the scoreline. Chittu Mondal scored the solitary goal for Rainbow AC.

East Bengal led 2-0 at half-time with Suhair netting both the goals. – IANS

## Online betting racket busted

NEW DELHI, Aug 12: An online betting racket has been busted here with the arrest of three bookies, police said on Saturday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police Madhur Verma said that the gang was arrested on Friday night from a rented house in north Delhi's Anand Vihar from where they were operating.

Verma identified the accused as Vinod Sharma, Vikas Choudhary and Mukesh Aggarwal – all residents of Delhi. Police also recovered 13 mobile phones, two laptops and three cameras, among other things, from the accused.

The trio had placed a bet of around Rs 400 for a cricket match of the Tamil Nadu Premier League (TNPL) on Friday, the Deputy Commissioner said.

According to police, the accused were using online betting websites to get details of the match, as live telecast of the match lags by four to five seconds from the actual match. – IANS

## Indian archers end campaign without a medal

BERLIN, Aug 12: Indian archers ended their campaign at the World Cup Stage 4 without a medal as men's compound team went down to lower-ranked Germany to lose out on a third-place finish here today.

The third seeded Indian team comprising Abhishek Verma, Aman Saini and Amanjeet Singh lost 225-227 to Germany, seeded fifth, in a bronze medal play-off match.

This was the last stage of the Archery World Cup and the Indian team returned empty-handed.

India's World Cup campaign has produced one team gold (Shanghai Stage 1) and one mixed team bronze (Antalya Stage 2) – all in the compound sections. The re-

curve archers have failed to win a single medal.

The Indian men's compound team carried sole medal hopes after rest of the Indians failed to progress beyond quarterfinals.

Both India and Germany were locked 57-all after the first end but the Germans produced a stunning second end to take a 115-111 lead.

The team of Henrie Horning, Marcel Traschel and Marcus Laube shot four perfect 10s out of a possible six, including X (closed) to the centre).

India shot a 58 in the third end but it was not enough to curtail the deficit and the team still enjoyed a three-point lead.

They eventually sealed the issue in the fourth end. – PTI

serve as he was broken three times and won just 65 percent of his first serve points.

"Today, I felt that I didn't get into the rhythm of the match and I didn't feel the ball well," he said. "Roger plays very fast and he didn't want to rally with me, so he went for the net, I think it was tough to control the ball. I got some decent rhythm going."

Federer posted his seventh consecutive win over the Spaniard and improved his season record to 34-2. He has a ATP Tour high five titles in 2017.

He will face Dutchman Haas in just the second career meeting between the two.

The pair met in a Davis Cup World Group play-off in 2012 with Federer winning 6-1, 6-4, 6-4.

Federer's chances of winning an-

other title this season were given a boost when top seed Rafael Nadal was upset by world No. 143 Denis Shapovalov of Canada on Thursday night.

"Today, I felt that I didn't get into the rhythm of the match and I didn't feel the ball well," he said. "Roger plays very fast and he didn't want to rally with me, so he went for the net, I think it was tough to control the ball. I got some decent rhythm going."

Federer served against Roberto Bautista Agut in the Rogers Cup quarterfinals on Friday.

Shapovalov, who needed a wild card to gain entry into the tournament, continued his Cinderella run Friday by rallying to beat Frenchman

Adrian Mannarino 2-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Mannarino became the fourth established ATP player this week to fall at the hands of the 18-year-old lefthanded Canadian.

Shapovalov's win over Mannarino came just 24 hours after he defeated 10-time French Open champion Nadal to get into the quarters. Shapovalov also upset former US Open winner Juan Martin Del Potro in the second round.

Shapovalov started slowly by dropping the first set before settling into the match in the second. After a rain delay, Shapovalov broke Mannarino to take a 4-2 lead in the second set. He served out the set in the ninth game.

"It's tough to come out and serve after a 12-minute rain delay. I knew

that was a very big turning point," Shapovalov said. "When I broke him I got that little bit of confidence, and I started believing in my shots again."

Hasebe rallied after losing the opening set to improve to 5-0 all-time against Schwartzman.

Hasebe had to overcome several injuries in his career but says he is finally in a good place.

"I wasn't the player I was before my injury," Hasebe said. "I was not as fast, I was insecure. I had a lot of problems with other injuries after. Then this kind of eats you up inside morally. It drains you because you know you can do better."

"I've been working on it a lot in the past few years. I started to believe more and more again. My game is better."

Fourth seeded Alexander Zverev defeated South Africa's Kevin Anderson in straight sets 7-5, 6-4 to set up a clash of rising stars with Shapovalov. – AFP

## Queen Schippers retains 200m crown

LONDON, Aug 12: Dutch sprinter Dafne Schippers held on to retain her world 200m title on Friday as the United States had another night to savour at the London Stadium and two experienced campaigners claimed more gold.

Schippers, who won bronze in the 100m, roared off the bend into the final straight and looked as if she would coast safely home.

But the Dutch woman began to tire up and only a savage dip at the line that saw her clock 22.05 seconds ended her past Ivorian Marie-Josée Ta Lou by just three-hundredths of a second.

It was Ta Lou's second silver after her efforts in the 100m won by American Tori Bowie, absent from the 200.

Shauna Miller-Uibo of the Bahamas, who in the space of 20 metres fell from clear leader to finish fourth in the 400m, had the consolation of claiming bronze in 22.15 sec.

For all the excitement of the sprint,

the most dramatic race of the evening was the women's 3000m steeplechase.

It had everything, from one of the four Kenyans actually running past the first water jump to a fall to smart tactical racing that had the crowd on their feet.

Olympic bronze medallist Emma Coburn finished the final 150 metres strongly for a first American steeplechase gold in a championships record 9 min 02.58 sec, with team-mate Courtney Frerichs taking silver ahead of Kenya's defending champion Hyvin Kepkemo.

In the field, American Britney Reese claimed a fourth world title in the long jump, having previously won in 2009, 2011 and 2013, and Poland's Paweł Fajdek a third consecutive gold in the men's hammer throw.

In a compelling hammer competition, Fajdek defended his title with a best of 79.11 metres.

There were also two silver medals



Dutch sprinter Dafne Schippers reacts after retaining her world title in the 200 metres at the world championships in London on Friday.

for Russian athletes competing under a neutral flag as their country's federation remained banned by the IAAF over a widespread state-sponsored doping programme.

Darya Klishina split the Americans

in the women's long jump, with veteran defending champion Tianna Bartoletta taking bronze, and Valeriy Pronkin was sandwiched in between Fajdek and bronze medal winner Wojciech Nowicki in the hammer. – AFP

## Lalit Modi says goodbye to cricket administration

NEW DELHI, Aug 12: Lalit Modi today resigned as President of the Nagaur District Association, marking an end to his presence in the Rajasthan Cricket body, which was banned by the BCCI for allowing the tainted administrator in its fold.

The 50-year-old Modi, who left India after being charged with money laundering, sent his resignation to both the RCA as well as BCCI CEO Rahul Johri.

"...I feel that the time is now ripe to pass on the baton to the next generation. Thus, today I want to bid goodbye to cricket administration for now," Modi wrote in his resignation letter.

Modi credited for creating the cash-rich and glitzy Indian Premier League in 2008, was expelled from the BCCI in 2010, which accused him of rigging bids and money laundering among other charges.

He has been living in exile

in London while facing an Enforcement Directorate inquiry for financial violations.

He, however, refused to let go of his position in the RCA, prompting the BCCI to altogether ban the association.

Modi suffered a setback

when his 22-year-old son Ruchi lost the RCA presidential elections earlier this year.

"I honestly believe a system is more important than any individual. Indian cricket is truly an example of my belief. I will always be a loyal fan of Indian cricket," he said.

Modi credited the BCCI to release the funds meant for the RCA after his resignation.

"...For Rajasthan, to aim higher, we need funds from the BCCI which is our rightful share. I have done my part for the betterment of Rajasthan cricket, and now it is your turn to honour your part of the promise! I repose my faith in you and the BCCI to do the right thing," he said. – PTI

## Barca prepare to meet Real in Spanish Supercup 1st leg

MADRID, Aug 12: FC Barcelona entertain Real Madrid in the first leg of the Spanish Supercup on Sunday night in what will be the first real indication of the relative strengths of the two major favourites for the La Liga title in the 2017-18 football season a week before the competition kicks off.

The two sides have already faced each other in pre-season with Barcelona winning 3-2 in Miami, but that was after barely more than a fortnight's training and with the now-departed Neymar on the side, reports Xinhua news agency.

Sunday's match which comes two weeks later should give a realistic view of both sides' respective merits.

Real Madrid had some poor results and performances in pre-season, but improved dramatically when defeating Manchester United 2-1 in the European Supercup on Tuesday night.

Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane will have to replace Luka Modric on Sunday as the Croatian is suspended and



## Wozniacki topples top seed Pliskova at Toronto tennis

TORONTO, Aug 12: Caroline Wozniacki survived three rain delays to book her spot in the WTA Toronto tournament semifinal with a marathon 7-5, 6-7 (7-3), 6-4 victory over world No. 1 Karolina Pliskova on Friday.

The sixth seeded Wozniacki posted her first career win over a one-time player in seven tries as she blasted eight aces in the two-hour, 56-minute centre

court match.

She next faces American Sloane Stephens, who saved three match points in the third set to oust Lucie Safarova 6-2, 1-6, 7-5 in their quarterfinal.

Pliskova fired five aces but was just 45 percent of her second-serve points.

"I thought she started off really strong and she was really well," Wozniacki said. "After that, I feel like I

stepped a little bit closer to the line just to try and take away a little bit of time. Once I kind of got on a roll, I started serving better."

"I just tried to stay steady, tried to take the ball on the rise and try to stay aggressive when I could keep my serves aggressive too."

Wozniacki's record against number ones included five losses to Serena Williams and one to Dimara Safina. – AFP

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2	5	6	7	8	1	9	4	3
7	2	5	9	3	8	6	4	
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## Saidul wins AG TT title

GUWAHATI, Aug 12: Saidul Alam Ahmed of Assam General Assam emerged champion in the men's singles of the IA and AD North East Zone Table Tennis Tournament held at Agartala, Tripura yesterday.

In the semifinal Saidul defeated YD Singh of Manipur 4-0 and in the final he downed Chinku Rajkhowa 4-2 who beat Manas Pratim Das of Assam 4-3 in the second semifinal.

In the closing function RK

Goel IA and AS Accountant General Tripura gave away the prizes.

The AG Assam team has already qualified to take part in the All India AG Table Tennis Tournament to be held at Nagpur.

## Dhawan, Rahul help India reach 329/6

PALIKELE, Aug 12: Shikhar Dhawan continued his golden run but a rare flop show from the famed middle-order saw Sri Lanka restricted India to 329 for 6 here on the first day of third cricket Test.

Courtesy Dhawan's (19) sixth Test hundred and a record 188-run opening stand with KL Rahul (95), India looked good for a score close to 400 after opting to bat.

However, some fine bowling in the final two sessions by left-arm spinner Mahinda Pushpakumara (3/40 in 18 overs) and chinaman Lakshman Sandakan (2/84 in 25 overs) helped Sri Lanka gain some foothold when stumps were drawn on the opening day.

In the final Cheteshwar Pujara (8), last Test's centurion Ajinkya Rahane (17) were

dismissed cheaply while skipper Virat Kohli (42) was dismissed after getting set.

However, Kohli had been reaching out to play the spinners from his crease and ended up edging the ball to first slip of Sandakan in the 79th over.

Ravichandran Ashwin (31) looked compact but became left-arm seamer Visswa Fernando's scalp at the fag end of the day.

Ashwin and Wriddhiman Saha (13 batting), who survived cheaply while skipper Virat Kohli (42) was dismissed after getting set.

The duo added 26 runs for the fifth wicket and negotiated the second new ball properly as well. But Ashwin was caught behind off Fernando, two overs before stumps leaving India with more work to do on the second day.

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## Assam Police Blues in semis

TIHU, Aug 12: Assam Police Blues cruised into the semifinals of the 40th Naroram Barman Football Tournament with a 1-0 victory against Nabajyoti AC of Guwahati in the first quarterfinal being played at the Chamata Stadium, near here today.

Chitijit Chutia of AP Blues netted the match winning goal. ASEB will take on Football Academy Jaraguri, Gosaigaon tomorrow, stated a release.

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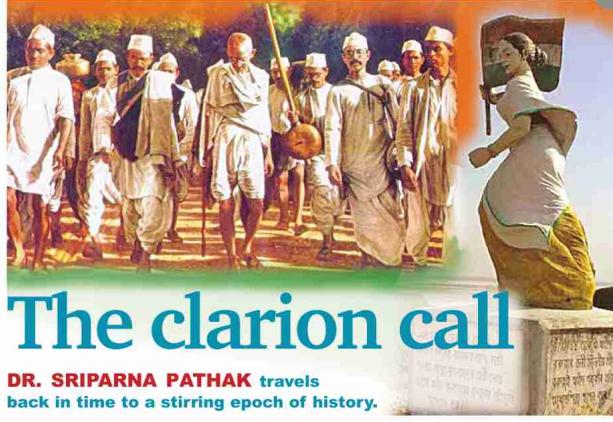


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# The Assam Tribune Sunday



## The clarion call

**DR. SRIPARNA PATHAK** travels back in time to a stirring epoch of history.

The idea of fighting a war without violence seems improbable. It sounds even more absurd when it comes to thinking of a war against exploiters who have taken advantage of a nation for centuries altogether. However, as strange as it may sound, India attained independence from the colonial British crown precisely by following principles of non-violence. The tyranny unleashed by the British took many forms, which included exorbitant taxes, drainage of wealth, slavery and even large-scale deaths as it was in the Bengal Famine or even the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre. Despite the atrocities, which makes the nation shudder till date, India stuck to her ideals of non-violence.

As World War II spread to various parts of the globe, the British – fighting against the Axis of Evil, were part of a coalition that fought for the ideals of democracy and freedom. Yet, the jewel in the Crown of the colonial British Empire, i.e., India was still getting strangulated at the hands of

British imperialism. On August 8, 1942, Mahatma Gandhi launched the Quit India Movement, demanding complete end to British rule of India. Mahatma Gandhi made a call to 'Do or Die'. The call was an urge to Indians to pour out onto the streets to protest against the British. Despite the fact that it was war time, the British arrested and imprisoned the entire Indian leadership in a matter of 24 hours.

Women were among the worst sufferers. It was not uncommon for British officials to forcefully enter houses, punish, beat and unleash all forms of violence on women. In Assam, too, the freedom fighters were the strongholds of British authority. The plan drawn under the leadership of Pushpalata Das was to hoist the flag peacefully on September 20. Kanaklata Barua, who was carrying the flag was shot. However, Mukunda Kakoti took up the flag just as Barua was shot and unfortunately Kakoti too was shot. The police opened fire on several peaceful protesters at Gohpur, Dhemaji, Behali and Sootes. Kanaklata Barua, Kahluli Devi and Kamuli Devi died of bullet injuries on the spot and many others were grievously injured. Kanaklata Barua, at the young age of 17, became the first martyr of the 1942 revolution in Assam.

Behali witnessed similar violence

unleashed by the police officials on September 20. With the determination of Do or Die, people aspiring

for freedom from the British rule demonstrated their resolve at the *thana*.

Amidst the *lathi* charge and the violence, an undaunted woman named Tilswari Mahanta hoisted the flag within the *thana* compound. In nearby Soote, thousands demonstrated and marched to the local *thana* to hoist the flag. Here, the police made no attempt to resist and allowed the processionists to go around the *thana* compound shouting *Vande Mataram* and *Quit India* slogans.

However, in Behampur, more martyrdom was witnessed. The Behampur Congress Office was under seize by the military and police during the freedom movement. However, the revolutionaries took back temporary control of the office and were celebrating their victory. The British sent in their reinforcements, and the joyful atmosphere of the place turned into a fearful spectacle of a battlefield. Echoes of *Vande Mataram* pervaded all around. People from nearby villages came out with national flags in their hands. Ratnamala and Bhogeswari Phukanani were leading the group. Phukanani was shot in the head by Capt. Finch – who was leading the British reinforcements. In Diumdima village under the Dhang area of Nagaon district, Kahluli Nath also laid down her life while going to capture the Dholajuli police station along with her husband Ponrani Nath.

While the Quit India Movement did

not succeed in immediately getting the British to quit India, it remains an integral part of Indian history, and displays the resolve of the people to have a free and independent nation. In his latest *Martyr Ki Baat*, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the need for today is not 'Do or Die', but it is to resolve, to come together, persevere and work relentlessly towards the making of a new India. He called for a mega campaign '*Sankalpa se Siddhi*' (resolve to attain). In this context, even in Assam, it is essential to remember the courage and the perseverance our leaders showed, even in the face of death, with the firm resolve of what was the objective of the time – to Do or Die!

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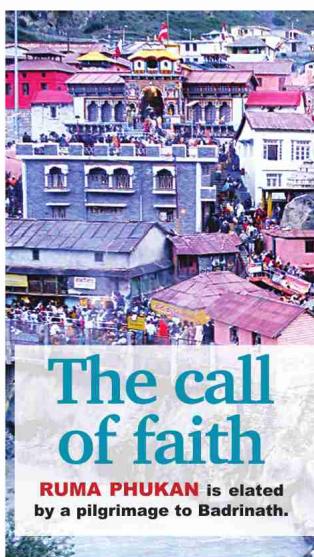
"Come with us," they said, but I declined. A few days later they said again, "Come na," more persuasively. This time I said, "I'll think about it." For two days I procrastinated, but the *bulava*, the call, had come, and I had to go.

We stopped first in Hardwar, the Gate of God, usually the starting point for most *yatrasis* to Badrinath and Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri. There we became one with the thousands who thronged Har ki Pauri for the evening *aarti*, and let ourselves merge into that sea of humanity and religious fervour.

Due to leave the next morning for Rudraprayag, we were dismayed by the news that evening of a massive landslide on the way, near Vishnuprayag. But faith, optimism and the unquenchable confidence of young Vasif, who would take us to our destination, made us decide to go on. We were now determined to complete what we had started! The line of cars, waiting bumper to bumper on NH58, was at least 10 kms long and we were stuck in that line for over six hours. Slowly we inched forward, and when we saw the site of the landslide, we gasped at the enormity of it. It seemed like half a mountain of solid rock had come crashing down, a portion of which had fallen into the gorge of the Alakananda on the other side, while the other half balanced itself miraculously over the road... We saw so many cars turning back that I could not help but think that perhaps their *bulava* had not come.

We travelled through some of the most spectacular mountain scenes in the world. How can it be otherwise, for this is where our gods reside. This is Uttarakhand's *Dev Bhoomi*, the abode of the gods. Throughout the route there is always a river flowing alongside, merging with and giving way to another, each with its own character, its distinctive hue; differences that are palpable even at the confluences, the *pravags*... Rudraprayag, Kamapravag, Devpravag, Vishnuprayag, Nandapravag... before they finally flow down to form the Ganga.

This was the path taken by Adi Shankaracharya about 1300 years ago when he traversed across these mountains with a band of followers from a small village in faraway Kerala to the uncharted land of Badrishetra. He had come with great devotion to offer prayers to the four-



RUMA PHUKAN is elated by a pilgrimage to Badrinath.

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armed form of Narayana, but was greatly disappointed to find only a *Shaligram Shila* in its place. Apparently, the statue had been hidden in the nearby Narad *kund* to protect it from robbers, and it was from there that Shankaracharya retrieved it and established it in the temple. The *Acharya* appointed one of his companions, a Namboodi Brahmin, for the service and worship of the Lord, and to this day it has remained an unbroken tradition that only a Namboodi Brahmin, called the *Rawal*, has the distinction of performing the *puja* and *aarti* in Badri nath's temple.

It was late that night when we reached the temple town. The next morning – as we joined the multitudes walking up the slope, the first sight of the Badrinath temple against the

## 3 MY SPACE Piklee Buragohain finds strength in a crisis.

## 4 IN BLACK AND WHITE Jahnavi Barua is inspired by the setting sun.



### UP CLOSE

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## Tossing and turning

**Eminent sleep specialist**

**DR. DEEPLI CHATTERJEE** explains why we are not sleeping well.

Remember that cute quote by Dr. Seuss, "You know you are in love when you can't fall asleep because reality is finally better than your dreams?" Not falling asleep is a matter that has serious ramifications, both at the personal and societal levels. If you are sleep-deprived, you are grouchy, out of sorts, disoriented, unable to make decisions. Your inter-personal relations go for a toss. There is strain between partners and spouses. You do not perform at your optimal level at the workplace, and airline pilots, captains of ships, train drivers who are fatigued and sleep-deprived have caused horrible accidents. But the strange thing is – doctors and fitness experts will counsel you to eat well, exercise daily but very little is being talked about sleep, or the lack of it.

This is where Dr. Deelip Chatterjee, a world-renowned U.S.-based sleep specialist offers advice and service that is not only life-altering, but also life-saving. According to him, diseases like diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease can be traced back to disturbances in sleep. "The biggest culprit of sleep disorder is our lifestyle," he says. "People work for long hours, watch too much television, eat fast foods, are socially isolated. Then we hold bright laptops close to our eyes, drink caffeinated drinks in the evening, which wreak havoc with our sleep rhythm." Like his sleep clinic in New Jersey, Dr. Chatterjee has just set up the MedSolutions Sleep Centre in Guwahati, which is one of the first of its kind in the country.



It is alarming to know that one in ten people suffer from some sort of sleep disorder. The tendency of poor sleepers is to get prescription pills from a doctor without going into the underlying causes of poor sleep, which may vary from past trauma to drinking coffee at bedtime.

Children require nine hours of sleep, whereas adults need seven-and-a-half. Sleep needs vary across ages and are impacted by lifestyle and health. However, there are recommendations that provide guidance on how much sleep you generally need. Good sleep hygiene practices include limiting daytime naps to 30 minutes, avoiding stimulants like caffeine and nicotine at bedtime, exercising for better sleep, steering clear of foods like heavy, fatty or fried meals, spicy dishes and ensuring adequate exposure to natural light.

Dr. Chatterjee, an alumnus of CMC, Vellore, has spent 33 years as a medical practitioner. He is based in New Jersey and is a qualified specialist in Sleep, Critical Care, Pulmonary and Internal Medicine. He believes in treating sleep disorders without recourse to sedatives, which have harmful side-effects and only compound the problem. He is concerned that the treatment of illnesses such as depression does not include a sleep test at a sleep clinic.

"Nothing is more ridiculous than the attitude that 'I'll sleep when I die.' Sleep has a tremendous impact on our well-being and Nature has decreed we spend one-third of our lives sleeping. Sleep affects our memory, capacity for sex, blood pressure, obesity and slowing down of our cognitive functions."

City noise hammers sleep to a great degree. So do bright lights. Many people have a sleep avoidance tendency and even boast of being night owls. But the body clock needs to be respected, as does the circadian rhythm.

"If we look back at the lifestyle of our forefathers, a lot of things fall into place. There was no electricity, no television. By dusk they had dinner and went to bed. They had the big sleep. They woke up at about three and ate something to go back to the small sleep. They suffered few of the lifestyle disease we do now," he states.

Dr. Chatterjee has tied up with the Assam Government to conduct studies on sleep disorders to reduce the burden of healthcare. Describing sleep medicine as social, responsible, preventive medical care, good sleep would vastly improve attention deficit disorder, help treat hypertension, Alzheimer's and other maladies. Sleep is vital in shutting down organs and healing them.

Unlike Robert Frost, it would be wrong to think of miles to go before one sleeps. Turn off the light, curl up with a blanket and close your eyes. It could save your life.

## WOMEN PLUS

Mumeninaz Zaman

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# Under siege

**How women are treated reveals the society we live in.**

"The day a woman can walk freely at midnight on the roads, that day we can say that India achieved its independence." — M.K. Gandhi

**W**omen in India now actively participate in areas including education, politics, media, sports, science and technology, art and culture, and economics. But there is no denying the fact that misogyny and patriarchy form the backbone of the Indian society, where women are still victimised, humiliated, tortured and exploited.

Social evils like — illiteracy, female infanticide, neglect of women's health, and crimes including rape, acid attack, domestic violence, dowry death, eve-teasing, trafficking, etc., are some of the horrendous acts prevailing in the society.

Sad but true that this part of the country, which was once lauded as the "no-crime zone" against women, is now notorious for crimes against women. This makes me think, "Do we really exist in a society where female goddesses are being worshipped on one hand, and on the other hand, their self-respect is being ripped off?"

The Jorhat girl, Shubh Laxmi's incident is a case in point. No doubt, her confession about eve-teasing or street harassment on social media was an inspiration for many girls who, otherwise, most-



ly prefer to remain silent. Instead of speaking out about harassment and discrimination, women avoid the perpetrator, they fear and ignore their behaviour, or make excuses for minimising the pain of being abused in the society.

Living in an age of women empowerment, women all over the world are working shoulder to shoulder with men. But unfortunately, many of them face exploitation and harassment, which can be of diverse types, including social, emotional,

physical, mental and sexual. Apart from that, witch-hunting is another major concern prevailing in the State, which, in fact, is costing many innocent lives. Superstitious beliefs, vested interests and revenge are the reasons behind branding women as witches or Dams. As a result of which the victims are raped, kidnapped, murdered or even exiled from the society.

It is said that knowledge is power, and education is the only weapon to change the mindset of the people. The disheartening fact is that even the elite groups of people, despite being well educated and highly qualified, indulge in shameless acts like molestation, sexual assault and rape. This never-ending process of gender discrimination seems to be increasing at an alarming rate, regardless of the accused being an illiterate or educated.

It's not only the question of imparting formal education, but to initiate the ethics for a stable and equal society for all, moral values, and respect for feminism amongst the male chauvinists. A son or daughter are both God's gifts, they have equal right to life and are equally necessary to keep the world going.

Parents, guardians, authorities, law enforcement, social groups, including NGOs need to come up with constructive and practical solutions to curb the problem of gender crimes in the State. Today, women do not feel safe on the streets as well as at home, which is compelling them to lead a life of fear.

Be it at the workplace, home or any other public place, whenever women are subjected to discrimination, they are the ones who have to stand up for themselves.

We talk about feminism and women empowerment, but empowering women is not just limited to granting of any special status or privilege to them. It depends upon various other factors, right from respecting a respectable and dignified life to a stable, social, well-educated, financially independent and legally secure life. Women empowerment means conferring upon women the ability or power to make their own choices, to think, speak and participate independently, because women are the most beautiful creations of God.

## RELATIONSHIP

Maud Purcell

**T**hey might be 30 or 75. They come in all colours, shapes, sizes and income brackets. It doesn't matter how long they've been together. Whatever the demographics, when you see a happy couple, you just know it!

How do these couples stay in love, in good times and in bad? Fortunately, the answer isn't through luck or chance. As a result of hard work and commitment, they figure out the importance of the following relationship "musts."

Happy couples and their secrets:

- Develop a realistic view of committed relationships.

Recognise that the crazy infatuation you experienced when your romance was new won't last. A deeper, richer relationship, and one that should still include romance, will replace it. A long-term relationship has ups and downs, and chances it to be all sunny and roses all the time is unrealistic.

## • Work on the relationship

An untended garden develops weeds that can ultimately kill even the most flourishing plants. And so it is with relationships. It is important to address problems and misunderstandings immediately. A good relationship, like anything you want to succeed in life, must be worked on and tended to on a regular basis.

## Staying in love

**Being close as a couple calls for a lot of heart.**

## • Spend time together

There is no substitute for shared quality time. When you make a point of being together, without kids, pets and other interruptions, you will form a bond that will get you through life's rough spots. Time spent together should be doing a shared activity, not just watching television.

## • Make room for "separateness"

Perhaps going against conventional wisdom, spending time apart is also an important component of a happy relationship. It is healthy to have some separate interests and activities and to come back to the relationship refreshed and ready to share your experiences.

## • Make the most of your differences

Stop and think: What most attracted you to your partner at the beginning? I'll almost guarantee that it was exactly the thing that drives you most insane today. Take a fresh

look at these differences. Try to focus on their positive aspects and find an appreciation for those exact things that make the two of you different from one another.

## • Don't expect your partner to change

If both you and your partner stop trying to change each other, you will eliminate the source of most of your arguments. At the same time, each of you should focus on giving the other more of what you know the other person wants, even if it doesn't come naturally.

## • Accept that some problems cannot be solved

There may be issues upon which you cannot agree. Rather than expending wasted energy, agree to disagree, and attempt to compromise or to work around the issue.

## • Communicate!

Lack of communication is one reason why even good relationships

fail. And here is a useful format for doing so, especially when dealing with incendiary topics: Listen to your partner's position, without interrupting him or her. Just listen. When he or she is finished, summarise what you heard him or her say. If you can, empathise with your significant other.

## • Respect your partner

Treating your sweetheart with respect is likely to get you the same in return. And regularly reminding them how much they mean to you will enrich your relationship in indescribable ways. When you say, "I love you," pause for a moment to really mean it.

Making these secrets an integral part of your relationship won't be easy. In fact, your efforts may initially seem like planted seeds that never come up. If you maintain your efforts, however, you will likely reap what you sow.

## Manipuri yellow peas

**Ingredients:**

- Yellow peas, dried ..... 1 cup
- Mustard oil ..... 2 tbsp
- Onion, sliced ..... 1 tbsp
- Bay leaf ..... 1
- Chinese chives ..... 5 stalks
- Red chillies, dried ..... 2
- Ginger, grated ..... 1 tbsp
- Baking soda ..... ½ tsp
- Salt ..... to taste



browned.  
Stir in the Chinese chives and ginger and sauté until aromatic.

Add the cooked peas, along with their cooking liquid, salt and baking soda and bring to a boil.

Then reduce heat to medium and simmer until the peas are soft. Stir frequently to keep from burning on the bottom.

Pour in some boiling water, if required, for the right consistency and mix well.

Serve hot, garnished with chopped chives.



**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.

## Manipuri fish stew

**Ingredients:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| ● Rohu fish                              | ..... 5 pieces                               |
| ● Bay leaves                             | ..... 2                                      |
| ● Fenugreek seeds                        | ..... ¼ tsp                                  |
| ● Mustard seeds                          | ..... ½ tsp                                  |
| ● Onion (medium), sliced                 | ..... 1                                      |
| ● Chinese chives, cut into 1-inch pieces | ..... 5                                      |
| ● Garlic, chopped                        | ..... 1 tsp                                  |
| ● Ginger, chopped                        | ..... 1 tsp                                  |
| ● Turmeric powder                        | ..... 1 tsp                                  |
| ● Coriander powder                       | ..... 1 tsp                                  |
| ● Roasted cumin powder                   | ..... 1 tsp                                  |
| ● Chilli powder                          | ..... ½ tsp                                  |
| ● Potato, cubed                          | ..... 1                                      |
| ● Green peas                             | ..... ¼ cup                                  |
| ● Green chillies                         | ..... 1-2                                    |
| ● Ripe tomato, sliced                    | ..... 1                                      |
| ● Fish masala (optional)                 | ..... ½ tsp                                  |
| ● Fermented fish (optional)              | ..... 1                                      |
| ● Mustard oil                            | ..... 2 tbsp, plus extra for frying the fish |
| ● Hot water                              | ..... 1 cup                                  |
| ● Coriander leaves, chopped              | ..... 2 tbsp                                 |

**Method:**

Sprinkle the fish pieces with half a teaspoon of turmeric powder and salt and leave to marinate for 20 minutes.

In a large pan, heat a few tablespoons of oil and fry the fish pieces on both sides until browned, then remove and set aside.

Heat the mustard oil in a separate pan until smoking.

Reduce heat and add bay leaf, fenugreek and mustard seeds and sauté briefly.

Add the Chinese chives, sliced onion, ginger and garlic and fry, until the onions are translucent.

Now add cumin powder, coriander powder, red chilli powder, fish masala and remaining turmeric powder, and sauté for 2-3 minutes. Add a few spoons of water, if necessary, to prevent spices from sticking to the bottom of the pan.

Stir in the shelled peas, chopped tomatoes, green chillies, potatoes and salt to taste.

Add the fried fish and the fermented fish, if using.

Pour in the hot water and cook until done.

Reduce the flame and break the fish gently and cook until the sauce thickens. Stir the chopped coriander through the curry and serve with rice.



## ALPHALIFE

Rashmi Narzary

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## Shoe sonata

**You can actually identify wearers by their shoes.**

**'S**o for those who love to kick off their shoes and break into a dance every now and then,' he said with a mighty guffaw, 'here's a limerick to dance to...

*Shoe! Shoe!*

*Says so much about you*

*The next time you ignore Shoe,*

*Mind! Someone's watching you.*

*And if he annoys, go hurt at him a Shoe...*

She couldn't resist a giggle. That only encouraged him to go on. 'And so there are a number of ways you can read a person just by looking at the shoes he or she wears, you see,' he said and went on to narrate.

It's not only the time of reading this piece, but to initiate the ethics for a stable and equal society for all, moral values, and respect for feminism amongst the male chauvinists. A son or daughter are both God's gifts, they have equal right to life and are equally necessary to keep the world going.

Parents, guardians, authorities, law enforcement, social groups, including NGOs need to come up with constructive and practical solutions to curb the problem of gender crimes in the State. Today, women do not feel safe on the streets as well as at home, which is compelling them to lead a life of fear.

Be it at the workplace, home or any other public place, whenever women are subjected to discrimination, they are the ones who have to stand up for themselves.

We talk about feminism and women empowerment, but empowering women is not just limited to granting of any special status or privilege to them. It depends upon various other factors, right from respecting a respectable and dignified life to a stable, social, well-educated, financially independent and legally secure life. Women empowerment means conferring upon women the ability or power to make their own choices, to think, speak and participate independently, because women are the most beautiful creations of God.



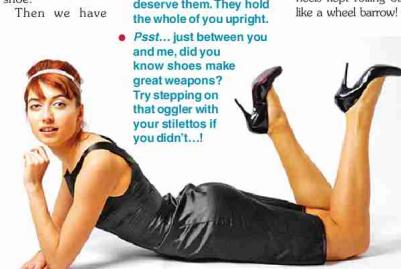
those in **The Gummy Bear Class** – who have gum, the chewing sort, stuck loyalty under their shoes. Then, of course, there are the glittered and bling-ed strappy footwear worn by those in **The Dhinchak Category**; footwear that doesn't really complement the formal trousers and coat that hang some way up the same anatomy.

Of course, there are also shoes which complement the dress very well but because they are not so comfortable, the wearer would hurt them off their feet while the seminar was still going on. Who, anyway, would keep a watch under the chairs and the round table? Hell, they didn't know someone did! And these shoes belonged to, well, you guessed it... **The Hurler Davidson Category**. And later, when it was time to get up and they can't seem find a shoe because they had hurled it way too far, they drop a pen to pick it.

There are also shoes worn by people in **The Lazy Daisy Category**; people who didn't really get to see how their limbs are doing below their bursting bustline. Nor did they care to slump on to that bustline for 30 minutes everyday just to tie and untie obstinate shoe laces. So this class preferred shoes which came without laces. The slip-on sorts, even in formals and leathers.

One particularly amazing gentleman, large of heart and even larger of girth, managed to cast a pair of shoes with velcro and placed himself in the **Velcro Category**! These velcro he fastened by pressing one foot over the other and yet never bending, lest he bothered his blessedly bulging belly.

"Talking of shoe sonata," he said, his face breaking into an affectionate smile, "I know someone who, when her children were younger, always bought shoes a size larger than they required, so they could wear them for a year instead of the stipulated six months for a vigorously growing teenager. Sadly, her children still got to wear the shoes only for six months. Because in the first six months, the shoes kept slipping out of the child's feet because they were too big for the feet." Her sort makes up **The Heel Barrow Category**, because the heels kept rolling out like a wheel barrow!



## FICTION

**Debhatuti Barooah Saikia**  
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**T**hat evening, Rimi would meet her father after 20 long years, here in Washington, far from her home. Like a crazy dream, she decided to find her father in a foreign country where she knew no one. And find she did. It is never too difficult with the internet in any case, thought Rimi. But then, of course, the will to connect is another thing altogether. So consumed was she in her thoughts, she barely realised that she had missed the house. She again looked at the address saved in her cell. It's okay to be nervous, she reminded herself. With a deep breath, she walked straight to the porch and rang the door bell, where she was promptly greeted by a beep from the security system. She felt a little irritated and also silly, for not getting used to the first world's way of living. If only she could storm inside the house and meet the man straightforward. Her impatience was growing, and she spoke rather rudely to the voice at the speaker. This, of course, was nothing compared to what he had done, she thought. She was still waiting for the door to open and looked around her surroundings. It was a beautiful house, with a manicured lawn, complete with a luxurious pool. From the looks of it, it was apparent her doctor father was well established and was living the great American dream.

A light breeze gently touched her hair. She suddenly started feeling the autumn chill. A thousand questions ran around her mind. Would he even recognise her? Or would he cry and hug her?

After a brief while, the mahogany door opened and a brown-haired, young teenaged girl stood in front of her. 'And you are... Reedmn?' the girl stammered. 'I am Dr. Riddhima Baruah, from India. I wanted to meet Dr. Naren Baruah.' 'Do you like have an appointment or something? He never meets patients or interns at home, you see...' said the girl with a wry smile. 'No, actually, I am on a personal visit here... I am related to him,' said Rimi, curiously. 'Dad,' the girl yelled. 'Your folks from India are here! Dad? She was his half-sister then, Rimi thought. The girl took her inside and she was made to sit in the



## A mother's cause

living room. As she heard the footsteps down the staircase, her heart pounded fast and she could feel a lump in her throat. Yes? Miss? He said in the same baritone voice, she heard years ago. She turned and saw him.

There he was. But he looked so different from what she remembered of him.

He looked so American. 'It is me, Rimi, Deuti,' she cried. 'Do you remember me?' Naren looked stunned. His face flushed red, eyes stood still as if he had seen a ghost. He couldn't believe his eyes. 'Oh Rimi, you are so grown up... You know I could have never recognised you, had you... What are you doing here? I mean, when did you come here?' Is Monimala also here? How is Ronnie?' he asked, without a pause. He looked nervous and excited at the same time. But soon his face fell and he looked away. 'It is just that you have taken me by surprise. I mean, I had never really expected you here suddenly... After all these years, I never had the courage to...,' he mumbled.

'Please don't talk to me like that. I have not come here to ruin your perfect life nor am I interested to know how you have fared here. I have come to Washington to present my research paper on Oncology at an International Conference, just in case

you thought I came all the way for you. I met Dr. Senthil S. from St. Thomas, who asked me if I knew you.'

'Dr. Senthil and I were together at the fellowship programme. We know each other well. You know about our surroundings. It was a beautiful house, with a manicured lawn, complete with a luxurious pool. From the looks of it, it was apparent her doctor father was well established and was living the great American dream.'

'Oh, please! Spare me the rest. I am here to only ask you why you did this to us? There was no harm in letting us know that you have left us for good. You could have ceremoniously left Mom with a formal divorce, instead of forcing her to live a lie all her life, that she is still your wife,' Rimi shrieked with anguish. 'Year after year, me and Ronnie da used to wait for you to visit us once, but you didn't. It was only when Rajiv khura told us seven years later that you will never return to India, we knew that you have abandoned us for America.'

'Look, I am really sorry for what I did. But I am entirely not responsible for this. I had asked Monimala to come with me when I had come for the fellowship programme, but she refused.

She just loved her life in India. She never really wanted to do anything with her life anyway. I told her that both of us could immigrate first and then bring along you kids. But she would not agree.

She could not part with you kids. I told her it was only for a few years till we settled down. But she refused. You cannot run a family of four on a fellowship stipend here. Moni was never ambitious, nor could she move with the changing times. Three years later, I was selected for the Advanced Research Study programme at the University and I got my visa extended. Moni wanted me to come back to India. How could I lose such an opportunity? Moni was never progressive in her outlook. She was too laid back... 'Go on, Rimi said.

'Meanwhile, I met Dr. Martha at the university and we fell in love. I realised that Martha and I were so alike, we hit it off instantly. So, I was married. So,

one fine day, I called Moni to tell her that we could not stay together. I told her about Martha. I told her about my dreams and my life here. But it didn't matter to her. All she wanted was her silly idea of a happy family. Happy families don't exist in reality. Here, she wanted the four of us to stay together when we both looked in the opposite direction. She just wanted to hang on to this dead marriage of ours. So, I thought, let it be. I agreed to send you...'

'And that was so convenient,' Rimi cut him short.

'All you thought of was about you. Your dreams, your life... Let the poor woman deal with the two little kids you left behind. Why bother? Do you know why she lived a lie all this while? For Ronnie da and me. It is tough to raise children in our society when the father abandons them for another woman. It is tough for a divorced woman to go to work and not get judged at every step in her life. At least with the kind of social taboo that was there back then. It can be heartbreaking to see despair, hopelessness in your child's eyes. Nevertheless, now that I have met you, please give me your postal address for courier. I will formally send you Mai's divorce papers and clear up this mess forever. Please sign and send them back. I am getting married next year. That way she will be able to do my kanyadaan. She is my father in the true sense. Let the world know that.'

She picked up her coat and rushed out. Tears rolled down her cheeks. And then the phone rang. It was her mother. Rimi laughed and cried together. Like some magic, her mother always knew when her child needed her.

## People Speak

**Sunday Reading** invites all readers to speak out on vital issues that touch their lives. Our next topic is – **"What purpose do beauty pageants serve?"** Send in your response, including your name, address and passport-size coloured photograph – latest by August 22, addressed to: **People Speak, SUNDAY READING, The Assam Tribune, Chandmari, Guwahati-781001**, or e-mail us at [sundayreading@assamttribune.com](mailto:sundayreading@assamttribune.com)

**Today's topic**  
**Have we used our independence wisely?**

Ur amazing technological progress, world class communication networks, the digital leap that our nation is taking all point to the wise use of our freedom.

The freedom movement led by Mahatma Gandhi, more of a saint than a politician, had unleashed a centripetal nationalism in India and made us feel that we are one nation, in spite of our diversity. When non-political giants like Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan or Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam adorned the sacred Chair of the President, the soul of India felt nourished and we exercised our freedom most wisely. But the current centrifugal tendencies pave the path of disunity. Linguistic and religious minorities feel insecure, the dalits and the tribals feel socially discriminated against. The criminalisation of politics, coalition governments that bring together strange bedfellows, politicisation of religion, double-faced politics with hidden agenda, communalism and religious fundamentalism enjoying tacit political patronage – are all indicators of the unwise use of our independence.

**Lukose Cheruvalel SDB,**  
Assam Don Bosco University Management,  
Board Member, Executive Member of the Don Bosco Society, Guwahati Chapter,  
Founder, Snehalya.

India celebrates Independence Day to commemorate our freedom from the British. It's the day that brings people together. It is the day to pay tribute to the freedom fighters who had sacrificed their lives for us. But we mostly see a picture of *bandhs* and boycott calls by known/ unknown organisations. We are tired of such news. Our media has become obsessed with failures and disasters. Are we heading in the right direction? We need to motivate young people to be better citizens. It's high time we pledge to root out evil from our country.

**Kamal Baruah,**  
Guwahati.

During the first decade of the post-Independence era, most people were illiterate and politically unaware. So, they thought Independence was a rule by the representatives of our own people. The representatives in our State Assemblies and the Parliament belonged to the rich upper class. They enacted and planned for the greater interest of that class. So, a large part of the Indian population received little or no attention. During the last 70 years of our independence, the rich have become richer and the poor poorer. Instead, our independence should have been used to uplift the poor, develop our agriculture and industry, make India self-sufficient, prosperous and peaceful, along with creative development in the socio-cultural field.

**Debasish Sut,**  
Tezpur University.

No, till date, we have not used our independence wisely. When leaders of the freedom movement confronted the British Government, they were mere freedom fighters. But post-Independence, some of these freedom fighters became worshippers of nasty dynastic politics, which is witnessed even today.

We could have improved the condition of the poor, abolished casteism and religious bigotry and communal clashes, constructed roads properly, and lastly, we could have uprooted the very base of corruption. If we would have used our independence wisely, the country's healthcare sector, communication, education departments could have improved tremendously.

**Ashim Kumar Chakraborty,**  
Pandu, Guwahati.

I do not think so. It has been seven decades since the British left our country, and people have become free from the clutches of colonial rule and have gained access to their Fundamental Rights. But, people have misused these basic rights. Corruption, terrorism and extortion rule the day. Freedom of speech is only meant for the rich and politically powerful. It's still a distant dream for the poor and downtrodden. It's the poor who have to compromise everyday in each and every field. Work culture, punctuality, discipline are in a sorry state, which is the main reason for the slow progress of our State. The freedom that has been achieved after so many sacrifices now seems to be meant for only a limited few.

**Dr. Arpana Hazarika,**  
Associate Professor,  
Gauhati Medical College.

## MIND MIRROR

**Dr. Jayanta Das**

The author is a senior consultant psychiatrist. This column is aimed at creating awareness about mental health and well-being. E-mail your queries to [sundayreading@assamttribune.com](mailto:sundayreading@assamttribune.com)

My nine-year-old son has been diagnosed with ADHD and intellectual disability. He suffers from autism, too. It is difficult to control him. Please suggest some ways to rein in his unruly behaviour.

— S. Das

Ans. Most of the time, intellectual disability and features of autism and ADHD can occur concurrently. Parents face enormous stress in caring for their affected child. Later, the nature of stress can span over several aspects of family life such as daily care demands, emotional distress (maternal depression), interpersonal difficulties (parental discord), financial problems and adverse social consequences. A child with MR, autism and ADHD traits can be managed with behavioural techniques. You can follow these simple behavioural modification techniques:



## Parenting the mentally challenged

ple behavioural modification techniques:

• **Disregarding:** Ignore the behaviour (as it is not occurring at all) but continue paying attention to the child.

• **Redirecting:** Catch the child just as an odd behaviour begins and guide the child towards appropriate behaviour.

• **Limit-setting:** Clearly communicate to the child what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour and enforce these.

• **Blocking:** Prevent the behaviour from being completed (example – aggression).

• **Make note and reward the child** while he or she shows desirable behaviour or whenever undesirable behaviour is absent.

Look at the abilities, rather than the deficits in the child – what the child is able to do and what can be taught, rather than what he/she is not able to do. Notice success and praise them; however small these may be. Try to learn the techniques of training and practise with them. Remember that they are slow in learning – but they can still be taught with patience, persistence and the correct approach.

Find out about services that are available and utilise them. There is no need to feel ashamed about having a retarded child. There is no need to blame oneself or other family members for the child's condition.

Do not overprotect such children; encourage them as far as possible to stand on their own feet. Make contact with other parents and join parents' organisations for mutual support. Keep normal life intact, and work together as a family to solve problems. Do not cut off your relationships with relatives and friends. Try to arrange daily routines in such a way that everybody gets some time off from the child. On many occasions, medicines may also be required for the management of the child.

family members and the unconditional warmth bestowed upon me by my colleagues and friends. And as icing on the cake, these little angels, who had been in the war front before I came in and who had been trying hard to chase away the alien enemies from their bodies valiantly, acted as a catalyst. Watching them demand an ice-cream just before chemotherapy or asking their parents when they could go home and ride their tricycles, or believing the nurse telling them that the healing fairy was on the way and would wave her magic wand at them if they allowed her to push the injection, I tried not to curse life.

Once I had the privilege of taking chemotherapy just near the bed where Mihika was sleeping after being given a strong injection. I was watching and admiring the courage of her parents when a nurse came with the blood report that tested her sugar levels. Her mother had a million dollar smile when she came to know that her three-year-old daughter was, at least, free of diabetes.

Then there was this little boy, whose physical strength was being sucked away either by cancer or by the heavy doses of medicines used for its treatment. Once, he vehemently refused to take chemotherapy unless and until an ice-cream was given to him. Receiving a green signal from the doctor, his father rushed to bring him one. Having finished his ice-cream, he surrendered himself for a stint with pain.

There was another child whom we

Team were rolling down his cheeks but now he was devoid of even the energy to make the accompanying sounds.

We met many kids like them during our stay there and each time we saw them running and playing while waiting with their parents for their turn to meet the oncologist, we thanked God for not letting them be aware about what was happening to them. A packet of stickers given by their doctor was enough to make them happy for the rest of the day. We must salute their parents too, for it needs exemplary courage to smile at their children when they are haunted by words such as chemotherapy, radiation, injection, surgery and what not. I have not met Mihika and her friends for a long time, but I hope that by now they have learned that C does not stand for cancer, but for chocolate.

## C for chocolate



They were just like the kids attending the next door kindergarten but with tubes and pipes hanging all over their bodies.

# Taking it slow

The other day, I heard about an interesting custom followed by a residential school some distance from the city. At sunset, students and staff gather together to watch the sun set. They sit in silence as the sun sinks in the evening sky bringing the day to a close. For a moment, I was perplexed as to the reason behind this ritual, but only for a moment as the thinking behind this practice came to me swiftly and very clearly. I visualised myself sitting down in a quiet spot to watch the sun go down. Immediately, I was filled with a sense of peace and calm. If just the thought brought in its wake such serenity how much more powerful an emotion would be evoked if one actually watched the sun set every day? It had been months, maybe even years, since I had noticed the sun setting. As with every other event in our busy days and lives, I had not given it a second thought.

So, that day, I sat down to watch what little I could see of the setting sun in the tiny strip of sky visible from my balcony. The sun sank slowly in the scrap of sky framed by tall apartment buildings and offices, colouring it the most vivid of crimson and peaches. As the minutes passed, the colours deepened, while below, in the street and gardens, shadows began to gather. A curious thing happened, as I sat watching the sound of cars and buses and television sets faded and were replaced, instead, by the sound of bird call as flocks of birds flew home to roost. The cooing of turtle doves somewhere in the distance, the cheeky call of a *bulbul* nearby in the bushes below and the song of the *kool* made their way to me. The evening breeze wafted in the faint perfume of jasmine, followed by the more robust yet equally comforting aroma of garlic frying in someone's kitchen. An image of my grandmother cooking came to me and I could almost taste the delicious food laced with ghee and love that she had cooked for us when we were

children. The sun had sunk lower now, the sky was a dim blue, a trace of crimson remained only in the lower reaches. In the mid-distance could hear children at play, their laughter and calls rising to a crescendo before they finally chose to go home. The children reminded me of my cousins and I playing in the railway field in front of my grandfa-

## IN BLACK AND WHITE

Jahnavi Barua



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ther's house, of how we would stretch the play to the very last moment, resisting going home to the very end. I smiled.

The sun disappeared, leaving the sky lit by the faintest of afterglow. I sat in the gathering darkness, my heart still and filled with a tranquillity I had not felt for a long time. The tumult of the day, the chaos of the past months seemed to have been wiped away, at least for the time being, and I felt tethered to the ground in a more solid way than before. I had experienced unexpected magic that evening. The act of concentrating on the sun setting had slowed the flow of blood in my veins. While the sun held centre stage, so many small things in the periphery came into focus, as if through a zoom lens – the birds wheeling their way home, flowers exhaling at the end of day and announcing their fragrant presence,

Jahnavi Barua is a writer based in Bengaluru.

## FORECAST

AUGUST 14 – 20, 2017

### ARIES

(MAR 21 – APR 19)

You are tolerant of others but you also need the freedom to do precisely what suits you. You will love starting comparisons, making provocative statements of yourself as more moral than others.

### TAURUS

(APR 20 – MAY 20)

The more you give, the more everyone will think you are absolutely marvelous. Life is never perfect and neither are you, so you'll fail at times to accomplish all you set out to do.

### GEMINI

(MAY 21 – JUN 20)

Certain close partners may have become more critical and are demanding more of your time and energy. You are certainly being made aware of your commitments.

### CANCER

(JUN 21 – JUL 20)

Important, influential or strong-minded people will be drawn into your orbit, but you need to tread softly, and not say everything you feel or think.

### LEO

(AUG 22 – SEP 21)

Try not to be jealous or possessive or get yourself unsettled if things aren't going precisely as you want. You will tend to overreact to things, hearing slights where none exist.

### VIRGO

(AUG 22 – SEP 21)

Other people may be demanding quite a lot of you, so make sure you don't end up feeling resentful. Having to fit in all the time with other people's plans can be a bit of a bore.

### LIBRA

(SEP 22 – OCT 21)

You want to be flamboyant and exuberant, to be in the spotlight, basking in the lime light. Clearly not a time to be keeping your feelings to yourself.

### SCORPIO

(OCT 22 – NOV 21)

This is a good time to be self-protective and retreat into a private place. So much the better if you can manage to take some time off and put your feet up.

### SAGITTARIUS

(NOV 22 – DEC 21)

Constantly on the move, chattering animatedly as you go, you'll be skimming the surface and cutting a few corners. You may be saying things to others in a way that they don't entirely understand.

### CAPRICORN

(DEC 22 – JAN 20)

If you are feeling more intense than usual, try to stay with it. Most of the time the pressure of life pushes you into avoiding action.

### AQUARIUS

(JAN 20 – FEB 18)

Try not to get hypersensitive or overreact to other people's comments. Sometimes you can just get yourself worked up about things that are not as important as you're making them out to be.

### PISCES

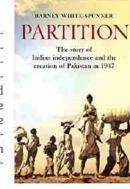
(FEB 19 – MAR 20)

If you're around others too much, you'll end up being subjected to their demands. So you might as well give yourself permission to go off and do what you want to do for yourself.

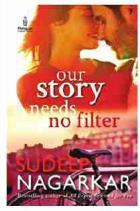
## PAGE TURNER

Bringing you the chatterati are talking about.

### Partition



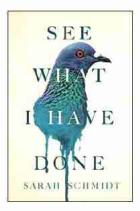
### Our Story Needs No Filter



### Goodbye, Vitamin



### See What I Have Done



Based on the true story of how Lizzie Borden murdered her father and stepmother in cold blood with an axe one morning, this chilling book dares to go into the unknown heart of the story, revealing the motives and passions of a family. This century old crime story comes alive in Schmidt's hands.

## 5 THINGS/ Something new

# "Innovation is the best way to serve the common people."

Inventor UDDHAB BHARALI lists his people-friendly innovations.

### 1 Creating to help

Innovation is nothing but application of common sense of common people. Appropriate technological innovation is the best way to serve the common people. For that I have set up a machine design and research centre named UKB Agrotech. It is the only centre in the country for machine design and research. I have 143 innovations to my credit and more than 50 assignments still in hand. I am working jointly with many institutions and government departments to serve the community.



### 4 Alternative paddy cultivation system

This project was sponsored by the Assam Agriculture University. The traditional rice cultivation system is very expensive and a labour intensive, cumbersome procedure. Initially, to raise the seedlings itself, one has to take extra care to prepare the growing bed, sowing of seeds, weeding, uprooting, caring, storing and lots more. Transplantation is another big problem.

I came up with this alternative process of growing seedlings using the conventional nursery concept. This has become an indoor activity now. No skill is required, and all the family members can do it.

### 2 Devices for the differently abled

I have also established one research centre to design and develop gadgets for the physically disabled in my existing campus. This runs with my own earnings from other commercial innovations. I give absolutely free service to them. Even doctors are sending many such unfortunate persons to me. So far I have helped nine such persons in making them independent upto some extent. They are all from very poor backgrounds.

### 3 Delivering the healing fruit

I have received enough fame across the globe for the innovation of the pomegranate de-seeding machine. But it was for commercial purposes only and very costly. I am getting repeated calls from homemakers, asking for a simple low-cost device to extract the grains of the pomegranate.

Finally I came up with a technique to extract the grains of the pomegranate. All you need is a tea cup, a bowl and a knitting needle.

### 5 Reusable sanitary napkins

A social organisation approached me to design low-cost napkins for the poor women. But it came to my mind that so-called low-cost napkins are a real compromise with hygiene. Then I thought of a permanent solution for this regular problem faced by women. I came up with a type of sanitary napkin which is both affordable and hygienic.

(As told to Indrani Raivedhi)

## SCREENSHOTS

Shilpa Salwan

**T**he *Badshah* of Bollywood, Shah Rukh Khan was at his quirky best discussing his new film *Jab Harry Met Sejal*. Excerpts from an interview:

### You are literally dancing and jumping around in the movie; how do you have such energy at 51?

No, I am 51 and I feel it every moment of my breathing day but when you have to do what you have to do, I think the director, the choreographer and so many other people in the film, they work very hard and make sure you look highly energetic in the film and I, too, try to do my best.

### Why did you choose to do a journey film?

When one is not looking for a film is when a film finds you. I was in a state of mind when I just felt it would be an interesting thing to make a journey film, and Imtiaz met me at that point of time. I know fully well that Imtiaz's stories are not mostly straight and they have a lot of internalisation in terms of the struggle in between characters, plot points, and so on.

**The tagline of the film says: 'what you seek is seeking you', so as an actor and a human, what are you seeking at this point of time?**

Nothing, novelty in everything. In expression, in my offering as an actor and life as a person, family and husband and when I say new, it's not just for the sake of being new. I want to keep the gusto for life going. We should wake up in the morning and try a new feeling, instead of the drudgery of the old day.

### According to you, what should someone seek from their partners in relationships today?

(Laughs) About today, I don't know. I am a pretty 'yesterday' person. I think relationships today

have

become a little more practical. I think love should be impractical, unreasonable as reasons can change and so will love. Small issues become too much nowadays. But mind can be an old-fashioned point of view. The world is changing and everything needs to be done kind of like fast food, but I am not too sure. I still believe in the old seven-course meal kind of situation.

**Being the romantic Badshah of Bollywood, you were into that genre from the beginning and then you started experimenting and, and sinfulness in *Darzi* and *Raees*. So, are you coming back to romance and staying with it or further experiments are on?**

I will be really honest. It's very nice that people analyse my mov-

ies so much. It is actually very simple. Neither am I coming back to something nor am I going anywhere.

Like the song, *Safar ki thi main, safar ki raha*, for me, all this is a journey and I am not trying to figure out anything. I am an actor and directors must assume I can do different things. I did not try to achieve anything with my choice of films, I just did it because as Sir Edmund Hillary once said, "I climbed Mount Everest because it was there," and so, I just do it because it is there.

Of course, in retrospect, good thinking people like you want to analyse and suggest. So, thank you for those. I feel excited to do it because if I am not excited, I will never be able to excite you even with the dimpest smile of mine (smiles).

- Trans World Features (TWF)



## Seeking novelty

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"If God wanted me to eat vegetables, He would have made them out of meat!"

"If you strap a pedometer to your thumb, changing channels and channel counts as six miles of walking!"

"If we try to kiss and make up while we're still angry, it feels like our lips are sure wrestling!"

"Sometimes you get angry for no reason. I guess everyone needs a hobby!"

"I'm willing to change my behaviour as long as I don't have to do anything different!"