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RN-1127/57 TECH/GH - 104/2015-2017, VOL. 79, NO. 74, GUWAHATI, SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2017, Pages 24

Price Rs. 6.00



NEWS CAPSULE

Tripura probe

AGARTALA, March 18: An investigation ordered by the PWD after its personnel were caught in a row with locals in Tripura over killing of three civilians who had protested alleged molestation by some paramilitary personnel... PTI
(Also see Page 10)

Tax defaulters

NEW DELHI, March 18: Tightening the noose major tax defaulters, the Income Tax Department on Saturday made public the names of individuals and corporates who owe Rs 448.02 crore in taxes to the government. —IANS

Agra blasts

LUCKNOW, March 18: Two low-intensity blasts were felt in Agra on Saturday. The explosions came close on the heels of a terror attack in State that it will attack the Taj Mahal, after which security was beefed up at the historical monument on Friday. —IANS

The Assam Tribune on Internet
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Sunday
Conservation insights
Parinirvata
Liquid wealth
Zoba Zorah Ansari
Hola, Latin America!
Bandha Sama
■ WOMEN PLUS: Bit of plainspeak Indranil Raimedi
■ BEAUTY: The natural way Zarin Saleh Hussain
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■ MY SPACE: A letter to my daughter Tejaswini Barua
■ ALL THINGS CONSIDERED: An en masse migration Mitra Phukan
Plus all our regular features

Dalai NE visit not to hit Sino-Indian ties

DUTTA CHOUDHURY

GUWAHATI, March 18: His Holiness the Dalai Lama is an honoured guest of India and he is free to visit any place of the country. This is the view of the Government of India on the ensuing visit of the Tibetan spiritual leader to the Northeast.

The Chinese government

has objected to the visit of the Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh and warned that the visit would affect the relations between India and China. But the Government of India has a very clear stand on

the issue and played down the Chinese threat.

Highly placed sources in the Government of India told *The*

Tibetan spiritual guru is honoured guest of India

Assam Tribune that no restriction would be imposed on the movement of the Dalai Lama within India. Sources also expressed the view that the visit of the Dalai Lama

would not affect the relations between India and China.

As the Government of India considers the Dalai Lama as an honoured guest of the country, he is free to visit any part of the country. Tawang is an integral part of India and the Dalai Lama is free to visit Tawang. Moreover, he is not visiting Tawang for any political function. He is only visiting for religious functions and there is no reason for China to object to the visit," sources said.

Sources added that earlier also, China had objected to the visits of the Dalai Lama to Tawang, but such objections

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Land patta for indigenous people soon: Sonowal

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 18: The indigenous people who have not been able to get land patta even after staying on the same plot of land for decades would be provided land documents in the first phase itself. Rest of the indigenous people would get land patta in subsequent phases. This was announced by Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal here today.

The Chief Minister's announcement came following a meeting with chairman of the Committee on Protection of Land Rights of Indigenous People Hari Sankar Brahma and other

members of the committee here, an official press release stated.

Asserting that without protecting the land rights of indigenous people, their language, culture and literature cannot be protected, Sonowal said that the State Government is committed to safeguard the interest of the people of the land and hence, steps like initiating reforms in land laws have been taken in earnest. "The government will act on the recommendations of the committee that has been formed for the first time to ensure land rights of the indigenous population," he added.

(See page 13)

State body to address pay-related grievances

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 18: The State Cabinet has decided to constitute an anomaly committee to address the pay-related grievances of the State Government employees that may arise after the implementation of the recommendations made by the Seventh Pay Commission.

This was informed by State Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma while speaking to media persons this afternoon.

The minister also released the Assam Services (Revision of Pay) Rules, 2017 which would facilitate the employees of

all grades to view their revised pay structure at the click of the mouse (www.finance.assam.gov.in).

"The Cabinet has authorized the finance department to constitute the committee and depending upon the number of grievances, we will constitute the committee by first week of the next month before which the employees with any grievance can file their petition," he said.

Stating that this was the first time when the recommendations of a pay commission have been implemented in time, Sarma further informed that pensioners henceforth will be categorized into two slabs.

"While the pensioners aged between 60 and 80 years would be put in one slab, those exceeding 80 years of age would be entitled for an additional pension amount which would be equivalent to nearly 20 per cent of the basic pay," the minister said.

"In case of the death of a government employee in harness, the family member would now be entitled to full pension till 67 years or 10 years whichever is earlier. After attainment of 67 years, the family member will receive only the family pension amount," Sarma said.

(See page 13)



Maleyam writer K Satchidanandan (second from right) presenting the Assam Valley Literary Award to Dr Arupa Patangia Kalita in Guwahati on Saturday. —AT photo

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Assam Valley Literary Award presented

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 18: The Assam Valley Literary Award for year 2016 was presented to prolific writer and a vocal supporter of gender equality, Dr Arupa Patangia Kalita by accomplished Malayalam writer Prof K Satchidanandan at a programme at the Pragjyoti Cultural Complex here today.

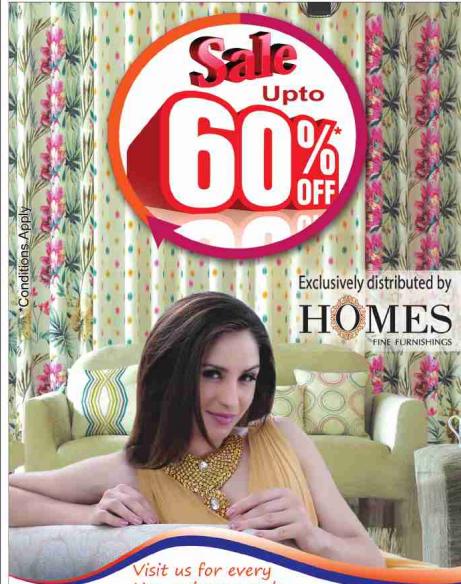
A recipient of the Sahitya Akademi Award, Dr Kalita has an immense body of work to her credit. She has authored several novels and collections of short stories, a number of which have been translated into English, Hindi and Bengali. Works like *Mrigambishi*, *Asomanta*, *Arminius Swadeshi*, *Felani*, *Jaltarangar Sur* among others have made her immensely popular among the readers. Her writings have also been included in textbooks.

The Assam Valley Literary Award was instituted in the year

(See page 13)



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Ranoj Pegu joins BJP
STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 18: Chief Executive Member of Mising Autonomous Council Ranoj Pegu today joined the BJP and is expected to be fielded by the saffron party as its nominee for the Dhemaji bypolls slated for April 9.

Pegu joined the BJP at party headquarters here in the presence of senior leaders, including State president Ranjeet Kumar Dass. The former Gana Shakti leader said he was inspired by the philosophy of the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Meanwhile, the BJP has formed a 17-member committee headed by Naba Kumar Doley for the bypolls.

(See page 13)

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water bodies.

The State fishery department had only 141 government farms as its asset and they were primarily engaged in fish seed production and distribution. The Assam Fisheries Development Corporation has 185 beels, comprising around 10,000 hectares of land.

There are around one lakh hectares of beels (430 registered and 767 unregistered) in Assam under the State revenue department. Dereket water bodies comprise around 1,16,444 hectares of land.

Such natural bodies shall be administered by the fishery department through its directorate/district/subdivisional level offices, a government notification stated.

(See page 13)

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Sec 144 imposed, Internet services suspended in Haryana

CHANDIGARH, March 18: Prohibition orders under Section 144 of CrPC were imposed and Internet services suspended in many 'sensitive' districts of Haryana today in the wake of the Jat body's plan to gherao the Parliament on March 20.

Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), prohibiting unlawful assembly, has been imposed in many sensitive districts, including Rohtak, Jhajjar, Bharatpur, Charkhi Dadri and Hisar, where Internet services have also been suspended for an indefinite period, official sources told PTI.

Restrictions have been imposed on the movement of tractor-trolleys from one district to another, they said, adding that the Army has been called in to manage the situation.

Meanwhile, All-India Jat Association Sanghar Samiti (AJASS), the body spearheading the agitation for reservation, remained firm on laying a siege to the national capital from March 20 as they alleged that their demands had not been met.

Jat stir

Reacting to Khattar's statement that the Jat body was "frequently shifting the goal posts" and that Malik had made unilateral announcements in Panipat that they (Jats) were to have a meeting with the CM in Delhi yesterday," the AJASS president said attempts are being made to weaken their agitation.

"This Government looks utterly confused. Their statements are only complicating the situation," he added. "We wanted the Chief Min-

ister to take a final call on our demands. It was decided that he will meet us in Delhi and discuss all issues with us. But the CM skipped the meeting despite being in Delhi," he claimed.

"Therefore, we have decided to continue with our agitation and we will now move to Delhi on March 20," he said. On the imposition of prohibitory orders in the state, Malik said, "We have been doing so for the last so many days in a peaceful manner. The law of the land does not prevent us from going to Delhi to raise our point in a democratic manner."

Besides seeking quota, the demands of the Jats include release of those jailed during last year's agitation, withdrawal of cases slapped during the protest and government jobs for the kin of those killed and injured while taking part in the stir.

The Jats have been sitting of dharnas in various parts of Haryana since January 29. — PTI

5 Naxals killed in Dantewada encounter

RAIPUR, March 18: Five Naxals were killed while two armed personnel were injured in an encounter in the Maoist violence-hit Dantewada district of Chhattisgarh today.

Officials said the encounter took place early today in the Birav village of the district when a joint squad of the CRPF and the District Reserve Group (DRG) of State Police was out for operations.

"The encounter is still on. Five Naxals have been killed and their bodies are with the forces. An AK-series assault rifle has also been recovered," a senior officer said. Two DRG men have been injured and have now been evacuated, he added.

The officer said the exact details of the operation would take time to emerge as the encounter spot is deep inside the jungle area and cellular phone and wireless connectivity is extremely poor. Reinforcement teams have been rushed in, the officer said.

The 111 Battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is leading the operation, they said. — PTI

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Land rights for indigenous people demanded

GUWAHATI, March 18: Demanding land rights for the indigenous people of Assam, the Ason Jatiyatibadi Yuba Parishad (AJYP) asked the Government to formulate a clear-cut land policy.

"Land right is our birth right. Why has the Government which came to power vowing to protect the community, land and foundation, failed to provide land *pattas* to the indigenous people," questioned AJYP working president Pradeep Kumar Bhuyan here on Friday.

The organisation's president Kanak Hazarika and general secretary Kanak Chandra Bharali also slammed the new directives issued for obtaining land *pattas*. "The new directives will infringe on the birthright of the people."

According to the new directives, an applicant will have to give an undertaking that he has no land in the State," they said, demanding withdrawal of the notification. — Staff Reporter

Ganja seized

GUWAHATI, Mar 18: GRP personnel today seized 10 kg of ganja from a person travelling in the Rajdhani Express at the Guwahati Railway Station. GRP OC Pankaj Kalita said during checking, an Uttar Pradesh youth Rohit Singh (27) was caught with the ganja at 7.10 am today. He was transporting the ganja from Dimapur to Alibabad. The accused has been forwarded to judicial custody. — Staff Reporter

IN THE CITY TODAY

- Condolence meetings to mourn the death of Kalachand Tamang Sunder, Gopal Sarma at Uzambazar Jor-pukhuriapar Ankurjyoti Club at 3 pm, and also at Rajgarh conference hall of the Guwahati Management Association at 5 pm.

Storm leaves trail of destruction

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 18: A storm lashed Guwahati last night at around 9 pm, leaving a trail of destruction.

A 19-year-old youth was burnt alive when a garage at Sonapur caught fire following a short-circuit during the storm, police said.

Reports of trees and electric poles being uprooted and damage to houses and other infrastructure were reported from various parts of the city. Commuters were left stranded at several places during the calamity. Vehicular traffic was greatly affected.

A huge tree got uprooted near GMCH, blocking the road for several hours till it was cleared. A portion of the roof of the Fishified office was

also blown away by strong winds.

Prolonged power cuts were reported from many areas due to damage in poles and other distribution infrastructure.

Kamrup Metro Deputy Commissioner Dr M Angamuthu said a good number of trees were uprooted. "Road blocks were reported in at least 10 places. But we have cleared them now. No major damage has been reported. Power supply has also been restored," he said.

The Kamrup Metro administration has formed a committee to assess and evaluate the storm damage and various causes of damage to private and public property.

"It has been reported by various agencies and public that a good number of house-

es, public facilities like electric poles were damaged by the storm. A number of trees were uprooted. The district disaster management authority and circle officers have been asked to assess the damage within a week," he official statement said.

People have been advised to approach the circle office for any assistance.

Meanwhile, the Regional Meteorological Centre at Baruipur has issued a 'watch' for thundersquall likely at isolated places over Morigaon, Sonitpur, Karbi Anglong, Golaghat, Jorhat, Lakhimpur, Dhemaji, Cachar, Karimganj, Dhubri, Baksa, Kamrup and Kamrup Metro.

The Kamrup Metro DC said a general storm alert will remain for the entire month.

Children's Film Fest in Guwahati

GUWAHATI, March 18: The Children's Film Society of India has extended its ongoing National Children's Film Festival (NCCF) and is hosting a three-day film festival for children from Northeastern States at Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra here from March 21 to 23.

Dr Shrawan Kumar, CEO of Children's Film Society of India, said, "The Northeastern States have a rich history of filmmaking and has produced many noted directors and artists in the industry. With filmmaking so very embedded in the culture of these States, we are happy to host the three-day National Film Festival in Guwahati, with an objective to sensitise the children of the region through meaningful films and film-related workshops and facilitate ingraining of the cultural richness and precious heritage values of these States among the children through the pow-

erful medium of films."

The CFSI has been organising the Festival in different parts of India since long. Earlier, it was held in New Delhi, and in Jaipur in November last.

The CFSI with Smile Foundation will host the Festival in the city. This time, the festival would consist of different capacity building activities and workshops on filmmaking,

script writing and animation for children. Value-based films like *Tora's Love* (Assamese), *The Prince and the Crown Stone* (English), *The God* (Manipuri), *Pappu ki Pugandi* (Hindi), *Kaphal-Wild Berries* (Hindi), *Happy Mother's Day* (Hindi), *Paari* (Manipuri), *Kina's Lodge* (Mizo), *Ebegetiya* (Assamese), etc., etc. will be screened.

WEATHER GUWAHATI

LOCAL FORECAST: Generally cloudy sky. Rain/thunderstorms is very likely to occur. Maximum and Minimum temperature is most likely to be 29°C and 16°C respectively on Sunday.

TEMPERATURE:

Max 26.0°C

Min 14.0°C

Brahmaputra Board to face technocrat crisis soon

AJIT PATOWARY

GUWAHATI, March 18: From next year, the Brahmaputra Board will face a severe technocrat crisis.

By then, all its senior engineers, barring four, will retire. And by 2019, these four senior engineers will also retire. This will automatically reduce the Board into a defunct body and will thus affect the process of updating the masterplan it has initiated for all the rivers of the North Eastern region.

It needs mention here that the Board had prepared masterplans for all the rivers of the region in the 1980s and the 1990s and the process to update these master plans started in 2016. The retirement process of these senior engineers, around 57, started in 2016.

These senior engineers were recruited in 1982-83. Around 15 of these engineers have already retired and around 38 of them are retiring by 2018. The senior engineers will also not get any scope to train up their juniors for the purpose of updating the masterplans, said knowledgeable sources. It is

worth mentioning here that in 1983, the process of recruiting engineers in the Board had come to a halt.

It is learnt that a process has now been initiated by the Union Government to recruit four engineers. Further, going by the official grapevine, a move may be soon initiated to fill up the remaining posts with engineers hired from other organisations on 'loan basis.' This is sure to make the Board function on an ad-hoc basis, said the sources.

By this time, the Board is implementing the Majuli protection works. It is also implementing the Mancharak Alga protection work along the Indo-Bangla border in Hatingsingi district. There, the Indo-Bangla Border Road was eroded by the Brahmaputra and construction of a road in the eroded part was started. However, for some land-related disputes, work has come to a halt there, sources said.

The Board has also not been able to take up the diversion of the Lohit river to its original course in order to check large-scale erosion it has caused in the Tinsukia-Doomdima areas, because of the delay in the Union Government's approval.

al for taking up the work.

The Lohit and the Dihing rivers diverted their courses and merged with the Ananta Nala, resulting in massive erosion in these areas. Though the Dihing has been diverted to its original course, the same remains to be done in the case of the Lohit river, sources said.

The Brahmaputra Board also conducted surveys and investigation for 14 multi-purpose projects, besides preparing 62 masterplans. The detailed project reports (DPRs) of five of the multi-purpose projects have been completed and handed over to the Union Power Ministry by the Centre. Four other projects were taken up by the Power Ministry while their DPRs were under preparation.

Meanwhile, the DPRs of the Noa-Dihing in Arunachal Pradesh and Kulsu along the Assam-Meghalaya border have been completed and submitted to the Union Water Resources Ministry. Survey and investigation of the killing along the Assam-Meghalaya border, Jadhial in Arunachal Pradesh and Simsung in Meghalaya's Garo Hills are on, sources said.

2017 OSCAR FILM FEST 17th March to 23rd March, 2017

Enjoy Hollywood screening experience

DATE	SCREENING TIME	
17-Mar	12.15 PM	8.30 PM
18- Mar	Moonlight	La La Land
19- Mar	Lion	Moonlight
20- Mar	Jungle Book	Lion
20- Mar	A Star War Story	Deepwater Horizon
21- Mar	La La Land	A Star War Story
22- Mar	Jungle Book	Lion
23- Mar	Deepwater Horizon	Moonlight

SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO LAST MINUTE CHANGES

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The Assam Tribune

MISSION RUPJYOTI

15th March to 25th March 2017



Government of Assam

Things to remember

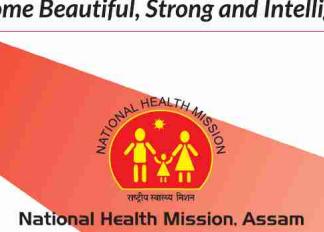
Children in the age group of 10-19 years should take IFA tablet once in a week provided by Government free of cost

Get your Haemoglobin level checked at the nearest health centre time to time

If the Haemoglobin level is less than 11mg it is considered to be anaemic

Those suffering from anaemia feel weak and thus cannot concentrate and excel in education, sports etc.

Kindly contact your nearest ASHA and ANM to know more



National Health Mission, Assam

Resonance NMJ/2017

MESSAGE FOR TODAY

Justice is truth in action.

— BENJAMIN DISRAELI

The Assam Tribune**Unsullied image**

The Judiciary, like Caesar's wife, must be above suspicion. As far as India is concerned, given the prevailing level of corruption in other segments of society, such an axiom has become even more relevant. In recent years the Indian Judiciary has been forced to pass directives on numerous scams and monetary scandals and unless it retains an unsullied image, it loses its moral authority in the eyes of the people. Thus a hint of impropriety on the part of any constituent of the Judiciary needs to be examined firmly and promptly and necessary steps taken. It has to be conceded that there might be a certain degree of corruption in the lower rungs of the Judiciary but in public perception in general, the higher judicial authorities have so far been able to retain their image of probity. One notes that during some actions of the political and bureaucratic level, say during the process of ministry formation, not everything is done above the board, which rouses suspicion of corrupt deals in the minds of the people. But in the case of the Judiciary a trial takes place in an open court and the judges have to give detailed reasons for their verdict. Thus there is an intrinsic transparency in the process which contributes to its broadly clean image.

This is why the imbroglio involving a Calcutta High Court Judge needs to be judiciously examined by the Indian Supreme Court and any hint of impropriety removed. Apparently Justice C. S. Karan, the judge in the thick of the controversy, had written to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court as well as other functionaries alleging corruption amongst judges in the Madras High Court as well as a judge in the Supreme Court. The Apex Court had sought a response from Karan as to why he should not be charged with Contempt of Court for making unsubstantiated allegations and, on not getting any response, issued a bailable warrant for his arrest. The determination of the Chief Justice to deal firmly with the recalcitrant judge can be gauged by the fact that he had formed a seven-judge full bench of the Apex Court to examine the matter and directed no less a person than the Bengal Director General of Police to personally implement the arrest warrant. The proper course for Karan, after he had made his allegations, would have been to respond to the Supreme Court summons and offer proof to the full Apex Court Bench. But the defiance shown by him, as well as his calling a press conference to claim he was being victimized because he was a Dalit, entails that the Apex Court deal firmly yet fairly with him in order to retain the Judiciary's image.

Oil exploration

In a development that augurs well for the State's oil sector, ONGC has struck liquid gold at two locations in its Jorhat basin. According to estimates, the total oil reserve in the area is in the range of ten million MT, with the two wells already producing around 51 tonnes daily. This is indeed a significant development, coming against the depressing backdrop of dwindling production in the region in recent years. However, it should be borne in mind that the diminishing trend in oil production has more to do with factors other than depletion of the natural oil and gas reserves. Even the Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry had acknowledged a couple of years back that the North-east was witnessing a decline in oil and gas production due to less exploration activities. The developments were attributed to law-and-order problems as well as infrastructure and technical issues. Now, the discovery of a large oil reserve should be a boost for oil majors like ONGC and OIL, stimulating them to go for sustained exploration.

In recent years, the realization that most of the oil reserves across the world are getting depleted has spurred aggressive exploration activities by global oil giants for discovering new reserves. Given that we still have vast oil reserves in our backyards – something testified to by the Jorhat basin discovery – we have to exhibit greater alacrity in finding out more reserves. The Centre in particular needs to take serious note of the developments and do the needful to facilitate discovery of the reserves for exploration to take place. The State governments on their part must ensure proper law and order, especially in the militancy-affected areas. Another disturbing aspect concerning oil extraction in Assam has been the inability to put to good use the associated natural gas which is simply flared up. At nearly six per cent of the total production, this is certainly a huge wastage and calls for adoption of appropriate technologies for harnessing it. The days ahead are sure to bring in stiff challenges before Indian oil companies, and how they cope with the emerging challenges will have a definite bearing on not just meeting the country's growing energy needs but its economy as a whole. The issue of auctioning of oilfields in the state to private parties which has drawn a lot of flak has also to be sorted out if the government is seriously considering to take up oil exploration in the coming days.

The Assam Tribune**From THE PAST****CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS TO BE RESPECTED****President's Address To Parliament****NUMBER OF GOVT. PROPOSALS ENUNCIATED**

NEW DELHI, March 18: President Radhakrishnan today assured the States with non-Congress Governments that the Union Government would respect the provisions of the Constitution in letter as well as spirit without discrimination and endeavour to strengthen in the arrangements for a co-operative approach to national problem, says UNI.

The President said that the Planning Commission would be reorganised and the working of control would be reviewed. Those controls which were found unnecessary would be withdrawn and others readjusted so as to make them more purposeful and efficient.

Inaugurating the First Session of the fourth Parliament in the high-domed Central Hall, the President made a series of announcements.

SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 1967

Prospect of biofuel in NE India**PK Kakoti**

So far, fossil fuels specially petroleum is the main energy source for the highest fuel consuming transport sector in our country. The current consumption of petrol in the country is around 22,000 metric ton (TMT) per year. The same with diesel is around 75,000 TMT. With the industrial growth in the country the fuel consumption is bound to grow. The growth in petroleum consumption in India results in increase in import of crude oil. To increase energy security of the country, import dependence is to be reduced. Towards this, use of biofuel in India can play a significant role. Also biofuel can contribute in lowering greenhouse effect, atmospheric pollution and balancing carbon footprint.

While first generation biofuels are made from sugars and vegetable oils found in crops used as food, second generation biofuels are manufactured from various types of biomass. Biomass is a wide-ranging term meaning any source of organic carbon that is renewed rapidly as part of the carbon cycle. Biomass is derived from plant materials, but can also include animal materials. Recently bamboo plant has been identified as a viable source of biomass for producing biofuel i.e. Ethanol. The bamboo is considered to be a sustainable source of biomass because it is grown without pesticides or chemical fertilizers, requires no irrigation, rarely needs replanting, produces 35% more

oxygen than an equivalent stand of trees, sequesters carbon dioxide and is carbon neutral, is a critical element in the balance of oxygen and carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and is an excellent soil erosion inhibitor. Also bamboo grows in a wide range of environments. It's the fastest growing plant in the world and can grow 1 to 4 inches in a day and regrows quickly after being cut down, making it the best renewable resource. Since the plant's health is improved by cutting, bamboo can be re-harvested every three years without any harmful effects on the environment.

North east India has 54810 sq km of bamboo coverage which is 40% of the total in the country and with this huge source it has the current capacity to produce bamboo biomass to the tune of 3600 TMT per year, considering 3 years re-harvesting cycle. However, with proper plantation and species the yield can be increased by 10 to 20 times. Approximately 1 MMT of bamboo biomass is consumed in manufacturing 500 litre of ethanol. At this rate north east India can produce 1400 TMT of ethanol with current bamboo coverage. However, entire bamboo plantation cannot be used for ethanol production as bamboo is used

in almost every sphere of life in the north east India.

It is planned to go for ethanol blending in petrol up to the tune of 22.5% in our country and for that the country currently requires around 5000 TMT of ethanol. The requirement of ethanol for blending with petrol in the north east will be 110 TMT with current level consumption of 500 TMT of petrol per year. Therefore, north east can not only meet its own requirement but

therefore, with ethanol-blended fuel the fuel efficiency is less and so fuel consumption increases to compensate for the decrease in energy output. On the other hand, ethanol has a greater octane rating than petrol so it can be used in higher compression engines for better power output. With introduction of engines with higher compression one can derive the benefit of higher octane number of ethanol. In the engines now being run on petrol the reduction in power and increase in fuel consumption will be more prominent in higher blend of ethanol and petrol like E85 (85% ethanol) and with E10 (10% ethanol) blend the difference is not very significant. In an engine, ethanol produces 30% less carbon dioxide (CO_2) compared to petrol. Apart from that, CO_2 produced by ethanol-blended petrol use is countered by the CO_2 consumed by bamboo plants used to produce the ethanol. So ethanol blends will be carbon neutral and will be capable of reducing

greenhouse effect. The ethanol can be blended with diesel also with beneficial effect of reducing dependency of petroleum fuels, reducing particulate emission and reducing oxides of nitrogen and sulphur. However, ethanol has lower cetane number compared to diesel and in higher blends there may be ignition delay which can be taken care of by mixing suitable ignition improver additives in ethanol diesel blends. Since diesel consumption is around 3 times more in our country than petrol, the use of ethanol blend in place of pure diesel can have major impact on use of petroleum fuels and also can contribute much in protecting the environment. In India there is a plan to introduce diesel blended with up to 15% of ethanol. Therefore, use of ethanol-petrol or ethanol-diesel blends are possible in the current engines, new engines with better compression ratio or improved fuel system can be introduced in future to pass on benefits of biofuel to users. Moreover the retail price of blended fuel can be fixed based on production and marketing cost and benefits of reduction, if any, can be passed on to consumers.

A biofuel refinery with production capacity of 49 TMT per year of ethanol is coming up in Numaligarh in Assam. This will be able to cater to the demand for ethanol to produce E10 for the north east. With introduction of ethanol blended diesel in the north east having a diesel consumption of around 1600 TMT per year, the demand will go up multiple times and there will be scope for setting up more biofuel refineries based on bamboo in north east India in future.

also can supply to other parts of the country. Also, apart from supplying bamboo biomass, the present bamboo coverage of north east will be sufficient to meet the requirement of bamboo in cottage industry construction purpose etc.

We need 1.4 litre of ethanol to achieve the same amount of energy as burning 1 litre of pure petrol.

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SC Koyal named CBI counsel

GUWAHATI, March 18: Assistant Solicitor General (Gauhati High Court) Subhash Chandra Koyal has been appointed as the counsel to represent the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) till the new retained counsel for the country's premier investigating agency is appointed. — Staff Reporter

AASAA submits memo to CM

GUWAHATI, March 18: The All Advaita Students' Association of Assam (AASAA) has submitted a memorandum to Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal demanding solution to several demands which include granting of Scheduled Tribe status to the Adivasi tribes besides permanent land ownership documents to Adivasis. The AASAA also demanded increase of daily wage of tea labourers to Rs 330. — Staff Reporter

Pre-Bihu event

GUWAHATI, March 18: In the run-up to the Rongali Bihu festival, 'Utopia', in association with Jeeti Fruiti Preservation Society, is organising 'Rongali Ubaxba' – an exhibition of ethnic food, traditional cuisine and garments – at the AEI ground in Chandmari here from March 24 to April 2. A cultural night will also be held during the event, stated a press release issued here.

ASSAM GAS COMPANY Ltd.
An ISO 9001:2008 Company. (A Govt. of Assam undertaking)
P.O. - DULAJAH, PIN - 786602, DIST. DIBRUGARH, ASSAM
CIN OF AGCL U11101AS1952SGC001184

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Tenders invited for Insurance Brokerage Service under single bid system on or before Tuesday, 30th March 2017 up to 2:00 pm. For more detailed information, please visit our website www.assamgas.org/tenders.
Sd/- Managing Director



An illegal structure being demolished with the help of an excavator during a district administration eviction drive near Deepor Bedi off Guwahati on Saturday. — UB

Drop-in centre for the poor opened at Shishu Sarothi

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 18: Coming early intervention is highly recommended for children with disability, it is the cost of stay in a city like Guwahati that comes in the way of the parents from remote areas, seeking treatment for their children with such special condition.

To address the issue and facilitating early intervention

in a better way for the children coming from far-flung areas of the Northeast, Shishu Sarothi has come up with a drop-in centre on its premises, for the families belonging to financially weaker sections of society.

"We have been providing early intervention services for about 20 years to high-risk babies.

Shishu Sarothi has also been operating an early intervention unit at the Composite Regional Centre (CRC) under the Department of Disability, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MSJE) since 2015 in a tie-up with the Paediatric Department of the Gauhati Medical College Hospital (GMCH), which also provides early intervention services to children who come to the facility from all over the State," said Arman Ali, executive director, Shishu Sarothi.

Construction of the drop-in

centre has been supported by Shishu Planners, who have helped in setting up the building for the people to stay during their visit to Shishu Sarothi.

The first family to drop in at this centre is from a remote village called Matparwan in Sibpur.

The child has been diagnosed with Tubercular Meningoencephalitis, with weakness on his right side (Hemiparesis). "Dhananj Kalita, a physiotherapist at Shishu Sarothi said. With these services rendered to the child by the early intervention centre, the families grow to be informed about the child's proper care and in addition to this it helps to build the capacity of parents on how to work with the child and put focus on his/her overall growth and other fundamental needs rather than disability.

Fortnightly of Govt PR Dept released

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 18: The new-look *Rajbari Bator*, a fortnightly publication of the Information and Public Relations Department, was released at a function at the State Secretariat here by Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal.

Addressing the gathering, Sonowal said the journal should not only publish government views but also reflect the opinion of all sections of people, and "nothing can live up to its name".

The CM also released a book *Scheduled Tribes of Assam* written by researcher Tabu Ram Taid and published by the I&PR department. Commissioner & Secretary (I&PR) LS Changsan, CM's media adviser Hrishikesh Goswami, CM's law adviser Sonambari Bhattacharji, editor Bhupendra N Bhaataphary were present on the occasion, a press release stated.

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SBI Life INSURANCE
With Us, You're Sure

NOTICE : CHANGE OF ADDRESS

This is to inform all concerned that w.e.f. 22-05-2017 our existing Guwahati 3 Branch Office will relocate as under:

NEW ADDRESS

Maligaon Chariali, Near Over Bridge, P.O & P.S. Guwahati, Maligaon, Guwahati, Kamrup Metropolitan District, Assam-781012

OLD ADDRESS

"SHIVAM", 1st Floor, HIN-192, Railway Gate No. 4, A.T. Road, Maligaon, Guwahati, Kamrup Metropolitan District, Assam-781011

Registered and Corporate Office, Nazia, M V Road & Western Express Highway Junction, Antor, Dibrugarh, Assam-786001. CIN: U74900GA1993PLC019116. Trade logo displayed above belongs to State Bank of India and is used by SBI Life under license.

ASSAM POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED

Congridendum and Extension Notice

Ref. No: CGM (P&D)/APDCL/Solar Power Plant/2017/2

Dated 28.02.2017

Item Description: Consultancy services towards exploring of Solar Power Developers to be engaged for installation of grid connected Solar Power Plant in the State of Assam.

1. Old tender document against NIT No. CGM (P&D)/APDCL/Solar Power Plant/2017/2 dated: 28.02.2017 uploaded earlier in our website is revised with certain corrigendum and the revised tender document may be downloaded from our website: www.apdcl.gov.in from 20.03.2017 onwards.

2. Date of tenders against NIT No. CGM (P&D)/APDCL/Solar Power Plant/2017/2 dated: 28.02.2017 is hereby extended upto 22.03.2017.

3. Last date of Bid submission: 28.03.2017 at 1.00 pm.

4. Date of Bid opening: 29.03.2017 at 1.00 pm.
Sd/-, Chief General Manager (P&D), APDCL,
Bijulee Bhawan, Paltanbazar, Guwahati-1

CAS/2017/23

অসম বেঙ্ক **UCO BANK**
(A. Govt. of India Undertaking)

সময় সংরক্ষণ করিয়া আছে।

HONOURS YOUR TRUST

DHUBRI BRANCH (0473)

Ph. No. 03662-230243, e-mail : dhubri@ucobank.co.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

Mr. Sambaran Kar, S/o. Sri Swapan Kar residing at Vill. Ghoshpara, Ward No.14, P.O. & Dist. Dhubri (Assam) has been dismissed from Bank Service and is no longer an employee of UCO Bank. UCO Bank in anyway will not be responsible for dealing in transaction (both financial & Non financial) done by Mr. Sambaran Kar and any transaction by any person with him shall be at his/her own Risk and Responsibility.

Branch Manager

UCO Bank, Dhubri Branch (0473)

জানোনি

পাইপ গেজের ঘৰুৱা তথ্য বাৰগাহিক সংযোজনৰ বাবে অন্দেকৰী সকলেটোৱা হৈয়াৰ দ্বাৰা জনাব বিছাবোৰা মে, পাইপ গেজ সংযোজনৰ বাবে সকলোধৰণৰ খৰচ একাউন্টত জয়া লোৱা হয়। পাইপ শেষ সংযোজনৰ বাবে কেন্দ্ৰৰ স্থানৰ বন্ধন বৰুৱাৰ বৰুৱাৰ নহোৱাৰ বাবে একাউন্টত জয়া লোৱা হয়। পাইপ শেষ সংযোজনৰ সঞ্চালন নহোৱাৰ বন্ধনৰ বাবে আগতোৱা কোনো বিচাৰিণী নহোৱাৰ গেজ সংযোগৰ সময়ত নগদ ধৰণ বিচাৰিণী অন্বে গেজ কোণান্বী হালীয়াৰ কাৰ্যালভত সৱিশেষ ভাৱালৈ অন্বেৰ ভাৱালৈ।

পৰিচয়ৰ সংযোজন

CM for timely implementation of rural electrification scheme

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 18: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal directed the implementing agencies of Dibrugarh, North East, and Bhutan, REPARCMENT Corporation, Bidrapur, Dibrugarh, PC200, PC210, PC220, HITACHI EX200, EX210, VOLVO EK200, KOBELCO (SK210), DOOSAN, HYUNDAI AND OTHERS.

The Chief Minister also stressed the need to prepare a roadmap for integration of responsibilities of all stakeholders and elicit higher participation of people in the management of this rural electrification scheme implemented in the State, said an official press release here this evening.

It is very important that the people take ownership of the scheme and understand the value of electricity. Similarly, the implementing agencies should also ensure quality service to increase the credibility of their work," Sonowal said while reviewing the progress of DDUGJY in the presence of representatives of Rural Electrification Corporation at the Chief Minister's conference room at Jatin Bhawan here today.

Emphasising the need for developing a quality maintenance legacy for the works, Chief Minister Sonowal also stressed the need for strengthening the system, so that the works which have been executed already can withstand the climatic disasters.

The Chief Minister also called for engaging rural electrification engineers for monitoring the ongoing works.

In Assam, out of the total 2892 un-electrified villages, electrification of 2015 villages have been completed and work is in progress for 692 villages. The ongoing works will cover 57,381 habitation and 22,51,363 households.

Minister of State for Power Pallav Lochan Das, Additional Chief Secretary (Power) Rajiv Kumar Deka, Additional Chief Secretary and Chairman, APDCL, APGL, AEGL Ravi Kapoor and other senior officers of the State government were present in the meeting.

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Horse trading fears led new Manipur BJP MLAs to camp in city: Himanta

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 18: North East Democratic Alliance (NEDA) convener Himanta Biswa Sarma today said that it was the apprehension of "horse trading" that led the newly elected BJP legislators of Manipur to camp in Guwahati.

"It is a fact that BJP MLAs from Manipur are camping here. So are the Congress legislators," Sarma said on the sidelines of a programme.

Place: Guwahati
Date : 18.03.2017

DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER

Dental care institute

GUWAHATI, March 18: With an aim to promote low-cost oral and dental treatment, the Institute of Dental Science and Research Centre at Panbari (near Reserve Bank of India) was inaugurated by Siddhartha Bhattacharya, MLA of East Guwahati constituency, today, a press release stated.

It is the first dental institute of its kind in the State, said Dr. Banikanta Baruah, a former member of the Assam Legislative Assembly.

— Staff Reporter

FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA

REGIONAL OFFICE : ASSAM REGION, PALTAN BAZAR, GUWAHATI - 08

No. Engg/N/2016-17

The Assistant General Manager, (CE) FCI, Regional Office, Guwahati-8 invites on behalf of Food Corporation of India online item rate / Percentage rate tenders under two bid system at [https://www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in)/procure/app for following works.

Sl. No	NIT No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest Money	Period of Completion	Last time and Date of submission
1	33-AF	AR & MO works and miscellaneous works at FSD 2016-17 New Guwahati	₹ 9,37,260.00	₹ 18,750.00	90 days	2:00 PM 28.03.2017
2	34/01	Closing of drains inside 120 mts	₹ 6,09,473.00	₹ 120.00	120 days	2:00 PM 28.03.2017

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website www.eprocure.gov.in.

Sdr., Asstt. General Manager (CE)

DEALERS ENQUIRIES SOLICITED

Date : 15.03.2017

For INVITING TENDERS

The Assistant General Manager, (CE) FCI, Regional Office, Guwahati-8 invites on behalf of Food Corporation of India online item rate / Percentage rate tenders under two bid system at [https://www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in)/procure/app for following works.

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Sl. No	NIT No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest Money	Period of Completion	Last time and Date of submission
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Majuli Press Club's biennial meet held

A CORRESPONDENT

MAJULI, March 18: The Majuli Makumma Press Club's 14th biennial conference was held at the Sri Sri Adi Alegi Satra of Namami Majuli, on Thursday.

The conference began on March 15 with the general representatives' meeting at the office of Majuli Makumma Press Club and concluded with the open meeting held at Sri Sri Adi Alegi Satra.

The programme began with the plantation in the morning and the flag was hoisted by the press club's president Arun Bora. The open meeting began with the performance of "utaya" by artists of Adi Alegi Satra and was anchored by Press Club's secretary Sejnih Kumar Dutta.

As chief guest, a senior sub editor of *Dainik Jyotiabhumi*, Diganta Buragohain attended the programme and delivered a speech on the role of rural correspondents in the emergence of village society.

Three awards were distributed in that programme, the Durdadeva Goswami Memorial Assam Rural Journalist Award by Sri Sri Aumati Satra to Manoj Kumar Gogoi, Disangmukh's correspondent of *Amar Asom*, Nityananda Bharali Memorial Journalist Award by Majuli Makumma Press Club to Dibaker Saikia, Dakpathar correspondent of *Dainik Jyotiabhumi* and Kumud Dutta Memorial youth Journalist Award to Rabin Bhuyan, a senior sub editor of *Amar Asom*.

In the programme, the programme was also a boregat by Bapdhan Gayan, Jhumur and bhortal dance by the child artists of Adi Alegi Satra mesmerised the people. Hundreds of people including journalists, Rajendra Boruah public relation officer, Boibhob Nimbalkar, Majuli SP, Dr Debjit Saikia, Principal of Majuli College and several other dignitaries attended the programme.

Cash looted

CORRESPONDENT

RANGIYA, March 18: Two unidentified youths, dressed in college uniform of a local college, reportedly looted cash of around Rs 30,000 from the micro credit and thrift branch under Assam Gramin Vikas Bank (AGVB) located at Chepti here on Friday afternoon. The duo entered the bank on the pretext of opening a bank account, and when the female employee of the bank was busy giving them the forms, the duo snatched and fled away with the bag with the cash. A complaint was immediately lodged with the Rangiya police and investigation is on in this regard.

OBITUARY

Dev Kumar Banerjee

GUWAHATI, March 18: Dev Kumar Banerjee, a retired Assistant Engineer and a resident of Bhamra Nager Tilla died on March 17 at 10 pm at his residence. He was 69.

Late Banerjee was the present secretary of Rami Krishnamission, Tezpur and was involved in developing the mission. He was also associated with various other organisations.

His funeral was largely attended and his death was widely mourned by various organisations. He leaves behind his wife, a son, a daughter and a host of relatives.

Uttara Devi: a tribute



Uttara Devi, wife of Dwijendra Nath Sarma of Jyotinagar, Bamunimadam Guwahati expired on March 9 evening at the age of 71. She was suffering from diabetes since the last few years. She was associated with many religious institutions like the Bamunimadam Durga Mandir etc. She was an amiable woman with a pleasing personality.

One of her sons, Kulen Sarma, is an administrative officer working as additional deputy commissioner, Sonitpur district. She rendered service to religious and social organisations in many places in the company of her son.

Today, on the occasion of her *adysashradha*, we pray to the Almighty for her eternal peace.

—Dwijendra Nath Sarma



Women tea workers busy plucking fresh tea leaves at a tea estate in Marijan, on Friday — UB Photos

Patacharkuchi farmer's success with strawberry cultivation

ANN Service

PATACHARKUCHI, March 18: Gauri Deka, a sexagenarian, innovative and successful horticulturist near Patacharkuchi in Barpeta district is at present very busy in harvesting strawberries in his first experiment of such a cultivation. People from various corners including from Agriculture Department have started visiting his field to witness the rare kind of cultivation and have praised his effort. He informed that a number of people from outside the State, who are working here, also come to his field and encourage his endeavour.

Prerna Sarma, IAS, Subdivisional Officer, Bajali subdivision was surprised to witness his horticulture garden. Deka with his unique skill of agriculture has proved that there is ample scope for strawberry cultivation in the locality which is very profitable compared to other kinds of cultivation. At the beginning, he was not interested in it and was unaware about the high demand of the fruit in the market. But now he is selling the fruit from the field as the traders rush to his field to collect fresh strawberry at a price of Rs 300 per kg. Now he is harvesting 7 to 8 kgs of strawberry after an interval of three days. He informed that till the filing of this

report, he has earned about Rs 25,000 from his experimental cultivation.

He also informed that he got the opportunity to cultivate strawberry from the State Agricultural Department. Although at the beginning, he thought that this type of cultivation may not be successful one but after this attempt he got positive results. He received the offer of cultivation and help from the Agriculture

Deka needs no introduction



strawberry cultivation procedure from the internet, Deka said. Although he had received a large number of seedlings from the Agriculture Department, due to lack of proper knowledge he could save only a thousand of the strawberry saplings, which he planted in one-and-a-half kathas of land. He is very interested to carry on the cultivation in the near future which has proved to be a profitable one.

Deka does not introduce

Department along with sapping of the strawberry and now he is very happy to harvest the fruit which has turned his garden into an attractive one. The ripe strawberries and their flavours make him spend most of the time of the day in the field so that he can guard the fruits from the birds as well.

His son Khenagen is also extending his assistance and enjoying the cultivation. Khenagen collects information about

since he has earned a lot of accolades at various levels earlier. Now in his garden, there are chestnut plants, pears and various breeds of palms, mangoes and vegetables. Earlier, he had also received a number of trainings in the field of agriculture at different levels. After all, at present he has turned his garden into an agricultural research field from where any interested farmer can earn knowledge of farming.

The training programme was inaugurated at the APPL ITI-GTET Joint Skill Development Center Rowatah by NRL officials M Handique, CM (PR), PK Sarma, SM (CSR), MA Choudhury, SM (Corp Comm).

Also present on the occasion were SN Bhattacharya and Pinku Deka from GTET and Saroj Borah from APPL ITL.

The speakers encouraged the participants to make the most of the opportunities offered to them and hone their skills so that they would not only earn their own livelihoods but also contribute in building a skilled India.

Tezpur, March 18: A daylong awareness programme on 'Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Right Act 2001' was organised at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Barpeta on March 17.

The meeting was attended by Dr Ajay Kumar Singh, Deputy Registrar, PPV & FRA, Guwahati branch who narrated the act in detail. He opined that farmers who are the saviours of the traditional crop varieties for generations should come forward to register their varieties to safeguard their rights. Dr Singh also said that although a good number of farmers from Assam have already applied for registration at the Department of Agriculture, Barpeta. He expressed his concern over the extinction of some many age-old traditional crop varieties due to lack of prop-

er awareness. At the outset, an exhibition displaying a number of farmers' crop varieties was inaugurated by the ADC (Agric), Barpeta, Dwijen Neog, Assistant Director, Agriculture, Barpeta and Jibun Kumar Deka, Assistant Director, Sericulture, Barpeta also spoke on the occasion. They expressed satisfaction over the response shown by the farmers joining the exhibition with their own crop varieties. Earlier, Dr Arup Kumar Deka, Senior Scientist & Head, KVK, Barpeta welcomed the participants of the programme. Haridra Sharma, SMS (Agril. Extension), KVK, Barpeta extended the vote of thanks. The programme was attended by about 150 farmers of the district along with all the scientists and staff of KVK, Barpeta.

Kalaguru Bishnu Prasad Rab-

hi, Rupkonwar Jyoti Prasad Agarwala and Natasurya Phani Sharma.

Sharing her views on how she was influenced in her life by the cultural icons of the State, she said that though she doyens like Jyoti Bishnu, Phani Sharma and Dilip Sharma had influenced, her brother Dr Bhupen Hazarika's influence on her cultural life was more.

Replies to a query regarding the degradation in the cultural world of the State, she said that because of globalisation and blind imitation, the cultural arena of the State is facing a tough challenge at the present moment. "Our language and culture itself is an unbeatable

one, yet we blindly follow the 'bad sides' of the other's culture. We will have to be sincere in delving deep into our culture and heritage, then only besides our culture and heritage, our dignity will be saved," she said.

The function conducted by HoD, Centre for Assamese Studies, TU, Prof Ranjit Deva Goswami was graced by Prof Madan Sharma, Prof Chandan Bhattacharyya, Pallab Bhattacharya, president, Sonitpur Slipi Samaj, Birendra Kr Bora, secretary, Tezpur Sahitya Chora, Akshay Kumar Misra, noted litterateur and Manik Bora among others.

Guwahati, March 18: An exhibition displaying a number of farmers' crop varieties was inaugurated by the ADC (Agric), Barpeta, Dwijen Neog, Assistant Director, Agriculture, Barpeta and Jibun Kumar Deka, Assistant Director, Sericulture, Barpeta also spoke on the occasion. They expressed satisfaction over the response shown by the farmers joining the exhibition with their own crop varieties. Earlier, Dr Arup Kumar Deka, Senior Scientist & Head, KVK, Barpeta welcomed the participants of the programme. Haridra Sharma, SMS (Agril. Extension), KVK, Barpeta extended the vote of thanks. The programme was attended by about 150 farmers of the district along with all the scientists and staff of KVK, Barpeta.

The programme was sponsored by the Indian Academy of Science, Bangalore, Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi, and National Academy of Sciences India, Ahmedabad.

The inaugural session was

presided over by Dr Hemkanta

Hazarika, Chairman of the Kakojan College governing body, Dr Archana Bhattacharjee, coordinator of IQAC,

opened up the session and felicitated the guests. Principal of Kakojan College Dr Ruprekha Bordoloi delivered the welcome speech.

The workshop was inaugurated by Dr Shrimanta K Saipadur, former VC of the Karnataka University,

who was also the convenor of the workshop. In his speech, he laid

stress on motivation of biology

teachers and students towards

Piyali Baruah Smriti Rakhya Samiti plans slew of measures

CORRESPONDENT

JORHAT, March 18: The Piyali Baruah Smriti Rakhya Samiti (PBSRS) had decided to take up a few measures to keep the martyr's memory alive and renew the memory about the immense contributions he had made during India's first struggle for independence in 1857, followed by his ultimate sacrifice a year later.

In an executive meeting held at Chalodihora here a couple of days back, the Samiti adopted a few resolutions to revive the memories of Piyali Baruah through a slew of measures. The Samiti has resolved to work for installation of his statue near the western bypass of Jorhat and organise memorial lectures as part of academic activities, according to the secretary of PBSRS.

Devajyoti Sutikar.

The Samiti will also organise a public meeting soon to discuss the proposed renaming of the Tarun Phookan Road as Swahid Piyali Baruah Path. It is pertinent to mention that this arterial road was previously known as New Road Chalodihora, before being named after Phookan.

Piyali was hanged along with Maniram Dewan at Jorhat on February 26, 1858, on the charge of inciting Hindustani sepoys against the British. Piyali, the trusted lieutenant of Maniram, had gone to the camp of the sepoys stationed in a village called Nogora, located about 12 km south of Golaghat, to convince them about the ulterior motives of the British imperialists, and motivated them with fiery speeches. The attempts of Piyali, Maniram and their associates to over-

throw the British from Assam, however, did not succeed.

There is neither a road named after Piyali in his home district Jorhat, nor has a Government programme ever been held in his memory since Independence. Though the State Government, well over a decade ago, had decided to set up a statue in his memory in Jorhat, the project has remained incomplete.

Assembly Speaker and local MLA Hitenra Nath Goswami and MP Kamalaksha Prasad Tasa have extended support to the Samiti for initiating the works to keep Piyali's memory alive. Two academic lectures will be organised in May next in this regard, where former president of Indian History Congress Dr Rajen Saikia and historical researcher Dr Soumitra Pujari are likely to deliver lectures in Piyali's memory.

CM to lay foundation of three new projects at Nalbari

CORRESPONDENT

NALBARI, March 18: The foundation stones of three ambitious projects of Nalbari town will be laid by Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on March 21. Besides, the Chief Minister will inaugurate the digital library to be constructed at the college. Finally, he will inaugurate the RCC bridge over Paglada river at Kamarkuchi ghat under Barkshetri constituency. The MLA further informed that the Chief Minister will be accompanied by PWD minister Parimal Sikhdabady and Industry and Commerce minister Chandra Mohan Patowary, among others.

lay the foundation stone of a road from Sandhu connecting Nalbari to Barkura through Nalbari town to be constructed at a cost of Rs 31 crore under CRF head.

The 6.23-kilometre-long road has two RCC bridges. Thereafter, the Chief Minister will lay the foundation stone of a guest house of Nalbari Sri Hari Mandir at the main premises.

Addressing a press conference held at district BJP office on Friday, the MLA of Nalbari LAC Ashok Sarma said that the Chief Minister will first

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No NHM/PROC/HOSP/FURNITURE/3100/2016-17/22297 Dt 18/03/2017
CORR/GEN/DUM NO.2
•TENDER FOR ENTERING INTO RATE CONTRACT FOR HOSPITAL & OFFICE FURNITURE
This has reference to the e-tender No. NHM/PROC/HOSP/FURNITURE/3100/2016-17/1913 Date: 09/01/2017 & Corrigendum No. NHM/PROC/HOSP/FURNITURE/3100/2016-17/21792 Date: 14/3/17 for entering into rate contract for supply & installation of Hospital and Office Furniture. The details of amendment can be obtained from the NHM official website www.namamiassam.in and www.assamfenders.gov.in. All other terms and conditions of the tender referred to above shall remain unchanged.
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Mission Director NHM, Assam

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SILVER SCREEN Bijoy Nagar, Opp: ICICI Bank (Digital Projection and Dolby Surround sound system and Luxurious plush back seats with individual control & car parking) Al 11:00 pm	URVASI CINEMA At 11:00 pm, 8:00 & 9:00 pm MACHINE (Hindi)
MEGHDOOT PICTURE PALACE Digital Projection and Dolby Surround Sound System	BEAUTY & THE BEST 3D(E) At 12:00 pm & 5:00 pm
BADRINATH KI DULHANIYA (Hindi) Stg: Alia Bhatt, Varun Dhawan etc. At 2:00 pm & 5:00 pm — AA GAYA HERO Ticket Rates: Rs. 100/- to 120/- 9000, 97692-90972 & 88763-36224 For Online booking: www.bookmyshow.com	BADRINATH KI DULHANIYA (Hindi) Stg: Alia Bhatt, Varun Dhawan etc. At 5:00 & 8:00 pm — MACHINE Ticket Rates: Rs. 100/- to 120/- 9000, 97692-90972 & 88763-36224 For Online booking: www.bookmyshow.com
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17th Mar. to 23rd Mar. 2016

At 10:00 am & 3:00 pm — **AA GAYA HERO**

At 5:00 pm — **MACHINE** (Hindi)

Stg: Karna Advani, Ronit Roy etc.

Rs. 20/-, 150/-, 200/-, 300/-
Online Booking: www.funmovies.com

PRAGJYOTI
(Itachi Centrally Air Conditioned)

(Dolby & Digital Surround sound)

At 11:00 am & 5:00 pm — **AA GAYA HERO**

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(Dolby


**WEATHER
NORTHEAST**

Forecast for NE: Rain/thunderstorms is very likely to occur at most places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura.

Temperatures:

	Max (°C)	Min (°C)
Dibrugarh	21.6	14.4
Tezpur	24.2	15.3
Silchar	26.4	16.2
Dhubri	25.3	16.8
Jorhat	24.3	14.6
Majuli	21.4	14.2
Guwahati	19.0	8.1
Imphal	19.8	9.8
Itanagar	22.2	13.4
Aizawl	24.9	8.4
A�artala	29.1	21.7
Kohima	21.8	14.8
Shillong	18.7	14.8
Cherrapunjee	14.8	10.9

Protest observed against killing of non-Manipuri

IMPHAL, March 18: All shops owned by non-Manipuris in Thangal bazaar here remained closed on Saturday in protest against the killing of a youth in Imphal East.

Ajay Kumar Salu, 24, was found shot dead yesterday on a road side near Lengi village under Lamphel Police Station. The deceased, a pao shop owner, was originally from Bhamo.

A joint action committee (JAC) organised a sit-in protest demanding justice in the killing of the youth. The JAC president Sitaram Sahu told media, "We want the government to give compensation of Rs 20 lakh and a government job to the next of kin." "Culprits should be brought to book within three days. The body now lying in the mortuary will not be claimed until the the government fulfills all demands," Sitaram said. — Newman News

Bengaluru IISe attack suspect nabbed in Tripura

BENGALURU, March 18: The suspect in the 2005 terror attack at Bengaluru's Indian Institute of Science (IISc), was arrested near Agartala yesterday. He will be brought soon to the city police said here today.

In a joint operation yesterday, Karnataka Anti-Terror Squad and Tripura Police had arrested Habib Mia (37) from Jodhpuragar area near Agartala.

On December 28, 2005, suspected terrorists had barged into the IISc campus and opened fire, killing a retired professor of IIT Delhi and injuring four others.

Prof Munish Chandra Puri, Professor Emeritus of Mathematics Department of IIT Delhi, had fallen victim as the gunmen sprayed bullets from an AK-47 rifle when delegates attending international conference were proceeding for dinner at around 720 pm. The IISc attack was suspected to have been planned by Pakistan-based banned terror organisation LeT. — PTI

Manipur MLAs to take oath today

IMPHAL, March 18: The oath-taking ceremony of the newly-elected members of Manipur Assembly will be held at Assembly hall here on Sunday at 11 am according to Assembly sources. More than a dozen BJP MLAs who were reportedly camping in a hotel in Guwahati are likely to return here on Sunday to attend the oath-taking ceremony.

Meanwhile, MLA-elect V Hangkanian has been appointed as Protec Speaker. State Governor Dr Najma Heptulla issued an order in this regard on Saturday. — Correspondent Manipur to frame transfer policy

IMPHAL, March 18: Manipur Cabinet on Saturday discussed on the working of government employees in the hill and remote areas of Manipur and decided to frame a new transfer policy for effective functioning of government offices. CM Nongthombam Birendra Singh presided over the meeting which also appointed Th Biswajit Singh, Cabinet Minister as Government Spokesperson. — Correspondent



Students staging a candle light protest against attack on an Arunachali student, in Bengaluru on Friday.

BSF jawans in row over death of 3 tribals in Tripura

AGARTALA/NEW DELHI, March 18: An inquiry was to-day ordered by the BSF after its personnel were caught in a row with locals in Tripura over killing of three civilians who had protested an alleged molestation bid by some paramilitary personnel.

The BSF said that the three civilians, including a woman, were engaged in cattle smuggling and had attacked the jawans who opened fire in "self-defence", a claim rejected by the locals, who alleged that the paramilitary jawans were trying to molest a tribal woman at Chittagumma in South Tripura.

Stepping in, Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh has sought a detailed report from BSF chief KK Sharma on the incident, officials said in New Delhi.

In a statement, BSF claimed that its personnel were caught along the Indo-Bangladesh border in Tripura Frontier yesterday observed 30-40 smugglers including men and women, trying to smuggle cattle from India to Bangladesh through an unfenced gap near BOP Bhangamara. The local police has denied it.

The BSF claimed that its personnel challenged the group and fired two warning shots in the air to disperse the smugglers, who instead encircled the paramilitary party and "attacked them with 'dah' and 'lathis'".

"Sensing their life in danger, the BSF party fired in self-defense, in which three smugglers died. Firing was the last resort available to troopers."

The statement claimed that the cattle were recovered after the scuffle in which its personnel also sustained injuries.

However, SP control room

Bhimpada Chakraborty quoted an FIR lodged by villagers in which it was alleged that three BSF jawans attempted to molest a young woman at Chittagumma when she was on her way back home last evening after working in a rubber plantation.

When she raised an alarm, villagers rushed to the spot. A clash ensued and the BSF jawans opened fire, killing the woman and two other villagers on the spot, besides injuring two others, the FIR said.

Normal life was paralysed in

Sabroom subdivision of South Tripura district after a dawn-to-dusk bandh was called by the ruling CPI(M) over the death of the three tribals.

Inspector General of Police KV Srijeet and SP Tapan Kumar Debaraha were camping in the area with a huge contingent of forces.

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Sarkar discussed the matter with DGP K Nagraj and Chief Secretary Sanjib Ranjan immediately after the incident and asked them to collect all relevant information pertaining to it.

The ruling CPI (M) has condemned the incident as "inhuman and barbaric" and said it was "a clear attempt to molest the poor tribal woman". — PTI

Khandu meets 'wonder boy' who created goggle for blind

CORRESPONDENT

ITANAGAR, March 18: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Friday met Anang Tadar, a class XI student of New Galaxy Academy, Nirjuli, who had left everyone stunned with his innovation of a gadget called Goggle (G4B).

The invention was adjudged the most innovative idea in the recently concluded Regional Level Science Festival conducted at Regional Science Centre at Guwahati and was awarded the Dunianam Pandey Smart Idea Innovation Award.

Impressed by his innovation, the National Ignition Facility (NIF) and UNICEF are willing to launch G4B in the market and had asked Anang for creating few prototypes to test on the blind people. To develop these prototypes, Anang who comes from a poor family, approached the CM for help.

Appreciating the brilliant innovation that is intended to make the life of visually impaired people easy, the Chief Minister offered full financial support to him to develop the gadget. "We will set up proper institutional mechanism to encourage innovation and support innovators in the State for a 'New Arunachal,'" said Khandu.

The CM assured that there will be no lack of support and that he could fully devote his time and energy to develop the machine that would bring joy to visually impaired people.

When CM asked what motivated him to develop the gadget, the boy recalled a blind girl whom he saw few years back. Saddened at her plight, Anang decided to use technology to help visually impaired people. The technology he chose was similar to parking sensors used in cars.

After developing the gadget, he has participated in national level science exhibition at Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi on March 6 where Honey Bee Network, which together with NIF, Society for Research and Initiatives for Sustainable Technologies and Institutions (SRISTI), Global Youth Action Network (GYAN) and UNICEF were quite impressed with his innovation.

Anang was accompanied by his elder brother and Sports Authority of Arunachal chairman, Bamang Tago.

Anang has always been interested in technology and has been building robots and other gadgets for a really long time. He has participated in many technical events organised by renowned technical colleges before also, securing the first place most of the time. In the future, he plans to build an Exoskeleton which will help people lift heavy objects.



A Cabinet meeting of BJP-led Manipur Government underway at Old Secretariat in Imphal on Saturday. — Newmanai

NPCC for conduct of Nagaland polls with ballot papers

KOHIMA, March 18: The Nagaland Pradesh Congress Committee (NPCC) president has asserted that the State Congress will approach Election Commission to conduct the 2018 State Assembly election through ballot papers and not EVMs.

On the recent results of Assembly polls in five States, the State Congress president expressed apprehensions that the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) were "tampered". "EVMs can be tampered and manipulated and the voter will never know where the vote is cast even if he/she presses the right button,

but ballot papers will carry the right stamp chosen by the voter," he said.

The State Congress president K Therie was speaking at the introductory programme of the newly-appointed office bearers of Nagaland Pradesh Youth Congress at Congress Bhawan here on Friday. He also alleged that the elected representatives of the ruling Naga People's Front (NPF) Government have "no dreams and vision" for the people of the State.

He alleged that if the NPF is allowed to continue to run the government, the special rights of the Naga people guaranteed under Article 371(A) of the Constitution of India "will be taken away by the BIP Government in the Centre."

200 Bengaluru students protest attack on Arunachali student

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 18: Over 200 students in Bengaluru protested the brutal treatment of an Arunachali student there.

Higio Gungete, a student from Arunachal Pradesh studying at Christ University was brutally assaulted by his drunken landlord over a trivial matter of water usage on March 6.

"The landlord, Hemant Kumar entered Gungete's room abruptly at night, locked the doors and repeatedly hit him for an hour, despite Gungete bleeding profusely. In doing so, he not only abused Gungete physically but caused him severe mental and emotional trauma as well," a statement from the organiser of the protest said.

Following this incident, an FIR had been lodged against Hemant Kumar, but no action was taken against him. "It was noted that over 200 students came together in front of the steps of the Town Hall in Bengaluru and made their stand. The protesters also made a clarion call to end the alienation of and discrimination against people from the North East in their own country," it said.

UNC receives invitation from MHA for tripartite talk

NEWMAI NEWS

IMPHAL, March 18: United Naga Council (UNC) has received a written invitation this evening from Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for a tripartite talk involving Manipur Government, UNC and Government of India representatives. The talks will be held over the new district creation issue which triggered the indefinite economic blockade since November 1 last year.

MUNC sources said that the talks will be held on March 19, at Semapati district headquarters.

Meanwhile, the new BJP-led coalition government in Manipur hopes of ending the economic blockade imposed by UNC on National Highways and is set to hold fresh talks with the agitating Naga body on Sunday. The ensuing meeting over the blockade will be the first litmus test for the BJP Government.

Tripartite talks were earlier held over the district creation issue, which had ended without any major breakthrough. From the side of the State Government, Additional Director Suresh Bahadur and Commissioner (Works) K Radhakumar are likely to take part in the tripartite talks.

Former Arunachal Minister dies

ITANAGAR, March 18: Former Arunachal Pradesh Minister Nurang Zapad was admitted to a Guwahati hospital today.

He breathed his last after prolonged illness, his family said. Zapad, who represented Doinukh Assembly constituency, is survived by his wife and four children.

He served as Deputy Minister of Rural Works Department as well as PWD Minister during 1990-95 under the Geogong Apang Ministry. Chief Minister Pema Khandu has condoled the death of the veteran Congress leader. — PTI

the BIP Government in the Centre."

Nagaland and North East cannot allow our identity to be submerged with the ideologies of BIP which is trying to rule the country by dividing the people on religious lines, he alleged.

"Unless we change the government, Naga people will continue to suffer," he said. On the vexed unresolved Naga people issue, Therie alleged that the BIP Government is not "sincere" to resolve the issue because of which even the contents of framework agreement signed between Centre and NSCN(IM) is yet to be made public. — PTI

Judiciary should be accessible to all'

CORRESPONDENT

level courts is on the rise. The High Court has taken a bold step to organise Mega Lok Adalat to ensure speedy disposal of cases including motor accidents", he said.

Noting that Bar and Bench are two wings of judiciary, Justice Gogoi said High Court of Tripura has set a precedent in reducing dependency of cases in an effective manner.

"While other High Courts are struggling to dispose pending cases, High Court of Tripura has made remarkable achievement in reducing dependency. Since its inception in March 2013, pending cases have been reduced from 6,619 to 2,883", he said.

Justice Gogoi was speaking after laying the foundation stone of Administrative Building of High Court premises here.

"Early inflow of cases in High Court and other district

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3 BHK at Boragaon (Gahok Chowk) 800' mt from National Highway. Contact: 9127098837, TLP/P/741/1

RCC GF, 3 bedroom, D/D, kitchen small family, Govt/Bank Officials only, Chandmari, Navagiri, Ph: 739459375, TLP/P/5750/1

Tolit 3 BHK flat at Girinivas, facing Brahmputra, near Barthakur Nursing Home at Kharughali - Navagraha Path. Please contact: 9854042971, 976062202, 9435042971, TLP/P/5731/1

2 BHK House No. 48, L.N.B., Road, Hatigun. Call: 9864436446, TLP/P/5738/1

3 BHK flat for rent at KB Enclose, FAA Road Sixmle. Contact: 9435121605, TLP/P/3739/1

Semi furnished 4 BHK for Office/Guest House @ Jayanagar, Contact: 970727282, TLP/P/5698/1

GF, 3 BR, 2 baths, balcony, water, heating - family/ofer at Hatinbari, Rs. 14,00,000. Ph: 9864023480, TLP/P/5681/1

One delux big room with attached bath and kitchen 2nd floor, Nabin Nagar, Rajgarh, Guwahati-24, Rent 6000/- Ph: 9864054128, 9864241717, TLP/P/5687/1

Absolutely three side open well flooded, 3 bed room flat, 2nd floor with parking for rent near Pratiksha Bhuburi, VIP Road. Contact: 9707606000, TLP/P/5688/1

1st floor, 3 BHK, 1100 sqft. with parking at Anil Nagar Office preferred. Contact: 89984649349, TLP/P/5672/1

2nd floor, two rooms attached bath, kitchen, balcony at Rukminiangaon. 9706524275, 9435307046, TLP/P/5674/1

2 rooms flat (4th floor) Paltan Bazar near KFC Rent 8500/- Contact: (M) 9707092215, TLP/P/5675/1

3 BHK flat at Hatigun, Guwahati Rent 12000/- 9864061281, TLP/P/5679/1

Room for rent first floor one & two BHK rooms available, running water & parking facility, Beltoia, Ghoramara. (M) 8486708143, TLP/P/5643/1

3 BHK furnished flat with carparking at Behbari Serviceman, Bank Rs. 15000/- negotiable. Contact: 8721046858, TLP/P/5642/1

RCC ground floor at Homeo College, Road, Panjibari, Ph: 9864053360, 9435409284, Rent Rs. 12,000/- TLP/P/5762/1

Fully secured new house for small family or senior female executives. 9435119681, TLP/P/5641/1

2200 sqft. flat at Uzambazar (Baruvari), Hemolite Heritage 'A' 5th floor. Includes 5 Nos. A.C., 3 bedroom with 3 bath and 2 car parking. Expected Rent 35,000/- only. Contact: 9435040736, TLP/P/5641/1

Furnished flats for rent at Hatigun Chariali, Contact No. 848682706, 9531112317, TLP/P/5641/1

A 2 BHK flat ready for rent at Kharughali Rrs. 18000/- Phone No. 9435046938, TLP/P/5636/1

Single room attached kitchen Six Mile Juniper (Boys) Rent 3000/- 9577866917, TLP/P/5638/1

3 BHK running water water logging free near Rajgarh Bihuti, Rent 12,000. Ph: TLP/P/5612/1

2 BHK with all modern amenities, garage, running water at Pub-Sarania. Contact: 882605967, TLP/P/5616/1

2 BHK apartment in VIP Road near Hinduwan College. Rent Rs. 10,000/- Contact: 9864017903, TLP/P/5617/1

ASSAM TYPE HOUSE AT PENSION PARA ROAD (SILPUKHUR) AVAILABLE FOR OFFICE PURPOSE ETC. CONTACT: 9864077289, TLP/P/5787/1

Two bedroom, kitchen, bathroom adjoining park ideal for working. Dispur. Contact: 9864179257, TLP/P/5620/1

3 room house with 24 hrs water at 8th bylane Lachitnagar for rent. Ph: 7399634649, TLP/P/5622/1

3 BHK flat/rental at Sundarpur, Zoo Road, Guwahati. Contact: 9435050405, TLP/P/5625/1

2 BHK full tiles Indil floor 24 hrs Water carparking at Survey. 9435453567, TLP/P/5627/1

2nd floor (one part), three room, kitchen, toilet for rent, Rupnarayan, near Media Trust Office. Rent 19000/- Contact: 9435130183, TLP/P/5608/1

Ground floor 2 big rooms with big drawing dining at Kharughali Main Road. Small family preferred, (M) 9435042772, TLP/P/5609/1

One rooms (14 x 13) kitchen bath 24 hrs water at Behbari behind Jagaran Path. 6000/- 9957073406, TLP/P/5610/1

2nd floor 2 big rooms with big drawing dining at Kharughali Main Road. Small family preferred, (M) 9435042772, TLP/P/5610/1

A newly constructed 3 bed rooms ground floor with 2 toilets, drawing and dining hall and kitchen store room, 24 hours running water parking space, no water logging at Kharughali/Rajgarh Bihuti Clinic & Hospital. Contact: 986405128, 9957591794, TLP/P/5621/1

3 BHK ground floor near Kharughali Central School with garrage parking open space private building. Rent 20,000. M: 9401382252, TLP/P/5795/1

Single room semi furnished 3rd floor terrace near Jorpurhuli Uzambazar Rent 5000/- private building. M: 940132252, TLP/P/5796/1

2 BHK 1st floor, with balcony & car parking Rent 7000/- Panjabari, Bidyadargh. Ph: 840300905, TLP/P/5797/1

3 bedroom flat (G.F.) with all amenities at Sixmle. Cont: 9864050025, TLP/P/5798/1

Spacious 3 BHK, 2 toilets, 3 balconies flat with covered car parking for rent at Sahibulipura, Near Zoorod Tiniali. Contact: 9957653636, TLP/P/5770/1

Independent 1/2/3 bed room Ganeshguri, Bhamunimaidam, Rajghat Chinchandi-Bhengarh, Ph: 9864495334, 961326289, PD Service. TLP/P/5780/1

Ground floor 3 BHK with 2 Commercial Space Rajgarh, byelane-11, Ph. No. 9864065019, TLP/P/5816/1

3 BHK premium quality vegetarian flat at Kumarpara, Call: 9435047557, 986499994, TLP/P/5769/1

3 bedroom flat (G.F.) with all amenities at Sixmle. Cont: 9864050025, TLP/P/5798/1

Spacious 3 BHK, 2 toilets, 3 balconies flat with covered car parking for rent at Sahibulipura, Near Zoorod Tiniali. Contact: 9957653636, TLP/P/5770/1

Independent 1/2/3 bed room Ganeshguri, Bhamunimaidam, Rajghat Chinchandi-Bhengarh, Ph: 9864495334, 961326289, PD Service. TLP/P/5780/1

Ground floor 2 bed, 2 toilet, parking at Hatigun housing Complex. 9957898121, TLP/P/5765/1

Ground floor with two bedroom drawing dining etc at Sahibulipura near Zoorod Tiniali. Contact: 9957653636, TLP/P/5768/1

RCC 3 rooms attached bath & kitchen at Durgasagar, Kamukhatey, Ph: 986405403719, 986405403719, TLP/P/5641/1

1525 sqft. Silveroak Apartment in Manik Nagar available for rent. Contact: 9435152076, 9435086155, TLP/P/5773/1

A 2 BHK flat ready for rent at Kharughali Rrs. 18000/- Phone No. 9435046938, TLP/P/5636/1

Furnished flats for rent at Hatigun Chariali, Contact No. 848682706, 9531112317, TLP/P/5641/1

A 2 BHK flat ready for rent at Kharughali Rrs. 18000/- Phone No. 9435046938, TLP/P/5636/1

3 BHK (2 nos) with all facility at Gouri Mansion Pt-II, VIP Road, Six Mile, M: 9954712977, 9435149048, TLP/P/5772/1

Two bedroom house fully furnished. Chalashpara Shasthipuri, Jorhat, Ph. No. 9957267320, 07752847414, TLP/P/5778/1

Small family, 2 rooms, kitchen & balcony. Contact: 7896984687, Guwahati College, TLP/P/5777/1

Brand new 3 BHK flat on 2nd floor at Ajanta Path Survey for rent. Contact: 9435112496, TLP/P/5617/1

2 BHK flat for rent at Royal Hut Radha Nagar Chachai near Shirdhi Sagar Mandir Guwahati. Interested parties may contact: 9435121909, TLP/P/5601/1

2 BHK flat for rent at Royal Hut Radha Nagar Chachai near Shirdhi Sagar Mandir Guwahati. Interested parties may contact: 9435121909, TLP/P/5601/1

Delux boys PG all amenities Excellent food, Japrigog, Ganeshguri, Rs. 6000 - 7000, TLP/P/5617/1

1 BHK flat for rent at Six Mile VIP Road. Contact: 9435157767, TLP/P/5601/1

Three nos RCC part houses for rent at Ambari Tiniali, Fatashipuri, Contact: 9708659054, TLP/P/5861/1

2 BHK independent house for rent at Behbari, near Happy Child School, Rent Rs. 8500/- per month. Contact: 9708659054, TLP/P/5637/1

1 BHK flat for rent at Jagabandhu Apartment, G.S. Road, Bongaigaon, Guwahati. Contact: 9708641802, TLP/P/5862/1

1 Bigha Myad land for sale at Bhabanipur Press, Hatiachia, Panikhuri for immediate sale (Exp. price 40 lakhs) Cont No. 98640-35815, TLP/P/5860/1

Newly constructed semiunfurnished 4BHK (2nd floor) resourceful Party & one 2BHK (3rd floor). Full Brahmputra view, Barakuri Clinic Road, Kharughali, 9435015548, 7007/25482, TLP/P/5869/1

Independent 1 bigroom kitchen bathroom 4000/-, 2 bigroom kitchen bathroom 5000/- Zoorod, 8753074610, 9864822333, TLP/P/5861/1

20 bedded girls running PG for rent, 2700/- near Nitungan Police Station. Contact: 9864087592, TLP/P/5871/1

Single room with attached bathroom and kitchen at bishupurbylane-3 near old Passport Office. Rent 5000/- Contact: 9435012439, TLP/P/5872/1

Rent for ground floor (2 bed rooms, 2 bathrooms) at Meghamall Apartment, Sejal Path, Hatigun. Contact: 9435560294, TLP/P/5873/1

One 17 x 9 room (Office/Shop) near Gaubari Commerce College for immediate rent. Contact: 9435112272, TLP/P/5801/1

2nd floor, 3 room flat for rent at Kharughali Main Road. Small family preferred. Contact: 9435530977, TLP/P/5801/1

2 BHK flat in first floor with two becomes very near GNRC, Dispur. Contact: 9435450538, 09613590417, 03762300898, TLP/P/481/1

1 room attached bathkitchen Rs. 3300/-, 2 room Rs. 5000/- Juri Complex, Kalakshetra. Contact: 9435518562, TLP/P/482/1

2 BHK spacious flat in Panjapin for rent. Contact: 9167298059, TLP/P/402/1

Office fully furnished/shop business purpose room, Ph: 908577886 prime business location Guwahati. Contact: 9435325390, TLP/P/582/1

Two bed room flat at Samraturia, Dispur. Contact: 986405641, TLP/P/0422/1

3 rooms 2 baths kitchen near Zoo Rent Rs. 9000/- ground floor. Contact: 9508898233, TLP/P/0423/1

1 room with attached kitchen bathroom flat at Teletia, Narikot, near NH-37. 9435307037, TLP/P/0423/1

3 BHK with parking in Karguli, Company Executive preferred. Contact: 9508642433, TLP/P/0424/1

4th floor, deluxe-flat, 3 BHK, 1350 sqft., semi-furnished, modular-kitchen, parking at Zoo Ranong Road. Ph: 9864024017, TLP/P/2827/1

Two RCC rooms attached bathkitchen VIP Road, Silmole@Rs. 6000/-, Ph: 9401209921, TLP/P/0427/1

3 BHK 1st floor flat part house at Manik Nagar, 9435456459, TLP/P/0427/1

4th floor, 3 room, kitchen etc at Ganeshguri, Ph: 986405641, TLP/P/0427/1

1 BHK flat with parking at Dharpar. Contact: 90854-48815, TLP/P/043/1

2 bhk semi furnished flat at Jorhat, near DPL, Kharibari, M. No. 9486025334, 9864591654, TLP/P/044/1

One no. 3 BHK flat near Blue Flame Gas Agency & 2 katha land opposite Central Hall for sale. Contact: 94351-19472, TLP/P/044/1

Flat 1/2/3 bed room at Zoo Jorhat Road near Zoo Road Electrical Sub-Division, Guwahati. Contact: 9084100570 (Quantum), 9864052853, TLP/P/0510/2

One katha five less Myad land with ground & 1st floor at Chundmari, 700 metres from Fly-over for immediate sale @ 1.2 L. C. Genuinely interested buyer call 98640-48815, TLP/P/5801/1

For sale Myad land 1 Bigha, 1st plot NH152, Doodomaha, Dist: Tinsukia. Contact: 70860/20162, TLP/P/5232/4

One no. 3 BHK flat near Blue Flame Gas Agency & 2 katha land opposite Central Hall for sale. Contact: 94351-19472, TLP/P/044/1

Flat 1/2/3 bed room at Zoo Jorhat Road near Zoo Road Electrical Sub-Division, Guwahati. Contact: 9084100570 (Quantum), 9864052853, TLP/P/0510/2

One katha five less Myad land with ground & 1st floor at Nuhari Hazo Road, 3 km away from Nuhari Police Station will be sold urgently. Only genuine buyer may contact Mobile No. 98544-10939, TLP/P/5756/1

3 rooms attached kitchen bath room at first floor Uzambazar. Contact: 9864023853, 9864024039, TLP/P/5847/1

3 rooms attached bath & kitchen at Assam house at Jyotiashram, Kalashipuri, 95772-63253, 9864025077, TLP/P/5856/1

2/2 katha Eksomi land with land adjacent to the Nuhari Hazo Road, 3 km away from Nuhari Police Station will be sold urgently. Only genuine buyer may contact Mobile No. 98544-10939, TLP/P/5756/1

Three rooms 2 floor bath + kitchen South Sanur, Ulubari, Guwahati. Contact: 9864023653, 9864025077, TLP/P/5860/1

Three rooms 2 floor bath + kitchen South Sanur, Ulubari, Guwahati. Contact: 9864023653, 9864025077, TLP/P/5860/1

2 BHK at 3rd floor for rent at Sunawati Plaza, Jasawanta Road, Panbazar, Ph: 9706038248, 9706038248, TLP/P/5862/1

3 BHK flat for rent at Six Mile VIP Road. Contact: 9435157767, TLP/P/5601/1

1 katha 10 lecha Myad land & 2 katha land with 3 storied RCC building for sale near Ramkrishna Mission, Birbari, 97068-41802, TLP/P/5683/1

1 katha 10 lecha land for sale at Ramkrishna Mission, Birbari, 97068-41802, TLP/P/5684/1

1 Bigha Myad land near Bhabanipur Press, Hatiachia, Panikhuri for immediate sale (Exp. price 40 lakhs) Cont No. 98640-35815, TLP/P/5680/1

Commercial space 2000/3000 sq ft. for Showroom/Bank/Office for rent at Zoo Tiniali. Contact: 9509756377, CS/P/5650/1

1 Bigha Myad land for sale at Damodar Nagar, Lekhia, 97068-41802, TLP/P/5681/1

1 Bigha Myad land for sale at Damodar Nagar, Lekhia, 97068-41802, TLP/P/5682/1

1 Bigha Myad land for sale at Damodar Nagar, Lekhia, 97068-41802, TLP/P/5683/1

1 Bigha Myad land for sale at Damodar Nagar, Lekhia, 97068-41802, TLP/P/5684/1

1 Bigha Myad land for sale at Damodar Nagar, Lekhia, 97068-41802, TLP/P/5685/1

1 Bigha Myad land for sale at Damodar Nagar, Lekhia, 97068-41802, TLP/P/5686/1

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1 Bigha Myad land for sale at Damodar Nagar, Lekhia, 97068-41802, TLP/P/5690/1

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1 Bigha Myad land for sale at Damodar Nagar, Lekhia, 97068-41802, TLP/P/5692/1

1 Bigha Myad land for sale at Damodar Nagar, Lekhia, 97068-41802, TLP/P/5693/1

1 Bigha Myad land for sale at Damodar Nagar, Lekhia, 97068-41802, TLP/P/5694/1

1 Bigha Myad land for sale at Damodar Nagar, Lekhia, 97068-41802, TLP/P/5695/1

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1 Bigha Myad land for sale at Damodar Nagar, Lekhia, 97068-41802, TLP/P/5697/1

1 Bigha Myad land for sale at Damodar Nagar, Lekhia, 97068-41802, TLP/P/5698/1

1 Bigha Myad land for sale at Damodar Nagar, Lekhia, 97068-41802, TLP/P/5699/1

1 Bigha Myad land for sale at Damodar Nagar, Lekhia, 97068-41802, TLP/P/5700/1

1 Bigha Myad land for sale at Damodar Nagar, Lekhia, 97068-41802, TLP/P/5701/1

1 Bigha Myad land for sale at Damodar Nagar, Lekhia, 97068-41802, TLP/P/5702/1

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Bengali Kayastha boy, BE, working as an Executive in a PSU at Guwahati requires Bengali good looking, non working, educated and from a decent family background. Contact No.: 9437820828, Mat/B/P/5670/1

Age 33, Kalita, B.Tech, Central Engineer (2) 30, Kalita, MCA, Govt. job, Ghy (3) 36, Kalita, Masters, Central job, Ghy (4) 35, Kalita, MBA, Govt, job, Ghy (5) 38, OBC, Graduate, Business, Ghy, Sandhani, 8011630847, Mat/B/P/5708/1

Age 29, Kalita, MBBBS/ MS (ENT), doing Senior Residency, Ghy (2) 31, General, MBBS/ MD, Service, Jorhat (3) 29, Kalita, MBBS, Govt, Doctor, Jorhat (4) 32, Ahom, MBBBS/ DBB, service, Ghy, Sandhani, 8011630847, Mat/B/P/5709/1

Age 29, Bengali, B.Tech/ MBA, MNC, Kolkata (2) 38, Bengal, B.Com, Bank employee, Delhi (3) 40, Bengali, Graduate, Service, Ghy, Sandhani, 8011630847, Mat/B/P/5710/1

Age 30, Brahmin, B.Tech/ MBA, MNC, Delhi (2) 31, Brahmin, B.Tech, MNC, Bangalore (3) 34, Brahmin, B.Tech/ MSc, MNC, Bangalore (4) 32, Brahmin, B.Tech, MNC, Ghy (5) 32, Brahmin, B.Tech, Oil Sector, Dulaijan, Sandhani, 8011630847, Mat/B/P/5711/1

Age 32, Ahom, RE/MBA, HCL, Delhi (2) 28, Kalita, B.Tech, TCS, Pune (3) 31, Brahmin, B.Tech, MNC, Bangalore (4) 30, Kalita, BST (IT), MNC, Bangalore (5) 32, Kalita, B.Tech, MNC, Metro, Sandhani, 8011630847, Mat/B/P/5712/1

34, Assamese, OBC, MA/ LLB (GU), State Govt, employee (Assam Secretariat), 98540- 32811, Mat/B/P/5713/1

Assamese, General, Kalita, 33, MSc (Maths)/APSC (Pass out), Sales Tax Inspector in Assam, 9127023992, Mat/B/P/5714/1

Smart Assamese, Brahmin, BE (JEC), Engineer in (Indian Railways), Guwahati, 98540- 32811, Mat/B/P/5715/1

Smart & handsome Assamese, OBC, 35, MBBBS/ MD (AMC), Doctor in (AIMS), Castle no bar, 9127023992, Mat/B/P/5716/1

Hindi Assamese, Brahmin, 33, B.Tech (Chennai), Engineer in (MNC) Bangalore, 9127023992, Mat/B/P/5717/1

(1) Kalita 30, MBBBS, MS (ENT) (2) Ahom 33, MBBBS, DNB (3) Kalita 36, MBBBS, MD (4) 43 Assamese 39, MBBBS, PG in Ophthalmology (5) Kalita 42, MBBS, Guwahati, "ADAMS" (M) 9854063196, Mat/B/P/5657/1

Hindi Assamese, Assamese, 50, B.Sc/ LLB (Dibrugarh University), well established Business (Hotel/ Petrol Pump), Guwahati, 9127023992, Mat/B/P/5719/1

INTERNATIONAL

(1) Kalita 35, BE, MBA, Engineer Guwahati (2) Assamese Hindu 39, MA, Ph.D, Asstt. Professor (3) Kalita 41, BE, Central Govt, Engineer, Contact : *ADAMS" (M) 984063196, Mat/B/P/5658/1

Smart Assamese, OBC, 31, M.Tech (NTU/Silchar), Engineer in (MNC) Metro city, 98540- 32811, Mat/B/P/5718/1

Beautiful Assamese, Brahmin, 28, M.Sc/ Ph.D (Physics), Assistant Professor (Govt. College) Assam, 9127023992.

Smart Assamese, OBC, MBB斯 (MD) (Radiology), Doctor in Town Hospital, 9854032811, Mat/B/P/5728/1

Beautiful Muslim Sunni, 28, MA (Philosophy), GU, Lecturer in Govt. College Assam, 9127023992, Mat/B/P/5729/1

Beautiful Assamese, 30, BE (AE), Engineer in (IOCL), Guwahati, Castle no bar, 9127023992, Mat/B/P/5730/1

Smart Assamese, OBC, 28, B.Tech (NIIT/ Silchar) / MBA (HIM), Senior Manager in Bangalore, 9127023992, Mat/B/P/5731/1

29, Assamese, Brahmin, B.Tech (Nagpur University), Engineer (MNC), Bangalore, 98540- 32811, Mat/B/P/5732/1

35, Assamese, Brahmin, issues divorcee, M.Sc (GU), State Govt, employee in Assam, 9127023992, Mat/B/P/5733/1

Beautiful Assamese, Muslim, Sunni, 26, B.Tech (MIT), Engineer in (MNC) Delhi, 9854032811, Mat/B/P/5734/1

Smart Assamese, OBC, 40, M.Sc/ PhD (GU), Assistant Professor (Govt. College) Guwahati, 9127023992, Mat/B/P/5735/1

Kalita/ Assamese/ 38/ 5'9" MA, LLB/ Civil Service Officer/Govt. early marriage/ Caste no bar, 9854152573, 7035343836, Mat/B/P/5736/1

Muslim, Sunni, 38, B.Com/ MBA (SMU), State Govt, employee in Assam, 98540- 32811, Mat/B/P/5737/1

Smart, Muslim, 42, M.Sc/ Chemistry/ Dibrugarh University, employed in (ONGC) Assam, Mat/B/P/5738/1

48, Assamese, Muslim, issues divorcee, M.Sc (MATHS)/LLB, Class 1 Govt. Officer in Guwahati, 9854032811, Mat/B/P/5739/1

Bengali/ 30/ MCA/ Oil Indus/ Central Govt, employee/ early marriage, #7035343833, Mat/B/P/5739/1

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Bengali/ 30/ MCA/ Oil Indus/ Central Govt, employee/ early marriage, #

Life terms for 13 Maruti ex-employees for 2012 violence

GURGAON, March 18: A Gurgaon court today awarded life sentence to 13 former employees of Maruti-Suzuki India Limited, who it had found guilty of murder, in connection with the violence at the automobile giant's Manesar plant in 2012 in which a senior company officer had died.

Additional district and sessions judge RP Goyal granted life sentence to the 13 men, who had been convicted for murder by earlier. Of the 18 other ex-workers, who had been convicted of various other offences like violence, rioting and attempt to murder,

four have been given a sentence of five years.

Fourteen other convicts will be released after paying a fixed amount of Rs 2,500 as fine. The court termed these 14 as "unarguedonc" as they had already served a jail term of four-and-a-half years, which it felt was enough punishment.

The 13 persons who have been sentenced to life term are identified as Ram Meher, who was the union president, Sandeep Dhilwan, Ram Bilar, Sarbjit Singh, Pawan Kumar, Sohan Kumar, Pradeep Kumar, Ajmer Singh, Jiya Lal, Amarjeet, Dhananjay Bhambi, Yogesh

Kumar and Pradeep Gujjar.

During the proceedings to date, prosecution counsel Anurag Hooda sought death penalty for all the 13 murder convicted employees. Sessions judge RP Goyal, after taking into consideration all aspects, recommended life sentence to each of them.

Defence counsel Rebeccca John, however, said she would approach the High Court against the decision.

Earlier, 31 workers had been convicted and 117 were acquitted by the court on March 10. Thirteen of the accused were held guilty of mur-

der, while the remaining 18 were convicted of violence, rioting and other offences.

Violence had erupted at the facility in August 2012 over disciplinary action against an employee during which agitated workers went on rampage, torching a part of the factory, setting senior human resource manager Anupam Kumar Dev on fire, and beating up and bludgeoning with rods 100 others. Those wounded included some foreigners and policemen.

The police had arrested 148 workers in connection with the murder. — PTI

Progress in 26/11 terror case trial likely, says Pak Envoy

MUMBAI, March 18: Pakistan today said a trial in a terror case like 26/11 takes time to conclude and one must not "jump the gun" and must wait for the court verdict. Abdul Basit, Pakistan's High Commissioner to India, said Pakistani nations suspected of involvement in the 2008 Mumbai attack case have been booked by the authorities and further progress is expected in the matter.

"The accused have been booked and we hope to make further progress in the matter," he said at the India Today Conclave here.

"The crime took place in India. The trials in such cases do take time. Our government is trying hard to ensure justice (to the victims). But, let us not jump the gun. Let us please wait for the final verdict of the court," he said.

The Pakistani diplomat was replying to a query from a 26/

attack survivor who attended the event. "But at the end of the day, bilateral cooperation is required to dispense justice," Basit said, adding, "We also need to see why it is taking too long to bring the perpetrators of the 2008 Mumbai Express bombing (to book)."

Replying to another query, he said as far as the trial in the Pathankot terror attack case was concerned, "we strongly feel that both the countries should cooperate (in the investigation) and we need to sit across the table."

During an interactive session, Basit asserted that there were "no terror training camps" in Pakistan and maintained that his country too was a "victim of terrorism."

"This blame game is not going to take anywhere. Let us not forget that Pakistan has been a big victim of terrorism." Asked if Islamabad consid-

TENDER NOTICE No: NCGDM/C/H/T/01/16-17

dated: 11/03/2017

Open Tender notice covers are invited for the following works:-
Name of work: Hiring of 09 tones & 15 tones capacity truck for hire for 03 months.
Loco Components from Diesel Loco Shed, New Guwahati to DMW/PTA (one way) for a period of 03 (three) years.
Earnest Money: ₹1,26,815/- Cost of Tender Paper: ₹5,000/- (₹500/- extra by post). Completion period: 03 days.

Tender documents can be had from the office of the Sr. DME/New Guwahati Diesel Loco Shed, during the office working hours from 16-03-2017 to 20-04-2017 upto 13.00 hrs.

Tender bids will be available for download on Tenders document in the office of Sr. DME/New Guwahati Diesel Loco Shed & CMLG From 16-03-2017 upto 20-04-2017. Tender will be opened at 15.30 hrs. on 21-04-2017 in the office of Sr. DME/New Guwahati Diesel Loco Shed.

Detailed NIT and the tender form is available in www.srdmewnguwa.com during the above mentioned period and can be downloaded and used as tender documents for submission.

Sr. DME/DIN/New Guwahati

DN/168

NORTH EAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

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RN/168

STORIES E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE NO. SLE/1/2016 DL 16-03-2017

(1) All tenders have been uploaded on Indian Railways-E-Procurement portal (www.ireps.gov.in). For details & necessary guidelines for quoting tenders online, Please refer to E-Procurement portal. Tenders are due to be opened on 10-04-2017, 12-04-2017, 14-04-2017 & 18-04-2017. (2) The prospective tenders are advised to get them registered on the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. The registration is mandatory for participation in tendering and is free of charge. (3) Offers are to be submitted online only. Offers sent through e-mail, post/fax or in person will be rejected summarily without any consideration. (4) This notice is for the prospective tenders only, in future, no such notice shall be published. Vendors are requested to get registered on www.ireps.gov.in for future tenders.

(5) Please submit offers online for the following tenders.

Tender no. respectivly.

File Policy, 830771616, 50505

DL 3/16/1558/07/56416_151

Master Plan, 8101120, 64000 Kgs, B1/16/077/

C1/56516. Support for long back

rest cum berth, 3061780, 850

No. of tenders: 1

Controller of Stores, Maligaon

NORTH EAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

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RN/170

TENDER NOTICE NO.: NIS&TML/GVehicle/CCE/2016 Date: 03-03-2017

Sealed open tenders are invited by Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer, Maligaon, Assam.

Tender No.: NIS/Tender (2016)

(1) Name of work- Hiring of one light motor vehicle (AC) Xylem Scorpion with driver and use of CCSE/NFR over a period of 24 months (628 days). Estimated cost: ₹6,60,610/- Earnest Money: ₹10,000/- Cost of tender document: ₹2,000/- (₹500/- extra by post); Completion period: 628 days.

Validity of offer: 90 days.

Tender documents can be had from the office of Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer, Maligaon-11 during the office working hours from 10.00 hrs of 17-03-2017 and upto 15.30 hrs. of 24-03-2017.

Tender calls for 15.30 hrs. of 24-03-2017 during the office working hours in the Tender Box kept in the offices of Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer, Maligaon-11.

Tender will be opened at 15.30 hrs. of 25-04-2017 in the office of the

Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer, Maligaon-11.

Website details for downloading tender form and detailed tender notice can be seen in www.nis.tnrc.gov.in.

Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom

Engineer, Maligaon

NORTH EAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

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RN/170

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Engineer, Maligaon

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RN/170

Triple talaq-hit women voted for BJP in UP: Prasad

GANDHINAGAR, March 18: The Muslim women "affected by the triple talaq practice voted for the BJP in good numbers" during the recent Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, claimed Union Minister for Law and Justice Ravi Shankar Prasad today.

"The minister also alleged that in welfare schemes like the Begum Hazrat Mahal Scholarship for girls and Garib Nawaz Skill Development Centre, 'irregularities were suspected to be taking place.'

"If these irregularities are found to be true, we will address those issues too (in schemes mein ghapha kiva hai) to government revenue style mein wasastha jayega," he said.

The Union minister also claimed that the percentage of minorities in Central institutions has grown from "5.8-5.9 per cent, at the time of formation of the NDA Government to 10 per cent at present."

"Composition of minorities in administrative services has also gone up," he said.

"We are sure, the needy people will

reap the benefits of inclusive growth, and the minority community which has been deprived of development will be empowered," he said.

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Minorities will see growth under new UP Govt: Naqvi

NEW DELHI, March 18: The Central and the State-level schemes "stuck" in Uttar Pradesh will be revised and "deprived minorities" will see growth, Union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said today.

Speaking to reporters after the meetings of the governing body and general body of the Maulana Azad Education Foundation, an autonomous non-profit minority welfare institution under the Minority Affairs Ministry, he said that the BJP does "empowerment and not ap-

peasement."

A BJP Government is set to take charge in UP after an impressive win in the Assembly elections by the party, which had not given ticket to any Muslim candidate.

"Socio-economic development schemes of both the State and the Centre were not getting implemented. The PM's 15-point programme was virtually

shut down (in the State) which provides for roads, education infrastructure and water bodies," Naqvi alleged.

"Now once our party forms the Government there, we will talk to the CM and we are confident that people belonging to the backward and minority communities will put the path of growth through education, jobs and skill development," the Union Minister said.

Naqvi had in late February said that "it would have been better (if tickets were given to Muslims by the party). We will address their concern by compensating them when we form the Government in the State." When asked as to what he had meant by "compensation" before the polls, the minister just said, "The BJP Government does empowerment and not appeasement, and one can feel the difference."

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"If these irregularities are found to be true, we will address those issues too (in schemes mein ghapha kiva hai) to government revenue style mein wasastha jayega," he said.

"The minister also claimed that the percentage of minorities in Central institutions has grown from "5.8-5.9 per cent, at the time of formation of the NDA Government to 10 per cent at present."

"Composition of minorities in adminis-

trative services has also gone up," he said.

"We are sure, the needy people will

reap the benefits of inclusive growth, and the minority community which has been deprived of development will be empowered," he said.

"The minister also alleged that in welfare schemes like the Begum Hazrat

Mal Scholarship for girls and Garib

Nawaz Skill Development Centre,

"irregularities were suspected to be taking place."

"If these irregularities are found to be true, we will address those issues too (in schemes mein ghapha kiva hai) to government revenue style mein wasastha jayega," he said.

"The minister also claimed that the percentage of minorities in

Yogi Adityanath: from Hindutva votary to UP CM

LUCKNOW, March 18: A five-term Lok Sabha MP, Yogi Adityanath is a fiery Hindutva mascot who has developed a reputation of being controversial's favourite child over a period of time. Named as the next Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh today, 44-year-old Adityanath, a priest-turned-politician, is known for his provocative speeches and mass following across the State and never shies away from making controversial remarks, be it about Islam or Pakistan.

Clad in his trademark saffron-coloured robe, Adityanath, a Gorakhpur MP, has been seeking greater power and is expected to give a push to the BJP's Hindutva-wrapped agenda of development with the emergence of a separate power base for the party in eastern UP.

Born Ajay Singh, the diminutive shaved headed politician is known for his powerful oratory, though most of his speeches hinge on divisive lines and has been in the forefront in keeping communal politics alive in the country.

Adityanath, who is a strong votary of the construction of a Ram temple at the disputed site in Ayodhya, drove the BJP's Hindutva campaign in eastern UP in the just concluded Assembly polls in the politically crucial State where it won a three-fourth majority.



Adityanath has rebelled against his party on several occasions, but because of the sway he holds over the 'Hindu' voters, the BJP apparently could not ignore his 'leadership qualities.' He had floated the Hindu Yuva Vahini (HYV), a right-wing outfit, in 2002.

Ever since, the HYV has been largely instrumental in his meteoric rise – from a student leader to five-time MP. Right from comparing Bapuji with Shah Rukh Khan to Pakistani terrorist Haifz Saeed during the intolerance debate in India in 2015 to asking people to leave India if they don't practise Surya Namaskar in 2015, Yogi has been at the centre of several controversies.

Playing the religious card during the pre-poll campaign, the firebrand leader had said that controversial issues like 'love jihad' and 'Kairana Hindu' exodus have always been on his party's agenda. He had also said that the hurdles on the path of construction of a grand Ram temple would be gradually removed and its construction would soon start in Ayodhya.

Born on June 5, 1972, Adityanath was the youngest member of the 12th Lok Sabha at 26. He has been elected as an MP from Gorakhpur to the Lok Sabha in the 1998, 1999, 2004, 2009 and 2014 elections.

In 2005, Adityanath allegedly led a publication drive which involved the conversion of Christians to Hinduism. In one such instance, 1,800 Christians were reportedly converted to Hinduism in the town of Etah in Uttar Pradesh. – PTI

JKLF chief Yasin Malik arrested

SRINAGAR, March 18: A day after separatists asked voters to desist from participating in the bypolls to Srinagar and Anantnag Parliamentary constituencies, JKLF chief Mohammad Yasin Malik was today arrested from his office here.

"A dozen of policemen raided the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) in the heart of Srinagar and arrested Malik to desist him from spearheading the poll boycott campaign," a JKLF spokesman said.

Activists of the JKLF and

a constituent of hardline Hurriyat Conference headed by Syed Ali Shah Geelani had yesterday started a joint election boycott campaign by holding a protest rally here. They also visited various areas in Ganderbal and Budgam districts and distributed pamphlets, urging people to remain vigilant and boycott the upcoming elections.

The bypolls to Srinagar and Anantnag parliamentary constituencies are slated for April 9 and April 12 respectively.

"Casting or boycotting

vote is a democratic right of every human being but when election process is facilitated and pro-boycott people are terrorised, raided, arrested and put in jails, this process is reduced to a military operation."

Malik had said in a statement yesterday.

Terminating the participation

in the election process and voting as "disrespecting the sacrifices," the JKLF chief

said the elections for Assemblies and Parliament

have been used to "hoodwink international opinion"

on Kashmir. – PTI

NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION ASSAM	
No : NHM/EMRI /Boat Ambulance/2016-2017/2259 Date: 18/03/17	CORIGENDUM 1
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CAPSULE**OFB aim**

KOLKATA, March 18: Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) has drawn up plans to make India self-sufficient in production of arms and ammunition with the twin objectives of reducing imports and meeting nation's requirement. "We are currently adding capacity in the production of T-90 tanks and Pinaka rockets at the various ordnance factories," SK Chowdhury, member, OFB, said. –PTI

Future Group

KOLKATA, March 18: Future Group, one of the major retailers in the food and fashion segments, plans to grow the latter by 30 per cent next year, CEO of the group Kishore Biyani said today. "The fashion business of the group across the various retail brands will grow 30 per cent every year," Biyani said here. –PTI

Welspun India

NEW DELHI, March 18: Textiles firm Welspun India today announced inauguration of a new facility in Anjar, Gujarat, building an investment of over 150 crore. "Welspun India... Has forged into new technologies in its technical textile business with its state-of-the-art needle-engulfed advanced textile plant in Anjar.... the company said in a regulatory filing. –PTI

ITC foray

NEW DELHI, March 18: Having diversified into FMCG and other businesses, tobacco giant ITC on Friday got shareholders nod to enter the health care space and plans to set up multi-speciality hospitals across the country. The company had sought approval... to include 'healthcare' through a special resolution on January 27. The resolution had been passed by the members "by requisite majority", ITC said in a regulatory filing. –PTI

VECV sale stake

NEW DELHI, March 18: VE Commercial Vehicles, the 50:50 joint venture between Eicher Motors and the US-based company, has divested the entire stake in its US-based subsidiary to Spain's Segula Technologies Espa馻 for \$1.85 million. The company has sold 100 per cent shares in its wholly-owned subsidiary Eicher Engineering Solutions Inc to Segula Technologies Espa馻, it said in a statement. –PTI

Marico

NEW DELHI, March 18: Consumer products maker Marico has bought a strategic 45 per cent stake in Zed Lifestyle, a Bengaluru-based Zed Lifestyle for an undisclosed sum. Marico said with this the company taps into the fast growing online male grooming segment, the company said in a statement. –PTI

Allahabad Bank
NEW DELHI, March 18: State-owned Allahabad Bank has raised Rs 300 crore by issuing Basel-III-compliant additional tier-I bonds. "The bank has raised additional tier-I capital through private placement of Rs 150 crore aggregating up to Rs 300 crore (including green shoe option of Rs 100 crore)," the bank said in an exchange filing. –PTI

Agri to be sunrise sector of 21st century: Rajnath

It's time for reverse brain-drain: Ambani

FARIDABAD, March 18: Union Minister for Home Affairs Rajnath Singh said here today that agriculture is going to be a sunnier sector of 21st century.

The minister was addressing second Agri Leadership Summit, organised by the Haryana Government at Surajkund in Faridabad.

Singh said that some people, including farmers and scientists, believed that there was no future for farming and agriculture in India, there was a change in that perception now.

"They now believe that there is a bright future for agriculture and farmers by adopting new methods of farming with advanced technologies."

Haryana despite being a small state despite being a sunnier sector of 21st century.

The minister was addressing second Agri Leadership Summit, organised by the Haryana Government at Surajkund in Faridabad.

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"They now believe that there is a bright future for agriculture and farmers by adopting new methods of farming with advanced technologies."

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"They now believe that there is a bright future for agriculture and farmers by adopting new methods of farming with advanced technologies."

Revealing the Centre's goal, he said Union Government has set a target of bringing more than 76 lakh hectares under irrigation by 2019.

The Union Government has set a target to bring more than 76 lakh hectares under irrigation by 2019, " he said.

Singh said the Central Government is working on reducing the input costs so as to make farming profitable.

"The government has ensured availability of urea and other fertilisers at lesser rates without any hurdle. The government has also decided to produce neem-coated urea for

the benefit of farmers... This urea is required less in quantity and gives higher crop yield by minimising the investment cost," he said while spelling out the pro-farmer initiatives.

While backing the river-linking projects as proposed under former Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, he said the government is serious about it and efforts are being made for betterment of the farming community.

The government has made a provision of Rs 8,000 crore for the promotion of dairy, poultry, fisheries and allied sector in 2017-18, Singh said. – Agencies

MUMBAI, March 18: Days after terming the protectionist bent of the Donald Trump regime as a "blessing in disguise", Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani today said it's "high time" we promoted reverse brain-drain wherein our brightest talent come back and serve the homeland.

"It's high time that our brightest and the best work for the benefit of India and Indians," he said as he sees a reverse brain-drain, he quipped "without doubt".

"By whatever fate they are brought back to this country, they can help improve the lives of 1.3 billion citizens and put together a new developmental model... There cannot be a better blessing in disguise than that," Ambani told the India

Today conclave here.

He said of late RIL is getting many Indians who have held leadership roles in other countries in the past, RIL is getting at least two-three such talents every month, he said.

"We have more talent knocking at our doors because at the end of the day, 'har ek ka dil hain Hindustani'. People want to do things for India," he said.

Addressing the annual Nasscom summit last month, Ambani had said the Trump administration's protectionist policies like limiting the number of H-1B visas, could prove to be a blessing in disguise for the country.

"Trump can actually be a blessing in disguise. Our IT industry can focus on solving the problems right here, which is a huge market," he had said.

Ambani today said we are fortunate to be an open market with a leader who understands technology. He recalled how Prime Minister Narendra Modi spent an entire dinner meeting with the last American President Barack Obama discussing how technology could resolve many of the problems the world is steeped in.

The recent note-ban exercise will lead to greater proliferation of digitisation and take the country from a cash-based economy to a "cash optimal" one, he said.

He also said we should aim to be the largest economy when we celebrate the first

century of our Independence in 2047, with a GDP of over \$40 trillion from the current \$2 trillion-plus. – PTI

Govt mulling FDI norms relaxation

NEW DELHI, March 18: The government is weighing the option of permitting over-50s retailers to open stores for selling 'Made in India' products in the country; these mandatory rules may not be imposed on them, sources added.

Opening the retail sector, the government last year permitted 100 per cent FDI in domestic trading of food products. Food Processing Minister Arun Jaitley in the Budget for 2017-18.

Multi-brand retail policy

Harsimrat Kaur Badal has recently indicated that the government is actively considering a proposal to allow FDI in non-food items, along with food products, under the multi-brand retail policy and a decision may be taken ahead of the mega food world event here in November.

The move assume significance as the government is also expected to announce relaxations in the FDI policy in more sectors, including single brand retail.

The FDI policy also imposes several conditions for foreign players like mandatory sourcing of goods from MSMEs and a certain percentage of investment in the back-end infrastructure.

These conditions have actu-

E-vehicle promotion under FAME to continue beyond March 31

CHENNAI, March 18: The pilot scheme for promotion of electric and hybrid vehicles will continue beyond March 31 as the modalities for subsidising clean vehicles under FAME India are yet to be worked out, a top official has said.

"The new scheme is not coming. We are extending the old scheme for a few months. The pilot will continue for a few more months till we finalise our new policy."

"We have not decided about the funding pattern but it has been agreed to by every stakeholder that we must go for the public transportation where the frequency of use of vehicles is higher, so that the impact (on lowering pollution) is much more," Secretary in the Department of Heavy Industries, Girish Shankar, told PTI.

He was here to participate in the International Engineering Sourcing Show organised by EEPC India. National Inter-

net Exchange of India (NIXD) participated as associate sponsor in the show.

To promote eco-friendly vehicles, the government has been offering incentives on electric and hybrid vehicles of up to Rs 29,000 for bikes and Rs 1.38 lakh for cars under the FAME India scheme launched last year.

The scheme has been in a pilot phase, and a nation-wide rollout was scheduled from April 1.

FAME India – Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric vehicles in India – is a part of the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan. In Budget 2017-18, Rs 175 crore has been earmarked for the FAME India scheme as against the revised and budget estimates of Rs 122.90 crore for the current financial year.

However, experts believe that the provision of funds is insufficient to incentivise the use of electric vehicles. – PTI

While the Let's comes at a starting price of Rs 47,272 and the Hayate EP is tagged at Rs 52,754 (ex-showroom Delhi), the company said in a statement.

"With the launch of these refreshed BS-IV-compliant models, all two-wheelers from the stable of Suzuki Motorcycle India have now become Bharat Stage-IV compliant," it added.

Commenting on the launch, SMPL Managing Director Satosh Uchida said: "The new Let's is testimony to our endeavours in bringing to India the most eco-friendly riding solutions in line with the government regulations. We are confident that our products will retain a strong foothold in their respective segments." – PTI



Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh lighting the lamp to inaugurate the 2nd Agri Leadership Summit-2017 at Surajkund in Faridabad on Saturday. – UNI

Paswan rules out separate law to regulate MRP of packaged items

NEW DELHI, March 18: Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan today ruled out bringing a separate legislation to regulate sale of packed water and soft drinks above MRP (maximum retail price), saying the existing law has provisions to curb this unfair trade practice.

To strengthen legal metrology enforcement, Paswan said it has been decided to provide technological support to States to prevent unfair trade practices in weights and measurements, set up a facility in gram panchayats where people can crosscheck the quality of weighing instruments, besides

mobile vans with labs to reach out to remote areas.

MRP of products is fixed by private firms. But there have been complaints of charging more than MRP and declaring dual MRP. Recently consumer court NCDRC had imposed a penalty on a multiplex for selling water above MRP.

"There is no need to have a new law to regulate MRP. The existing Act is sufficient and we have enough powers to take action against violators," Paswan told reporters after the national consultative meeting on legal metrology.

The State governments have been asked to be more

vigilant and take prompt action against violators. They have also been asked to create consumer awareness, he said.

Besides the MRP issue, Paswan expressed concern over "inaccuracy" in critical instruments like thermometer and sugar-testing devices used in daily life.

"Wrong and imprecise measurement builds mistrust and is often a source of safety hazard... There are doubts expressed sometimes regarding the accuracy of petrol pumps, and weighing machines used in agricultural mandis," he said.

In the wake of growing trade and commerce, Paswan said there should be more efforts to build consumer confidence in the system and stop manufacturers from indulging in unfair practices and pushing substandard products in the market.

Issues of legal, administrative, operational challenges were discussed at the national consultation meeting and a strategy for a more coordinated and focused approach for the future was agreed upon.

It was decided to give awards to three States for best legal metrology administration, earmark funds for creating consumer awareness programme and set up national and regional museums on legal metrology. – PTI

Replace FIPB with business-friendly mechanism: House panel

NEW DELHI, March 18: The government should replace the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) with a simple and business-friendly mechanism at the earliest, a Parliamentary panel has suggested.

The Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce in its report said it was informed that once the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) is dissolved there is a possibility that concerned ministries overseeing sectors that require government approval for FDI would be authorised to approve the investment.

The committee desires that the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) should ensure a simple and business-friendly mechanism at the earliest.

It also asked the government to take necessary measures to ensure that FDI equity inflows are actual investments.

The committee notes that low private investments have been one of the constraints flagged by various credit rating agencies in raising the business ratings of the country.

Talking about ease of doing business, the report suggested that the Commerce and Industry Ministry should address the

regulatory and technical issues impacting the operation of the e-biz project.

The e-biz portal serves as a one-stop shop for delivery of convenient and efficient services and addresses the needs of investors and businesses right from the inception through the entire life cycle of the business.

Noting that technical glitches are being faced by the project, the committee recommends the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) to take concrete steps to address the "regulatory and technical reasons affecting the operation of the e-biz project". – PTI

India's solar power capacity to cross 20GW in next 15 months, says Goyal

NEW DELHI, March 18: India's solar power generation capacity would cross 20,000 MW in the next 15 months from the current level of 10,000 MW. Power Minister Piyush Goyal has said.

"On 10th of March this year the installed solar power capacity in India has crossed 10,000 MW, four times the installed capacity three years back, which in next 15 months would cross 20,000 MW," a Power Ministry statement quoted the minister as saying.

"India could not have completely focused on 'Making in India' in the last three years as being in the nascent stage, its solar power sector needed technological and financial boost from

abroad to rapidly expand its horizons," Goyal said at a media event.

The sector has reached certain maturity level which will lead the country becoming self-reliant in meeting its green energy needs. The proof is the drastic reduction in costs of solar power, becoming comparable with thermal power in India, he said.

India solar power generation capacity stood at 2,650 MW on May 26, 2014.

As much as 14,000 MW (or 14 gigawatt) of solar projects are currently under development and about 6 GW is to be commissioned soon.

In 2016 about 4 GW of solar capaci-

ty was added, the fastest pace till date. According to Power Ministry estimates, another 8.8 GW capacity is likely to be added in 2017, including about 1.1 GW of rooftop solar installations.

The government is targeting 100 GW of solar and 60 GW of wind energy capacity by 2022. Total renewable energy generation capacity is envisaged at 175 GW by 2022.

Earlier last month, lower capital expenditure and cheaper credit had pulled down solar tariff to a new low of Rs 2.97 per unit in an auction conducted for 750 MW capacity in Rewa Solar Park in Madhya Pradesh.

The auction was conducted by a joint venture of Madhya Pradesh government and Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI).

The country has shown it to the world that India is a big market place for manufacturing in solar power sector and international investors and manufacturers have started setting up manufacturing units in the country, Goyal noted.

Goyal also encouraged the industry stalwarts present at the event to ramp up the silicon wafer manufacturing industry and the manufacturing of solar cells in India.

He also talked about devising strategies to combine solar power with electric vehicles, which have three times the energy efficiency on engines that run on fossil fuels. This would be a revolution in the transportation sector, he added. – PTI



Christian Schneider (L), Managing Director, Schneider Schreibgeräte (Germany) launching Rorito Teramax and Rorito Robamax pen products at a press conference, in Chennai on Saturday. – UNI

30 terrorists, 9 security men die in Pak operation

ISLAMABAD, March 18: More than 30 terrorists and nine security personnel have been killed in Pakistan since the army launched a major operation last month, the military said on Friday.

The military announced on February 22 the start of the country-wide operation codenamed *Rodd-ul-Fazail*, ("Reject Discord"), after a series of terrorist attacks that killed over 100 people in the country.

According to the army's Inter-Service Public Relations, the security forces also foiled a number of terror attacks during the operation, which still continues across the country.

Nine security personnel have lost their lives in the operation.

In one of the major raids, five terrorist were killed on March 7 when they were planning to attack a judicial complex in Swabi, a district in north-western Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province. The intelligence-based operation targeted sleeping cells of the militants who were using their hideouts to facilitate the bombers for terror attacks. - IANS

Suspected ultra shot dead in Dhaka

DHAKA, March 18: A suspected militant was shot dead in Dhaka on Saturday after Bangladesh police failed to attack on a second check-post.

A Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) official told Xinhua news agency that the suspected militant riding a motorcycle tried to enter the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), an anti-crime and anti-terrorism unit of the Bangladeshi Police, check post in Khilgaon area with explosives around 4:35 a.m.

"He was shot dead on the spot," he said. The man carried explosives in his bag, said the official, adding "we've called a bomb disposal unit."

The incident comes a day after a suicide bomber detonated himself near a temporary RAB camp also in Dhaka.

A high alert was issued across the country following Friday's "suicide blast".

Friday's blast took place a day after security forces stormed a militant hideout in Chittagong city. - IANS

US, China agree to jointly address threats posed by NKorea

BEIJING, March 18: China and the US today agreed to jointly address the threats posed by North Korea's provocative nuclear and missile programmes as Secretary of State Rex Tillerson warned that tensions in the region have spilt to "dangerous levels".

"We noted the efforts made in the last 20 years have not succeeded in curbing the threats posed by North Korea's illegal nuclear weapons programmes," Tillerson, who is on his first official visit to China, said after talks with his

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi here.

During his visit to South Korea yesterday, Tillerson had cautioned North Korea that all options are on the table to deal with Pyongyang's provocative actions.

US President Donald Trump had also put a two-week criticising Beijing's role in dealing with North Korea.

"North Korea is behaving very badly. They have been 'playing' the United States for years. China has done little to help,"

Trump's tweet said.

Both Tillerson and Wang avoided direct response to Trump's tweet.

"We renewed our determination to work together to convince the North Korean government to choose a better path and different future for its people," Tillerson said.

He said Wang has agreed to work together with the US to see whether "we can bring the government in Pyongyang to a place where they want to make difference and a make course correction and move away from their development of nuclear weapons".

He said the common view is that tensions in the Korean peninsula are very high and things have reached "dangerous levels".

Tillerson affirmed China and the US' commitment to prevent further escalation of tension in the region.

He said issues related to the disputed South China Sea where Trump administration has criticised Beijing's island building were also discussed. - PTI

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Plane makes emergency landing after midair brawl

LAHORE, March 18: An Ethiopian Airlines plane today made an emergency landing here when a mentally ill Chinese man attacked his medical attendant and other co-passengers on board and injured them.

Upon landing at the Allama Iqbal International Airport here, the crew called in officials from the Chinese Consulate and handed over the passenger and his attendant.

The crew described the passenger to be "mentally deranged".

"The Boeing 777 carrying more than 300 passengers was heading to Beijing from Addis Ababa when a Chinese passenger had a brawl with more than five passengers. He and a couple of other passengers also suffered minor injuries," an official of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) told PTI.

He said the Chinese passenger got out of control after having a scuffle with more than five passengers, mostly Chinese.

"He got violent and started pushing the fellow passenger. Those tried to intervene he also lashed them," he said.

The official said as the crew failed to handle the "mentally deranged" Chinese passenger, the pilot contacted the CAA authorities and requested for emergency landing.

"Upon emergency landing at Lahore, the Airport Security Force officials took unruly passenger into custody. A couple of passengers with minor injury were also provided with medical aid at the airport," he said.

The official further said the Chinese Consulate officials were called in and the Chinese passenger was handed over to them for further investigation. - PTI



Briain's Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge, and his wife Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge, pose for photographers with school children from the British Council's Somme project at the Trocadero square in Paris, on Saturday. - UNI

UN urges Kabul to tackle 'alarming' extremist threats

UNITED NATIONS, March 18:

The UN Security Council has called on Afghanistan's government to tackle the "alarming threats" posed by the Taliban, al-Qaida, Islamic State affiliates and other extremist groups which threaten the security and stability of the country.

A resolution adopted unanimously by the Security Council extending the UN political mission in the country until March 17, 2018 expresses serious concern at the presence and potential growth of IS affiliates which pose "serious threats to the security of Afghanistan and the countries of the region."

The Security Council yesterday reiterated its support for the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces "in securing their country and in their fight against terrorism and violent extremism." It called on the Afghan government, with international assistance, to continue tackling threats from "terrorist groups."

Council members called for strengthened international and regional security cooperation to deal with violence in the region and attacks by the Taliban, the Haqqani Network, al-Qaida, IS, other extremist and armed groups, criminals and "foreign terrorist fighters."

The Taliban, who have been waging an insurgency against the US-backed government in Kabul for more than 15 years, advanced on a number of fronts

in 2016. Afghan forces have struggled to combat the militants since the US and NATO formally concluded their combat mission at the end of 2014.

The government is also facing an Islamic State affiliate, which is seeking to expand its footprint in the country beyond the eastern Nangarhar province, as well as attacks by al-Qaida and other groups.

The UN's most powerful body expressed "deep concern" at the record number of civilian casualties reported in February and condemned suicide attacks, often in populated areas, and the deliberate killing of women and girls, including those promoting women's rights, and journalists. - AP

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Secret Service laptop with Trump Tower info stolen

NEW YORK, March 18: A laptop containing highly sensitive information about the Trump Tower was stolen from a Secret Service agent's car here in Brooklyn and has not been found, media reports said.

ABC News, citing law enforcement sources, said the laptop contained floor plans for Trump Tower, details on the criminal investigation of Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server and other national security information, the *Guardian* reported.

The *New York Daily News*, citing police sources, said authorities had been searching for the laptop since it was stolen on Thursday morning from the agent's vehicle.

Some items stolen with the laptop, including coins and a black bag with the Secret Service insignia on it, were later recovered, the newspaper reported. CBS News, also citing law enforcement sources, said that some of the documents on the computer included important files on Pope Francis.

"Secret Service-issued laptops contain multiple layers of security, including full disk encryption, and are not permitted to contain classified information," CNN quoted Secret Service spokeswoman as saying.

as its orbit or other objects around it.

They define a planet as "a sub-stellar mass body that has never undergone nuclear fusion" and that has enough gravitational pull to maintain a roughly round shape.

This definition differs from the IAU definition in that it makes no reference to the celestial body's surroundings. That portion of IAU's 2006 formal definition required that a planet and its satellites move alone through their orbit - excluded Pluto.

Otherwise, Pluto fit the IAU definition. It orbits the Sun and is massive enough that the forces of gravity have made it round.

The proposed new geophysical definition omits stars, black holes, asteroids and meteorites, but includes much of everything else in our solar system. - IANS



People attend a demonstration against the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting in Baden-Baden in Germany, on Saturday. - UNI

Pluto a planet, and so are over 100 others'

NEW YORK, March 18: Is Pluto a planet or not? Giving this debate a fresh angle, Johns Hopkins University scientist Kirby Runyon wants to make one thing clear: Regardless of what people say, Pluto is a planet.

So, Runyon says, is Europa – commonly known as a moon of Jupiter – and so is the Earth's Moon and so are more than 100 other celestial bodies in our solar system that are denied this status under the prevailing definition of "planet".

The definition approved by the International Astronomical Union in 2006 demoted Pluto to "non-planet," thus dropping the consensus number of planets in our solar system from nine to eight.

"The change – a subject of much scientific debate at the time and since – made no sense," said Runyon, lead

author of a paper set to be presented next week at a scientific conference in Texas.

Icy, rocky Pluto had been the smallest of the nine planets; its diameter under three-quarters that of the moon and nearly a fifth of Earth.

Still, says Runyon, Pluto "has everything going on its surface that you associate with a planet... There's nothing non-planet about it."

Runyon led a group of six authors from five institutions in drafting a proposed new definition of "planet," and a justification for that definition.

All the authors are science team members on the New Horizons mission to Pluto, operated for NASA by the John Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory.

In the summer of 2015, the New Horizons spacecraft became the first to fly by Pluto, some 4.67 billion miles from Earth, passing within 8,000 miles and sending back the first close-up images ever made of Pluto.

Runyon and his co-authors argue for a definition of "planet" that focuses on the intrinsic qualities of the body itself, rather than external factors such

as its orbit or other objects around it.

They define a planet as "a sub-stellar mass body that has never undergone nuclear fusion" and that has enough gravitational pull to maintain a roughly round shape.

This definition differs from the IAU definition in that it makes no reference to the celestial body's surroundings. That portion of IAU's 2006 formal definition required that a planet and its satellites move alone through their orbit - excluded Pluto.

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The proposed new geophysical definition omits stars, black holes, asteroids and meteorites, but includes much of everything else in our solar system. - IANS



Package No.	Name of work	Approximate value of work (Rs.) in million	Bid security (Rs.) in million	Cost of document (Rs.)	Period of completion of work
ASRP/P1S1/NCB/SH-46/1A	Improvement & Upgradation of SH-46/1A from Dibrugarh (8.00 km) to Matia Junction (8.90 km) including RCC Bridge in Goalpara district under Assam State Road Project (ASRP)	267.03 [Rupees Two Hundred Ninety Seven million and three hundred thousand] only	5.94	10,000/-	18 months
ASRP/P1S1/NCB/SH-46/1B	Improvement and Upgradation of SH-46/1B from (Matia Junction (8.90 km) to Dubapara(21.150 km) in Goalpara district under Assam State Road Project (ASRP)	291.88 [Rupees Two Hundred Ninety One million and Eight hundred Eighty thousand] only	5.84	10,000/-	18 months
ASRP/P1S1/NCB/SH-46/1C	Improvement and Upgradation of SH-46/1C from Dubapara(21.150km) to Goapara BOC (31.400km) in Goalpara district under Assam State Road Project (ASRP)	306.56 [Rupees Three Hundred and Six million and Five hundred sixty thousand] only	6.13	10,000/-	18 months
ASRP/REH/NCB/25A	Rehabilitation of Ka-M- 8 (Diphu, Dili, Saranah) (1st to 13th km) Dili, Leke Leke in Karbi Anglong district under Assam State Road Project (ASRP)	210.52 [Rupees Two Hundred Ten million and five hundred twenty thousand] only	4.21	10,000/-	12 months

Sd/- Chief Engineer, (ARIASP & RIDF) PWD (Roads) Assam, ARRA&TI Campus, Fatasil Ambari, Guwahati-781025
Jananayog/2435/16



'Maddened' by social media!

Impulsive use of social media may cause brain imbalance, warn researchers

Do you have the habit of constantly checking Facebook or other social media sites while driving, in a work meeting, or at other times? Beware, it could lead to a deficiency in the balance between two systems in the brain, researchers warn.

The findings showed that when there is an imbalance between two cognitive-behavioural systems in the human brain, there is a higher rate of problematic use of social networking sites.

In the study, researchers from the DePaul University in the US applied the dual-system perspective – an established theory in cognitive psychology and neuroscience – which holds that humans have two different mechanisms in their brain that influence their decision-making.

While System 1 is automatic and reactive, quickly triggered, often subconsciously, in reaction to stimuli such as a sight of or notifications from social media, System 2 is a reflective, reasoning system that moves more slowly, regulates cognitions and controls behaviours, according to Hamed Qahri-Saremi, assistant professor at DePaul University.

The second system can help individuals control impulses and behaviours that are not in their best interest, he added.

For the study, detailed in the *Journal of Management Information Systems*, the team obtained responses from 341 undergraduate students from North American university websites Facebook.

The results showed that individuals who displayed higher levels of problematic use of Facebook had a strong cognitive-emotional preoccupation (system 1) and a weak cognitive-behavioural control (system 2), creating an imbalance.

In fact, the greater the imbalance between the two systems, the more likely individuals were to engage in problematic social media use behaviours, the researchers said.

In addition, this problematic use of Facebook also negatively affected the students' academic performance. The higher the problematic use, the lower was the GPA score.

"A slight increase in problematic social media use translates into significant grade loss, and this declined performance is persistent," added Ofir Turel from California State University. – IANS

Kids	Entertainment	Movies
12:30 Kids ki Dusali 14:00 Roli Choti 21 16:30 Kids ki Dusali 18:30 Kids ki Dusali 21:00 Indian Idol 23:00 Dragon Ball Z 23:30 Telephoning	12:30 The Kapil Sharma Show 14:00 Indian Idol 16:30 Indian Idol 21:00 The Kapil Sharma Show 22:30 C.I.D. 13:00 Chhota Bheem 16:30 Chhota Bheem And... 17:00 Bhagat Singh 18:30 Chhota Bheem 21:30 Castle's Castle 22:30 Chhota Bheem 23:00 W.M.D. 23:30 Telephoning	20:00 Supergirl SUPERGIRL 21:00 Supergirl 22:30 Birth 22:30 The Design 23:00 Kevin From Work - Uncle Two and a Half Men - Uncle
13:00 Chhota Bheem 16:30 Chhota Bheem And... 17:00 Bhagat Singh 18:30 Chhota Bheem 21:30 Castle's Castle 22:30 Chhota Bheem 23:00 W.M.D. 23:30 Telephoning	12:30 Crime Patrol - Satark LIFE OK 12:00 Best of Sandhiv India 21:00 Chandrakanta Prey... ZCAFE 18:30 Pakistan Pakista 19:30 I Am The Godcoaches 20:00 Shiva 20:30 Power Rangers S 10 22:00 Power Rangers Ninja 22:30 Keyman Adman 23:00 Keyman Adman N... 23:30 Shiva	12:00 TEA Royal Stag Mirchi Music Awards 2017 AXN 12:00 Breaking The Magician's Code COLORS 18:00 Elementary 20:00 Breaking The Magician's Code 21:00 America Ninja Warrior 22:00 MacGyver STAR MOVIES 21:00 Kung Fu Panda 3
13:00 Chhota Bheem 16:30 Chhota Bheem And... 17:00 Bhagat Singh 18:30 Chhota Bheem 21:30 Castle's Castle 22:30 Chhota Bheem 23:00 W.M.D. 23:30 Telephoning	12:00 Sandhiv India ETC 18:30 Pakistan Pakista 19:30 I Am The Godcoaches 20:00 Shiva 20:30 Power Rangers S 10 22:00 Power Rangers Ninja 22:30 Keyman Adman 23:00 Keyman Adman N... 23:30 Shiva	12:00 TEA Royal Stag Mirchi Music Awards 2017 AXN 12:00 Ama nican Ninja Warrior COLORS 18:00 Naagin 21:00 Rising Star 22:00 Naagin
	12:00 Scarecrow 14:00 Two and a Half Men - Uncle 15:00 America's Got Talent 16:00 America's Funniest Home... 17:00 America's Funniest Home... 18:00 Two and a Half Men - Uncle 19:00 America's Got Talent	13:00 Di Hai Hindustani 15:00 Ko Laat Ke Aya Hai 16:00 Di Hai Hindustani 17:00 Surjhi Si Ek Ladki 18:00 Meri Angrezi Me 18:30 Meri Durga 19:30 Nisha Nisha Saathiya 19:30 Ya He Mehtab
	12:00 Sandhiv India ZCAFE 18:30 Pakistan Pakista 19:30 I Am The Godcoaches 20:00 Shiva 20:30 Power Rangers S 10 22:00 Power Rangers Ninja 22:30 Keyman Adman 23:00 Keyman Adman N... 23:30 Shiva	13:00 Di Hai Hindustani 15:00 Ko Laat Ke Aya Hai 16:00 Di Hai Hindustani 17:00 Surjhi Si Ek Ladki 18:00 Meri Angrezi Me 18:30 Meri Durga 19:30 Nisha Nisha Saathiya 19:30 Ya He Mehtab
	12:00 Sandhiv India ETC 18:30 Pakistan Pakista 19:30 I Am The Godcoaches 20:00 Shiva 20:30 Power Rangers S 10 22:00 Power Rangers Ninja 22:30 Keyman Adman 23:00 Keyman Adman N... 23:30 Shiva	13:00 Di Hai Hindustani 15:00 Ko Laat Ke Aya Hai 16:00 Di Hai Hindustani 17:00 Surjhi Si Ek Ladki 18:00 Meri Angrezi Me 18:30 Meri Durga 19:30 Nisha Nisha Saathiya 19:30 Ya He Mehtab

Infotainment	Regional	Sports
12:00 Still Alive 13:00 Cristiano Ronaldo Th... 14:00 Inside The Marvellous 15:00 World Top 5 16:00 Legend of Croc Gold 17:00 The Great Wall of China Factory 19:00 Still Alive	22:00 BSF: India's First Line... 23:00 Wild Battalion - Cat Fight	08:00 Asian News 10:00 National News Wrap Up 12:00 Asian News 14:00 Asian Express 15:00 Discussion Show (R) 17:00 Asian News 18:00 Breakfast @ 9:30 19:00 Asia's First Prime Time 20:00 Discussion Show (R)
12:00 Still Alive 13:00 Cristiano Ronaldo Th... 14:00 Inside The Marvellous 15:00 World Top 5 16:00 Legend of Croc Gold 17:00 The Great Wall of China Factory 19:00 Still Alive	12:00 MEAL PLANET 13:00 India's Wild Tales 14:00 India's Wild Tales 15:00 Kingdom of Big Cat 16:00 Wild Menu 19:00 Glamping	09:00 STAR NEWS LIVE 10:00 Asia's First News Wrap Up 12:00 Asian News 14:00 Asian Express 15:00 Discussion Show (R) 17:00 Asian News 18:00 Breakfast (R) 19:30 Asian Star Social Issues 21:30 Food Fair
12:00 Still Alive 13:00 Cristiano Ronaldo Th... 14:00 Inside The Marvellous 15:00 World Top 5 16:00 Legend of Croc Gold 17:00 The Great Wall of China Factory 19:00 Still Alive	12:00 NAT GEO WILD 13:00 Rang 14:00 Rang 15:00 Rang 16:00 Rang 17:00 Rang 18:00 Rang 19:00 Rang	09:00 STAR SPORTS 1 10:00 Australia Tour of India 2017 11:00 Superstars 12:00 PGL Asia Pacific Tour 2017 13:00 PGL Asia Pacific Tour 2017 14:00 PGL Asia Pacific Tour 2017 15:00 PGL Asia Pacific Tour 2017 16:00 Superstars
12:00 Still Alive 13:00 Cristiano Ronaldo Th... 14:00 Inside The Marvellous 15:00 World Top 5 16:00 Legend of Croc Gold 17:00 The Great Wall of China Factory 19:00 Still Alive	12:00 JACK GIANT SLAYER 13:00 SHIVAAY 14:00 STAR GOLD	12:00 STAR SPORTS 4 13:00 NEON SPORTS 14:00 TEN 1 15:00 PGL Asia Pacific Tour 2017 16:00 PGL Asia Pacific Tour 2017 17:00 PGL Asia Pacific Tour 2017 18:00 PGL Asia Pacific Tour 2017 19:00 PGL Asia Pacific Tour 2017 20:00 PGL Asia Pacific Tour 2017 21:00 PGL Asia Pacific Tour 2017 22:00 PGL Asia Pacific Tour 2017 23:00 PGL Asia Pacific Tour 2017
	12:00 NAT GEO WILD 13:00 Rang 14:00 Rang 15:00 Rang 16:00 Rang 17:00 Rang 18:00 Rang 19:00 Rang	12:00 STAR SPORTS 1 13:00 NEON SPORTS 14:00 TEN 1 15:00 PGL Asia Pacific Tour 2017 16:00 PGL Asia Pacific Tour 2017 17:00 PGL Asia Pacific Tour 2017 18:00 PGL Asia Pacific Tour 2017 19:00 PGL Asia Pacific Tour 2017 20:00 PGL Asia Pacific Tour 2017 21:00 PGL Asia Pacific Tour 2017 22:00 PGL Asia Pacific Tour 2017 23:00 PGL Asia Pacific Tour 2017
	12:00 NAT GEO WILD 13:00 Rang 14:00 Rang 15:00 Rang 16:00 Rang 17:00 Rang 18:00 Rang 19:00 Rang	12:00 STAR SPORTS 1 13:00 NEON SPORTS 14:00 TEN 1 15:00 PGL Asia Pacific Tour 2017 16:00 PGL Asia Pacific Tour 2017 17:00 PGL Asia Pacific Tour 2017 18:00 PGL Asia Pacific Tour 2017 19:00 PGL Asia Pacific Tour 2017 20:00 PGL Asia Pacific Tour 2017 21:00 PGL Asia Pacific Tour 2017 22:00 PGL Asia Pacific Tour 2017 23:00 PGL Asia Pacific Tour 2017

Know your DAY

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Sunday, March 19, 2017.

This year you open up to new opportunities that often come through your professional or community commitments. If you remain diligent, you will gain in stature. Your personal life becomes even more exciting come fall. If you are single, you could fall ready in love. Know that this experience is likely to occur when you least expect it to. If you are attached, never lose sight of the importance of your significant other. Plan a vacation and/or weekend getaway with your mate. SAGITTARIUS has a special quality, but you become tenacious all or her.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

**** Only your mental outlook could mar this close-to-perfect day. Don't let your desire to overthink a problem instead, welcome a new opportunity with open heart and be grateful for what feels great right now. Your actions could delight someone tonight. Tonight: Be spontaneous.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

**** You might be overly focused on one individual, to the point of being possessive. Ask yourself what drives you to this person. Make sure that your mate is happy. You don't become more difficult the longer she is in your presence. Consider moving to a mellow environment for now. You know how to find out what is wrong. Tonight: Say "yes" to an offer.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)

**** You would be more in touch with your feelings than many others seem to be. Honor your boundaries, but don't become withdrawn with an immediate circle. An older relative or friend surprises you with an invitation or a token of affection. Tonight: Reflect on your desires.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)

**** You're first child is often close to the surface. Today is an excellent example of how playful you can be. Be reasonable about what you take on, and remember your true age. Nevertheless, you'll delight a loved one no end. Tonight: Greet a surprise with a big smile.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

**** You decide to take a break with certain issues. Hang close to home, or at least near the person with whom you need to resolve this problem. A surprising event could lead to an intense discussion. Tonight: Do not back off.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

**** You might feel like you appreciate your bond more if you made an effort to reach out more. A neighbor also might seek you out, as he or she has some news to share. Be sure to sort fact from gossip when speaking with him or her. Tonight: Choose a favorite pastime.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

**** You must bend over backward and might be careless with your budget. Stop and consider how well you will tomorrow. Your instincts help you to make a strong decision. Tonight: Change gears only if you want to.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

**** This person is nothing but lucky for you. Think back on your many experiences with him or her. You see that this is true. A child demands some time; make it your pleasure. Tonight: Go with the flow.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

**** You have been here in touch with your inner voice for a long time. Try to give up judgments for now, and gently attempt to change or break a pattern. A family member will help you sort through your different thoughts. Tonight: Not to be found.

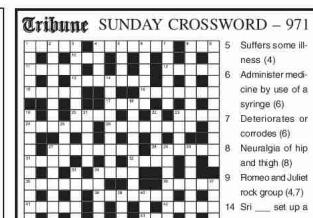
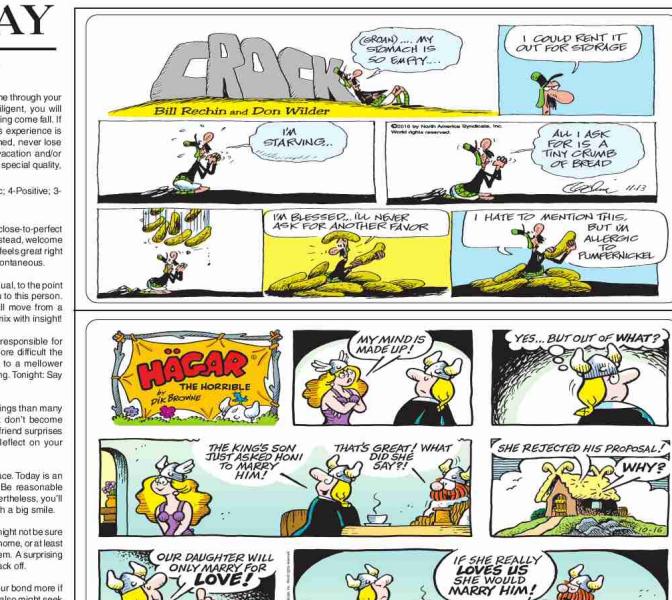
Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

**** You make plans to get together in the near future. Just planning the get-together changes your mental frame of mind. You suddenly might want to change your plans altogether. Tonight: In the limeight.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

**** You might feel a bit coocon at home, but an immediate responsibility demands your attention. Know that you will feel better once you are in the midst of carrying out this particular task. You'll gain insight into a person who has always confused you. Tonight: Till the wee hours.

Thou ought for the day
London is a roost, for every bird.



Across

- scale : scale of hardness in mineralogy (?)
- Vessel used in a church communion service (7)
- Monroe or glum (3)
- Dhaka, UAE (3)
- Exposed for drying (5)
- Weaving cane - 'Ro-se'e'agram? (5)
- Dead end or dead-lock (7)
- it cut : speak candidly or louder? (5)
- Constructs, erects or establishes (7)
- Remainder (4)
- Analogy words (4)
- Mark of an injury (4)
- Creature such as an ant (6)
- Vegetables of cabbage family (8)
- Grammatical Unit (3)
- Enjoying inflicting torture (8)
- Point at which two curves meet (4)

Down

- Hits hard on the cheeks (5)
- Public transport systems but not by land or sea (8)
- Enjoying inflicting torture (8)
- Chapter of the Koran (4)
- North central US state (4)

Health Capsules®
By Bron Smith
HOW CAN I SHOP HEALTHY?

Don't tell anyone... But there's Cheesecake on my Shopping List!

Don't worry about the diet, just eat healthy.

Don't let the diet get in the way of the fun.

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German Chancellor Angela Merkel (3rd L) and US President Donald Trump (R) hold a roundtable discussion on vocational training at the White House in Washington, on Friday. — UNI

Around the WORLD

'Wouldn't be here right now if not for Twitter'

WASHINGTON, March 18: US President Donald Trump has said that he has reached the position where he is now because of Twitter and the social media platform helps him get around the media.

"(I) probably wouldn't be here right now, but very seldom. We have a tremendous group of people that listen and I can get around the media when the media doesn't tell the truth, so I like that," Trump told reporters at a joint White House news conference with visiting German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Trump was responding to a question if he ever regretted his tweets.

"By the way, my second question, are there some time in time tweets that you regret?" a German reporter asked.

Sharing the dais with Merkel, Trump said that he and the German leader probably shared something when it came to the previous Obama Administration. — PTI

US man takes off pants as cellphone catches fire

WASHINGTON, March 18: In an embarrassing moment, a man in the US was forced to take off his pants while shopping as his cellphone caught fire in his pocket.

The incident took place at a Costco shop in Puyallup city, 35 miles south of Seattle. "He had taken the pants off and tied the jacket around his waist. And I thought that was unusual, and I looked down, and then there was what looked like to be what's left of a cell phone," said Everett Tyrrell, an eye witness who had gone to the shop.

"That was very weird to me. I'd never seen anything like that in my life. It's amazing how much heat must have been generated to cause all that smoke from that small item," Tyrrell was quoted as saying by kiro7.com, a CBS-affiliated television station in Seattle.

He said the LG phone was barely recognisable and smoke had billowed through the hardware aisle. — PTI

New gene silencer drug

LONDON, March 18: A new class of gene-silencing drugs may halve cholesterol levels in patients and reduce their risk of heart attacks and stroke, researchers including one of Indian origin have found.

The technique, known as RNA interference (RNAi) therapy, essentially 'switches off' one of the genes responsible for elevated cholesterol.

Researchers from Imperial College London in the UK and colleagues, who conducted the trial, said the twice-a-year treatment could be safely given with or without statins, depending on individual patient needs. The drug infusion could help to reduce the risk of heart attacks and stroke related to high cholesterol, researchers said. — PTI

Ready to come out of the woods: Hillary Clinton

Washington, March 18: Hillary Clinton has said she is ready to "come out of the woods" and help the "divided" nation find common ground, five months after her shocking defeat in the US Women's 19th annual St Patrick's Day Dinner.

"Our country seems so divided right now. I do not believe that we can let political divides harden into personal divides," Clinton said yesterday in her keynote address to the Society of Irish Women's 19th annual St Patrick's Day Dinner.

"And we can't just ignore, or turn a cold shoulder to someone because they disagree with us politically," Clinton said in her few public appearances after her defeat to Trump in the presidential elections. — PTI

'Radicalised' Muslim shot dead at Paris airport

PARIS, March 18: The man

shot dead after attempting to steal a soldier's gun at Paris Orly Airport on Saturday was a "radicalised Muslim" known to security services and was also involved in another shooting incident hours earlier in the day, French authorities said.

Security forces opened fire, killing him during the attack at the airport, the *Telegraph* reported.

The attacker assaulted a patrol of three soldiers including a woman, who he wrestled to the ground as he tried to grab

her weapon at the airport, French Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said.

Two other soldiers then opened fire "to protect her" and the public at the airport.

French Interior Minister Bruno Le Roux said at a press conference that the man was known to the police and intelligence services.

The man had earlier fled the suburb of Stains on Saturday in a car stolen from a woman at gunpoint after opening fire on officers, injuring one, during an identity check.

Evacuation of last rebel-held district of Syria's Homs begins



including any who chose to stay.

The first wave of three green buses pulled out of Waer carrying dozens of fighters, their rifles slung over their shoulders, and civilians including children.

Between 400 and 500 people are expected to leave today, Syrian state television reported.

Rebels will be bussed to opposition-held parts of Homs province, the town of Jarabulus on the Syrian-Turkish border or the northwest province of Idlib.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group estimates that a total of 12,000 people, including 2,500 rebels, will leave under the deal.

Syria's government has agreed "reconciliation" deals in several rebel-held areas, and touts the local agreements that grant safe passage to surrendering fighters as key to ending the country's war.

But the opposition says it is forced into such deals by siege and bombardment.

Three waves of rebels and their families have already quit Waer under an agreement first reached in December 2013, but which had stalled in recent months.

Russian troops and vehicles could be seen on Saturday morning just outside the Waer district as the first buses began to pull out, AFP's correspondent said.

According to the agreement, up to 100 Russian soldiers will deploy inside the neighbourhood to oversee the evacuation and ensure the safety of residents. — AFP

The car was later found abandoned. According to its report, it contained a bloodstained T-shirt.

Meanwhile, Paris Orly Airport was evacuated while it was searched by bomb disposal squads. No explosives were found, said the report. An investigation was underway while the airport remains under maximum security alert.

Some 3,000 people were escorted out of the airport terminals. Passengers in planes that had landed following the shooting were being kept

aboard the aircraft until the airport was declared secure, said the officials.

The CEO of Paris Airport Operator said Orly's south terminal, where the incident occurred, may remain closed until Saturday night. The airport's west terminal may reopen soon.

This was the fourth attack against security forces deployed as part of France's *Operation Sentinel*, said the French defence minister. The national security operation was launched following the Paris terror attacks in Janu-

ary 2015.

The French interior minister praised the swift response of security forces at the airport. The incident came as the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Prince William and Catherine Middleton, were in Paris to meet survivors of the Bataclan attacks.

The airport, the second largest serving the French capital, is about 20 miles from the central Paris residence of the British ambassador where the royal couple are staying. — IANS

29 killed in pro-Houthi strike on mosque in Yemen

ADEN, MARCH 18:

About 29 pro-government soldiers were killed and 89 others injured when missiles fired by Shiite Houthi gunmen struck a mosque in Yemen's northern province of Marib on Friday, a military official told Xinhua.

According to the local official, the pro-Houthi forces fired ballistic missiles and struck the mosque inside a military base of the Saudi-backed anti-government forces in Marib.

Witnesses said that huge fire and smoke were seen rising from the Kowfai military camp where the attack happened and many ambu-

lances rushed to the area.

An army commander said the missile attack occurred while scores of soldiers gathered to perform Friday prayers inside the mosque.

The oil-producing northern province of Marib was controlled by Yemen's legitimate government and thousands of Saudi-backed Yemeni government forces stationed there.

The Shiite Houthi group repeatedly fired ballistic missiles against government-controlled provinces but most of the attacks were aborted by air defence systems of the Saudi-led coalition.

Yemen has been suffering

by a very talented lawyer on Fox. And so you shouldn't be talking to me, you should be talking to Fox," he said.

Fox News said it could not confirm the allegations.

"Fox News knows of no evidence of any kind that the now President of the United States was surveilled at any time in any way, full stop," anchor Shepard Smith said, reading an official statement on-air.

Trump has accused Obama of ordering wiretaps at his Trump Tower in New York, but two weeks after the extraordinary claim, he has not delivered any evidence.

The claim has led to investigations in Congress and by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, but so far no one has provided any evidence to substantiate it.

Top Republicans and Democrats on the House and Senate Intelligence Committee have all said they have seen no evidence.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has remained quiet, however.

Yesterday the Justice Department said it had complied with requests from the Intelligence and Judiciary Committees in both houses of Congress for information related to surveillance during the 2016 election.

House Intelligence Committee Chairman Devin Nunes confirmed yesterday evening that the DOJ had "fully complied" with his panel's request for information regarding potential surveillance of Trump or his circle during the presidential race. He did not elaborate on the details of the information. — AFP

11 candidates confirmed in France prez polls

PARIS, March 18: Eleven candidates have been approved to run for French President, the country's Constitutional Council said today, a month before the vote.

The eleven received the 500-plus signatures from mayors needed to compete in the first round of the election on April 23, the council's president Laurent Fabius said.

With no candidate expected to win an outright majority at the first round, the two top contenders will go through to a decisive run-off on May 7.

On Monday evening, five main candidates will go head-to-head in the first of three TV debates.

They are: far-right leader Marine Le Pen, centrist candidate Emmanuel Macron, Republicans nominee Francois Fillon, the Socialist Party's Benoit Hamon and Communist-backed candidate Jean-Luc Melenchon. — AFP

Bharara was probing Trump aide when fired

WASHINGTON, March 18: Indian-American attorney Preet Bharara, who was recently fired by the Trump administration, was investigating into allegations of trading of health-related stocks of Secretaries of Health and Human Services Tom Price, an investigative news media outlet has claimed.

New York-based independent and non-profit ProPublica, which is known for its investigative reporting mostly on health-related issues, in its latest report claimed that at the time of being fired, Bharara was overseeing an investigation into health-related stock trades made by Price.

The story is based on sources and the White House has not commented on the allegations.

Bharara was fired this month after he refused to resign as being asked by the Department of Justice along with 45 other US attorneys, all of whom were appointed by the previous Obama Administration.

ProPublica, however, in its investigative report has not concluded that Bharara was fired because of this investigation against Price. — PTI



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (R) gestures while shaking hands with US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson before a bilateral meeting at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing, on Saturday. — UNI

Kids who play outdoors likely to protect environment



TORONTO, March 18: Children who spend more time outdoors express a continued love of nature as young adults and are more likely to help protect the environment, a new study has found.

Researchers from University of British Columbia Okanagan in Canada, interviewed about 50 students between the ages of 18 to 25. Of the group, 100 per cent of females stated that they loved or somewhat loved nature and 87 per cent of males responded the same.

The study found that 87 per cent of the respondents who played outside as children expressed a continued love of nature as young adults. Of that group, 84 per cent

said taking care of the environment was a priority.

"Developing positive experiences in nature at a young age can influence our attitudes and behaviours towards nature as adults," said Catherine Broom of University of British Columbia Okanagan Campus.

Environmental awareness programmes like Girl Guides or Boy Scouts may help develop children's environmental awareness and action, according to researchers.

"Our findings imply that providing positive childhood experiences in nature, such as outdoor school programmes, may help to develop care for the environment in adults,"

Broom said.

"However, these may not be sufficient unless programmes are building knowledge and self-awareness of environmental stewardship," she added.

Schools and early childhood classroom activities should connect positive experiences in nature with mindful learning and reflection that help empower students to take a personal role in protecting the environment by recycling, turning off the lights, and using alternative transportation methods, researchers said.

The study was published in the Australian Journal of Environmental Education. — PTI



Indian batsman Cheteshwar Pujara looks skywards and raises his bat to celebrate scoring a century during the third day of the 3rd Test against Australia in Ranchi, on Saturday.

Dhoni wins hearts but Bengal win Hazare semifinal

NEW DELHI, March 18: Mahendra Singh Dhoni enthralled one and all with some breathtaking sixes but a young Bengal side put up a spirited display to beat Jharkhand by 41 runs and enter the Vijay Hazare final here.

They will meet Tamil Nadu in the final. Bengal had lost to Dinesh Karthik and Co. in the two successive finals in 2008, 09 and 2010.

Riding on twin hundreds by Abhinav Easwaran (101) and Shreewan Goswami (101) and a blistering 75 from skipper Manoj Tiwary, Bengal scored an imposing 329 for four in 50 overs. But one of the greatest finishers of the game, Dhoni took the battle back to the enemy camp, hitting 70 off 62 balls, before they were bundled out for 288 in 50 overs.

The four sixes were vintage Dhoni and the 2000-odd spectators who had come to watch him in action were not disappointed. They were ecstatic when Ashoke Dinda dropped a sitter at long-off that tricked down to the boundary.

The hapless off-spinner Amir Ganit was watching in disbelief as Dhoni sent him hit for two sixes over long-on the second one went 100 metres.

The pressure of scoreboard was telling but that didn't deter Dhoni from sending a Pragyan Ojha delivery into the second net. **Bengal-Bangla-2014-15**: Goswami 101, AR Easwaran 101, MK Tiwary 49, SS Tiwary 48, K Deobrat 37, PP Ojha 5/71, KK Seth 2/48, SS Ghosh 252). - PTI

Guardiola under fire, Chelsea on title march

LONDON, March 18: Pep Guardiola has urged Manchester City to ease their Champions League pain by securing a vital win against Liverpool, while Chelsea aim to move a step closer to the Premier League title this weekend.

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Guardiola

Guardiola's side were eliminated from Europe's elite club competition in stunning fashion on Wednesday as they blew a 5-3 first-leg advantage to go out on away goals following a 3-1 defeat at Monaco.

It was another major setback for City manager Guardiola, who had never seen one of his teams knocked out before the Champions League quarterfinals.

Former Barcelona and Bayern Munich boss Guardiola was heavily criticised for his tactics and team selection in Monaco.

With third placed City just one point ahead of fourth placed Liverpool in the battle for a top four finish, Guardiola needs a lift at Eastlands on Sunday and he is eager to see how his team respond to the situation.

"Our job is to do as well as we can. We want to play Champions League next season. Six or seven fixtures for the Premier League," Guardiola said.

"It will be good to see how

everybody reacts, myself and the players, after going out of the Champions League."

"It's an important game before the international team break against one of the best teams in the Premier League."

Massey, who had struck a brilliant hundred yesterday, was seen mocking Kohli's injury when he imitated the Indian skipper's action by clutching his right shoulder after his dive to save a boundary in the 81st over.

Pujara had flicked through the mid-on off Cummins and Maxwell gave a fine chase at the deep, exactly in the same region where Kohli endured that awkward dive to injure his right shoulder in the post-lunch session of day one.

Maxwell's mocking of Kohli continued the hostilities which started with Smith's 'DRS Brain-fade' in the test-out Test in Bengaluru.

The Australian skipper was caught seeking dressing room clues before taking a DRS call, evoking a sharp reaction from Kohli. - PTI

Rocked by the humiliation of a 10-2 aggregate defeat against Bayern Munich in the last leg, Wenger has endured calls for his resignation from angry fans and failing to finish in the top four might convince the Frenchman to step down.

"When you care about results and they are not what you want it's not a happy place," Wenger said.

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Display of gamesmanship and introduction of DRS'

The Advanced Learners' Dictionary defines gamesmanship as "the art or practice of winning games by questionable expedients without actually violating the rules." The all engulfs galloping progress of science and technology and consequent commercialisation had its tangible impact on all games in general.

Introducing Decision Review System (DRS) is indeed a milestone decision taken by the international sports bodies including cricket, football and tennis taking advantage of technology in a bid to infuse greater transparency and to minimise the possibility of human error.

The burgeoning popularity of electronic media making television an indispensable part of our day to day life has contributed further in mind-

blowing monetary involvement by the sponsors. Players' earnings have skyrocketed well and truly. In the back drop of a surcharged professional atmosphere, increasing public display of gamesmanship, expression of wrath and anger together with sledging are seen in abundance by players of all hue and colour making a departure from the aged tradition of playing the games in the true sporting spirit.

Application of DRS has opened a new horizon in the field of international sports. Decisions of high level professional referees and umpires now get reviewed in slow motion applying 'Action-replay' and genuine mistakes get palpably exposed and reversed resulting in far-reaching impact on the game. Previously, there was no such provision for on-field correction of an umpiring error that used to leave the players disgruntled.

Memory goes back to the har-

rowing experiences by team India in Australia. India were tottering in the second innings against Australia at Adelaide in 1999 and captain Tendulkar was their only ray of hope. However, all those hopes withered away when he ducked to a short ball from Glenn McGrath. Instead of going over his head, the ball stayed low and hit a stumping Tendulkar on the shoulder. The Australians appealed and umpire Daryl Harper adjudged him leg-before.

It was Frank Lampard's disastrous goal in the England-Germany FIFA World Cup knockout match in 2010 that compelled FIFA officials to introduce Goal-line technology. In that high voltage match between the two footballing giants, television audience of hundreds of millions knew that the ball was in and it was a clear goal scored by England. Yet the officials were powerless to check.

In Serena Williams' quarterfinal loss to Jennifer Capriati at the 2004 US Open, three line calls went against Williams in the final set. Likewise, in 2001 US Open, American newcomer Andy Roddick and his 20-year-old Aussie rival Lleyton Hewitt were in the midst of an exciting quarterfinal match. But suddenly, one of Roddick's shots was adjudged to be out (long) by chair umpire although the line referee thought that the ball had kissed the base line. Subsequent television replays showed that the line referee was right. Endress such genuine human errors had resulted in the introduction of DRS in the world of tennis.

Maria Sharapova had pretended not to have seen that her opponent Patty Schnyder had signalled requesting for a time out and finished the service to catch the opponent on wrong foot in 2007 French Open quarterfinal in a sheer example of gamesmanship. Later on she confessed classically saying: "It's tough

playing tennis and being Mother Teresa at the same time."

The recent incident in the tension filled second Test match between India and Australia at Bengaluru have left a bitter taste besides magnifying the ugly face of modern day gamesmanship. Virat Kohli acknowledged that Steven Smith deliberately attempted to get advice from the Australian dressing room on referring his dismissal on day four and that this was the third such instance of Australia doing it during the match. Smith's witty reply that it was a 'brain fade' and not cheating has been discarded by the cricketing fraternity.

While the games need to be played with intense rivalry, the underlying significance of the games to promote international brotherhood and friendship should not be sacrificed at the altar of gamesmanship shirley vitiating the essence of sportsman spirit.

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playing tennis and being Mother Teresa at the same time."

The recent incident in the tension filled second Test match between India and Australia at Bengaluru have left a bitter taste besides magnifying the ugly face of modern day gamesmanship. Virat Kohli acknowledged that Steven Smith deliberately attempted to get advice from the Australian dressing room on referring his dismissal on day four and that this was the third such instance of Australia doing it during the match. Smith's witty reply that it was a 'brain fade' and not cheating has been discarded by the cricketing fraternity.

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Pujara ton guides India to 360/6

RANCHI, March 18: Cheteshwar Pujara carried his bat through the day and carved out a defiant century to keep India afloat at 360 for six against Australia in a Test that was tantalisingly poised after his exemplary display of grit and discipline here.

At stumps on the third day of the ongoing third Test, India trailed Australia by 91 runs with four wickets remaining at the Jharkhand State Cricket Association (JSCA) stadium.

Resuming at their overnight score of 120 for one, India were left to rely on the solidity of Pujara, whose 11th Test ton proved to be the fulcrum around which the home team's innings was built after the early dismissal of skipper Virat Kohli (6).

Australia will be pleased that they conceded not more than 240 runs on a

wicket where shot-making is much easier than in the first two Tests. In all, India lost four wickets on the day.

Batting on 10 overnight, Pujara applied the pressure and built his innings beautifully as he struck his 11th Test century in a top class display of grit and discipline here.

Pujara's undefeated stay at the crease spanned six hours and 52 minutes and he faced 328 balls, hitting 17 boundaries.

Giving him support at the other end at close was Wriddhiman Saha on 18 from 42 balls.

Josh Hazlewood (1/66) gave a fine breakthrough in the final session after he knocked over the off-stump of Karun Nair (23) with an angled delivery, using the width of his bowling crease.

Nair looked elegant in his 44-run partnership with Pujara and being the last recognised batsman, it was a blow to India's revival plan.

Australia's most successful bowler of the day was Pat Cummins (4/59) – at the other end dismissed Ravichandran Ashwin (3) after the visitors successfully used a

review. After that, Saha gave perfect support to Pujara as they saw off the day without any hiccup.

Earlier, Pujara and Murali Vijay (82) executed the team's plan perfectly in their 102-run second-wicket stand, their sixth century-plus partnership in 10 Tests this home season.

The duo almost saw through the first session before Vijay was tempted by Steve O'Keefe to step out of the crease to be stumped at the stroke of lunch.

Returning to action after his freak shoulder injury on day one, Kohli (6 from 23 balls) had a testing 37 minutes' vigil at the crease before his soft dismissal by Cummins immediately after the new ball was taken in the 81st over.

During his stay in the middle, Kohli never looked his usual self as the Australian spinners bowled in tandem. - PTI

Maharaj propels SA to victory

WELLINGTON, March 18:

South African captain Faf du Plessis heralded an "impossible" victory after the Proteas recovered from a desperate situation to win the second Test against New Zealand by eight wickets in Wellington yesterday.

Keshav Maharaj took a career-best six wickets in their second innings and needed just 25 overs to reach the modest 81 to win.

Just five sessions from South Africa were on the ropes they found themselves with an unbeatable 141 lead in the series with one Test to play.

New Zealand captain Kane Williamson braved the change in fortunes and his side's second innings capitulation when they were out for 171, as a "very, very poor" effort.

But du Plessis said the result was testimony to the determination of the South Africans.

"It's happened a few times this season where we've been in impossible situations," he said.

"At lunchtime yesterday, 90 for six, it's not too long ago, we were.

"We've somehow found this ability to have a lot of faith in our batting line-up or whatever-

er, for guys in the team to stand up when there's a pressure situation."

From

being 94

for six

before lunch on Friday, South Africa rallied to be all out for 359 to take a 91-run lead into the second innings.

On a flattening track and with

nearly three days remaining,

there was time for New Zealand to mount a strong comeback.

Instead their second innings

was done in 63.2 overs with a

career best 80 by Jeet Raval and

26.5-32.6-6.3-28.0. Bowlers

O'Keefe 27-37-9-2, de Grandhomme 23-57-3-2, Wagner 12-2-1-1, Patel 14-1-57-1, Neesham 12-2-1-1.

New Zealand 1st Innings: 268

South Africa 1st Innings: 171

South Africa 2nd Innings: 288

New Zealand 2nd Innings: 161

South Africa 3rd Innings: 268

New Zealand 4th Innings: 171

South Africa 5th Innings: 268

New Zealand 6th Innings: 161

South Africa 7th Innings: 268

New Zealand 8th Innings: 161

South Africa 9th Innings: 268

New Zealand 10th Innings: 161

South Africa 11th Innings: 268

New Zealand 12th Innings: 161

South Africa 13th Innings: 268

New Zealand 14th Innings: 161

South Africa 15th Innings: 268

New Zealand 16th Innings: 161

South Africa 17th Innings: 268

New Zealand 18th Innings: 161

South Africa 19th Innings: 268

New Zealand 20th Innings: 161

South Africa 21st Innings: 268

New Zealand 22nd Innings: 161

South Africa 23rd Innings: 268

New Zealand 24th Innings: 161

South Africa 25th Innings: 268

New Zealand 26th Innings: 161

South Africa 27th Innings: 268

New Zealand 28th Innings: 161

South Africa 29th Innings: 268

New Zealand 30th Innings: 161

South Africa 31st Innings: 268

New Zealand 32nd Innings: 161

South Africa 33rd Innings: 268

New Zealand 34th Innings: 161

South Africa 35th Innings: 268

New Zealand 36th Innings: 161

South Africa 37th Innings: 268

New Zealand 38th Innings: 161

South Africa 39th Innings: 268

New Zealand 40th Innings: 161

South Africa 41st Innings: 268

New Zealand 42nd Innings: 161

South Africa 43rd Innings: 268

New Zealand 44th Innings: 161

South Africa 45th Innings: 268

New Zealand 46th Innings: 161

South Africa 47th Innings: 268

New Zealand 48th Innings: 161

South Africa 49th Innings: 268

New Zealand 50th Innings: 161

South Africa 51st Innings: 268

New Zealand 52nd Innings: 161

South Africa 53rd Innings: 268

New Zealand 54th Innings: 161

South Africa 55th Innings: 268

New Zealand 56th Innings: 161

South Africa 57th Innings: 268

New Zealand 58th Innings: 161

South Africa 59th Innings: 268

New Zealand 60th Innings: 161

2 WOMEN PLUS

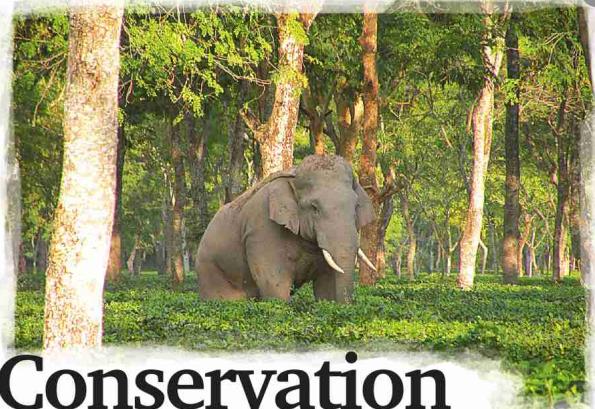
Bit of plainspeak

The Assam Tribune

Sunday

3 FICTION

In custody - I



Conservation insights

PARINITA DATTA catches up with Robin Eastment and Saurav Malhotra of the Balipara Foundation, Assam.

The Udalguri district of Assam, bordering Bhutan, is among the worst affected regions as far as human-elephant conflict is concerned. Between 2014 and 2015, 40 humans and 15 elephants have lost their lives. As worse as this may seem, the psychological toll of this day-to-day conflict is much more than figures can indicate. But how can conservation organisations help? Robin Eastment, who is a Programme Executive with the Balipara Foundation, Assam, recounts: "A person once told me that 'there are more humans than elephants being killed in Udalguri. If anyone needs help, it's us – not them.' What do you say to that?"

Wanting to understand and learn more, Robin and Saurav Malhotra (Project Executive, Balipara Foundation) started camping out in the heart of Udalguri Elephant Country. "It was not easy to sleep at all, with elephants on our minds. Every little noise startled us. Anyway, we did it for two months and we see elephants very differently today," adds Saurav, who has been with the Foundation for a few months now.

But the experience also offered them some clarity of action. "The only thing worse than an elephant breaking your house is getting compensated 12 to 36 months later. That's insult to injury," maintains Robin. "Whenever we have spoken to people as to how we could help, most often than not, the issue of 'timely compensation' has been raised. We are exploring models of CSR Bridge Funding to enable this, aligned with in-

surance schemes. Low Cost Solar Powered Fencing is another priority item; aided by the WWP NBL team (read World Wildlife Fund North Bank Landscape)," informs Saurav.

Robin quickly adds, "Elephants, however, are not the most pertinent issue in Udalguri. Social mobility is, by far, the bigger challenge." He explains that long-term and meaningful conservation outcomes cannot be achieved by a handful of conservationists going out there and preaching 'conservation'. Neither can it be attained by 'stand alone' laws and policies. "Do you think that fate of our forests and wildlife are dependent on government policies or conservation projects? No. It, in fact, lies in the hands of the people that live alongside these forests and have a day-to-day relationship with the wildlife living in it – the forest fringe communities," he states.

This leads us to the core concept of the Udalguri Landscape Mission (ULM) Project. "Everyone talks about community participation in conservation projects, but how can you expect the community, bounded by elephants, to participate in the saving of elephants, when the much bigger issue for them is accessibility to water, and we are not even talking about drinking water, just water," adds Saurav.

Robin explains that community participation can never be achieved by the current conservation narrative that is laden with 'Nature nostalgia' and 'romanticism'. "That can only take you so far," he adds quickly.

Along with the elephants, accessibility to water is a major issue in Udalguri. "Having gone through the whole



trouble of fetching water from a well one km. away, daily, during our two-month camp-stay in Udalguri, we realised that we could make a huge difference," exclaims Saurav. And that was how we conceptualised the 24x7 Water Project. Government investments through water supply schemes, in most cases, simply close down in a few months due to design flaws and lack of community ownership.

When one travels around Udalguri, one will see a lot of abandoned water supply schemes, rainwater harvesting units and rural toilets – all built by the government. However, they have been rendered as Non-Performing Assets (NPAs). One of the project's long-term goals is to work with government departments to improve the service delivery of these assets by introducing engineering and design elements that are technology-driven.

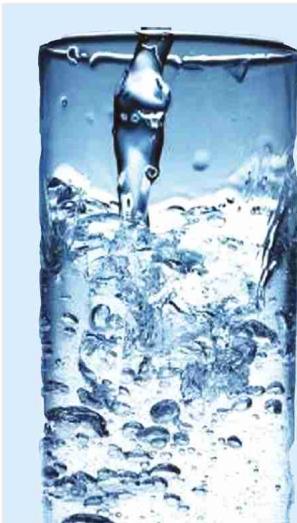
"Why should it be so audacious for a forest-fringe dweller to demand water 24x7 when his urban counterpart takes the same service for granted?" questions Saurav.

Robin and Saurav also spoke very keenly about having an exit strategy. They pointed out that traditional conservation projects always lack one. Therefore, they invariably run out of steam once funding is exhausted. Their strategy is built around partnering with grassroots agencies as their primary project partners. The Kharlingduar Eco-Development Committee (EDC) is a result of that endeavour. The EDC is represented by 12 forestfringe communities who have organised themselves to undertake an ambitious 500-hectare afforestation project, besides the Kharlingduar Reserve Forest along the Indo-Burman border. "Two major nationalised banks have come forward to fund the EDC and the first tree will be planted with the onset of monsoons in March-April, 2017."

"The future of conservation lies in the hands of people who are unfortunately underprivileged, and hence, are not in a position to participate meaningfully. This can only be reversed through the social mobility of these communities. The poacher or the logger is not a 'conservationist' – not because he/she chooses not to be, but because he/she hasn't had the opportunity to be one. The reverse is true. We are said for the conservationist!" signs off Robin.

Ranjit Borhalukar, the Chairman of Balipara Foundation, which came into being in 2007, would like to term the entire exercise more as a concept rather than a project. He sums up: "Rather than just projecting Assam as a rhino land only, we should divide it into five-six zones – 'Elephant Country', 'Rhinoceros Country', 'Tiger Country', 'Buffalo Country', etc. We are also trying to create patches so that tuskers can move freely without human habitats and tea gardens coming in their way."

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As World Water Day falls on March 22, I couldn't help but remember the two most famous lines from Samuel Taylor Coleridge's lyrical ballad *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, which reads,

Water, water, everywhere,
Nor any drop to drink.

Liquid wealth

**On the eve of World Water Day,
ZEBA ZOARIAH AHSAN appeals
for a ban on water wastage.**

If there indeed is so much water all around us, what if it was made usable for performing some daily chores? Especially since this year's 'World Water Day' theme is "Water and Waste-water". The world is making huge efforts in spreading awareness amongst masses on why and how wastewater can be used. With such themes, the global water crisis, which, according to some professionals is actually a crisis, however, can be solved over time. Common

people should be introduced to the concept of grey water, so that they are not apprehensive about reusing it. Not only that, flagship programmes like 'Toilet to Tap', 'Clean India Mission' can be turned into a reality all across the country.

With burgeoning population and increasing water stress, us-

ing of wastewater would definitely provide a huge respite from the prevailing water scarcity, help in building social capital and provide a better understanding of the hydraulic properties. This will, in turn, make the second green revolution possible in the near future, further enhancing food security and promoting sustainable practices over the generations.

Why wastewater?

The ongoing climate change has affected the hydrological cycle tremendously, with some

parts of the globe facing droughts and an acute shortage of water. For example: South Australia suffered a decade long drought, also known as the Millennium Drought from 2001-2009.

Such incidents call for tapping wastewater and reusing it. The wastewater generated from homes (grey water) could be treated and used for irrigating agricultural farms. Similarly, wastewater generated from industries known as 'black water' could be treated and reused. The use of wastewater should be thought of and talked about as we work towards creating a sustainable future. It goes without saying that sustainability would also imply survivability in the long run.

In the summer and rainy seasons of 2015, Leptospirosis, a dangerously neglected tropical disease struck multiple cities of India. It is a zoonotic disease, also known colloquially as 'rat fever' for its association with the urine of rodents, among several host species. It spreads under the condition of stagnant water, floodwater and humidity. With 2017 facing the prospect of er-

ratic monsoons and no major improvements nationwide in wastewater and floodwater management, the possibility of the spread of Leptospirosis needs special attention.

The rapid urbanisation has fur-

ther added to our water and sanitation woes across the towns and cities of India. Hence, managing wastewater would play a vital role in accomplishing various government initiatives and also fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Good governance matters

At the 2000 World Water Forum in The Hague, it was stated that 'water crisis is often a crisis of governance' and identified making water governance effective as one of the highest priorities for action. Institutional reforms are needed to turn poor governance into good and effective governance, thus making it more accountable and transparent, involving the civil society, the various stakeholders, planners and policy makers.

In these regards, one must not forget the dimensions of gender as women play a huge role in

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4 ALL THINGS CONSIDERED

An en masse migration



Bandita Sarma

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Hola, Latin America!

Very few of us are fortunate enough to come across opportunities to do things out of our comfort zone and get out of life's monotony. I had one such occasion last October, when a travel buff friend of mine pitched the idea of a visit to Latin America. Within a span of a month, after several iterations of prospective countries, I finalised Ecuador and Colombia, with Panama coming as an added bonus, owing to a long layover. So, itineraries were finalised, accommodations reserved and backpacks stuffed for a ten-day long trip! Even Hurricane Matthews could not dampen our spirits and all four of us made it to Quito over the weekend.

Quito, the capital of Ecuador and a world heritage site, is a beautiful city nestled in the Andes mountain ranges. A walk along the cobblestoned roads led us to our first stop, the city's Old Town, packed with majestic plazas from the colonial era like the Plaza Grande, artsy cathedrals like the Cathedral of Quito and numerous shops and restaurants. Our next stop was Cuenca Mitad del Mundo or the Equator Monument. It is a small museum of sorts – with a guide explaining the local tribal culture and also demonstrating the significance of the location with a couple of experiments on the equator. Early next morning, we started off to the Cotopaxi National Park, around 50 km. south of Quito. Cotopaxi is one of the highest active volcanoes of the world and its last recorded activity was in January, 2016. Tourists were allowed to hike up to the base camp located at an altitude of 4,800 metres.

The next city in our itinerary was Banos, around three hours from Quito, a lush green valley hidden among the Andes lined with waterfalls and thermal springs and the active Volcano Tungurahua standing tall nearby. This town is the ultimate destination for various adventure sports: bungee jumping, white water rafting, canopying, waterfall chasing, you name it! Just a 45-minute drive from the heart of Banos, is the Waterfall Route. This drive ending at the famous Pailon del Diablo is a treat to sore eyes and consists of over a dozen waterfalls.

Soon, we bid adieu to Ecuador and moved on to explore Panama City. Panama Canal was our first stop. This architectural marvel has been serving as a connection for maritime trade between the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans since 1914! It has three locks, Miraflores on the Pacific end, Pedro Miguel in the middle and Gatun on the Atlantic end. The Miraflores Locks, which is open to tourists, has a museum and theatre narrating the history and operation of the canal. Our city tour ended with lunch at the Amador Causeway and a quick drive through the Old Town before heading back to the airport for our connecting flight to Medellin, Colombia.

Once the heart of Pablo Escobar's drug cartel, Medellin today is a vibrant city sprawling with high rises and industries attracting tourists from all over the world. Our adventure in Colombia began with paragliding over the Medellin Valley and then a trip to Guatape, a small town around three hours from Medellin. Next, our hostel arranged for a tour of San Cayetano, one of Colombia's numerous coffee farms. This two-hour drive offered majestic vistas with the road winding up green hills and canyons. Our final stop was Bogota, the capital city of Colombia. Bogota is a culturally rich city with quaint little alleys, colonial style homes and vibrant artwork splattered all over the city walls. Although our stay here was just for a day, we still managed to get our daily dose of adrenaline rush with a cable car ride along a steep hill to a cathedral and then back on a train along the same route. We also squeezed in a visit to a gold museum, the largest of its kind in the world, before packing our stuff for a midnight flight back to the USA.

We started on this trip with just a rough to-do list, relying mostly on backpackers we met at hostels for advice, and probably a bit on the internet, which made it a much more rewarding experience. High points of our trip: the warm and friendly peoples; the well-maintained roads and spotlessly clean cities; and the Bajaj Pulsars, Discovers and auto-rickshaws we spotted on the streets of Colombia!

WOMEN PLUS

Indrani Raimedhi

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Bit of plainspeak

Dr. Akashitora Dutta is one of the most dynamic and interesting personalities I have met. A multiple award-winning actor, media personality, author and Rotary fellow, she has her pulse on the contemporary society and is full of plans about engaging in it in new and interesting ways. Excerpts from an interview...

The best thing about being a woman?

Quoting author William Golding, I think women are foolish to pretend they are equal to men. They are far superior. And always have been.

What are the challenges of modern women?

In a recent speech in the Billboard Awards, I saw pop diva Madonna speaking at length about how society judges a woman with an opinion and names her with adjectives. Every woman has been a victim of so called moral judgement by her peers. Despite strict laws, women in work sectors have to face the ugly truth of being objectified by some menfolk. Be it in Bengaluru or in Assam, women have been the soft target of moral censure – her dress, her free movements, her right of expression have often been challenged.

What have been your personal milestones?

I will name my selection as Rotary Peace Fellow in 2016 – to join 19 other world scholars from all over the world to study for three months at the Chulalongkorn University in Thailand, as a rare honour.

I am indebted to Rotary International for having given me the chance to study Gender Studies, Disarmament, International Law and Peace Cultivation. This has not only opened vistas, but also broadened my horizons.

How do you see yourself as an author?

You will always find me writing, as books are my first love and I have to carry the legacy of my journalist father. My first novel *Xei Prem* and a sequel *Dwitiyo Priyasthar Xei Prem*, and my novel on LGBT – *Nattha*, have won a loyal readership. Then there is *Bidisha* which has been translated into English this year.

Mur Priyo Puruxbur Aru Ityadi will be a bold revelation on different aspects of my perspective on various issues. I am also

working on my novel in English – *Voice of Silence* – with 20 Facebook stories.

My poetry anthology – *Me and my Love*, will have a sequel.

How can we ensure safety for women?

Being bold for a change is the answer. Efficient governance, an alert police and social force are needed. Also, training girls on self-protection should be made compulsory in schools. Girls should be encouraged to be more vocal about any kind of oppression and torture.

What factors are now creating conflicts in relationships?

From my experiences, what I have noticed are the following –

After my return from a month-long Europe tour, I was shocked to discover that six of my friends had got separated from their spouses. All of them felt that they were not respected by their men.

Times are changing and women today no longer look up to a man to buy her grocery or her lipstick. Most of them are economically empowered. So when the emotional quotient seems missing in their relations, women quit.

We actually need the menfolk to join us to eradicate gender discrimination. Most relationships suffer because the male still refuses to accept his counterpart as equal.

What has your reality shown achieved?

In the year 2009, when I had presented a live show – *Ekanto Bokkigoto*, Indian television was not very aware of it.

Satyameva Jayate came two years later, in 2011. My own personal trauma and conviction that sharing is caring brought about a sea change in the perceptions of people. We have completed 100 episodes, with 60 success stories. We have women like Sabita Medhi, who won justice after years of negligence by her spouse. My serial *Ji Kom Hosa Kom* could give Gunung, an autistic baby, a new life. I have dedicated six long years of my life to this effort, to give service and strength to victims and spreading awareness about existing laws. I even faced threats while helping women victims, but this could not deter me from doing so. It won the Laddi Media Award as the Best Show of eastern India. What I value equally has been the love of my people.

Quoting author William Golding, I think women are foolish to pretend they are equal to men. They are far superior and always have been.



LET'S CREATE

We all know how women love their crockery, be it ceramic, glass or porcelain. So when these kitchen gems get chipped or cracked, it's heartbreak time all over again. But no fret, there are many ways in which these prime possessions can be worked around your life and home. Just a little bit of imagination and a few basic supplies can give a new life to that vintage tea cup or plate. Let's find out how:

Chalkboard plate

A chalkboard plate makes for a fun and unique kitchen decoration. Set it on the counter using a plate stand or hang it on the wall. You can announce dinner time, let everyone know what is for dinner, or just write a fun message. Simply clean the plate surface, use a fine paintbrush or a foam brush to apply thin layers of chalkboard paint on the centre of the plate. Let each layer dry completely before you add the next.



Let the chalkboard paint cure for as long as the package recommends. Before you use the plate for the first time, you should rub the side of a stick of chalk on the paint and then wipe it off.

**Organising jewels**

We are often left with one or two bowls from a set of six or eight that have perished over the years. While we might feel that they are of no use, they can surely be used around the house to store knick knacks, especially your jewellery. You can sort your earrings, bracelets or necklaces into them and store them in your dresser. A pretty sight they make.

**Bird feeder**

If you can see the image on your left, you get the idea. There's nothing much you need to do. Simply stick together a cup and a saucer and hang them on a tree in your backyard or even in your balcony by the creepers. Even old teapots can be used for this purpose.

Treat stand

Treat stands are the centre of attraction at any tea party or birthday. As these are still quite expensive, we don't see them in most Indian homes. But these can be easily made at home: just you need to be creative. Use few plates, candle sticks and some strong glue. Reuse those dinner plates that you feel are 'out of trend', glue them together with the candle sticks, and voila! You could use plastic or resin plates for a more casual look or go fancy with some pretty ceramic or china ones!

**Planters**

Why waste money buying colourful planters when you have a pile of old, unused crockery at home. The bigger bowls (slightly chipped, faded and unused) can be used in the garden, while the teacups can be used in your kitchen as herb planters.

Create a mosaic

Chips of old crockery can be glued to almost about anything to create exquisite mosaic patterns that can then be displayed anywhere you wish. You can make mosaic planters, mosaic flooring, stairs, wall art, jewellery, etc. Simply wake up to the possibilities of what can be done with these pretty old things and you will be more than surprised.

**Black sesame rice****Method:**

Wash and soak rice. Drain the rice after 15 minutes and set aside.

Heat a small frying pan over medium heat.

Toast the sesame seeds, until a few sesame seeds begin to pop and emit a nutty aroma.

Remove immediately and grind the warm sesame seeds to a paste.

Paste mustard oil in a cooking pan over a medium heat.

Add the bay leaf and stir in the onion and garlic paste and sauté, until the onions are translucent.

Stir in the sesame seed paste and turmeric and fry the paste until aromatic.

Mix in the washed and drained rice.

Add the water and salt. Stir once, reduce the heat to low, cover and cook, without stirring, until all of the water has been absorbed and the rice is tender.

Carefully remove the lid and fluff rice with a fork.

Spoon the rice into a warmed serving dish.

Serve immediately with pickle, curry and mashed or fried potatoes.

- Ingredients:**
- Water 1½ cups
 - Small grained rice 1 cup
 - Black sesame seeds 2 tbsp
 - Onion paste 3 tbsp
 - Garlic paste 1 tsp
 - Vegetable or mustard oil 2 tbsp
 - Bay leaf 1
 - Salt to taste



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.

Fried fish balls**Ingredients:**

- Feather back fish (*chitol* or *goda*) 500 gms
- Corn flour 2 tbsp
- Baking powder ¼ tsp
- Pepper powder ½ tsp
- Onion paste 4 tbsp
- Ginger paste 1 tsp
- Garlic paste 1 tbsp
- Coriander, chopped 4 tbsp
- Green chilli, chopped 1 tsp
- Soya sauce 2 tbsp
- Garlic 10 cloves
- Green chillies 2
- Salt to taste

Method:

Clean the fish and rinse with cold water, pat dry with paper towels.

Place the fish flat on the cutting board.

Run a sharp knife down the backbone, cutting fish cleanly away from the skeletal frame, keeping knife close to bone. Turn the fish over and repeat the process.

Using a metal spoon, scrape in the

direction of the bones. Retain the fish paste and discard any bones.

Place the fish paste in a bowl.

Mix in onion, ginger and garlic paste, salt and pepper.

Cover with plastic wrap and place in the freezer for two hours, or until the fish paste is firm but without freezing.

Take the fish paste out of the freezer, and grind in a food processor or manually, until sticky.

Mix in the corn flour, baking powder and soya sauce and knead until the mixture is smooth.

Add the chopped coriander leaves and green chillies and mix until the ingredients are well-combined.

With greased hands, form small balls and roll them slightly.

Bring a large pot of water to a boil over high heat.

Gently drop the fish balls into the boiling water and cook until the fish balls float to the top.

Remove and drain on paper towels.

Serve immediately with chilli sauce or a dip.

Heat oil in a wok or deep pan and add the garlic and green chillies and fry, until golden.

Gently add the fish balls to the oil.

With a spoon, pour warm oil over the fish and fry the balls, until golden brown.

Remove and drain on paper towels.

Serve immediately with chilli sauce or a dip.

BEAUTY

Zarin Saleh Hussain

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The natural way

All skin types require extra care and hydration, especially in this season. Our skin tends to become patchy in this season, so exfoliating with natural ingredients is important. Nothing works better for the skin or hair than a proper diet and good exercise. What you eat is more important than what you apply.

Drink lots of water during the day. Also, drink green tea, twice a day. It acts as a stimulant or energiser, aids in the process of weight loss and also gives your skin a glow. I believe there is nothing like an egg to give the right amount of bounce to your hair (and glow to your skin). Eat lots of eggs and also use them on your hair. It will improve the texture and quality of your hair tremendously.

During this season, the hair feels rough and dry. Coconut oil will help combat the dryness and will condition your hair. Mayonnaise, a natural conditioner, can come to your rescue, too. It softens the hair. Use a mild, herbal shampoo later.

Apply any kind of thick oil, not only on your skin, but also on your hair. You can use either olive oil or any seed oil and mix sandalwood oil, as these are thick and create a natural sunscreen.

Start home facials with natural ingredients. Here's how:

Cleanse: Start by cleansing your face well with rose water. Take two teaspoons yoghurt, mixed with two teaspoons mashed papaya and massage well. This works wonders as it has cleansing enzymes and reduces blemishes.

Scrub: Make a scrub of two teaspoons orange peel, mixed with a tablespoon oatmeal. Mix with a combination of milk and rose water. Apply to skin. Leave on for ten minutes and then scrub when it becomes semi-dry.

Steam: Steam your face using a warm towel and make a smooth, thick paste of honey and rice flour. Apply on the oily, open pores and affected areas of the skin. Always keep the forehead, nose and chin oil-free. Rinse off, when dry, with cold water. This will give your skin a beautiful glow.

Refreshing skin mask: For combination skin, take two teaspoons sandalwood powder, one teaspoon honey, a few drops of lemon juice. Mix all the ingredients with rose water and apply to clean skin. When dry, rinse off with normal water.

For oily skin with lots of whiteheads and blackheads: Take equal quantities of sandalwood powder and fuller's earth. Then mix in rose water. Make a smooth paste and apply, scrubbing off gently. Rinse off with cold



water. Avoid heavy creams and oily products. Keep your skin clean. Use exfoliating granules on your skin regularly. You can also use dried orange peels.

A hair care routine begins with massaging your hair with a combination of pure almond oil and castor oil, twice a week, and following it with a steam therapy. Henna can be used to thicken and condition the hair. It acts as a natural dye and is safer than harmful chemical dyes.

Make a softening hair conditioning pack with two teaspoons each of *amla* powder, *shikakai* powder, fenugreek powder, liquorice powder and two eggs. Apply this from the root to the ends. Leave on for half an hour, then wash with a mild, herbal shampoo.

For treating dry, rough hair, take two teaspoons honey, *amla*, two teaspoons *triphalas* and add half a cup of yoghurt. Mix all the ingredients well and apply to the scalp and hair. Leave on for half an hour, then shampoo. This should be done once a week.



Remove with a slotted spoon, set aside until cool. Then using a sharp knife, make a cross-shaped slash on top of each fish ball.

Heat oil in a wok or deep pan and add the garlic and green chillies and fry, until golden.

Gently add the fish balls to the oil.

With a spoon, pour warm oil over the fish and fry the balls, until golden brown.

Bring a large pot of water to a boil over high heat.

Gently drop the fish balls into the boiling water and cook until the fish balls float to the top.

In custody - I

FICITION

Keerthana Suresh

It was the third time that day Malini clenched her teeth and turned away angrily. Her elder brother was overprotective towards her and made her furious every time. Sure, he was elder to her, but it was her parents who had to parent her and not her elder brother, Prateek.

Malini was 18 years old, Prateek was 24. Though she was an adult now and her parents didn't seem to have much problems with the way she wanted to live her life, Prateek seemed to be a control freak in her life. And their parents never stopped Prateek from being one.

"Malu? What took you so long? It's 8.30 already and it's not safe. It's not good to be alone at night."

Malini controlled her anger and turned to her brother. "I am sorry, I'll come home early from next time."

"But I asked – what took you so long?" His voice got a little demanding.

Malini was about to give a gruff answer when her mom entered and told Prateek to change the subject.

Next morning, at the breakfast table, she found her dad quietly working on his laptop. Her mom gave her breakfast and joined them at the table. Malini found it very awkward because theirs was a chirpy family and always discussed everything that there is on the planet while eating and today both her parents were too quiet. Maybe they had fought? Or maybe not? Maybe Prateek would know what the matter was and that instance she noticed Prateek was missing.

"Maa, where is Prateek?"

"He is at a friend's place."

"So early? He was not at home from 6.30 because I was awake by then and he was not there."

Her mom seemed to get restless and exactly at that moment her dad spoke up. "What happened to your novel, Malini? Any word from Yagnesh – with confirmations from any publishers?"

"No, Papa."

"Get me a copy of it now, will you? I'll contact my other friend who knows people from Jaico publishers."

She nodded and went to her room. From a young age, books fascinated



her and she always wanted to be a writer. Recently, she put to work her young dream and had written a book, which was a collection of stories that had inspired her. She had put in a lot of hard work and had given the script to her English professor who had helped her correct the mistakes and had given her moral support. He had even told her that it was an excellent piece of work for a debut writer. She had been!

She put a copy of the novel in a pen drive and gave it to her dad. Her mom told her that she had to go somewhere and her grandma would be coming home in the afternoon and she had to take care of him.

Malini was shocked. "Grandpa is coming to Bangalore? Why? And why was I never informed?"

"I am in a hurry, Malini. Take care," she said and left.

Grandpa came home in the afternoon. Malini was glad to see him after a long time. She served him lunch and was telling him about her novel.

"Yes, Malini. Your dad was talking about it yesterday."

"Yesterday? You came here yesterday? Why didn't you..."

"No idea, Grandpa. Oh Mom! I have a party to attend in the evening. I'll be going out in the evening, okay?"

Her mother nodded. She seemed lost.

"Dad? Any word from the publishers?"

"No. They all are a little hesitant to try a debut writer who has had no past experience."

"Okay. We'll see, Dad. We'll find

a way," she said.

In the evening, Malini got ready and was about to leave. She found Prateek with another man in the hall. Prateek looked at her and smiled. "Ah, Malini! Here you are. Meet Mr. Mukesh here."

"Hello, Sir," she said. He smiled at her. Her mom came in with a tray of biscuits. "Okay, Mom. I'll leave now, bye."

"Malini?" Prateek said. "Can you stay home and talk to Mukesh? He might help you..."

"Prateek, I have a party to attend. I already told mom about it."

"Ya, I know. But just today stay back because..."

"Because what, Prateek?" She was furiously now. "Because you don't want me to have any fun? Why are you always doing this to me, hub?"

"Malini, listen dear..." her mom started.

"Maa, I am getting late. Bye!" She said and left.

Next day, her dad wanted to talk to her and called her down to the hall. Both her mom and dad had a very serious expression. She knew what was coming.

"Dad, I am sorry, I know I did a wrong thing by shouting at Prateek like he wanted to deprive her of all the fun in her life. You can stay out for hours together at your friends place, why can't I? Stop controlling my life so much. That's why I want and not what you tell me to."

She shouted back and walked out of the house.

His mom came out of the kitchen and looked at Prateek's face, hurt.

Next day, Malini wanted to apologize to Prateek for the previous night. But he was not there.

"Mom, where is Prateek?"

"He's sleeping, dear."

"Still? Isn't he getting late for work?"

"He's on leave, Malu."

"Why is he on leave so much, Maa?"

Even yesterday..."

"Malu dear," her grandpa said,

"What are you planning to do on your birthday this time?"

"Malu, I'm tired. Will you go make my bed? I'll finish eating and get some rest."

She nodded. But she was furious. Everyone at home was acting weird and now Grandpa hadn't informed her about his arrival. What was going on? And WHERE was Prateek?

It was six in the evening when Malini woke up. She had slept all afternoon. Now she decided she needed a break and got ready to go to her

friend's place. She went down and smiled at her and said, "Hey! Where to?"

"Friend's place," she said curily.

"Why don't you stay home tonight?"

It's been a long while since we all played UNO and today grandpa's also there. It will be fun!"

Malini was angry now. It looked like he wanted to deprive her of all the fun in her life. "You can stay out for hours together at your friends place, why can't I? Stop controlling my life so much. That's why I want and not what you tell me to."

She was shocked. "Grandpa is coming to Bangalore? Why? And why was I never informed?"

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"Dad? Any word from the publishers?"

"No. They all are a little hesitant to try a debut writer who has had no past experience."

"Okay. We'll see, Dad. We'll find

(To be continued)

People Speak

Today's topic

Is the Indian youth disillusioned by society?

North-East has been my home – the place where I grew up and where people's lives are deeply compromised. The entire region is characterised by perpetual upheavals creating constant fears and apprehensions and people are uncertain of their future, with constant struggles for dominance between the State and community, tribes and non-tribes, tribes and foreigners, and gender discriminations. Add to that the new wave of investments by the market and big development projects planned in the region is almost breaking the age-old community structures and processes, thus increasing vulnerabilities for all sections of the society.

My young friends of this generation live in this ambience – their problems range from underemployment, unemployment to a void in finding a sense of purpose in life. Over the last 15 years of teaching and counselling youth, I do notice a sense of disillusionment, but the spirit of the young and the resilience they have is remarkable!

You see them as farmers, as teachers, as peace builders, as entrepreneurs, as musicians, as artists and they have never failed to give me strength whenever I am disillusioned!



Society is an amalgamation of different views and opinions. The young minds are vulnerable, highly charged and easily influenced. The Indian youth has had to deal with society probably a lot more, compared to people from other countries, in a much scrutinised way. Every action is judged as per the accepted norms and regulations. But, who sets these said norms and regulations? It is the society which has been shaping ideas for generations. The thin line between good and bad or right and wrong is increasingly getting thinner. At such a time, it is of utmost importance for the youth to apply their own rationale, regardless of societal conventions.

– **Armanur Rahman, Noida.**

India is one amongst countries with a high youth presence. They hold the key to the nation's destiny. Our youth face multiple challenges with rapid development of information technology. But today's Indian youth is disillusioned by society. The educational institutes have become hotbeds of gossip, negative judgements, harassment, violence and hopelessness, which is quite disturbing. The media is creating a hue and cry over the alarming devolution of the youth; there is an urgent need to create moral value awareness of the Indian youth. Today's society is polluted. Elderly, high-valued, experienced members need to interfere to enlighten the youth in the right direction.

– **Abhimanyu Barua, Guwahati.**

Recently, after some extremist activity in the neighbouring area, a colleague's nephew, an innocent student from a remote village in Upper Assam, was mercilessly beaten by some uniformed men. He was heartbroken, with a mind full of revenge against the State. Completely disillusioned, he now talks of joining an underground organisation. Our housemaid's son had to cough up a handsome amount, illegally, to obtain a permit to ply his new auto van. Disillusioned, he now struggles to make some profit by hook or crook.

An above average student refuses to apply for a government job because her father, a respected teacher, does not know what bribery is. So, indeed, the Indian youth is disillusioned by society.

– **Rishabh Saikia, Guwahati.**

India is a country which is currently undergoing the transition phase from a traditional, spiritual society to a modern, rationalistic society. It is natural that there will be a clash of ideologies and way of life based on generation gap, and remoteness or exposure of a place. It is a negative sign for a society if the process of adjusting to modern concepts, ideologies and technologies is retarded through forceful adherence to irrational and obsolete customs. Every child may not be affected by the expectations of society, but each and every child is moulded through the beliefs and expectations of his/her parents. It is not a rare case that rationally constructed ideologies of the youth are slaughtered by forceful commands of society. Parents can aid in this context by supporting the modern values which their children uphold, and which are not necessarily negative.

– **Sayed Faizul Farmin, Gauhati University.**

flaws in how you look, you take it upon yourself to look in the mirror and fall in love with yourself again.

You are beautiful, period.

NEVER let life burden you and make you bury your passion. You might love reading, writing, cooking, painting, travelling. Follow that passion. Being a woman will have its challenges in every field, you might be asked to follow something that your heart is not in. Do not play heed. Keep that love of something close to you, nurture it and water it. Make it blossom.

NEVER search for happiness in another person. Go ahead and create happiness within yourself. Be your own best friend. Of course, fall in love. But fall in love with a partner who respects you and accepts you for who you are. NEVER let that change who you are.

NEVER let them tell you that you are less beautiful. If ever they find a person because you were born a girl.

Love with all your heart, work hard with all you've got, and dream with all your being.

Do not let being a woman change any of that.

You are a woman and that is a big gift. For we, women are creatures bestowed with an abundance of emotional intelligence, compassion and tenacity. The innate ability to take everything in our stride, the invisible power to turn lemons into lemonade, the patience to overcome adversity and the gentleness to turn hate into love. Use your power to be who you are, however negative or suppressive the external elements are.

NEVER let them tell you that you are not beautiful. If ever they find

that is not love.

NEVER be too hard on yourself. Take yourself and life lightly. Laugh a little bit more, from the heart and belly, be silly, be funny, joke a lot, take vacations, watch and cry watching happy movies, play with children. Soak in innocence and laughter wherever you find them.

And lastly, NEVER be afraid to stand up for things that are not right. A neighbour being domestically abused, a stray dog being beaten, a friend being bullied. Stand up for those things, stand up for kindness.

In today's world, a little bit of kindness can go a long way. Be kind to everyone you come across and sprinkle warmth and happiness wherever you are.

You are a woman, you can do anything and be anything, so my mighty girl, go grow up and be a woman, shatter those glass ceilings, be happy and believe in yourself, no matter what!

MIND MIRROR

Dr. Jayanta Das

This column is aimed at creating awareness about mental health and well-being. E-mail your queries to sundayreading@assamtribune.com

■ Depression treatable?

– **Anika**

Answers: Depression is definitely treatable. One has to be on regular medications as advised by the psychiatrist and regular follow-up with the doctors is required. Treatment is divided into two phases. Acute phase – is to control the current florid symptoms, sometimes even including suicide risk management in severe depression. The maintenance phase – is to prevent further occurrence of the episodes in the future. On certain occasions, only therapy or counselling may be helpful. With regular medication and treatment or therapy, one can live an absolutely normal life, carry on with routine activities and work, and maintain a healthy family and social life. An important thing to remember is that even if florid symptoms are not present, daily medications have to be taken. We cannot rule out the possibility of future episodes of exacerbation of symptoms, because the vulnerability will always be there. Sleep disturbances, stress, or substance abuse can lead to relapse of symptoms. As family members, we have to take care and keep a watch whether medications are being taken or not, and take the patient to the doctor on follow-up visits.

■ **My mother, who is 70 years old, has forgetfulness. Is she having dementia? If so, is it curable?**

– **S. Jha**

Answers: Only forgetfulness cannot be labelled as dementia. At this age,

symptoms. As family members, we have to take care and keep a watch whether medications are being taken or not, and take the patient to the doctor on follow-up visits.

■ **My mother, who is 70 years old, has forgetfulness. Is she having dementia? If so, is it curable?**

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Answers: Only forgetfulness cannot be labelled as dementia. At this age,

there might be some underlying depression that can lead to inattention or loss of memory at times.

This can be easily labelled as dementia. Also, there are other behavioural, psychological and medical problems that are associated with dementia. So, a proper assessment and evaluation is needed to rule out dementia. The causes of dementia are many. Certain dementia due to medical causes are reversible. So, all dementia cases should be thoroughly investigated to find out the cause. It is a slowly progressive disorder. However, with medication, the disorder can be kept in control. One thing is to be kept in mind that medication doesn't completely cure dementia or stop the progress of the disorder.

Medications only help to halt and slow down the progress of the disorder. Certain behavioural symptoms can be kept in control with regular medicines. Also, the role of the caregiver or nursing staff is of immense importance in case of dementia.

■ **Go ahead and create happiness within yourself. Be your own best friend. Of course, fall in love. But fall in love with a partner who respects you and accepts you for who you are.**

– **NEVER**

A little bit of fairy dust is sprinkled upon me from the heavens above. A little fairy takes form and she blesses me by forming a part of me.

And that is you, my lovely baby.

As I sit down to pen down a letter to you – who, a number of years hence will come upon it and hopefully understand what I am trying to convey in this letter – I think of my life as a woman.

I have been very fortunate to be born in a part of India, in the lush State of Assam, where the girl child is welcomed and nurtured. But during my life, I have also met girls who have been demeaned for just being a girl.

And that is what I want to tell you today.

NEVER, ever let a man (or another woman) tell you that you are less



A letter to my daughter

Go ahead and create happiness within yourself. Be your own best friend.

Of course, fall in love. But fall in love with a partner who respects you and accepts you for who you are.

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An en masse migration

Migration is a fact of life; we all know that. Since time immemorial, the great migrations across the globe have taken place at regular intervals. Across mountain chains, across oceans, across vast rivers, across dense forests full of sprawling predators, people have left homes and hearts for new lands. They travelled with hope in their hearts that the place they were going to, often an unknown land, about which they had only heard, would provide a better life, if not for them, at least for their children. It was this hope that sustained them through all the dangers of their travels, to which many of their fellow migrants succumbed.

Sometimes, like the Ahoms, they came and founded glorious dynasties. But that was rare. Mostly, the migrant worker such as the one signified by the generic name "Bangladeshi" in today's Assam, and North-East, was considered to be lowly in the social hierarchy, though his or her hard work and uncomplaining nature was greatly valued. Sometimes they came to the new country in groups, sometimes they came singly, with nothing in their pockets except perhaps an educational degree, and a willingness to work hard, to give their children, and if possible themselves, a good life.

Migrations have, over the centuries, cross-fertilised civilisations. The migrants carry with them the cultural practices with them into their new land. After a couple of generations, in the melting pot of the new country, this results in a wonderful synthesis, famous examples of these being Creole cooking, or *Baul* music.

The contours of migration have changed considerably in the last decades. Armed with degrees, young or older people migrate in search of better opportunities. This has been the case for a while now. What is new, though, is that with India's economic growth providing great opportunities for them here as well, they often come back to the home country, sometimes in the same company, on a kind of home posting. And in today's world of instant communications, in many jobs, location does not really matter. And indeed, in many smaller cities, even such as ours, the trend is slowly becoming that of reverse migration. Young people sometimes come back to their homes. True, job opportunities in Assam are not too many, but hearteningly, they create their own through entrepreneurial activities. Of course it is

much easier if such an establishment already exists, in the shape of an ancestral firm or establishment of some kind. The returning migrant then happily settles in, and takes it forward with the help of the knowledge he or she has acquired through work experience outside.

However, there is one place where the usual migrant story does not apply, and that is in the city of Shillong. This once-upon-a-time capital of Undivided Assam was home to many migrants, mainly

ALL THINGS CONSIDERED

Mitra Phukan



That shifting border has repercussions that are being played out even today, in emotional terms. It is sad to see the children of those times, middle aged now, come questing for what was once their "home".

of whom worked in the Government in some capacity or the other. Some came in on transfers, and stayed on, often building pretty wooden houses there. Even if the head of the family was transferred to some other place, the wife often stayed on with the children, for the sake of their education. For Shillong was at one time a top-notch town for educational opportunities.

But Greater Assam, in this region of numerous ethnicities, was an artificial construct. Inevitably, it broke up into smaller parts, and the other States of the region came into being. The capital of Assam was shifted, almost overnight, to Gauhati, and Shillong became the capital of Meghalaya. And along with this shifting came the vast migration of those who worked in the Assam Government.

The older people, the parents who had to work in offices that were situated in what was then this messy small town in the plains, suffered. But there is also an untold story about the younger people,

the children who were born in that hill town, and had grown up there. Some had gone out to work elsewhere, others had returned to Shillong to carry on their work. For Shillong was "home", the place where their parents were, where they had grown up, where their friends returned when on holiday. There were familiar faces, and places, which they associated with "home".

And then, suddenly, with a stroke of the pen, almost, this home was home no more. Everything changed. Without going into the politics of it, the human cost was huge. Indeed, in many ways, it is still being played out. Strangely enough, not too many narratives have come out about this uprooting, this heart-wrenching and extremely disorienting event.

Today, those children, those who considered Shillong "home", have all relocated to different places. Not by choice, but because they had to. There was no place for them in what they had looked upon as their home. True, most settled down in other places, and did well, thanks to the excellent education they had received. But through their parents had shifted to homes in the plains, it was difficult for them to think of "home". Always, Shillong was in their hearts.

That shifting border has repercussions that are being played out even today, in emotional terms. It is sad to see the children of those times, middle aged now, come questing for what was once their "home". But the little house has probably changed hands many times. True, over the span of these four decades, changes were bound to happen. But this shifting resulted not in a gradual transformation, but an abrupt cutting off. Suddenly, home was inaccessible, even though it was possible, of course, to visit the place. Unlike a visit to other places that were hometowns, in Shillong that network of cousins, aunts and uncles, even many friends, just vanished. And it was always disorienting to walk the streets which had once been teeming with friends and one's parents' friends, and see not a single known face. Disorienting, and sad.

All Things Considered, it is indeed poignant to see the children of that generation wander about the streets of Shillong looking for familiar faces, and landmarks. And the history of this enforced migration is still waiting to be written.

5 THINGS / Scribe stories

"Visible to the world"

Award winning journalist and author TERESA REHMAN writes about her experiences.

1 We have to go the extra mile

We are in many ways chroniclers of our times. That is why our responsibility towards our social and cultural milieu is manifold. We have to go the extra mile to get the truth about what is happening in the world around us. I have learnt to be sensitive when I have reported from conflict zones.

2 It is important to have a strong network of women

I believe it is important to have a strong network of women in media who can support each other. We need spaces for women in media professions to share information and resources, exchange ideas, promote media awareness and ethics, and work for gender equality and justice within the media and society. There are two such networks that I am a part of – Network of Women in Media, and South Asia Women in Media. These two networks have helped me connect with women in media all over South Asia.

3 One of my pet topics is sanitation

I had initiated a group of journalists called Sanitation Scribes. "Where is your toilet?"

I have learnt to consciously ask this question to almost everyone I meet on my reporting assignments. The instant reaction is of embarrassment. Issues like open defecation, menstruation and sanitary pads, toilets, waste disposal are considered very private, something not to be discussed in public and definitely not with a journalist. I discovered compelling stories in the process and even managed to bag the prestigious WASH Media Award 2010 given by



the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) and the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI).

4 We forgot that men are an integral part of our women-based stories

Once Sathyi Saran, former editor of Femina magazine asked me, "When you do a story on women, do you ever talk to the men?" This got me thinking. Sometimes, we are so skewed in our reporting that we forget that men are an integral part of our women-based stories. They are two sides of the same coin.

5 A dream to be visible to the world

In *The Thumb Print*, I am actually living a dream – a dream to be visible to the world. I have personally reported from this region for many 'national' media houses in India and have always struggled to find space. Instead of begging for space, I decided to create my own space. I want to take the stories of the men, women and children – to the world and bring the world closer.

(As told to Indrani Raivedra)

FORECAST

MARCH 20 – 26, 2017

ARIES



(MAR 21 – APR 19)
From the beginning of the week, you will be inclined towards improving your business by adding some extra resources. You will feel that it is necessary to make some changes with the changing time.

TAURUS



This week, you would wish to focus on education and studies of your children. You will try to guide them towards better results, but due to your busy schedule, you will not be able to spare enough time for your children, which will make you worried.

GEMINI



From the beginning of the period itself, you will get many chances to spend some quality time with your family. Your planets will support you to become stronger and better. You will be more kind and generous with your brothers.

CANCER



Now, along with improving your business, you will also equally focus on maintaining harmony in your domestic life. However, it will not be an easy task to take forward your business in the first half of the week.

LEO



From Monday through Wednesday itself, you will be making a gradual progress in business. You will see that there is an opportunity to purchase a land, but you will also have to consider a lot of legal aspects before making a final decision.

VIRGO



You will be ready to do some creative work. You will be highly focussed and determined to make your career stronger and beautiful. Not only this, you will also give a good amount of time in improving your personality. With regard to your health, this period will be favourable.

LIBRA



You will be getting ready to participate in a function of a close relative. Despite your busy schedule, you will feel that it is mandatory to attend this function. You will initiate dialogue with a few organisations regarding your money investments.

SCORPIO



Now is the time when you will get far better results from your income sources than your actual expectations. You will be able to sharpen your decision-making skills as well. The second half of the week will be hectic.

SAGITTARIUS



You will consider this period as an opportunity. You would wish to serve your parents throughout the week. At the same time, you will be prepared to complete your tasks in the given time.

CAPRICORN



Monday through Wednesday, you will plan to conduct a religious function in your family. For this, you will get decent support from your family members as well. In the second phase of the week, you will be engaged in making your professional aspects better.

AQUARIUS



During the week, your main priority will be to strengthen your professional areas. But, you will be more worried due to the hectic routine. You wish to make the most out of this week, but you will struggle to make some free time for yourself.

PISCES



You will be interested to expand your business. You will also try to find some ways to improve your income level. Health will be a little dull. You may need to visit a doctor and take some basic treatment.

MOVIE WATCH

Bidisha Singh

T2 Trainspotting

Cast: Ewan McGregor, Ewen Bremner, Jonny Lee Miller, Robert Carlyle.
Director: Danny Boyle.

Sequel to the hugely successful *Trainspotting*, this one is set in and around Edinburgh and is based on the characters created by Irvine Welsh in his novel *Trainspotting*, and its follow-up *Porno*. Starring the original ensemble cast, the film starts 20 years after the first, with several references to the first movie, as Mark Renton returns to the only place he can ever call home. They are all waiting for him – Spud, Sick Boy and Begbie. So also are the gamut of emotions that come rushing back to welcome him. Garnering great reviews from most critics, it's a must watch for those who have watched the original.

Weekly Top Grossers

1. Kong: Skull Island	6. Before I Fall
2. Logan	7. John Wick: Chapter Two
3. Get Out	8. Hidden Figures
4. The Shack	9. La La Land
5. The Lego Batman Movie	10. A Dog's Purpose

A Dog's Purpose

Cast: Josh Gad, Dennis Quaid, Peggy Lipton.
Director: Lasse Hallström.

A Dog's Purpose is a 2017 American comedy-drama, based on the 2010 novel of the same name by W. Bruce Cameron. Emotionally stirring like most dog movies are, this one tells the story of one dog in his different reincarnations from birth to death. Panning over 50 years, the dog Bailey lives through four lives with different owners, to finally reunite with his first owner, helping him get back on life's track, thus realising the purpose of his canine life.

ALL IS WELL

Judith Orloff

Tearing up



For over 20 years as a physician, I've witnessed, time and again, the healing power of tears. Tears are your body's release valve for stress, sadness, grief, anxiety, and frustration. Also, you have tears of joy, say when a child is born or tears of relief when a difficulty has passed. In my own life, I am grateful when I can cry. It feels like cleansing, a way to purge pent up emotions so they don't fester in my body as stress symptoms such as fatigue or pain. To stay healthy and release stress, I encourage my patients to cry. For both men and women, tears are a sign of courage, strength, and authenticity.

Like the ocean, tears are salt water. Protectively they lubricate your eyes, remove irritants, reduce stress hormones, and they contain antibodies that fight pathogenic microbes. Our bodies produce three kinds of tears: reflex, continuous, and emotional. Each kind has different healing roles. For instance, reflex tears allow your eyes to clear out noxious particles when they're irritated by smoke or exhaust. The second kind, continuous tears, are produced regularly to keep our eyes lubricated – these contain a chemical called 'lysozyme', which functions as an

anti-bacterial and protects our eyes from infection. Tears also travel to the nose through the tear duct to keep the nose moist and bacteria free. Typically, after crying, our breathing, and heart rate decrease, and we enter a calmer biological and emotional state.

Emotional tears have special health benefits. Biochemist and 'tear expert' Dr. William Frey discovered that reflex tears are 98 per cent water, whereas emotional tears also contain stress hormones which get excreted from the body through crying. After studying the composition of tears, Dr. Frey found that emotional tears shed these hormones and other toxins which accumulate during stress. Additional studies also suggest that crying stimulates the production of endorphins, our body's natural pain killer and 'feel-good' hormones.

Crying makes us feel better, even when a problem persists. In addition to physical detoxification, emotional tears heal the heart. You don't want to hold tears back. My heart goes out to them when I hear this. I know where that sentiment comes from: parents who were uncomfortable around tears, a society that tells us we're weak for crying – in particular that 'powerful men don't cry'. I reject these notions. The new enlightened paradigm of what constitutes a powerful man and woman is someone who has the strength and self awareness to cry.

To try to let go of outmoded, untrue, conceptions about crying. It is good to cry. It is healthy to cry. This helps to emotionally clear sadness and stress. Crying is also essential to resolve grief, when waves of tears periodically come over us after we experience a loss. Tears help us process the loss so we can keep living with open hearts. Otherwise, it is a set up for depression if we suppress these potent feelings.

I've been this enthusiastic about crying for years. In fact, during my psychiatric residency, when supervisors and I watched videos of me with patients, they'd point out that I'd smile when a patient cried. "That's inappropriate," they'd say. I disagreed then, still do. I wasn't smiling because my patients were depressed or grieving. I was smiling because they were courageously healing depression or other difficult emotions with tears. I was happy for their breakthrough. In my life, too, I love to cry. I cry whenever I can. Wish I could more. Thank God our bodies have this capacity. I hope you too can appreciate the experience. Let your tears flow to purify stress and negativity.

