

NEWS CAPSULE

PM to visit State on Aug 1

GUWAHATI, July 29: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Assam on August 1 to take stock of flood damage in the State. The Prime Minister's Office in New Delhi informed this to Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, an official press release here stated. — Staff Reporter

Suspended

GUWAHATI, July 29: A chief personnel officer of Assam State Transport Corporation Prabin Chandra Bora was today placed under suspension and an inquiry initiated against him after he was caught on camera while allegedly taking bribe to release salaries. — Staff Reporter

Girls rescued

GUWAHATI, July 29: An Assam Police team will reach New Delhi tomorrow to take custody of two kidnapped minor girls who were forced into prostitution by traffickers. Dibrugarh-based police found the girls from East Delhi on Thursday and arrested one Mujahid in this connection. — Staff Reporter

Dibrugard fire

GUWAHATI, July 29: At least 100 people got gassed in a fire in Dibrugarh here today. The fire took a devastating turn after five cooking gas cylinders exploded one after another. Fire brigade and locals tried to douse the fire, but the houses were totally razed. — Staff Correspondent



A school student at a 'Save Tiger Save Planet' awareness campaign on the occasion of World Tiger Day, in Mathura on Saturday. — UNI

Lower Subansiri Hydroelectric Power Project

State govt urges NGT to allow early completion

AJIT PATOWARY

GUWAHATI, July 29: The State government has urged the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to complete the 2,000-MW Lower Subansiri Hydroelectric Power Project (LSHEP) "without further delay".

This plea was made by the State government in its affidavit before the Eastern Zone Bench of the NGT, which was submitted on July 15, 2017 opposing the submissions

made by former All Assam Students' Union leader and Tularam Gogoi.

The State government has said in its submission that the State as well as the Union governments have been taking up various flood control measures in the flood-prone downstream area of the LSHEP. It also stated that the Assam Legislative Assembly in its March session had discussed the LSHEP issue and there was a general consensus to complete the 2,000-MW project as early as possible. (See page 13)

It also described the apprehensions expressed by Gogoi that there would be adverse downstream impact of the LSHEP as premature. It stated, "...it is premature on the part of the petitioner to anticipate the adverse downstream impact without taking into account of the downstream impact mitigation measures under implementation which have been taken up by the NHPC." It further referred to various high level expert committees of the Government of India and also the State

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Hard days ahead for industry, says Tea Board Chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

JORHAT, July 29: Tea Board Chairman PK Bezboruah, while foreseeing hard days ahead for the State tea industry which

may lead to a possible re-run of the textile industry downfall in Maharashtra and Gujarat in the 1980s, today asked captains of the industry to roll up their sleeves to meet the challenges.

Speaking as the guest of honour at the 80th annual general meeting of the Assam Tea Planters' Association (ATPA) at the Tocklak Tea Research Institute auditorium, Bezboruah, a tea planter himself, said the tea industry is presently facing multiple challenges and is moving towards a period of utmost uncertainty, which necessitates initiation of im-

mediate corrective measures.

Foreseeing a gloomy picture for the industry, the Tea Board Chairman recollected how the robust profit-making textile industry in Maharashtra and Gujarat since later part of 1970s faced a severe crisis due to the emergence of the powerloom sector that eventually led to the closure of cloth mills and unleashed a violent trade union movement thereafter.

Bezboruah said the Assam tea industry may face a similar fate as the industry is facing challenges from many sides. He said one of the prime reasons was supply of tea was increasing but buyers were decreasing leading to an oligopolistic market, which he said could spell doom in the future if

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(See page 13)

Major cyber security plan by Assam Police

SANJOY RAY

GUWAHATI, July 29: A pool of ethical hackers would soon be put into action to keep a track on militant leaders and forces inimical to India on the cyberspace, with the Assam Police deciding to have an exclusive 'Cyber Dome' as part of its biggest ever cyber security initiative.

It will also act as a repository of digitised databases of militant organisations, its leaders and antisocial elements active on social media.

Necessitated by spiralling online crime rate, the ambitious Cyber Dome project, envisaged as a high-tech centre for cyber security and innovations, was given the nod by the home department recently and the search is on for a project management

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consultant, which will execute the project.

The ambitious project of the Assam Police will facilitate gathering of 'open source information' of individuals and forces inimical to India without being hassled by man-made international boundaries and thereby aiding prevention of evil designs.

"Ethical hackers have become a potent tool in the emerging crime scenario. Assam, too, would either raise or hire such ethical hackers like a few other states have done already. There are ethical hackers who even volunteer their expertise," sources privy to the developments told

(See page 13)

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Central panel suggests armed forces' capacity building along borders

Call for integrated theatre command in Andamans, western sector

R DUTTA CHOWDHURY

other in the western sector to deal

with the problems arising out of Pa-

kistan and Afghanistan.

The committee, headed by Lt Gen

DB Shekhatkar, pointed out that

capacity building takes time and

China used the last 25 years to exten-

sively increase its capacity, particu-

larly infrastructure right up to the

Tibet-Myanmar-India tri-junction in

the eastern sector and up the Karakoram

pass and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir

in the western sector. The capacity

building included construction of road

and railway network, creation of sup-

ply chains, airports and infrastructure

to fight in high altitude. The commit-

tee is of the view that India must ex-
pedite capacity building immediately
to deal with the situation that may
arise in time.

When contacted by *The Assam Tri-*

bune, Lt Gen Shekhatkar justified the

need for capacity building and said,

"China respects power and firmness

and the Government of India must

take immediate steps to improve in-

frastructure along the international

border with China. That is why, India is

still lagging behind China in this re-

gard, he said.

The report of the committee also
mentioned about the Chinese inter-
ests in Bhutan and the steps that need
to be taken to deal with the situation.

However, Lt Gen Shekhatkar refused
to comment on the issue because of
the present stand-off between India and
China in Dokla-La and said, "since we
already have a stand-off in the area it is
not the appropriate time to comment
(See page 13)

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Required male faculty MCA, BCA, PGDCA etc for Third Year Goipara, Cybercity Complex, opp SBI Nabarpur, Ph. 9435024678; email: zhubin@rediffmail.com. SV/P/1517/4

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Research not to be mandatory for college teachers' promotions

NEW DELHI, July 29: College teachers will no longer be mandated to conduct research to be eligible for promotions, but will be required to be engaged more in community activities with students. This announcement was made by Union HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar today at a two-day national conference on higher education perspective in India.

"We are going to do away with the mandatory clause of research for college teachers to get their promotions. An official announcement in this regard will follow soon."

"Instead of that, I want teachers to be engaged in student activity. We will make one community activity or student activity mandatory and teachers

will be given their scores on the basis of that," Javadekar said.

Making changes in the Academic Performance Index (API), a criterion on which teachers get their promotions, the HRD Ministry is working on a plan to make research optional for college teachers.

"Currently college teachers are also required to do research activity to get their promotions, just like university professors. But we must understand that both of them belong to completely different category of teachers."

"A college teacher should be mainly engaged in teaching. When we made research compulsory, research stopped completely. Conducting research just for the sake of it)

is taking down the quality of research," Javadekar said.

University teachers who are supposed to teach postgraduate students or guide PhD scholars will be required to engage in research, he said... PTI

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IN MEMORIAM

**Lt. Thaneswar Gogoi & Lt. Kamala Gogoi**

Today on your Death Anniversary, Ma & Deut, we seek your blessings and pray to God for eternal peace of your souls.

- Jorai, Kunumi, Mintu & Kalan

CD/In/Memo/P/15183/1

In Loving Memory

**PRATAP BARMAN**

Born: 18.02.1948
Died: 30.08.2016
One year has passed since you left us for heavenly abode, leaving a void in our hearts. You were a great source of strength, love to all of us. We pray to God to grant peace to your noble soul.

- Deeply remembered by Mrs. Parul Barman (Wife) and family members, Nalbari.

CD/In/Memo/P/15144/1



Dipali (Shakti) Choudhury (24 Oct. 1937 - 10 Aug 2016)
You have been walking beside us-unseen, unheard but always near. Still loved, still missed and very near. Thank you for remaining our guiding light.

Col. PC Choudhury, Rakhee, Pakhi, Jugnu, Hansika, Keshav, Rishabh, Kutub and all relatives and friends.

CD/In/Memo/P/15141/1

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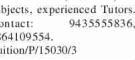
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TO-LET

1st floor 3 BHK at Jatin, Kalihupur, 1.25 Km from Ganesh Mandir. Rent: Rs. 14,000/-, 9717300310, Tu/L/P/1536/1

Two BHK flat at Sixmile, F. A. Ahmed Path, Contact: No.: 994894974, 9126557378, Tu/L/P/15167/1

I, 3 BHK flat for rent 9000, 12000, Ganibasti, New Guwahati, Contact: 9706155921, Tu/L/P/15170/1

1600 sq. ft Office Space for rent at Jaswanta Ram, Panbazar, Guwahati-1. Ph: 8822077888, 8876375028, Tu/L/P/15173/1

4 BHK, 1800 sq. ft house with parking & good locality in Kalihupur. Contact: 8638118089, Tu/L/P/15176/1

2 BHK flat, 1st floor in Birburi, Nizarpur Jyotsnah Bhawan, Contact: 7002052274, 8638522612, Tu/L/P/15164/1

2 BHK flat, G. floor at Bharalukum, Opp. T. R. Phukan Park. Contact: 9754722514, 0361-2638716, Tu/L/P/15165/1

Room rent Uzan Bazar Paamiok Three bed room (1200 SF), 789692649, 9864552555, Tu/L/P/PA245/1

(1) Single room, K/T, Rs. 500/- (2) BKR K/T Rs. 6,500/- Sluice Gate, Bharalukum, Ph: 9531188764 (10 AM to 3 PM) Veg preferred.

Room rent Kadar Road Facy Bazar, 1200 S.F, 9435106621, 8645552555, Tu/L/P/PA246/1

1 BHK house near Brahmaputra Guest House River view/ Bowkowar Nagar, Ph: 9435046828, 8876375249, Tu/L/P/PA239/1

4 flat/3BHK/wall furnished with AC. Available for Rent/Guest House near Zoo, Company Director/Executive preferred. Contact: 9864592198, Tu/L/P/15166/1

2 BHK flat, Sixmile, Rent: 8500/- Independent single room Ganeshguri, Rent: 5000/-, 9706015059, Tu/L/P/15150/1

3BHK/B2BHK furnished/unfurnished flat at Beliola, Bhetapara, Zoo Road, Tole Service, 9957699880, Tu/L/P/15152/1

1400 sq. ft ground floor house at Sundarpur, Dhemaji, H.No. 12, Ph: 9435014119, Tu/L/P/15154/1

RCC part house near Sixmile, VIP Road, Rs. 7000/- Contact: 995548859, 967355712, Tu/L/P/15155/1

2 BHK flat at Panbazar for rent/Office/Godown/ Residence, Contact No.: 9864093233, 8638499835, Tu/L/P/15158/1

Student Girls/working women room with Kitchen, Lam Road, Jorepukhuri, Uzanbazar, Ph: 7086034899, Tu/L/P/15103/1

2 BHK RCC part house 1st floor preferably for Govt/PSU Employee, Rs. 10,000/-m, Ph: 985986443, Tu/L/P/15101/1

Three rooms with Kitchen, Bathroom, balcony, parking, Juripar Sixmile @ 8000/-, 9577866917, Tu/L/P/15271/1

3 BED ROOM 1ST FLOOR FURNISHED APARTMENT AT JORPHUKHURI, UZAN BAZAR FOR RENT @ RS. 21,000/- FROM 1ST AUGUST, CONTACT: 9324583030, Tu/L/P/15231/1

Three rooms attached Kitchen for small family at Survey, Beliola, Ph: 8472802370, Tu/L/P/15106/1

RCC two room Ajanta Path, Survey Chilarai Path, Beliola, water, Rs. 7500/-, 757920031, Tu/L/P/15108/1

2 bed room Assam Type house at Jonai Path, Zoo Road, M: 9435143710, Tu/L/P/15109/1

2 BHK flat at Rajgarh, Rent: 15,000/-, Person, Contact: 9864075415, Tu/L/P/15112/1

2 RCC rooms with attached Bathroom, Kitchen, running water, balcony in ground floor near Ganeshmandir, Ganeshguri, Contact: 8403815749, Tu/L/P/15114/1

3 BHK 2BHK in 1st floor attached with one balcony, car parking at Laxmi Gate Dispur Law College, Dispur, Contact: 9435140728 (M), Tu/L/P/15116/1

3 BHK with parking decent house at Beliola for family, Rest house, Executives etc, 8486706226, 8876802770, Tu/L/P/15119/1

Four room at Jonai, Jumri Path, H. No. - 22, Zoo Road, Rent: 9000/-, Ph: 9438312543, Tu/L/P/15120/1

RCC part house suitable for working/women/small family at Rehabian, Contact: 8136011615, Tu/L/P/15140/1

Assam Type Drawing/Dining, two spacious bed rooms, two bath, Kitchen, running water at Sengar near Beldiha Bazar, Rent @ Rs. 9000/-, Call: 9854985529, Tu/L/P/15142/1

3 BHK flat in Ashok Palace (Private Residential Colony) at Ashok Path, Dispur, Beliola, Ph: 9435140574, 813800560, Tu/L/P/15204/1

Newly constructed 3 BHK flat with 2 Baths, car parking at running water at Alakananda, Contact: 9854087449, Tu/L/P/15181/1

Part house, upper floor for small family, H.No.-4, Bimola Baru, Ganeshguri, Contact: 9846409969, Tu/L/P/15265/1

Ground floor 2 BHK at Manik Nagar, Zoo Road for Bank/ Company Executive, Ring: 9864945312, Tu/L/P/PA268/1

RCC 2 bed room house, first floor, Beliola Tiniyal, Bishnu Rabha Path, 2nd Byelane (R), Rent: Rs. 8000/-, Ph: 9864091657, Tu/L/P/15178/1

Two bed room, 2nd floor, Rajgarh Link Road near Bhitoli, Rent: 10,000/-, Phone: 9864092898, 9954139833, Tu/L/P/1917/1

Single, double rooms individual, 20 rooms, Hostel/Office, Pub Sarania, available water, 8743875314, Tu/L/P/15237/1

For only Sixmile, Ghy. 22, Mobile No.: 7086997940, Tu/L/P/15203/1

Two BSK fully furnished flat with A.C. Washing Machine at 4th floor, Alakananda Apartment at ABC, Rent: 18,000/-, Call: 8583807325, Tu/L/P/AB276/1

Two/bre three rooms attached Kitchen, Bath, Dispur, Hony. 21, Rent: 8000/-, 15,000/-, 9435010672, Tu/L/P/A3019/1

1 BHK flat for rent at Bhagdattipura, Kahlipara, Kohinor Apartment @ Rs. 10,000/- pm., Contact: 9940213417, Tu/L/P/AB203/1

3 BHK flat RNB Apt, Kalpataru, Path near GRNC, Dispur, Rent: 15,000/-, 9435010672, Tu/L/P/AB276/1

Prime Toilet single & double room, Independent house, Flat, Office, Institute, Govt, 9577467574, Tu/L/P/AB304/2

Two BHK flat at Dispur Lestage, Naharai Path @ Rs. 10,000/- & 12,000/-, Call: 9864105572, Tu/L/P/1521/1

(1) Two bed rooms attached Kitchen, Bath, Dispur, Hony. 21, Rent: 8000/-, 10,000/-, 12,000/-, Call: 9864105572, Tu/L/P/1521/1

3 BHK semi furnished flat for rent at Survey, Address: 9957699880, Tu/L/P/1522/1

Contact: 8811086868 for a small house for small family in Beliola Tiniyal with 24 hours running water, 7086018418, Tu/L/P/1521/1

Two rooms attached Toilet, Kitchen, Dining at Beliola, Contact: 9864132037, Tu/L/P/PA232/1

2100 sq. ft. (ground floor) with parking, 24 hrs water suitable for Office/Institution in Uzanbazar, Contact: 9864984104, Tu/L/P/15181/1

2 BHK flat at Panbazar for rent/Office/Godown/ Residence, Contact No.: 9864093233, 8638499835, Tu/L/P/15101/1

Student Girls/working women room with Kitchen, Lam Road, Jorepukhuri, Uzanbazar, Ph: 7086034899, Tu/L/P/15103/1

2 BHK RCC part house 1st floor preferably for Govt/PSU Employee, Rs. 10,000/-m, Ph: 985986443, Tu/L/P/15101/1

Single room with attached Bathroom, Kitchen, Balcony, Nepali Chowk, Ph: 882566441, Tu/L/P/PA273/1

Hostel at Zoo Tiniyal for Girls, Rent: 42,000/- (Tuition Fee), Sengreen Path, Contact: 995405367, Tu/L/P/15273/1

3 bed rooms at G. S. Road, Sengreen Path. Contact: 9706055292, Tu/L/P/1528/1

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Govt assurance to Adivasi body on tea wage

GUWAHATI, July 29: A delegation of the All Assam Students' Association of Assam held a meeting with Labour Minister Pabbar Lochan Das and senior officials of the department yesterday.

Officials of the Labour Department assured the AASSA delegation that the tea garden workers would not be paid below the minimum wage after the next round of wage negotiation.

The delegation, led by its president Stephen Lakra and general secretary Debbar Urang, said that the three-year wage agreement will expire in December and a new wage agreement will come into force.

The government also assured the delegation that tea garden workers will be allotted a plot of one kotha and five lechias each.

The Labour Minister also agreed to hold a tripartite talk on the issue of granting Scheduled Tribes status to the Adivasis. - Staff Reporter

Body found

JORABAT, July 29: The body of an unidentified man was recovered from a chicken shop at Jorabat around 2.30 pm today. The shop was closed at that moment. A case has been registered and police investigation is on. - Correspondent



- Seminar-cum-interactive session on National Health Policy, 2017 at 3 pm at Pragjyoti Cultural Complex, Machukhowa.
- Annual general meeting of Chandmari Nizarapar Puja Samity in the temple premises at 6 pm.
- Blood donation camp by Fidder Plywood and Rotary Guwahati West at Marwari Hospital, Athgaon from 10.30 am.



Sashastra Seema Bal jawans demonstrating a rescue operation in the Dighalipukhuri in Guwahati on Saturday. - UB Photos

Power supply to 352 dwelling units stopped

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 29: In a drive carried out in the Fatasil Ambari area this morning, the Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC) got the power supply being illegally availed by the residents of 352 dwelling units that were constructed as part of the Basic Service to Urban Poor (BSUP) project, disconnected.

The GMC also asked the people illegally occupying 33 dwelling units to vacate the flats immediately.

It may be mentioned that the seven buildings with 352 dwelling units were constructed at Fatasil Ambari in 2012-13 to accommodate the urban poor, including Grade IV employees of the GMC.

As per the norms, after allotment of the dwelling units, the power connection was to be acquired individually by the occupants.

Initially, the GMC had decided to bear the cost of power supply till individual connections were taken by the residents.

"However, taking advantage of the lackadaisical approach of the previous re-

gime, the occupants did not acquire individual power connection. As a result, the GMC has been paying the electricity bills of the residents for the past several years," Guwahati Mayor Migen Sarania said. This cost the GMC a monthly expenditure of Rs 1.5 lakh.

"The connection can be taken from the ASEB by showing the allotment certificate. This will also help us get rid of the illegal occupants of 33 dwelling units who do not have allotment certificates," he added.

Improve city transport service

The inefficient and inadequate transport services in the city have always been a matter of concern. A large number of city buses are in a poor shape, the Trekkers operators are unregulated, and the roads have disintegrated. Also, there is no respite from untending traffic jams at rush hours. The authorities concerned could do well to procure more AC buses, regulate the operations of small tempos and control the traffic in an effective manner.

- Biju Moni, Lankeswar

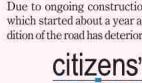
Defunct streetlights

The streetlights on the National Highway from Koinadhorha to the Games Village have been dysfunctional for the last several months. The busy Bisistha Chital area is not properly lit due to this in the evening hours, causing a great deal of hardship to both local residents as well as visitors. Lack of streetlights also increases the risk of road mishaps at night. Therefore, I request the authorities concerned to look into the matter.

- Pooja Malakar, Bisistha

Bagarbori-Satgaon Road

I would like to bring to the notice of the authorities concerned, the pathetic



Citizens are requested to express their Guwahati-specific views within 100 words and mail the same to citizensvoice26@gmail.com

an extent that even e-rickshaws cannot ply on it. The foundation stone of the road construction works was laid in 2012. The drain construction works stopped in May. The road is yet to be constructed. Will the government take immediate steps to complete the construction of the road and drainage system without further delay?

- BB Paul,

A senior citizen

Illegal roadside vending

Despite the Kamrup Metro administration designating the GMCH Road a protected area, numerous roadside vendors are still operating at that important stretch of road till late at night. It is

obvious that these petty traders enjoy the patronage of the local police station.

When a VIP visits the area, the police shift the stalls to the bylanes at Shaktigarh. Thereafter, it is business as usual as there is no accountability once the VIP's visit is over. It seems that the local police station alone has 'benefited' due to the so-called restrictions on roadside vending on the GMCH Road.

- Arunabh

Guwahati

Parking menace

The GMC and the Guwahati East MLA deserve praise for taking keen interest in completing the repair works on a nearly 100-metre stretch at the approach of the Borthakur Mill Road. The road had been lying in a very bad shape for the last couple of years. We hope that the remaining portion of the road would also be repaired. Now, the local residents also seek relief from unauthorized parking on the right side of the entrance to the narrow road. We find it difficult to enter our residences through this road due to haphazard parking of vehicles, particularly in the evening hours.

I request the Traffic Police to place 'no parking' boards and deploy a Home Guard from 5 pm to 10 pm to control errant motorists.

- Dolanchapa Mukherjee, BM Road, Ulubari

Call to fight violence, injustice

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 29: Ahead of the All India Milli Council convention slated to be held in Delhi tomorrow, president of the Assam State unit of the council, RHC Choudhury has called upon the people to unite against vested interests which are out to change the basic structure of the Constitution.

Addressing a group of citizens here today, Choudhury said that in view of the prevailing atmosphere of despair and intolerance created and exacerbated by forces instrumental to communal harmony, all religious heads, social leaders etc., should attend tomorrow's convention and raise their voice in union against violence, injustice and excesses.

"We urge the people to express their solidarity with the decision to be taken at the convention to create a better and cordial atmosphere in the country," he said.

The general secretary of the State unit of All India Milli Council, Inam Uddin Ahmed, urged conscious citizens to respond to the Council's call for expressing solidarity to protect the Constitution and create awareness among countrymen about the lurking danger to the Constitution.

Evening OPD clinic at Press Club

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 29: City-based Dispur Hospitals conducted the evening OPD clinic at the Guwahati Press Club today, where Dr Udyan Saini offered free consultations to over 30 mediapersons and their dependents.

The participants also got their weight, blood pressure and blood sugar checked while in the weekly camp, which was assisted by laboratory technician Biswajit Das and nurse Sonomoni Dutta from the same hospital.

The next camp in the evening OPD clinic series will be attended by Dr Vijay Sankaran (neurosurgeon) from SIMS, Chennai on August 5 at 2.30 pm.

Fluctuating temp causes damage to muga seeds

RITURAJ BORTHAKUR

changes and eventually they die," Sainika said.

Samples of the infected larva have been sent to the Central Silk Board for further tests.

There has been no report of the disease from farms on the foothill areas of Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland where the temperatures were not so extreme. But floods have reportedly damaged 'son' trees in many plantations at Majuli, Lakhimpur and Morigaon districts. A detail survey of the damage is being conducted by the government.

However, the silver lining is that the affected crop is a seed crop and not commercial. Thus, it is unlikely to have any bearing on muga production this year.

Last year, heavy damage was reported in a commercial muga crop in October-November, resulting in a decline in production. Raw silk production last year was 114.6 metric tonnes.

"So far this year, the production has been better. We are getting around 160 metric tonnes this year," the director said.

OPD SCHEDULE		
Cardiology (Heart)	Dr. Kartikeya Bhargava Sr. Consultant	2 Aug, 2017 11:00 AM-2:00 PM
Neurology & Neuro Intervention	Dr.Biplab Das Consultant	8 Aug, 2017 11:00 AM-4:00 PM
Rheumatology (Arthritis)	Dr.Vinay Singhai Sr. Consultant	11 Aug, 2017 11:00 AM-4:00 PM
Cardiology (Heart)	Dr. Nabajit Talukdar Sr. Consultant	18 Aug, 2017 11:00 AM-4:00 PM
Urology & Kidney Transplant	Dr.Prasun Ghosh Director	19 Aug, 2017 11:00 AM-3:00 PM
Nephrology (Kidney)	Dr. Amit Mahapatra Consultant	22 Aug, 2017 11:00 AM-2:00 PM
Neuro Surgery (Brain & Spine)	Dr.Karanjit Singh Narang Director	25 Aug, 2017 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

MEDANTA THE MEDICITY
MULTI - SPECIALITY OPD CLINIC

Announcement : Under the MCI ethics and Regulation 6.1

SUN VALLEY HOSPITAL

MEDANTA THE MEDICITY
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VENUE : Sun Valley Hospital, Purbanchal Path, Matuhara Nagar, G.S. Road, Guwahati. +91 9864369991

For More Information & Air Ambulance Facility Contact : Manoranjan Kalita : +91 9957568450, 9435559700

অসম চৰকাৰৰ সাংস্কৃতিক সঞ্চালকালয়ৰ উদ্যোগত আৰু
শোণিতপুৰ জিলা প্ৰশাসনৰ সহযোগত
২০১৭ বৰ্ষৰ
নটসূৰ্য ফণী শৰ্মা বঁটা প্ৰদান অনুষ্ঠান
স্থান : নেহৰু ময়দান (চাৰ্চ ফিল্ড), তেজপুৰ
৩১ জুন, ২০১৭, দিন ১১ঠৰো বজাত
২০১৭ বৰ্ষৰ নটসূৰ্য ফণী শৰ্মা বঁটা
বিশিষ্ট অভিনেতা শ্ৰীযুত প্ৰসন্ন কুমাৰ গোস্বামী আৰু
বিশিষ্ট আলোকশঙ্খী শ্ৰীযুত হীৰামন গোস্বামীক প্ৰদান কৰিব।
॥ সন্মানীয় অতিথি ॥
শ্ৰীযুত নৰ কুমাৰ দলে, মাননীয় মন্ত্ৰী, সাংস্কৃতিক পৰিক্ৰমা বিভাগ
শ্ৰীযুত পল্লৰলোচন দাস, মাননীয় মন্ত্ৰী, শক্তি আৰু চাহ জনজাতি কল্যাণ বিভাগ
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এই অনুষ্ঠানত উপস্থিত থাকিবলৈ শিল্পীপ্ৰাণ বাইজক বিনৱভাৰে অনুৰোধ জনোৱা হ'ল।

জনসংযোগ/৫৮৬/১৭

MESSAGE FORTODAY

Knowledge plus ten thousand times is skill.
— SHINICHI SUZUKI

The Assam Tribune**The trump touch**

When it comes to making good his election pledges and getting things done, American President Donald J Trump appears to have the Midas touch. Or should that be the Trump touch, for instead of everything turning to gold as had been the case with King Midas, with Trump everything literally turns into chaos? He had pledged to ban Muslims from entering the US; all he has managed in his over six months in office is to have the US Supreme Court approve a partial ban from a handful of Islamic nations. He had planned to repeal and replace Obamacare; all he has succeeded so far in doing is to repeatedly have mud flung on his face! He had pledged to improve ties with Russia; now he finds himself embroiled in a potentially self-destructive scandal involving collusion with that country which might, hopefully, cost him his Presidency! However, he has finally achieved "success" in at least being able to start with one of his oft repeated campaign promises—build a "wall" on the Mexico-US border to keep migrants from the former country from illegally entering America. The US House of Representatives has passed an 827 billion USD package that includes 1.6 billion USD to start building Trump's dream-wall, though critics have doubted it a nightmare!

Trump, of course, has a long way to go, for the bill is yet to be passed in the US Senate. Moreover, the paltry amount will just help with the first bricks of the wall, for its ultimate expenditure is expected to be 30-40 billion USD! The Democrats are determined to fight the wall tooth and nail, reminding Trump of his campaign pledge that he would make Mexico pay for it. Apparently, Trump is a great believer in the adage put into verse by American poet Walt Whitman that "good fences make good neighbours." How good neighborly relations between the US and Mexico will be in the future remains to be seen, given the growls being emitted by the Mexican President. However, despite the hype surrounding the wall, not to mention what critics have called "a massive waste of taxpayers' money," it is most how effective it would be to keep illegal aliens out. The Great Wall of China built by its Emperors could not prevent hordes of Mongols from destroying their capital; notwithstanding the existence of the infamous Berlin Wall many East German nationals had managed to escape to the West. Mexican migrants are a resourceful lot and will no doubt devise new ways to enter America. Not that much of white America, despite the ranting of white-supremists, will mind, for they would be lost without the Hispanics to do their menial jobs

Nawaz Sharif

Nawaz Sharif has finally become victim of the Panama Papers leak. Sharif resigned as Prime Minister of Pakistan after the country's Supreme Court disqualified him from office in a corruption probe. The investigation was conducted after the Panama Papers revealed that Sharif has links to offshore accounts and overseas properties which were owned by three of his children. Those assets were reportedly not declared in the Sharif family's wealth statement. The documents linked Sharif's children to offshore companies. The five judge bench of the Supreme Court reached a unanimous verdict. The court's ruling stated that Sharif had been "dishonest" in not disclosing his earnings from a Dubai-based company in his nomination papers during the 2013 general election in Pakistan. Sharif is not the first head of government to have been forced to resign on account of the Panama Papers. Last year, Iceland's Prime Minister Sigmundur David Gunnlaugsson had resigned after the leaked documents had indicated that his wife owned an offshore company with big claims on Iceland's banks. Over the last year, the Panama Papers leak had led to mass protests in Pakistan. Opposition parties had repeatedly called for a probe on Sharif and his children over their alleged offshore accounts. Now the riling Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) or PML (N) has said that though the Prime Minister has stepped down respecting the judicial verdict, the decision of the court has been an "injustice".

Sharif's resignation is unlikely to end the saga. Pakistani politics has always been fragile and unstable. Ironically, this is the third time Sharif had to leave office in the middle of his term as Prime Minister. Besides, none of the Prime Ministers in the history of Pakistan have ever been able to complete their term in office. Sharif's younger brother, Shehzad, who is Chief Minister of Punjab, is the most likely contender for the vacancy that has arisen after the latest developments. While Opposition groups, including the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) led by former cricket star Imran Khan, have welcomed the verdict of the court. However, conspiracy theories have already started floating, including suggestions that the powerful military is behind the latest developments.

The Assam Tribune**From THE PAST****No Immediate Expansion Of Gauhati Refinery**

By A Staff Reporter

GAUHATI, July 29: The absence of a chain of petro-chemical and industrial complexes around the Gauhati Refinery has greatly come in the way of any further expansion of the refinery. Maj Gen. Sardar Singh, Managing Director, Refineries Division of the Indian Oil Corporation, told reporters here today.

While refineries in Barauni and Gujarat are being expanded, there was no plan at present to expand the Gauhati Refinery. The Managing Director emphasised the need for a "deep investigation" as to why industrial growth has not been forthcoming here while giant industrial complexes, including fertilizer projects, were sprouting around the Gujarat Refinery. He, however, dispelled the idea that any expansion would entail a large employment potential to the refinery. Maj Gen. Singh disclosed that the Rs 28 lakh-plant of liquid petroleum gas in the Gauhati Refinery was almost complete and the product would be marketed from April 1, 1968, in Assam.

SUNDAY, JULY 30, 1967

Lessons from history and geography

■ Dr Ambuj Thakur

The geography of a region acts as an important determinant in shaping the evolution of its social structures and institutions. The history of evolution is therefore closely intertwined with the geographical features of the place and the environmental conditions therein. India's North-eastern Region (NER) is mostly encapsulated by the rugged mountains and deep jungles of the Eastern Himalayas. The Brahmaputra valley of Assam supports the bulk of the population, industry, physical infrastructure etc. of the entire region, with the Barak and the Imphal valleys being two smaller additions within the broader scheme of the concentration of human settlements. The rest are sparsely populated, with valleys too narrow to nurture a sufficient base for large-scale human endeavour.

Hence, most of the early powerful states in this region had their nuclei in these three valleys, thereby forming a core of their own. The rest of the NER had political formations in the shape of smaller states or autonomous village republics comprising the periphery. These lesser units shared both mutually supportive and antagonistic relations, depending on the exigencies of the time, with the large valley states.

The only major outlet to the sea was through the composite deltaic region of present day Bangladesh

and West Bengal, with the Brahmaputra serving as the principal route for commercial, military and cultural interactions. It is equally true that overland connectivity to Southeast Asia, China and Bangladesh had also been in place since antiquity through the Southern Silk Route, but lesser known due to its remoteness from power centres.

Riverine communication was the preferred mode of travel, especially in Assam because it provided a better scope to carry greater volumes of people and goods than the land routes. It is attested by the ancient Assamese boat-makers had in constructing boats and crafts of various shapes and sizes, and the seminal role played by the Ahom navy in defeating the Mughals at Saranghat in 1671. With discovery of tea in Uppercrust, the British Raj used the Brahmaputra waterway to transfer huge consignments of tea in steamers to Calcutta and London for sale.

It was only after the 1950 earthquake resulting in heavy siltation of its riverbed, and the India-Pakistan War of 1965, that this route lost its historic locational advantage as a significant external outlet for the NER. As a post-colonial geographical entity, the NER was deprived of its age-old globalised character owing to the replacement of open frontiers by rigid man-made physical boundaries.

man-made physical boundaries.

Hence comes the centrality of Assam in leading the way for the NER emerging as a growth pole in the wider region comprising Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar and beyond. In terms of urbanisation, Upper Assam south of the Brahmaputra has had an edge owing to the industrialisation ushered in by the British from 1830s onwards. Central and Lower Assam have had relatively fewer major urban hubs,

percent respectively against the national level of about 57 percent. The overall picture that emerges in this broader eastern Himalayan landscape, abutting the Tibetan Plateau and upper Bay of Bengal region, is that it has a predominantly rural character, with wealth concentrated in a handful of urban centres.

A dispersal of economic growth creating multiple nodal points would be a better option. In Assam, for example, besides Guwahati, Dibrugarh and Silchar, the inherent strengths of other areas can be harnessed for development, thereby also reducing the overall risks of economic downturns. Places like Sualkuchi and Sartapebari should be promoted for Assam silk and bell metals; Hailong, Dipu and Umangruang for hill tourism; Barpeta, Dhubri, Bardowa, Hajo and Silsagar for religious tourism; Gaupur, Charaideo and others for historical tourism along with Jorhat, Dibrugarh and Golaghat for tea tourism; Goalpara as an enigma for international trade etc.

The overall level of urbanisation in Assam is only about 13 percent and that for the NER is 18 percent as against the national average of 33 percent currently. Those of Bangladesh and Myanmar hover around 35 percent, while Bhutan it stands around 39 percent respectively. The corresponding figures for China's border provinces of Tibet and Yunnan are 23 percent and 37

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JE claims 3**lives in
Nalbari**

CORRESPONDENT

NALBARI, July 29: Japanese Encephalitis has claimed three lives in Nalbari district and over 39 more people are undergoing treatment at different hospitals. The people who died of Japanese Encephalitis are Kripa Kalita (68) of Bidyapur, Samai Talukdar (70) of Bausi Udayapur, and Raju Ahmed (12) of Jaymangala of the district.

The Joint Director of Health Services, Dr Chittaranjan Pathak said that the Health department carried out blood sample tests of the people and found confirmed Japanese Encephalitis in many cases. The joint director further added that the department has arranged fogging in various villages of the district and sprayed DDT in different villages to prevent outbreak of the disease.

Body recovered

CORRESPONDENT

SILCHAR, July 29 : The body of the 32-year-old Chandrakriti Singh, a resident of Tuko in Rammagar area of Silchar was recovered from a hotel in Manipur's Jiribam on Wednesday.

According to sources, his body was covered with a towel and the hands were mutilated with blood stains in the room and washroom. He was working as a security guard in a mall at Silechar.

Santosh Mohan Dev hospitalised

CORRESPONDENT

SILCHAR, July 29: Following a sudden deterioration of health, former union minister Santosh Mohan Dev was rushed to a local hospital here on Wednesday night. According to family sources, Dev had suffered a mild cardiac arrest. He is undergoing treatment at the hospital's ICU. Meanwhile, doctors treating the former minister informed that health condition of Dev is gradually becoming stable.

Ganja seized at Nikashi

ANN Service

MUSHALPUR, July 29: A police team of Nikashi in association with SSB personnel seized 38 kgs of ganja from a tea stall and arrested one Naren Haloi in Kali Bazaar on Thursday. According to the police, acting on a tip-off, a raid was conducted at the tea stall and ganja kept in two bags were seized. Police, however, have refused to divulge more information in this regard.

Diganta Kumar Bordoloi: a tribute

Diganta Kr Bordoloi, an officer of the Labour Department passed away on July 21 last leaving us all shell-shocked. With his untimely demise, the Commissionate of Labour, Assam in particular and the Department of Labour & Welfare, Assam as a whole has a very honest, efficient and sincere officer.

Born on February 23, 1964 at Dibrugarh to Narendra Nath Bordoloi and Probhati Devi, DK Bordoloi left us high and dry at a time when he was required to offer a lot to the department as well as to the society. His contribution in upgrading the post of 14 Labour Inspectors as well as his efforts towards reorganisation of the Labour Department will always be remembered by the officers of the Department.

His initial learning started at Shillong when his father, an officer of State Bank of India was posted there and he graduated from B Barooah College, Guwahati and joined the LCI as a Development

FLOOD-AFFECTED AAMTOLA VILLAGE IN LAKHIMPUR

Flood relief materials being distributed by members of the Assam Tribune Employees' Union at Aamtola village.

JSM stages protest

ANN Service

SIVASAGAR, July 29: Jyothi Sangrami Mancha (JSM), an umbrella organisation of 14 different ethnic and students' bodies vociferously protested and jostled with police barricade while moving towards the Deputy Commissioner's office in Sivasagar to submit a memorandum to the Chief Minister over alleged dilly-dallying attitude of the government in instituting a CBI enquiry into the alleged Rs 300 crore scam in the name of widening the NH 27.

The protest march was led by Aswini Chetia, convenor of the mancha; Mir Bora, member of the Minority Development Board; Debojit Dutt of AYCP; Jadav Gogoi, Brihantar Asoniya Yuva Monchi Faridul I Bora, Minority Students' Union; Tapason Chutia, Chutia Students' Union and others.

BSNL employees' protest prog

CORRESPONDENT

MANGALDAI, July 29: The BSNL staff of Mangaldai on Thursday observed a day-long agitation in support of their long-pending demands for which banking service was severely affected. They also staged a dharna demanding immediate fulfilment of their demands. Roz Nath and Amir Hussain, president and secretary of the Mangaldai branch of the BSNL Employees' Union respectively said that despite repeated demands, the authorities concerned have turned a blind eye.

Body found

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

JORHAT, July 29: The body of Anil Ali (28), a villager of Kakajan Dagaon under Teok police station in the district, who was missing since yesterday after he had gone to a nearby forest to fetch firewood, was found floating in a stream on Friday. Police investigation is on.

OBITUARY**Kanak Saikia**

CORRESPONDENT

DHEMAMI, July 29: Kanak Saikia, headmaster of Borham Garhbandha Primary School and an inhabitant of Bordalani Chariali, died recently at his residence following a chronic critical disease. He was 56.

Kanak Saikia first joined as assistant teacher of Ngajampur Kanchankana Primary School in 1994. He was also an ardent social worker who was associated with several social and cultural organisations in the area. He was a good football player too. He was once elected the president of the Bordalani anarchist unit of AASAS.

He leaves behind his wife, three daughters and a host of relatives.

Sarala Dutta

GUWAHATI, July 29: Senior citizen Sarala Dutta of Club Road, Jorhat passed away at 6.30 am today following old-age ailments. She was 87.

Of amiable disposition, she was loved and respected by all. She leaves behind two sons, two daughters, a son-in-law, a daughter-in-law and several grandchildren. Her demise was widely mourned.

BP Dutta

ANN Service

SONARI, July 29: Bishnu Prasad Dutta, prominent educationist and social worker passed away at his residence at Seipuri, Sonari on Friday due to old-age ailments.

He was the retired principal of BP Baruwa Memorial Higher Secondary School, Sonari and ex-president of Charaideo District Sports Association. Dutta was known for his amiable disposition and caring nature.

Meanwhile, both AASAA and ATTSA staged a 'dhama gherao' on Friday, demanding arrest of Boldeb Teli for creating law-and-order problem in the garden.

Assam Tribune's flood-relief measures open new vistas**Disaster management through radio broadcasting**

FARHANA AHMED

askers like the flood. This has been acknowledged globally that radio can be the best tool for communications due to its all-pervading presence and its freedom from power failure, which normally affects all communication channels during a natural disaster or in manmade catastrophes. This service is now provided in rural Lakhimpur which has been cut off from electricity since the breach of the

Rangandi embankment in Jaipur on July 9. This is happening in a time when disaster management communication is still lacking in India.

In India, radio is still the most reached broadcasting service covering 110 million individuals. It has been the penetration of television among 475 million individuals in the country, but dependence on electricity makes the latter useless at the



time of natural disasters or any emergencies giving an edge to the radio. The National Broadcaster, All India Radio (AIR) is one of the largest broadcasting organizations in the world in terms of the number of languages of broadcast, the spectrum of socio-economic and cultural diversity it serves. With 420 stations spreading across the country, the AIR is reaching nearly 92% of the country's area and 99.19% of the total population. It broadcasts programming in 23 languages and 14 dialects which also includes bulletins on weather forecast and programmes on rural sector. Besides many FM radio services are coming up to extend services to reach out to victims of natural disasters.

For natural disasters like flood, radio could be the only medium to reach out to the trapped, marooned or affected people by the concerned state agencies amidst power cuts. This is a cost effective and easy way to coordinate disaster management by various agencies and also be useful for prior warning and early evacuation. It may be recalled that during the 2004 tsunami in Chennai, it was the radio service that paved the way of early relief measures by the police where the television channels could air live visuals eight hours after the disaster.

In Lakhimpur district, any radio set could access AIR broadcastings from its Dibrugarh, Guwahati, Jorhat, Itanagar and Mukolchong stations in FM, MW and SW frequencies. The concerned authorities can use the services from these radio stations to reach out to victims of natural disasters. So far the disaster management authorities have done little in terms of using radio for their use in the state. The exemplary act by the Assam Tribune Group and ATEU could pave the way of new application of radio service in managing flood and other natural calamities affecting the masses located in remote areas without electricity.

Meanwhile, Bora alleged that the State government has totally failed to make advance arrangements for the flood season. He said that the State government could have prevented the misery of the people if had taken measures in advance. The State government did not make contingency plan and the Chief Minister's Office did not give proper directions. There was no coordination among the various departments and the result was chaos, he alleged.

In this connection, Bora

Parashad (VHP), have been undergoing arms training in the State. "We have demanded that proper action should be taken against the two organisations for indulging in such unlawful activities," Bora said.

Addressing a press conference at the Press Club of India here on Friday afternoon, Bora accused Sarbananda Sonowal government of turning a blind eye to the happenings and alleged that volunteers of Durga Vahini and Bajrang Dal, both associated with Vishwa Hindu

played an audio visual recording of the training session of the armed cadres to prove his point. "What is the motive behind imparting arms training to its cadres? We fear that they might take action against the Congress members," Bora said.

No relief camp was opened during the crisis period, with the first camp being opened by July 13, he further alleged.

He alleged that not a single rupee has been given by the Congress members in the Centre in 2015-2016 on account of flood.

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Pat-muga traders demand exemption from GST

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DIBRUGARH, July 29: The Dibrugarh District Pat-Muga Traders Association has urged upon the Prime Minister to withdraw the Goods and Services Tax (GST) from indigenous handloom products of Assam.

The traders' body said that due to the imposition of the GST on pat silk, toss silk, cotton thread, wool, bonok, guna etc., petty handloom units in Assam were suffering and many are on the verge of closure.

"If the GST is imposed on the handloom products about 20 lakh population will be deprived of livelihood," the organisation said in the memo.

The traders' body on Friday staged a demonstration at Chowkdingee intersection here to register its protest against levying GST on the indigenous handloom products. They later submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister through the Deputy Commissioner.

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"If the GST is imposed on

Lack of serious study on tiger ecology rued

CORRESPONDENTS

MANGALDAI, July 29: Kamal Azad, who is a Biologist with the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has expressed concern over the dearth of serious study and research on the various aspects leading to tiger conservation in Assam, including tiger ecology.

He was speaking on the topic, 'Focus on Tiger Conservation in Assam' as a resource person in a media orientation workshop organised jointly by Aaranyak, Mangaldoi Media Circle, Mangaldoi Wildlife Division and Mangaldoi College authority at the Science Gallery of Mangaldoi College on the occasion of International Tiger Day today.

He lamented thus, "we cannot specifically say how many prey animals a tiger in the Orang Tiger Reserve or Manas Tiger Reserve needs on an average since there is no study till date on tiger ecology in Assam."

He further said that tiger reserve is protected not only for the tiger, but for all other wildlife species and people too. Further, the media needs to be sen-

sited over the core and buffer concept, besides conservation in larger landscape, connectivity or corridor and involvement of community tiger conservation. "Our people never could gauge the value of a tiger reserve as its ecological service is measured in terms of money."

He also termed undivided Darrang district as a rare district as it houses two tiger reserves - Orang Tiger Reserve with a record 30-35 tigers on average with 100 sq km area along with Barnadi Wildlife Sanctuary and Khasienglara Reserve Forest, which is the core and buffer area of Manas Tiger Reserve.

Earlier, Sivashish Thakur, senior journalist of *The Assam Tribune*, while discussing, 'The Challenges of Green Reporting' outlined different factors becoming challenges in environment reporting, including challenges within the media itself. He urged upon the media persons not to remain complacent with what they have, but on the contrary to enrich their knowledge with regular study and retrospection.

On the other hand, Prabah Kumar Das, associate director of Vivekananda Kendra Institute

of Culture and senior journalist spoke on how to develop a report on the environment and offer special tips for young journalists in this regard. He also gave an analytical presentation on climate change and its impact on the ecology and mankind.

The workshop was anchored

tended by a section of nature lovers, students and members of youth organisations, besides mediapersons of the district.

In Kaziranga: Preservation and protection of tigers, including the Royal Bengal variety in their natural habitat is very important as there

International Tiger Day today at Kaziranga Study Centre of JDSCG College at Bakshat and organised by Kaziranga National Park in association with WWF-India, Bhamti and JDSCG College.

He said that when it is widely known that tigers are present in any particular forest, social elements often prefer to avoid cutting down trees illegally, which results in maintenance of a balanced ecosystem in the area. This in turn helps in conservation of ground water as there is no disturbance in the soil and root system of the forest area.

Secondly, the population of herbivores, including deer, buffaloes etc are well maintained as these animals are prey to tigers, which are placed at the top of the food chain. Further, there is often no threat to vegetation and other grassland habitats since the population of herbivores are controlled by the tigers, including the Royal Bengal variety.

Research Officer Sharma said that the current status of Royal Bengal tigers in India is 2,226 as per the 2014 Tiger Estimation Programme, which is an increase of 30 percent, up

from the previous figure of 1,706. He said that Karnataka has the highest number of Royal Bengal tigers, which is 408, followed by Uttarakhand and Madhya Pradesh, having a population of 340 and 308 respectively, while Assam has a population of 167 Royal Bengal tigers. He said as far as Kaziranga is concerned, the forest area is very ideal for Royal Bengal tigers as there is an abundant source of prey animals along with water.

Sharma informed that among the different species of tigers in the world, Siberian Tiger is the largest, while Indo-China Tiger is the smallest in size.

It is worth mentioning that when Prime Minister Indira Gandhi took personal initiative to conserve and protect the tiger species in India. She initiated steps to create a separate funding system for the Project Tiger scheme. In a similar manner, then Bangladeshi ruler Sheikh Mujibur Rahman too extended cooperation to India for the protection of tigers, including the Royal Bengal tiger. A part of Sunderban Tiger Reserve comes under the jurisdiction of the (Bangladesh) Government, just as a part of Manas Tiger Reserve comes under the legal jurisdiction of the Royal Government of Bhutan.

Tridip Sharma from WWF-India mentioned about the census process of tigers where pugmarks of tigers, scats and sprays are taken into consideration for determining the population of tigers. Currently, WWF-India is working in 18 States of India and mainly deals with tiger conservation.

Biswanath MLA Pramod Borthakur visited the severely erosion-affected areas recently and took stock of the overall situation. He also instructed the officials concerned to do the needful at the earliest possible on a war footing so as to save the area from further erosion.



by senior mediaperson Bharat Kumar Das and Jayanta Pathak of Aaranyak and addressed by Dr Khagendra Kumar Nath, Principal of Mangaldoi College, besides Mayukh Goswami, secretary of Mangaldoi Media Circle, among others. The workshop was at

an important relationship with the availability of ground water, fauna and other vital resources.

This was stated by noted wildlife scientist and Research Officer of Kaziranga National Park Rabinda Sharma during a deliberation while observing

ADDENDUM
In respect of our Advertisement Published in The Assam Tribune dated 27/07/2017 for the Post of Deputy Manager, Finance (contractual), ASWC, the upper Age limit for the Post is 38 years which was not mentioned in the Advertisement No. Janasanayog/854/17.

This is for kind information to the prospective candidates who may apply for the Post.

Sd/- Managing Director
Assam State Warehousing Corporation Guwahati-5
Janasanayog/866/17

ADVERTISEMENT

Applications are invited from the eligible players who have represented the National Team in the International Competitions during the period from 01.04.2016 to 31.03.2017 through the concerned National Federation for award of Financial Assistance to the tune of Rs. 50,000/- (one time) for the year 2017-18. The filled-in applications are to reach the respective office of the District Sports Officer on before 30.09.2017 enclosing the participation certificate, selection list from the Federation, Age Certificate and payment of 1st stage of the Basic Premium (as per FSG Code). The details included under this award are only Olympic events.

The eligible players may contact the concerned District Sports Officer on 22-08-2017 to collect application forms
Sd/- Director,
Sports & Youth Welfare, Assam,
Dispur, Guwahati-6
Janasanayog/5859/17

**GOVT. OF ASSAM
INDUSTRIES & COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT, ASSAM,
NOTICE FOR PARTICIPATION IN INDIA
INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR 2017,
NEW DELHI**

Applications are invited from the interested MSMEs for participating in Assam Pavilion in India International Trade Fair 2017 to be held at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi from 14th to 27th November 2017. Prescribed Application Form may be collected from the office of the GM, DI&CC or may be downloaded from www.industriesassam.gov.in.

Last date of submission of completed application form to the office of the GM, DI&CC is 9th Aug/2017

Sd/- Commissionn of Industries & Commerce, Assam
Udyog Bhawan, Bamunimaidan, Guwahati - 21
Janasanayog/5843/17

RE- INVITATION FOR SHORT BIDS

Sealed Quotation affixing non-refundable Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight & twenty five paisa) only are invited from the intending vehicle owners for hiring of 42 or above seater vehicle at Kfarhuddin Ali Ahmed Medical College Hospital, Barpeta, during 2017-18. The tender will be received in the office of the undersigned upto 2.00 P.M. of 10/08/2017 and will be opened at 3.00 P.M. on the same day. The tender should be submitted by the tendering only relevant documents alongwith technical specification (technical bid) including the Rs. 200/- EDM as earnest money in the form, FDR/NSC/KVP/ Bank Draft/ Bank Guarantee pledged to the Principal-cum-Chief Superintendent, Barpeta.

Later, a quiz competition was organised where students of different colleges participated. The prizes were subsequently distributed by Rohini Saikia , DFL and Palkava Debi, DCF of Kaziranga National Park, Utam Sankar from Blumi organisation anchored the programme.

Local people alleged that due to negligence by the Water Resource Department, erosion caused by the Brahmaputra has washed away around 25 metres of the dyke during the last two months back.

Biswanath Ghat-Panpur dyke facing erosion threat

CORRESPONDENT

BISWANATH CHARIA, July 29: A major project named 'Protection of Biswanath-Panpur, including areas of upstream Silamari and far downstream Bhumuruguri to Boragon against erosion by the Brahmaputra' to protect the lives and properties of people in a huge area of Biswanath Chariali was implemented in the southern part of the district headquarter a few months back.

The project involved

protection works of 6,000 metres in between Bortilla to Sholmari village and execution of earth work for strengthening of the existing embankment for 7,280 metres with erection of PSC porcupine at Biswanath Ghat.

However, the abovementioned project still remains incomplete.

Local people alleged that due to negligence by the Water Resource Department, erosion caused by the Brahmaputra has washed away around 25 metres of the dyke during the last two months back.

The project involved

days. Solmari village has been the most affected, they claimed. It has been apprehended that the main dyke would be washed away very soon if river bank erosion goes on unabated at the present pace.

Biswanath MLA Pramod Borthakur visited the severely erosion-affected areas recently and took stock of the overall situation.

He also instructed the officials concerned to do the needful at the earliest possible on a war footing so as to save the area from further erosion.

Disaster management training school to come up at Salonibari, says Rijiju

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 29: The Saloni-Baruah-based Centralised Training Centre of the Sasthastra Seema Bal will be upgraded to a national-level institute, which will impart specialised training on disaster management, Union Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju said today.

"We did not recruit any additional personnel for the teams. These personnel were already with SSB. The team will help improve the capacity of the force in conducting rescue operations and providing relief during natural disasters," he said.

Earlier, the SSB had just three disaster management teams. The new teams, raised within a short span of three months, have been equipped with modern safety and communication devices.

Rijiju said the SSB-rescue-and-relief teams should hold joint drills with similar teams of other forces to develop synergy.

"We are considering the proposal. This specialised school will impart training not only to personnel of the forces, but also to students and youth through various courses," the Union Minister said.

SSB Director General Arch-

ana Ramasundaram said each of the 18 sectors of SSB will have a specialised relief-and-rescue team comprising 35 personnel, including five women. There will be four such teams in the North East.

"We did not recruit any additional personnel for the teams. These personnel were already with SSB. The team will help improve the capacity of the force in conducting rescue operations and providing relief during natural disasters," he said.

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Rijiju said the SSB-rescue-and-relief teams should hold joint drills with similar teams of other forces to develop synergy.

"Normally during disasters,

the programme," Ananda Karmakar, Managing Director of ASSCA, told *The Assam Tribune*.

He said that a total of 952 quintals of Swarna sub-1, Naveen and Ranjit foundation seeds from the Government's share have been supplied as per our State are being used in the State.

"The distribution was for Sali or winter paddy. Such an effort is very necessary if we are to overcome the problem of having quality seeds in our State," Karmakar said.

He said that ASSCA has been expanding its activities during recent years and the agency's revenue has grown from Rs 25.84 lakh in 2015-16 to Rs 44.38 lakh in 2016-17.

"For 2017-18, we have taken up winter paddy production through Seed Village Programme in 19 districts. A total of 2,420 hectares of agricultural land and 7,260 farmers have been brought under

to more than double our revenue and reach a figure of at least Rs one crore," Karmakar said.

The agency is helping farmers procure seeds produced by registered seed growers and certified by it. "Good quality seeds with boost income of farmers. Besides, the seeds produced in our State are being used within Assam," he said.

ASSCA organised large-scale training-cum-distribution for farmers during the May-June period this year.

In the last agricultural year, the agency certified 15 varieties of seeds.

Official sources said that in 2016-17, a total of 440 quintals of foundation seeds of mustard were distributed among the farmers for covering 4,402 hectares of land. Among the seed varieties included under the programme last year were TS-36, TS-38 and JO-6 respectively.

GALLERIA CINEMAS Dibrugarh, Junction Road, 26th July to 3rd Aug '17 with timing 8.15 am to 9.30 pm.

At 9.00 pm - RAAG DESH At 12.15 pm - INDU SARKAR At 2.30 pm - RAAG DESH

MONDAY MICHAEL (Hindi) Stages: Star Cineplex, Gameet etc. Regular Ticket Rates: Rs. 250/-, 150/-, 100/-, 70/- Online Booking: www.bookmyshow.com. For any query please call: 0373-2222222

AMBICA CINE PALACE Digital Picture & Dolby Sound Centrally Air Conditioned & Push back seat. At 11.00 am & 6.30 pm

RAAG DESH (Hindi) Stages: Ambica Cine Palace, Dibrugarh, Assam. Regular Ticket Rates: Rs. 250/-, 150/-, 100/-, 70/- Online Booking: www.bookmyshow.com. For any query please call: 0373-2222222

GOLD CINEMA ASTC Complex, Laxmi Nagar, Dibrugarh With Multiple Ambiance

At 11.00 am, 2.00, 5.00, 8.00, 8.15 pm

At 12.15 pm - INDU SARKAR At 3.15 pm - RAAT DESH

MONDAY MICHAEL (Hindi) Stages: Gold Cinema etc. Regular Ticket Rates: Rs. 250/-, 150/-, 100/-, 70/- Online Booking: www.bookmyshow.com. For any query please call: 0373-2222222

GALLERIA CINEMAS HUB, G.S. Road, Guwahati is showing 28th July to 3rd Aug '17 with timing 8.15 am to 9.30 pm.

At 9.15 am & 5.30 pm

RAAG DESH (Hindi) Stages: INDU SARKAR At 3.00 pm - INDU SARKAR

MONDAY MICHAEL (Hindi) Stages: Gold Cinema etc. Regular Ticket Rates: Rs. 250/-, 150/-, 100/-, 70/- Online Booking: www.bookmyshow.com. For any query please call: 0373-2222222

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URVASHI CINEMA AJANITYE (Assamese) At 12.00, 5.00 & 8.00 pm

MUBARAKAN (Hindi) Stages: Gold Cinema etc. Regular Ticket Rates: Rs. 250/-, 150/-, 100/-, 70/- Online Booking: www.bookmyshow.com. For any query please call: 0373-2222222

PRAGJYOTI (Hindi) Stages: Gold Cinema etc. Regular Ticket Rates: Rs. 250/-, 150/-, 100/-, 70/- Online Booking: www.bookmyshow.com. For any query please call: 0373-2222222

TICKET PRICES: Regular Show: Rs. 120/-, Rs. 209/-, 250/-, Rs. 100/-, Rs. 350/-, Matinee Show: Rs. 80/-, 150/-, 180/-, 200/-, 300/- Website: www.bookmyshow.com

MURUGAN (Hindi) Stages: Gold Cinema etc. Regular Ticket Rates: Rs. 250/-, 150/-, 100/-, 70/- Online Booking: www.bookmyshow.com. For any query please call: 0373-2222222

PRANJAL BHUYAN

GUWAHATI, July 29: With a view to make available quality seeds to the farmers, the Assam State Seed Certification Agency (ASSCA) has taken up a Seed Village Programme across 19 districts, and the agency is also looking to increase by more than double and reach a figure of Rs one crore during this financial year.

Officials said that efforts have been directed to boost seed production, certification as well as procurement through joint efforts by the ASSCA and the Assam Seed Corporation (ASC).

"For 2017-18, we have taken up winter paddy seed production through Seed Village Programme in 19 districts. A total of 2,420 hectares of agricultural land and 7,260 farmers have been brought under the certification scheme, we are looking

to more than double our revenue and reach a figure of at least Rs one crore," Karmakar said.

The agency is helping farmers procure seeds produced by registered seed growers and certified by it. "Good quality seeds with boost income of farmers. Besides, the seeds produced in our State are being used within Assam," he said.

ASSCA organised large-scale training-cum-distribution for farmers during the May-June period this year.

In the last agricultural year, the agency certified 15 varieties of seeds.

Official sources said that in 2016-17, a total of 440 quintals of foundation seeds of mustard were distributed among the farmers for covering 4,402 hectares of land. Among the seed varieties included under the programme last year were TS-36, TS-38 and JO-6 respectively.

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PRANJAL BHUYAN



**WEATHER
NORTHEAST**
Forecast for North Eastern States:
Moderate rain/thunderstorms is very likely to occur at many places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura.

Warning: Heavy rainfall is very likely to continue between dates on 31 August, 1 and 2 and over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura on July 30, 31, August 1 and 2.

Temperatures :

Max (°C) Min (°C)

Dibrugarh	35.0	25.3
Tinsukia	31.3	26.0
Silchar	32.1	25.7
Dibrugarh	28.2	25.4
Jorhat	33.7	25.1
N Lakhimpur	34.8	24.0
Shillong	23.8	16.2
Imphal	31.1	22.1
Mizoram	24.2	21.7
Aizawl	29.2	11.2
Agartala	33.2	27.3
Kohima	NA	19.2
Pasighat	33.6	24.4
Cherrapunji	24.8	18.5

4 timber smugglers held in Garo Hills
CORRESPONDENT

TURA, July 29: West Garo Hills Forest officials last night in a raid at Rongkhon near here, apprehended four repeat offenders of timber smuggling while they were transporting timber in a Tata Sumo vehicle.

"They had brought the timber from Bajia Reserve Forest in East Garo Hills," said Chongkum B Samra, Forest Ranger, Territorial division, West Garo Hills, who led the raid.

All the accused are from Wiliangnang in East Garo Hills and have been identified as repeat offenders. Senior Forest officials say that timber smuggling from different parts of Garo Hills was going on and attempts to check them has failed due to lack of manpower.

No restricted holiday on Patriots Day

NEW DELHI, July 29: Declaring "Patriots Day" and Manipur's Ningol Chakkuouba festival as restricted holidays for Central Government employees has not been found feasible, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said recently.

The Patriots Day is observed on August 13 and the Ningol Chakkouba coincides with Bhai Duj".

In a written reply to Rajya Sabha, he said, the government has received a proposal to make these days as restricted holidays and included in national calendar.

"In view of the ceiling on the total number of holidays that can be declared in a year by the government, it has not been found possible to declare additional restricted holiday for the above occasions," said Singh, Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

As per the existing policy, the Central Government administrative offices observe 17 holidays in a year. Out of these 17 holidays, 14 are pre-notified, compulsory national holidays, which include three national holidays, namely, Republic Day, Independence Day and Mahatma Gandhi's birthday.

The remaining three holidays are required to be selected, by the Central Government employees welfare coordination committee, from another list of 12 occasions, the Minister said. In addition, individual employees are allowed two restricted holidays in a year to be selected from a notified list of such restricted holidays, he said. As per policy, the coordination committee in the State capitals choose three holidays keeping in view the occasions of local importance. - PTI

NORTH EAST

36 NPF MLAs threaten to split party

BHADRA GOGOI

DIMAPUR, July 29: NPF Legislature Party comprising 36 legislators have said they have more than the requisite number to cause a split in the party and merge with any other political party.

The 36 MLAs, however, maintained that their intention was never to break away from the NPF party.

Condemning what it called the "autocratic and dictatorial functioning" of NPF president Dr Shurbozlie Zelietsu, the 36 legislators, in a joint statement, reminded that in the 2013 general

election the NPF won 38 seats which constituted an absolute majority in the Assembly.

This was one of the resolutions adopted at NPF Legislature Party meeting held at State Banquet Hall on July 24. The meeting was presided over by Chief Minister TR Zeliang.

They said Zeliang was forced to step down owing to public pressure and Liezetsu installed as Chief Minister even though he was not an elected member. They pointed out that even though Zeliang resigned as CM, he had not resigned as leader of DAN Legislate Party.

Condemning the autocratic functioning of NPF president under whose direction 10 MLAs were suspended and 20 MLAs expelled, the 36 MLAs further pointed out that there was no warning or show cause notice served to those MLAs prior to the action taken. They said the act was "purely arbitrary" and was not in line with the constitution of the NPF.

Therefore, the 36 MLAs cautioned that the "highly questionable acts" of Liezetsu will not be tolerated anymore and appropriate action would be initiated against him as deemed fit.

Meanwhile, senior advocate of Supreme Court and former Attorney General Sojib Sorabjee has opined that Nagaland Speaker has legal competence to confirm the appointment of Zeliang's claim of being appointed chief whip of NPF party.

According to reports, Sorabjee gave his opinion in a written text in response to request from NPF Central spokesperson Achumbemi Kikon regarding the matter of appointment of party whip in the State Assembly.

Sorabjee opined that since the MLAs were members of NPF, "they are bound to abide by the constitution of the Party."

Sorabjee pointed out that it is the political party and not the legislature party, that appoints the Whip.

He said only NPF party would be competent to appoint its whip for issuing directions to its legislators.

In this regard, he said all NPF members, including the NPF Legislature Party, are bound by the directions issued by Kiyaniil Peseyie, the whip appointed by the Whip.

He said, "the legislators who defied the Chief Whip's direction and voted in favour of Zeliang are liable to be disqualified."

ITANAGAR, July 29: Itanagar Police has arrested 15 women for allegedly indulging in flesh trade, during raids in different hotels here late last evening.

On getting "disturbing" news of the apprehended women, a team of Arunachal Pradesh State Commission for Women (APSCW) along with Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Itanagar Capital Complex and Arunachal Pradesh Women's Welfare Society (APWWS) members today visited Itanagar Women Police Station and did preliminary enquiry with the apprehended girls.

A press release from APSCW said that during the preliminary enquiry with 11 apprehended girls, it was found that they were running their sex-trade racket in various hotels in the Capital Complex. The APSCW also came across the "distressing" fact that they were involved due to their weak economic background, broken families and weak parenting.

The Women's Commission, which did counselling to the girls at the police lock-up. It appealed to the district administration and the police to conduct surprise raids on the hotels and book them under appropriate sections of the law.

Drug peddler nabbed

CORRESPONDENT

ITANAGAR, July 29: In two separate raids, police in Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh recovered more than 200 gm of brown sugar and arrested one alleged drug peddler, according to an official release here.

On being tipped off that a drug peddler is going to deliver a consignment of brown sugar at Diyun market, a police team rushed to the spot on Thursday. The suspect namely Kakan Chandra Pakhama was seized and nine packets of pink coloured powder suspected to be brown sugar weighing 44.10 gm recovered from his possession.

An FIR has been filed under relevant sections of NDPS Act and the accused arrested. During interrogation, the accused revealed that he had purchased the drugs from Imao area. The accused on Friday led the police to a hut on the outskirts of Imao. The search of the hut led to recovery two packets of suspected brown sugar, weighing 168.78 gm.

Fire mishap averted: A major fire incident was averted by the timely intervention of Assam Rifles jawans posted at Changlang on Saturday. Around 11 am, the wooden house of a local man caught fire. On being alerted, an AR quick reaction team quickly doused the flames thus averting a possible disaster.



405 MW NEEPCO dam project on river Ronganadi in Yazali in Lower Subansiri of Arunachal Pradesh on Saturday. — UB Photos

Some Meghalaya MLAs to make 'courtesy call' on Amit Shah

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SHILLONG, July 29: A number of sitting Meghalaya legislators from different political parties have sought an audience with BJP's National President, Amit Shah during his scheduled visit here next month.

The BJP has dubbed these visits as "courtesy calls," but political circles are already abuzz that a good number of sitting legislators would be shifting allegiances before the 2018 Assembly elections.

Shah's scheduled visit on July 12 was cancelled due to his other engagements. His visit has been rescheduled for August, but the exact date has not been fixed so far.

There is a strong possibility that several legislators would join the BJP. The BJP has been reiterating that "many" MLAs have sent feelers to the party to fight on BJP and NPP.

visit with Shah.

The BJP president said seven sitting legislators from Congress, UDP and NPP have made the requests, but did not give their names. Lyngdoh further refused to say whether these legislators included Cabinet Ministers.

The BJP doesn't have any representative in the present 60-member Meghalaya Assembly, although there were BJP legislators in the previous Assemblies.

Shah's scheduled visit on July 12 was cancelled due to his other engagements. His visit has been rescheduled for August, but the exact date has not been fixed so far.

Others in the Cabinet have already shown signs of joining other parties. Some of the other parties who would possibly be taking Congress legislators are UDP and NPP.

India-Myanmar rail project yet to be sanctioned

SPL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, July 29: The ambitious rail project to connect Imphal with neighbouring Myanmar has not been sanctioned yet, Minister of State for Railways Rajeev Gowda said.

In a reply to a Rajya Sabha question by Assam Congress MP Ranjeet Narah, Gohain on Friday said the portion from Imphal to Moreh is in India and the portion from Tama to Kalay is in Myanmar. The project will be further revised in September, 2014, Gohain said.

In a reply to a Rajya Sabha question by Assam Congress MP Ranjeet Narah, Gohain on Friday said the portion from Imphal to Moreh is in India and the portion from Tama to Kalay is in Myanmar. The project will be further revised in September, 2014, Gohain said.

Meanwhile, RITES had submitted an offer to Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) for a detailed project report (DPR) for a new BG rail link connecting Moreh, Tamu and Kalay (110.15 km) in July, 2013 which was further revised in September, 2014, Gohain said.

The Agartala-Alkuan new rail-link project has a track length of 15.05 km of which 5.05 km falls in India and 10.01 km in Bangladesh. The Bangladesh portion is being funded by MEA, while the Indian portion is being funded by Ministry of Development of North

Eastern Region (DoNER). An MoU has also been signed between the governments of India and Bangladesh in this regard.

The work on the Indian portion of this project has been entrusted to IRCON International Limited, a public sector undertaking (PSU) under Ministry of Railways. IRCON has prepared a revised estimate of Rs 580 crore for the Indian portion which will have a 3.31 km elevated corridor/viaduct. Tender for earthwork and viaduct on this portion has been finalised, Gohain said.

So far as the Bangladesh portion is concerned, a DPR has been submitted by IRCON to MEA for approval of Bangladesh Government. The project cost of the Bangladesh portion is estimated at Rs 359 crore.

100 villagers in Manipur fall sick to viral infections

CORRESPONDENT

IMPHAL, July 29: More than one hundred villagers of seven remote villages under Henglep sub-division in Manipur's Churachandpur district were reported sick due to viral infections, according to sources.

Meanwhile, the ruling Congress is fighting the anti-incrimination factor. The party is understandably nervous going by the political scenario in the country, although Meghalaya is a strong Congress bastion. Chief Minister Mukul Sangma, who has won from Ampat in Garo Hills for several terms, is reportedly trying to fight from two constituencies this year.

Others in the Cabinet have already shown signs of joining other parties. Some of the other parties who would possibly be taking Congress legislators are UDP and NPP.

striking Nagaing for the second time in a month has decided to shift the villagers, said district Chief Medical Officer Dr Kim Simte.

Doctors attending the patients at the district headquarters said they would not speculate on what may be the cause of the disease until they have a laboratory confirmation.

The blood samples of the patients have been sent for testing.

Raising the suffering of the villagers during zero hour in the ongoing Assembly session, Hemlalgep MLA TT Haokip, who is also chairman of Hills Areas Committee of State Assembly drew attention of the State Government to the outbreak.

The ailing villagers, including those who have shifted to nearby locations and endured an eight-km walk, to cover about 80 km to the district headquarters, are also suffering from the disease.

The Health department on receiving reports about the outbreak

Gas hurdle for fertiliser plant

CORRESPONDENT

AGARTALA, July 29: Setting up of a fertiliser manufacturing unit in Tripura still remains a distant dream as sufficient gas reserve is yet to be developed.

Although initial indication was encouraging at Khulab in Unakoti district's Panisar subdivision but the gas block is not enough to establish such a big project.

"I had words with Chief Minister Manik Sarkar on the issue and assured him of making all out effort to ascertain exact gas reserve at Khulab," ONGC Tripura Asset Manager SC Sona said at a press conference here on Thursday.

He said ONGC will have to dig eight more wells at Khulab and its vicinity to know the gas reserve

there. "There is a plan to submit a detailed report on the exploration status and possibility of finding gas to the higher-ups by early next year," he said. It means there are many ifs and buts in the plan of setting up a fertiliser manufacturing unit at Khulab.

Asserting that ONGC's gas production in the State has increased substantially—from 3.2 to 4.4MMSCMD during the past two years, Soni said the company is not in a position to supply more gas to OTCF to commission the third unit at Palame. "The OTCF requires 1.5 MMSCMD gas to commission its third unit, but ONGC is not in a position to supply that much of gas now," he said.

However, the Asset Manager said if Gaslift GGS gets operational, there might be a possibility of increase in gas production. Be-

sides, hectic preparations for resuming exploration drive at Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary is going on and there is a hope to get environmental clearance within next couple of months. "Therefore, ONGC will be capable of increasing its gas production in the next few years as we are working on a mission—producing 5 MMSCMD gas per day by 2018," Soni said.

The Asset Manager further informed ADB (Agartala) GGS will go for routine shut down from August 18 next. Therefore, OTCF will also switch off its plant for routine maintenance during the period. But there will be a major problem as TSECL has already decided to bring extra power from outside the State during the period.

USTM event highlights role of media in society

STAFF REPORTER

sites stick to the prescribed norms of operation.

Highlighting the role of media in the process of society building, the event also underscored the progress made by USTM in various curricular and co-curricular activities, apart from several innovative steps to help poor and meritorious students.

For their role in giving legitimacy to people's voices through news media, several media persons were felicitated on the occasion. Prizes of the second edition of the North East college magazine competition were also distributed during the event.

The media personalities felicitat-

ed at the event were Nitumoni Saikia (editor-in-chief, Pratinidhi Times), Prasanta Rajguru (executive editor, Amar Asom), Chaya Moni Bhuyan (political editor, News Live), Nasreen Habib (editor, Eclectic), Mamata Mishra (staff reporter, The Assam Tribune), Snigdha Sikha Borah (DY365), Birendra Das (Dainik Janashakti) and Emilo Konjek (correspondent, Nagaland Post).

Senior journalist Mrinal Talukdar, in a talk on the rise of new media, highlighted the growing role of android media, specially among the younger generation. "With technology becoming an inseparable part of our lives, the print and

electronic media cannot afford to operate in a conventional manner for longer. Sooner the regional media adopts to the new trend of being mobile friendly, better for its survival," he added.

Executive editor of *The Assam Tribune* PJ Barua spoke on the topic 'Print media and rural population'. In his speech he said, "Ironically, today the issues of rural areas are not getting adequate coverage in the media. Though the vernacular dailies to some extent pay attention to such issues, a lot more is needed to be done on this front."

The event was chaired by eminent academician Professor NK Chaudhury, Dhiraj Bora, Vice Chancellor, Assam Science and Technology University and Prof Amarnjoyti Choudhury also spoke on the occasion. USTM Chancellor Mahbubul Hoque said, "We strongly feel that journalists play a very important role in bringing about a change in society."

In the college magazine competition, the first three prizes under the best magazine category were bagged by *Alchami* by Digboi College, *Jahangir* by JB College and *Lakshimpur Girls' College Magazine* by Lakshimpur Girls' College. *Cottonian* by Cotton College was adjudged the best in the cover category.

SSA teachers to be absorbed in govt service: Khandu

STAFF REPORTER

ITANAGAR, July 29: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu today said that the government had directed the Education department to come up with a policy to absorb Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) teachers in the State Government service as regular staff.

Khandu, who visited the newly established government college at Tawang, which began its classes from July 25 last for its first academic session, said the job regularisation of SSA teachers was abiding a pressing problem as many of these teach-

ers had served more than 10 years of service and many on the verge of crossing their age limit to apply for government sector.

The Chief Minister said the Education department had also been instructed to fill up the vacancy for teachers created in schools and colleges due to the upgradation, an official release said. — PTI

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Beautiful/ Hindu/ Assamese/ Khasi/ 25 yr/ 52'/ Tech/ working as an Engineer/ lives in Guwahati/ belongs to a good family. Contact : 8898087482, Mat/GP/A251/61

Beautiful/ Muslim/ 32 yr/ 57'/ 100% degree in law/ working as Judicial Magistrate/ good family background. Contact : 8822243823, Mat/GP/A301/73

Beautiful Bengali, 27, M.Sc (GU), Banker in SBI, Assam. Cast no bar. 9854059693, Mat/GP/A1531/3

Bengali Nath Brahmin girl 35/ 54'/ BA/ B.Ed, School Teacher, Guwahati (only for Bengali) Direct contact 9085293648, Mat/GP/A147/20

Alliance invited for a Graduate Assamese Hindu only girl 38 yrs, 53'. Father is a retired Govt. servant having permanent residence in Guwahati. Contact directly 9435104934, Mat/GP/15151/1

Hindu/ Bengali/ Mahishi/ Debnath, 22+/ 52'/ B.Sc & B.Ed/ resident of Bongaigaon wanted a suitable groom. Mob : 9707847666, Mat/GP/15104/1

Suiable match invited for a 31 years old MBA girl working in Nationalised Bank. Contact : 98645-02798, 98643-84064, Mat/GP/15158/1

Assamese Brahmin 26 yrs, tall, fair, good looking, MA, M.Phil in English Assistant Professor. Working in Guwahati. Contact : (M) 9854063196, Mat/GP/15121/1

Fair & pretty Kalita girl 27, 54', pursuing MA in Education Teacher in a Private School. Contact : (M) 9401469133, Mat/GP/15121/1

Brahmin Assessee 27, 55', Slim, fair & pretty girl B.Tech & Masters seeks suitable match working in Indian Metrocity or Abroad. Contact : (M) 9854203706, Mat/GP/15123/1

Alliance invited for Assamese Hindu General Castle 27, 55', MBA (HR), Sr. Executive working MNC in Indian Metrocity. Contact : (M) 9854063196, Mat/GP/15124/1

Assamese Hindu General Castle 26+, 55', slim, very fair & pretty girl B.Com/ MBA working in Guwahati. Father Engineer. Contact : (M) 9401469133, Mat/GP/15125/1

(1) Kalita 25, 55', B.Tech, Engineer Pune/ Bangalore (2) Kalita 29, 55', BE, Engineer Bangalore (3) Kalita 30, MBA (Finance) MNC, Delhi, *Matchmaker (M) 9854063196, Mat/GP/15126/1

(1) Kalita 26, BE, Engineer Guwahati (2) Kalita 29, MBBS/ MS Doctor (3) Assessee Hindu 31, MBBS/ MD (Radiology) & Gynaecology (4) Kalita 30, BE Engineer, *Matchmaker (M) 9854063196, Mat/GP/15127/1

Assamese Muslim 27, 54', fair & goodlooking B.Tech working in a Engg. Institute. Contact : (M) 9401469133, Mat/GP/15128/1

Assamese boy MBA working in a Nationalised Bank at Guwahati age 33+ (57') required an educated girl for early marriage. For direct contact No. 94350, 48184, Mat/GP/15244/1

Bengali/ Community girl, 30 years, 52', B.Com (Post Graduate Diploma in Business Management) PGDM good looking girl. Residene Guwahati seeks suitable match. Caste no bar. Contact : 9435706920, 9435707107, Mat/GP/PA275/2

Age 33, Kalita, B.Com, Govt, Officer, GHY (2) 40, Kalita, Masters/ Ph.D, Asstt. Professor/ own school, GHY (3) 32, Kalita, MA/ M.Ed, Lecturer, B.Ed College, Nagaon (4) 32, SC, MA/ LLB, Lecturer, GHY (5) 30, Ahom, Graduate, Govt, job, GHY (6) 33, Ahom, LLB, ACS, GHY (7) 36, Kalita, MBBS/MD, Assst. Professor, GHY (8) 30, Kalita, MCA, Service, GHY, Sandhoni, 8011630847, Mat/GP/15198/1

Fair, good looking Bengali Kayastha girl, 37+, 52', Debbarjan, Tuli Rasli, Kashyap Gotra, Graduate, working as School Teacher seeking established alliance. 86384-52589, 70056-52036, Mat/GP/A296/4

Assamee, 33, B.Com, GHY, Sandhoni, 8011630847, Mat/GP/15197/1

Assamee/ Hindu/ Assamese/ Khasi/ 25 yr/ 52'/ Tech/ working as an Engineer/ lives in Guwahati/ belongs to a good family. Contact : 8898087482, Mat/GP/A251/61

Beautiful/ Assamese/ Muslim/ 32 yr/ 57'/ 100% degree in law/ working as Judicial Magistrate/ good family background. Contact : 8822243823, Mat/GP/A301/73

Beautiful Bengali, 27, M.Sc (GU), Banker in SBI, Assam. Cast no bar. 9854059693, Mat/GP/A1531/3

Bengali/ Kayastha, B.Tech/ NIT, Central Govt, employee. Mat/GP/A300/51

BENGALI BRIDE WANTED

Nepali, Sheetha/ Nowar, 34 yrs, 6', M.Sc, Govt, job, looking decent Nepali girl for marriage. Call : 838827300/ 985687361/ 9971118248, Mat/B/1519/1

Bengali/ Brahmin, 22+, 52'/ B.Sc & B.Ed/ resident of Bongaigaon wanted a suitable groom. Mob : 9707847666, Mat/GP/15104/1

Suiable match invited for a 31 years old MBA girl working in Nationalised Bank. Contact : 98645-02798, 98643-84064, Mat/GP/15158/1

Assamese Brahmin 26 yrs, tall, fair, good looking, MA, M.Phil in English Assistant Professor. Working in Guwahati. Contact : (M) 9854063196, Mat/GP/15121/1

Fair & pretty Kalita girl 27, 54', pursuing MA in Education Teacher in a Private School. Contact : (M) 9401469133, Mat/GP/15121/1

Alliance invited for a Graduate Assamese Hindu only girl 38 yrs, 53'. Father is a retired Govt. servant having permanent residence in Guwahati. Contact directly 9435104934, Mat/GP/15151/1

Hindu/ Bengali/ Mahishi/ Debnath, 22+/ 52'/ B.Sc & B.Ed/ resident of Bongaigaon wanted a suitable groom. Mob : 9707847666, Mat/GP/15104/1

Suiable match invited for a 31 years old MBA girl working in Nationalised Bank. Contact : 98645-02798, 98643-84064, Mat/GP/15158/1

Assamese Brahmin 26 yrs, tall, fair, good looking, MA, M.Phil in English Assistant Professor. Working in Guwahati. Contact : (M) 9854063196, Mat/GP/15121/1

Alliance invited for a Graduate Assamese Hindu only girl 38 yrs, 53'. Father is a retired Govt. servant having permanent residence in Guwahati. Contact directly 9435104934, Mat/GP/15151/1

Bengali/ Brahmin, 22+, 52'/ B.Sc & B.Ed/ resident of Bongaigaon wanted a suitable groom. Mob : 9707847666, Mat/GP/15104/1

Assamese/ Brahmin 28/ 54'/ M.Com, Govt, job, Residence, GHY, Early marriage. Contact : 73994-75723, Mat/GP/A297/91

Beautiful/ Assomes/ Kalita 24/ 53' B.Tech, Govt, Engineer, GHY, residency. Contact : 8011641568, Mat/GP/A298/01

Suitable match wanted for Kalita girl, 26, 54', BE, working in MNC, Mumbai. Cast no bar. Can relocate to any Indian Metrocity. (M) 9854063196, Mat/GP/15129/1

Alliance invited for Kalita boy 33, 58', B.Tech (Mechanical) from NIT Bhopal, Engineer MNC in Bangalore. Contact : (M) 9854063196 (ADAMS), Mat/B/1513/01

Assamese/ Kalita, 30, handsone, B.Tech (INT- Suratkal) & MCA, working MNC flat at Delhi. Father, GHY, DGM, SO. Director (M) 98540230706 (ADAMS), Mat/B/PA263/61

Alliance invited for Kalita boy 33, 58', B.Tech (Mechanical) from NIT Bhopal, Engineer MNC in Bangalore. Contact : (M) 9854063196 (ADAMS), Mat/B/PA297/01

Smart/ handsome/ Hindu/ Assamese/ 31 yr/ 510'/ divorcee/ M.Tech/ working as Lecturer/ belongs from a good family/ lives in Assam. Contact : 8898087482, Mat/B/PA300/71

Assamese Hindu girl 32 yrs, 57%, B.Tech (Civil) from NIT Silchar, SR. Engineer State Govt. Department, Guwahati residence. Caste no bar. (M) 9854063196, Mat/B/PA303/71

27 yrs Assamese girl, M.Sc/B.Ed working in HS Govt. School. Seeks a buy from educated family. Contact : 976065577, Mat/GP/A304/01

Groom wanted for 28 years, 5 feet 5 inch Assamese Kashyap Gotra, MBA and work at Delhi House at Guwahati. Preferred working in Delhi, Chandigarh, Bangalore, Pune, Mumbai. Contact : 97711331608, Mat/GP/15134/1

Beautiful Assamee, OBC, 34, M.Sc/ M.Ed (GU) Lecturer in Govt. (Ed) College, Assam, Cast no bar. 9854082854, Mat/GP/15309/1

27, Assamese, General, M.Sc/ M.Ed (GU) Lecturer in Govt. (Ed) College, Assam, Cast no bar. 9854082854, Mat/GP/15310/1

Beautiful, Assamee, 27, Kalita, MBBB/ PG (Pathology), Doctor in Govt. sector, Assam, 9127023992, Mat/GP/1531/1

Assamee, Muslim, issuesee divorcee, B.Sc/ MBA (Bangalore), Govt, employee in Guwahati, 9127023992, Mat/GP/1531/2/1

Fair, good looking Bengali Kayastha girl, 37+, 52', Debbarjan, Tuli Rasli, Kashyap Gotra, Graduate, working as School Teacher seeking established alliance. 86384-52589, 70056-52036, Mat/GP/A296/4

Assamee/ Kalita boy/ 30 yr/ 510'/ MBBA/ working at Private Bank Guwahati based/ Contact directly M: 8787665839, Mat/B/P/1513/1

Assamee/ Kalita boy/ 30 yr/ 510'/ MBBA/ working as an Engineer in Metro eaming in 7 figures, 8471887480, Mat/B/P/1513/01

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(1) Brahmin 28, B.Tech, MBA, MNC Delhi (2) Brahmin 31, B.Tech, MBA, working Indian Metrocity (3) Brahmin 35, BE, M.Tech, working Bangalore, *ADAMS (M) 9854063196, Mat/B/P/1513/1

(1) Muslim 28, B.Tech, Engineer Guwahati, (2) Muslim 31, BE, M.Tech Engineer Oil Sector (3) Muslim 37, Bank Manager Guwahati, *ADAMS (M) 9854203706, Mat/B/P/1513/1

Muslim/ Assamee/ 32/ 57'/ working as an Engineer in Metro eaming in 7 figures, 8471887480, Mat/B/P/1513/1

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Hindu/ Bengali/ 30/ 5' 10"/ working as a Software Engineer in Metro/ own house in Ghly, 9678874738, Mat/B/P/1513/1

Hindu/ Assamee/ 32/ 5' 9"/ working as an Engineer in Metro/ own house in Ghly, 9678874738, Mat/B/P/1513/1

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Hindu/ Assamee/ 32/ 5' 9"/ working as an Engineer in Metro/ own house in Ghly, 9678874738, Mat/B/P/1513/1

Hindu/ Assamee/ 32/ 5' 9"/ working as an Engineer in Metro

Mehbooba for more cross-LoC exchanges

SRINAGAR, July 29: Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti today said the PDP would not allow the closure of cross-LoC trade and continue to work towards opening more routes across the Line of Control with Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

Addressing a large rally on the 18th foundation day of the People's Democratic Party here, Mehbooba also pitched for nominating members to the Legislative Assembly from the other side of the LoC so that joint meetings could be held once a year.

"There are many difficulties through the Wagah border, *charas* and *ganja* come from there, but no one talks about closing it. Just because a mistake happens on the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad road, we should not talk about closing it. We will not allow that to happen," the Chief Minister said.

On July 21, the police seized 66.5 kg of heroin and brown sugar worth Rs 300 crore from a truck coming from PoK. There have also been reports

that the NIA, which is probing terror funding in Kashmir, may recommend closure of trade along cross-LoC routes.

"We are in favour of opening more routes. There should be facilities like banking there (at crossing points).

There should be (full) body scanners

(for trucks) so that what we know is coming in and what is going out from here," she said.

"What we in PDP have achieved since 2002 needs to be taken forward," Mehbooba added. The Chief Minister said the Centre should treat the path taken by former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and revive the Lahore pact between India and Pakistan.

"I appeal to the Centre to revive the Lahore Declaration so that we can live peacefully in Jammu & Kashmir," she said, referring to the bilateral agreement between India and Pakistan signed in 1999.

Discussing the idea of a joint legislature for undivided Jammu & Kash-

mir, she said, "There are seats reserved in our Assembly for that Kashmir. We should decide together to make nominations for those seats. We killed, it is a Kashmiri, be it a policeman or an innocent pedestrian."

She said she appealed to Farooq

Abdullah (NC), Ghulam Nabi Azad

(Congress) and the leadership of the

BJP to help "heal the pain of Kash-

mirs".

The State was facing an ideological

challenge, she said. "You cannot im-

prison an idea, you cannot kill an idea."

Referring to her father and PDP chief

Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, she said

she would often say Kashmir is besieged

and should be set free by the

opening of roads like Kargil-Skardu,

Jammu-Sialkot and Leh-Xinjiang.

The Chief Minister sought the sup-

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ers in helping the State out of its

present state of uncertainty.

The PDP was founded on July 28,

1999, but the party decided to defer

the foundation day celebrations by a

day in deference to the Friday

prayers. - PTI

lens of Jammu & Kashmir: We are one, we are the same. (When) anyone is killed, it is a Kashmiri, be it a policeman or an innocent pedestrian."

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BJP unhappy with Mehbooba's flag remarks

mentalism in the Valley, it said.

The party said all efforts of the State Government and the Kashmiri people should be towards the protection of the

these humane values and identity, instead of raising issues of Article 35-A and Article 370,

which have led to inequalities and retarded the State's growth due to "self-isolation."

The State unit of the BJP said that while the party stands by the Agenda of Alliance with the PDP, it will not seek alteration of the existing Constitutional position.

"It is equally true that Article 35-A has done more harm than good to the State than any other provision of law."

The biggest challenge before the State is to save the Sufi ethos of Kashmir's culture which are facing a assault from

separatist forces in the Valley and that...

India will not get a shoulder to carry its national flag in the State," BJP state spokesperson Virendra Gupta told reporters here.

"Article 370 was incorporated in the Indian Constitution

as a temporary provision. It

(Article 35-A and Article 370) is not a sacred cow that cannot be touched," he said.

Mehbooba Mufti yesterday

said at a function in New Delhi

"Who is doing it? Why are they

doing it? (challenging Article

35-A). Let me tell you that my

party and other parties who

carry the national flag there (in

Jammu & Kashmir) despite all

risks.... There is no doubt in saying that there will be no one to hold it (national flag) if it is tinkered."

Referring to militancy and

fundamentalism, the BJP today

said "these challenges are ex-

tremely great than what these

leaders, in particular the sepa-

ratists, perceive, that is the

removal of Article 35 or Arti-

cle 370," Gupta said. - PTI

Cong keeps Gujarat MLAs at Karnataka resort after desertions

BENGALURU, July 29: After six MLAs deserted ahead of the Rajya Sabha polls in Gujarat. Though there is clarity about the exact number of MLAs at the resort, the Congress general secretary Nishit Yias, who is with the legislators here, earlier today told PTI that the party has shifted 44 of its MLAs to Bengaluru.

"It was for the safety and security of the MLAs who are being threatened if they do not agree to switch sides... that is why we decided to bring them to Bengaluru," he said.

Not wishing to specify the number of Gujarat legislators at the resort, Sunil, in response to a question, said "all our party legislators are there."

Of the 57 Congress MLAs in Gujarat, from where Sonia Gandhi's political secretary Ahmed Patel is contesting for the Rajya Sabha, six have re-signed from the party in the last two days with three of them joining the BJP yesterday.

The party has apprehensions about Patel's election to the Rajya Sabha if more MLAs defect. The BJP has denied the Congress's allegations and said it cannot be blamed if Sonia Gandhi and her deputy, Rahul Gandhi, are unable to hold the crumbling organisation.

Congress sources said the MLAs are likely to travel to some tourist destinations in Karnataka and also to Tirupati.

The Congress is keen to fend off alleged "poaching" attempts



BJP national president Amit Shah, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Deputy Chief Minister KP Maurya and On Mathur during a party meeting in Lucknow on Saturday – UNI

Kaziranga ...

(Contd from page 1)
The park authorities will require an amount of Rs 78.75 lakh, while for the repair of the 130 other camps an amount of Rs 1.30 crore would be required, said the DFO.

For the repair of the 13 wooden bridges, the park authorities will require Rs 26 lakh and for the repair of the approaches to these bridges an amount of Rs 3.25 lakh would be required. For the repair of the 18 culvert approaches an amount of Rs 1.80 lakh would be required, while for the repair of the 31 temporary small wooden bridges and amount of Rs 3.10 lakh would be required, said the DFO.

An amount of Rs 8 lakh would be required for installing 80 tube wells for the benefit of its staff.

Under the habitat management head, the park will require an amount of Rs 18 lakh for the repair of 36 water retention bunds, while for the repair of the 40 highlands the park will require an amount of Rs 2.70 crore, said the DFO.

In Assam, as many as 79 people have lost their lives in the devastating floods till yesterday. According to the figures of the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC), Gujrat, 72 people have drowned in the State this monsoon. Till 26, 123 people had died in the State due to related incidents. - PTI

Barthakur ...

(Contd from page 1)
took place during the tenure of the former director.

Advocate Bijan Kumar Bar-

hakur, who moved the bail petition on behalf of Barthakur, contended that even though the investigating agency had declared the former director as an absconder, the court, however, was yet to form an opinion in this regard and the arrest therefore should have been preceded by an arrest warrant issued by the court in question.

Defence also argued against the demand of the state that the accused to judicial custody as a charge sheet has been submitted and hence cannot be remanded to custody as cognizance has not been taken as yet.

But in this respect, environmentalists here refer to the observation made by the Elephant Task Force of the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests in its August 31, 2010 report (*Gajah: Securing the Future for Elephants in India*). The Task Force has stated in this report: "The hydro-electric project in Lower Subansiri has adversely and seriously affected the elephant movement in the area."

The court after hearing both the defence and the prosecution fixed August 8 as the date for hearing of the bail petition and also on the technical matter. Till then Barthakur has been remanded to judicial custody.

The Tea Board Chairman blamed fall in exports of tea in recent years due to some unscrupulous traders supplying

(Contd from page 1)
The Assam Tribune.

While the Cyber Dome will be set up in Guwahati, it would, however, work in tandem with specialised cyber cells in all the districts. Further, it would strengthen the preventive security mechanism of critical infrastructure like airports and banks, which are heavily dependent on cyberspace," sources pointed out.

The cost of the ambitious project is estimated to be

nearly Rs 30 crore.

A similar project is already operational in South India and ethical hackers are doing a good job. However, there are apprehensions whether the Assam Police can develop a technological competency force to run the high-tech set-up effec-

tively like Kerala.

"Lapses in the online banking system as a result of cyber attacks, which have become so common these days, could be prevented effective-

ly once the cyber dome comes into being," a top Assam Police official said.

The cyber dome will enable sleuths to secure vital leads in cyber-related offences, and, at the same time, monitor terrorist activities, automated threat intelligence, TweetAlongs, Facebook and WhatsApp and crimes related to social media," he added.

The dome is expected to function under the Assam Police's Special Branch at Kakhipara here.

– PTI

Central panel suggests ...

(Contd from page 1)
on strategic Chinese interest in Bhutan. Efforts are already on to resolve the issue at the highest possible level."

The report of the committee also outlined the Chinese interests in Myanmar and the impact those can have on India. China has been building roads, ports, etc., and has considerable impact on the economy of Myanmar. China also has a radar station in Myanmar and all these may have an adverse effect on India in the days to come, the report warned.

The committee pointed out that the maximum areas of

dispute with both China and Pakistan are in the snow-covered mountains. It is well known that the mountains eat away human resource and there are limitations of the effectiveness of technology used in such areas. That is why, the committee has not recommended reduction of combat forces of India. At the same time, the committee underlined the need for improving the capacity and capability of the strike forces for special operations whenever required.

Justifying the need for setting up integrated theatre commands, Lt Gen Shek-

hardt said that the United States has set up such command theaters in different parts of the world. As India does not have such interests in foreign countries, there is no need for setting up such theatre commands abroad. One such command, may be headed by a naval officer, can be set up in Andaman and Nicobar Islands to have control over the seas as a long time strategy, while another, may be headed by an officer of the Air Force, can be set up for the western sector for keeping an eye on the threats coming from Pakistan and Afghanistan.

– PTI

Hard days ahead ...

(Contd from page 1)
corrective measures were not taken.

Going back to tea history, he said that out of tea, a "British invention", started as a product and has upset the market. Bezboru blamed lifting up of barbers from the industry by the first AGP government leading to mass entry of people taking to tea cultivation.

He said there is no level playing field in the industry after small tea growers and bought leaf factories came up in large numbers, which was affecting all the stakeholders of the industry.

The Tea Board Chairman said that with changing demographics of the new age tea consumer, the industry needs to

capture the pallets and minds of the new generation by coming up with new varieties of tea and innovating packaging".

The ATPA for the first time presented award to four tea estates for achieving excellence in 2016. Lohapuri tea estate was presented Golden Cup Award for fetching highest average price among member gardens in CTC sale in the GTAC.

For fetching highest average price among member gardens in Orthodox tea estate in GTAC, Bimalpur tea estate bagged the award and Moknong tea estate got for CTC sale in the same category in the Calcutta Tea Auction Centre. Madhupur tea garden was presented the Golden Leaf Award for achieving highest yield among ATPA gardens.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed tenders affixing court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees Eight and Paisa Twenty Five) only (Non-refundable) are invited from intending firms/ G. Os/Gm/ approved firms/ any/GST/RGST/B.T. B.Ed. with at least 15 years experience as Graduate teacher and 17 years as subject teacher of prov. H.S. School.

The Application should reach the Principal, Pachim Rangmati H.S. School, P.O.Aulachowka, Dist- Darrang on or before 10-08-2017 along with all supporting documents.

The selection will be made as per Govt. OM No. ASE/82/2014/PT/98 dttd. 23-6-2017

Sd/- Inspector of Schools, Darrang District Circle, Mangaldoi.

Janasanyog/5665/17

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No. EN/IV/111-14/CID/3440-40

Dated Guwahati, the 28th July, 2017

Sealed tenders affixing court fee stamp worth Rs. 8.25 (Rupees Eight and paisa twenty five) only are invited for supply of various equipments for Narcotic Cell of CID Orgn., Assam, Guwahati. Tender document is available on website www.assampolice.com and www.tenders.gov.in and in the office of the undersigned up to 22.08.2017. Tender document fee of Rs 500/- (Rupees five hundred only) in the shape of uncrossed IPO/ BANK DRAFT in favour of the undersigned must be submitted. If the documents are downloaded from the website, the uncrossed postal order must be attached with the bid. Closing date of the tender is up to 2 PM on 24.08.2017 and will be opened on the 24.08.2017 at 3:30 P.M.

Sd/- Superintendent of Police, CID, Assam, Uluberi, Guwahati.

Janasanyog/2017

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

Eligible candidates may attend an interview for the post of Junior Accountant on contractual basis (purely on temporary basis) alongwith Bio data & Original educational testimonials from HSLC onwards. The details are given below:

No. of the posts : 2 nos (1 for ASTEC Card & 1 for AEDA).

Education qualification : 10th pass, 12th pass, Diploma in Accountancy & Computer diploma/certificate especially in Tally, ERP, Word, Excel, Experience: knowledge of general accounts, Income tax, GST, CPT etc. desirable.

Salary : Rs.2000/- per month (fixed pay) plus CPT benefit as per rule.

Period : 11 months only, however it may extend depending on performance.

Working hours : 9 AM to 5 PM, except Saturday and Sunday.

Age limit : 18 to 43 years as on 01/01/2017.

N.B. self-certified copies from HSLC onwards alongwith two passport size photographs in Standard Form are to be submitted at the time of interview.

For details: Director, ASTE Council/ AEDA or visit website at www.astec.gov.in

Sd/- Director, ASTE Council/AEDA

Bigyan Bhawan, ABC, G.S Road, Guwahati-05

Janasanyog/868/17

Hospitality industry**MICE segment hit hard by GST anomaly: Hotel & restaurant body**

MUMBAI, July 29: Almost a month into GST, hoteliers complained today that they have been "hit hard" – the hospitality industry's money-spinner, Meetings, Incentives, Conferences & Exhibitions (MICE) segment due to an anomaly in the new indirect tax regime.

There have been huge cancellations or postponements of pre-booked events on account of an anomaly in GST – that MICE activities held in hotels outside of home State would not be eligible for input tax credit (ITC), said a top official of Hotel & Restaurant Association of Western India (HR AWI).

"There is an overall reduction in MICE bookings in hotels across India as compared to the same period last year; advance bookings are being cancelled and new bookings are not happening," rued HR AWI President Dilip Datwani.

Coming back-to-back after the recent liquor ban along highways, GST has acted as a double-whammy to an industry already suffering reduced revenues and Datwani apprehends many establishments may be compelled to scale down operations or shut down, with wide ramifications.

In view of MICE tourism being an important and fast-growing segment of the hospitality industry, Datwani urged the government to tackle this particular aspect of GST which has a potential to disrupt growth. For instance, the upcoming winter wedding season, one of the top grossers for the banquets division of any hotel, is predicted to be flat this year, and the corporates are holding events in the same State where they are registered under GST, thus hitting the hoteliers. – IANS



Minister of State for Power, Coal, New and Renewable Energy and Mines (Independent Charge) Piyush Goyal addressing a gathering at the Indian School of Management & Entrepreneurship (ISME), in Mumbai on Saturday. – PIB

IRDAI orders transfer of Sahara policies to ICICI Prudential Life

CHENNAI, July 29: The Indian insurance regulator has said that Rs 78 crore was siphoned off by Sahara India Life Insurance Ltd in the name of security deposits.

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) late on Friday also said the promoters of Sahara India Life Insurance Company were no more "fit and proper" persons, and ordered transfer of all policies to ICICI Prudential Life.

The appointed date for the transfer of Sahara India Life to ICICI Prudential Life is July 31.

The IRDAI has also ordered Sahara India Life to transfer Rs 25 crore to a separate account under the control of the regulator to meet any contingency expen-

ses to be refunded a year later.

In an order uploaded at the

Sahara India Life Insurance Ltd siphoned off Rs 78 cr; promoters no more 'fit and proper' persons: Regulator

IRDIA website, its Chairman TS Vijayan said as per the report of

the administrator appointed for Sahara India Life, a sum of Rs 78 crore had already been "siphoned off in the name of security deposits," and the promoters are no more "fit and proper," the shareholders and company board are not keen in recovery plan and the company is mainly surviving on release of reserves.

However, the situation may not continue for long as the new premises of the company had come down significantly, it said.

In June 2017, RK Sharma, a General Manager at the IRDAI, was appointed as administrator for Sahara India Life to manage the affairs of the private life insurer.

Based on the June 22 report of Sharma, the insurance regulator

concluded that it is not in the best interests of policyholders to allow Sahara India Life to transact business further.

The IRDAI decided to transfer the life insurance portfolio to some other life insurer which is profitable, does not have any accumulated losses and compliant with the limits of management expenses and solvency margin.

According to IRDAI, ICICI Prudential Life expressed interest within the stipulated time though six life insurers complied to the above criteria.

As per IRDAI order, ICICI Prudential will assume the insurance liabilities of Sahara India Life as per the valuation by an independent actuary as on July 31. – IANS



ED attaches Rs 300-cr worth assets of Rose Valley group

NEW DELHI, July 29: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached Rs 300 crore worth assets of Rose Valley group in its ongoing probe against the chit fund company for money laundering, an official said today.

The attached properties include six hotels in West Bengal, Assam and Bihar, 17 acres of an amusement park in Tripura, office space of 14,636 square feet in Kolkata, 11,445 square feet land in Bhutanwar, 13 pieces of land, three flats along with garage space acquired by the company in one of the best residential societies of Kolkata.

"The attached properties of Rose Valley group of companies and its Chairman Gautam Kundu are worth book value of Rs 113.76 crore and having market value of around Rs 300 crore," an ED statement said.

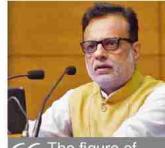
The chit fund company is now under the scanner of the ED and the Central Bureau of Investigation, and its sole proprietor and

"Around Rs 8,600 crore remain outstanding to the public by the company which diverted and siphoned off the amount through cheating and has no real business to repay this amount," an ED official said.

The official said the ED had earlier attached Rose Valley's property having market value of around Rs 1,650 crore which includes several hotels, vehicles, land and cash amounting to around Rs 350 crore.

"With this attachment, the total market value of properties attached in Rose Valley group of company cases has reached around Rs 1,950 crore," he added. – IANS

Over 12 lakh businesses applied for new GST registration: Adhia



NEW DELHI, July 29: Over 12 lakh businesses have applied for fresh registration under the goods and services tax (GST) regime, Revenue Secretary Hasmukh Adhia has said.

Of these, while 10 lakh applications for registration have been approved, 2 lakh are still pending approval.

"The figure of new registrations approved in GST crosses 10 lakhs today. About 2 lakh applications are pending in process," Revenue Secretary Hasmukh Adhia tweeted.

Businesses have till July 30 to register under the GST.

Also, during the course of the year if a business becomes liable to register under GST, it needs to apply for registration within 30 days from becoming liable for it.

Although businesses with turnover of up to Rs 20 lakh are exempt from GST and hence registration is not mandatory, traders and manufacturers are getting themselves registered so that the input tax credits can be passed on in the supply chain. When a business registers under GST, it is given a provisional GSTIN. After that, in the second stage, the business has to log in to the GSTN portal and furnish details of its business including the main place of business, additional place, directors and bank account details. – PTI



(L-R) Sridhar Birla, former President, FICCI, Supreme Court Judge, Justice AK Sikri and MS Sahai, Chairperson, IBBI, at a conference on 'Decoding the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code' organised by FICCI in New Delhi on Saturday. – UNI



(L-R) Sridhar Birla, former President, FICCI, Supreme Court Judge, Justice AK Sikri and MS Sahai, Chairperson, IBBI, at a conference on 'Decoding the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code' organised by FICCI in New Delhi on Saturday. – UNI

CYBER THREATS

SEBI asks exchanges to keep constant vigil

NEW DELHI, July 29: Regulator SEBI on Friday said it will undertake a comprehensive review of technology and systems at all market institutions including stock exchanges to safeguard the marketplace from cyber threats and technical glitches.

A meeting held against the backdrop of the recent case of technical glitch at leading bourse NSE, due to which trading had been halted for over three hours on July 10, SEBI chief Ajay Tyagi also asked the exchanges and other institutions to keep a constant vigil on cyber threats globally and take lessons to put in place necessary safeguards.

As for the technical glitch, the NSE informed the regulator that based on internal assessment, processes are being strengthened to further reduce the response time for recovery and also adoption of automated processes.

"It was emphasised that there should be prompt and diligent re-

porting of any technical issues, including cyber attacks, to relevant agencies including CERT-IND and SEBI," the regulator said in a statement after the meeting.

SEBI emphasised that the MIs (Market Infrastructure Institutions) should have well-laid-out change management and standard operating procedures that should encompass all areas related to technology and operations.

MIs were advised to have a collaborative approach in dealing with technological challenges, including cyber threats," the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) said. Besides the stock exchanges, major MIs include depositories and clearing corporations.

During the meeting, SEBI stressed the importance of the need for sharing information on instances of technology-related disruptions, cyber threats and attacks among MIs so as to enhance their situational awareness. – PTI

Centre planning to set up petrochemical clusters: Pradhan

GANDHINAGAR, July 29: The Centre is planning to set up petrochemical clusters in eastern, western and southern India, to spur growth of the sector amid increasing demand, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said here today.

"We plan to set up a number of petrochemical clusters, two each in east and west coasts, and some in south India. They will be created (integrated with refineries) so that the entire chain is benefited,"

Pradhan, who is the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Petroleum and Natural Gas, said.

"Globally we are seeing an increasing trend of setting up petrochemical complexes to maximise value chain of downstream products," he said while speaking at the

Global per capita consumption of polymers is 34 kg, so India at 10 kg will see manifold growth by 2030,

spurring the growth of the industry," he said while speaking at the sixth petrochemical conclave.

He said ONGC Petro Additions Limited, the largest petrochemical plant in the country set up at Dahej in south Gujarat, has brought in several downstream industries to come up in its vicinity, which are likely to bring an investment of \$6.7 billion.

"(Such clusters) make the entire value chain extremely cost-effective. Output of petrochemical will support such an industry," he said. He also said growth of middle class will increase consumption of petrochemical products "manifold" by 2030. "Global per capita consumption of polymers is 34 kg, so India at 10 kg will see manifold growth by 2030, spurring the growth of the industry," he said. – PTI

New consumer protection Bill could be next big game changer

NEW DELHI, July 29: A new consumer protection Bill that is likely to be tabled during Parliament's ongoing monsoon session is seen as the next big game changer for the common man, replacing it with a legislation that has been in force since 1986 when the economic landscape and consumer awareness were in their infancy.

Among a slew of measures, the Bill proposes to establish an investigating, prosecuting, reviewing and recommending body – the Central Consumer Protection Au-

thority, on the lines of the US Federal Trade Commission (FTC), headed by a Commissioner – to launch inquiries, either suo motu or on a complaint or direction from the government, into violations of consumer rights and to launch prosecution in an appropriate court.

The Bill introduces the much-needed concept of affixing liability on a manufacturer or producer and even a product sale in certain specified circumstances for any personal injury, death or property damage caused to a consumer resulting from defects in manufacture, construction, design, formula, preparation, assembly, testing, service, warning, instruction, marketing, packaging, or labelling of any product.

One of the interesting new additions is the requirement to deposit 50 per cent of the total amount that the defendant has been asked to pay in terms of the可执行 order in case he intends to prefer an appeal to an Appellate Commission.

The penalty for filing a frivo-

ler complaint has also been proposed to be enhanced from Rs 10,000 to Rs 50,000 to minimise baseless and false complaints.

In keeping with the changing times, the Bill defines e-commerce while at the same time empowering the Centre to make rules for preventing unfair trade practices in online trade. It also brings new forms of trade under the purview of the act to safeguard the interests of consumers better.

Once the new law comes into force, the liability of manufacturers, sellers and service providers, online and offline, will not be primarily limited to any consumer who buys goods or avails service but towards all consumers. This leads towards the class action suits introduction in the country in which all affected consumers will derive benefits.

The three-tier structure for adjudicating consumer disputes still remains in the form of district, State and national commissions but with enhanced values at each level looking at the current market realities. – IANS

Iran missile test inconsistent: US, France, Germany and Britain

WASHINGTON, July 29: The United States, France, Germany and Britain have condemned the launch of a space launch vehicle by Iran on July 27 and alleged that it is inconsistent with the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolution in this regard.

"With its latest launch of a Simorgh space launch vehicle on 27 July, Iran has again demonstrated activity inconsistent with UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2231. We condemn this action," the four countries said in a joint statement.

Three of them, the United States, France and Britain are members of the UN Security Council.

Germany is part of the G-4 group including India, Japan and Brazil who seek a permanent membership to the Security Council.

"Iran's program to develop ballistic missiles continues to be inconsistent with UNSCR 2231 and has a destabilising impact in the region."

We call on Iran not to conduct any further ballistic missile launches and related

activities," the joint statement said.

We are writing to the UN Secretary General with our concerns. The governments of France, Germany and the United Kingdom are discussing these issues bilaterally with Iran and are raising their concerns," they said.

The UN Security Council Resolution 2231, they said calls upon Iran to not undertake any activity related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons, including launching using such technology like this launch.

Space launch vehicles use technologies that are closely related to those of ballistic missiles development, in particular to those of Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles.

"This step follows missile launches into Syria on 18 June and the test of a medium range ballistic missile on 4 July," the joint statement said.

US Ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley, in a separate statement said

the Trump Administration will not let Iran off the hook for behavior that threatens American interests.

"We will not simply trust Iran's word that they are in compliance with international obligations. We will continue to impose consequences until Iran stops its provocations and complies fully with Security Council resolutions," she said.

"The issue with Iran always comes back to mistrust. Iran's widespread support for terrorists tells us we can't trust them. Iran's breaking its obligation on missile testing tells us we can't trust them. Yesterday's launch proves that yet again," Haley said.

Earlier in the day, the Department of Treasury imposed sanctions on six Iran-based subordinates of Shahid Hemmat Industrial Group (SHIG), an entity which it said is central to Iran's ballistic missile program.

Such a move by the Department of Treasury comes a day after the Iran carried out launch of the Simorgh space launch vehicle. - PTI



Islamic group members shout slogans during a protest against the decree allowing the Government to disband organisations deemed to run counter to the secular state, in Jakarta, Indonesia on Friday. - UNI

Iran Guards report new incident with US Navy in Gulf

TEHRAN, July 29: Iran's Revolutionary Guards said on today that the US Navy had approached their patrol vessels in the Gulf and fired flares in what it called a provocative move.

"At 4 pm yesterday, the supercarrier USS *Nimitz* and its accompanying warship, while being monitored by the Guards' frigates, flew a helicopter near the Resalt oil and gas platform and approached the force's ships," the Guards said.

"The Americans in a provocative and unprofessional move, sent a warning message to the frigates and fired flares."

The Guards "ignored the

unconventional move by the US ships and continued their mission, after which the supercarrier and its warship left the area," the statement

approaching the US ship on that occasion and said it was the American vessel that had been at fault.

There have been a string of close encounters between US ships and Iranian vessels in the Gulf in recent months.

In January, the USS *Mahan* destroyed fire warning shots at four Iranian Revolutionary Guard vessels that approached at high speed in the Strait

of Hormuz, which connects it to the Indian Ocean.

The Revolutionary Guards are a paramilitary force that answers directly to Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. - AFP

The Guards denied ap-

Indian-origin gives birth to first digitally-monitored twins in UK

LONDON, July 29: An Indian-origin woman has become the world's first mother to give birth to twins monitored in the womb using a potentially life-saving digital growth chart, British media reported.

Mala Vast Dhuri gave birth to healthy identical boys Kisan and Kush, weighing 2 kg and 2.1 kg respectively at St George's Hospital in south London recently.

The 37-year-old said she was "over the moon" after doctors at the hospital scanned and checked the development of her babies against growth charts designed specifically for twins, the *Daily Mirror* reported yesterday.

"I am over the moon to meet my gorgeous little boys. Thanks to St George's for ensuring their safe arrival," Dhuri said.

The UK's Twins and Multiple Births Association raised money for the project to create the charts using 10,000 scans of twins. It means doctors can compare babies' development against what is normal for twins, rather than for single births.

Dr Asma Khalil, consultant obstetrician and multiple births expert based at St George's, led the project and said it could save "hundreds, if not thousands of lives" each year.

"We know twins are smaller than singles so using these old charts means doctors had to use their own judgement. This resulted in an 'over-diagnosis' of growth problems. It meant babies were often being delivered too early," she told the newspaper.

"With twins, your chances of having a stillborn child are two to three times higher, or six times higher having a child with cerebral palsy. While stillbirth rates in singletons have declined in recent years, stillbirth rates in multiple birth babies increased by around 10 per cent between 2013 and 2015," she added. - PTI



added.

On Tuesday, a US Navy patrol ship fired warning shots at a Guards boat in the Gulf as it closed in on the American vessel, US officials said.

The Guards denied ap-



Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu delivers a speech during the opening ceremony of the International Army Games 2017 in Alabino, outside Moscow on Saturday. - UNI

Human remains on Mont Blanc 'may belong to Air India victims'

GRENOBLE (France), July 29: Body parts that could belong to passengers killed in one or other of two Air India plane crashes more than 50 years ago have been found on Mont Blanc in the French Alps, sources said.

Daniel Roché, who is fascinated by airplane accidents and has spent years combing the Bossoms Glacier looking for remains, made the discovery on Thursday.

"I had never found any significant human remains before," he told AFP. This time however, he had found a hand and the upper part of a leg.

In January 1966, an Air India Boeing 707 from Bombay to New York crashed near Mont Blanc's summit, killing all 117 people on board.

Another Air India flight crashed on the mountain in 1960, killing 48 people.

Roché said the remains he had found could be of a female passenger from the 1966 Boeing

707 flight, as he also discovered one of the plane's four jet engines.

Roché contacted local emergency services in the Chamonix valley who took the remains down the mountain by helicopter and they were due to be examined by experts.

"These remains are probably not from the same person," said Stéphanie Bozon of the local gendarmerie.

"They are probably from passengers, but between the two aircrafts, it's difficult to say".

Just 10 days ago, two bodies were found lying near each other, preserved in a receding glacier in the Diablerets massif in the Swiss Alps.

A DNA search identified the couple as Marceline Dufourdin, a 49-year-old shamanaker at the time, and his wife Françoise, a schoolteacher aged 37, who had disappeared in the Alps 75 years before. - AFP

Trump ousts Priebus as his Chief of Staff, appoints Kelly

WASHINGTON, July 29: US President Donald Trump has abruptly fired his Chief of Staff Reince Priebus and replaced him with Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly after the continuing feud among senior White House staffers came out in the open.

Priebus is the fifth top Trump administration official to be either sacked or to have resigned in the past six months. Trump has previously lost a deputy chief of staff, national security adviser, communications director and press secretary.

Priebus' exit comes nearly a week after press secretary Sean Spicer quit the White House, apparently unhappy over the appointment of Anthony Scaramucci as communications director.

An ongoing public fighting between Scaramucci and Priebus had dominated the headlines in recent days. Scaramucci had described Priebus as a "paranoid schizophrenic".

Priebus previously served as the chairman of the Republican National Committee.

Trump tweeted the change

after he returned to Washington from New York yesterday.

"I am pleased to inform you that I have just named General/Secretary John F Kelly as White House Chief of Staff," he said.

Kelly was a Great American and a Great Leader. John has also done a spectacular job at Homeland Security. He has been a true star of my Administration."

Kelly previously served as the Commander of the US

Southern Command and was the commanding general of the Multi-National Force - West in Iraq for an year from February 2008.

As Secretary of Homeland Security, Kelly has played a key role in the border security of the Trump administration.

Over the past a few weeks,

Trump expressed frustration

over leaks coming out of his White House. With a retired general in charge, he hopes to bring in discipline and end the chaos inside the White House.

White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said in a statement that Kelly would begin his new role on Monday.

"General John Kelly is one of the true stars of the administration. He has helped seal the border and reduced illegal immi-

gration by 70 percent," she said.

"He is respected by everyone, especially the people at the Department of Homeland Security. The entire administration loves him and no one is comparable," Sanders said.

Trump also thanked Priebus for his service.

"We accomplished a lot together and I am proud of him!" he tweeted.

Priebus said in a statement that it was one of the greatest honours of his life to serve the US president and the country.

"I will continue to serve as a strong supporter of the president's agenda and policies," he said. "I can't think of a better person than Gen John Kelly to succeed me and I wish him God's blessings and great success." - PTI

**Ministry of Food Processing Industries
Government of India**

**"GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY IN
AGRO PROCESSING INFRASTRUCTURE"**

KISAN SAMPADA YOJANA

Ministry of Food Processing Industries invites proposals / Expression of Interest (EoI) from potential promoters / investors for setting up of 60 Agro Processing Clusters near the identified agri-horti production clusters in the country. The willing investors may submit their proposals through **online portal** (<http://sampada-mofpi.gov.in/cluster/Login.aspx>) only as per the operational guidelines for the Scheme for Creation of Infrastructure for Agro Processing Clusters dated 07.07.2017. The detailed operational guidelines of the scheme and an indicative list of identified agri-horti production clusters (fruits & vegetables) are available on Ministry's website: www.mofpi.nic.in (Schemes → Agro Processing Clusters → Guidelines) and (Schemes → Agro Processing Clusters → list of identified agri-horti production clusters) respectively.

A wait list of the eligible proposals may also be prepared to be considered against vacancies / up-scaling of the scheme, if any, in future.

The proposals / EoIs, addressed to Shri Atul Saxena, Director, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Panchsheel Bhawan, August Kranti Marg, New Delhi-110049 shall be submitted **online** on or before **15.09.2017** by **5:00 PM**. No physical mode for submission of proposal shall be accepted.

The applicant may make online payment vide RTGS/NEFT of Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Only) towards Earnest Money Deposit (EMD/Bid Security) against account number – 3516103454, IFSC code – CBIN0282169 (Central Bank of India, Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi) of "The Pay & Accounts Officer, Ministry of Food Processing Industries", New Delhi.

After selection of the suitable applicants, the amount of EMD will be refunded to the unsuccessful bidders. The EMD of the successful bidders shall be retained by the Ministry as Performance Security till the completion of the project. The amount of EMD retained as performance security shall be forfeited in the event of non-completion of the project or withdrawing from the project after according approval.

Pre-bid meeting for interested stakeholders will be held on 21.08.2017 at 3:00 PM in Room No. 120, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Panchsheel Bhawan, August Kranti Marg, New Delhi.

For any further details, undersigned may be contacted.

(Atul Saxena)

Director

Tel. No. 011-26406547 | Email: atul.saxena69@gov.in

dpb/16/01/11/03/12/17/18

 @MOFPI_GOI  @MOFPIIndia  M O F P I 

China 'unlikely to gain anything' from Doklam standoff with India



WASHINGTON, July 29: China is unlikely to gain from the border standoff with India as the road being built by it in the Sikkim sector of Doklam area leads to nowhere and this would push India closer to the US and Japan, an American expert said on Friday.

The standoff will also add to the mistrust among the generation of young Indians who don't have a lot of experience with conflict with China, Jeff Smith, director of the Asian Security Programmes, Kraemer Strategic Fellow, at the American Foreign Policy Council, said.

It will, in fact, push India more closer to the US and Japan, and generate an anti-China sentiment in India, he said.

"What are the stakes for China? It's on a road to nowhere, essentially," he told a Washington audience during a panel discussion on India-China border standoff.

"I'm not exactly sure what China gets out of building this road. We know what the outcome is going to be; it's souring ties with India significantly with the Modi administration, which were already on a downward trajectory."

"It's giving the Indian army more ammunition it needs to lobby for more upgrades, to order infrastructure, to push India closer to the US and Japan as it's been moving already, something that China says it doesn't want," he said at the event organised by Woodrow

Wilson International Centre.

"Opinions of China are not very high in India to begin with, but there has not yet been a crisis like this in recent memory that would galvanise public opinion against China."

"It's not clear to me exactly what China's going to achieve or what strategy or goals it's advancing by taking an uncompromising position on this dispute. It's not clear to me exactly what China's going to achieve or what strategy or goals it's advancing by taking an uncompromising position on this dispute," the American expert said.

On the other hand, stakes are very high for India. The stakes for India are

quite clear and very high. Chinese control over this territory would not only nullify the one place over the line of control where it has a significant tactical advantage, but it would position Chinese forces near its very vulnerable Chicken's neck and in the eyes of India's military planners, present an existential threat, he said.

Nirupama Rao, who served as India's envoy to China and the US, said the relationship between India and China, which was so carefully constructed over the last three decades, "seems to be disintegrating before our very eyes and it is all happened in a space of four to five weeks". — PTI

All US within range after missile test: N Korea

SEOUL, July 29: Kim Jong-Un boasted of North Korea's ability to strike any target in the US after a second ICBM test that weapons experts said today could even bring New York into range – in a potent challenge to President Donald Trump.

Under Kim's leadership North Korea has accelerated its drive towards a credible nuclear strike capability, in defiance of international condemnation and multiple sets of UN sanctions.

Kim said the test "is meant to send a grave warning to the US" and demonstrated the North's ability to launch "at any place and time," the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said.

The leader said proudly the test

North Korea seems to have made a logical step forward, as it tries to perfect the technologies to build and field an operationally-viable ICBM that can threaten the mainland United States

also confirmed all the US mainland is within our striking range," it said.

Weapons experts said the altitude and flight time of Friday's missile suggested it was significantly more powerful than the July

test, with a theoretical range of around 10,000 kilometres meaning it might be able to reach east coast US cities like New York, depending on the payload size.

"North Korea seems to have made a logical step forward, as it tries to perfect the technologies to build and field an operationally-viable ICBM that can threaten the mainland United States," said Michael Elleman, missile defence specialist at the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies.

Kim Dong-Yub, a defence analyst at the Institute for Far Eastern Studies at Kyungnam University, said the North may have succeeded in miniaturising warheads down to 750 kilograms. — AFP



Riot security forces take up positions while clashing with demonstrators rallying against Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro's Government in Caracas, Venezuela on Friday. — UNI

Russia, China bear unique responsibility: Tillerson

WASHINGTON, July 29: Condemning North Korea's latest ballistic missile launch, US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said Russia and China bear "unique and special responsibility" for Pyongyang's "reckless" pursuit of nuclear weapons.

He blamed Russia and China for being the "principal economic enablers" of the reclusive regime's nuclear weapons programme, despite it violating multiple UN Security Council resolutions.

Tillerson urged all nations to "take a strong public stance" against North Korea, as he called them to strengthen UN sanctions to ensure North Korea faces "consequences for its relentless pursuit of nuclear weapons and the means to deliver them."

North Korea late yesterday launched its second intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) within a month. The missile travelled about 1,000 km before splashing down in the Sea of Japan, the reports said.

Hours after the launch, North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un said it demonstrated his country can hit

the US mainland. The launch came a day after the US Congress voted to impose tougher sanctions against Russia, North Korea and Iran.

Condemning the ICBM launch, Tillerson said that this was in "blatant violation" of UNSC resolutions that reflect "the will of the international community".

"As the principal economic enablers of North Korea's nuclear weapon and ballistic missile development programme, China and Russia bear unique and special responsibility for this growing threat to regional and global stability," he said.

He said the US seeks a peaceful denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula and the end to North Korea's "belligerent actions".

"As we and others have made clear, we will never accept a nuclear-armed North Korea nor abandon our commitment to our allies and partners in the region," he said.

Senator Bob Corker, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, asked the US to pursue a "comprehensive approach" to force Pyongyang to back down. — PTI

Under the 99-year lease agree-

Lanka, China sign USD 1.1-bn Hambantota port deal

COLOMBO, July 29: Sri Lanka today signed a USD 1.1 billion deal to sell a 70-per cent stake of the strategic Hambantota port to China, amid concerns over the massive debt the island nation incurred in building the port.

The deal had been delayed by several months over concerns that the deep-sea port could be used by Chinese navy.

Cash-rich China has invested millions of dollars in Sri Lanka's infrastructure since the end of a brutal civil war in 2009.

As part of the deal, the state in the loss-making port has been sold to China's state-run container terminal China Merchants Port Holdings (CMPort).

Sri Lanka's Minister of Ports and Shipping Mahinda Samarasinghe and China's envoy to Colombo Yi Xianling were present when the Concession Agreement was signed.

Under the 99-year lease agree-

ment, CMPort is to invest up to USD 1.1 billion in the port and marine-related activities.

"This is a very favourable agreement compared with the plan in 2014," Samarasinghe said, referring to the original plan laid out

port, and the port will not be al-

lowed to become a base for any foreign navy.

The new provision is seen as an

attempt to allay India's concerns over Chinese navy's possible pres-

ence in Sri Lanka.

The port, overlooking the Indian Ocean, is expected to play a key role in China's Belt and Road initiative, which will link ports and roads between China and Europe.

The Sri Lankan government had to face huge opposition to the deal from trade unions, who called it a sellout of the coun-

try's national assets to China.

Last week, petroleum workers brought the country to a standstill for two days by stopping fuel distribution. They

But Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe yesterday said: "We are giving the country a better deal without any debt." — PTI

Abbas to be interim Pak PM till Shehbaz gets elected as MP

ISLAMABAD, July 29: Senior PML-N leader and former petroleum minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi will run the PML-N Government as interim prime minister of Pakistan until Nawaz Sharif's brother Shehbaz is elected as Member of Parliament, according to Pakistan media reports.

The Supreme Court yesterday disqualified 67-year-old Sharif for dishonesty and ruled that corruption cases be filed against him and his children over the Panama Papers scandal, forcing the embattled leader out of office.



Geo TV reported that Pakistani Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has decided to appoint Shehbaz Sharif as Prime Minister in an informal meeting which went on for three hours.

Former petroleum minister Abbas will be appointed as interim prime minister to run the country until Shehbaz is elected as member of parliament, it added.

The final announcement will be made by Nawaz Sharif in the formal parliamentary party meeting of PML-N which is taking place in Islamabad a day after he was disqualified by the Supreme Court.

Party sources had earlier said that Sharif proposed name of his younger brother Shehbaz in a meeting yesterday and none of the participants raised any objection to the proposal.

But Shehbaz, 65, cannot immediately replace his brother as he is not an MP.

In order to become the Prime Minister, he would have to be elected first.

Hence, Abbas has been named as interim Prime Minister who will resign once Shehbaz is elected. Pakistan has seen such arrangements in the past too. — PTI

Men face work-family conflict just as much as women: study

WASHINGTON, July 29: Men across the world struggle with achieving a work-family balance just as much as women do, irrespective of the level of gender equality in their country, a study has found.

Researchers spent several years examining the findings from more than 350 studies conducted over three decades that included more than 250,000 participants from across the world.

The results were surprising, said lead researcher Kristen Shockley, an assistant professor at the University of Georgia in the US.

"We essentially found very little evidence of differences between women and men as far as the level of work-family conflict they report," Shockley said.

"Women hear that other women are struggling with this issue, so they expect they will experience greater work-family conflict. There also is some socialisation for it being OK for women to talk more about men than men," she said.

Some previous research has found that men often do not feel comfortable discussing work-family concerns because of fears of being stigmatised, threats to

their masculinity or negative career repercussions.

"I do think it's harming men, who are silently struggling and are experiencing the same amount of work-family conflict, but no one is acknowledging it," she said.

In recent years, men also have increasingly become primary caregivers for young children, and fathers on average are spending more time caring for their children and completing household chores, although women still spend more time on both tasks.

Women also may face three penalties because of stereotypes that they are more family-oriented and less committed to their careers.

The researchers also examined ratings of gender equality for the countries where the studies were conducted, and they were surprised to find that men and women reported similar levels of work-family conflict regardless of the level of gender equality in their country.

Some minor differences were detected between men and women about work-family conflict when the data were divided into different subgroups, but none of them were

large in magnitude, Shockley said.

Mothers reported slightly greater family interference with work than fathers, as did women in dual-earner couples.

Men in dual-earner couples reported slightly greater work interference with family as well, as did women when the sample was restricted to men and women in the same occupations.

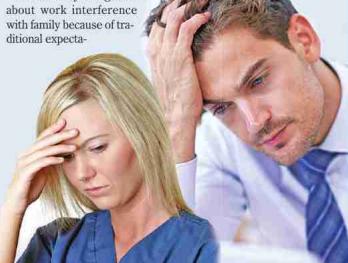
Men and women may experience the same level of work-family conflict but perceive it differently, Shockley said.

Women may also feel guiltier about work interference with family because of traditional expectations.

The research was published in the *Journal of Applied Psychology*. — PTI



French President Emmanuel Macron welcomes Portugal's Prime Minister Antonio Costa at the Elysee Palace, in Paris on Friday. — UNI



Jennings guides England extend lead in third Test



Debutant England bowler Toby Roland-Jones celebrates after completing his five-wicket haul during the third Test against South Africa at The Oval on Saturday.

Karun, Axar star in India A's 7-wkt win over Afghanistan A

PRETORIA, July 29: Left-arm spinner Axar Patel and top-order batsman Karun Nair put up impressive performances as India A comfortably beat Afghanistan A by seven wickets to register their first-win in the tri-nation A tournament.

This was after Manish Pandey's men lost a low-scoring encounter against South Africa A in the lung opener.

Opting to field, India A bundled out the minnows for 149 in 40.5 overs with Axar Patel picking up 3/33 in 6 overs.

Tamil Nadu all-rounder Vijay Shankar with 3/24 in 7 overs complemented the India A discards well. Leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal was the only bowler to complete his full quota of overs grabbing 2/42 in the process, Sharafuddin Ashraf with 39 was the top scorer for Afghanistan A.

In reply, India A cruised to the target in 150 for 3 on 5.4 overs.

Opening the innings, Nair scored a patient 57 off 83 balls while skipper Pandey chipped in with unbeaten 41 off 52 balls. The duo added 67 runs for the third wicket. Shreyas Iyer (20) and Sanju Samson (10) were dismissed cheaply.

Young Rishabh Pant scored a quickfire unbeaten 17 off 10 deliveries with three boundaries to finish the match.

Brief report: Afghanistan A 149 in 40.4 overs (Sharafuddin Ashraf 39, Vijay Shankar 3/24, Axar Patel 3/33, Yuzvendra Chahal 2/42)

India A 150/3 in 30.4 overs (Karun Nair 57, Manish Pandey 41 no., Rishabh Pant 17 no). India A won by 7 wickets. - PTI

Real captain Ramos would welcome teen star Mbappe

MIAMI, July 29: Real Madrid captain Sergio Ramos says French teen striker Kylian Mbappe will become a welcome addition for the reigning Champions League and La Liga champions should he decide to leave Monaco.

The 18 year-old forward is wanted by Real Madrid manager Zinedine Zidane, with the Spanish giants poised to make him one of the most expensive players of all time in a move that could cost around \$211 million (180 million euros).

Ramos was adamant Mbappe has the qualities to become of the best in the world.

"It's not a decision for me but Mbappe is a great prospect. There are not young players around like him. We have an important year ahead of us and already have excellent players,"

Ramos said ahead of Saturday's meeting with arch-rivals Barcelona in Miami.

"But it's money which moves football and people can pay what they want. If he wants

to come to Real Madrid, the doors will be open."

While Zidane smiled through his press conference here, Barcelona have been fighting to keep superstar Neymar from leaving Monaco.

Madrid will boast a strong squad although Real enters the match without Cristiano Ronaldo, who has missed the US tour and will not appear Saturday.

"Yes I am happy with what we have right now," said Zidane. "But we have a good squad even though we are missing Cristiano here. He is on vacation, and can enjoy that and be ready for the season." Ronaldo kept the International Champions Cup organizers waiting until the very last minute before deciding he would not be playing.

The Portuguese star has been in Asia completing commercial obligations and is expected in court on Monday in Madrid to testify in a tax-evasion case, meaning his presence in South Florida was always highly doubtful.

"Unfortunately, Ronaldo's personal commitments precluded him from being here," Charly Stititano, chairman of organisers Relevant Sports, told the Miami Herald. - AFP

accepting Paris St Germain's riches. The French legend declined to twist the knife regarding Neymar.

"We will see what happens," Zidane said. "He's a good player. They are our most important rivals but we lost our last match against Manchester City and we want to put in a strong performance."

"We are happy, want to perform, we want to be physically

better. That's our goal, but we are so happy to be here."

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"We are happy, want to perform, we want to be physically

We want Neymar to stay at Barcelona: Iniesta



Barcelona's Brazilian forward Neymar takes part in a training session at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami, on Friday.

MIAMI, July 29: Barcelona star teammates said Friday they have begged Neymar to resist the temptation of moving to Paris St Germain after a training ground alteration with new signing Nelsen Semedo.

The French records are supposedly ready to launch a record-breaking USD 236 million (218 million euros) move for Neymar, spurring fears as the Spanish club prepared for a Saturday "El Clasico" friendly matchup with Real Madrid at Miami.

The unsettled 25-year-old Brazilian stormed off the practice pitch in disgust and has yet to commit his future to Barcelona ahead of the transfer deadline, still more than a month away.

"It's true, something did happen, but that's sometimes what happens in training," Barca midfielder Andres

Iniesta said.

"All the talk about Neymar right now, everything is magnified. Things like this can happen. It's a personal decision for him, but of course we want him to stay."

Striker partner Luis Suarez has formed a deadly partnership with Neymar and echoed Iniesta's calls for the interest from PSG to be dismissed out of for all.

"As soon as he clarifies the situation, it's better for us and him. He will have his say when he is ready and as a teammate I will support him," Suarez said.

"Our relationship won't change. We want him to stay."

Boss Ernesto Valverde swerved the media on the eve of the match with arch-rival Real, but Iniesta sang Neymar's praises.

"For me, he's one of the best

players in the world. He brings so much to the team and hopefully he will stay for many years," Iniesta said.

"He is worth more than USD 200 million or USD 300 million. His playing style suits us and he can only improve with us."

Neymar made an appearance at a Nike shop in Miami on Friday afternoon to celebrate the release of his new boots.

Barca's superstar striker refused to talk about the speculation and just posed for photographs with fans a day after the training spot at Miami's Barry University training complex.

Barca are set to return to Spain after the clash at the home stadium of the NFL's Miami Dolphins, but Neymar is still lined up to travel to China on business for the La Liga giants. - AFP

Goel advises AFI to honour Kerala HC on Chitra issue



COIMBATORE, July 29: The curtain goes up on the MRF FMSCI Indian National Ranking Championship (INRC) 2017 here in Coimbatore on Sunday, with the country's best rallyists squaring off and renewing their battles for top honours, glory and handsome winners' purse.

India A 150/3 in 30.4 overs (Karun Nair 57, Manish Pandey 41 no., Rishabh Pant 17 no). India A won by 7 wickets. - PTI

Athletics Championships in London next month.

"Goel talked to AFI president Adille Sunmawaris on the issue and advised him not to contest the directive given by the Kerala High Court as PU Chitra is otherwise a wild card entry for the World Championships," the sports minister said in a statement.

She competes in the 1,500 mts race. Chitra, who recently won a gold in the women's 1500m event in the Asian Athletics Championships in Bhubaneswar, filed the writ petition after she was excluded from the Indian squad by the federation.

In her plea, Chitra said her gold medal performance at the Asian Athletics Championships made her an automatic pick for the World Championships. - PTI

been shared with the competitors for relevance.

Arindam Ghosh, Director, RRPM said: "For the 2017 edition of INRC is a big season for us. For the first time, we will be holding a round in Arunachal Pradesh and the good news is that it is being hosted by Arunachal Tourism. This is a great development as globally tourism plays a major role in sponsoring motor sports, including in the WRC."

In all, there will be six rounds this year and all of them will be held in different locales and different terrains which will test the skills of the drivers to the hilt.

J Pritviraj, the Clerk of the Course, was excited. "For the first time in Indian motor sports, we will have an air ambulance to cope with any emergencies or contingencies," he said.

As for the rally itself, he said that the stages would be very different compared to last year as the layout has also been changed. "We have created artificial jumps in consultation with the promoter at spectator points

to get their adrenaline pumping," he explained.

During the media interaction, the main contenders looked eager and confident.

"Last year my car broke down so I couldn't be among the top contenders. But that's in the past," Gururaj Gill declared.

"I am ready and raring to go now. We are going to have new car set-ups from the next round which will make the cars faster and so a lot more exciting for us," he added.

FMSCI president Alder Echchim agreed that the new rally season would be highly competitive. "We have close to 35 teams which is a very good start," he said. "We have six rounds which will test the drivers a lot more," he said.

Defending champion Karna Kedur, who will be competing for a new team this season, conceded that he would need some time to get his car into the groove. Beyond that, though, I am feeling good and confident. It should be fun as we have more rounds," he said. - PTI

Country's best rallyists to square off in MRF FMSCI meet

COIMBATORE, July 29: The curtain goes up on the MRF FMSCI Indian National Ranking Championship (INRC) 2017 here in Coimbatore on Sunday, with the country's best rallyists squaring off and renewing their battles for top honours, glory and handsome winners' purse.

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SU DO KU	
6	10
2	3
7	12
5	7
4	1
7	11
8	9
5	10
11	12
9	6

Solution of last problem

Originating from Japan, 'su do ku' is a mind game and a puzzle that can be solved with proper reasoning and logic. The rules are simple: fill in the grid with digits 1 to 9 in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3x3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9 without repeating any.

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

India outclass Sri Lanka by 304 runs in first Test

GALLE, July 29: A vastly superior India today outclassed an injury-ravaged and out-of-sorts Sri Lanka by 304 runs in the opening Test to bury the ghosts of a humiliating loss at the same venue, exactly two years ago.

India lead the three-match series 1-0.

This was India's biggest overseas win (in terms of runs) surpassing their 279-run victory against England at Leeds in 1984.

For Sri Lanka, it was their biggest defeat (in terms of runs), surpassing their 301-run loss against Pakistan in 1994.

A gigantic victory target of 550 was out of question for the hosts but they fizzled out in the final session of the fourth day to finish on 245 in 76.5 overs – their innings terminated with injured skipper Rangana Herath and Asela Gunaratne ruled out.

This was after India captain Virat Kohli struck his 17th Test hundred with India declaring their second innings at 240 for three.

The Sri Lankans, especially their opener Dimuth Karunaratne (97) batted gallantly for the first two sessions reaching 192 for 4 at tea.

However, Ravichandran Ashwin (365 in 27 overs) ran through the middle-order. Once Karunaratne was dismissed trying to play paddle sweep, it was all over for the islanders.

After the tea break, India made short work of proceedings. The breakthrough was achieved in the fifth over after the break. Niroshan Dickwella (67) top-edged off Ashwin with Wridhiman Saha collecting an easy catch.

Dilruwan Perera (21 no) added 23 runs for the sixth wicket with Karunaratne. The Lankan resistance ended for all purposes when the latter was bowled off Ashwin, dragging a sweep back onto his stumps. Overall, he faced 208 balls and 97 hours.



India players greet each other after winning the first Test against Sri Lanka at Galle, on Saturday.

Two balls later, Virat Kohli took a great catch at leg

slip and accounted for Nuwan Pradeep (0) as well.

The end came swiftly when Lahiru Kumara (0) sliced off Ravindra Jadeja (3/7).

Herath and Gunaratne were unable to bat owing to on-field injuries. Umesh Yadav (1/42) and Mohammad Shami (1/43) took a wicket apiece at the start of

the innings.

In post-lunch, Karunaratne and Kusal Mendis (36) continued their partnership for the third wicket.

The two batsmen looked to play for time and cut out any aggressive strokes. They did capitalise on run-scoring opportunities, as this atypical Galle pitch didn't



Players of Maharashtra (black) and Rajasthan (blue) in action during a group league match of the 9th Mini (U-11) National Roll Ball Championship at Bhogeswari Phukanan Indoor Stadium in Guwahati, on Saturday. – UB Photos

Udit clinches double crown

Ranji Trophy will be home and away format

NEW DELHI, July 29: The BCCI will revert back to the tried and tested "home and away" format for the Ranji Trophy when it's technical committee under the chairmanship of Ranbir Ganguly meet in Kolkata on August 2.

The technical committee meeting will be followed by a meeting of Tour and Fixtures Committee, which will decide on the dates of India's limited overs home series against Australia in October and November.

It will be after some months that one

of BCCI's sub-committees will be meeting and it has been scheduled in Kolkata as CAB president Ganguly has other commitments.

The BCCI had decided on neutral venues for Ranji Trophy during the 2016-17 season after numerous complaints about home teams doctoring the pitches.

However, most of the domestic captains gave a thumbs down during the Captains Conclave in Mumbai earlier this year, when it became clear that the idea was a flop.

"Most of the states have already made it clear that we should go back to the old format of atleast four home matches. The last year became an ordeal for the teams as they were constantly travelling for three and half months. It made them fatigued," said a senior BCCI official, who is not supposed to be officially quoted, told PTI today.

"Hopefully, chairman of technical committee Ganguly will take a call. That's the main point on the agenda apart from discussing the Conclave report," the official added. – PTI

PCB keeps USD 1bn for filing compensation claims against BCCI

KARACHI, July 29: Pakistani Cricket Board (PCB) has reserved around one billion rupees to bear the legal costs of filing compensation claim against the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) in the ICC disputes resolution committee.

PCB Chairman Shaharyar Khan said in an interview today that the board of governor's meeting on Friday had given approval for the budget to cover the legal costs. "We have hired a British law firm to represent us in the case and file the compensation claim with the disputes resolution committee," Khan said.

He said the PCB had no option but to seek compensation from the BCCI for not playing any bilateral series with Pakistan despite a MOU signed between the two boards in 2014.

Khan said the claim would be filed with the ICC committee shortly after the BCCI had failed to respond to the notice of intent sent to them by the PCB and three rounds of talks with their officials also failed to break the deadlock. – PTI

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Former minister Dr Kamala Kalita inaugurating a seminar on sports journalism at Chikagoon, on Saturday. International footballer Gilbertson Sangma (R) also took part in the seminar.

guess in both scenarios guys will understand how the dynamics of the team works. It is good to have guys score runs," he said.

"Talking about his unbroken 103 in the second innings, Kohli said: "It was a situation where we had to capitalise and not waste too many deliveries. Abhinav (Mukund) batted well and he deserved a hundred."

Dhawan, who was adjudged the Man of the Match, said he enjoyed his batting and the competition for the opening slot is keeping him on his toes.

"I really enjoyed batting over here. I just watched the ball and backed my game. There is a very healthy competition for the opening spot in the side, and it keeps me on my toes," he said. – PTI

HCA to felicitate Mithali Raj

HYDERABAD, July 29:

The Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) is going to felicitate Mithali Raj, the skipper of the Indian women's cricket squad.

"HCA is very proud that Mithali Raj was able to lead the team well. Under very adverse circumstances they have been able to reach the finals (of ICC Women's World Cup)," said G Vivekananda, the association's president here today.

While the Railways, her employer, was going to felicitate her, Mithali had agreed to make time for HCA function later, he said.

The Telengana government yesterday announced a cash prize of Rs 1 crore and a house plot for Mithali Raj.

Vivekananda also informed that the prestigious Moin-ul-Dowla tournament would be organised this year as well, with an expected participation of eight to ten teams.

The tournament, with 50-once day-format, is likely to start on August 22, Vivekananda said. – PTI

provide much support to the Indian spinners. In all, they put on 79 runs.

Karunaratne scored his 12th Test half-century of 81 balls. Overall, he faced 166 deliveries and hit 9 fours. In doing so, he brought up Sri Lanka's 100 in the 27th over. In that same over, Mendis survived a DRS review off Ashwin for caught behind as UltraEdge didn't show any deviation.

Four overs later, Mendis was caught behind off Jadeja as the DRS review was turned in India's favour, this time an edge clearly detected off the batsman. It became a double blow for Lanka thereafter as Angelo Mathews (2) was caught going for a wild slog at backward point off Jadeja again.

SCORECARD

India 1st Innings: 600

Sri Lanka 1st Innings: 291

India 2nd Innings (overnight 189) In 46.3 overs: S Dhawan c. Gunesch, 100, Dilruwan Perera 14, A. Rahane not out, K. Mendis 81, C Pujara, M. Murali 15, V. Kohli not out, A. Rahane not out 23, Extras: 4 (b-1, lb-1, w-2, nb-1). Total: (For 3 wkt declared, 53 Overs) 240. Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-56, 3-189. Bowling: Pradeep 12-2-63-0, Piyush 15-0-45-2, Kumar 12-1-59-1, Herath 9-0-43-1, Umesh 10-0-16-1, Ravindra 7-24-5-2, Pandya 7-0-21-0. – PTI

Sri Lanka 2nd Innings: Dimuth Karunaratne b. Ashwin 97, Upul Tharanga b. Shami 10, Danushka Gunathilake c. Pujara b. Umesh 12, Kusal Mendis c. Pujara b. Jadeja 36, Arunavinda de Silva c. Pujara b. Umesh 1, Kusal Mendis b. Pujara 1, Rohan de Silva c. Pujara b. Umesh 1, Lahiru Kumara c. Mohammed Shami b. Jadeja 0, Rangana Herath c. Pujara b. Umesh 0, Das Gunaratne abt hurt 0, O. Ravi b. Pujara 1, Dinesh Chandimal 10, Toshiv (All out) 76.5 Overs, 255. Fall of wickets: 1-29, 2-101, 3-116-4, 4-126, 5-242, 6-245-8. Bowling: Mohammad Shami 9-0-43-1, Ravichandran Ashwin 27-4-65-3, Hardik Pandya 7-0-21-0. – PTI

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Asifuzz Hussain (left) and Ganendra Lal Ghosh of Assam won silver (special event) and bronze (masters) respectively in the National Strength Lifting Championship in Guwahati, on Saturday.

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India were outstanding in all three departments: Herath

both picked injuries on the field, reducing the strength of both their batting and bowling line-ups.

"Losing Asela was a massive blow for us and he will be out for eight weeks. He has been scoring lot of runs for us in the last few months. He wasn't available to bat or bowl and that was a huge blow for us," he said.

"I had swelling because I had fracture three years ago in the same area. Above Dinesh Chandimal, there's no confirmation, but I expect him to play the next game," added the stand-in skipper.

Herath highlighted Shikhar Dhawan's impressive 190 runs for praise and explained how he coped with the task.

"We had a few plans for him but we allowed him too much of width. In the first session of the match itself the game started slipping away from us," he said.

"We bounced back well but he had by then got off to a terrific start. Some of our plans went very well but we were not 100 per cent perfect. That's the reason they went onto post 600 runs in their first innings," said Herath.

Herath did have some criticism for the Galle pitch, which was typical of the turnings tracks usually on display here.

"I told before the game too that this pitch will help batsmen a lot. Having said that, I expected the spinners to come into the equation in the fourth or fifth day. But this wicket didn't have much help for spinners either."

"Our wickets are different from each other. We expect a bit of turn in Galle. But there's no point in blaming anyone after you lose. The plain truth is that we didn't play well and we are to be blamed," said Herath.

Herath, however, outlined the performance of Nuwan Pradeep who picked up career-best 6-132 in the first Indian innings. – PTI

2 WOMEN PLUS

Alankrita Shrivastava boldly explores female sexuality.

3 MY SPACE

Kristi Sharma on the charm of solitude.

4 ALL THINGS CONSIDERED

Mitra Phukan greets the rains.

The Assam Tribune Sunday READING



Where dams are safe

PRADIP PUZARI writes why dams are not opposed in Nepal.



electricity connectivity so far. But, the country has enormous water resources from a large number of perennial and ice-fed Himalayan rivers having vast hydropower potential of around 80,000 MW. So, the Nepali Government is now planning to develop a hydro-powered economy through a large number of hydro power projects within a decade. The Nepal Electricity Authority is leading the mission with the help of some other public sector and private sector agencies of the country. Construction has already started in some projects, some are in planning and DPR stage and a few have already been commissioned. Construction and funding of major projects have been taken up by Korean, Japanese, Indian and Chinese agencies.

Now, the most important fact here is that not a single project in Nepal has been opposed by the public so far from the point of view of safety, secu-

rity and environmental hazard, except one or two projects on the grounds of inadequate land compensation and other benefits. That's because these projects will not invite any threat to the flow of the river or the lives and livelihood of the riparian people. Almost all the projects are of the 'Run of the River' type with low height dams and barrages to ensure and safeguard the environment and ecology of the Himalayan region. Hence, in spite of having enormous hydropower potential from these large rivers, the planned projects are very conservative and sustainable to avoid all kinds of downstream impacts; the largest project is being planned for 1200 MW only. This is also due to the fact that the geology of the region is poor, with young Himalayan rocks and may not be feasible for very high dams.

The Lower Sola H.E.P. is considered as the model project on the grounds of

John Lennon said of the crows: 'We were all on this ship in the Sixties, our generation, a ship going to discover the New World. And the Beatles were in the crow's nest of that ship.' Who wakes you up in the early hours of the dawn? However harsh you feel its voice, it is the voice of the crow that brings us out of slumber. The crow may be black, but it cries only when there is light. Our cock-crow morning is now more interesting when we come to know about the cognitive ability of the avian mind.

The Department of Cognitive Science of the Lund University, Sweden, tested the cognitive ability of the ravens and crows and came up with astonishing results. Ravens can anticipate future events based on their experience, almost like human beings in many cases. Earlier, ravens were associated with doom-laden myths and legends. Now the times have come to go beyond these ominous stories and fables. Aesop told many stories of cunning ravens and also about their super-intelligence. Shakespeare, in his two dramas, very distinctly referred to the planning ability of ravens. In *Macbeth*, Lady Macbeth refers to the ravens while she predicts the murder of King Duncan: *'The raven himself is hoarse/ That croaks the fatal entrance of Dun-*

can. The raven seems to have predicted the mishap here. The play *Hamlet* begins with the prediction of revenge where the Prince of Denmark mentions raven: *'Come the croaking raven doth/ bel- low for revenge.'* Edgar Allan Poe wrote about the raven, *'Much I marvelled this ungrateful fowl/ to hear discourses so'*

RATAN BHATTACHARJEE marvels at the smartness of crows.

A breed apart

In modern times, Ted Hughes wrote about the malevolent 'crow'. Politicians have succeeded in making our parliament or assembly halls a pandemonium by noisily imitating the crows and the ravens, forgetting sophistication and manners. Even the TV channels organise such debates on current issues where the experts and specialists shout more harshly than the crows. But still the crow is more than a crow. Researchers in Seattle have recent-

ly performed an experiment with some ravens to see if they can recognise human faces. They not only show their ability to recognise, but also that they can hold a grudge and plan future actions. Margaret Innes, an assistant curator at the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore rightly referred to the huge research on ravens to prove that they are intelligent species having the ability to recognise and predict. Since the last 200 million years, ravens have

environment, health and safety measures. The main principle of IFC Guidelines is 'preservation of environment and ensuring social security'. As per their strict guidelines, any development work executed under their funding must take measures for protection of the environment, safety and security of the people on priority basis and facilitating all-round socio-economic development of the region. In case of hydro power projects, the flow of the river cannot be blocked completely and must ensure that the wastes and debris of construction work cannot pollute the river and the nearby water bodies. A team comprising of engineers, environmentalists, social scientists and accountants used to visit the project in every three months and review the progress of work and carry out detailed inspection of environment, health and safety measures to be compiled as per guidelines. They inspect the river and the water bodies, slope protection and landslide protection works in the project area, muck and debris disposal system, hazardous and non-hazardous waste disposal system, all types of pollution control measures, compensatory afforestation works, etc., by going into the minutest details. They also observe all necessary details of safety and security measures, including all sorts of electrical and mechanical safety for the people engaged in the construction works and living in the project areas. All workers must use personal protection equipment like helmet, safety boot, safety jacket, safety belt, mask, etc., as per the nature of work. They collect leaves and fruits of the living plants of the project area to examine if the plants and vegetations are affected by the dust and pollution created in the construction works. Compulsory water springing system must be carried out along the project roads and leakage of diesel and other oils from the equipment to the ground surface not allowed for prevention of further pollution. Inspection of the residential colonies and labour camps are carried out to ensure the proper, healthy and comfortable living conditions of the construction workers. If it is observed during inspection that the project authority has failed to maintain all the above aspects according to their guidelines, any further financial assistance may be stopped by the lenders.

So, working in such an atmosphere, I feel that the Union Government and both the State governments of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh should come forward to formulate a comprehensive, integrated and sustainable plan for development of the vast water resource potential of the Brahmaputra River system through a safe and environment-friendly project for boosting the overall economy of the region. But, legitimate share of the benefits from the projects, including flood control and erosion protection, etc., must be assured for Assam, being the downstream State.

(pradippu@gmail.com)

shown their intelligence like the apes, such as chimpanzees, orangutans and gorillas who can all perform similar tasks. This is comparable to dogs and dolphins doing tasks involving social intelligence such as communication, conflict resolution and reasoning about what others are thinking. Crows organise meetings to resolve quarrels.

Researchers from the University of Iowa and the Moscow State University reported recently that crows and ravens can use analogies to match pairs of objects. They are also able to show that these corvid family members are clever problem-solvers, expert toolmakers and adept social movers. Thus, when Shakespeare talks of their predicting ability, the wheel has come a full circle when scientists have recently discovered startling truths about the covid minds handling abstract thinking or how closely their mental processes resemble those of humans. In fact, the New Caledonian crows are talented craftsmen with tool-making abilities. John Marzluff at the University of Washington used Positron Emission Tomography or PET to prove this point by studying the active parts of a crow's brain.

(profratanbhattacharjee@gmail.com)



From left: Vijay Varma and Kenny Basumatary

UP CLOSE

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Playing a leader

VIJAY VARMA and local lad

KENNY BASUMATARY talk

about their recently released film

Raag Desh.

head of the release of *Raag Desh*, plotted around the pre-Independence struggle, Kenny Basumatary, playing the role of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and actor Vijay Varma of *Pink* fame, who will be seen in the role of a journalist, were in town recently to promote their film. The duo talks about their expectations from the movie, their future plans and much more.

How did *Raag Desh* happen to both of you?

Kenny: Well, we were doing a movie titled *Yaara* together under the direction of Tigmanshu Dhulia. One fine day, the director asked me to drop in at his office. When I reached, he told me to come back with a clean-shaven look. I did not know what was happening exactly. Once I returned, he tried spectacles on me. And the role was finalised. The facial resemblance may have come to my advantage.

Vijay: I was just told that I am playing the role of a reporter and I am very happy about it. Unlike Kenny, who plays Netaji, I could bring in my own interpretation into it as the character is not heard of in history books.

Is it a biopic on Netaji?

Kenny: Although the story revolves around Netaji, it is not entirely about Netaji as such. The movie tries to depict the 1945 Red Fort trial and the changing equations of the Independence Movement. The movie should be able to make the audience identify with the characters and the script, which is somewhat unknown. Even the family members of the real life character (the soldiers who faced the court martial) appreciated the movie after they saw it. The special screening of the movie at the Rashiaprati Bhawan was a great experience indeed.

Vijay: I do not know if a movie on court martial has ever been made in Bollywood. At least I am not aware. The treatment given in *Raag Desh* should be very enriching and interesting at the same time.

Your movie is clashing with two other movies at the Box Office. Does that worry you guys?

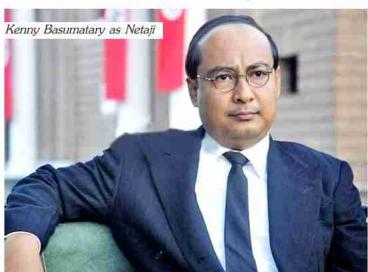
Kenny: These are things we cannot help. Having said that I firmly believe the movie that comes up with a better content and succeeds in engaging the audience will do well eventually. Publicity can only help draw crowds for the first two or three days.

Vijay: We have seen that in the recent past as well. *Hindi Medium* released alongside other movie(s). But we all know what happened. Even with movies like *Munnabhai Michael* and *Lipstick Under My Burkha* which got released this week, we all know which way the tide is heading. Word of mouth is what is more important than just big bang publicity.

A lot of research must have gone into the making of the movie? Kenny, how did you prepare yourself for the role of Netaji?

Kenny: Well, I read some of the books written on him to get a feel of the personality he was. Our research team provided me with videos and clippings of Netaji's speech and his accent. However, instead of just aping his accent and style completely, we have taken some cinematic license while portraying Netaji.

The books *His Majesty's Opponent* by Netaji's grandnephew Sugata Bose, *The Forgotten Army and Brothers Against the Raj* are some other well-researched books that I went through.



Did you meet the family members of Netaji to understand the nuances of Netaji's life and style better?

Kenny: No, but our research team did feed me with some very finer points about the man, which proved very helpful while essaying the role. Manipur had a very important place in our freedom struggle, especially vis-a-vis the movement led by Netaji. Do you guys feel sad that your movie will not be screened in Manipur – as Hindi movies are banned there?

Kenny: It is very unfortunate. This is a movie which every Indian should watch.

Vijay: It is disheartening that people of Manipur are prevented from watching their own story in their own motherland. I hope the conflict is resolved soon.

What are your future plans?

Kenny: I am in touch with a few people. A web series is also in the pipeline but nothing can be said for certain, as things are yet to be finalised.

Vijay: I will be seen in a few important roles very soon.

WOMEN PLUS

Shoma A. Chatterji

Lipstick tales

ALANKRITA SHRIVASTAVA on why women are still to get a free reign over their sexuality.

"S ex", "sizzle", "bomb", "item", "titillation", and short forms like TNC (thigh, navel, cleavage) are words inserted into the English lexicon purely when the female is the object and men, the subject. But the young **Alankrita Shrivastava**, who has directed *Lipstick Under My Burkha* has turned the tables on this patriarchal mindset. In this freewheeling chat, Shrivastava talks about the film and how women have to negotiate their way through life.

Is sexual liberation the bottom-line you have tried to push through *Lipstick Under My Burkha*?

Not really. But it all boils down to the suppression of sex or abuse of a woman across the patriarchal map, so the sexual desire of women seeped naturally into the script. I or my scriptwriter did not forcefully impose it into the film.

The four women in your film come from different walks of life, belong to different age groups and to different religious faiths. How did this idea strike you in the first place?

My personal experience of having grown up in different geographical and cultural backdrops in my growing years, my interactions with men and



It all boils down to the suppression of sex or abuse of the woman across the patriarchal map.



choices. So, when they must apply lipstick, they do it under the veil of the *burkha*, unknown to their immediate families.

So, the 'lipstick' and the 'burkha' of the title are metaphors, aren't they?

Yes, they are metaphors of how intelligent, angry and oppressed girls and women find their own way of negotiating through the obstacles and oppression and marginalisation they live within to make their own choices. They make it in secret, thus creating a double-life for themselves.

You have structured the film very interestingly – with the oldest of the four women, *Buaaji*, reading out from an erotic pulp novel and the content unfolding through the stories and experiences of these four women. How did this unusual treatment strike you?

I wanted to show that women too love reading erotica but, ridden by feelings of guilt that they have internalised through patriarchy, they read it in secret. *Buaaji*, you will notice, mostly reads the book hidden within the pages of a different book. Erotica is written more often from the male point of view and rarely from a female perspective. Why should tales of sex only be the purview of men? I think women subvert the point of view of stories through the way they communicate them.

Let us hear a bit about these four women.

Shirin, a *burkha*-clad housewife with three little boys, tolerates being raped by her husband every night but seeks freedom through her successful career as a saleswoman, clandestinely, of course. Rehana goes to college in a *burkha* but

immediately takes it off to reveal tight jeans and trendy tees. Leela is the boldest of them all. She seeks all nooks and corners and hidden places to enjoy sex with her Muslim boyfriend but actually seeks to go abroad with a new business in marriage make-up and honeymoon, and so on.

"Slut", "easy", "impure" and *gandi* are the terms associated with women who choose to pronounce and demonstrate their sexual desires. It's 2017 and "healthy sexual expression", especially by women, is still considered a taboo. Is this also a part of your film?

Look at some of the other characters, mainly men in the film. Leela's Muslim lover pushes her away when she says, "at least let us have sex," and never turns back. Rehana's boyfriend coolly backs out without turning a hair when she is in deep trouble. Shirin's husband not only rapes her every night, forces her to undergo repeat abortions, but also commands her to stop her high-salaried career. The elderly *Buaaji* is thrown out of her own house when her family realises that she has been making dirty phone calls to the swimming coach and also reading erotica on the sly.

What does it feel like that the film is showing in the theatres?

Great! The film was cleared for a theatrical release in India after the Film Certification Appellate Tribunal (FCAT) decided that the film can be issued an adult certificate. The FCAT, headed by former Delhi Lokayukta Justice Mamnoon Sarin observed that the CBFC "misdirected themselves in denying certification" to the women-oriented film.

– Trans World Features (TWF)

FASHION

Anteine Expery



Thinning tricks

It's actually possible to look slimmer than you are.

It's actually possible to look slimmer than you are. In her new book, *How to Never Look Fat Again*, style expert and author Charla Krupp shares some easy tips to look long, lean and lovely in an instant!

- Use jewellery strategically

Long necks add length to a short neck and bring attention away from the hips and to the front and



in everything – camis, tanks, tees, sweaters, cardigans and dresses.

- Pick simple, unadorned denim

Clean, streamlined jeans are the way to go. The most flattering styles are dark and feature unembellished pockets. Avoid extra details that catch the eye and give the illusion of bulk – think twice about tags, grommets, or decorative extras. The leanest silhouettes of all: boot cut and straight leg.

- Faux-tan

A salon spray tan or a do-it-yourself kit blends in blemishes (veins, cellulite, stretch marks, brown spots) that distract from the clean visual lines of exposed arms or legs. Don't want to go faux? All skin tones benefit from moisturising lotion, which diminishes those imperfections and projects a head-to-toe glow.

- Sport a jacket over jeans

The crisp straight lines and narrow lapels of a blazer counteract excess curves. An open jacket is extra-slimming worn over V-neck tanks and dark-wash jeans.

- Choose the right fabrics

* "Flat" materials don't add volume. Pick cotton, denim, silk, gabardine.

* Some fabrics actually help slim and shape. Try fine cotton and anything with a touch of spandex.

* Wear bulky materials sparingly,



centre of your body. Sparkly cuffs, stacks of bangles and cocktail rings draw the eye to the wrists, instead of upper arms.

- Wear skinny heels with pointy toes

Legs look slim and sexy in slits paired with a shoe that has a tapered toe and at least a two-inch stiletto. A slender toe and thin heel work to extend the narrow silhouette of calves. Square-toe styles with a thick, chunky heel give the appearance of a shorter, bulky leg.

- Embrace shapewear

Get pieces that smooth bulges while lifting breasts and the behind. Shapers with extra-firm tummy control work well worn under shifts and pencil skirts.

- Show some skin up-top

Expose a bit with a V-neckline. The open, upside-down triangle creates a high focal point up and away from your mid-section and gives the illusion of a longer, slimmer upper body. The more skin displayed between chin and chest (within reason!), the more elegant your proportion will appear; wider V-necklines visually balance broad hips and thighs. So, collect Vs

such as metallic, brocade, satin, etc.

- Stick with one hue

Top and bottoms of the same colour create an uninterrupted vertical line, making you look thinner and taller. Stark contrasts between your upper and lower body draw eyes to your middle.

- Match your shoe colour to your leg

Coordinate tones to elongate your bottom half. This summer, try neutral skin-hued versions with bare legs.

- Wear hair up and off your face

Pull tresses into a ponytail high on the back of your head and then lightly tease at the crown to bring out your bone structure and make your face look thinner.

(Courtesy: Getty)

RELATIONSHIP

Melinda Smith and Jeanne Segal

Lending a shoulder

How to support your loved ones through bereavement, grief, and loss



It can be difficult to know what to say or do when someone you care about is grieving. Maybe you feel there's little you can do to make things better. But while you can't take away the pain of the loss, you can provide the much-needed comfort and support.

Understanding the grieving process:

The better your understanding of grief and how it is healed, the better equipped you'll be to help a beloved friend or family member. Remember:

• **There is no right or wrong way to grieve.** Grief does not always unfold in orderly, predictable stages. It can be an emotional rollercoaster, with unpredictable highs, lows, and setbacks. Everyone grieves differently, so avoid telling your loved one what they "should" be feeling or doing.

• **Grief may involve extreme emotions and behaviours.** Feelings of guilt, anger, despair, and fear are common. A grieving person may yell to the heavens, obsess about the death, lash out at loved ones, or cry for hours on end. Your loved one needs reassurance that what they feel is normal. Don't judge them or take their grief reactions personally. What to say to someone who is grieving?

Many of us feel awkward when we're trying to comfort someone who has experienced a significant loss. Often, we're unsure what we should say or do. These suggestions may help:

- Offer your support. Example: "Tell me what I can do for you."
- Supporting a grieving person:
- Listen with compassion

While all of us worry about what to say to a grieving person, it's actually more important to know how to listen. Often times, well-meaning people avoid talking about the death or change the subject when the deceased person is mentioned. But the bereaved need to feel that their loss is acknowledged, it's not too terrible to talk about, and their loved one won't be forgotten. By listening compassionately, you can take your cues from the grieving person. Never try to force

someone to open up, but let your grieving loved one know that you're there to listen if they want to talk about their loss.

• Accept and acknowledge all feelings. Let the grieving person know that it's okay to cry in front of you, to get angry, or to break down. Don't try to reason with them over how they should or shouldn't feel.

Don't press if the grieving person doesn't feel like talking. Often, comfort for them comes from simply being in your company. If you can't think of something to say, just offer eye contact, a squeeze of the hand, or a reassuring hug.

We're trying to comfort someone who has experienced a significant loss. Often, we're unsure what we should say or do. These suggestions may help.

- Acknowledge the situation. Example: "I heard that your... died." That will show that you are more open to talk about how the person really died.
- Express your concern. Example: "I'm sorry to hear that this happened to you."
- Be genuine in your communication. Don't hide your feelings. Example: "I'm not sure what to say, but I want you to know I care."

Many of us feel awkward when

Cottage cheese in cashew sauce

Ingredients:

- Cottage cheese cube (paneer) 1 cup
- Cashew nuts 25 pieces
- Raisins 10
- Clarified butter (ghee) 3 tsps
- Cumin seeds 1/2 tsp
- Green cardamom(s) 1-2
- Onions, grated 3 tsps
- Red chillies (dried) 2
- Milk 1 cup
- Salt to taste

Method:

Soak the cashew nuts and raisins in half cup of warm water for half an hour and grind to a smooth paste.

Heat clarified butter in a frying pan. Fry the cottage cheese cubes, until lightly browned on each side.

Transfer them to a bowl of boiling water and allow them to soak for 20 minutes.



To the remaining fat, add the red chillies and cumin seeds and allow them to splutter.

Add the onion paste and fry until soft and starting to colour.

Stir in the cashew paste and cook, stirring, until thick.

Drain the cottage cheese. Add to the pan along with milk. Season with salt.

Simmer on low heat until milk reduces to gravy.

Serve with pulao or Indian bread of your choice.

CULINARY CORNER SHARMIN PASHA

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

Mixed pulao

- Ingredients:**
- Fragrant rice 2 cups
 - Hot water 2 1/2 cups
 - Shelled peas 1/2 cup
 - Potato cubes 1/2 cup
 - Cashew nuts 8
 - Raisins 10
 - Onions, thinly sliced 2
 - Bay leaves 2
 - Cloves 2
 - Green cardamoms 3
 - Cinnamon 1 stick
 - Cumin seeds 1/2 tsp
 - Shahi cumin seeds 1/2 tsp
 - Pure ghee or oil 4 tsps
 - Salt to taste

Method:

Wash rice in several changes of water. Place the rice in a bowl, cover with cold water and leave to soak for 30 minutes.

Heat ghee in a heavy-based pan.

Add the cashew nuts and raisins and fry until

the raisins puff up. Remove and set aside.

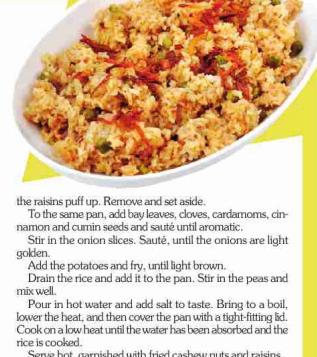
To the same pan, add bay leaves, cloves, cardamoms, cinnamon and cumin seeds and sauté until aromatic. Stir in the onion slices. Sauté until the onions are light golden.

Add the potatoes and fry, until light brown.

Drain the rice and add it to the pan. Stir in the peas and mix well.

Pour in hot water and add salt to taste. Bring to a boil, lower the heat, and then cover the pan with a tight-fitting lid. Cook on a low heat until the water has been absorbed and the rice is cooked.

Serve hot, garnished with fried cashew nuts and raisins.



FICTION

Indrani Raimeshi

indrani.raimeshi@gmail.com

Sandeep and Suravi have just made love in their dark bedroom after a two-week gap in which they had perhaps forgotten that desire was possible, and more so, its fulfillment. Now Sandeep lay solidly beside her, breathing deeply and evenly, lost in sleep. Suravi too turned on her side, closing her eyes, spent and pleasantly languid. She dreamily thought that forty-five was not something that one felt regretful about. On a night such as this, years ago, not knowing it yet, their lives had changed, binding them inexorably together... her body tensed. Somewhere in the whorls of memory, twisting and turning, a thought became conscious, insistent, urgent. She felt that all too familiar rise of panic, the prickling unease that caught her breath at the back of her throat. She knew she could not sleep now. She crept out of bed and padded barefoot out of the room. The whole house lay silent and dark. In the second bedroom she retrieved her keys from her bag. Trying to make as little noise as possible, she inserted the key to the lock of her almirah. She switched on the light and sighed. Where would she begin? When had she seen it last? Was it even there? But her blood pulsed with an urgency that was almost unbearable. She began to carry folders, cardboard boxes of papers over to the bed. As the world turned on its axis, as dogs barked outside and trains hurtled through the night, as the madman wrapped himself in cardboard, Suravi sat hunched on the bed, a strap falling across her shoulder and the thin night outlining her shape. With infinite patience her hands shuttled through photographs, birthday and anniversary cards, letters, warranty cards, tickets to plays and concerts. As the minutes ticked by the sense of loss, of desolation grew upon her. She cursed herself for remembering it, and for being what she was, so intense, so fearful of loss, almost to the point of being demented. The bed was full of papers she had hoarded over the years. Nothing was of value to anyone but herself. She pushed aside the papers to one side. Something fluttered to the floor. A small square piece of paper,



Memories of loss

brittle, yellowing. She held it in her hand, her eyes wide. There it was – the name of the clinic, the words Gravindex Test and below it, in blue ink, the slanting letter... positive.

"Mom," Arya stood on the doorway, looking at her sleepily. "What's up?" He had heard sounds from his room, and seen the light. She smiled radiantly at him.

"Look at this," she held out the piece of paper. "The first time we knew you were coming, darling."

"Go back to sleep, Mom," he said gently. "This is not normal, you know."

This weakness in her went beyond what Sandeep and Arya were able to guess. Two months ago she had returned from office taut with anxiety. Through an entire afternoon she had rummaged through her collection of books for Nabokov's *Laughter in the Dark*. A man doomed by the love of a much younger woman. It was a slim volume, almost in tatters. It was nowhere to be found. She could order it on Flipkart. But the new book could never take the place of the old one. Because that book of doomed love was given to her by Ranjeev. History honours, debating champion, exchange of a single drunken kiss in the darkened auditorium watching a staging of

A Midsummer Night's Dream. Then she was on Facebook homing in on him frantically. Something that had not occurred to her before. There he was, corporate professional, Mumbai. In a relationship. She messaged him, asking for his number. It took him two days to respond. Straightaway she guessed he had not given her message much thought... had not even made the connection or checked her profile. He was a little wary, polite, holding back. Then he laughed, remembering and said if she ever came to Mumbai, to please get in touch. Another showponer convention.

"You have to do something for me," she said, trying to keep her voice steady. "You have to courier a book to me. Its *Laughter in the Dark*. Nabokov, remember? You gave it to me on our last day. Your signed it. I want you to order it, sign it, courier it to me. That's all I want. Please, Ranjeev."

There was a pause. "You are always a little strange, Suravi. Is this your way of saying you are ready mingling?"

She never called him again.

Two years after she lost her father, she went to spend a day with her mother. Her mother had surrounded herself with his photographs. She had a cabi-

net built where she kept his diaries, his spectacles and his wedding ring. Suravi felt a strange silence at her mother's orderness, everything accounted for.

"Ma, where is the lithograph of Tagore that Baba got from Santiniketan? The one we had in our Shillong drawing room wall?"

"Oh!" her mother said vaguely. "He must have put it away somewhere."

"But where is it? Why isn't it on a wall? That print reminds me of Baba... can you call Rathin and get a step ladder to the attic? I would know where to look."

Please don't, Suravi. What does that matter, when he is gone? How many things must I try to save and for what?"

October brought with it its golden sunshine. Sandeep took her to Shillong. Arya wanted to stay back home. They took a room at Pinewood. The next day, Sandeep expected she would go shopping for shoes and winter clothes. Instead, Suravi wanted to go to Golf Larks. While Sandeep sat on a grassy knoll, slipping out of a can of Fosters, Suravi strode further and further from him, venturing deep into the copse of pines, as if sleepwalking. Eons ago she had held on to the hand of her youngest uncle, Ma's brother, Baba and Ma close behind. *Mai Mama* had said he was taking them to the most secret place in the world, a place unknown to any other human soul, animal, bird or insect, and that she would have to keep it a secret too. And then, the dense dark pines had opened to a perfectly oval field of waving grass, the wind rippling against it, and above them the sun emerged from a bank of clouds, lighting up the emerald oval like a cosmic spotlight.

But now in the present Suravi walked in and out of pine copses without finding the magical oval she never forgot. Because she lost that place, she felt she had lost a part of her life, lost people she had loved and most of all, the permanence of the past.

They drove back to Pineview. As Sandeep sat watching television Suravi caught a glimpse of herself in the mirror. She had fine lines around her eyes and mouth, there was a gauntness on her face. Unknown to her, even as she tried to hold on to things she cherished, her youth had tip-toed away and Suravi realised at the moment that she did not know how she could summon the will to begin her search for it.

People Speak

Today's topic
"Why are some government teachers not motivated enough?"

Teaching is not just a job. It is a whole life. It is an environment that fosters learning and good pupil behaviour. Professionally, teachers struggle more because of incomplete facilities. When teachers are equipped with all the instructional materials and updated technological tools required in classrooms, it makes their job easier. Seminars and professional development programmes to encourage collaboration, knowledge and skill upgrade, and to understand student behavioural issues should be enabled in rural areas.

They should be encouraged to take ownership and accountability to prevent student dropouts due to lack of creativity in teaching methods. Innovative classrooms nurture better learning outcome and this is only possible in a friendly environment. The efforts of good teachers must be recognised and appreciated to keep them motivated through awards or appreciation letters from the Ministry of Education. Providing rewards to teachers who can raise the average grade in their class will not only motivate them to do well, but also foster quality education.

— Nellie Ahmed,
Educationist.



The decreasing number of students in government schools is playing a major role in demotivating the teachers. Most parents are running after private schools, irrespective of their earnings, which leaves very few students opting for government-run schools.

Besides, the continuous stress of the administration and the society hardly allows teachers to teach in their own way. Again, the lack of promotion, unlike other professions, has also created problems in this regard.

— Pulakesh Das,
Tepur University.

It is a harsh truth that a substantial number of teachers in government-run schools remain unperturbed by the performance of the students. This might be due to lack of adequate recognition from concerned authorities. Also, the government authorities have not succeeded in providing sufficient training programmes to teachers, which has been a major reason hampering enthusiastic teaching. Organising discussion sessions among teachers, finding out ways to enhance teaching techniques can hardly be seen, which brings monotony in their profession. Moreover, an incentive scheme should be introduced – based on their performance, which will ensure motivation among the teachers to perform to the best of their capability.

— Abhijit Kalita,
Guwahati.



Motivation is correlated with job satisfaction; government teachers aren't fully satisfied with their jobs. Lack of proper infrastructure and absence of quality students in government schools are the two primary demotivational elements among government teachers. Also, there are some hidden causes for demotivation of government school teachers – students of government schools are basically from a poor background, so it is quite understandable that they prioritise work rather than studies. Consequently, government teachers find it difficult to get motivated as the students aren't equally interactive with them.

— Sanjib Das,
Cotton University.

Due to the lack of proper management of the concerned government authorities, some teachers, especially in secondary and higher secondary levels, are not motivated enough. Further, poor infrastructure, admission of some students of poor IQ, lack of impartial assessment of some dedicated teachers, and not acknowledging the merit of a good teacher or not extending incentive or encouragement to them makes them demotivated.

It is noteworthy that education itself is an art of acquisition of knowledge. Teachers themselves must be dedicated to attain success.

— Dr. Akon Chandra Saikia,
Retd. Principal, Kokajan College.



LEGAL EASE

Ankit Todi

E-mail your questions to:
legalaid@assamtribune.com

■ My husband and I have been married for 10 years, and we still do not have any children. We want to legally adopt a child now. How can we do it?

— Pooja

Ans.: The three legislations that allow Indian citizens to adopt children are, Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956, Guardians and Wards Act, 1890, and Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act, 2000. Indian citizens, non-resident Indians and non-Indians residing outside India can adopt a child from India under any one of the three Acts, with different set of rules applicable for each of the category of adopting parents. The Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act, 1956, deals specifically with the legal process of adopting children by a Hindu adult and applies only to Hindus and all those considered as Hindus, subject to their fulfilment of certain

As one's own



LEGAL STEPS TO ADOPT A CHILD

criteria. The first is that the adopting parent is a Hindu. Second, they have the capacity to be able to provide for the adopted child. Third, the child must be capable of being adopted. And fourth, compliance with all other specifications must be met to make the adoption valid. The consent of both spouses is necessary if they adopt as a couple. Husbands can

adopt if they have the consent of their wife. Legal adoption can be done through Specialised Adoption Agencies (SAAs) recognised by State Governments which facilitate adoption of Indian children as per Adoption Guidelines. Adopting directly from nursing homes, maternity homes or hospitals through middlemen might be misleading and lead to illegal

adoption. One can decide to adopt a baby, a toddler or even an older child. As per Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act, 1956, an adopted child can be either male or female but must fall under the Hindu category. He/she also needs to be unmarried and cannot be of the age of sixteen or older. However, if the particular custom or usage is applicable to the involved parties then the adopted child can be married. Adoptive parents should be physically, mentally and emotionally stable and not have any life threatening medical condition. Minimum age difference between the child and either of the adoptive parents should not be less than twenty one years. There are documentary requirements to validate the parent's ability to take care of a child, viz. PAN Card/Passport, proof of residence and income, copy of marriage certificate, Birth certificates of parents, Medical practitioner's certificate for parent's fitness (no chronic, contagious or fatal disease), an undertaking from a relative to take care of the child in case of mishap, if the prospective is a single parent.

plugging in my earphones and listening to my favourite music every time my stress hormones bother me. The relaxation is like a cup of coffee to a sleepy head that can't walk out of its comfortable bed easily.

For all those times when you chose your favourite sound-track to distract yourself from your sorrows and pain, you only sought the company of a song with the soothing solitude. Now, who possibly doesn't like music? Every person has his or her own favourites when it comes to music. Being a student, it becomes impossible to stay happy and relaxed all the time. The burden that seems to have made a permanent room in your shoulders can only be shooed away by sitting and just giving it some time. Music helps, has been helping for ages and will keep helping till永远. I can, by no means, overlook the satisfaction I receive when I walk through our terrace,

ing the raindrops through the window. It's a beautiful thing, especially when you sit down, watching the rain, one hand holding a book and the other your cup of coffee. Those who have had this experience before, I can bet you are smiling right now reading this sentence. But those of you who haven't had it yet, go! What are you waiting for? The rain, yeah, probably yes...

So, the whole purpose behind this entire discussion was nothing but to feel the beauty that solitude holds in it. When there is no one around you, everything is silent and just perfect in a way you want, you get to listen to the language that I was once seeking. I found it: I hear it most of the time. It's like that vacant spot in my heart has been filled up with the contentment I always needed. And I love this thing I call the language of solitude. Trust me, solitude speaks.

MY SPACE

Kristi Sharma

kristisharmadpw@gmail.com

E ver since I decided to listen to its language, I started to hear solitude speak to me. There is a beautiful silence in the air that goes telling me tales I had never heard of. Tales about love or breathtaking adventures started filling up the void in a way that none but I can see. The soft wind that caresses me, recites to me a beautiful poem that brings pictures of a valley I had never been to. Just close your eyes for a minute and think of the last time when you sat alone and felt the presence of Nature beside you. Isn't that memory still a fascinating one?

I prefer solitude over chaos and people. Don't you know it is like that, or why I can't change even after Mom and Dad straightforwardly disapproved of this habit when they spotted it for

the first time. They fail to accept that something good can happen when I sit all alone. And I just sit smiling at them, because I don't know how to tell them that they are wrong. Of course, a good book and complete silence can matter a lot to certain people, whereas a lot others won't be able to understand it anyway. For the ones who do, let's just reminisce those beautiful moments. Remember that time when you had a Dickens or Shakespeare in your hands and all you could think of doing was to read between the lines and understand the story as your life somehow depended on it? Well, I can recall my thing here. I perfectly remember doing the same with paperbacks like *Life is What You Make It* or *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*. I remember burying myself completely inside *The Fault*

When solitude speaks



When there is no one around you, everything is silent and just perfect in a way you want, you get to listen to the language that I was once seeking.

Rain drenched

The Monsoons. Rains. Like so many other things in life, the rains of this season mean different things to different people, living in diverse regions within this vast and varied country of ours.

The rains and the monsoons have been celebrated across many parts of our land. Through song and dance, through movies and music, through art and cuisine, the arrival of the rains has been heralded with joy in them. India's geographical and topographical variety has given rise to the varied hues of reactions to the rain.

In many parts of the country, especially the great plains of Central and Northern India, summer is a sweltering season, with temperatures soaring to levels that cause heat stroke and deaths. The dryness of the atmosphere seems to suck out the very life of those who need to venture out, while the hot dry winds of summer sweep across the plains in a series of fiery days and burning nights. Even in coastal areas such as Maharashtra, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala, the presence of the sea mitigates the heat only a little.

No wonder the monsoons, with their water and their coolness, are awaited with such anxiety. Skies are scanned for signs of clouds. Its arrival is greeted with dances in the streets, with people glorying in getting drenched. People come in from neighbouring countries to celebrate the monsoons, and watch the majestic show that Nature puts up at this season. Indeed, monsoon-watching is an activity that engages everybody, not just agriculturists for whom their livelihoods depend on the monsoons.

The land reverberates to the songs of the rainy seasons. *Myan Mallar, Goud Mafhar Desh*...the entire gamut of monsoon Ragas fall sweetly on our ears, while immortal Bollywood numbers such as *O Saajna* are on people's lips. Kajris and other folk songs celebrating the rains are heard all around as gradually, the cooled earth gives way to a gentle post-monsoon season.

Like in so many other aspects of life, the scene in India's North-East is a little different. For one, we do not really have a clearly demarcated "summer" season. True, there is the *Grissha* or summer, which is meant to follow Spring. But

Spring is such a joyous time in these valleys of ours, that we hardly know when it gives way to the brief summer. There is the time of festivity in mid-April, the Bo-hag Bihu, celebrations of which linger on till well into May. And during this time, the *Bordoisiles* bring in sudden storms accompanied by rains that sometimes cool things so much that one has to wear light woolens. True, there are the few days of *Khor* or dryness around the month of *Jeth*,

ALL THINGS CONSIDERED

Mitra Phukan



Rivers turn into roaring monsters, their fury uncontaminated by their banks, which burst early in the season. Rain and rivers, sky and earth merge into one monstrous torrent of water.

or end-May, but the temperatures never go up to the 40s as they do in much of the rest of Plains India.

And then, of course, it's time for the rains proper.

These rains, too, are different. They pour down on us, without letup, sometimes for days, even weeks on end. There is no respite from the unending, heavy, swollen clouds that boil up from the horizon, dark with menace. Lightning flashes across the sky in deafening displays, as the water falls down in endless sheets. No, these are not the needless of rain that fall gently in other places. These are thunderous Niagaraes that roar down relentlessly, frighteningly, with no end in sight.

Soon, everything is awash. Rivers turn into roaring monsters, their fury uncontaminated by their banks, which burst early in the season. Rain and rivers, sky and earth merge into one monstrous torrent of water. No, there is no dancing in the

streets, no monsoon celebrations. Instead, there are anxious looks cast towards skies and fields, towards *chapors* and sand bars that can get washed away by a river's torrential fury.

Even as the rain pours down, villagers depots committees to watch the river banks. Big clods of earth crash into the waters below with colossal sounds that bring entire villages awake. The hungry rivers, aided by the unceasing, roaring rains eat away the land. Houses, fields are swallowed in this *tanduva* between river and rain. Huge trees come crashing down. The deluge renders people homeless, farmers landless. People are stranded on chars that are suddenly made minuscule by relentless erosion, and all they can do is look up at the skies and pray for succour, or a relief boat that will take them to an embankment somewhere. Possessions, even the meagre pots and pans and livestock they owned, have long since vanished into the slobbering jaws of the hungry river.

Those who are prepared, shift to boats. These become their homes. Cooking, sleeping, even birthing happens here, as the rising rivers rage around them, and the rains beat down relentlessly.

Everywhere, animals, insects, reptiles, seek higher land. In this battle for survival against the elements, people and animals co-exist in strange ways. Serpents seek shelter in thatched roofs, while below them a family and their cattle watch the rising waters fearfully.

In the towns, roads are rampant rivers. People are swept away, or are electrocuted by live wires. Everything is damp, wet, everything smells fetid. Fungus spreads within hours. So, also, does disease. The water carries Death, in multiple ways.

In this season when all creation is in survival mode, there are few festivals even in a land that loves festivities. One of them is the annual *Ambubachi*, when a Goddess menstruates, and pilgrims visit the Kamakhya Temple, whose doors, however, are closed at that time. Always, with one exception, it rains when the doors to the temple are re-opened "cleaning" the menstruating deity.

All Things Considered, the rains in our part of the world are an awe-inspiring reminder that Nature can overpower even the best laid plans of mere humans.

Mitra Phukan is a novelist, short story writer, translator and trained Shasthya Sangeet vocalist.

FORECAST

JULY 31 – AUGUST 6, 2017

ARIES

(MAR 21– APR 19)

You have the chance for a total restart in three parts of your life now and over the next few days. Those three parts of your life are romance, creativity and kids.

TAURUS

(APR 20– MAY 20)

There are big changes afoot for you when it comes to your home and family situation. Whether you're buying or selling, renovating or redecorating, something in your personal life is shifting.

GEMINI

(MAY 21– JUN 20)

Are you changing your mind about someone or something? Do it. Focus on the good things in life, there will be more good to focus on. Try it.

CANCER

(JUN 21– JUL 20)

Did you know that Cancerians are renowned for being good with money? You will often find crabs with a nice little stockpile of spare cash. This is the week to get all those good money habits in place and working.

LEO

(JUL 21– AUG 20)

Leo, to be frank, you were always an impressive sign, but this week you're really out-doing yourself. You need to forget about the past. Doesn't matter what has happened. What matters now is what you want to do with your life.

VIRGO

(AUG 21– SEP 20)

Let's hope you have figured out the benefits of meditation, contemplation, spirituality, and so on; that you can see how having an 'inner' life and reflection actually makes your life better.

LIBRA

(SEP 21– OCT 20)

If you would like to make more friends, then you're in luck. Over the course of the next four weeks, there will be a new start for you when it comes to the people you spend your time with.

SCORPIO

(OCT 21– NOV 20)

If you're focussed on making more money and succeeding professionally, then you're in 'luck', so to speak. Your hard work is actually going to pay off, and there could even be some accolades coming in.

SAGITTARIUS

(NOV 21– DEC 20)

If any sign is capable of looking on the bright side and keeping things in perspective, you are. And if any sign needs to look on the bright side and keep perspective, you do!

CAPRICORN

(DEC 21– JAN 20)

As Mercury, the mind planet, moves out of your credit zone, it's likely you'll have debt reduction and paperwork management back on your brain. The fun's over, now who's gonna pay for it?

AQUARIUS

(JAN 21– FEB 19)

So how's your love life, Aquarius? If you're single or just going through the motions in your current relationship, then change could come now. This is the time to move on from the past.

PISCES

(FEB 20– MAR 20)

There is a strong message coming to you from the heavens now and in the coming days; you need to do something about the rhythm of your days. Make some changes in life.

streets, no monsoon celebrations. Instead, there are anxious looks cast towards skies and fields, towards *chapors* and sand bars that can get washed away by a river's torrential fury.

Even as the rain pours down, villagers depots committees to watch the river banks. Big clods of earth crash into the waters below with colossal sounds that bring entire villages awake. The hungry rivers, aided by the unceasing, roaring rains eat away the land. Houses, fields are swallowed in this *tanduva* between river and rain. Huge trees come crashing down. The deluge renders people homeless, farmers landless. People are stranded on chars that are suddenly made minuscule by relentless erosion, and all they can do is look up at the skies and pray for succour, or a relief boat that will take them to an embankment somewhere. Possessions, even the meagre pots and pans and livestock they owned, have long since vanished into the slobbering jaws of the hungry river.

Those who are prepared, shift to boats. These become their homes. Cooking, sleeping, even birthing happens here, as the rising rivers rage around them, and the rains beat down relentlessly.

Everywhere, animals, insects, reptiles, seek higher land. In this battle for survival against the elements, people and animals co-exist in strange ways. Serpents seek shelter in thatched roofs, while below them a family and their cattle watch the rising waters fearfully.

In the towns, roads are rampant rivers. People are swept away, or are electrocuted by live wires. Everything is damp, wet, everything smells fetid. Fungus spreads within hours. So, also, does disease. The water carries Death, in multiple ways.

In this season when all creation is in survival mode, there are few festivals even in a land that loves festivities. One of them is the annual *Ambubachi*, when a Goddess menstruates, and pilgrims visit the Kamakhya Temple, whose doors, however, are closed at that time. Always, with one exception, it rains when the doors to the temple are re-opened "cleaning" the menstruating deity.

All Things Considered, the rains in our part of the world are an awe-inspiring reminder that Nature can overpower even the best laid plans of mere humans.

Mitra Phukan is a novelist, short story writer, translator and trained Shasthya Sangeet vocalist.

NEWMAKERS

Compiled by: Bidisha Singh

INDIAN WOMEN'S CRICKET TEAM

When Mitali Raj's girl brigade reached the finals of the ODI World Cup recently, the whole of India woke up from their Kohli-Shastri induced coma and showered them with praises galore. Social media went into an overdrive as former cricketers, politicians, actors and commoners sang paeans for the Women in Blue. While it was heartbreak for them at the finals, they clearly managed to win over millions of Indian hearts.



GST

The month of July became a dreaded month for Indians as the government finally rolled in the much-talked about GST (Goods and Services Tax). Change is constant, they say, but it's never really welcomed with open hearts. Same was the case with GST. Some were apprehensive, some confused and some downright hostile. But as the dust settles down, there seems to be a slight change in the nation's mood.

ROGER FEDERER

There is nothing more that one can write about a champion like him. With 18 Grand Slams in his kitty before he walked into the All England Club this year, he had nothing left to prove. Perhaps the legend wanted to feel the euphoria of another win at his favourite grass court and thus claimed Grand Slam No. 19. In the process, he became the only man to win eight times at this prestigious tournament.

RJ MALISHKA

The rains have inspired many a musician, but when RJ Malishka of Red FM-fame penned a parody on Mumbai's potholes, the BMC wasn't too thrilled. Acting like petulant schoolgirls, the BMC sent a team to her Mumbai home and slapped silly notices on the family. The RJ, however, is undeterred and has vowed to make more such songs, and FM stations all over the city have joined their pothole-revolution, so have many vigilant Mumbaiites.



5 THINGS/ Play's the thing

'See, Hear, Think, Feel and Imagine'

SATTYAKEE D'COM BHUYAN on why theatre is so essential in today's times.



1 Bring in the young

There's a reason why I thought of getting young adults or teenagers to stage *Shakespeare's Soliloquies* the other day. I somehow have paced through that teen period unlike many others and it was such a weird, confusing, tumultuous time for me, and where better to explore the intensities and complexities of adolescence than somewhere as intense and ever-changing as a theatre?

2 Getting a kick

To share the truth, I kind of fell into it, because I'm a bit of a big kid myself. I love what I do, and I find working with young adults so very amusing. Likewise, I get a kick out of passing on what I do. I don't have a huge philosophy around it, my style has always been a practical one, let's just go out and have fun together, learn new things collectively and work as a team. Furthermore, it's not just about what they can learn but what I learn from working with them makes the difference.

Kaustub Kashyap

A visa-free holiday!

Mesmerised with the idea of going abroad for a vacation – but want to avoid the hassle of the visa process? Worry not, because your Indian passport is strong enough to afford arrival into several countries without the requirement of a prior visa. While a few countries do not require visa at all, others are happy to stamp one on your passport on arrival. So, where will you go?

Bhutan: A country where the Gross Nation Happiness is valued higher than their Gross Domestic Product, Bhutan is also called the land of happiness. Lucky for Indian's as we do not require a visa to visit this country.

After landing at Paro, head straight to Thimphu, Bhutan's capital, this will take you about an hour. Visit the Buddha Point and Punakha, which is about three hours away. En route, halt at the Dochula Pass.

Hong Kong: You can stay in Hong Kong free-visa for up to 14 days. A global financial hub, you will witness several skyscrapers here.

Mauritius: Indians can visit this beautiful country without the need of a prior visa. It offers visa on arrival for Indian nationals. What's more, you can stay here for up to 60 days. Not just beaches, this island nation is home to rainforests, waterfalls, hiking trails and ample wildlife.

Bolivia: Bolivia boasts of six UNESCO World Heritage Sites and more importantly, is home to (a part of) the Amazon jungle. One of its most popular tourist attractions is the Witches' Market where you will find *gatris* wearing black hats and selling potions, powders and amulets to enhance your beauty, luck and fertility.



"I like being married because it helps me cope with all the problems I wouldn't have if I wasn't married."

3 Countering technology

Now, I have a personal worry that if we are not slightly vigilant, these bright young ones will be forever lost to their cellphones, iPads, television screens (with more than 1000 channels to explore), digital game addiction and all those associated special effects. They will never have experienced the joy of watching something "live" – especially for them in one particular place on one particular day. That's what the "liveliness" of theatre is about and what we have got to keep alive.

4 Theatre fires the imagination

Theatre, particularly theatre for children, fires the imagination; it gives our children the skills and the creativity necessary to face the world, to understand it and perhaps to change it too. We should value children's theatre and take it seriously and that means treating it with the respect that we would any work of art, including reviewing and critiquing it.

5 Drama teaches empathy

Drama has always been an excellent tool to help people overcome their inhibitions and enhance imagination skills. Likewise, we encourage young adults to work cohesively and creatively, which, in turn, leads to an overall development of the young minds and improves communication skills, working alongside other young people who share a passion for drama and theatre. But the benefit that I particularly value is that drama teaches empathy. In the process, they themselves express better and become more confident.

(As told to Indrani Raivedhi)

JAMAICA HOME OF ALL RIGH

Jamaica: Grab your passport and fly to Jamaica. The birthplace of Reggae music and the country that gave us Bob Marley, Jamaica is a land known for its rich cultural heritage and historical reminiscences.

Fiji: If you love the sun, sand, beaches and a relaxing holiday, plan a trip to Fiji. Head to Denarau Island. Honeymooning couples can visit the Mamanuca Islands and those who love wildlife can check out the Kula Eco Park.

VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines: Another Caribbean nation, SVG is a cluster of 32 islands with coral reefs, lagoons, beaches and tropical rainforests. You can indulge in yachting, scuba diving and staying in luxurious rooms in these islands.

DOMINICA

Commonwealth of Dominica: Indians can visit this island country without a visa and stay there for up to six months.

The Morne Trois Pitons National Park should definitely be on your list when here. It has the Boiling Lake, sulphur vents and Trafalgar Falls.

Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus: A vibrant nightlife, shopping areas, entertainment facilities and beaches, TRNC is a holiday destination for those looking to have a fun time. Not just this, you can also go cycling and birdwatching here.

Kish Island: Ranked among the 10 beautiful islands of the world, Kish Island is a shopper's paradise with several centres and tourist attractions to look for.

The population of Kish Island is only 26,000 but the number of tourists who come here is so high that *The New York Times* included it in its list of 10 most beautiful islands in the world.

Cook Islands: You can book your tickets to Cook Islands without any visa hassle. Don't miss going to Avarua for their Saturday market which has live performances as well.

Altitude is the main tourist hotspot in Cook Islands and the blue lagoon here is its prime attraction.

The BETTER HALF

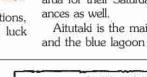
by GLASBERGEN

Tutoring HARRY STANLEY PRASER

"I never agree with anything you say. That's why I hate it when you compliment me!"

"I'm updating my resume. Should I add that I'm biodegradable, organic and locally grown?"

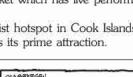
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