

NEWS CAPSULE

Rhino kills 1

BARPETA, April 20: A woman was gored to death by a rhino in the Manas National Park around 11 this morning when she entered the forest. The woman identified as Bina Salai, she was a resident of Mayangnara Colony under the Bahari range of the Park. Earlier, a minor girl was killed by a wild elephant on April 6, while two youths were injured by wild buffaloes a few days ago. — Correspondent

DA hiked

GUWAHATI, April 20: The State Government has hiked the dearness allowance (DA) for the State Government employees by two per cent with effect from January 1, 2017. — Staff Reporter

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Centre reviewing ration card reliability

SPL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, April 20: Months after the Gauhati High Court declared panchayat issued residency certificates as invalid, the Central Government has said that it is considering the reliability of the ration card as a supporting document for the purpose of updating the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

The Centre's latest stand is part of the affidavit it has filed in the Supreme Court, even as five to six Special Leave Petitions (SLPs) have been filed in the Apex Court challenging the Gaunati High Court's or-

der on the validity of the residency certificate issued by the panchayat secretaries. The SLP is coming up for hearing on Monday.

NRC update

Residency certificates issued by gaon panchayat secretaries will no longer be con-

sidered as a valid link docu-

ment for NRC, the Gauhati High Court had ruled.

The High Court, in a strongly-worded judgment, had said,

"If a panchayat secretary issues such certificate and the same is later disbelieved by the For-

eigners Tribunal or High Court and the certificate holder is eventually declared as a foreigner, the issuing authority would run the risk of issuing the certificate to a foreigner."

"Such an act may be con-

strued to be an act of harbouring an illegal migrant, which may amount to a gross mis-

conduct exposing himself to deputational action besides

attracting penal consequences. Such consequences may also visit the countersigning authority (which is the BDO)," the Court had ruled.

An estimated 48 lakh people

are likely to be affected by

(See page 4)

Renaming of places by China not valid: India

SPL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, April 20: India on Thursday rejected the renaming of certain areas of Arunachal Pradesh by China, pointing out that such acts do not change the legal status of these places.

Reacting to China's latest act, official spokesman of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Gopal Bagley said that mere renaming of the existing places, including towns, does not change their legal status.

"Arunachal Pradesh continues to be a legal and integral part of India," he said.

Arunachal Pradesh

"These names reflect...that China's territorial claim over South Tibet (Arunachal Pradesh) is supported by clear evidence in terms of history, culture and administration," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said.

Defending the action to standardise the names, Lu Kang said, "to issue these names is actually carried out in accordance with the regulations about the names of the localities and it is a legitimate action by the Chinese government."

"Let me stress that about the

Indian government's indulgence of (the)

Dalai Lama's activities

in the disputed eastern section of the India-China boundary and also about his anti-China activities, this is something we are firmly against. These activities are also against the Indian government's commitments to China," Kang said.



Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal receiving Union Minister for Women and Child Development Maneka Gandhi at his office chamber in Janata Bhawan in Guwahati on Thursday — UB Photos

Ten ISIS activists held

LUCKNOW/MUMBAI, April 20: A major terror attack in the country was claimed to have been averted as 10 suspected ISIS activists were held today in a major multi-state operation.

The joint operation was carried out by the police teams of Delhi, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh, in which four suspected terrorists belonging to the ISIS Khorasan module were arrested and six others were detained, officials said.

The arrests were made during raids this morning in Mumbai (Maharashtra), Jalandhar (Punjab), Narkatganj (Bihar), and Bijnor and Muzaffarnagar (both in UP), the officials added. — PTI

State registers record revenue collection

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 20: The State Government has witnessed a record growth in expenditure in the year 2016-17, investing Rs 53,562 crore compared to previous year's (2015-16) figure of Rs 39,805 crore, which included salary, pension, plan and non-plan amounts.

The State's own revenue collected in 2016-17, too, against Rs 15,620 crore, was Rs 12,848 crore in the preceding year.

State Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, while talking to media persons to-

day, claimed that the rate of growth in both expenditure and revenue collection is the highest in the country.

"While a jump of 34.56 per cent was witnessed in expenditure compared to last year, the rate of increase in the revenue collection has been recorded to be 21.60 per cent," informed Sarma.

"I had said that we are targeting the plan fund utilisation of 70 per cent in the year 2016-17. I am happy to inform you that a plan expenditure of 64.46 per cent could be achieved compared to 37 per cent of last year," the Minister said, while providing a comparative status of the State's financial health between the last year of the Congress reign in 2015-16 and the first year the BJP-led government in 2016-17.

He also provided figures which indicate that there was an 'unnatural' dip in the collection of royalty from Forest and Mines and minerals in the year 2015-16 compared to 2014-15

(See page 4)

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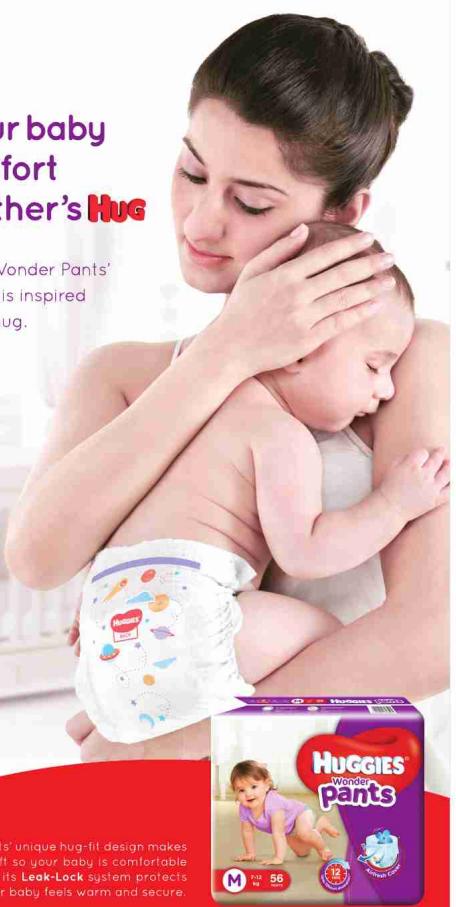
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Paul gets bail as officer misses deadline

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 20: The Court of Special Judge, Assam, today allowed the prime accused in the cash-for-job scam in the Assam Public Service Commission (APSC), Rakesh Paul, to go on bail in connection with a Dispur police station case which relates to accepting bribe from one Arup Kumar Nath.

The bail was granted 'by default' as per the provisions of Section 167 of CrPC, as Assistant Commissioner of Police Sujit Kumar Saikia, who is the investigating officer in the case, failed to submit the chargesheet within the statutory 90 days time.

Meanwhile, Dispur has taken a strong exception to the investigation officer's failure in filing the chargesheet within the stipulated period, which, it said, is "very serious" in nature.

Paul was shown to be ar-

rested in the case on January 20, after the case was regis-

tered under Section 420, 406 of the IPC read with other Sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act. The com-

plainant in his FIR alleged that Paul had accepted a bribe of

Rs 3 lakhs from him promising job, following which Paul was

shown to be arrested as he was

already in custody.

(See page 4)

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CD/SV/280/1

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Govt will not reduce security given to VIPs: Naidu

NEW DELHI, April 20: The government has no plans to cut back on security to VIPs, Union Minister M Venkaiah Naidu today said, a day after the Centre banned all use of beacon lights atop all vehicles, except emergency vehicles like ambulances and fire brigade.

"With regard to security, it is necessary in the interest of the country because important people have to be protected. Otherwise, there is no preferential treatment," Naidu, who holds the portfolio of Information and Broadcast, told reporters here.

About the Centre's decision to put an end to the VIP culture, he said: "Everybody is a VIP and that is the philosophy of our

government."

Though it is a small initiative but it sends a message that every person should be treated equally, he added.

He hoped that state governments will also shun the use of beacons or they will face the wrath of the people.

On a query about the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute, the Minister said the case has been going on for so many years and there is nothing new in that.

He did not elaborate on what could be the impact of the Supreme Court order in the Babri Masjid demolition case at the apex court yesterday allowed the

CBI plea to restore the charge against them.

The SC, however, noted that Rajasthan Governor Singh enjoys constitutional immunity and can be tried only after he ceases to hold the office. Singh was the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh in 1992.

Meanwhile, amid a debate on some of the negative impacts of social media, Naidu said it cannot be censored.

"It is a larger issue. We have to think about it and discuss because we cannot think of censoring social media. The society has to discuss and then come to a conclusion at the end of the day," he said.

The Minister was speaking to reporters after inaugurating a workshop on Instagram for government employees engaged in social media communications. -PTI

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Associate Professor	Applied Electronics and Instrumentation, Civil, Computer Science, Electronics & Communications, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering	Guwahati/ Tezpur	As per AICTE norms
Professor	Applied Electronics & Instrumentation, Civil, Computer Science, Electronics & Communications, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering	Guwahati/ Tezpur	As per AICTE norms
Associate Professor	Business Administration	Guwahati	As per AICTE norms
Professor	Business Administration	Guwahati	As per AICTE norms
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Bangla canteen leaseholder fired for serving beef to Hindus

DHAKA, April 20: A canteen leaseholder at Bangladesh's prestigious Dhaka University has been fired for serving beef to Hindu students and hurling religious slurs, a media report said.

The university has formed a committee to investigate the incident. The committee has been asked to submit a report within a week.

Zakir Hossain, a class-four employee who became the leaseholder of the Faculty of Fine Arts canteen, was expelled on Sunday for "creating disorder" on *Pahela Baisakh* when thousands of students gathered on the campus to celebrate the Bangla New Year.

The students of the faculty said beef was never allowed in their canteen considering the fact that it is "forbidden" for Hindus.

The students ordered *Tehari* for breakfast after working overnight to prepare for the *Mangal Shobhajatra* procession. — PTI

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I have changed my title from Bilal Basmaty to Syed Bilal Mughabry as my affidavit before the Hon'ble Public Bijn, Assam dated 19.4.17. Henceforth I shall be known as Syed Bilal Mughabry.

1. Baby Kalita change my daughter's name from Belimsha Kashyap to Borishila Kashyap by an affidavit sworn Notary Public at Guwahati on 18.04.2017. PN/P/787/71

L. Moni Saha wife of Dipak Saha declare by an affidavit before Notary Kamrup (M) on 1.03.2017 that Moni Saha and Mani Rani Saha is one and same person and from today onwards I shall be known as Moni Saha in all purposes.

PNP/BC0001/1

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NOTICE INVITING QUOTATIONS

Quotations are invited from reputed suppliers for 19 instruments/equipment, Deptt. of Biotechnology, Gauhati University to be submitted before May 13. For details visit www.gauhati.ac.in/notification/1492600532.pdf.

CDT/IN/28/21



US Defence Secretary James Mattis departs after meeting with Saudi Arabia's Deputy Crown Prince and Defence Minister Mohammed bin Salman at the Ministry of Defence in Riyadh, on Wednesday — UNI

Scared Syria evacuees stuck at site of deadly bombing

BEIRUT, April 20: Hundreds of frightened Syrian evacuees from two besieged Government-held towns were stuck at a rebel-held transit point today where dozens of their fellow townspersons were killed in a weekend bombing.

The 3,000 evacuees, who had left their homes at dawn yesterday, spent the night in buses in a marshalling area in Rashidin, west of Government-held second city Aleppo, awaiting onward transport to safety.

Some 300 evacuees from rebel-held towns were simi-

larly held up at a staging point at Ramusia in Government-held territory.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the delay was the result of 11-hour rebel demands for the release of prisoners held by the Government.

"The convoys will not move

until after the release of 750

prisoners—men and women—from regime prisons and their arrival in rebel-held areas," the British-based monitoring group said.

The hard-won resumption of

evacuations on Wednesday came after a suicide car bomber killed 126 people, 68 of them children, in Rashidin on Saturday.

Most of the dead were evacuees from the Government-held Shiite-majority towns of Fua and Kafraya, with a handful of aid workers and rebels guarding the convoy also killed.

Armed rebels are standing guard at Rashidin on Wednesday and carefully inspecting vehicles arriving in the area.

All rebels are expected to leave Madaya, Zabadani and other nearby opposition-held areas, but civilians who want to remain may do so. — AFP

In the audacious daylight mugging, assailants set upon the 29-year-old victim as he draggered the case containing USD 380 million yen (USD 3.5 million) across a parking lot in downtown Fukushima, a police spokesman and local media said.

He was sprayed in the face with what is thought to have been tear gas by the attackers, who made off in a car with the suitcase. Few other details were initially available. While Japan is still a cash-based society, it is unusual for someone to carry such a large sum, which would have weighed at least 38 kg (84 pounds).

The country has an enviable safety record and muggings and other forms of street crime, such as pickpocketing, are rare. But Japan does have a shadowy underworld run by yakuza organised crime syndicates. — AFP

Russian, American two-man crew blasts off to ISS

BAIKONUR (Kazakhstan), April 20: A Russian and an American blasted off from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan today, the first two-person launch to the International Space Station in over a decade.

The Soyuz MS-04 spacecraft carrying veteran Russian cosmonaut Fyodor Yurchikhin and NASA rookie Jack Fischer shot into the sky in bright conditions at 0713 GMT.

Russian space agency Roscosmos said the launch had been successful and that the crew was expected to arrive at the ISS at 1323 GMT.

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Manned launches to the ISS usually involve three crew members.

But Russian space agency Roscosmos announced last year that in the near future only two cosmonauts would be on board the ISS rather than three as has been the case in recent times.

The agency explained it is seeking to cut costs on supply missions prior to the installation of a new module to expand the Russian section of the orbital lab at the end of 2017 or early 2018.

Another Russian-American duo, Yuri Malenchenko and

Edward Lu, undertook the last two-man mission to the ISS, in April 2003.

Yurchikhin and Fischer are set to complete a five-month mission at the station and should join three astronauts, including NASA's Peggy Whitson, on the orbital laboratory.

In an emotional interview with NASA TV, Fischer, a 43-year-old former US Air Force pilot, said he would be "thinking about Dad" as he enters orbit.

When dying from cancer, Fischer said, his father encouraged him to pursue his dream of becoming an astronaut. Yurchikhin, 58, has racked up

337 days in space over the course of four missions to the ISS, more than any US astronaut, but some way short of the 879 days logged by record-holding compatriot Gennady Padalka.

Fischer and Yurchikhin will be on board the ISS to witness Whitson break the 534-day American record for cumulative days in space previously held by Jeff Williams.

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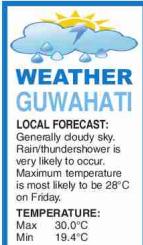
337 days in space over the course of four missions to the ISS, more than any US astronaut, but some way short of the 879 days logged by record-holding compatriot Gennady Padalka.

Fischer and Yurchikhin will be on board the ISS to witness Whitson break the 534-day American record for cumulative days in space previously held by Jeff Williams.

US President Donald Trump and daughter Ivanka Trump are expected to congratulate Whitson on her achievement in an Earth-to-space call on Monday, according to NASA. — AFP

Edward Lu, undertook the last two-man mission to the ISS, in April 2003.

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Guv hails red light ban on vehicles

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 20: Governor Banwarilal Purohit has appreciated the Union Cabinet's ban on using red lights atop vehicles of VIPs. In the light of the Cabinet decision, Purohit ordered removal of red lights from his vehicles with immediate effect.

He also termed the decision people-friendly and said that the move would greatly help in ensuring greater equality, which is one of the cornerstones of Indian democracy, an official release stated.

CM's sudden visit to city police station

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 20: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today paid a sudden visit to the Basistha Police Station and enquired about its functioning.

The Chief Minister interacted with the police personnel present there and enquired about their working condition, including the prevailing status of infrastructure and amenities at the police station. He urged them to maintain a cordial relationship with the public for improving their functioning, an official release stated.

Fraud arrested

CORRESPONDENT

JALUKBARI, April 20: One Kamal Chetia (32) of Titabar, Jorhat, who was wanted in connection with many cases registered at Panbari Police Station, Goalpara PS and Dispur PS for allegedly duping people in the name of providing flats at housing colonies, was arrested by personnel of Jalukbari PS, Malagon today from Gousals. He will be handed over to Panbari PS, where a case is already registered against him.

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NIT No. / Name of Work :
IOC/LNHYB/PIM&R/16-17/69/PT:

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Download Period : 21.04.2017 to 12.05.2017

Contact Person : Plant Manager, LPG Bottling Plant, Tel. +91 9554098310, E-mail: knath@indianoil.in, alok@indianoil.in

IndianOil ADD State Office



Dr Hitesh Deka, VC of Krishna Kanta Handique State Open University, speaking at the Photojournalist Kapil Das Memorial Meeting and Photography Competition 2017 at Guwahati Press Club on Thursday. — AT photo

CM stresses employment in rural areas

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 20: Directing the Assam State Rural Livelihood Mission (ASRLM) to achieve its target of providing employment in the rural areas so that the youths do not have to leave the State, Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has said that the government is committed to providing meaningful employment to the jobless in the State early.

Chairing the governing body meeting of the ASRLM in the Chief Minister's conference room at the Janata Bhawan here on Wednesday, Sonowal said the 88,000 self-help groups (SHGs) registered with the ASRLM must be activated fully and provided financial assistance as per

the norms of the Mission so that youths in the rural areas can find employment.

Identifying establishing linkage with banks for providing finance to the SHGs and giving access to market for selling their produced goods as two key points for the ASRLM for bringing about actual development in interior places of the State, Sonowal said the employment requirement of the Majithia Ward Board recommendations by newspaper houses by May 15.

The meeting was attended by representatives from newspaper managements and newspaper employees' organisations, an official release stated.

The meet also called for releasing the newspaper correspondents under the ambit of the wage board.

GU honorary doctorate

CORRESPONDENT

JALUKBARI, April 20: The Executive Council of Gauhati University at its special meeting held today resolved to confer honorary doctorate degrees on a number of well-known personalities at the 26th convocation of the university to be held on April 28.

Those to be honoured are, Prof CNR Rao, renowned scientist and Bharat Ratna awardee; Nilamoni Phukan, litterateur; Hem Chandra Goswami, mask artiste; Col Jiten Hazarika, artist and painter; Nabam Tata, social activist, lyricist and film maker from Arunachal Pradesh and Tasile N Zeliang, social activist and sports personality from Nagaland.

A team of experts will be formed to take care of various grievances of the inmates. Proper orientation about fire safety will be factored in toto," said Dr Angamuthu, Deputy Commissioner

"All children homes, hostels and orphanages are to operate only with registration from the district administration. There will be a district level inspection committee to inspect and submit a report on the existing homes and orphanages," said Dr M Angamuthu, Deputy Commissioner

"Orphanages and homes are to be registered with the district administration for child protection and other welfare measures for the existing homes and orphanages. Special care will be given for the orphanages, homes and hostels, where women and girls and children were admitted," said Dr Angamuthu.

Child care homes to be regulated

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 20: Following the incident of a minor being allegedly beaten up 'mercilessly' at a children's home located at Sonapuri, the Kamrup Metro district administration today said measures would be taken to regulate private hostels, orphanages and child care homes.

"All children homes, hostels and orphanages are to operate only with registration from the district administration to the city today while a member of his family said.

Gogoi, who worked in the Kabilipara branch of State Bank of India, was loved by all for her amiable and helpful nature. Her death cast a pall of gloom in the SBI fraternity. She was a resident of Bhagdattapur, Kabilipara.

She leaves behind her husband, a daughter and a son.

Her death has been widely mourned in the hospital where she was proclaimed dead," a member of his family said.

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SBI staffer who died in Bangkok cremated

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 20: The Public Relations Society of India, Guwahati Chapter, will celebrate National Public Relations Day tomorrow.

The theme of this year's National PR Day is, "Salutations to Indian Armed Forces", a way to acknowledge and laud the Defence Forces that are on a constant vigil to make citizens' lives secure.

Lt Col Sunetra Newton, Defence PRO, Guwahati, will address the meet and highlight the rich contributions of the Indian Armed Forces towards the country, a press release said. — Staff Reporter

Musical soirée in honour of Syamapada Sarma

GUWAHATI, April 20: Sabatib Argha, a musical soirée was organised recently at Sudmersen Hall, Cotton College here as part of the birth centenary celebration of the late Syamapada Sarma, a pioneering industrialist, cultural enthusiast, social worker and stage actor by his family, friends and admirers, said a press release today.

Prof Upendranath Sarma, a distinguished scholar and former head of the Department of English, Cotton College, while inaugurating the event, spoke on the multifaceted personality and rare achievements and contributions of the late Sarma.

Several artists of repute including Sudakshina Sarma, Rishiraj Sarma, Mridula Das, Anindita Pal, Rupam Bhuyan, Parveen Ahmed, Tanuya Tarannam, Shriyanshu Parashar and young Tushar Bhuyan presented songs, while Dr Lopamudra Das and her team performed Ojapali.

Meghna Das, Jogen Basumatary and Kamal Sarma presented Kathak, saxophone and accordion recitals respectively. A chorus was presented by the tiny tots of Sparsh, RG Baruah Road branch under the supervision of Manob Deka, the Principal of the school. Seven-year-old Yashoda Pathak of the same school performed Bharat Natyan. While the event was compered by Basundhara Choudhuri and Nibrir Mridula Konwar, BA final year students of Cotton College, the moderation was done by Dr Gautam Sarma, Head of the Department of English, Cotton College. Dr Amal Kr Sarma, the eldest son of the late Syamapada Sarma offered

Public Relations Day today

GUWAHATI, April 20: The Public Relations Society of India, Guwahati Chapter, will celebrate National Public Relations Day tomorrow.

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Lt Col Sunetra Newton, Defence PRO, Guwahati, will address the meet and highlight the rich contributions of the Indian Armed Forces towards the country, a press release said. — Staff Reporter

Phone-in prog

GUWAHATI, April 20: The Regional News Unit of AIR Guwahati will hold a phone-in talk show 'Drishtigati' on April 22 at 8.30 pm on the subject 'Digital India'. Mr Sethi, CGM of BSNL, Assam will be the guest in the show. Dr Prasanta Sarma will host the show. Listeners can ask questions by dialling 0361-2661876 and 2662325. — Staff Reporter

Maneka, Sonowal discuss nutrition issues

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 20: Union Minister for Women and Child Development Maneka Gandhi today met Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal at the latter's office chamber in Janata Bhawan and discussed with him issues on women and child nutrition and animal protection, stated an official press release here this evening.

Vowing to bring the country's nutrition scheme on track in Assam, the Union Cabinet minister and the Chief Minister discussed modalities to strengthen nutritional mechan-

ism of women and children and provide nutritional food packets in schools and other centres where women and children come and go. Giving an overview of the State Government's initiatives for providing meals in schools and anganwadis, the duo also discussed the constitution of the Animal Welfare Board in Assam and the Chief Minister said that all the modalities are being framed to constitute the welfare board.

Minister of State (independent charge) for Social Welfare Naba Kumar Doley, Chief Minister's Media and Legal Advisers Hrishikesh Goswami and Santanu Bhattacharya, Chief Secretary VK Pipersaria, Additional Chief Secretary Ravi Kapoor, Commissioner and Secretary to the Chief Minister Sanjay Lohiya and other senior officers of the administration will become a passé.

The Union Cabinet minister also hailed the State Government's role in the conservation of rhinos and other endangered

Gandhian passes away

GUWAHATI, April 20: Priyadarshini Das (Putul), Gandhian and a former functionary of Kasturba Gandhi Memorial Trust, Assam Branch, died at the Sarana Ashram here yesterday. She was 84. She was cremated at Blumthun crematorium. — Staff Reporter

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Reference to the Advt. No. 1/2017-REC published on 14.04.2017, the date of Walk-in-interview is rescheduled to 28.04.2017 in place of 25.04.2017.

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MESSAGE FOR TODAY

The question isn't who is going to let me; it's who is going to stop me.

— AYN RAND

The Assam Tribune

Resolution required

The Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute in Ayodhya has been hovering not only over the socio-political scenario in Uttar Pradesh for quarter of a century, but also the nation as a whole, without moving towards possible resolution. This sensitive issue, which has been festering for too long and was working as a catalyst for communal tensions, is all set to hit the media headlines afresh with the revival of conspiracy charges against the BJP leaders then involved, which included veterans Lal Krishna Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi, as well as other leaders like Uma Bharti and Kalyan Singh. The destruction of the Babri Masjid was one of the most blackish of phases in the evolution of a secular ethos in independent India, taking the nation back as it did towards the disharmony which prevailed just before and after Partition. Now, with the Supreme Court ordering the stalled case for prosecution of those responsible for the demolition of the Masjid, one can only hope that after the Apex Court issues a final judgement, the issue would irrevocably be put to bed and resolution achieved. It is somewhat ironic that the main protagonists of the conspiracy, Advani and Joshi, no longer command the clout in the BJP which they had done in earlier days. They had unsuccessfully tried to take to Narendra Modi and have paid the price by being sidelined in the party.

The delay in pursuing the case is a telling instance of the slow pace with which the judicial system moves in India and the ease with which cases against public figures can be stalled. The Supreme Court has rightly castigated the CBI for adopting procrastinating tactics, which also is a sad reminder as to how institutions in India are vulnerable to being manipulated. The Apex Court's decision to allow the CBI to reopen the case would be personal blows to Advani and Joshi, especially the former, because his name had been projected as India's next President, and the trial would destroy any chance he might have had. But it will prove to be a boon for the BJP since it will keep the issue alive for at least another two years, and the time frame set by the Apex Court would take the case till the next general elections, a prospect that the saffron brigade will relish. The Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute had been a springboard from which the BJP had risen in the national political scene. It is also no secret that even more than pledges of development it was the promise to build the Ram temple which had been behind the BJP's spectacular success in the UP elections. Thus, though a resolution to this long-pending issue is urgently required, with the court case as well as the election pledge, how quickly it would be resolved is uncertain.

Tardy implementation

It is a disturbing reality that a discernible increase in the flow of Central funds to Assam and other parts of the North-east has failed to make a visible impact on the ground. The reasons behind the mismatch are not far to seek. The slow pace of implementation, compromises made in quality control and large-scale corruption have together assumed almost a routine character, effectively distancing the masses from the fruits of development. Union Minister for Urban Development and Housing Vankiah Naidu's observation that project implementation in Assam and other north-eastern States is not up to the mark is valid. However, the onus is as much on the Centre as on the State Government to ensure that projects are implemented in a manner that is transparent and accountable. Sadly, that is not happening. Indeed, over the years, the Centre had done little in terms of intervention to get things moving. Tardy implementation of projects – apart from pushing those into perpetuity – are also causing huge cost escalation, with neither the Centre nor the State Government taking a serious view of the developments. This phenomenon has been particularly conspicuous in Assam, which has the highest number of projects that have missed repeated deadlines. Every major project concerning roadways, railways, infrastructure or industry is invariably plagued by lethargic execution – so much so that even the most unwarranted of delays have come to don an air of inevitability and legitimacy. The State Government which often uses the pretext of lack of funds for expediting the development process needs to exhibit greater commitment and professionalism in its pursuance of Centrally-sponsored projects. Cost escalation apart, missed deadlines often erode transparency and accountability and there is good reason to believe that vested interest quarters are thriving from the delays. To have better coordination among various departments and agencies of the State Government is another imperative. With more projects in the offing for the North-east, the State governments should put time-bound implementation at the core of its development agenda. Another imperative need is to put in place a mechanism that can fix responsibility for any lapses in project implementation.

Naidu, who also holds the portfolio of Information and Broadcasting, should do the needful to expand the coverage of Doordarshan in the North-east. It is regrettable that Assam, which is the gateway to the fascinating but largely misunderstood North-east, does not have a dedicated 24-hour Doordarshan channel. Some of the north-eastern States recently got their dedicated channels but Assam which is the most 'advanced' State of the region still does not have one. Having dedicated channels that can showcase the region's rich culture and heritage can go a long way in disseminating the correct information and doing away with the misconceptions associated with the North-east.

Assam Population Policy: a sugar-coated one?

■ Santanu Sabhapandit

The geographical distance notwithstanding, the issues and concerns in one's home state is always of interest, So, when one first heard Dr Manikanta Biswa Sharma, a popular politician of the State, articulately expressing his desire in a television talk show to prevent candidates from applying for government jobs, one's initial reaction was – Bravo! Here is a politician who has the guts to hold and express views that are not populist, at least seemingly. Also, the objective to control the population is surely one worthy of consideration. But it was not long before the thought struck, how is going to implement such a measure? Is he going to introduce a new Bill in the Assembly? Is it a subject wherein a State Government can legislate? Will such a legislative provision stand the test of Constitutional compliance? And then, the draft State Population Policy was released by the Government of Assam on March 27, 2017 so that all questions regarding legislative powers of the State Government may be put to rest. But again, why would the government choose a policy statement over legislation, if there was a strong political will behind the measure?

With these questions in mind, one read the draft policy to see if it

reflects a coherent strategy and if there are logical linkages between the proposed 'incentive' measures and the objective of the policy. Unfortunately, it left a number of questions unanswered.

For example, behind the statistics showing decadal growth rates of population in the State, an important question that the draft policy does not address is the percentage of decadal growth due to factors other than child birth. The decadal growth rate in Assam between 2001 and 2011 was 16.93%, which is below the national average of 17.07%, and above that of neighbouring State of West Bengal at 13.92%.

There were a few districts in the State, viz., Dhubri, Morigaon and Goalpara that showed higher decadal growth rates than the state average as well as national average. However, the Health Survey Fact Sheet 2011-12 shows the fertility rates in these districts as above the state average, but only slightly. This is not to make any assertion that decadal growth rates are sustainable or that further attempts are not required to reduce them. But it is important to identify all the causes of the problem and perhaps prioritize which of the causes need im-

mediate attention.

The draft policy refers to a number of statistical data without explaining the linkage of those data with its objectives and 'incentive' measures. The reason for the draft policy to refer to the average family size is not clear. Similar to the above point, birth rate is not likely to be the only reason for change in the family size. Also, as a draft seeking public comments, there was more scope for clarity or statistics

people contesting panchayat elections or municipal body elections

and is silent in this regard. It is the section of the draft policy on 'Incentives and Disincentives' that has caused much of the reactions from political parties, with some calling it a violation of fundamental rights. Rhetoric apart, it must be admitted that the draft policy adopts a very cautious approach, both in its language and suggestions. Yet, unlike an election manifesto, it is a document from the government carrying a political message and must be carefully evaluated. In this regard, it is doubtful how strong an influence that the controversial 'incentive' measures will have on the objectives of the draft policy.

As the draft policy admits, 69% of the total workforce depends on agriculture rather than government employment.

Of the remaining 31%, one cannot be sure of the fraction that has to depend on self-employment or employment in the private sector. Further, there must be some portion of the workforce that is employed in Central Government jobs in the State, which will make them beyond the scope of the draft policy. And what percentage of the population contests municipal body or panchayat elections? It is indeed curious why the government singled out the

And what percentage of the population contests municipal body or panchayat elections? It is indeed curious why the government singled out the people contesting panchayat elections or municipal body elections and not those

contesting Assembly elections.

As long has the draft policy

shares some of the goals of the National Population Policy (NPP) 2000, it will not be important to identify the reasons why the NPP 2000 has failed to meet the set targets, especially in its implemen-

tation. The draft policy is silent in this regard. It is the section of the draft policy that may positively affect population control. But we do not know if the Government has identified the problems of implementing the NPP 2000 and intends to overcome them in implementing the draft policy in Assam. The draft policy does not seem to contain a clear strategic approach of the Government of Assam at population control. However, it does contain the potential to create immediate political debates that will, at best, gloss over the issues of long-term significance.

Retarding nature of sports culture in Assam

■ Kangkana Goswami

With 10 out of the total number of athletes in the 2012 Olympics and eight in 2016 being products of the North-eastern States, a Layton Talukdar, a Bomdya Devi or a Dipa Karmakar adds weightage towards clearing the blurred image of the abundant talents in the repository of the seven sisters. Adding another feather to the cap, Karmakar, 23, who became the first Indian female gymnast to ever compete in the Olympics during the last games held in Rio de Janeiro, and the first Indian gymnast to compete in 52 years, has now been listed in the 'Forbes' list of super achievers from Asia under the age of 30 who are "pushing boundaries of innovation".

Where the medal tally of the national games screams defiance, favouring the tremendous endurance and efforts of the North-eastern talent pool, the latent reality on the other hand speaks volumes about the lack of sports technology and sports enthusiasm within the region itself. To support this, the International Shooting Federation certified coach visited the Assam Shooting Association, she was enthralled by the talent pool and was equally in all prides about the competition readiness of the shooters. However in 2013, it was confirmed that the Rs 10-crore shooting range had become unusable for any national event because of its outdated infrastructure. Now, the optimistic angle of the story however projects that the fact that an outdated range could produce national champions, shows that the efforts and aptitude of the shooters remains undoubted.

Even after the Bollywood film *Mary Kom* left no stone unturned to picture and project the wounds of North-east India, ranging from the marginalized treatment feeding its orphanded existence to the lack of awareness, enthusiasm and infrastructure, there remains miles to be traversed before the entire scenario gets transformed. The irony is, while the fact of the Union Budget

not accommodating the sporting avenues in North-east India gets critically tweaked and talked about in social media, there are not many who have even heard about a Rupnath Brahma Velodrome or a Chatra Singh Teron Archery Pavilion that exist just 36 kms away from Guwahati, the gateway to the North-east. Along with lack of adequate awareness, a deep delve into the rationale behind the retarding nature of sports culture in the region unravels several socio-economic reasons.

The overburdened academic curriculum and zero weightage to sports in the syllabus, thereby giving sports a supplementary colour, restrict the flourishing of the sports aptitude, and the 'earn after you learn' pressure confines the post-academic sessions to earning bread and butter. Then again, the lethargic approach of the Government in infusing sports environment and the reluctant attitude of the corporate towards sponsoring the players add to the woes. Zeroing further, with a neighbouring State like Manipur showing exemplary endurance and passion for sports, the Assamese sports lags far behind even in terms of considering sports in day-to-day life of the young ones.

Moreover, while sports like shooting and archery remain a distant dream for the economically restrained, options like football or basketball face issues relating to standards of training. Infrastructural support, though was to some extent a reality after the constructions of

multiple sporting venues during the 33rd National Games and the subsequent refurbish after SAG in 2015, the dearth of international-level training (physical and psychological) still hovers as a bitter truth and the grounds remain deserted after 2015.

Despite the fact that achievements like the 2007 National Games, 2015 SAG or the comeback of the bloodline of North-eastern football, the Bordoloi Trophy in 2016 did their bit in arousing the sporting spirits among the sea of sports enthusiasts in the region, more efforts are required to touch base. It is only when necessity adds to relevance, latent talents will be discovered. The first area of operation therefore is developing a mindset, educating and acquainting people (especially in Assam) about the tremendous benefits of a sports inclusive lifestyle along with their significance as a career prospect. This implies inclusion of sports in the mainstream academic syllabus and increasing the weightage of sports quota in the reservation structure. From here the operation bifurcates into two areas, the first one being popularizing of sports, where the media has a significant role, and the second one is creation of avenues, where the Government has to open up its mind and also facilitate towards inclusion of the corporate coterie shaping their corporate social responsibility clause sports-wise. Good news in this context is that, in line with the Bezwadouh Commission recom-

Letters to the EDITOR

Sir, – We welcome the introduction of DEMU train services in the Haibarapara and Silghat sectors on the eve of Bohag Bihu. But the change in the timetable is beyond comprehension. We fail to understand why it was all affected. There was nothing wrong with the earlier timings. The train leaving Silghat at 6:40 am and reaching Guwahati at 9:30 am entails a run of 3 hours 10 minutes which is pretty high as DEMU trains are known to accelerate and decelerate fast. This letter writer attended Gauhati University classes by starting from Haibarapara at 6:40 am and reaching Guwahati at 9:30 am daily by the then

DEMUL train timings inconvenient

newly-introduced Kolongbar Passenger way back in 1996-1997. We request the restoration of the earlier timetable for both the DEMU services originating from Silghat and Guwahati (for Haibarapara) as two trains for Nagaon in the evening at an interval of 30 minutes are neither commercially viable nor consumer-friendly. It will be in the interest of passengers if another service is put in place at the Silghat section at the earliest. Yours etc., ASHOK MODI, Nagaon.

Transport helpline

Sir, – Recently, I was travelling from Guwahati to Rangia by a bus and what I saw was very terrifying. The bus driver, conductor and the handyman assaulted a passenger just for five rupees. The victim was not allowed to get out of the bus by the driver and the conductor until he paid Rs 5. They treated him very badly and used slang language. This situation emerged because of the fact that there is no fixed bus fare. Some charge less and some more for the same distance travelled. Moreover, I would like to

request the Transport Department to sing Hindi songs? Won't the very root of Assamese culture get affected by it? Do the Punjabis, Gujaratis, Marathis, Goans, Malayalees or Tamils sponsor Hindi/Bollywood songs and music while celebrating Baisakhi, Navratri, Gudi Padwa, Onam or Pungal, etc.?

If Hindi songs are allowed to enter in functions associated with Bihu, why would the people from outside Assam be interested in visiting the State and enjoy the festival? Despite possessing immense cultural potential, Assam hardly draws substantial tourists compared to Kashmir, Kerala, Rajasthan or Goa. Bihu would have been the ideal platform to draw tourists. Yours etc., RAJAL CHATTERJEE, Peerless Nagar, Kolkata.

(II)

Sir, – Through the columns of you esteemed daily, I would like to condemn the Noonmati Bihu Committee for insulting Zubeen Garg, whose contribution to Assamese music and culture cannot be exaggerated. An artiste should have freedom to sing in whichever language he likes and whatever

song he likes. Moreover, he was singing a Hindi song and Hindi is the official language of India which all Indians should love and respect. The Assamese people should be proud that Zubeen has made a name for himself by singing Hindi songs. Furthermore, the audience consists of people speaking different languages; many of them have contributed liberally to make the function(s) a success and one way of showing our gratitude and oneness with them is by singing songs in their languages. A Bihu function should unite people rather than separating them. Yours etc., MRINAL KUMAR DAS, Guwahati.

(III)

Sir, – There has been a controversy over singing Hindi songs in Bihu function for quite some time. I would like to request the artistes to sing Assamese songs in the days of Bihu at least, respecting the sentiments of a section of the society. Yours etc., PUTUL SARMA, Biswanath Chariali.

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



WEATHER

NORTHEAST

Forecast for NE:

Moderate rain likely to occur at places

on Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland,

Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura.

Warning: Heavy rain is likely to occur at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura on April 21.

Heavy rain is likely to occur at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura on April 22 & 23.

Temperatures:

Max (°C) Min (°C)

Dibrugarh 25.2 21.0

Tezpur 29.8 22.2

Silchar 29.5 20.6

Dhubri 26.7 21.8

Jorhat 26.4 20.5

Tinsukia 26.0 20.8

Shillong 20.2 11.1

Imphal 26.0 18.1

Itanagar 28.6 19.5

Aizawl 30.0 7.9

Agartala 29.0 20.3

Sylhet 27.6 12.6

Pasighat 24.0 21.5

Cherrapunjee 17.9 13.3

WW II bombing remembered

IMPHAL, April 20: People of Kharua in Manipur's Imphal East district paid homage to the victims of World War II bombing at Kharua Chingangbam Mandop during the 74th commemorative function organised at the historic mandop on Thursday.

The function was attended by relatives of victims of the War. Sahitya Academy awardee Khuraiman Nimaicharan and World War II researcher Yunnan Rajeshwar attended the function.

Japanese air force dropped a bomb at Imphal for the first time on May 10, 1941. Although the first bombing did not cause much casualty, the second bombing on April 20, 1943 at Kharua Thangim Leikai fell on Chingangbam Mandop where a large number of people were attending a religious feast.

The attack resulted in loss of 100 lives, but only few were identified. The number of victims listed was just 28. However, Yunnan Rajeshwar at the observation presented names of 69 victims to the committee. — Correspondent

NORTH EAST

Protesters burn vehicles in Mizoram town

CORRESPONDENT

youths stormed into the DC complex and torched the vehicles in the garage.

Three vehicles and one bike belonging to the DC office and one private car were burnt down, Champai SDP Sadar Pachhang said over phone. He added that windows of the DC's office were also broken.

There was a tussle between police and the protesters as the former were trying to disperse the crowd. "Four persons, including a woman, have been injured in the tussle", he said.

The Bru militants were captured while trying to enter Mizoram from Bangladesh on Wednesday.

The bandh called by the Champai district MZP in protest against shortage of doctors at district civil hospital entered the third day today when unidentified

official said. No one has been arrested yet in connection with the arsons. The MZP has been demanding posting of sufficient doctors at the district hospital since February this year.

PTI adds: Three militants belonging to underground Bru Democratic Front of Mizoram (BDFM) were arrested in south Mizoram's Lawngtlaw district near Bangladesh border. State Home Minister R Lalzirhana today said.

The State Minister said that around 10 cadres of BDFM were involved in the recent abduction of village council member of Vaseitlang village.

Sunday and two AK-47 rifles and 39 rounds of ammunition were seized from them, Lalzirhana told reporters here.

The BDFM militants were involved in a number of abductions on Mizoram-Bangladesh-Tripura border areas by working with another militant outfit National Liberation Front of Tripura.

The State Minister said that around 10 cadres of BDFM were involved in the recent abduction of village

council member of Vaseitlang village.

7 rapists arrested

CORRESPONDENT

IMPHAL, April 20: Seven persons including a juvenile accused of raping two underaged girls were produced before the Court which remanded them to police custody till April 25. The juvenile was, however, sent to Observation Home here.

The seven, accused of raping two underaged girls on April 14 night, were arrested by Imphal East district police after the incident came to light, sources said. The two underaged girls along with a friend were going to the Thabal Chongba festivities on a two-wheeler somewhere in Imphal East district when they were stopped by the seven persons and dragged into a Maruti car.

Later, the girls were taken to a deserted area where the crime was committed. Meanwhile, medical test of the accused and the two victims was conducted.

Arms dealer held: Assam Rifles troops apprehended two arms dealers in an operation on April 15, according to a release.

One M-16 assault rifle, one M-16 magazine, two mobile phones with two SIM cards and Rs 10,300 in cash were recovered from their possession.

Union Power Minister to inaugurate Manarchak plant

AGARTALA, April 20: Manipur power plant in Sonamubi sub-division of Tripura would be formally inaugurated by Union Power Minister Piyush Goyal, according to sources.

Goyal is scheduled to arrive here on May 29. However, formal confirmation from Delhi is yet to be received by the State Government. State Power Minister Manik Dey had sent a letter to the Union Minister inviting him to inaugurate the 101 MW gas-based combined cycle power plant.

At one point of time, the power plant was sinking due to severe shortage of gas but the State Government stood by NEEPCO. Presently, the Gas Turbine is producing 66 MW power while Steam turbine is producing 35 MW power.

Sources said, NEEPCO is supplying 101 MW power to Tripura State Electricity Corporation (TSECL) at a price of Rs. 3.90 per unit. An elaborate exercise has got underway to apply Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) for final rate of per unit electricity. The per unit cost of

power will be a bit high at Manarchak as project has been swelled to Rs. 1007 crore due to delay in operationalisation of the project, according sources. NEEPCO will have to accept cost of power to be fixed by CERC considerations aspects.

Sources said of the total 101 MW power of Manarchak plant, 60 MW power is supplying to Bangladesh and remaining part is going to the Central share. Currently, Bangladesh is receiving 160 MW from TSECL. — Correspondent

Drama festival concludes in Imphal

IMPHAL, April 20: The four-day 5th All Manipur Folk Drama Festival-2017 concluded here on Wednesday. The festival was organised by Manipur Dramatic Union under the financial assistance of Union Ministry of Culture.

Director IPR Megashankar Kongham stated that folk theatre has a big role to play in building a modern civilised society by disseminating messages of ethical values to the public through music, dance, dialogue, costume, etc. He opined that the State Government should try to re-

express serious concern over poor state of folk theatre in the State, Sangeet Nakshatra awardee Yumnam Rajendra added for seminars, workshops and seminars in the area of folk drama. RK Sanajahan Singh said that the main objective of organizing the Festival is to save the dying folk dramas and to spread awareness about the rich legacy of folklore and folk drama. — Correspondent

Arunachal Govt bats for Puroik community

CORRESPONDENT

ITANAGAR, April 20: Arunachal Pradesh Governor PB Acharya has called upon the people of the State to work with the spirit of 'Saabte Saah, Sabka Vikas' towards addressing the 'challenges' of every section of the society.

Expressing concern for the Puroik community, the Governor called recently for expediting the constitution of the 'Puroik Autonomous Welfare Board' as per the two Government Committee reports.

He wished that the State Cabinet and concerned officers go to the details of the High Powered Committee reports regarding Puroik community. "As the Gauhati High Court has already made specific ruling on the issue, the recommendations of the two High Powered Committee reports have to be implemented as early as possible," he stated.

Apart from suggesting compensation to the Board, which according to him should have seven members from the community, including three

Heroin seized

AIZAWL, April 20: Mizoram Excise and Narcotics Department seized 71 grams of heroin here, a department spokesperson said.

The contraband, worth around Rs 3.5 lakh in the local market, was seized last night. It was reportedly smuggled from Myanmar, he said. Three persons including two women were arrested. — PTI

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE, GUWAHATI 7

भारतीय विमानपत्रन प्रधिकरण AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (CORRIGENDUM-5)
Refer Expression of Interest (EOI) published on 14.02.2017 in various newspapers for 'Empangement of Contractors for Terminal Building and Pavement works'. The eligibility criteria for Terminal Building and Pavement works has been revised. The validity period of EOI for Terminal Building is extended upto 05.05.2017, 1700 hrs. This corrigendum is valid for Terminal Building category only. For details visit website www.airportsindia.org.in or www.aai.aero or contact on Ph.: +91-243290, Ext: 2568. Further clarifications/corrigendum in this regard, if any, will be put up only on AAI website.
N-15/2017-18

THE ORIENTAL INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

REGIONAL OFFICE, G.S. ROAD, ULUBARI, GUWAHATI-781007
PHONE: 0361-2430520, MOBILE: 9436109500, FAX: 0361-2430525

IN THE GAUHATI HIGH COURT
(The High Court of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram & Arunachal Pradesh)

(A.C.) No. 1798 of 2016
in MAC Appl. Sl.No. 285532

M/S. Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd.Applicant/Appellant:
- Vs

Smti. Taromai Borah & Ors.Opp. Parties/Respondents

To: 5-M. P. Prasad Banuri, (P.O.) S/o Late Akhil Banuri, R.D. Village Barusukh, P.S. Samaguri, P.O. Purungatum-782141, Dist. Nagaon, Assam

Whereas, the appellant above-named M/S Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd. has preferred an appeal challenging the legality and validity of the Judgment and Order dated 26.02.2016 passed by the Motor Accidents Injury Roiling Roof / Hydrocarbon Leakage Case No. 1798 of 2009 along with a petition for condonation of delay.

You are hereby asked to appear before this court on 15.05.2017 at 10:30 A.M. either personally or through counsel duly instructed to file objection, if any.

If you fail to appear on the date and time so fixed, the condonation petition and the appeal will be heard and decided ex parte in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this court on the 17th day of April, 2017 at Guwahati.

Sd/-, Dy. Registrar (Jud-JII)
Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.

OIL AND NATURAL GAS CORPORATION LTD. ASSAM & ASSAM ARAKAN BASIN, JORHAT, ASSAM

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (NTT)

A&A Basin, ONGC, Jorhat invites e-bids (National Competitive Bids) as per details given below:

1) Tender ID: L24NC17004. Brief description: PROCUREMENT OF 20T EOT CRANE FOR DRILLING SERVICES, JORHAT. Delivery period: WITHIN 90 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF NOA (PLEASE REFER TENDER DOCUMENT FOR DETAILS). Total Fee: ₹ 150/- (Rupees One hundred only). Period of sale of tender documents: From 21-04-17 to 10:00 hrs to 15-05-17 at 14:00 hrs. Techno-commercial bid closing / opening date & time: 16-05-17 at 14:00 / 15:00 hrs.

2) Tender No: L28KC17001. Brief description: PROCUREMENT OF PRECISION POWER TRANSMISSION ROLLER CHAIN FOR DRILLING SERVICES, JORHAT. Delivery period: 20 weeks from the date of opening of Letter of Credit which shall be carried out after intimation of award and payment of earnest money (for Foreign tenders) after 20 weeks from the date of notification of receipt of order (from bidder). Tender Fee: ₹ 76,000/- (Rupees Six Thousand only). Period of sale of tender documents: From 21-04-17 at 10:00 hrs to 16-05-17 at 14:00 hrs. Techno-commercial bid closing / opening date & time: 16-05-17 at 14:00 / 15:00 hrs. Physical document closing / opening date & time: 16-05-17 at 14:00 / 15:00 hrs.

For other terms of bidding, including bid evaluation, payment, delivery, etc., please refer to ONGC website "tenders.onrcg.com.in" and tender documents. If tender is successful, bidder may decide to extend tender sale/Techno-commercial bid closing / opening date & time in future which will be posted on the above referred website for information. Bidders should regularly visit ONGC tender website for the latest information in this regard.

New vendors should ensure to approach ONGC for issue of code number along with the entire required documents minimum 5 working days prior to bid closing date.

ASTHA SPECIAL TOURIST TRAIN

(TIRTH YATRA TO NORTH INDIA)

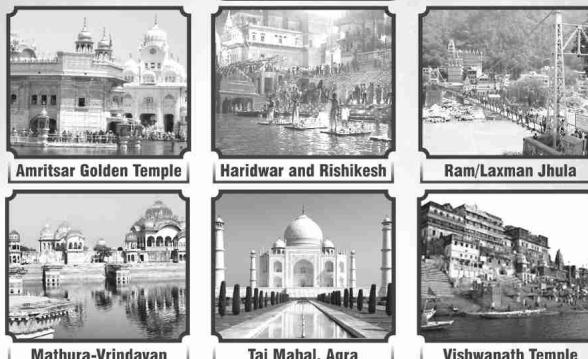
From KAMAKHYA/GUWAHATI to VARANASI

Package Cost:
₹ 8,100/- (per person)

8 Nights / 9 Days

Date of Journey: on 10th May, 2017 from Kamakhya/Guwaahati
Date of Return: on 18th May Kamakhya/Guwaahati

Sightseeing



On-route Boarding Stations: Guwahati/Kamakhya, New Bongaigaon, New Jalpaiguri, Katihar, Barauni, Samastipur, Muzaffarpur.

Package Inclusions: Train Journey by Sleeper Class. ⇒ Hall accommodation at places of night stay/morning freshening up. ⇒ Meals (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner). ⇒ All Meals – Vegetarian. ⇒ Non AC Tourist buses for visiting sightseeing spots. ⇒ Tour escorts for announcements, information and guidance. ⇒ Security arrangements for each coach (without arms). ⇒ An IRCTC Official on train as Train Superintendent.

For Booking Contact: IRCTC Regional Office, Guwahati, Address: 4D Mandovi Apartments, G.N.B. Road, (Opp. Ravindra Bhawan), Ambari, Guwahati-781001. Tel: 0361-2737123. Mobile: +91 9957644166, +91 9957644161.

For Online Booking: www.irctctourism.com/ Tourist Trains > Aasha Circuit Special Train

Booking can also be made through IRCTC Authorized e-ticket and Travel Agents

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

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Massive erosion by river Brahmaputra at Bhogerpar in Barpeta district on Wednesday. — UB Photos

Bohag Bihu of Moran community begins

CORRESPONDENT

TINSUKIA. April 20: One of the most important indigenous ethnic groups of North-east, Moran have their own traditional customs to celebrate the Rongali or Bohag Bihu. They celebrate the Bihu from any Wednesday of the month of Bohag ariwise, according to the direction of the Satradhikar of the Satras situated in the respective localities of the Moran-dominated areas.

Accordingly, the Moran people of Talap Kordoirgi area began their Rongali Bihu celebration by observing 'Goru Bihu' on April 19 and today they will observe Manuh Bihu and so on. During these Bihu days, they will celebrate the festival of spring with traditional Bihu songs, dances, humor, drama, husori, ratna Bihu and most important of all is the 'Goch Tol Log Bihu'. The traditional Goch Tol Log Bihu of Moran is a unique one. As per the tradition, the young unmarried girls of the village or areas dance in the afternoon of the Bihu period with the rhythm of *toka*, an instrument

made with bamboo. There is a bamboo barrier that separates the girls and the boys of the community from another villages or areas. More interestingly, the *tokes* are offered by the girls themselves to the boys. This Goch Tol Log Bihu continues till the last day of the celebration as per the permission of the Satradhikar. Accordingly, the Goch Tol Log Bihu of the area has already started on the Goru Bihu day with much fun and gaiety where girls of the area danced together with the rhythm of *dhol*, *toka* and other instruments.

Diamond jubilee: Tinsukia college, one of the premier educational institutions of Upper Assam has completed 75 years of existence. The occasion will be celebrated with a four-day-long programme from April 22 to 25 and for this a celebration committee has been formed with BP Bakshi as president, Dr Bibhan Gogoi as working president and Dr Achyut Kr Borthakur, Ajit Chandra Phukan and Satyajoti Gogoi as secretaries. The four-day programme will include a cultural rally, a get-together of former teachers and employees with

Essay contests by Karbi Anglong admin

CORRESPONDENT

DIPHU. April 20: In connection with the recently-launched 'My Govt Assam' portal by Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, the Karbi Anglong district administration is going to organise a series of essay writing competitions on the topics, 'My Village My Idea' and 'Poster Design for Road Safety', informed an official press release.

The Deputy Commissioner of Karbi Anglong district through the press release stated that Government of Assam has taken up awareness campaigns and several other measures to curb road accidents. Steps have been taken to stop the increasing number of road accidents and fatalities in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner has urged all the principals of colleges, HS schools and headmasters of high schools to participate in the essay competitions by logging in the portal <https://assam.mygov.in/task-esay-writing-competition-theme-my-village-my-idea-andhttps://assam.mygov.in/task-poster-designing-contest-road-safety-for-awareness-education-on-road-safety>.

Biren Buragohain passes away

CORRESPONDENT

DHEMAJI, April 20: Biren Buragohain, retired founder principal of Machukhwa Girls' Higher Secondary School and an eminent social worker of the greater Machukhwa area in Dhemaji, who was an inhabitant of Nokhaisi village here, passed away on April 18 at 10:50 am at a Dhemaji-based nursing home following a cardiac arrest. He was 67.

Born in 1949, Biren Buragohain passed his BA degree in 1974 from North Bank College, Guwahati and established the then Machukhwa Girls' High School in 1977, which was later promoted as Machukhwa Girls' Higher Secondary School. He retired from service in February, 2013.

Immensely interested in games and sports, late Buragohain was a good football player. He was also associated with several organisations. A sincere worker of the AGP from the time of the Assam Movement, Biren Buragohain recently joined the BJP before the Dhemaji LAC bypoll. He was also a life member of Assam Sahitya Sabha. He had been in the post of the president of the School Management and Development Committee of Machukhwa Girls' HSS till his death.

He leaves behind his wife, a son, three daughters and several grandchildren. His sudden death was deeply mourned in the greater Machukhwa area. Several organisations here like Machukhwa Sahitya Sabha, Machukhwa Press Club, the Machukhwa anachal unit of AASU, AGP, BJP Machukhwa Sports' Association and Machukhwa Lekhika Samoroh Sati have deeply condemned his sudden demise.

SHGs major contributors to Dhubri's economy

CORRESPONDENT

Bayan also informed that these groups have engaged themselves in various types of productive activities that are not just success stories for the groups but a strong second line of financial defence for many families and the society at large.

"Apart from making the members of these groups self sufficient, many groups have also engaged people directly or indirectly making them beneficiaries," said Bayan.

It was also informed that the products of these groups are mostly procured by business houses and are sold all over the country. While attending the programme, the Chairman of Dhubri Municipal Board Toma Das said that the Self Help Groups play a major role in the development of small scale industries of the district. The programme was also attended by Prajnit Wari, CEO of Dhubri Municipal Board, among others.

Kunja Bihari Das: a tribute



Social worker, businessman and artiste Kunja Bihari Das passed away on April 11 at 8:30 am. Das was not only a good human being but also a successful businessman, actor, social worker, family man and a favourite disciple of Shri Sri Krishnamurti Mahaprabhu. His father Late Ramgopal Das was a known contractor of his time in Barpeta and also the founder of mobile theatre group 'Rupanjali Natya Samiti' of 70s.

During late 70s, due to unavoidable circumstances, the theatre group had to bear huge losses and eventually had to close down. The family went through a difficult phase and faced financial hardships. Like his father Kunja Bihari Das was down to earth, honest and a working person. He began his journey for a successful life once again with tremendous hard work, dedication and determination. Das had to do all sorts of works including physical labour. He married Prativa Das on December 14, 1979 and that became a milestone of his life.

— Dhruba Jyoti Das,
Kalyan Das

Since she provided strength in every moment of his life.

Kunja Bihari Das dedicated his life in serving Shri Sri Krishnamurti Mahaprabhu. He went to many places of India for *dharmic prachar*. Das was one of the favourite disciples and was named 'Narayan Bhakat' by Krishnamurti Prabhu.

The cultural side of Das made him more popular in the society. He acted in many Assamese TV serials and movies. Apart from being an actor, he was a producer himself. Some of his successful ventures were TV Serial *Ghat Pratigat*, Punakon, *Sopone* etc.

— Dhruba Jyoti Das,
Kalyan Das

Das was a complete man besides being a successful businessman with many business establishments to his credit.

Like a good player who retires early, Kunja Bihari Das, left for his heavenly abode at an early age of 68 years. Farewell to this great soul who became an inspiration to coming generations, and lived a life of substance. We pray to the Almighty for the eternal peace of his soul.

— Dhruba Jyoti Das,
Kalyan Das

Mohammad Tohsin



The sudden demise of our most beloved mātārā nāl grandfathers Mohammad Tohsin, a resident of Machukhwa on March 12 following a brief illness, is an irreparable loss to our entire family and relatives. His wife, Late Sultana Tohsin (our grandmother) predeceased him in 2012. Our grandfather was a source of support and inspiration to all of us and now that he is no more, we are forced to live with nothing but memories of our grandfather.

Born in 1939 at Puranigulam (Nagaon), our grandfather Md Tohsin was an exceptional student from his childhood. After his matriculation, he joined Cotton College for his PU studies. Then he joined the Assam Engineering College, Guwahati for his graduation. He passed BE in Civil Engineering from

Gauhati University in 1963 securing the 4th position in order of merit and joined as a lecturer at Nowrang Polytechnic. In 1976, he was appointed by the Government of Meghalaya as the head of the Department, Civil Engineering at Shillong Polytechnic where he served till 1981. He preferred reverton to the Assam Government and, so he joined the Govt's Polytechnic, Guwahati. Then went to join the Assam Engineering Institute, Guwahati.

Our grandfather was the first writer of Engineering books in Assamese. Moreover, he had written about 67 papers on technical and non-technical subjects which appeared in reputed journals and newspapers published in and outside Assam. He was also associated with the Indian Road Congress, Institute of Engineers (India), ISTE, etc. He was a dedicated teacher who tried not only to impart prop-

er knowledge but also to inculcate the right values in the boys. He was also a honest and pious man and performed Haj twice in his lifetime.

Our grandfather wrote a series of books on Islamic issues. The most remarkable thing about him was that he never sold those books; he distributed them free of cost. Rather than spending his hard-earned money on himself, he built two mosques for the benefit of the people. One mosque is at Jambari (Chayagon) and the other mosque is at Chalchali (Nagaon) which he built later in the memory of our grandmother.

The departure of our grandfather has left a big void in our family which can never be filled up. He leaves behind three daughters, three sons-in-law and three grandchildren. We pray to the Almighty to grant eternal peace to his departed soul.

— Anjan Sadiullah
Irfan Sadiullah

Pramila lauds operation against poachers

CORRESPONDENT

MANGALDAI. April 20: In a bid to boost the morale of the forest officials and staff showing courage in counter-poaching operations, State Forest Minister Pramila Ran Brahma along with the PCCF of the State Forest department and other higher officials visited Orang National Park and Tiger Reserve on Tuesday night following an encounter between the on-duty forest staff and poachers on Monday midnight, in which two armed poachers were gunned down.

The minister observed that it is very important to express appreciation when any forest staff do commendable job in protecting the forest and the wildlife. She expressed her deep satisfaction over the suc-

cessful operation against the poachers on April 17 midnight in Baghbari forest camp area and the successful eviction drive conducted on April 11 last in Morashali forest camp area thereby acquiring 500 hectares of park land from the encroachers in the forest border, gunned down two poachers who tried to sneak into the Park and then fired at the forest team. Later, the forest staff recovered one 303 rifle along with one magazine, a total of 14 rounds of live ammunition, one empty cartridge and an axe from the spot.

Police Medal: In an official recognition to the special service, Assam Police has awarded four police officials serving in Darrang district the prestigious Police Medal (Special

Duty) for 2016. They are, namely, the then Superintendent of Police of Darrang, Sunil Kumar (now on deputation in IB); present Superintendent of Police, Streethir Thiravam for his excellence in service as the Additional Superintendent of Police (HQ) in Kokrajhar district; Additional Superintendent of Police (HQ), Suman Chakravorty and Officer-in-Charge of Mangaldai Police Station, Inspector Lohit Chandra Rava.

Additional Director General of Police (Vigilance and Anti-Corruption) Dr Yatinida Kumar Gautam has also been conferred the Police Medal. The Assam Police has conferred this award to these police officials along with several others in various ranks for their excellent performance.

Biren Buragohain passes away

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He leaves behind his wife, a son, three daughters and several grandchildren. His sudden death was deeply mourned in the greater Machukhwa area. Several organisations here like Machukhwa Sahitya Sabha, Machukhwa Press Club, the Machukhwa anachal unit of AASU, AGP, BJP Machukhwa Sports' Association and Machukhwa Lekhika Samoroh Sati have deeply condemned his sudden demise.

SHGs major contributors to Dhubri's economy

CORRESPONDENT

Bayan also informed that these groups have engaged themselves in various types of productive activities that are not just success stories for the groups but a strong second line of financial defence for many families and the society at large.

"Apart from making the members of these groups self sufficient, many groups have also engaged people directly or indirectly making them beneficiaries," said Bayan.

It was also informed that the products of these groups are mostly procured by business houses and are sold all over the country. While attending the programme, the Chairman of Dhubri Municipal Board Toma Das said that the Self Help Groups play a major role in the development of small scale industries of the district. The programme was also attended by Prajnit Wari, CEO of Dhubri Municipal Board, among others.

'Majuli on Cycle' tour organised



STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI. April 20: A cultural immersion initiative by Root Bridge in association with Assam Tourism Development Corporation (ATDC) and ESAR, the Small Finance Bank – Majuli on Cycle – showcased the heritage of the river island to a group of visitors including foreign tourists during the Rongali Bihu.

Majuli on Cycle is the first carbon-free tour ever conducted in the river island.

As many as 25 guests including the foreign tourists participated in the day-long cycle ride in Majuli on the first day of Rongali Bihu. They experienced the life and culture of the people living on the island by visiting the Mising villages, an agricultural farm, the art of mask making at Chamapuri Satra, the ancient pottery art practised by the local artisans, and by savouring the traditional Mising food before dipping themselves in the serenity of sunset over the mighty river Brahmaputra.

Root Bridge, an advocacy group for ethical travel introduced the carbon-free travel to set a benchmark for thoughtful tourism. The district administration is happy to extend all the help to such novel ideas. Majuli is going to be the country's first ever carbon-neutral district. Root Bridge's carbon-free travel is a great

example for meaningful travel and is supporting our project," said Jaha while conferring the award on Ojai.

"I have been playing the *dhol* since I was a ten-year-old child. It's a passion and I still love playing it. I have taught hundreds of disciples to play the *dhol* and all of them are now performing in front of different audiences. I have not done it for any award. However, an award is definitely a recognition and an encouragement," said octogenarian Bogai Ojai.

Asserting that Root Bridge wanted to create a benchmark for thoughtful travel in Majuli, Root Bridge Founder Javed said that Majuli's character and a soul needed to be preserved while promoting tourism. "This should be preserved. We are against mass tourism. Root Bridge will introduce a curated storytelling cycle tour in Majuli on a daily basis and this will help both the travellers and the host community. We are so happy and overwhelmed by the government's positive gesture for our humble project," he said.

Participants who attended the event also expressed their happiness. "This is a novel idea. The cycle ride was exotic. We enjoyed every minute. It's a great initiative and we were able to know the life of Majuli, culture, art and everything on a single day," said Dominik, a visitor from Germany, who participated in Majuli on Cycle.

ADMISSION NOTICE
FASHION TECHNOLOGY/GARMENT TECHNOLOGY
(AICTE APPROVED)

Interested candidates intending to pursue 3 years Diploma courses in Fashion Technology/Garment Technology at Assam Technical Staff College, Dibrugarh, Assam can apply online on line as per advertisement No. Jansanyog/17/2017 given by Director of Technical Education, Assam in Assam Tribune dated 18th April' 2017 also for details log on to www.deasam.in

Sd/-
Principal
Assam Textile Institute
Ambari, Guwahati-1

RE-TENDER NOTICE
No. AASC-(IT) 15/2017/1

Sealed tenders affixed with non-refundable court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25/- (Rupees eight and paiss twenty five only) are invited from reputed registered dealers or their authorized dealers/manufacturers for supply of the following items:-

DESCRIPTION OF ITEM NO. OF ITEM

SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF BIOMETRIC ACCESS CONTROL SYSTEM FOR ATTENDANCE MONITORING TO BE USED IN THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING.

The tenders will be opened at 11.00 pm of 8th May, 2017 and will be open for the entire day at 11.00pm. In case that day happens to be a holiday, the tenders will be opened on the next working day. Authorized representatives of the firms concerned may be present at the time of opening of the tenders.

The interested parties may contact the tender documents from the Administrative Officer, Assam Administrative Staff College during the office hours on payment of Rs. 500/- (Rupees Five Hundred only) which would be non-refundable. The tender documents may also be downloaded from the website www.aasc.gov.in. However, the payment of Rs. 500/- will have to be made in any case.

The Director of Training, Assam Administrative Staff College reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reasons thereof.

Sd/- Director of Training
Assam Administrative Staff College
Jawaharnagar, Khanpara, Guwahati - 22

CINEMA PROGRAMME

SILVER SCREEN
Bijoy Nagar, Dibrugarh, Bani Baital (Digital Projector and Dolby Surround sound system and Luxurious path back seats with leather foot rest & piano)

TELEK KUNG FU 2 (Assamese)
For booking: 97693-90972 & 88763-35234
www.bookmyshow.com

GRANDE CINEMA
5th Floor, Biju Baital, Bala Building, G.S. Road, Guwahati-781008
(2 Curved Screens, Dolby CP 7.1 Surround Sound System, Push Back Seats, Air-conditioned and Multiplex Ambience)

SMURFS THE LOST VILLAGE (3D)
At 11.00 pm

FAST AND FURIOUS 8 (Hindi) 3D
At 8.00 pm

FAST AND FURIOUS 8 (Hindi) 3D
At 10.45 am & 6.15 pm - NOOR

FAST AND FURIOUS 8 (Eng) 3D
At 8.30 pm - BEGUM JAAN (

For booking: www.bookmyshow.com Or 0968-401-7771

INOX MOWASSA - JORHAT
ABS Mall, Jorhat, Assam
(Two Screens)

(21st to 27th April 2017)

LOCAL KUNG FU 2 (Assamese)
At 10.45 & 8.30 pm

SMURFS THE LOST VILLAGE 3D (Hindi)
At 11.00 pm

FAST AND FURIOUS 8 (Eng) 3D
At 8.00 pm

FAST AND FURIOUS 8 (Hindi) 3D
At 10.45 am & 6.15 pm - NOOR

FAST AND FURIOUS 8 (Eng) 3D
At 8.30 pm - BEGUM JAAN (

For booking: 0968-401-7771

LOCAL KUNG FU 2 (Assamese)
At 10.45 & 8.30 pm

APRSA CINEMA
(Arcotronics Multiplex Ambience)

TELEK KUNG FU 2 (Assamese)
At 12.30 & 3 pm - NOOR

FAST AND FURIOUS 8 (Hindi) 2D
At 8.00 pm - MAATR (A)

SCREEN

LOCAL KUNG FU 2 (Assamese)
St. Bony Dero, Sengpati Nam.

FAST AND FURIOUS 8 (Hindi) 3D
At 12.45 pm & 8.30 pm - NOOR

FAST AND FURIOUS 8 (Eng) 3D
At 8.00 pm

BEGUM JAAN (A)
Stip. Vidya Balan, Nareshwar Shahn etc.
Advance Booking Available
Online booking: bookmyshow.com, www.pageplus.com

ANURADHA CINPLEX
Multiplex Ambience

2st to 27th April 2017

TELEK KUNG FU 2 (Assamese)
At 10.45 & 8.30 pm - NOOR

FAST AND FURIOUS 8 (Eng) 3D
At 8.00 pm

FAST AND FURIOUS 8 (Hindi) 3D
At 10.45 am & 6.15 pm - NOOR

LOCAL KUNG FU 2 (Assamese)
At 10.45 & 8.30 pm

GOLD CINEMA
Asti Mall, Biju Baital

TELEK KUNG FU 2 (Assamese)
At 11.00 am & 8.30 pm - NOOR

FAST AND FURIOUS 8 (Eng) 3D
At 8.00 pm

FAST AND FURIOUS 8 (Hindi) 3D
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FINAL RECOMMENDED LIST (CATEGORY WISE) OF THE CANDIDATES COMPILED BASED ON MARKS OBTAINED FROM THE FOLLOWING BOARDS:

(1)Written Test marks prepared by erstwhile SLPRB constituted vide Govt. Notification No.HMA.401/2006/215 dated 22.09.2016 under the signature of Shri A.K. Sinha Kashyap, IPS, ADGP(T&A), Assam (2)PET & Extra Curricular marks received from Shri J. Chakravarty, IPS, ADGP (Prosn & CM's SVC), Assam - Cum- Chairman, Selection Committee constituted vide Govt. Notification No. HMA.369/2013/Pl-V/117 dated 09-11-2016.(3) Interview /Personality Test marks received from Shri R. A. Hazarika, IPS, DIGP (CID), Assam- Cum- Chairman, Technical Committee constituted vide Govt. Notification No. HMA.369/2013/Pl-I/129 dated 01-03-2017.

Form - 'I'							Form - 'I'								
FINAL RECOMMENDED LIST OF THE CANDIDATES (Unreserved) IN ORDER OF MERIT WHO COULD QUALIFY IN RECRUITMENT OF SUB-INSPECTOR (UB) IN ASSAM POLICE & ASSISTANT JAILORS IN ASSAM PRISONS DEPARTMENT , 2015-16							FINAL RECOMMENDED LIST OF THE CANDIDATES (Unreserved) IN ORDER OF MERIT WHO COULD QUALIFY IN RECRUITMENT OF SUB-INSPECTOR (UB) IN ASSAM POLICE & ASSISTANT JAILORS IN ASSAM PRISONS DEPARTMENT , 2015-16								
Cast : Unreserved	Post Name : SUB-INSPECTOR	Roll No.	Name of the Candidate	Home district.	Caste / Community	Date of Birth	Grand Total Marks secured	All "UB" Except where written as "SB"	Roll No.	Name of the Candidate	Home district.	Caste / Community	Date of Birth	Grand Total Marks secured	All "UB" Except where written as "SB"
Post Name : SUB-INSPECTOR															
APJ1512028000064M	NABAJIT DAS	GUWAHATI CITY	SC	21/11/1987	143.73				APJ151201300409000M	MHAMIM SKIDAR	CHIRANG	General	01/01/1994	108.63	
APJ1512021014599M	SATYABRATA PEGU	LAKHIMPUR	ST(P)	31/05/1988	137.08	SI(SB)			APJ1512321031510M	RIPJYOTI DOLEY	LAKHIMPUR	ST(P)	01/03/1989	108.61	
APJ1512301005947M	NUR JAHANGIR AHMED	BONGAIGAON	General	12/02/1992	133.66	SI(SB)			APJ1512327001798M	NAV JYOTI DAS	TINSUKIA	SC	08/01/1994	108.19	
APJ1512302007659M	ABHILEKH TALUKDAR	BARPETA	General	27/01/1994	132.93				APJ1512318002243M	HSBASKAR JYOTI CHOURDHURY	KAMRUP (RURAL)	SC	01/02/1987	108.15	
APJ1512001000783M	NASIR UDDIN KHAN	BONGAIGAON	General	16/01/1994	131.64				APJ1510000019456M	BIMOL SING DERA	KARBI ANGLONG	ST(H)	04/07/1990	107.72	
APJ1512302008657M	DHRUBA PRAKASH BAISHYA	BARPETA	SC	12/08/1990	131.58				APJ151000001028M	DEBJIT KALITA	DIBRUGARH	General	14/11/1992	107.67	
APJ15120230280900M	SUMIT TALUKDAR	NAGAON	SC	24/11/1983	130.83	SI(SB)			APJ1512012016050M	PARTHA PROTOM DUTTA	JORHAT	OBC/MOBC	27/11/1993	107.61	
APJ15120220225268M	LABAINYA BORO	BONGAIGAON	ST(P)	01/01/1990	130.44				APJ1512320518231M	BANI KANTA PEGU	GUWAHATI CITY	ST(P)	01/01/1987	107.60	
APJ1512326006557M	RITURAJ CHETIA	SIVASAGAR	OBC/MOBC	01/01/1991	128.31				APJ15100000129175M	SMWDWIN BASUMATARY	BONGAIGAON	ST(P)	01/05/1989	107.60	
APJ1512001019409M	AKASH RAI	NAGAON	OBC/MOBC	03/08/1991	127.24				APJ1512016003150M	SIRONJIB TERANG	PARBATI	ST(H)	02/09/1987	107.92	
APJ1512001005780M	RAS-SANJANI AHMED	BONGAIGAON	General	03/05/1992	126.41				APJ1512326004037M	DEBA PROTOM KONWAR	SIVASAGAR	OBC/MOBC	21/01/1994	107.81	
APJ1512021005275M	MIZANUR ROHMAN	BONGAIGAON	General	15/07/1994	126.18				APJ151000001901565M	MONI JYOTI DAS	KAMRUP (RURAL)	ST(H)	04/07/1990	107.72	
APJ1512021005275M	DIGANTA KALITA	NALBARI	General	10/01/1992	125.11	SI(SB)			APJ151000001028M	DEBOJIT KALITA	DIBRUGARH	General	14/11/1992	107.67	
APJ1512324005144M	BRUNA JALAH	LAKHIMPUR	OBC/MOBC	19/08/1992	125.13				APJ1510000010128M	DEJIBUT DOLEY	JORHAT	OBC/MOBC	27/11/1993	107.61	
APJ1512021005275M	PRANJAL BORAH	DHEMAMI	ST(P)	18/01/1995	124.56				APJ1512320518231M	PARBATI	LAKHIMPUR	ST(P)	01/03/1988	107.55	SI(SB)
APJ1512023003585M	BARJEN MEDHI	BARPETA	General	18/01/1995	124.56				APJ15120160030153M	BIKRAM PEGU	GOLAGHAT	General	23/04/1993	107.50	
APJ16123008034245M	PRANJAL BORAH	DHEMAMI	OBC/MOBC	01/11/1992	123.83				APJ15120000080177M	SUBHIT GOGOI	DIBRUGARH	OBC/MOBC	15/06/1993	106.99	
APJ1512300324910M	BIRDWAD GAYARI	BAKSA	ST(P)	01/10/1990	123.41				APJ1512320503238M	MDAHIDAR RAMCHHARY	KAMRUP (RURAL)	ST(P)	01/03/1991	106.84	
APJ1512324013724M	PRANAB DOLEY	LAKHIMPUR	ST(P)	13/04/1991	122.99				APJ1512320518231M	SONITPUR	DIBRUGARH	General	25/12/1992	106.89	
APJ1512018005156M	ANNAVAK KARMI	KAMRUP (RURAL)	OBC/MOBC	20/04/1995	121.62				APJ1512000002997M	DIYABJI KALITA	BARFETA	SC	31/12/1992	106.68	
APJ1512018005156M	ANNAVAK KARMI	KAMRUP (RURAL)	ST(P)	22/07/1994	120.34				APJ1512018005135M	YASMIN KUMAR	KAMRUP (RURAL)	OBC/MOBC	30/06/1993	106.63	SI(SB)
APJ1512318017516M	CHANAKYA DAS	KAMRUP (RURAL)	SC	01/01/1994	120.34				APJ151201201513M	CHIRALA SAKIA	GOLAGHAT	OBC/MOBC	31/12/1992	106.71	
APJ1512020052526M	SHUBHENDU CHOURDHURY	BARPETA	General	01/08/1992	120.16	SI(SB)			APJ1512018009111M	NIPAN NATH	KAMRUP (RURAL)	OBC/MOBC	01/01/1992	106.67	
APJ1512021009170M	SIMANTA ROY	BARPETA	OBC/MOBC	02/08/1993	120.07				APJ15100000105482M	RANJIT ROBI DAS	BONGAIGAON	SC	30/09/1993	106.53	
APJ1512018019610M	BUDU JIT DAS	KAMRUP (RURAL)	SC	12/12/1991	120.02				APJ1512020230199M	TRIDIP KUMAR BORA	MORIGAON	General	01/01/1995	106.37	
APJ1512027007583M	ASISH MAHANTA	TINSUKIA	OBC/MOBC	19/01/1993	119.91				APJ15120206005799M	PANKAJ UPADHYAY	SIVASAGAR	General	09/06/1992	106.30	
APJ1512022002519M	RUPAM DAS	BARPETA	SC	31/12/1991	119.58										
APJ1510000500333M	BIKRAM ENGTI BIKRAM	GUWAHATI CITY	ST(H)	05/01/1993	119.57										
APJ15120210040327M	NAKIBUDDIN AHMED	KAMRUP (RURAL)	General	26/02/1992	119.43										
APJ1512318010490M	BASHAB THAKURIA	KAMRUP (RURAL)	SC	31/12/1986	119.19										
APJ1512302019541M	TAPAN TALUKDAR	BARPETA	OBC/MOBC	01/05/1992	118.99										
APJ1512021009170M	PRIBRAYAT SARMAH	LAKHIMPUR	General	27/04/1992	118.91	SI(SB)									
APJ1510326010344M	MILTON BORGHAON	GUWAHATI CITY	OBC/MOBC	01/07/1992	118.81										
APJ151202401937M	KAMAL DEKA	NALBARI	SC	01/01/1987	118.77										
APJ1512025019492M	MANJU KUMAR DAS	SONITPUR	SC	14/06/1991	117.61										
APJ151202005266M	RAUFUL ISLAM	BARPETA	General	17/03/1994	117.55										
APJ1512318019456M	ANUP JYOTI KALITA	KAMRUP (RURAL)	General	05/07/1991	117.36										
APJ1512018003392M	DHRUBAJYOTI KAKATI	KAMRUP (RURAL)	OBC/MOBC	01/10/1993	117.30										
APJ151232201610M	ABHILIK DEUTA	MORIGAON	OBC/MOBC	02/06/1992	116.83										
APJ1512013003103M	HIRAK JIATU	TINSUKIA	OBC/MOBC	03/10/1994	116.58										
APJ1512308009810M	RAJKUMAR PEGU	DHEMAMI	ST(P)	06/03/1992	116.47	SI(SB)									
APJ15121801940M	RAJU JYOTI MADMER	BARPETA	SC	18/08/1993	116.47										
APJ1512318007421M	SRI PURNA CHETRY	KAMRUP (RURAL)	OBC/MOBC	01/11/1994	116.43	SI(SB)									
APJ1512021011902M	THILUCHAN DAS	LAKHIMPUR	SC	11/06/1993	116.39										
APJ151202300788M	JISU JANAKEYA GOGOI	DIBRUGARH	OBC/MOBC	15/09/1993	116.37										
APJ1512022009309M	JYOTISH KR NATH	MORIGAON	OBC/MOBC	01/07/1992	116.35										
APJ151000201494M	MUKUL TALUKDAR	BARPETA	General	15/09/1994	116.26										
APJ1512024004833M	HIMANGSHU DAS	NALBARI	OBC/MOBC	31/01/1994	116.18										
APJ15102022009453M	LUKJAN DAS	LAKHIMPUR	ST(P)	27/01/1994	116.11										
APJ15102022010373M	DIP YOTI SARMA	KAMRUP (RURAL)	General	19/01/1992	116.04										
APJ1512318010289M	MITUNUJUN DAS	KAMRUP (RURAL)	SC	01/01/1993	116.03										
APJ15123180102872M	MANTU BORA	LAKHIMPUR	ST(P)	01/01/1988	113.27										
APJ151202000154M	MIREL AHMED	BARPETA	General	16/01/1993	113.19										
APJ1510022001025M	ANANDA MEDHI	MORIGAON	General	01/01/1995	113.18										
APJ1512321031553M	NIRANJAN DAS	LAKHIMPUR	SC	01/07/1992	113.09										
APJ1512320902697M	RAJIV ENGTI	KARBG ANGLONG	ST(H)	06/09/1991	112.87	SI(SB)									
APJ151001300950M	BUHPENDRA RAWAT	GOALPARA	General	12/08/1991	112.86										
APJ1512021002352M	BUJOI DOIMARY	LAKHIMPUR	ST(P)	22/03/1988	112.80										
APJ15100220030481M	SANJAY BASUMATARY	MORIGAON	ST(P)	18/07/1993	112.73										
APJ151232502310M	BIKRAMIT PEGU	SONITPUR	ST(P)	15/02/1990	112.28										
APJ1512027022311M	PRANAB BORPATRA	TINSUKIA	OBC/MOBC	30/04/1992	111.07	SI(SB)									
APJ1512232103693M	NABAJYOTI DAS	LAKHIMPUR	SC	04/12/1994	111.01										
APJ1512026008490M	BOKU GOGOI	SIVASAGAR	OBC/MOBC	31/12/1994	110.98										
APJ1512005023968M	SURAJIT KATHAR	KAMRUP (RURAL)	ST(H)	11/11/1992	110.83										
APJ1512026029391M	RAJ BHADUR PRADHAN	SIVASAGAR	OBC/MOBC	16/12/1993	110.83										
APJ1512318018270M	DIPYOTI MALARAK	KAMRUP (RURAL)	SC	03/01/1989	110.76	SI(SB)									
APJ1512010016281M	FIRDUSH AHMED	DHUBRI	General	11/06/1992	110.38										
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APJ1512020009337M	RUBUL MEDHI	MORIGAON	OBC/MOBC	21/02/1994	110.26	SI(SB)									

Himachal CM appears before ED

NEW DELHI, April 20: Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh today appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) here in connection with a money laundering case registered against him and others.

Singh arrived at the agency's office here in his official car, with a covered beacon, at about 12:00 noon.

Sporting his trademark 'Himachali topi', the CM did not interact with media persons on the spot and was seen raising his fist in the air and heard reciting some lines of a patriotic poem: 'Sarfaroshi ki tamanna ab hamare dil mein hain, dekhna hai zor kitna bahu e qatil mein hai.'

The submission was made before Justice R K Gauba by

The agency has summoned Singh in order to record his statement in this case and also to confront him with some documents it has seized and recovered in this case of disproportionate assets.

The CM, last week, had also sent a communication to the agency stating his reasons for not being able to appear before it all this while and had sought a new date from it, after which the new summons were issued for today.

The ED had yesterday refused to give any assurance in the Delhi High Court that it will not arrest Singh when he appears before it.

The submission was made before Justice R K Gauba by

the ED during the hearing of Singh's plea for quashing of the money laundering proceedings against him. The ED summons have come close on the heels of filing of a charge sheet by the CBI against Singh, his wife and others for allegedly amassing assets worth around Rs 10 crore disproportionate to their known sources of income.

The agency had summoned Singh earlier also, but then he had excused himself stating he had official commitments.

The ED has already questioned his wife Prabhati and son Vikramaditya in connection with the case.

It had filed a case under the anti-money laundering law against the Himachal Pradesh

chief minister, his family members and others after taking cognisance of a complaint filed by the CBI in this regard in September 2015.

The agency is probing allegations against Singh and his family members of amassing wealth disproportionate to their known sources of income between 2009 and 2011 when he was the Union Minister of Steel. It has also attached assets worth about Rs 14 crore in the case.

The CBI charge sheet alleged that Singh had amassed assets worth around Rs 10 crore which were disproportionate to 192 per cent of his total income during his tenure as a Union minister. — PTI

Warrant against Zakir Naik

Rajnath's instruction to officers

MUMBAI, April 20: A special NIA court here on Thursday issued a non-bailable warrant against televangelist Zakir Naik, who is wanted in connection with his role in a terror case, officials said here.

The development came after the National Investigation Agency (NIA) informed Special Judge VV Patil that Naik had failed to respond to three summonses in cases filed under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act against him last year.

Now it would be seek help of Interpol to bring Naik back to India from abroad, the NIA said. — IANS

The function was attended by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh today asked bureaucrats to stand up to the political class if "wrong orders" are given, telling them not to become a "yes man".

Singh also said civil servants should be impartial and show "no hesitation" in taking decisions.

"If a political executive gives wrong orders, do not be scared to show them rules. Tell the political executive that you are legally wrong. Do not sign the file. Haan mein haan naa maister. Do not betray your conscience," he told the inaugural session at an event to mark the Civil Services Day here.

The function was attended by officers belonging to the IAS and other all India services.

Lauding the role of bureaucrats in bringing changes in the society, the home minister said the job makes an officer responsible, accountable and impartial.

"Civil services have power. But with power comes big responsibility, accompanied by accountability. We should always remember this. Along with the responsibility and accountability, impartiality is the third most important aspect of our civil servants. Lack of impartiality may affect your decision making capabilities," he said.

Singh said civil servants have to play a more active and effective role in its implementation. — PTI

(Contd. from Page 10)

Roll No.	Name of the Candidate	Home district.	Caste / Community	Date of Birth	Grand Total Marks secured	All "UB" Except where written as "SB"	Roll No.	Name of the Candidate	Home district.	Caste / Community	Date of Birth	Grand Total Marks secured	All "UB" Except where written as "SB"	
APJ1512326032687M	DIBAKOR GOGOI	SIVASAGAR	OBC/MOBC	27/08/1994	101.52		APJ1512021011936M	MONUJ PEGU	LAKHIMPUR	ST(P)	30/11/1987	103.67		
APJ15010012021012M	BULBUL SAIKIA	GOLAGHAT	OBC/MOBC	21/07/1991	101.37		APJ151201201801174M	HEMANTA RABHA	KAMRUP(RURAL)	ST(P)	11/06/1987	103.54	SI(SB)	
APJ151202202302692M	PABITRA DEKA	MORIGAON	OBC/MOBC	01/01/1993	101.25		APJ1512021017198M	MADHURJOYI DEORI	LAKHIMPUR	ST(P)	26/12/1993	102.40		
APJ150307007871M	SAMARAJYOTIDEKA	DARANG	OBC/MOBC	22/02/1993	101.16		APJ151201200810316M	ABHAIJYOTI RABHA	KAMRUP(RURAL)	ST(P)	31/12/1990	102.17		
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APJ1512318025406M	HIRAK JYOTI DAS	KAMRUP(RURAL)	OBC/MOBC	16/02/1998	100.79		APJ15123210218815M	PRANAN MILI	LAKHIMPUR	ST(P)	01/01/1994	101.82	SI(SB)	
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APJ151201030491M	KARTICK BASAK	DHUBRI	OBC/MOBC	06/09/1992	100.27		APJ151202100601033M	LUKENDRA PANGING	SIVASAGAR	ST(P)	31/12/1987	99.60	SI(SB)	
APJ1512327022764M	UTPAL GOOGI	TINSUKIA	OBC/MOBC	30/06/1992	100.12	SI(SB)	APJ1512012016959M	SANJAY BORO	KAMRUP(RURAL)	ST(P)	06/10/1992	99.16		
APJ1512007001402M	PRANABKUMARDEKA	DARANG	OBC/MOBC	29/07/1994	99.92		APJ1510012023733M	RAHUL DOLEY	GOLAGHAT	ST(P)	12/06/1994	99.16		
APJ1502007011071M	SAMIRAN DEKA	DARANG	OBC/MOBC	21/02/1993	99.87	SI(SB)	APJ151231000544M	BHISWAJIT SONOWAL	GOLAGHAT	ST(P)	01/03/1994	98.83	SI(SB)	
APJ1512018000791M	NAYANMINI PATHOWARY	KAMRUP(RURAL)	OBC/MOBC	26/02/1992	99.84		APJ1512021012241M	BHARAT PEGU	LAKHIMPUR	ST(P)	02/01/1991	98.69		
APJ151201602537M	NABAJYOTI LAHON	NAGAON	OBC/MOBC	31/07/1993	99.78		APJ1512313032893M	BSWAJITI RABHA	GOALPARA	ST(P)	21/05/1991	98.67		
APJ15026012914M	ACHYUT KHISIN PHUKON	SIVASAGAR	OBC/MOBC	07/06/1993	99.76	SI(SB)	APJ151202201922M	BIRSANI BORDOLOI	MORIGAON	ST(P)	01/01/1992	98.65		
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APJ1512018015257M	JAYDEV NATH	KAMRUP(RURAL)	OBC/MOBC	01/06/1993	99.57	SI(SB)	APJ151230904459M	RAJIB BORAH	DIRBURGARH	ST(P)	30/06/1992	97.86		
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APJ1512009001376M	MANOHAN CHANDRA ROY	DHUBRI	OBC/MOBC	01/01/1993	98.76		APJ15120120080678M	NILAM BORO	KAMRUP(RURAL)	ST(P)	31/01/1994	96.23		
APJ1510013001530M	KAPIL DEV NATH	GOALPARA	OBC/MOBC	20/09/1992	98.57		APJ1510201032955M	TRITHESWAR NARAH	LAKHIMPUR	ST(P)	02/02/1993	96.21		
APJ1512018011445M	BISWAJIT NATH	KAMRUP(RURAL)	OBC/MOBC	01/07/1993	97.83		APJ1512326029875M	MITHUN TAYE	SIVASAGAR	ST(P)	01/02/1991	96.05		
APJ150307004694M	PABAN DEKA	DARANG	OBC/MOBC	30/12/1991	97.27		APJ15123101701985M	UDYAK BASUMATARY	KOKRAJHAR	ST(P)	05/05/1988	93.77		
APJ1512325024694M	RANAKUMAR NATH	SONITPUR	OBC/MOBC	01/02/1995	97.24		APJ151231200125M	PANKAJ DOLEY	GOLAGHAT	ST(P)	01/01/1991	93.03		
APJ1512325028930M	KALISHINEWAR	SONITPUR	OBC/MOBC	25/02/1993	97.21		APJ15123180220340M	KAMRAL BARO	KAMRUP(RURAL)	ST(P)	31/12/1990	91.60	SI(SB)	
APJ1502021019391M	SURU DUTTA	LAKHIMPUR	OBC/MOBC	01/07/1991	97.10	SI(SB)								
APJ1512009001376M	APURBA SAIKIA	DIBURGARH	OBC/MOBC	01/07/1993	97.03									
APJ1512009013858M	MONURANJAN KONWAR	DIBURGARH	OBC/MOBC	29/10/1992	96.66									
APJ151002002525M	SUNIL DAS	BARPETA	OBC/MOBC	28/01/1995	96.60									
APJ1512012008446M	DEBABRAT PHUKON	GOOLAGHAT	OBC/MOBC	22/09/1993	96.52	SI(SB)								
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APJ1512316002661M	MANAS BORAH	JORHAT	OBC/MOBC	30/07/1994	93.47									
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APJ1512002026506M	PARAMANANDA SAIKIA	GOOLAGHAT	OBC/MOBC	30/10/1991	92.97									
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APJ1512018018240M	BRIJESH KUMAR	KAMRUP(RURAL)	OBC/MOBC	30/06/1993	92.44									
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APJ1520230201446M	KHANINDRA NATH	BARPETA	OBC/MOBC	31/12/1992	91.65									
APJ1510202600510M	BIPLAB KONWAR	SIVASAGAR	OBC/MOBC	30/03/1993	91.63	SI(SB)								
APJ1512321018152M	TONSENG PHUKON	LAKHIMPUR	OBC/MOBC	01/06/1991	91.30	SI(SB)								
APJ15123220101592M	BISNU BORUJAH	LAKHIMPUR	OBC/MOBC	05/02/1992	91.08	SI(SB)								
APJ1512318005667M	DIP YOTI DAS	KAMRUP(RURAL)	OBC/MOBC	01/01/1994	90.51	SI(SB)								
Form - 'J'														
FINAL RECOMMENDED LIST OF THE CANDIDATES (SC) IN ORDER OF MERIT WHO COULD QUALIFY IN RECRUITMENT OF SUB-INSPECTOR (UB) IN ASSAM POLICE & ASSISTANT JAILORS IN ASSAM PRISONS DEPARTMENT, 2015-16														
Cast : SC	Post Name : SUB-INSPектор													
APJ1512324015057M	DULUMANITALUKDAR	NALBARI	SC	01/01/1991	105.76									
APJ1512016008000M	RITURAJ DAS	JORHAT	SC	01/01/1993	104.87									
APJ1512016008388M	MANABYOTILAKMALAR	KAMRUP(RURAL)	SC	31/12/1994	104.24	SI(SB)								
APJ1512018000794M	BABUL DAS	KAMRUP(RURAL)	SC	22/01/1992	104.23									
APJ1512318012850M	PRANABYOTI DAS	KAMRUP(RURAL)	SC	02/04/1987	104.19									
APJ150200309201M	KISHOREKUMARDAS	NAGAON	SC	01/01/1994	103.63									
APJ1512312001322M	UMESH RAM	GOOLAGHAT	SC	29/11/1991	103.08									
APJ1501005002785M	DHRAJUJYOTI NANUDRA	SIVASAGAR	SC	31/09/1991	102.60									

Scientists have developed a lightweight robotic cheetah that efficiently uses its energy to replicate the movements of the fastest land animal in the world.

The scaled-down robotic version moves using about 15 per cent more energy than a real cheetah.

Robotic cheetah

Scientists develop lightweight robotic cheetah

"As you might expect of the fastest land animal in the world, the cheetah makes very efficient use of its energy," said Geert Folkertsma from the University of Twente in the Netherlands.

"I wanted to create a robot that runs the same way, with the aim of applying this knowledge to the development of new robots," said Folkertsma.

"Robots are bound to play an increasingly important part in our daily lives and we therefore have to ensure that they can move effectively in our environment," he said.

While walking robots tend to be large and heavy, taking cumbersome steps that use a lot of energy, the cheetah runs swiftly and smoothly.

"By applying knowledge about the movement patterns of the cheetah, you can develop robots that walk more elegantly and above all efficiently," said Folkertsma.

(Source: PTT)



Know your DAY

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, April 21, 2017:

This year you often take an unconventional stand. Other times, you are emotional and very sensitive to a situation. Use care with spending, as you tend to sedate your strong feelings by going on a shopping spree of some kind. If you are single, you will meet someone as the weather cools down. This person may open your eyes to new possibilities. If you are attached, the two of you are in love and about as a couple together, you will realize a long-term goal. PISCES proves his or her loyalty over and over again.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

***** Your high energy might be covering up some frustration or anger. By being active, your difficult feelings often disappear. Right now you need for the next few weeks, your words could carry some sarcasm or hostility. Discuss this issue with a close friend. Tonight: Catch some zzz's.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

You are feeling like a friend isn't telling you exactly what or where things are. This person doesn't feel confident that you will respond the way he or she wants. Tonight: Celebrate with a loved one.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

You are in a certain situation differently, given the opportunity. An observation will offer more insight into what is happening. You could be somewhat more sarcastic than usual. Ask yourself what is going on, and figure out what is irritating you. Tonight: Be around music.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

***** Taking a break from the here and now will be important, and it also might positively affect various areas of your life. You could be more upright than you realize. Try not to swallow any anger, and be more willing to discuss your feelings. Tonight: Avoid a fight for the weekend.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Move forward and express their feelings. You will have the opportunity to form a closer bond with a specific person. You might be out of sync when dealing with many people at once. Opt for one-on-one interactions. Tonight: Avoid a fight or an irritating friend.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

***** You are more likely to defer to someone else. How you handle a personal matter could change radically, given some time. You know what you need to do to make a situation work. A conversation could be provocative, but it will be worthwhile. Tonight: The only answer is "Yes."

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

You need to be in someone who is not present to be somewhat upset at the sudden change of plans. Share your thoughts with someone in whom you often confide. Tonight: In the whirlwind of living.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

***** You are easily depressed. You might feel like you are being suppressed. On the other hand, you might not want to share your ideas with everyone. A financial matter could have led up to feeling restricted. Break past that barrier as quickly as possible. Tonight: Express your interest in someone.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

***** You are more easily released despite some pressure you're getting from an associate or loved one. You probably won't be surprised if this person has an outburst or two. Perhaps you'll want to have a long-overdue chat as a result. Tonight: Listen rather than talk.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

***** You are more likely to be in one more line, yet you still might wonder what to do next. Let events play out. Make sure your hunches are right before you take action. Sometimes you feel as if you need to sit on your frustration. Tonight: Join a friend or two for some bubbly.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

***** You want to be more aggressive. You often think about how to impress others, but you also need to honor your own feelings. Be more direct in expressing your thoughts and ideas. As a result, you'll open up and feel much happier. Tonight: Invite a close friend to dinner.

Thought for the day

The liar's punishment is not in the least that he is not believed, but that he cannot believe anyone else.

- GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

The research provides valuable knowledge that can be used to optimise the robots of the future, designed to support us in areas such as healthcare or housekeeping.

The knowledge gained from the project can also be put to good use in rehabilitation robots or advanced prosthetics that are equipped with robotics.

Folkertsma studied extensive video footage of cheetahs and used software to analyse their movements.

The backbone plays crucial to the power this big cat generates. Bending and extending its spine enables the cheetah to move efficiently, run exceptionally fast and make huge leaps.

"The main difference between existing walking robots and the cheetah robot is therefore the backbone," Folkertsma said.

"The trick was to imitate it without complicating matters unnecessarily. Instead of vertebrae and intervertebral discs, we worked with a cleverly placed spring which delivers approximately the same effect," he said.

"Cheetahs are also able to store a lot of energy in their muscles for later use. This too is something we have imitated by fitting carefully selected springs in our robot's legs," he added.

The prototype weighs in at 2.5 kg and is 30 cm long – twenty times lighter than a real cheetah and four times smaller.

Taking into account the weight difference, the robot moves using only about fifteen per cent more energy than a real cheetah. The robot can currently reach a speed of about one kilometre per hour.

"That's quite a pace for such a small robot," said Folkertsma.

(Source: PTT)

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Taking into account the weight difference, the robot moves using only about fifteen per cent more energy than a real cheetah. The robot can currently reach a speed of about one kilometre per hour.

"That's quite a pace for such a small robot," said Folkertsma.

(Source: PTT)

Kids

CN CARTOON NETWORK

12:00 Teen Titans Go
12:30 Kritter
13:00 Dino Dan
14:00 Handi Men Buddy
15:30 My Knight and Me
16:00 The Powerpuff Girls
17:00 Ben 10
18:00 Land Before Go
20:30 Ruff No. 21
21:00 Teen Titans Go
21:30 Yo-Kai Watch
22:00 Ben 10
23:00 Dragon Ball Z

M.A.D.

Entertainment

StarPlus

13:00 Tu Sooraj Main Saanjh
13:30 Ek Aashaa Aa Shee
14:00 Shakti Ka Dikha
15:00 Dil Boley Oseeni
15:30 Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai
16:00 Men Dunga
16:30 Shakti Ka Dikha
17:00 Suhani Ke Ladi
17:30 Jaana De Di Se Dior
18:00 Shakti Ka Dikha
19:00 Pardes Mein Hal Meri Dill
20:30 Chandra Nandni
21:00 Shakti Ka Dikha
21:30 Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai
22:00 Insaagnat
22:30 Shakti Ka Dikha
23:00 Ek Shringaar Swabhumi

Swabhumi

23:30 Shakti Ka Dikha

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INTERNATIONAL

Iran FM slams 'worn-out' US nuke charges



TEHRAN, April 20: Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif today criticised "worn-out" US accusations that it was seeking a nuclear weapon to threaten the region and the world.

"Worn-out US accusations can't mask its admission of Iran's compliance" with a 2015 nuclear deal, Zarif wrote on Twitter.

Iran says its nuclear

programme is purely for peaceful purposes but signed a deal with world powers to restrict its fuel enrichment for 10 years in exchange for sanctions relief.

US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said yesterday that Tehran has so far met its obligations, but that the deal could only delay Iran's development of a nuclear weapon.

The deal "fails to achieve the objective of a non-nuclear Iran," he said, and was a product of "the same failed approach of the past that brought us to the current imminent threat we face from North Korea."

Zarif's spokesman Sean Spicer said a review would be conducted by US government agencies over the next 90 days on whether to stick by the deal. – AFP

Gandhi stamps auctioned for 500,000 pounds

LONDON, April 20: A set of four rare stamps featuring the portrait of Mahatma Gandhi has been sold for record 500,000 pounds at an auction in the UK which its seller said is the highest price ever paid for Indian stamps.

Only 13 of the 1948 Gandhi 10-pence Purple Brown and Lake Service stamps are in circulation. The block of four was sold to a private Australian collector for the highest ever price for Indian stamps, said UK-based dealer Stanley Gibbons.

The Indian stamps were particularly rare owing to the fact they were in a set of four.

From the issued sheet, supplied to the Governor-General's Secretariat, only thirteen single examples are authoritatively recorded. – PTI



Japan's Emperor Akihito, flanked by Empress Michiko, leads his royal family members Crown Prince Naruhito (C), Crown Princess Masako (2nd R), Prince Akishino (L), Princess Kiko (3rd R) and their daughter Princess Mako to greet guests during the annual spring garden party at the Akasaka Palace imperial garden in Tokyo on Thursday. – UNI

Pope to declare Fatima child shepherds saints

VATICAN CITY, April 20: Two of the three child shepherds to whom the Virgin Mary supposedly appeared in Fatima, Portugal a century ago will be declared saints on May 13, Pope Francis announced today.

The canonisation of Jacinta and Francisco Marto will take place during the Argentine pontiff's visit to one of Catholicism's major pilgrimage sites.

The trip has been timed to mark the 100th anniversary of the first reported apparitions of the Virgin who, according to Catholic tradition, shared three major prophecies with the children.

Jacinta was seven at the time, her brother Francisco was nine and their cousin, Lucia, was 10.

The siblings both died before reaching adolescence and are buried at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima.

They will be the youngest non-martyrs to be canonised in the history of the church.

After her first visit, the Virgin Mary is said to have appeared to them several times over a six-month period, always on the 13th.

This prompted thousands to gather on the spot on October 13, 1917, with several witnesses saying they had seen the sun "miraculously" dance

in the sky.

Their cousin Lucia joined a convent. In 1941 she said she and the siblings had been given three secrets by Mary; the first was a vision of Hell and the second was a warning that another, more devastating war was looming – the Second World War.

The third secret she kept to herself for years, before finally being persuaded to write it down and it was delivered to the Vatican in 1957.

Finally published in 2000, it described a vision that was believed – with its depiction of the death of a man robed in white – to have been a prophecy of the 1981 assassination attempt on Pope John Paul II.

Francis, 80, will be the fourth pope to visit the Fatima shrine, after Paul VI, John Paul II and Benedict XVI. – AFP

Iran could become another N Korea: US

WASHINGTON, April 20: US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has termed the Iran nuclear deal a failure and said an "unchecked" Tehran could become another North Korea, but stopped short of threatening to derail the landmark agreement.

Tillerson said the US is conducting a comprehensive review of its Iran policy and added that the Obama-era nuclear deal only "delays" Tehran's goal of becoming a nuclear state.

"This deal represents the same failed approach of the past that brought us to the current imminent threat we face from North Korea. The Trump administration has no intention of passing the buck to a future administration on Iran," he said at a hurriedly-convened press briefing.

"Iran's nuclear ambitions are a grave risk to international peace and security," Tillerson said.

His toughen stand on Iran yesterday came a day after the Trump administration notified the Congress that Tehran is complying with the 2015 nuclear deal negotiated by former president Barack Obama to limit the Islamic

retaliate if the US breached the nuclear agreement.

Tillerson, seeking to reinforce the idea that the US is forcefully countering Iran's destabilising behaviour in the Middle East, also described Tehran as a "leading state sponsor of terror".

"The evidence is clear: Iran's provocative actions threaten the United States, the region and the world," he said.

"An unchecked Iran has the potential to travel the same path as North Korea and take the world along with it. The United States is keen to avoid a second piece of evidence that strategic patience is a failed approach."

Tillerson accused Iran of intensifying multiple conflicts including the one in Syria, undermining US interests in several countries, continuing to support attacks against Israel, and sponsoring cyber and terror attacks across the world. – PTI

Sharif gets temporary reprieve from Pak SC

ISLAMABAD, April 20: Embattled Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif today got a temporary breather from the Supreme Court which said there was "insufficient evidence" to remove him from office but ordered setting up of a joint team to investigate the graft allegations against his family.

The high-profile graft case is about alleged money laundering by Sharif in 1990s when he twice served as the Prime Minister to purchase assets in London. The assets surfaced when Panama papers last year showed that they were managed through offshore companies owned by Sharif's children.

A five-judge Supreme Court

bench issued a landmark 540-page split judgement ordering setting up of a Joint Investigation Team comprising officials from different agencies including those from powerful spy agencies the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and the Military Intelligence.

Panamagate

The other agencies in the JIT include the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), and the Security and Exchange Commission of Pakistan.

The bench comprising Justice Asif Saeed Khosa, Justice Gulzar Ahmed, Justice Ejaz

Ataz Khan, Justice Azmat Saeed and Justice Ijazul Ahsan also ordered 67-year-old Sharif and his two sons – Hasan and Hussain – to appear before the JIT.

There is "insufficient evidence to remove Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif," said the verdict.

"A thorough investigation is required," Justice Khosa said.

The JIT would be set up within a week. It will present its report before the bench after every two weeks and will complete its investigation in 60 days.

Justice Ejaz, Justice Azmat and Justice Ahsan wrote the majority judgment, whereas Justice Gulzar and Justice Khosa in their dissenting note branded Sharif "dishonest". – PTI

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২১ এপ্রিল, ২০১৭

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Juventus hold firm to knock out Barcelona

BARCELONA. April 20: A distraught Neymar left the field in tears as Juventus held Barcelona to a 0-0 draw at the Camp Nou to reach the Champions League semifinals 3-0 on aggregate.

Barca had overcome a 4-0 first-leg deficit against Paris Saint-Germain in the last 16 with a dramatic 6-1 win back on home soil.

But Juventus yesterday showed why they boast the best defensive record in the competition as Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez and Neymar were blunted as the Italians gained revenge for their defeat in the 2015 Champions League final.

"To not concede a goal in two games against Barcelona says a lot about the tactical level of the team," said Juventus boss Massimiliano Allegri.

"They had more chances in Turin than they did tonight. The team defended very solidly tonight."

Juventus join holders Real Madrid, Atletico Madrid and Monaco in Friday's semifinal draw.

"We tried with all our might, but we couldn't find the route to goal," said Barca coach Luis Enrique.

"We played a very poor first half in Turin and that has cost us dearly. I will remember what happened in the first half there."

Straight from kick-off the visitors seemed determined to learn from the French champions' mistakes.



providing Higuain with a tap-in.

Barca had to wait 19 minutes for their first clear sight of goal as they intricately worked the ball around a packed Juventus box before Messi fired inches wide.

Messi then stung Gianluigi Buffon's palms for the first time on the half-hour mark.

"Overall they were the better team and deserved to go through," Pique told BeIN Sports Spain.

"Little-by-little we started to create chances, but they built a mountain."

At the other end, Higuain threatened again when he just couldn't get enough power on Miralem Pjanic's dinked cross to beat Marc-Andre ter Stegen.

Neymar had been Barca's hero in a remarkable finish with two goals and an assist in the final minutes against PSG.

Yet, he found it far harder up against friend and former Barca teammate Dani Alves and his frustrations at a perceived lack of protection from referee Bjorn Kuipers spilled over as he was booked just before half-time.

Juventus also had the first big chance of the

second half as Cudrado fired across Ter Stegen but wide of the far post.

Ter Stegen was then forced to turn behind another driven effort from the Colombian.

Messi was being forced to come deep in search of possession, but he briefly had Juventus hearts in mouths with a low effort that was deflected fractionally wide.

Enrique coolly turned to Paco Alcacer from the bench as the hosts played with four forwards for the final half-hour.

Messi had another big chance after a rare Buffon handling error from a corner, but unfortunately for Barca it fell on his right foot and the Argentine fired well over.

Sergi Roberto was Barca's unlikely hero with the 95th-minute goal that sealed the 6-1 win over PSG six weeks ago.

He nearly delivered another important and rare goal, but when the right-back's effort just wide 20 minutes from time so did Barcelona's hopes.

Juventus comfortably saw out the final stages to register their eighth clean sheet in 18 Champions League games this season.

And the only negative news of the night for the Bianconeri was a yellow card for Sami Khedira that will rule the German international out of the first leg of their semifinal. - AFP

Serena Williams expecting baby this year



LOS ANGELES. April 20: Serena Williams is expecting a baby this year her spokesperson confirmed, hours after the tennis great hinted at the news in a Snapchat post.

"I'm happy to confirm Serena is expecting a baby this fall," Los Angeles-based publicist Kelly Bush Novak said in a statement emailed to AFP yesterday.

While Williams won't play again this year, she looks forward to returning in 2018," Bush Novak said.

Williams' Snapchat post, quickly highlighted in US media, showed the 35-year-old in a yellow swimsuit that revealed an apparent baby bump. But the post was quickly taken down, lending an air of mystery to its meaning.

The GOAT herself @serenawilliams took to Snapchat to announce she's 20 weeks pregnant! Congratulations Serena!" the US Tennis Association, organisers of the US Open which Williams has won six times tweeted, using the acronym for "Greatest Of All Time".

But the Women's Tennis Association deleted a congratulatory tweet and acknowledged in a statement they had no confirmation of the news.

It was hours before they could tweet: "It's official! @SerenaWilliams and @AlexisOhanian are expecting a baby this fall."

In December, Williams announced her engagement to Reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian, first sharing that news on the Reddit social media site.

If Williams is 20 weeks into her pregnancy, that means she was already expecting when she won her record-setting 23rd Grand Slam title at the Australian Open in January – where she beat her elder sister Venus in the final.

For fans the announcement underscored Williams' superwoman status.

Williams hasn't played since her Australian Open triumph, which saw her surpass Steffi Graf for the most Grand Slam singles titles in the Open Era.

Only Australian Margaret Court has won more, capturing 24. The last of those came in 1973 – the year after Court gave birth to a son. Williams cited a knee injury in pulling out of tournaments in Indian Wells and Miami in March. – AFP

Murray suffers shock defeat in Monte Carlo

MONTRE CARLO. April 20: Andy Murray's serving woes continued as he crashed out of the Monte Carlo Rolex Masters following a 2-6, 6-2, 7-5 defeat to Albert Ramos-Vinolas.

The World No. 1 started his second-round match against Gilles Muller on Wednesday with three double faults in the first four points of the match and it did not get much better in his match-up against the clay-specialist.

Murray was broken seven times during a see-saw encounter with the Spaniard and was leading 4-0 in the final set before he suffered a spectacular collapse.

Ramos-Vinolas rallied back to take the next four games to level the decider and despite the Scot taking the ninth to 5-4 up, the 15th seed closed out the match with three successive games to seal an unlikely victory. – Agencies

Kashyap crashes out of China Masters

CHANGZHOU (China). April 20: Former Commonwealth Games champion shuttler Parupalli Kashyap fought hard before going down in the men's singles pre-quarterfinals of the USD 150,000 China Masters Grand Prix Gold, here today.

Kashyap lost 10-21, 22-20, 13-21 to former World No. 6 and third seed Qiao Bin of China in a contest which lasted an hour and 16 minutes at the Olympic sports centre.

The tournament was Kashyap's return to competitive badminton after recovering from a shoulder injury. He had suffered the injury during the Premier Badminton League (PBL) in January. – PTI

rankings – a move that angered some players. Sharapova has also been invited to play court events in Madrid and Rome.

Whether she receives a wildcard for Roland Garros will be revealed just a week before qualifying begins for the May 28–June 11 Grand Slam.

French Tennis Federation (FTF) president Bernard Giudicelli said last month that they faced a moral dilemma and hinted he was against it.

If Sharapova misses out the French Open will go ahead in the absence of the two biggest

cardinals in the women's game, with Williams announcing on Wednesday the end of her season due to pregnancy.

"Serena Williams and Maria Sharapova are two uncontested cases," said Giudicelli.

"We're staging a Grand Slam, not a casting."

If the FTF decides not to offer Sharapova a wildcard she still has a chance of making Roland Garros via the qualifiers, but for that route she must pick up enough points by winning or possibly even making the final in Stuttgart. – AFP

happened a week after the attack – everyone was on the bus ready to go but we were not allowed to," Tuchel said.

"You come into such a game trying to have a clear mind to go out and turn the tie around, but just an hour and a quarter to go before the match we were not able to think about football at all and it wasn't ideal."

While the appearance of Spanish defender Marc Bartra – who needed surgery for a broken wrist suffered in last week's attack – did the tie end in a boost to Dortmund, the side and their hopes were effectively ended in a terrible opening 20 minutes.

The away defence backed off as Benjamin Mendy advanced and when the full-back's powerful left-foot strike stung the palms of goalkeeper Roman Burki, the 18-year-old Mbappe was on hand to convert the rebound.

That strike meant Mbappe, who netted twice in the first leg, became the youngest player ever to reach five goals in the Champions League, beating Real Madrid great Raul by 41 days.

Nuri Sahin cracked a free-kick off a post at the other end and Monaco sur-

vived that scare to increase their lead on 15 minutes at the end of a counter-attack.

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In-form KKR look to add to Gujarat's misery

KOLKATA, April 20: High on confidence following a hat-trick of victories, two-time champions Kolkata Knight Riders would look to continue their winning streak when they face struggling Gujarat Lions in a battle between the top and bottom-placed teams of the ongoing IPL here tomorrow.

With two home and two away wins from five matches, in-form KKR are on a roll, quite contrast to the campaign of Gujarat who finished the league stages on top last season but are yet to find their rhythm this year with just one victory out of five.

There has been no individual hero for KKR in their journey so far and every player is backing each other. That has not only helped them overcome hurdles but played a key role in their smooth campaign.

But for the Suresh Raina-led Gujarat Lions, nothing is going right, be it their batting or bowling, especially the spin department which has let-down the team badly.

Struggling to find a set opening

pair in the absence of an injured Chris Lynn, KKR once had a disastrous start in their chase of 170 in Delhi as they were reduced to 21 for three inside three overs.

Any other team would have succumbed under pressure but not KKR, who put up a 110-run fourth-wicket stand between Manish Pandey (69 not out from 47 balls) and Yusuf Pathan (59 from 36 balls) to set up the four-wicket win. Pandey has been in the form of his life as he struck a second unbeaten half-century of the season to seal the chase, finishing off the game with a flat six.

After spending a three-day-wait option to skipper Gautam Gambhir.

With the team gelling well and enjoying a winning momentum, there may not be any need to tinker KKR's line-up but in hindsight it is perplexing to see star Bangladeshi all-rounder Shakib-Al-Hasan warming the bench.

Andre Russell's replacement Colm de Grandhomme has failed to make much impact from a better overseas option to skipper Gautam Gambhir.

Their smooth campaign so far notwithstanding, KKR would be worried about the form of Suryakumar Yadav, who has failed to deliver with the bat at the crucial number six position. For the Lions to roar, their top-heavy batting order must first win in unison against a consistent KKR bowling attack.

Spirits trail Suresh Raina, Kuldeep Yadav and Yusuf Pathan conceded a combined 43 runs from nine overs and took key wickets of David Warner, Shikhar Dhawan and Deepak Hooda to choke Sunrisers Hyderabad to a 17-run defeat in their last match here.

Finding a winning combination

would be the priority for Raina as overseas players, especially Dwayne Smith and Aaron Finch has disappointed the team so far.

Jason Roy and James Faulkner may give Raina a better option while it won't be a bad idea to promote the talented hard-hank opener Ishan Kishan up the order.

Another big setback for the Lions has been hamstring injury to their star West Indies all-rounder Dwayne Bravo, who returned with 17 wickets from 15 matches last season.

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Laxman happy with problem of plenty in SRH

HYDERABAD, April 20: Sunrisers Hyderabad mentor VVS Laxman feels his team is faced with a problem of plenty in the ongoing IPL as newcomers have made it count at the first given opportunity.

Hyderabad are jointly top in the IPL points table after beating Delhi Daredevils by 5 runs yesterday.

"I don't see any area of concern while we are under pressure, even though the matches are close. Having said that, we always look to improve," he said in the post-match press conference.

Laxman appreciated KXIP's Williamson, whose brilliant knock of 89 runs enabled SRH to put up a challenging target of 192, and young players like Siddharth Kaul and debutant Mohammad Siraj. Delhi managed 176/5 in reply.



here from May 8 to 10.

The champion teams of both categories will participate in the North East Inter Institutional Basketball Championship.

The Assam teams for the National Youth Basketball Championship (U-16), to be held at Hyderabad from July 1 to 8 will be picked from the State championship, informed BAA secretary Mukut Medhi in a release.

AFA name Assam team for jr national

SPORTS REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 20: Charaideo Cricket Coaching Centre handed a 121-run drubbing to NFR Railway SA Cricket Academy in the 7th Sitaram Agarwala Memorial U-17 Inter School/Organisation Cricket Tournament organised by the Bud Cricket Club.

Opting to bat first at the Assam Cricket Association's Barsapara stadium here, the Charaideo boys scored a commendable total of 183 losing all the wickets in 44.4 overs.

In reply the NFRSA CA batsmen miserably failed to bat back and were shot out for a scanty total of 62 in 18.5 overs. Ridip Mohan (4/20) and man-of-the-match Mujahid Ali 3/18 wrecked the NFRSA innings.

Brief scores: Charaideo CCC 183 (Nayanvijay Baroah 35, Subhasish Dutta 27, Nipu Gogoi 18, Raj Singh 4/38, Akash Chet 3/33), NFRSA Cricket Academy 62 (Rajivjeet Raibha not out 18, Ridip Mohan 4/20, Mujahid Ali 3/18, Prayush Bonai 27).

Physical Instructors' meet

TIHOU, April 20: An extended executive committee meeting of All Assam Sports and Physical Instructors' Association will be held at Nagaon stadium, under the aegis of the Nagaon District committee on April 30 at 11 am.

Dilip Sarma, secretary of the State body has urged all the executive members of the State committee along with the presidents/secretares of all the district to attend the meeting, stated a release.

Basketball tournament

GUWAHATI, April 20: The Basketball Association of Assam will host the maiden edition of the All Assam Inter Institutional Prize-money Basketball Championship, for both boys and girls, at the RG Baruah Sports Complex basketball courts

here from May 8 to 10.

The champion teams of both categories will participate in the North East Inter Institutional Basketball Championship.

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SPORTS REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 20: The Assam Football Association (AFA) has announced the Assam team for the Junior National Football Championships for the DR BC Roy Trophy which will be held at Bhalukhali, Chattogram from April 26 to May 5.

The team members are: Santan Basumatary, Suman Gogoi, Korela Laxmi Narayan Rao (all goal keepers), Biplob Mahanta, Dipan Moran, Dinsurwong Basumatary, Tsering Lama, Sanjib Musahary, Biki Tamang (all defenders), Birkwod Durnay, Rakib Basumatary, Migon Guuli, Rishikesh Bora, Biplab Bhuyan, Sougata Ranjan Nayak, Nagaoran Narzary (all mid-fielders), Dipankar Majumdar, Vishal Hazarika, Biplob Gogoi, Kishore Ranjan Gogoi (all forwards). AFC C license holder Pukoni Moni Hazarika has been appointed as coach of the team while Lakshmi Ram Boru was the manager.

Inter industry soccer tourney begins

SIVASAGAR, April 20: The 14th All Assam Inter Industry Veteran Football Tournament got underway at the ongo Colony ground here today under the aegis of ONGC, Assam Asset in association with the Assam Veteran Association.

can fancy itself in a chase. No team dares take Lions light on batting.

The trouble is you can't plan in advance against Kolkata. They keep rearranging their wares—it's like a moving target against whom you can't aim and shoot. It's a blind ally where you could only grope or feel your way around. Before long, it envelops you.

Gambhir's men are enviable. They can defend, attack, accelerate or finish in a clinical fashion. Between

the nurdles of Gambhir and brute strength of Yusuf Pathan lurks a fox-like Manish Pandey

sizing you up all the time. Eleven men on the field and a lakh in stands is any rival's equation.

Now let's see if Gujarat has lions who could roar on Friday. - TCM

only hope against an assembly line of warriors.

The visitors are still more than reasonable with the bat. Brendon McCullum still packs a punch. Dwayne Smith and Aaron Finch have enough skills to fire anytime soon. With Suresh Raina and Dinesh Karthik in decent nick, Gujarat

will be the priority for Raina as overseas players, especially Dwayne Smith and Aaron Finch has disappointed the team so far.

Jason Roy and James Faulkner may give Raina a better option while it won't be a bad idea to promote the talented hard-hank opener Ishan Kishan up the order.

Another big setback for the Lions has been hamstring injury to their star West Indies all-rounder Dwayne Bravo, who returned with 17 wickets from 15 matches last season.

The team also desperately looked up to Ravindra Jadeja's return but the star all-rounder jaded and out of sorts after returning to action following the rest advised by BCCI's medical team after the long home Test series.

Jadeja leaked the most runs (4-0-72-8) as RCB posted a huge 213/2 in their 21-run win. While chasing, Jadeja consumed 22 deliveries for his 23 runs, even as the next batsman, Ishan, looked promising in his fiery 39 off 16 balls. - PTI



Kane Williamson of Sunrisers Hyderabad smashes one through the off side during the IPL match against Delhi Daredevils at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad, on Wednesday.

Retiring duo Misbah, Khan lead Pak vs WI

KINGSTON (Jamaica), April 20: West Indies and Pakistan get a three-Test series underway tomorrow at Sabina Park in Jamaica with both teams struggling in the midst of challenging transition periods.

Despite victories in both the T20 and One-Day International series earlier in the tour, the tourists have shaped up as a far more vulnerable outfit in the traditional format of the game.

The home side, who remain mired in the lower reaches of the international rankings, look set to make further alterations to their line-up in the quest for a consistent winning formula. Pakistan topped the Test rankings last September following their drawn series in England.

But a slump of six consecutive defeats, ironically initiated by the West Indies in Sharjah five-and-a-half months ago at the end of an otherwise disastrous campaign for the Caribbean team, has seen them slip to fifth and increased public pressure on Misbah ul Haq to step down as captain.

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TEAMS

West Indies: Jason Holder (capt), Kevon Brathwaite, Kieran Powell, Shahad Khan, Vishual Singh, Jerome Blackwood, Shane Dowrich, Ross Chase, Darren Bravo, Jason Holder, Shannon Gabriel.
Pakistan: Misbah ul Haq (capt), Asim Ali, Ahmed Shehzad, Babar Azam, Younis Khan, Asad Shafiq, Safriz Ahmed, Mohammad Amir, Wahab Riaz, Yasir Shah, Mohammad Asif.

After much speculation Misbah has announced that this series will be his last before retiring from the international game.

And only last week fellow veteran Younis Khan, Pakistan's most prolific run-scorer in Test history, also revealed that the West Indies tour will be his last in national colours.

Khan goes into the match needing just 23 more runs to become the first Pakistani to amass 10,000 runs in Tests, and while the milestone will be of immense personal significance, of even greater concern to the visiting team is completing their first-ever Test series triumph in the West Indies by the time the final Test concludes in Dominica in mid-May. - AFP

PRESS MANAGER

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The Tribune Press, Guwahati.

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SC quashes case against Dhoni



NEW DELHI, April 20: The Supreme Court today quashed a criminal complaint lodged against ex-keeper Mahendra Singh Dhoni in an Andhra Pradesh trial court for allegedly hurting religious sentiments by depicting himself as Lord Vishnu on a magazine cover.

The apex court also quashed the criminal complaint against the Editor of the magazine and said that the offence under section 295A (hurting religious sentiments) of the IPC is not made out against them as they did not maliciously hurt the religious sentiments of the complainant.

A bench comprising Justices Dipak Misra, AM Khanwilkar and MM Shantanagoudar said

"it would be a travesty of justice if the cricketer and the co-accused editor are prosecuted in the case."

The instant complaint was lodged against Dhoni and others at a trial court in Andhra Pradesh.

The apex court had on September 5 last year quashed a similar case lodged against Dhoni and others in Karnataka and set aside the High Court order which had refused to stay the proceedings against them.

It had also said the trial court in Karnataka did not follow the due procedure in summoning the cricketer and others in the case. Dhoni had filed the Special Leave Petition challenging the Karnataka HC order.

The complaint had alleged that Dhoni was seen on the cover of the magazine as Lord Vishnu, holding several things, including a shoe in his hands. - PTI

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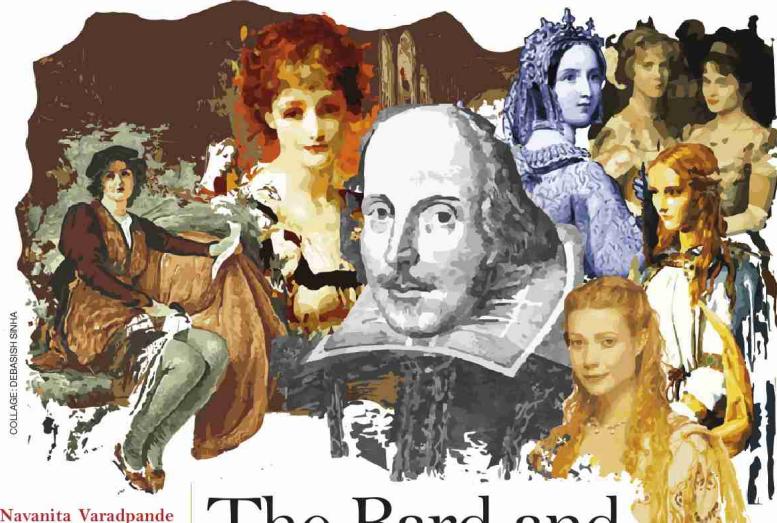
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LUX MATCH & MATCH

Time was when Eden Gardens hummed for spinners. So much so that Kolkata could play three slow ones. The relaxed pitch aids pacers in first six a lot more. The outfit though is only constant. Fielders usually don't catch up with the speeding ball.

This is visitors, Gujarat Lions', moment of truth. Their bowlers haven't amounted to much in this IPL. Even Ravinder Jadeja, since his return in last three matches, has gone for a single wicket of KKR in defence of 180-plus. Hyderabad took them out by nine wickets. The Gayle storm in the last match is still fresh. Such has been the deflation that Munaf Patel was retrieved from the archives. So Gujarat needs a purposeful Andrew Tye



COLLAGE: DEBASISH SHINA

Navanita Varadpande
tries to demystify the
women in Shakespeare's
works.

The Bard and the beautiful!

How could a man be so preposterously amazing in deciphering the different facets of a woman's persona? This was William Shakespeare, a playwright who lived more than 400 years ago. Recently as I was watching the movie *Shakespeare in Love*, a fictionalised account of a tumultuous love between Will Shakespeare and Viola de Lesseps, it dawned upon me that there were different aspects of a woman that the Bard of Avon portrayed in his plays. They were designed by a person who really understood women. The calm assertiveness and determination portrayed by Viola de Lesseps, propelled me to revisit some of his plays in a bid to appreciate the women characters that were created by Shakespeare. It was not a feminist reading of the works, but an unbiased reading by an ardent admirer.

They are many hues, the women, they are complex and like a tapestry sewn together with the characteristics like – the intelligence of Portia in *Merchant of Venice*, frailties in Ophelia and Gertrude of *Hamlet*, the sturdiness

of an ambitious wife like Lady Macbeth, the shrewishness of Bianca in the *Taming of the Shrew*, Cordelia – the ideal daughter in *King Lear*, strength of Rosalind in *As you Like It*, who chose to pose as a strong male character, thus, helping her friend Celia to meet Oliver and turn the man she wants to marry into someone who can match her qualities and be as strong as she is. The list is really a long one.

The resultant tapestry is a beautiful product of a mind that could only belong to a genius of a playwright. Faced with different situations in life, women react in various unpredictable ways. Especially so in the England of Shakespeare's time, when women were subservient in a patriarchal society. The female parts were enacted by male apprentices. Even then Shakespeare dared to assign some of his female characters with powerful voices of dialogue and roles. One cannot, therefore, talk about Shakespeare's powerful women in the social or political sense, but there are a number of very powerful women in Shakespeare. Also, using the Eliza-

bethan theatre convention of women disguising themselves as men, Shakespeare was able to present some women in a way that allows them to be taken seriously.

Although Desdemona submits passively to her husband, Othello, as he strangles her to death, she demonstrates her strength at the beginning of the play when her father asks the Duke of Venice to stop her marriage to the Moor, Othello. There are so many Othellos in our midst and women keep up a strong exterior to maintain the peace in the household. In *Twelfth Night*, finding herself shipwrecked on the beach at Illyria, and having lost her twin brother in the wreck, Viola's first instinct is not to appeal for help as a helpless woman but to disguise herself as a man and find a job as a servant in the household of the Duke. As a man she has the freedom to move around without a chaperone. Her ability to adapt herself to her circumstances, in spite of her female upbringing, where she has been protected by men and all decisions about her have been made by men, is an indication of her strength. It

is not only the adaptation that suggests strength but the ability to manipulate her circumstances for her own desired outcome, which is to marry the Duke.

Margaret of Anjou is a character in four of Shakespeare's plays: *Henry VI* parts 1, 2, 3 and *Richard III*. The historical Queen Margaret was the wife consort of King Henry VI of England. In Shakespeare's trilogy, Henry is a weak king and a sneek and mild man. Shakespeare's Margaret is a ruthless, ambitious and intelligent woman who dominates him completely. She becomes involved in the power games that are going on around her and takes her enemies head on.

The passion with which he has sculpted his women, in their weakness and strength, showcases the exclusiveness of the Bard, who will remain in our midst, much loved, revered and cherished.

"He was naturally learned; he needed not the spectacles of books to read nature. He looked inwards, and found her there" – John Dryden

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Rabin Prasad Kalita

During our childhood, we would spend most of our time playing various local games like *kori khel*, *haau khel*, *taang guti*, *gheela khel*, *kukra tana*, *kukra juj* (cock fight), *tekeli bhanga*, *tirthangia dour* (three-legged run), *guti khel*, *kanimuri* (blind game), *suwa-sui*, *bakul guti*, *Kabaddi*, *gilli danda*, and many others. Studies were confined to one or two hours every night under the light of the kerosene lamp. As soon as we turned 10 or 12 years of age, our parents would no longer consider us children. We were exposed to many things, right from sowing to harvesting in the paddy field. Instead of restricting us, they gave us the optimum freedom to do anything and everything as per our capacity. Parents also accompanied us to the community prayer hall and other social get-togethers to give us an idea of our traditions. We learned about the economical use of our parents' hard-earned money. We could coordinate with every aspect of social as well as traditional obligations, along with our day-to-day study.

Those days are long gone. The method of education has changed a lot. I am amazed when I see a two-year-old using a smartphone or a tablet, instead of playing with puzzles and blocks. Touch screens have taken over all other forms of pleasure for kids. The intensity of the use of gadgets goes higher and higher as the child grows up. It is observed that most kids under the age of 12 have their own device. They keep themselves busy with modern gadgets, spending all their precious time, which could have been used in playing tra-

ditional games like we did once. Nowadays, they hardly go to the playground for outdoor games and even show their reluctance to visit the neighbour's house for any function. One can't deny the advantage of traditional play which makes kids healthier, not only physically but also mentally and emotionally. Now, physical exercise is limited to only finger exercise on the screen. These modern gadgets have reduced the one-to-one interaction with their parents. The excessive use of it may result in attention deficit and delays in language skills, as well as learning abilities of children.

I have seen my neighbour's child who refuses to eat, feels restless and irritated when his parents take his gadget. He becomes aggressive and violent and throws a tantrum. Finally, the parents have to relent and give him back the gadget. Parents today are succumbing to their children's demands or even bullied for gifts like video games or latest gadgets. As a result, most children become digital dependent.

Even my 'internet-savvy' son, who is studying in the senior secondary level, does not go through his lessons thoroughly. He searches for ready-made answers available in a particular webpage, instead of going deep into his text book. If I happen to look at the monitor, there are several minimised windows of games and other webpages which he browses through in our absence. So, it is high time now that we monitor our children's internet usage. Fulfilling their demands may sometimes be acceptable but they should be a good reason for that. Only a handful of serious and sincere students reap its benefits. Others are merely driven by the common fervour of digital users. No doubt technology has aided us in the upbringing of our children but it should not ruin the very essence of their childhood.

It would be wise to mention here that China

has topped the list of internet addicted youths in the world and it has been officially recognised as a clinical condition. Hundreds of special rehab camps have been opened across the country, to help young people overcome their web dependence. More and more teenagers are being forced into 'military-style' detox camps to divert their attention from what has been named as 'dangerous digital dependence'. Gadgets, therefore, must only be used as a learning platform by children, under the supervision of their parents, so that they can have a better understanding of the world around them.

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Gadget Generation



Aping the caveman

Bedanta Choudhury

Health is primarily a product of our lifestyle – what we eat and drink, how we work, how we rest, and what thoughts and feelings we entertain. The caveman was closer to nature, and hence his lifestyle was arguably more in sync with nature. In order to stay healthy, we can emulate the lifestyle of our ancestors.

The caveman would wake up at sunrise, and move out of his cave in pursuit of food, and in order to be ahead in the race for food. He would not have been a night-time hunter, because of his average eyesight, and the presence of powerful nocturnal predators on the prowl. He would, probably, return to his cave before darkness set in, and retire soon into a night's slumber. On the other hand, in the modern world, thanks to advancements in science and technology, the hours after sunset are available for human activity, thereby procrastinating bedtime, and consequently, the time to rise in the morning! Modern man would do better by adopting to the caveman norm – early to bed and early to rise – what humans were designed for.

The caveman, in pursuit of food, would perhaps walk a few miles, and run intermittently, either chasing an animal, or being chased by one. He would climb trees to pluck fruits, and squat on the ground to eat or break open a nut or fruit. Occasionally, he would pick up a fight with another creature. He would spend a few hours lazing around, doing nothing, or picking each other's lice, or taking a nap. Assuming, he had around 12 hours of daylight, of which he napped for an hour or two, and remained sedentary for another two to three, he would have been on the move for around seven hours a day, on an average. If we normalised all his laborious activities, such as walking, running, climbing, digging, fishing, fighting and hunting, to an equivalent of walking at the pace of two miles an hour, he would walk around 14 miles every day. Allowing for sickness, adverse weather conditions, and other reasons, which obliged him to stay home, at times, say, for every alternate day, it would still average around seven miles of walking every living day of his life. We may argue that the caveman's activity profile was one of hardship, and not necessarily, the ideal activity profile for modern times. Allowing this argument, we can settle halfway, that is, around three to four miles of walk per day, as the caveman activity benchmark.

Today, doctors recommend a minimum of 40 minutes brisk walk, five days a week, and that would mean, around two miles of walk every day. Add to it, another mile or two, equivalent of daily chores at home, or in office, making it three or four miles of walk per day, quite the caveman benchmark. The recommendation of ten thousand steps a day is also quite popular in the health circles, and even that counts up to around four miles a day, on an average. The cave-

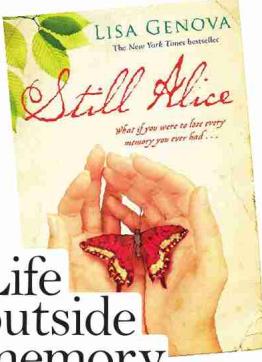


man analogy explains why the doctors and experts are so right in their advice. On top of regular brisk walks, periodic cardio exercises and yoga, occasionally playing a sport, and choosing the stairs instead of the elevator, whenever possible, would help one to earn a few more health points.

Talking of diet, the caveman would probably gather naturally available food, and ones that suited his digestive anatomy. His primary menu would have included fruits, nuts and leaves. Once he invented weapons and fire, his menu would have expanded, including creatures that he could now hunt and roast, such as, poultry, fish and some herbivores. Over time, he picked up the art of rearing animals, and his menu probably diversified further, to include milk and curd. All along, as his inventions and discoveries grew, he got further away from his core diet. Following his discovery of oil, he experimented with cooking, and developed culinary skills. He not only learned how to mix different ingredients in a utensil, and boil them into a broth, but also managed to breakdown complex life forms, erstwhile indigestible, into palatable dishes. He also learned fermentation and distillation, and invented the dough and bread, and discovered alcohol. Gradually he moved away from a nutrition-centric diet to a taste-centric diet. He became an expansive omnivore, and an indulgent eater and drinker. Food, which was once a necessity of life, became a source of pleasure. For the modern man, wisdom lies in adopting a nutrition-centric diet, like our forefathers. We can do well by choosing more of the caveman's core diet, and less of his augmented non-core diet.

Another deadly phenomenon that grips humanity today, is stress. It is not that there was no stress in a caveman's life. But, a caveman's stress was more fundamental – it was rooted in his struggle for survival, against predators and natural adversities. But over time, with the advancement of human civilisation, and proliferation of the market economy, the stress is no longer about mundane physiological survival, but owing to the complexity of human relations, and in pursuit of insatiable economic ambitions. More often than not, such man-made stress is far more amplified and devastating. Chronic stress is believed to be the root cause of several diseases, including depression, obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular and other deadly diseases. Fortunately, yoga, meditation, physical exercise, creative pursuits like art, literature and music, and spirituality, go a long way in alleviating stress.

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Life outside memory

When Alice realises that she is fighting a losing game with her memory, she sees that even her sense of engagement with the world and what it stands for is slipping away from her grasp. Facing the onset of Alzheimer's which catches her unawares and disrupts her everyday life, Alice Howland's gradual elision of memory is crafted with remarkable poignancy by Lisa Genova in a novel that bears the stamp of reality all too starkly. Alice is an academic with work and tasks piled up; she has errands to run and a hectic planner to attend to. Memory fails her, from the very mundane things to things of urgency, she just loses track. It does not happen through a systematic or predictable pattern to be responded to, but by a randomness that cannot be fathomed. These words capture the faltering that takes place: "And I have no control over which yesterdays I keep and which ones get deleted. This disease will not be bargained with. I can't offer it the

names of the US presidents in exchange for the names of my children. I can't give it the names of state capitals and keep the memories of my husband... My yesterdays are disappearing, and my tomorrows are uncertain, so what do I live for? I live for each day. I live in the moment. Some tomorrow soon, I'll forget that I stood before you and gave this speech. But just because I'll forget it some tomorrow doesn't mean that I didn't live every second of it today. I will forget today, but that doesn't mean that today doesn't matter."

The situation is not confined to memory alone. It extends to accommodate questions of language and expressivity, of understanding and knowing the self, and tracks them through different episodes. "She had a loose sense for what she wanted to say, but the word itself eluded her. She didn't know the first letter or what the word sounded like, or how many syllables it had." Genova's training as a neuroscientist was perhaps the ground which the narrative draws its primary sustenance from, but there are real-life experiences that enabled her to connect the changing world of Alice in the novel. Alzheimer's disease debilitates the capacity to see one's life and world through the lens of the past; it erases the self's remembrance, leaving a vagueness that gradually empties the self of its identity. Commenting on the impact of the ailment on people, Genova says: "People with Alzheimer's stand on ground that is constantly shifting beneath their feet. Familiar symptoms get worse or new symptoms emerge, so just when people think they've adapted to it all, made all the adjustments and accommodations needed, there's more work to do. This can be frustrating, exhausting, demoralising." What Genova achieves in *Still Alice* (Simon and Schuster, 2007) is an intense yet living picture of a life unfolding at the seams, a gradual unravelling of the self whose memory is stripped without warning, and in this there is a pulsating sense of necessity that drives and makes of the very ordinariness of existence a mark which shifts every passing moment. In the highly successful movie made on the book, Julianne Moore's epitomisation of Alice transfers to celluloid what the narrative portrays with considerable elan. *Still Alice* is a book worth returning to, one whose world opens up dimensions of living that we close our eyes to, only because, and perhaps due to the fact that we have a past we refer to, however it may be. Bereft of it, life would move in a different direction, a life outside memory.

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LOVING LITERATURE

Bibhash Choudhury

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The situation is not confined to memory alone. It extends to accommodate questions of language and expressivity, of understanding and knowing the self, and tracks them through different episodes. "She had a loose sense for what she wanted to say, but the word itself eluded her. She didn't know the first letter or what the word sounded like, or how many syllables it had." Genova's training as a neuroscientist was perhaps the ground which the narrative draws its primary sustenance from, but there are real-life experiences that enabled her to connect the changing world of Alice in the novel. Alzheimer's disease debilitates the capacity to see one's life and world through the lens of the past; it erases the self's remembrance, leaving a vagueness that gradually empties the self of its identity. Commenting on the impact of the ailment on people, Genova says: "People with Alzheimer's stand on ground that is constantly shifting beneath their feet. Familiar symptoms get worse or new symptoms emerge, so just when people think they've adapted to it all, made all the adjustments and accommodations needed, there's more work to do. This can be frustrating, exhausting, demoralising." What Genova achieves in *Still Alice* (Simon and Schuster, 2007) is an intense yet living picture of a life unfolding at the seams, a gradual unravelling of the self whose memory is stripped without warning, and in this there is a pulsating sense of necessity that drives and makes of the very ordinariness of existence a mark which shifts every passing moment. In the highly successful movie made on the book, Julianne Moore's epitomisation of Alice transfers to celluloid what the narrative portrays with considerable elan. *Still Alice* is a book worth returning to, one whose world opens up dimensions of living that we close our eyes to, only because, and perhaps due to the fact that we have a past we refer to, however it may be. Bereft of it, life would move in a different direction, a life outside memory.

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Prince Charles recently unveiled a new Digital Green App for Indian farmers to help them sell their crops online as part of his charity initiatives directed at India. The 68-year-old heir to Britain's throne gave the details of the app, which is part of the Rural Livelihoods Fund created by the British Asian Trust (BAT) last year.

He also mentioned that the Trust is in the process of setting up a new Development Impact Bond aimed at children's education in Gujarat and Rajasthan. According to the BAT, India has 25 per cent of the world's small farms, around 118 million in total and more than 50 per cent of Indians rely on agriculture for their livelihoods.

Meanwhile, keep writing to us with quiz reports, questions (with answers and full postal address) and interesting bits of information at: Quizone, Horizon, C/o The Assam Tribune, Maniram Dewan Road, Guwahati. SMS: 98640-26322 and e-mail to tossallen@gmail.com or quizzesallen@gmail.com. To read Quizzone online, you can log on to epaper.assamtribune.com.

MASTER'S CHOICE

- According to the Bible, which mountain was the final resting spot of Noah's Ark?
- Which game was introduced by James Naismith in 1891 to keep his students occupied during their winter break?
- What came to an end in 1865 with the surrender of General Robert Lee and his army Appomattox Court House?
- Name JRD Tata's board member who also drafted the Bombay Plan and went on to become the first Finance minister of independent India.
- Which form of Indian classical music gets its name from the Sanskrit for 'steady feet'?
- What is the atomic number of the elements named after Albert Einstein?
- What according to the Jewish calendar is the Day of Atonement called?
- This institute was established in 1960 on the erstwhile Prabhat Studio premises at Pune. Name this institute.

Under the night sky

Sitting there under the dark veil,
I find myself falling for its beauty,
My eyes hook up to the infinite wonders it holds within.
And I find myself flowing along.
The cold evening wind and its infinity.
The thousand diamonds that embrace the veil,
The soft sparkle it showers upon my eyes.
Dazzling, shimmering with the beauty of age and patience
Are the scattered pieces of joy and serenity.
I find myself falling for the beauty of the starry sky.

Kristi Sharma,
Guwahati

Cherry blossom

Asun-kissed cherry
Along my road to elixir
Ah, tale of lost winter!

Anupam Bhattacharjee,
Tokyo, Japan

Unwelcome rain

Oh! Untimely, nagging rain,
Is this the time to pour out your pain?
Spring knocks at the door but angry
Clouds choose to fret and languish in gloom.
Isn't it time, that your petty woes you set aside.
And welcome him with the brightest sunshine?
For he will bring a riot of colours, happy melodies
And intoxicating scents.
There is music in every heart,
Waiting eagerly to kick-start
The carnival, with a vigorous thrust.
It is time for you to beat a hasty retreat,
Time to match steps with the drum beats,
Let music reign, let the revelry begin.

Amita Chatterjee,
Alwar, Rajasthan

SCIENCE ZONE

Dr Nayanyjoti Deka

Dentists should be visited at regular intervals even if there are no symptoms of dental diseases. Initial dental caries and cavities may be invisible to our eyes



Keeping your child's teeth healthy

Teaching your child proper oral care at a young age is an investment that will give lifelong benefits. Children should be taught and encouraged to care for their teeth from an early age. In order to help your children protect their teeth and gums and to reduce the risk of getting dental caries and cavities, periodontitis or other dental problems, teach them to follow these simple steps:

Balanced diet

A balanced diet is necessary for your child to develop strong, decay-resistant teeth. In addition to a full range of vitamins and minerals, a child's diet should include plenty of calcium and phosphorous. Frequent snacking and consumption of sticky sugars should be avoided. The sugar and starches found in many foods and snacks like cookies, candies, soft drinks, potato chips combine with plaque on teeth and forms acids which lead to cavities. Frequent bottle and milk feeding at night and absence of appropriate preventive measures can lead to a distinctive pattern of caries in susceptible children, commonly known as 'baby bottle tooth decay' (BBTD), a form of severe early childhood caries (ECC). So it is best to limit snacking between meals and practice proper tooth

cleaning habits.
When should children start brushing their teeth?

The sooner the better! Fluoride in toothpaste will help keep your child's teeth healthy and strong. Clean your baby's gums with a soft infant toothbrush or a clean and damp washcloth. Use a toothbrush with soft bristles and choose one that is the right size for your baby's age. Brushing should reach all areas and remove plaque completely to prevent and correct gum disease (gingivitis).

How much toothpaste should children use?

If the child is under two years old, the amount of toothpaste used should be the size of a grain of rice. For children between the ages of two and five, use a pea-sized amount of toothpaste. You will need to help your child brush his/her teeth until he/she is seven years old. Be sure your child spits out all of the paste and does not swallow it. Swallowing fluoride toothpaste can lead to health problems.

When to visit a dentist?

Dentists should be visited at regular intervals even if there are no symptoms of dental diseases. Initial dental caries and cavities may be invisible to our eyes. Children should be taken to the dentist from time to time to get checked for gum

bleeding (periodontal disease), tooth malalignment, and any other dental disease.

Primary or milk teeth should never be neglected as children with dental caries and cavities in primary teeth have higher chances of getting dental cavities in their permanent teeth. Early treatment show good results compared to treatment done in later stages. Most importantly, it is always better to prevent the disease in the first place.

— dekanayan67@gmail.com



QUIZ ZONE

Sailen Baishya

Picture clue:

19. Minister of India in the picture with his son (Subhrangshu Pratim Samah, Delhi)



ANSWERS

- Mountain Ararat.
- Basketball.
- American Civil War.
- John Mathew.
- Dhrupad.
- Yam Kippur.
- Film and Television Institute of India (FTII).
- Draco Malfoi.
- The International Committee of Red Cross.
- Amazon.
- Birbal.
- Dr S Chandrasekhar.
- Telegu Desam by NT Rama Rao.
15. The President of India.
16. Dhanush.
17. National Library, Kolkata.
18. Diomedes, son of Tyleus.
19. Piyush Goyal.
20. First edition of the Academy Awards or the Oscars.

- Which character in Harry Potter takes its name from the Latin for 'dragon' and French for 'bad faith'?
- Which famous organisation was awarded the Nobel Prize for peace in 1917, 1944 and 1963?

READERS' CHOICE

- During the ongoing IPL season, which brand has created a fictional IPL team called Chonkupur Cheetahs? (Shajid Khan, Tangla)
- In Indian history, by which name do we know Mahesh Das better, the meaning of which is 'strong'? (Amrita Nath, Guwahati)
- Which Indian Nobel laureate wrote *Newton's Principia for Common Reader*? (Susmita Deka, Guwahati)
- Which major South Indian political party was founded by a popular film star on March 29, 1982 and came to power within nine months of its formation? (Himangshu Lahkar, via e-mail)
- Who appoints the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India? (Ningombam Duhita, Guwahati)
- The Indian Army conducted a test of which indigenous heavy artillery gun? (Naina Devi, via SMS)
- Name India's largest library with a collection of over 190 million volumes of reading and information materials? (Partha Jyoti Baruah, Tangla)
- In *The Iliad* by Homer, the Battle of Troy fought between the Achaeans and the Trojans, who was the only mortal to wound some of the immortals like Aphrodite and Ares in the warfield? (Niharshi Bora, Tezpur)

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

- It was held on May 16, 1929 at the Roosevelt Hotel located in Los Angeles. It consisted of a private dinner with 36 banquet tables, where 270 people attended and the tickets cost five dollars. It was not broadcast on radio or television and was hosted by Douglas Fairbanks during a 15 minute-long event. What was it? (Dr Jayanta Kr Sharma, Guwahati)

Kangkan Kalita

The biggest prison a person can live in is the fear of what other people think. The unhappy people in this world are those who always try to please everybody and those who care the most about what other people think when they do something. The most important thing is that when you start doing something for your dreams, a lot of people will be there to tell you that you are not doing good. On the other hand, if you don't do anything, some other people will be there to tell you that you are useless and you can't do anything. So in both cases, people will talk, gossip, criticise you and they will never stop doing it. Most people like to talk about others rather than dealing with their own life situations. You will meet a lot of people who are not successful but they always keep criticising and saying something negative about other people who are really successful or are going to be successful. So, you must have to accept the truth that you can't stop them talking about you or criticising you but what you can do is never caring about what they think or what they say and you can focus on your own thing. Let your success make the right noises and make them realise who you are and what you can do.

Sometimes they are our own people, our own friends or relatives who keep saying things that always disempower us and never lets us take the action required to fulfil our dreams. This happens because we take their suggestions negatively; we take it personally. But in such cases, we must remember that these people don't think anything bad of you and they are doing so only because they are not able to understand what you are doing or they have not seen the level of confidence in your eyes that you

must have in order to do what you want to do. So, instead of arguing with them or taking their words too personally, simply ignore it, find out if there is something you can learn from their words and just focus on how to do your work with more awareness, more confidence and more enjoyment. When they try to say something negative

position in life than these people and that's why they are trying to bring you down to their position. The world is full of educated but unsuccessful people who always choose to live a normal life without having any big goals and these people will always try their best to take you to their own category by forcing you to be like them. The highest level of criticism a person can get is when he tries to do something different from the masses. So, if you are someone who is receiving different types of criticism

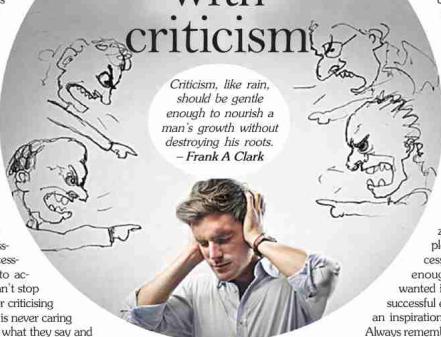
from different types of people then I think you are going to be different from others, you are going to do something extraordinary and you are going to live an extraordinary life. People might call you crazy, useless or stupid. But we remember that one day these same people will call you a genius, a hero and a winner. Thomas Edison was crazy, Bill gates was crazy, Steve Jobs was crazy, Sachin Tendulkar was crazy, Mahatma Gandhi was crazy, Einstein was crazy, every successful person was crazy according to some people before they became successful. Yes, they were crazy enough to achieve what they wanted in life. When they became successful every one of them became an inspiration for the world.

Always remember, if you know your truth, if you really understand how powerful you are, if you believe in the beauty of your dreams, if you learn to figure out where you exactly want to go in your life, if you discover the energy, motivation and excitement that lies within you, it doesn't matter. It doesn't matter how many times someone tries to demotivate you, how much criticism you receive from the outside world, how many obstacles come in your way, if you are strong enough to face all of them then you are going to find out a way to achieve your goals and you are going to be successful in every area of your life.

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Dealing with criticism

Criticism, like rain, should be gentle to nourish a man's growth without destroying his roots.
— Frank A Clark



about your dreams, just smile and believe in what you are doing. Today these people may discourage you, but when you become successful, everyone will understand you and they will be proud of you.

Usually the harder you work towards fulfilling your dreams, the amount of criticism that you receive from other people also increases. So when you feel that people are saying negative things about you or they are trying to bring you down, simply understand that you are doing much better than them. You have already reached a higher

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We all desire to have that balanced life. We envision ourselves climbing up the ladder of success working diligently, without working overtime, earning a fairly modest income, taking care of our health and spending quality time with our loved ones and friends. However, we begin to think, it would be impractical in this real world; and it is due to this lack of equilibrium in our daily lives and an insatiable desire to achieve more and more, that we have become a victim of the rat race. So, if you are someone who is

receiving different types of criticism from different types of people then I think you are going to be different from others, you are going to do something extraordinary and you are going to live an extraordinary life. People might call you crazy, useless or stupid. But we remember that one day these same people will call you a genius, a hero and a winner.

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Always remember, if you know your truth, if you really understand how powerful you are, if you believe in the beauty of your dreams, if you learn to figure out where you exactly want to go in your life, if you discover the energy, motivation and excitement that lies within you, it doesn't matter. It doesn't matter how many times someone tries to demotivate you, how much criticism you receive from the outside world, how many obstacles come in your way, if you are strong enough to face all of them then you are going to find out a way to achieve your goals and you are going to be successful in every area of your life.

Abhishek Das

ach only with street foods?

How can one define minimalism? Like the term 'happiness', 'minimalism' is also vague and has been misunderstood. A person earning in five digits would not think of buying an Aston Martin or a Bentley. However, if he does plan to spend his savings recklessly on one of those cars then all his finances would go haywire. Similarly, a millionaire would not settle down in a two-bedroom flat and leave his luxurious mansion in pursuit of attaining bliss. So, minimalism is all about living our life within our means, spending wisely and having a more balanced approach to our finances. We should be honest with ourselves and have our opinion on what makes us happy, rather than just blindly acknowledging and embracing an opinion that may not be in agreement with all of us.

Similarly, some parents impose on their children to follow the legacy of studying medicine or engineering because they fail to understand that their child's interest and happiness lies in something else; it could be studying design, journalism, fashion, filmmaking or even music. In the end, it is always we who suffer by compromising on our happiness for the sake of the society.

Stop sulking about your job, about your boss loading you with work. Start saying 'no' from today because all your life you have been saying 'yes'. If you desire to be your own boss, then start saving now and plan your business today. In fact, nowadays, due to the revolution of technology and internet, one can look for various opportunities to make a living; from taking up online jobs, part-time work, to freelancing, blogging, content writing, etc.

The bottom line is, whatever we choose to do in life, we should choose it voluntarily, even though it is an unconventional path. Ultimately, it should make us feel happy, satisfied and contented.

- officialabhi27@gmail.com

Being happy!



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- officialabhi27@gmail.com

GRAPHIC PICK

Deborshee Gogoi



Your dress code, life style, pending cases of rape and murder makes you a potential future political leader..

Exercise is 'contagious'

If you want to get fit, become friends with people who enjoy exercising. It may be the best way to stay in shape because going to the gym is contagious, scientists claim. Staying physically active with someone else encourages you to run faster, further and burn more calories, according to the first study of its kind.

But it is bad news for men as the technique only works for women because they are motivated by each other, unlike their competitive counterparts.



The findings from more than one million people could lead to new ways of fighting obesity, researchers at Massachusetts Institute of Technology say.

Lead author Dr Christos Nicolaides said, "We found exercise is socially contagious, revealing a behavioural mechanism that could explain the correlations in obesity and happiness found in earlier work. These results suggest social intervention strategies, which account for peer effects, may spread behaviour change in networks."

But writing in the journal *Nature Communications*, he said that this peer influence diminishes over time. Runners were found to be more influenced by those whose performance is slightly worse, but not far worse, than their own.

- Agencies

MIND YOUR ENGLISH

Protim Sharma

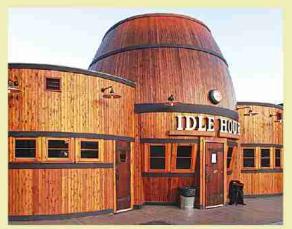


Note: Readers can contribute anecdotes, funny quotations, puns or word play, and interesting bits of information about the English language to MYE. Send contributions to: 'Mind Your English', Horizon, The Assam Tribune, Chandman, Guwahati-781003 or to: protimsharma@rediffmail.com. Contribute via SMS to: 9435055497.



Novelty architecture

Decades ago, the roads in Los Angeles were home to enormous hats, chili bowls, flower pots, owls, pigs, dogs, cameras and airplanes in the form of buildings. Today there are only several 'barrels' around town, but the very last one, the Idle Hour cafe in North Hollywood, had been empty and in disrepair since the 1980s. Amazingly, this pinnacle of novelty architecture has been beautifully restored and was reopened in early 2015. The Idle Hour first opened in 1941. It was commissioned by a Universal Studios film tech, Michael D Connolly, and his wife Irene lived in an apartment above the cafe until their divorce. When Connolly moved out, Irene took over. In 1971, she sold the building to Jose and Dolores Fernandez, who reopened the cafe as a flamenco dinner theater called La Cane. It closed in 1984. For a little over 25 years, the building sat vacant, until was landmarked by the city in 2010. It was purchased in 2011 and it has been lovingly rebuilt, restored and reimagined because very few original elements remained.



(This column will carry everything odd around the world. Readers' contributions will be appreciated at partha.hazarika@assamtibune.com.)

THE ODD WORLD

Partha Pratim Hazarika



Caring for clothes

Always choose quality over quantity. You can buy three cheap ties and have them lose their shape very quickly, or a cheap suit that will also lose its shape. It is better to purchase good quality apparel that will last and keep looking good.

When purchasing new clothing have your alterations done immediately to ensure a proper fit. Think how many times you have purchased a piece of clothing knowing that it really needs to be taken in or up. Then when you get it home, you put it in your wardrobe and promptly forget about any alterations until the moment you have to wear it. It is at that point that you go out of the door in the said garment and never get around to having the alteration done.

Never throw on any old thing; ensure your clothing is pressed and stain free. To respect your cloth-

TRAVEL Jintu Sarma



The Sun Temple

I had been eagerly waiting for a long time to visit the Konark Sun Temple – the world famous heritage site in Odisha. The day finally arrived, last summer, when we – myself, my parents and other family members – set off on our journey to experience the beauty of the Sun Temple.

The Konark Sun Temple is the most popular tourist destination in Odisha and has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1984. It is located in the village of Konark, on the coast of the Bay of Bengal. The name Konark originates from the combination of the Sanskrit word *Kona* (corner or angle) and *Ashu* (the sun).

The 13th century old temple is dedicated to the sun god, Surya. Shaped like a giant chariot, the temple is known for the exquisite stone carvings that cover the entire structure. As per literature, it is believed that the temple was built by King Narasimhadeva I of Eastern Ganga Dynasty in 1255 CE.

According to local legend, the temple has a strong aura that comes from two very powerful magnets said to have been built into the tower – magnets that allowed the king's throne to hover in mid-air.

When Konark was attacked by the Muslim Yavana army in the 15th century, the temple was badly damaged. The priests, however, managed to smuggle



away the central statue enshrined in the porch.

It is believed that the temple was designed in the form of a huge chariot for the sun god Surya, with 12 pairs of stone-carved wheels and a team of seven horses. The temple symbolises the passage of time, which is under the Sun God's control. The seven horses, which pull the sun temple eastwards towards the dawn, represent the days of the week. The 12 pairs of wheels represent the 12 months of the year. The main entrance to the complex is on the eastern (sea-facing) side, in front of the Hall of Offerings (*bhogamandapa*). This was a later addition to the complex and was likely used for ritual dance performances, as its walls are carved with sculptures of musicians and dancers.

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Just beyond the porch is a double staircase that leads to a shrine containing a statue of Surya. The beautiful image is carved of high-quality green chlorite stone and is one of the masterpieces of Konark. Surya wears tall riding boots and is accompanied by a small figure of Aruna, the charioteer, at his feet. From here you can climb down into the remains of the inner shrine, where the deity was originally enshrined. The surfaces of the temple are carved with exquisite stone sculptures with a wide variety of subjects, including many erotic scenes based on the *Kamasutra*. Erotic sculptures are found especially in the niches, halfway up the porch, along the sides of the platform and around the doorways of the main building.

Other sculptures decorating the temple's exterior include deities, animals, floral patterns, voluptuous women, mythical beasts and aquatic monsters. The 24 giant wheels are beautifully carved and each of the eight spokes bears a medallion containing figurative carvings. The temple is maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India. After spending around four hours in the temple premises, we were left with much wonder and amazement as to how such a beautiful structure was created in the ancient times. It is a fantastic heritage destination for lovers of history.

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(The writer is a fashion designer and choreographer and can be contacted at dkreativepeople@gmail.com)

WEST SIDE STORY

Victoria's circle of friends

VICTORIA Beckham, who is rarely spotted with anyone other than her husband and four children, has admitted she doesn't 'have a lot of friends', but says in spite of this she never feels alone.

"I am never, ever lonely. I don't have a lot of friends, but I'm surrounded by people I genuinely like to be with," said the pop star turned fashion designer. The 43-year-old said that she has only remained in contact with five people from her childhood and that she struggles to find the time to see them.

Sofia as flamenco emoji

SOFIA Vergara has announced that she will be playing the role of a flamenco dancer in the upcoming *Sony film Emoji Movie*. Vergara told *People* magazine that she is often compared to the commonly-used emoticon of a dancing woman in a red dress.

"I thought it was going to be a perfect role for me because people are always saying that I look like her," said the Colombian beauty.

The animated film takes place in Textopolis where all of the characters can only experience the emotion or action they represent.

Sheeran's misspelled tattoo

ED Sheeran confessed he is now stuck with an incorrectly spelled tattoo after his actress pal Saoirse Ronan, 23, who stars in his *Galway Girl* music video thought it would be hilarious to misspell the pop star's song title and purposefully wrote 'Galway GRILL' instead of 'GIRL.'

The 26-year-old singer – who has more than 60 inkings – laughed it off as he claimed it was the sort of thing he would do. "I'm actually quite proud of her; it's the kind of thing I would do," he said.

AGENCIES



Begum Jaan

DIRECTOR: SRIJIT MUKHERJI
STARRING: VIDYA BALAN,
GAUHAR KHAN, PALLAVI
SHARMA, ILA ARUN, ASHISH
VIDYARTHI, RAJIT KAPUR,
VIVEK MUSHRUM, CHUNKY
PANDAY, NASEERUDIN SHAH

The Hindi remake of Srijit Mukherji's own Bengali film, *Rakhabir* (2015), *Begum Jaan* is loud and theatrical. In the multiplicity of characterisation, the impact is somewhere lost in this period drama that opens with Amitabh Bachchan's voiceover. The subject is reminiscent of *Shya Benegal's* *Mandi* (1983), but it is not in the same league in terms of excellence. It is a kind of film whose raison d'être is all mixed up and hence, it carries no conviction as a tale of female rebellion in the face of insurmountable odds. mere screaming and the mauling of foul language do not add to the poignancy of the narrative.

Begum Jaan (Vidya Balan) is a feisty brothel-keeper lording it over a bevy of sex workers from different backgrounds. Her *kothi* is almost like a *haveli* with an elderly matriarch, Amma (Ila Arun), a stoic bodyguard and a guard dog. The conflict arises when India gains Independence and the nation is immediately divided to make way for Pakistan. British official Sir Cyril Radcliffe draws the boundary line to initiate the partition process.

Begum Jaan seeks the intervention of the local king (Naseeruddin Shah) to protect her brothel situated right in the middle of the proposed border line. When the king fails to help her, she decides to literally stand her ground and undergoes arms training along with the

others to face any eventuality. Master (Vivek Mushran), another man with some influence who is in love with a brothel prostitute, Gulabo (Pallavi Sharda), is also unable to stop the inevitable. It is, however, not clear why *Begum Jaan* is unwilling to relocate to another place from the one she calls "my house, my country".

Meanwhile, the two officials concerned – Harshvardhan Srivastava (Ashish Vidyarthi) and Ilas (Rajit Kapur) – hire a local goon, Kabir (Chunky Pandey), to force *Begum Jaan* to leave the brothel.

Apart from Vidya Balan who shines in her role only in patches, the other notable performers are Gauhar Khan as Rubina and Pallavi Sharda. Naseeruddin Shah's is only a special appearance. Two actors, however, deserve to be mentioned.

The seasoned Ila Arun plays the grandma in unrecognisable make-up who recounts tales of feminine heroism to heighten the dramatic effect. Chunky Pandey with his villain act, Ashish Vidyarthi and Rajit Kapur are just adequate.

Unfortunately, Anu Malik's music, complete with the wrangling of a Khayam song, sounds flat.



– jchangmai@gmail.com

Archie

HENRY SCARFOLI
CRAIG BOLDMAN
I NEED VALETS FOR
TONIGHT'S BALL! I
DON'T WANT TO PARK IN
A PARKING LOT!

I'LL SAY!
GET OUT THERE
AND DO YOUR JOB!

Mort Walker's
beetle Bailey
WHERE'S OTTO?
HE'S STILL IN BED

THREE SQUARE
MEALS A DAY...

LOTS OF
PETTING FRIENDS...



Voices in Spring

For winter's rains and ruins are over,
And all the season of snows and sins;
The days dividing lover and lover,
The light that loses, the night that wins;
And time remembered is grief forgotten,
And frosts are slain and flowers begotten,
And in green underwood and cover
Blossom by blossom the spring begins.

These beautiful verses from English poet, playwright, novelist and critic Algernon Charles Swinburne's 1865 composition *Atalanta in Calydon* not only trumpet the advent of Spring but also emphatically cheers up the winter-weary soul.

Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822), critically regarded among the finest English lyric poets, couldn't have signed off his *Ode to the West Wind* with more apt lines – *O wind, if winter comes, can spring be far behind?* – giving us a feel of the imminent spring season after winter, as if he was literally composing these sublime rich lines from 'ground-zero' itself.

Nature in Spring bursts and blooms with life and activity. It is a time of birth, rebirth and renewal. Forests and fields turn from brown to green. The Spring season in essence, is a season of bracing makeovers. The temperature rises to more pleasant parameters, opposing Mother Nature's last few months of freezing ambience. The leaves which fell and the flowers that wilted are now budding into lush, green, picture-perfect plants. Apart from the weather's transformations that occur in the Spring season, we are transforming our lives too. When Spring rolls into our lives, we start to pick up the slack that winter instilled in us.

Spring is a beautiful season and is known as the 'king of seasons'. In Spring nature appears in her best form and provides us with all kinds of pleasure. It is a season of flowers. Many kinds of flowers bloom in Spring and swarms of bees rush at them who look the essence of flowers and make honey from them.

One can feel the butterflies swarming around after they emerge from overwintering in tree crevices, as adults, eggs, larva or cocoons. Flowers of various colours dance in the vernal wind. The cuckoo sings her melody. The young feel a kind of thrill. Plants and animals look mirthful; so do human beings. All are blithe and happy. Spring also rouses high-level poetic imagination in the minds of our poets.

Fragrant flowers herald the advent of spring to everybody; we also smell the first cut of grass on a warm spring day. Spring is busy time for people too. Farmers take care of their newborn animals and plant seeds in the fields.

While echoing her views, Hindustani classical vocalist, author and columnist Mita Phukan, profoundly romanticises the *raison d'être* for her attachment with Spring: "Sunny days, a warmth on the skin and the heart. Bunches of kapot blossoms, swarm of bees, laughter, vibrant beats of the dhol. Spring for me is bound up with Bihu, wherever I may be at the time."

Guwahati city Police Commissioner Hiren Chandra Nath, IPS, has a very positive take on Spring season. "Spring means new hope, new aspirations and rejuvenating yourself for completing the crushed goal," he says.

So don't forget to enjoy this glorious season. Get outside. Sit on a park bench and do some people watching. Get active. Take pictures. Go walking. Do 'springy things' and let Spring shape your creativity!

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Articles for *Horizon* should carry the address and contact number of the contributor. Articles can also be e-mailed at - horizon@assamtribune.com



URBAN MUSING

Sk Md Sabah Al-Ahmed





GRAPHICS DEBASISH SINHA

Of Bihu and *Bohag*

KC Bhattacharya unravels the astronomical origins of this spring festival.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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The funny men!

Ria Chakraborty

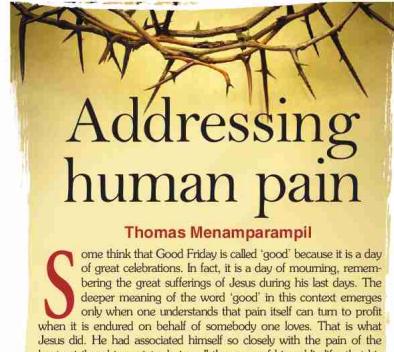
Charlie Chaplin once said that life is a tragedy when seen in close-up, but a comedy in long-shot. In our busy, over-committed world, laughter seems to have been lost along the way. We don't find much of it in our everyday lives. Laughter triggers the release of endorphins, the body's natural feel-good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

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

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

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

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



Addressing human pain

Thomas Menampampil

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

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

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

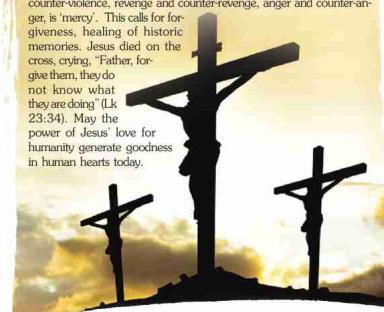
What proved his undoing was the fact that he was critical of injustice, unfairness to the poor, misuse of religion. He exposed hypocrisy. He emphasised the deeper dimension of religion: worshipping God "in spirit and in truth" (Jn 4:23). He was against excessive legalism, ritualism and superficiality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

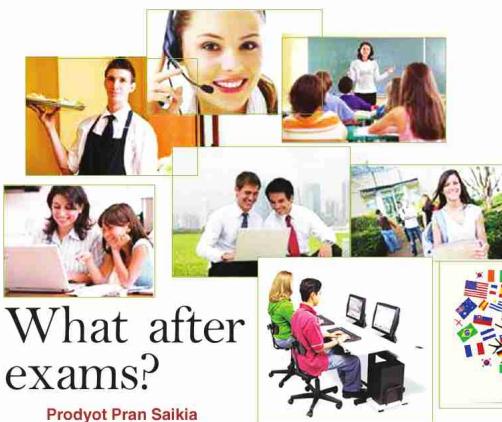
Despite the relevance of his words and works to the immediate context, his concern was for the whole of humankind. He says, "Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest" (Mt 11:28). His message on the Mount, "Happy are the poor, who mourn, the humble, the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

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

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

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





What after exams?

Prodoyer Pran Saikia

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Indrajit Kaitla

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

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

Most people think that

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

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

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

Scaling success

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

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Autism and Northeast India

When it comes to dealing with autism in the Northeast region of India, resources, including skilled manpower, are at the minimum. Do the children from this region vary from the rest of the country and the world in terms of care and rehabilitation from parents?

We attempted to study the above in our research work by assessing parental stress, social support, coping mechanisms, as well as resilience in the face of the challenges faced by the parents of the children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) attending a multi-specialty centre – Astiava – located in Guwahati. Children with ASD are among the service users in this centre. Astiava is one of the few such centres in Northeast India.

The outcome, presented in the research paper, titled 'Impact of stress, coping, social support, and resilience of families having children with autism: A North East India-based study' by Shyamanta Das, Bornali Das, Kokil Nath, Arunima Dutta, Priyanka Bora, and Mythili Hazarika has been published in the Asian Journal of Psychiatry. Some of the highlights are: definite stress and time constraint, discontinuation of jobs held earlier, coping well in spite of problems, mixed social support, religiosity and spirituality as the resorted avenues.

Our research throws light on pertinent issues regarding families having children with ASD from a region where specialty centres are a rarity. This work also has future implications as far as these children's future, rehabilitation, and care from the parental perspective are concerned in Northeast India.



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MIND MATTERS

Dr Shyamanta Das

The top two topics doing the round now are the Windows 10 Creators Update and Samsung's Bixby. However, for me, the most interesting topic is the unique single speaker surround system. Imagine a sound base that acts like a home theatre in a box! Here is the Playbase by Sonos Inc, an American consumer electronics company known for its smart speakers.

The Sonos Trueplay tuning software processes adapt the speaker to the layout of your room. You can also manually tweak the output in the Sonos app. With window-jarring bass, crisp mid-range and a surprisingly wide soundstage, the Playbase is kind of a surround sound setup with a single speaker.

Apart from being very slim, almost like our JioFi set, Playbase is a breeze to set up. Put it in, download app, tap a few buttons, and you are ready. If you already own Sonos products, it is even simpler. Since it is so small, it will fit underneath almost any TV. The Playbase works great even when the TV is off, since it is still part of the Sonos system. Want one? It is available online.

More Windows!

This column will do great injustice to its nomenclature, if I fail to mention the latest Windows update, launched

The strong fragrance of the *keteki* and the flowering of *kopou* are harbingers of spring, signalling the dawn of a new year in the Brahmaputra Valley. *Kopou phul* is the most sought after orchid in Assam during the New Year festivities in April. Assamese women adorn the pink flowers as ornamentation on their head during the celebration of Rongali Bihu. Found in the Northeast and South India, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia, Java and Philippines, the *Kopou phul* or *Seeta pushpa* in Sanskrit, *Rhyncostylis retusa* is commonly named Fox Tail. Declared the State flower of Assam, the *Rhyncostylis retusa* is intrinsically associated with the mosaic of tradition and culture of the State's diverse ethnic groups. The cultural symbolism of orchids

– that have long been a symbol of love and beauty – could be traced to many tropical and subtropical countries where they enjoy the status of national flower. Orchids are found in almost every habitat, except for Antarctica. The term 'orchid' was introduced by John Lindley in 1845 as a shortened form of *Orchidaceae* – the largest and diverse family of the flowering plants (Angiospermae). The Royal Botanical Gardens of Kew lists 800 genera and nearly 22,000 accepted species of orchids, while thousands more remain unknown or unclassified.

Of some 1,300 species (140 genera) of orchids found in India, the Northeast alone hosts 800 species. Jharkhand has more than 500 species. Meghalaya too has some undisturbed areas providing

on Tuesday.

Microsoft, which has been testing its latest Windows 10 Creators Update in recent months, says that it is now ready to roll out to existing machines. The Creators Update includes some small and welcome additions, like...

Cortana: In this update you will notice Cortana guiding you through the set-up process. Cortana will use the microphone and speakers to listen to commands, including setting up a Wi-Fi network and keyboard layout.

Game Mode: The new Game Mode in the Xbox app prioritises CPU and GPU resources for a game by reducing unnecessary usage of system resources so that games run as best as they can.

Dynamic Lock: This new feature lets you automatically lock a PC when you are away from it. You can pair Bluetooth devices like a phone or wearable, and Windows 10 will sense once the Bluetooth connection is too far away and lock the PC.

Microsoft Edge: The new feature in the Edge browser lets you set tabs aside and save them for use later on. Microsoft has added e-book support and the ability to view 360 videos to Edge. The update includes some more features. However, this is as much update for you now.

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habitat for wild orchids. Silvian's floral wealth has a treasure chest of some 600 orchids. About 300 species of orchids are reported in Assam that represents 44.39 per cent of the Northeastern species and 24.42 per cent of species occurring in India. *Ranenatha insignis* or Red Vanda is one of the most rare and beautiful orchids in Northeast India. The Blue Vanda is equally cherished. There are many other rare varieties found in the Lakhimpur district and Dibrugarh. Of them *Rhyncostylis retusa Alba* is one of the most unique and rare genus of fragrant flower.

Many orchids are highly valued for their medicinal properties. In traditional medicine they are used as a cure for many diseases and ailments and an important ingredient in herbal remedies. The dried seed pods of *Vanilla planifolia* are commercially used as flavouring agent in bakeries, for perfumery and aromatherapy. Orchids are cultivated on a commercial basis through intervention from biotechnology. Horticulturists created over 100,000 hybrids for commercialisation, as wild orchids are protected under various conservation laws. While government plans for conservation and propagation of orchids, and development of gene bank for endangered species found in this part of the country are yet to be implemented,

the Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti (KMSS) has come up with a sprawling three hectare Kaziranga National Orchid and Bio Diversity Park. It houses almost all the wild orchids found in the region.

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TECH TRENDS

Devol Kumar Nath

Jarring windows



Orchids: ornaments of nature

SEEDS OF CHANGE

Mubina Akhtara

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VETO

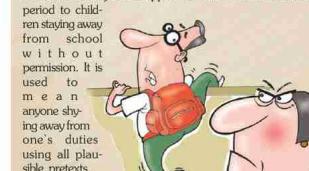
TITANIC

AS legend goes – Titans were Gods – the children of Uranus (heaven) and Gaia (earth). Cronus was their leader and, Zeus his son. Zeus possessed immense strength and power, and rose up against the Gods, defeated convincingly and became the chief God. Backed by this story, the word titanic came to use since the early 18th century with the meaning 'of exceptional strength, size and power'. So, the huge British passenger liner was named titanic considering her size and expected durability. The expression 'rearranging the deck chairs on the titanic' is used to refer to futile actions against inevitable disaster.

WORDSPK

The story behind words

Bibekananda Choudhury





The cult of the face

Facial expressions are a very important part of communication. Though nothing is said verbally, there is much to be understood about the messages we send and receive through the use of non-verbal communication, such as facial expressions. Facial communication has become an area of utmost importance during the present times. A little bit of self-introspection would really help us get better at communicating better with our facial expressions.

A face that stands out in a crowd gathers optimum accolades. But how to stand out in a crowd of numerous faces? Out of all the facial expressions – frowning, eye rolling, making eye contact, scowling, and appearing bored or interested, looking shocked – the one which always seems to exude warmth and speak of an amiable nature is the smile. It makes you look friendly and approachable.

When it comes to facial language, one of the most important aspects is the tilt of the face. A face that tilts towards the right or the left indicates aggression. While engaging in a conversation, need to keep the face straight, and maintain eye contact with the other person. Eye contact and facial expressions provide important social and emotional information to the one on the other side. Ideally, we suggest you keep a neutral face, devoid of a broad smile. Smile or laugh if the situation demands. Else, keep a neutral expression.

Eye gestures complementing your face will let the other person know that you are interested in the conversation. We would advise you to draw an imaginary straight line from the right eye to the left and back again, dragging it to the tip of your nose. An imaginary 'T' will make the speaker feel that you are being attentive.

Words, as per their meanings, also need a comprehensive modulation of the voice, and matching facial expressions.

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CHARISMA CHRONICLE

Anjan Chowdhury

WEST SIDE STORY

Junior Cowell's charms

IT appears Simon Cowell's 3-year-old son Eric is following in his father's footsteps, having bagged himself five girlfriends already. Cowell was known for being a ladies' man in his heyday, boasting an impressive host of exes.

The media mogul, 57, said this about his only child with Lauren Silverman, 39: "I think he has my charm with the ladies."

I asked him how many girlfriends he has got and I think he has five currently, so he's doing okay... Eric is absolutely incredible and so funny. It's the best thing that ever happened to me."

Sienna spotted with ex

SIENNA Miller was spotted in New York with her former fiance Tom Sturridge earlier this week. The British actress, 35, looked deep in conversation with Tom, who she shares four-year-old daughter Marlow with. Speaking to *Harper's Bazaar* recently about Tom, who she split with in 2015, she described him as her 'best friend in the world'.

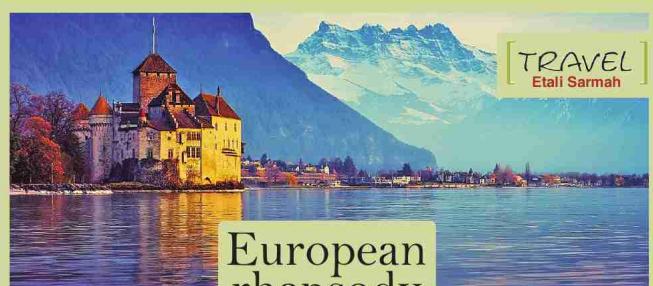
Meanwhile, Brad Pitt, 53, was reportedly seen getting flirty with Sienna, the star of his new film, in Los Angeles, according to *Page Six*.

Sheryl is 'losing faith'

LAST year, Sheryl Crow started a petition on Change.org to shorten the US presidential election cycle. The Grammy-winning singer-songwriter said she was exhausted by the mudslinging and divisive language that had dominated the discussions.

"I felt like it was becoming so hateful that I had to watch to make sure my lads didn't pick up the remote and turn the TV on... Now we have this forum for haters to come out and say the worst thing you could possibly say to someone without having the experience of the reaction. We've learned to be a society without empathy and without compassion."

AGENCIES



European rhapsody

After completing all the shopping, packing and planning, finally the most awaited holiday of the year began. Though (me, my husband and our toddler) had taken short trips to UAE and Egypt earlier this year, this holiday was special – five countries, 18 days and some major relief from the scorching summer heat of Kuwait where we stay.

Our first destination was Geneva, and the bird's eye view of Lake Geneva and the mountains from our Emirates flight added to our excitement. Without wasting much time, we rushed to our hotel and after some rest, started exploring the city. Throughout the trip, we kept our travel style common, we bought Euro rail passes for travel between countries, and respective city passes for local transport with access to some places of touristic importance. We hopped on to a train and reached our first destination the Palais des Nations. Close to this building is a structure called the Broken Chair by Daniel Berset, which was built as a symbol of fragility and strength, precariousness and stability; a desperate cry of war-torn civilian population.

Next morning, we started early, accompanied by a light drizzle to see the spectacular Lake Geneva, one of the largest lakes in Western Europe. We sat in a cafe and enjoyed the sight of the Jet d'Eau, a fountain which is the city's landmark attraction. As we sipped our morning cup of coffee, along with our breakfast, our happy toddler was hopping all around with joy at the sight of the swans enjoying the rain.

Our second destination was Bern. We covered the beautiful Zytglogge, an ancient clock tower belonging to the 13th

century and a UNESCO world heritage site with an astronomical clock belonging to the 15th century. We had to tailormake our travel plan taking into account our little fellow passenger's requirements. So next we decided to go to the Bear Park. I had assumed it to be a zoo. But I was wrong, it was located along the banks of the river Aar, next to the Nydeggbrücke (a bridge), with the bears in the lower section and beautiful walkways for tourists on the top and bottom. Our girl saw three big bears from the top. It made me very happy.

Next day, after a city tour on a tram, we came back, checked out of the hotel and boarded the train to Lucerne, a small city from where we based up to go to Mount Titlis and the Rhine Falls. Our guide explained to us about Swiss cheese and chocolate making and showed us some of the oldest houses along the way in the Engelberg area. We were taken to the mountains to see the glaciers by Gondola, ice fly and revolving aerial cable car. We also walked over Europe's highest suspension bridge, while marveling at the extensive panoramic views.

We soon bid adieu to Switzerland, as we still had four countries to explore. We sat in a morning train to Innsbruck, where we spent two days. This small and beautiful Austrian town is known for its Swarovski Kristallwelten. I especially liked the mechanical theater inside with no human performers, but only some stylish machines doing musical moves. We went to the mountains on the Hungerburgbahn, a futuristic vehicle to see the Alpine zoo which is considered to be the highest zoo in Europe.

By the time we reached Vienna, we were a little tired and so decided to take the bus tours. Vienna is a big city to explore, so choosing this mode of transportation was convenient. We went to see the Schönbrunn Palace, Hofburg Palace, Prater, the Madame Tussauds museum, St Stephen's Cathedral, and many more museums and parks.

We had planned for a day trip to the Slovak city of Bratislava. Due to its proximity to Vienna we chose to keep Vienna as base. Bratislava was a beautiful experience. We were hungry and so chose to have a brunch first, we loved the pasta with goat cheese, pan cakes, herb chicken, rice and *halusky*. Then we walked the beautiful alleys and took a toy train ride. Lovely sculptures adorned the square. After limitless smiles, smiles, chatters, and souvenir shopping, we boarded the shuttle back to Vienna.

The fourth country in our route plan was Hungary. We chose a hop-on, hop-off ride for city exploration. Budapest is a beautiful city on the banks of Danube. There is a viewpoint on the top of the mountains with the Statue of Liberty overlooking the city. The Szchenyi Chain Bridge is a suspension bridge that spans the River Danube between Buda and Pest, the western and eastern sides of the city.

The last destination was Prague, Czech Republic. This serene and gorgeous city is well known for the historic astronomical clock, Charles Bridge and the Prague Castle. Live music, boat rides, Bohemian crystal shops, street performers and endless tourists flocking these attractions liven the spirit of the city. Standing on top of the towers, we stood praising the red roof tops and gorgeous settings of this beautiful city.

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Techno-time management!

Since school days, we have been hearing about the concepts of time management. 'A stitch in time saves nine' and 'time and tide wait for none' are two of the most famous proverbs on time. Our parents, teachers, seniors, colleagues have left no stone unturned teaching us about time.

In the advent of information boom, the digital era has taken a leaf out of time management and brought out some cool tech and tools relating to time management. Let us have a look at these techno-savvy, time-saving applications:

Rescue Time: If you have doubt that you are using your time wisely, this app will send you weekly reports to indicate your time thieves. You may be shocked to discover how much time you are wasting.

Togg: This tool tracks how much time you spend on different projects. Effective time management starts with being clear on exactly how much time you actually spend on your projects and tasks, and then analyse how you can manage them more effectively.

MANAGEMENT MOVES

Saurav Soman



Mind42: Mind42 is a free mind-mapping app. It helps you to get more organised by focussing your thoughts, thereby gaining clarity on what needs to be done.

MyLifeOrganised (MLO): This task management system helps you to target what you should be focusing on to reach your objectives. It automatically generates to-do lists with priority actions for your immediate attention so that you can track your progress systematically.

Universal Password Manager: This app allows you to keep all your passwords in one encrypted database, protected by one password. This saves your precious time when you forget your passwords and need to retrieve them, and also allows you to use various passwords so you don't compromise on security issues.

Focus booster: This app is designed for those individuals who procrastinate and feel overwhelmed by tasks. It is designed to enhance your focus and remove any anxiety you might have with time.

Syncback Freeware: This free software allows you to back up, restore and synchronise your files easily. It not only saves your time but enhances productivity. If you have never backed up your files before, you should certainly not overlook this pivotal tool.

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Articles for **Horizon** should carry the address and contact number of the contributor. Articles can also be e-mailed at - horizon@assamtribune.com



DIRECTOR: MANISH HARISHANKAR
STARRING: VIVIAN SHAH, AKSHARA HAASAN, GURMEET CHOUDHARY, SAURABH SHUKLA, DARSHAN JARIWALA, SANJAY MISHRA

AT THE THEATRES

Jitu Changmai

In the title of the movie does not put you off, the story that unfolds on the screen definitely will. Manish Harishankar's *Laali Ki Shaadi Mein Laaddoo Deewana* is a complete drivel right from the start.

You get to know who the hubba-loo is all about in the first few scenes and then you have to sit for more than two hours to see how the zany details are worked out. Save for the picturesque locales captured beautifully and a fun moment or two, nothing really clicks in the overdone film. As the narrative moves back and forth in multiple flashbacks, it turns out to be a real test of patience.

Laaddoo (Vivian Shah), a small town boy from a modest family, arrives in Vadodara to work as a steward in a food joint owned by his father's friend, Kabir (Sanjay Mishra). There, he falls for the charms of Laali (Akshara Haasan) who is a frequent visitor to the restaurant. After a few meetings complete with the mandatory songs, Laali finds that she is pregnant. But Laaddoo ditched her as he

goes about making moolah. There triggers a bout of parent-swapping as Laaddoo's father (Darshan Jariwala) disowns him and treats Laali as his daughter and Laali's alcoholic father (Saurabh Shukla), on the other hand, considers Laaddoo a son despite all that he has done to his own daughter.

Meanwhile, a royal stud, Veer (Gurmeet Choudhary), appears on the scene who is advised by his family priest to marry a pregnant girl. Wow! When Laaddoo lands up in the marriage venue where Veer and Laali are going to tie the nuptial knot, the drama is set up.

Akshara Haasan, who made her debut

campaing an atrocious hairstyle in *Sharmabhih* (2015), looks pretty in this one. But like her elder sister Shruti, she too has not inherited the acting genes from their famous father, Kamal Haasan. But Vivian Shah is more disappointing. With such meagre talent, it is hard to believe that he is the son of the thespians Naseeruddin Shah and Ratna Pathak Shah. Strangely, the gawky Gurmeet Choudhary is the better performer. Seasoned actors Saurabh Shukla and Sanjay Mishra are funny, but they are more or less wasted in inconsequential roles.

Vipin Patwa's music has no novelty value and may in fact turn off the listeners as the romantic numbers pop up one after the other.

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