

NEWS CAPSULE

3 Pak Rangers killed in Jammu

JAMMU, Aug 26: A day after its jawan was injured by a sniper, the BSF today said it has killed at least three Pakistan Rangers after the other side indulged in unprovoked firing along the Indo-Pak international border in Jammu. — PTI

One arrested

GUWAHATI, Aug 26: A team led by Nagon DSP Sarwan Baishya today arrested a man.

Chandiborony from Fasaili Amburi here in connection with the recent brawl with a few surrendered ULFA cadres in Nagon. He is the fifth person to be arrested in this case. — Staff Reporter

Flood relief

GUWAHATI, Aug 26: Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) employees have donated their one day's salary, amounting to over Rs 1.92 crore, as flood relief for the people of Assam. NFR GM Chahatey Ram handed over the cheque to Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal. — Staff Reporter

The Assam Tribune on Internet
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Flood scene better, more rains forecast

STAFF REPORTER

Death toll mounts to 157

GUWAHATI, Aug 26: The overall flood situation in the State showed signs of further improvement today even as the Barhara-based Regional Meteorology Centre (RMC) has forecast rainfall activities at most parts of the northeastern region in the coming days.

According to the RMC, most places in Assam and Meghalaya may experience rainfall activities in the next few days, with heavy rainfall at isolated places during the next three days. Arunachal Pradesh is also likely to see-

ing under flood. With the report of a fresh flood-related death from South Salmora district, the total death toll during the second wave of flood that began on August 10, has shot up to 73. Thus the overall death toll during the flood season this year, which started on March 31, has shot up to 157.

Altogether 24,785 flood-hit people are still taking shelter in 56 relief camps of Chirang, Morigaon and Nagaland districts. A total crop area of 31,009 hectares is still under floodwaters in the districts of Dhemaji, Barpeta, Chirang, Morigaon, Nagaon and Jorhat, the bulletin said.

8 cops killed in J-K ultra raid

SRINAGAR, Aug 26: Eight security personnel, including four CRPF men, were killed when militants carried out a suicide attack on a district police complex in south Kashmir's Pulwama today, triggering a massive gunfight in which three terrorists were also killed.

The terror strike took place at the crack of dawn when the militants, believed to be foreign mercenaries, entered the police complex in the worst-hit Pulwama district, 25 km from here. Police, CRPF and Army personnel quickly swung into action and cornered the militants and ensured that family members of the police personnel living within the complex were taken out to safety.

By afternoon, the security personnel neutralized one of the three terrorist while another militant's body was recovered after 5 pm, officials said, adding the firing had stopped and the third body would be recovered soon. — PTI

Dera violence toll 36

CHANDIGARH, Aug 26: The death toll in the violence following Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh's conviction in a rape case climbed up to 36 today even as there was no report of fresh violence in Haryana.

State authorities are now trying to ensure that there are no untoward incidents tomorrow or on Monday when the special CBI court judge will be flown to the district jail in Sunaria in Rohtak for pronouncing the quantum of sentence.

Meanwhile, Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh chaired a high-level meeting in New Delhi to review the security situation in the country, particularly in Haryana, following large-scale violence after the court verdict on Dera chief. — PTI

(More reports on Page 12)

Assam Police roadmap refocuses key areas

Investigation of cases to get priority

R DUTTA CHOWDHURY

GUWAHATI, Aug 26: With militancy on the wane, the Assam Police is preparing a road map to refocus on key policing areas, including investigation of cases, as at present, the conviction rate of the cases investigated by the State police is much lower than the national average, while there have been instances of arrested persons getting delayed bail because of delay in filing of

chargesheet.

Talking to *The Assam Tribune*, the Director General of Assam Police Mukesh Sahay admitted that for a long time, the main focus of the police force has been to deal with militancy, while other issues like shortage of investigating officers, lack of proper coordination between the investigating officers and prosecutors, etc., also affected the investigation of cases. "On the wane

and though we cannot afford to lower our guard at that front, we are preparing a roadmap to focus on key policing areas, including investigation of cases," he added.

The DGP admitted that the

conviction rate of the cases investigated by the Assam Police is only around 10 per cent, which is much lower than the national average. The rate for the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is over 60 (See page 10)

Eviction drive suspended for 2 days

Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 26: The massive eviction drive launched inside Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary yesterday was suspended for two days till Monday.

Kamrup (Metro) Deputy Commissioner M Angamuthu told *The Assam Tribune* that some settlers have volunteered to shift their belongings on their own and so the administration has decided to give them some time.

"We also need to mobilize in a better way and plan accordingly," the DC said.

Senior forest officials, however, feigned ignorance about the decision of the administration.

The decision to suspend the eviction drive was taken late at night yesterday, setting tongues wagging. There are speculations on political pres-

State vocational education set for major revamp

SIVASISH THAKUR

GUWAHATI, Aug 26: The sphere of vocational education in the State is set for a major revamp with the Assam Higher Secondary Education Council (AHSEC) planning to introduce a number of vocational and technical courses at 10+2 level aimed at skill development and employment generation, including self employment.

The learning method will have online and computer-aided teaching facilities, including interactive sessions so that the best teaching learning resources reach the students, including the most disadvantaged. Efforts are also on to get the vocational courses covered under the Centrally-sponsored programme SWAYAM under the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development.

"The objective behind this first-of-its-kind initiative in the State is to enhance the employability of our youths, with maximum thrust on self-employment. The burgeoning unemployment is a grave crisis now, with thousands of graduates and postgraduates unable to secure a job. The existing vocational education is almost defunct. We want to make a change and ensure that there is no wastage of human resource," AHSEC chairman Dr Dayananda Borgohain told *The Assam Tribune*.

(See page 10)

Train services to normalise from Sept 1

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 26: Train services between the Northeast and the rest of India is likely to normalize from September 1, railway officials said today. The rail link has been snapped since August 12 due to devastation caused by the floods.

Though the tracks are expected to be restored on August 28, movement of trains will be restricted initially.

"The track is expected to get fitness certificate by August 28 evening. After that, rolling will be done on the tracks using a light engine. From August 29, we hope to (See page 10)



Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and Local Organising Committee Tournament Director Javier Ceppi unveiling the FIFA U-17 World Cup winner's trophy, in Guwahati on Saturday — UB Photos

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(See page 10)

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PM announces Rs 500-cr flood aid for Bihar

PURNEA (Bihar), Aug 26: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today made an aerial survey of the flood-hit areas of Bihar and announced Rs 500 crore as immediate relief for the State, besides Rs 2 lakh each to the kin of those who died in the deluge. He also said a Central team would be sent to the State soon to assess the damage caused by the floods, the PMO said.

He asked the insurance companies to send their personnel urgently to assess the damage to crops so that farmers could get early relief. The decisions came after the Prime Minister held a meeting with Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar and senior officials of the State Government here following his aerial survey. The meeting was held at Chunarup Airport of the Air Force from where the Prime Minister later flew back to Delhi.

Minorities being harassed under Modi Govt: SP leader

RAMPUR (UP), Aug 26: Muslims are being "harassed" and it has become "difficult" for minorities to lead a normal life since the Narendra Modi dispensation assumed office, senior Samajwadi Party leader and Rampur MLA Azam Khan has alleged.

Talking to reporters here last evening, the former Uttar Pradesh minister said, "Muslims are being harassed – sometimes in the name of cow (slaughtering) and sometimes in the name of religion."

"Life has become difficult for minorities since the Narendra Modi-led BJP came to power," he added. He also alleged that the BJP Government was trying to "redefine" Shariah laws in the wake of a Supreme Court verdict invalidating the Muslim practice of instant divorce – *talaq-e-biddat*. – PTI

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"After the review, the Prime Minister promised all possible support to the Bihar Government," the PMO said in a statement. The Prime Minister made the aerial survey of four affected districts – Purnea, Katihar, Kisanjganj and Araria. The Chief Minister and his deputy accompanied the Prime Minister, official sources said.

The Prime Minister was told that through 19 districts are affected by floods, damage in 13 districts including Purnea, Katihar, Kisanjganj, Araria due to inundation has been immense, the sources said.

Maximum damage has been caused to the Water Resources department. The Prime Minister was told that due to breach of embankments and waterways for irrigation, a loss of about Rs 27,000 crore has been accrued by the department.

A sum of around Rs 2,000 crore is estimated to have been spent on distribution

of relief among the marooned population of the State, it came out in the meeting.

Among other things, Modi said the Union Road Transport and Highways Ministry would take appropriate action with regard to repair of the damaged roads in Bihar. He said the infrastructure damaged due to the floods would be restored at the earliest with Central help, the statement said.

He announced Rs 2 lakh as ex gratia from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund for each of those killed and Rs 50,000 each for those seriously injured by the deluge.

He also referred to his recent talks with Nepal Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba during which it was decided that a detailed project report would be prepared at the earliest on the Saptoshi Dam and Sunkoshi Storage-cum-Diversion scheme.

Both nations will also work on flood

control in the border areas, which will benefit the region, it added. The Prime Minister assured the State Government that the Centre would provide all help to compensate the loss due to floods, the sources said.

As per the latest report, the death toll in Bihar has mounted to 418, with 1,674 more people in 19 districts being affected by the deluge.

Earlier this morning, the Prime Minister arrived at Chunarup Airport from Delhi. He was welcomed by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, his deputy Sushil Mod, Disaster Management Department Minister Dinesh Chand Yadav and Chief Secretary Arjan Kumar Singh among others.

This was the first visit of the Prime Minister to Bihar since the JD(U)-BJP coalition Government was formed on July 27 after Nitish Kumar dumped the Grand Alliance. – PTI

Bharti for interlinking of rivers to combat floods

NEW DELHI, Aug 26: At a time when devastating floods have claimed over 700 lives in parts of the country, Union minister Uma Bharti today made a strong pitch for desilting and interlinking of rivers to combat the problem in the long run.

In view of the floods in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, Water Resources Minister Bharti urged the two northeastern States to agree for the Middle Siang project which, she said, would tackle the calamity as well as solve their water woes.

The flood situation is being witnessed this year also in States where the calamity was not reported earlier. And States which reported floods in the past, the situation there has deteriorated," she told reporters here.

'Sharad to attend RJD rally in line with JD(U) resolution'

NEW DELHI, Aug 26: The JD(U) faction led by Sharad Yadav today said he is following the resolution of the party's national council by attending the RJD rally tomorrow, whereas Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has breached the decision by aligning with the BJP.

Javed Raza, the general secretary of the faction led by rebel Janata Dal (United) leader Sharad Yadav, in a statement, said Kumar did not follow the decision of the party's national council in April last year, in which he was authorised to make efforts to create an atmosphere of "BJP and RSS-free India." The fact is Kumar did not bring up the matter before the supreme bodies of the party before aligning with the BJP and therefore, he violated the Schedule 10 of the Constitution, Raza said. – PTI

bursts."

"But I want to assure the people, we have all the reports of the world which suggest that there is no such threat looming. The project will rather help to deal with the flooding effectively," she added.

She further said that her ministry is focusing more on making preparations before the period when flooding happens than managing it after the crisis occurs.

"If myself will visit the entire flood-prone areas after 15 days to figure out what preparations to do in view of a possible flood situation," she added.

Till yesterday, the devastating floods this year had claimed 418, 156, 90 and 72 lives in Bihar, Assam, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh respectively. – PTI

Blast destroys food-laden truck in Darjeeling

DARJEELING, Aug 26: Masked men set off an improvised explosive device (IED) blast at Kalimpong early today, destroying a truck carrying food materials. No one was injured in the incident, the police said.

Unidentified men stopped the truck, beat up the driver and the helper and asked them to leave the vehicle. They then looted the food materials from it. Police said an IED was then planted underneath the truck and a blast was triggered.

"There are no reports of any casualty in the explosion. We are looking for the miscreants," a senior police official in Kalimpang said. This is a fourth such incident in eight days.

The Darjeeling hills are in the midst of an indefinite shutdown which entered its 73rd day today in demand of a separate Gorkhaland State. Today's explosion comes a day after a low-intensity blast was set off by unidentified people at Teesta Bazar area yesterday morning.

On Thursday, two blasts occurred in the hills. Twin blasts rocked the Darjeeling hills on August 19 in which one civic police volunteer was killed and two other people were injured. The August 19 blasts were the first such incident since the indefinite shutdown for the Gorkhaland State began on June 15. – PTI



Ex-MP Sarvashya Narayan (C) and others at Mother Teresa's statue on her 107th birth anniversary in Hyderabad on Saturday. – PTI

107th birth anniversary of Mother Teresa celebrated

KOLKATA, Aug 26: Special masses and prayers were held today to mark the 107th birth anniversary of Saint Teresa of Calcutta, better known as Mother Teresa.

Candles were lit at her grave at Mother House here, the global headquarters of the Missionaries of Charity (MoC), established by her in 1950.

Her grave was decorated with flowers as the sisters led by the MoC Superior General Sister Prema and other eminent persons sang hymns, read from the Bible and recalled her celebrated life.

Sunita Kumar, who was close

to Mother Teresa, also attended the programme and placed a wreath on her grave. "We always feel her presence. She is with us all the time, in all the works for the people," she told PTI.

A large number of people, including schoolchildren and residents of the various homes run by the MoC, congregated at the Mother House, which wore a festive look.

A special prayer card for the faithful read, "We thank you (Lord Jesus) for the gift of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, who was elevated to Sainthood in 2016."

Similar programmes were

organised at other homes run by the Missionaries of Charity. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee tweeted, "Peace begins with a smile." Homage to @StTeresaOfCal, Mother to many of us, on her birth anniversary."

Saint Teresa of Calcutta was born on August 26, 1910 at Skopje in Macedonia. She died on September 5, 1997, less than a month after her 86th birthday. She was the recipient of numerous honours including the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 and the Bharat Ratna in 1980. In 2003, she was beatified as "Blessed Teresa of Calcutta." – PTI

Gorakhpur deaths
2 more doctors suspended

GORAHPUR, Aug 26: Two doctors of the BRD Medical College Hospital, including in-charge of the Encephalitis Ward Dr Kafeel Khan, have been suspended in connection with the death of children there earlier this month.

In-charge of the 100-bed AES Ward, Dr Khan and in-charge of Anaesthesia, Dr Satish have been suspended after the State Government's approval, principal of the medical college Dr PK Singh said.

With this, seven persons

have been suspended following the deaths of over 60 children in the State-run hospital due to alleged lack of oxygen supply. – PTI

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Mrs. ANJU SUREKA
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It has been one Hell of a ride.
Life has been full of fun and rides.
You have been more than a Mother and wife.
Soulmate to your Husband
And best friend to your Kids
Life starts and ends with you
You live forever through our eyes.
Together forever our bonds shall always rise !Bereaved
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AJYCP concerned over attacks on indigenous people

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 26: The Assam Jatiyatabadi Yuba Chhatra Parishad (AJYCP) today said the traders from outside Assam will have to shut their businesses in case there is a recurrence of the Nagaon-like incident in the State.

The group body alleged that there has been a spurt in attacks on the indigenous people, which is not just unfortunate but also intolerable.

"The planned and barbaric attack on a group of indigenous people in Nagaon on Wednesday last suggests that there are forces which are strengthening the hands of a section of people to dominate the indigenous communities. As such incidents have gone up after the BJP-led State government came to power, there is sufficient ground to believe that such incidents are patronised by the BJP and the RSS," AJYCP president in-charge Hemendrata Goswami and general secretary Parash Changma said.

The Assam Yuba Parishad (AYP), the youth wing of the AGP also declared the attack on indigenous people, demanding strict punishment to the persons involved in the attack.

Lecture prog organised

GUWAHATI, Aug 26: As part of its academic and value extension programme, the Karmashree Hiteswar Saikia College has organised a two-day lecture programme on August 19 and 21 under the aegis of the College's registered Society Moral and Spiritual Study Circle, in commemoration of its fifth foundation day. The event was inaugurated by the Principal of the college, Dr Srikhamoni Konwar.

On August 19, delivering the lecture on 'How to increase the power of mind', social activist Minati Barakar observed that the strength of mind can be increased by incubating positive thoughts. On August 21, Acharya Brahmachari M Santosh from Chaitanya Chinnayoga Mission, delivered a lecture on 'Moral education'.

The event was coordinated by assistant professor Nurul Islam.

The College's NSS unit also extended a helping hand towards the flood victims of the State by donating essential commodities worth Rs 20,000 through the news channel DY365, stated a press release issued by the Principal of the College.



Asom Ratna Bhupen Hazarika, a book written by Manjula Hazarika, being released by press advisor to the Chief Minister Hrishikesh Goswami (3rd R) along with others at the Guwahati Press Club on Saturday. — Photo: Samarendra Sarma

Ploy to divide Assamese, Bengalis: Citizens' group

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 26: A number of prominent citizens in Assam, including professor Hiren Gohain, have asked the people of the State to realise that there was more to the Nagaon incident, in which the surrendered ULFA cadres were attacked by some traders, than meets the eye.

The group body alleged that the attack on the indigenous people can never be tolerated, and it warned the people that it could be a well-planned design to fuel hostilities between the Assamese and the Bengali communities.

In a statement issued to the press, the group of citizens said the Nagaon incident was another

episode of the Silapathik incident, a bigger political ploy to test the vested interests.

"We don't believe that a few Bengali people who attacked the local youth in Nagaon represent the entire Bengal community. It is also seen that most of them are attached to the BJP."

Nagaon incident

and the RSS. So, we call upon the Bengali community living in Assam to openly protest against the incident so that the evil design to project the Bengalis as enemies of the Assamese is nipped in the bud," the group said.

The statement has been issued by scholar Dr Hiren Gohain, journalist Haider Hussain, educationist Dr Di-

nesh Baishya and Dr Dilip Sarma, writer Jyoti Prasad Saikia, journalist Manjuri Mahanta and social activists like Dr Navanti Barua, Dhiren Ingagi, KK Kalita, Shantanu Barakar and Banit Hussain.

It asked the people to rationally analyse the entire episode to understand the motive behind it. "We need to understand which forces are trying to give asylum to the Hindu Bangladeshis in Assam at the cost of the indigenous people and also trying to get political mileage out of the Assamese-Bengali conflict," it said. Hitting out at police for its failure to control the situation, the citizens alleged that the police and the administration are not private agencies of BJP and RSS.

Workshop on GST

GUWAHATI, Aug 26: While Assam with its amazing biodiversity and culture has all the potential to provide tourists an authentic experience, the State needs to overcome the infrastructural and stress challenges, US expert has noted.

According to Dr Kelly Bricker, professor and director of Parks, Recreation and Tourism in the University of Utah, tour operators have been highlighting the State's potential and people, too, are talking a lot about the State and the region in social media.

"People are now looking at such authentic experiences. Assam has incredible attractions," Dr Bricker, who visited Kaziranga and its adjoining areas, said during a media interaction here.

Referring to an NGO working for conservation in Kaziranga, she said communities in the region have been doing excellent work with the little resources they have.

Dr Bricker also laid stress on the importance of sustainable tourism and underlined the need to strike a balance between development and conservation.

"We need to bring all stakeholders together and realise their strengths. We need to start from the basics. We need infrastructure but at the same time we must also ensure that the communities have enough fresh water, a waste management and sewage system," she added.

'Assam has immense tourism potential'

STAFF REPORTER

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ment and sewage system," she added.



Singer Gitali Kabati presenting a song while artist Apuraj Barua makes bromide scratch art during an exhibition titled 'Bane Ki Ane Sokolwe Jane', in Guwahati on Saturday. — UB

Impose hefty fines on traffic rule violators

The problem of traffic jams in Guwahati is like any other large city of the country and it has assumed enormous proportions in terms of increasing vehicle density. Of late, sincere efforts are being made by the city police to control traffic at busy points. The efforts are really appreciable, but large numbers of vehicles plying during the busy hours of the day, coupled with unruly drivers, have made the task of managing traffic in areas like Beliabari quite difficult.

citizens' voice

Citizens are requested to express their Guwahati-specific views within 100 words and mail the same to: citizensvoice365@gmail.com

It would also be highly motivating for the traffic police personnel, who have to perform under tough conditions, if a certain percentage of the fine collected can be given to them by the department concerned as incentives, along with their salaries.

— Sanjib Chakravarty
Beltola, Guwahati

when it comes to an efficient public transport system. Being a resident of Lalbagh College and a student of the Gauhati Commerce College, I face immense difficulty in reaching my home from the college, as I have to wait for long for a bus to arrive. The government must introduce more ASTC city buses so that people living in far-off places need not waste time waiting at the bus stops.

— Debasish Ghosh,
Gauhati Commerce College

Road repairs needed

Through this column, I would like to request the government department concerned to repair the road from the Machukhona Burha Masjid to the Keda Road Chariali, which has been in a very bad shape for the last many years.

— Ramswarup Khakholia,
Guwahati

APCC chief warns govt against 'saffronising' education system

STAFF REPORTER

State. The Congress would oppose tooth and nail any move to name these colleges after RSS ideologue Dindayal Upadhyaya, he said.

Assam Congress Legisla- ture Party leader Debabrata Saikia and former State Education Minister Saroj Barkotoky focused on the roles played by the NSUI in the student politics of the country.

New president of the State NSUI Jyoti Bikash Changmai made an appeal to the student community to stand against the "anti-people" policies of the BJP-led government in the State and at the Centre.

Maths Olympiad postponed

GUWAHATI, Aug 26: The State Level Mathematics Olympiad, 2017, being organised by the Assam Academy of Mathematics, which was scheduled to be held on September 3, has been postponed in view of flood situation to September 10, 2017. Forms would be received up to September 3, 2017. All centre coordinators and candidates are requested to attend accordingly, stated a press release.

WALK — IN INTERVIEWS

OZONE Pharmaceuticals Ltd a leading Pharmaceutical company in India based at Janak Puri, New Delhi, looking for following personnel for further expansion of our Formulation Unit (Solid dosages/Injectables) located at Guwahati (Assam)

Quality Control	Positions : Officers/Executives/Chemists (10 numbers) Working areas - Chemical/Instrumental Offn & Exp.: B.Sc/M.Sc/ B. Pharma/M. Pharma with 02 -08 years experience
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Microbiology	Positions : Officers/Microbiologist (2 numbers) Working areas - Microbiology, Sterility Testing, Water analysis/ Product assays and Analysis Offn & Exp.: M.Sc (Micro) 02 – 08 years experience
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Quality Assurance	Positions : Officers/Executives/Assist. Manager (08 Numbers) Working areas - Validation, IQPA, Review / Audit Offn & Exp.: B. Pharma M. Pharma, with 02 – 08 years of experience
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Production	Positions : Officers/Mechanics (08 Numbers) Working areas: Tablets/Capsules/Liquid Injections Offn & Exp.: M.Sc/B. Pharma/M. Pharma with 02 to 15 years experience
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Maintenance	Position: Officer/Manager (02 Numbers) Experience in Pharma machineries/AHU system/ Water treatment/other Utilities Offn & Exp.: ITI Mechanical engineering with 02-08 years exp.
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Walk in with your updated CV, Photo, and Education qualification prof on 01.09.2017 & 02.09.2017 from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Ozone Pharmaceuticals Ltd, E-91, Aminigaon, Guwahati - 3. Tel: 0361 2914345; Mobile : 96640 33105

Freelancer: M. Pharm, B. Pharma/ B.Sc (M.Sc Chemistry) can also attend for interview at the above address. Candidates having experience in QA, QC, Production, Maintenance dept, can forward their CVs to the above mentioned address /email at tungya@ozonepg.com



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

NATIONAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARDS 2017

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India announces the National Entrepreneurship Awards 2017 for excellence in youth entrepreneurship.

(A) First Generation Entrepreneurs below the age of 30 years* in following sectors

Goods (one in each category)	Services (one in each category)
1. Textiles, leather and related goods	7. IT & ITeS, Financial
2. Agri, food and forestry products	8. Education
3. Chemicals, pharma, bio and other processed materials	9. Healthcare
4. Engineering systems	10. Hospitality
5. Renewable energy and waste management	11. E-Commerce, logistics, transport & other services
6. Handicrafts, traditional manufacturing & other goods	

Additionally, awards will be presented to the best entrepreneurs in the following categories:

- 12. Social Entrepreneurs
 - 13. Barefoot Enterprises
 - 14. Women
 - 15. SC/ST
 - 16. Persons with Disability (PWD)
 - 17. Difficult Areas-North East, J&K, Islands and Backward & Rural areas
- B) Entrepreneur ecosystem builders' recognition for excellence in contribution:
- 1. Institutes/organizations (Government) offering courses on entrepreneurship development
 - 2. Institutes/organizations (Private) offering courses on entrepreneurship development
 - 3. Institutes/organizations (Government) providing incubation, mentorship and handholding support
 - 4. Institutes/organizations (Private) providing incubation, mentorship and handholding support
 - 5. Mentor (Government) – educationists, advisors, consultants working towards entrepreneurship development in Government sector
 - 6. Mentor (Private) – educationists, advisors, consultants working towards entrepreneurship development in private sector

Awardees will be awarded Rs. 10 lakh (organizations), Rs. 5 lakh (individuals/entities), a trophy and a certificate.

Registration window open from 28th July 2017 till 15th September 2017

For details, applications and nomination forms log onto www.nesa.gov.in

For any queries, please write at contact-neasegov.in

* 5 years age relaxation for candidates from SC, ST and PwD categories



MESSAGE FORTODAY

Buy land, they're not making it anymore.
— MARK TWAIN

The Assam Tribune**Amchang eviction**

The administration and the Forest Department carried out a much-needed eviction drive inside Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary on Friday, freeing forestland from several thousand illegal settlers. The authorities deserve credit for the eviction as expanding illegal settlements inside Amchang was posing a grave threat to its flora and fauna. As news reports have revealed, much of the encroachment inside the protected forest had taken place with tacit approval of the government authorities including political patronage. Indeed, this has been the familiar trend with organized encroachment across the State. A section of the illegal occupants may have been genuine landless, driven into settling on forestland by floods and erosion, and the Government needs to rehabilitate such families on land other than forest habitat. The situation also warrants an assessment of the actual number of landless in the State so that a comprehensive resettlement procedure can be put in place. Amchang, located at a stone's throw from State capital Dispur, also exemplifies how growing encroachment with political patronage is wreaking havoc with prime wildlife habitats across the State. Indeed, Assam has earned the dubious distinction of having maximum forestland under encroachment precisely because government authorities and the political class have been siding with the illegal occupants of forestland. If the new Government is serious about protecting forestland, it must exhibit the will to sustain the eviction drive in all the forests under illegal occupation.

Forest apart, most of the wetlands and around the city are enduring rampant defilement by human vandalism, including encroachment. Most of these wetlands are now undergoing a severe degradation process and unless urgent interventions are made, it is only a matter of time before they vanish altogether. Many of the encroachers on wetland happen to be from the affluent class including politicians, bureaucrats, and businessmen – something that explains the inertia of the government authorities to act tough on the encroachers. Given the real-estate boom and the premium that land commands in the city, the trend of settlement on wetlands stands to continue unless the Government conducts a sustained crackdown on the violators. Despite the existence of rules and laws for preservation of the water bodies, the authorities are actually providing tacit support to those vandalizing our invaluable natural wealth. The authorities must shed their double standards vis-à-vis eviction and act as per law to reclaim the wetlands and forests.

Unacceptable response

Call them Gurus, Babas, Maharis or simply Cult-Chiefs, heads of religious sects are a paiza a dozen in India! Some of them, certainly, impart moral and ethical teachings to their followers; others are merely exploiters of spiritualism who enrich themselves at the expense of believers. It is not quite certain to which category Baba Gurmeet Ram Rahim, the head of the Dera Sacha Sauda cult belongs, but it certainly seems to have a sizeable body of loyal supporters, if the happenings in Haryana are any indication. He is also known to have ample wealth including immovable properties, to move around in limousines and hover in the air on a personal helicopter and, in general, lead an ostentatious and lavish lifestyle. Naturally enough, his wealth and charisma draws women to him and, apparently, he does not desist from exploiting them too, as has been proved by the guilty verdict against him by a CBI Special Court on the charge of raping two women. If Justice is proverbially blind faith appears to be even blinder for, rather than accept the verdict because it was based on actual evidence, his followers went berserk and embarked on an orgy of violence. With the Baba's influence being present in other North Indian States sporadic violence elsewhere have also flared up in clear defiance of our country's legal system.

Such violent response is unacceptable. Ironically, the followers of Ram Rahim designate themselves as Premis which means believers in the power of love. They are contradicting their beliefs by resorting to such violence. Though the rule of law, as guided by our various courts, lies at the core of our socio-political system, yet India is democratic enough to permit protest even at a judicial verdict, provided it is done in a peaceful manner. By torching petrol-pumps, cars, buses, trains and railway stations the followers of the Baba are actually denigrating whatever "teachings" he might have imparted. They are also ignoring the fact that the judicial system in India is tiered and their teacher will have ample opportunities to appeal to the verdict of the CBI Court. The violence has already resulted in the death of a number of people and the police is reported to have concluded that not all of the dead and injured were protesters but simply innocent victims caught in the crossfire! The role of the State Government is also condemnable for, despite being alerted about possible consequences, it did not embark on adequate measures to prevent the violence from escalating.

From THE PAST**Industries conference****Need of Assam's Progress Stressed By Participants**

From our Special Representative

SHILLONG, August 26—The two-day industries Conference presided over by the Industries Minister Sri Biswadev Sarma, concluded here-to-day. The eight groups formed yesterday went into the different aspects of industrialization based on different raw materials and submitted their recommendations which were accepted by the Conference.

In his concluding remarks, the President, Sri Sarma, while thanking the participants appealed to them that industrial development of Assam depended as much on private entrepreneurs as on the Government. Government, on its part, will fulfil the obligations but the private sector also must come forward to discharge its responsibility. Without industrial development, the economy of the State could not be stabilized, and a week limb in this region will always remain a disease in the body politic of India.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 1967

Preserving heritage

■ Dr Utpal Das

Of late, there have been some deliberations to provisionally move the *Vrindavan Vastr* from the British Museum, London to Assam mainly for display at large. The tapestry owned by the British Museum is of fine and half meters in length with several pieces all together and with colourful pictorial depiction of Krishna Lila and also containing a verse of Srimanta Sankaradeva's *Deva Prabhu* on it under his supervision. Besides holding religious importance, this unique piece of textile tells the world the marvel of Assamese weavers' expertise in designing classy, intricate and colourfully figured textiles using various techniques unknown to the world during 16th century.

Assam can be proud of its rich ancient history that finds mention in the great ancient epics and puranas. The first historical mention of Kamrupa comes from the 4th-century Allahabad inscription of Samudragupta. The first mention of the region occurs in the Periplus of the Erythraean Sea in the 1st Century AD followed by Ptolemy's Geography in the 2nd century. Assam had contributed the techniques of producing the sophisticated writing medium produced from the bark of *Sanchi tree* or *aloes wood*, *Aquilaria agallocha* known as "Sanchipat" comparable to papyrus, vellum and bamboo strips of the Egyptians, Mesopotamians and Chinese respectively. The pioneering mention of Sanchipat was traced in Ban's *Harsa-carita* of 7th century. The greatness of the Assamese civilization can be substantiated by the discovery of numerous historical arte-

facts in Assam particularly the stone tools similar to the Hoabinhian culture (2000 BCE), archaic stupas (300 BCE–100 CE), rock and copper inscriptions (5–13 CE), clay seals (7 CE), stone images (8–9 CE), pillar inscriptions (12–13 CE), numerous archaeological remnants and statues of various ages. The 16th Century *Vrindavan Vastr* is another example of the ingenuity of the Assamese people who could produce elegant silk fabric from silkworms and weave exceptional dreams on it. Unfortunately, in the process of formation of a strong unified race, a discontinuity in social progress goaded the entire race into an uncertain future.

We must thank Westerners for the contributions they made to enliven Assamese society in many ways; for rescuing Assamese language from its doomsday and showcasing the rich history of Assam to the modern world; for introducing industrialization with construction of road, railway bridges in the region, initiating revolutionary research on rich biodiversity of Assam and heralding heritage preservation. The Britishers are commendable for their interest in the geographical, cultural and linguistic heritage, consciousness about history, monuments, sculptures, aesthetic and architectural design, scholarly knowledge and techniques of any race, and most importantly their holistic efforts for preservation and conservation of all forms of cultural vestiges and research

output. The world was introduced to the *Vrindavan Vastr* preserved in the British Museum since 1905 and for the next 87 years remained unknown to Assamese people till Rosemary Crill, a British scholar, could identify the popularly believed "Tibetan Silk Lampas", as *Vrindavan Vastr* in 1992. Thanks to Rosemary Crill for collecting it from Gobshi in Tibet and donat-

ing it to the Museum in 1905 by Rudyard Kipling.

Whether bio-origin textile "*Vrindavan Vastr*" or wood origin manuscript "*Sanchipat*", preservation of such ancient artefacts demand a constant scientific occupation as they are highly susceptible to environmental, biological and chemical factors of deterioration. Biodegradation of textile is basically caused by microbial intestations which grow and flourish in favourable climate conditions. Climatic condition of a place is the sum total of many factors like temperature, humidity, sunshines, rain, etc., which may also change depending on its proximity to the sea, river, or mountains. On the other hand there

building during winters and summers affect the microclimate inside the building. So adjustment of relative humidity and temperature inside the museum at a recommended level i.e. RH 35–38% (not below) with temperature 16°C (not above) during winter and RH 50% (not above) with temperature 16°C (not below) during summer must be maintained. Such automatic adjustment is done in all modern museums using state-of-the-art technology, the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system. Moreover, HVAC system also filters air from almost all harmful chemical and airborne biological pollutants. With such vulnerable climatic con-

Wonders of Green Tea

■ Amulya Sharma

The use of Green Teas date back to 7th century China where it was recommended for its medicinal properties. The beverage tea has been drunk by humans for over 4000 years. The detailed research on the possible health benefits on tea is fairly new and has contributed much valuable information. Tea has antibacterial and anti-viral attributes, probably involved in the control of infectious diseases.

For some people it has been known that drinking tea is effective in mitigating diarrhoea caused by bacterial infection. Yet only a few reports have been able to ascribe the antibacterial property of tea to polyphenolic fraction.

Tea plants are considered to have been native to the rural forest zone stretching from present day Yunnan, the southernmost province of China to the border of Vietnam since prehistoric times. As different varieties of tea developed naturally and spread to the surrounding regions, people became aware of the utility of tea by drinking it. Shen Nung traditionally considered the founder of the study of medicinal herbs in China and the Buddhist teacher Dharmar, the founder of the Zen sect have been both mentioned in connection with tea, suggesting that in ancient times tea was considered to be a kind of medicine. Today, tea is widely cultivated all over the world in both tropical and subtropical regions and has even become the second most popular drink.

Tea is an inexpensive and next to water, the most widely consumed beverage worldwide. Modern science, especially of the last 35 years is beginning to confirm that tea has health promoting potential. Infact the medicinal value of tea has been recognized for a long time in as much as tea was used as an elixir by ancient Chinese. It is known that when tea was introduced to Europe, people of Holland consid-

ered it a divine herb, a panacea.

Since ancient times tea has traditionally been known to be effective in keeping the body and soul in good condition. In modern times, as chemical research on tea ingredients has progressed, many studies have been conducted, linking the various traditionally acclaimed effect of tea drinking to components of tea e.g. caffeine or vitamine.

Green Tea contains flavonoids, flavones and phenolic acids which are anti-oxidants in nature. These compounds account for up to 3% of the dry weight of green tea leaves. Even recent studies from laboratories have shown that green tea as well as black tea may also prevent prostate cancer. Furthermore, it is reported that the incidence of prostate cancer in India is lower than the western countries.

Tea polyphenols, the major components of tea leaf were fractionated and purified. A range of research was conducted. As a result tea polyphenols were proved to be multifunctionally effective in preventing pterification or rancidity of foods, infection of alimentary respiratory diseases, occurrence of cardiovascular diseases and development of malignant tumour.

Green Tea consumption may lead to the prevention of heart disease. Tea has been shown to strengthen blood vessels and to decrease the cholesterol level in the blood stream. In some studies green tea consumption has been shown to afford protection against high cholesterol level and high blood pressure. Green tea can enhance therapeutic effects of known cancer drugs.

How does green tea provide this action in control of major diseases. It needs to be said that green leaf harvested is the source of Green tea, process of Green tea manufacturing involves heating with steam or in a pan to inactivate the enzyme called polyphenol oxidase in Green tea, and

thus, the active ingredients catchins amounting to about 30% of dry weight of the leaves are maintained intact. The Green tea polyphenols are powerful antioxidants. The antioxidant properties of tea polyphenols prevent this oxidation and thus, accounts for lower risk of heart diseases in regular tea drinkers, Vitamin E and C are profusely found in green tea.

Green tea contain many polyphenolic antioxidants. They are catechins. Green tea contains flavonoids, and phenolic acids which are antioxidants in nature. Most of the polyphenols present in Green tea are flavonols, commonly known as catechins. The antioxidants of tea are far superior than the antioxidant in any other edible product known to mankind.

Here are some of the most interesting information on Green Tea which I quote from different scientists and different medical journals. They are in fact quite useful for the readers to know the benefits of drinking Green tea, a wonderful beverage which has many qualities.

According to Archives of Internal Medicine, National Journal of Cancer Institute, (i) Polyphenols in green tea is much more characterized than those in black tea, (ii) Green tea can enhance therapeutic effects of known cancer drugs, (iii) Thiamine, an amino acid in green tea, inhibits liver metastasis induced by doxorubicin, (iv) Thiamine increases the intracellular concentration of doxorubicin in cancer cells, (v) Green tea polyphenols have been shown to kill cancer cells without harming normal cells, (vi) The habitual intake of flavonoids and their major source may protect against stroke.

According to Haseeb Mukhtar "In re-

cent and mark study it is showed that mice drinking Green tea developed lower incidence and milder form of collagen induced arthritis, which is similar to that of rheumatoid arthritis in humans. The anti-oxidants present in Green tea might retard the onset and incidents of inflammatory disease including arthritis".

It is customary for Indian politicians

facing serious corruption charges to break down in tears and vow emotionally in public that they will "retire" from active politics and take "sanyas" if they are proved true.

I have been talking to a politician who is currently facing trial in a special CBI court on DA charges and who has vowed to take "sanyas" if the allegations are upheld. I began by asking him if I should fold my hands and reverently touch his feet and address him as "Mahone Avadhur Swamiji Maharaj". "No, no," he said hastily. "I'm a humble servant of the masses and it

would suffice if you grovel and kowtow and address me as Sir."

"Sir" I said, "after taking sanyas, will you cut off all links with your kin, start wearing saffron robes and retire to the Himalayas where you'll perform intense penance for 12 years standing on one foot to seek spiritual enlightenment?"

"Of course not," said the politician, "that's not my concept of sanyas. After taking sanyas, I'll book a suite in an exclusive 5-star hotel under an assumed name and organize midnight conclaves and pow wows of all ruling

party dissidents and rebels who are seething with anger because they've been denied cabinet berths."

"Sir, after taking sanyas, will you set up an ashram at the confluence of Gang and Mandakini rivers where you'll conduct vagas, yagnas and havans for the spiritual upliftment of humanity and pray for their welfare?" Again, that's not my idea of sanyas. After taking sanyas, I'll make several air dashes to Delhi to present memoranda and petitions to the Para High Command levelling corruption charges against the Chief Minister and press my

case for induction into the cabinet as Excise and Commercial Taxes Minister."

"Sir, after taking sanyas, will you conduct research into ayurveda and write learned commentaries on the vedas, upanishads and Bhagavad Gita?"

"Again, no. After taking sanyas, I'll stoke dissidence and rebellion all round and make things hot for the CM for ordering a vigilance enquiry against me."

"Sir, what's your spiritual message to the suffering and confused mankind?"

"My message to humanity is simple—Climb aboard the winning bandwagon and become a minister and Political power is nirvana. Go to it."



Courtesy: THE HINDU

"Why petrol price sky rocketing despite cheap petrol in global market?"Big scam!! — ASHUTOSH, AAP leader

★★★

"Only instant triple talq is illegal. Other two kinds are also a challenge to gender equality." — P CHIDAMBARAM, senior Congress leader.

★★★

"I am extremely pained by unfortunate accidents, injuries to passengers and loss of precious lives. I met the prime minister @narendramodi taking full moral responsibility." — SURESH PRABHU, railway minister

★★★

"Welcome the Supreme Court judgement on instant triple talq. It is a victory for brave Muslim women who waged battle against it for years." — SHABANA AZMI, Actress

★★★

"Remembering Rajiv Gandhi : the man who brought India into the 21st century even if he didn't get there himself." — SHASHI THAROOR, Congress leader

★★★

"Investment is the most important factor to ensure economic growth in the country." — D SUBBARAO, former governor, RBI

★★★

"The Supreme Court judgement heralds a new era for individual rights, personal liberty, and human dignity." — SONIA GANDHI, president, Congress

★★★

"Sexual abuse of children is a moral epidemic and we have to wage a war to root it out from the society." — KAILASH SATYARTH, Nobel Laureate emphasising on the need to make India safe for children.

★★★

"During the floods we did not have any abnormal rainfall here... then where did the water come from? ... China, for mysterious reasons, is not sharing the hydrological data with India." — HIMANTA BISWA SARMA, Finance Minister, Assam.

Political sanyas

The last word

S RAGHUNATH

It is customary for Indian politicians facing serious corruption charges to break down in tears and vow emotionally in public that they will "retire" from active politics and take "sanyas" if they are proved true.

I have been talking to a politician who is currently facing trial in a special CBI court on DA charges and who has vowed to take "sanyas" if the allegations are upheld. I began by asking him if I should fold my hands and reverently touch his feet and address him as "Mahone Avadhur Swamiji Maharaj". "No, no," he said hastily. "I'm a humble servant of the masses and it

would suffice if you grovel and kowtow and address me as Sir."

"Sir" I said, "after taking sanyas, will you cut off all links with your kin, start wearing saffron robes and retire to the Himalayas where you'll perform intense penance for 12 years standing on one foot to seek spiritual enlightenment?"

"Of course not," said the politician, "that's not my concept of sanyas. After taking sanyas, I'll make several air dashes to Delhi to present memoranda and petitions to the Para High Command levelling corruption charges against the Chief Minister and press my

case for induction into the cabinet as Excise and Commercial Taxes Minister."

"Sir, after taking sanyas, will you conduct research into ayurveda and write learned commentaries on the vedas, upanishads and Bhagavad Gita?"

"Again, no. After taking sanyas, I'll stoke dissidence and rebellion all round and make things hot for the CM for ordering a vigilance enquiry against me."

"Sir, what's your spiritual message to the suffering and confused mankind?"

"My message to humanity is simple—Climb aboard the winning bandwagon and become a minister and Political power is nirvana. Go to it."

From THE PAST**Industries conference****Need of Assam's Progress Stressed By Participants**

From our Special Representative

SHILLONG, August 26—The two-day industries Conference presided over by the Industries Minister Sri Biswadev Sarma, concluded here-to-day. The eight groups formed yesterday went into the different aspects of industrialization based on different raw materials and submitted their recommendations which were accepted by the Conference.

In his concluding remarks, the President, Sri Sarma, while thanking the participants appealed to them that industrial development of Assam depended as much on private entrepreneurs as on the Government. Government, on its part, will fulfil the obligations but the private sector also must come forward to discharge its responsibility. Without industrial development, the economy of the State could not be stabilized, and a week limb in this region will always remain a disease in the body politic of India.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 1967



Meghalaya Chief Minister Dr Mukul Sangma distributing coconut saplings under the Horticulture Mission at Reselpara, on Saturday. - UB Photos

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7 buildings collapse in Mizoram

AIZawl, Aug 26: At least seven buildings, including a church, collapsed in Aizawl and nearby villages due to massive landslides triggered by heavy rains in Mizoram since Thursday, officials said today.

Many places of the State were cut off due to road blocks caused by landslides.

A three-story building collapsed at Lengpui village near Aizawl on Thursday night and six buildings, including a church, were buried under a massive landslide at nearby Phunchawng village, the officials said.

Champhai district, bordering Myanmar, was cut off from Aizawl as landslides blocked the Aizawl-Champhai road at various places while the road link from Aizawl to south Mizoram's Lunglei district via Thenzawl also snapped due to Super Cyclone last evening.

He contended that the problem of corruption will remain if the solution to the Naga issue is not inclusive and other Naga political groups are not taken into confidence.

NORTH EAST ACAUT warns of civil war if Naga solution is not inclusive

CORRESPONDENT

DIMAPUR, Aug 26: There will be a civil war if the Government of India decides to bring in solution to the protracted Naga political problem with the NSCN-IM alone, warned the anti-graft group, Against Corruption and Unabated Taxation (ACAUT).

He opined that signing of the Framework Agreement between NSCN-IM and Government of India is a "serious business".

Sema also called upon all citizens of Nagaland to join the fight against corruption with active participation.

After a rally, a seven-point resolution was adopted demanding that the State Government summon a special session of Nagaland Assembly to pass the Lokayukta Bill 2017 to check corruption, mismanagement and siphoning of public funds and immediately terminate all backdoor appointments.

"If the Government of Nagaland fails to act on these demands before the end of September, the public will call for Nagaland bandh, it warned.

It also resolved to urge Government of India to expedite the political process for early and lasting political solution to the protracted Naga political problem by inviting all Naga political groups without further delay.

Landslide cuts off NH 2 in Manipur



Flood waters submerging Karong village in Senapati district on Saturday. - Correspondent

CORRESPONDENT

IMPHAL, Aug 26: A man was arrested for allegedly uploading objectionable pictures of a girl on the social media and a pistol and ammunition were recovered from his residence.

The man was arrested from Liling Chajing locality in Thoubal district on Thursday, police said.

The police yesterday spotted the person in the vicinity of his residence. But he fled seeing the police personnel. He was arrested after the police chased and overpowered him.

During investigation, it was learnt that the man had hidden one 9mm pistol and a few live rounds of ammunition at his residence. They were recovered by the police.

A case has been registered at Irlibang police station in Imphal East district. - PTI

stroyed by the landslide at Chakumei area, according to reports.

Deputy Commissioner of Senapati district Athem Muvinhals informed that the district administration would be providing 100 blankets, 20 bags of rice and other essential materials to the affected people.

Many houses at Karong, a small hamlet on the bank of Barak river of Imphal, were submerged due to surge in river water.

"We are now taking shelter at a school at Karong area as flood water has washed away everything," said Robin Raoman of CCM Orphanage which

provides free education to around 120 students.

The State Government has decided to suspend traffic movement in the wake of damage of a stretch of Makhan Tabio on NH 2, about 90 km north of Imphal.

Many houses at Karong, a small hamlet on the bank of Barak river of Imphal, were submerged due to surge in river water.

Senapati district had witnessed a severe flood recently which damaged standing crops worth lakhs of rupees.

The State was recently affected by floods which had inundated several villages rendering over 30,000 people homeless.

Pratiksha Hospital

Don't worry over Tibetan rehab policy, NPP tells people

CORRESPONDENT

ITANAGAR, Aug 26: Coming in strong defence of Pema Khandu-led BJP Government, which has been facing criticism from various quarters for failing to implement the Tibetan Rehabilitation Policy Act 2014 in the State, the Arunachal Pradesh unit of National People's Party (NPP) today sought to play down the people's apprehensions saying they "need not worry much" over implementation of the policy.

State NPP president Gicho Kabak, who also heads the Tibet Support Group of Arunachal Pradesh (TSGAP), claimed that the policy would not make any impact on the socio-economic development and demography of the State. "Rather, we should stand together to extend our solidarity for the cause of Tibetans who are fighting for genuine autonomy within the People's Republic of China," he said.

The NPP which had an emergency meeting here today, appreciated Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju for adopting the Tibetan refugee Rehabilitation Policy on humanitarian ground. The party further appreciated the decision of the Khandu-led Cabinet to implement the policy in the State.

In order to streamline the process of facilities to be given to the Tibetan refugees, the Centre had formalised the Tibetan Rehabilitation Policy 2014 and accordingly directed the State Government to implement the same, said NPP vice president Anok Wangsa, a former Minister.

The party's spokesman Nima Sangey Saling said that the Centre had directed the concerned State Governments to implement the welfare schemes for the Tibetan refugees and further directed the State Governments to extend a 20-year land lease agreement.

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Acharya calls for promotion of NE culture

CORRESPONDENT

ITANAGAR, Aug 26: Hailing the rich and diverse cultural heritage of the Northeastern region, Arunachal Governor PB Acharya said that the region is the richest of zones in India in terms of cultural heritage with every tribe or community having distinct and unique culture and traditions.

The Governor, who is also the Chairman of North East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC), said this while attending a meeting of NEZCC at Raj Bhawan here on Saturday. The representatives from Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Manipur and Tripura, along with NEZCC officials attended the meeting.

While emphasising on home stay and home-visitisation for artists and cultural troupes during any event organised by the objectives of the Zonal Cultural Centre.

One held on rape charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

JORHAT, Aug 26: Police arrested Jitul Das (50), a bank employee and a resident of Korpita gaon on the Garum outskirt here on charges of raping a housewife on Thursday evening at the victim's house when her husband was reportedly not at home.

Das has been sent to judicial custody by a local court after he was produced in the court.

Two arrested

CORRESPONDENT

SILCHAR, Aug 26: Two persons have been arrested with 42 kilograms of agar from Maruachara area under Borkola constituency in Cachar District. The arrested persons have been identified as Rabi Hmar (40) and Flumkor Hmar (33).

One electrocuted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

JORHAT, Aug 26: Ajit Boru, an APDCL employee under Kamargao electrical sub-division, was reportedly electrocuted on Thursday night when he was trying to fix a broken power cable near the Numaligarh High School in Golaghat district.

Works reviewed

HAFLONG, Aug 26: The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) chaired by Rajdeep Gowala along with the members of the committee visited Haflong to take stock of the achievements of various government departments, DRDA and developmental blocks of Dima Hasao during the year 2014-15, 2015-16 and especially in the year 2016-17.

The departmental officers submitted reports of their respective departments before the Public Accounts Committee for thorough study on various issues and verification of their achievements etc., at the Circuit House conference hall, Haflong. — Correspondent



Members of ABMSU blocking National Highway 31 at Baksa's Kadamtol Chowk on Saturday. — UB Photos

2 from Arunachal held with organs of wild animals

ANN Service

JONAI, Aug 26: The Assam Police posted at Simencherupi police station in Dhemaji district, following a tip-off caught two Arunachal involved in trading of wildlife organs on Thursday and seized a large number of wild animal organs from their possession.

Polic said that two persons namely Tabang Paro (47) and Tiber Siram (38), both from Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh, were caught on National Highway-15 at Simencherupi at around 7.10 pm on Thursday. The duo was reportedly proceeding to Tinsukia for selling the animal organs among their relatives. The police have seized animal organs including two skins of fully-grown leopard cats, two tiger skulls, one otter skin, two skins and a skull

of black bear, 42 horns of hog deer; a hornbill head and about 1 kg of tiger bones. The organs wrapped in a plastic gunny bag were brought in a Maruti car. The police also seized the Maruti car used by the duo.

The police called on the Forest officials to take up the case and draw a offence report under relevant section against the illicit traders, which was refused by the Forest officials. The Simencherupi Police later registered a case (No. 21/2017) under Sections 9/39/50/51 of Wildlife Protection Act against the duo and produced them before the sub-divisional judicial magistrate at Jonai on Friday. The duo has been remanded to three days of police custody.

One of the detainees, Tuber Siram has denied involvement in the illicit trade and said that he was accompanied by Tabang Paro, while he was waiting for APFSU bus to go to Tinsukia for his personal work.

Meanwhile, Dhemaji Divisional Forest Officer, Prasant Dhanda has made official communication — with Pasighat DFO (WL) and Superintendent of Police, Siang district and requested them to conduct a thorough investigation to trace out further clues regarding wild animal trade. On the other hand, foresters of Jonai under Dhemaji division forest on Friday recovered a single barrel-cut wood with a cutter machine from Poba Forest Reserve bordering East Siang district of Arunachal. The foresters also seized a chopped timber-laden truck from Jelom area near the Assam-Arunachal boundary.

Hemendra Dutta Chowdhury: a tribute

 Hemendra Dutta Chowdhury (affectionately known as Dipuda by all who knew him) was the eldest son of Jatin and Labanya Prabha Dutta Chowdhury, pioneers of luxury hoteliering in the north-eastern region. We were five brothers and one sister and grew up in Shillong where our parents owned the Pinewood Hotel at that time.

Dipuda grew up in the arms of luxury being the eldest in the family. He was handed over everything in a silver spoon but he was a free-spirited soul from a very young age. This led him to a love for cars and we remember him driving his Hillman, Vanguard, Singer and La Gonda cars from those days. He was also an avid horseman

having his own horse "Zarina" and "Queen Victoria" which won a number of trophies in Polo Race grounds.

He, along with his childhood friend Anal, started their transport company Dipa Carrying Corporation with Oil India in Diliapur in the 1960's and I still remember the fleet of 20+ brand new blue-coloured vehicles which came all the way from Calcutta. They were pioneers in that part of the State and had a head-start in the business. Now as we look back to the past, we can see that Dipuda was a visionary and his ideas were far ahead of his time. He was full of great ideas and was a doer. Money was just a means to an end for him. What mattered to him far more than money he would make in a business, is carrying out his vision from start to fin-

ish.

Having established the business, he was called back to Guwahati to start building 'Belle Vue Hotel' from scratch. In those days, financing was hard to come by and he had to spend months in Calcutta to arrange financing and this took him away from his transportation business which eventually he had to forego. He was instrumental in building the magnificent landmark which opened its doors in August 1969. Ironically, Dipuda passed away on Independence Day on August 15, 2017 a day before this anniversary and so it seems thus fated.

Dipuda will be remembered by all who knew him as a great soul. We will miss you dear brother and wish you peace wherever you may be.

Papu (Dave) Dutta Chowdhury

Nasiruddin Ahmed

 Nasiruddin Ahmed, our father/in-law, who had departed for the heavenly abode on July 18 was indeed of distinction — both for his engagement in public works and his personal appearance visible by his immaculate all-white attire. Popularly nicknamed as 'Babua', Nasiruddin Ahmed was one of the pioneers of modern public civil engineering works in the undivided Lakhimpur district executing infrastructure development during the post-Independent

nation building process. He was a first class civil contractor from 1950s onwards for over more than four decades constructing all major roads, bridges and public buildings across Lakhimpur-Dhemaji district. He was the first urban contractor who worked in rural projects in undivided Lakhimpur constructing hospitals and offices of various State Government departments in Dibrakhowa, Ghilamora, Bordoloni, Gogamukh, Chaudhowsa, Bognecad, North Lakhimpur, Bhipuriya, Narayanpur and other places. Many great personalities like Late Pathan Hazarika, ex-Chief Engineer, PWD worked with him

during their stints at North Lakhimpur.

Born in 1930, Nasiruddin Ahmed was a person of utmost simplicity despite his great achievements. A great foodie, he was a perfect family man who always enjoyed the company of persons much younger to him. A secularist by nature, our father/in-law was revered by all and lived a full life. On the occasion of his chhathai today, we pray before the Almighty for the salvation of his soul. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

— Farhana Ahmed, Sazzad Hussain

Maya Baruah

 Maya Baruah, our Kuni khuri, was the only and most loving khuri of our entire family. Born in 1945 in Dibrugarh, she was the youngest daughter of Late Bhupen Phukan and a grand-

daughter of the legendary tea planter Nandeshwar Chakravarty. Known for her religious bent of mind, she was a devout Krishna follower and was so conversant with the Gita that she could recite by heart every chapter of it from memory. A graduate from Dibrugarh College,

she was married in 1969 to our khura Abani Madhab Baruah, who had registered as an Additional Registrar of Cooperative Societies, and now lives in Jorhat, Panjabari.

A soft-spoken and kind-hearted lady known for her amiable disposition, khuri passed away in a hospital in Guwahati on

August 17, leaving behind our khura, two sons and a host of relatives and admirers.

On this day of her ashwarriddha today, I on behalf of our extended family pray to the Almighty for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

— Dr Tapati Baruah Kashyap

PIL against Irrigation Dept, KAAC disposed of

CORRESPONDENT

DIPHUA, Aug 26: Giving a much-needed breather to Laram Ronghang, Chief Executive Member of BIP-led Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC), the Gauhati High Court disposed of a Public Interest Litigation filed by District Welfare Society, a Howrah-based NGO on Thursday.

The division bench comprising Chief Justice Ajit Singh and Justice Ujal Bhuyan of Gauhati High Court disposed of the PIL (No. 107/2015) stating that there is no substantial evidence of corruption charges against the officials of KAAC for the first term.

The NGO charged the

District Welfare Society, a Howrah-based NGO had charged the KAAC of embezzling Rs 71,76,895 while implementing 386 minor irrigation schemes in 2013-14. The District Welfare Society had filed the PIL in 2015 alleging corruption by the Irrigation department officials, working under KAAC, in executing the Centrally-subsidised Accelerated Irrigation Beneficiary Programme (AIBP) schemes in 2013-14, when Ronghang was the CEM for the first term.

The NGO charged the KAAC of embezzling Rs 71,76,895 while implementing 386 minor irrigation schemes in 2013-14. Based on the technical committee's report, the court disposed of the PIL. Meanwhile, responding to corruption charges against the KAAC, the Comptroller & Auditor General also conducted a performance audit and submitted a positive report last month.

citing the Centrally-subsidised Accelerated Irrigation Beneficiary Programme (AIBP) schemes in 2013-14, when Ronghang was the CEM for the first term.

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Awareness meet on road safety organised

CORRESPONDENT

BONGAIGAON, Aug 26: Now-a-days school students are smart enough to realise the causes of road mishaps from their experience. What they need is some awareness.

Triple-riding on a bike and road race often causes mishap on roads, but for these mishaps drivers of heavy vehicles will be held responsible by mobs which is unfair. Arup Ray, a Class VIII student of Sidsali High Secondary School presented this view in his speech at the road safety awareness meeting organised in his school on Friday.

In the meeting, which was organised by the district administration and District

Transport Department, Deputy Commissioner Biswajit Pegu elaborated on the causes of mishaps and explained them to the students.

As road mishaps frequently occur in Sidsali area on National Highway-31, hence the road was selected for the awareness meeting, the Deputy Commissioner said.

District Transport Officer, Bhaskar Jyoti Dutta explained the rules of the road and the latest instruction by the Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety.

A total of 1.5 lakh persons were held in road accidents in the nation last year, which occurred every four minutes. Among the dead, 20 were teenagers under the age

of 14 years, Dutta added.

In a bid to reduce the accident rate up to 10 per cent, the committee has given instructions to all the district road safety councils of the nation.

According to the Bongaigaon District Road Safety Council, which comprises Deputy Commissioner and District Transport Officer as the president and general secretary respectively, is working on to detect 'black spots' (accident-prone spots) in the district and would take measures after analysing the factors linked to the mishaps, Dutta said.

Inspector of Schools, Bongaigaon, Sadulhan Khan inspired the students to use bicycles instead of bikes and scooters to reach their schools

PG course in Geography introduced at Morigaon College

CORRESPONDENT

MORIGAON, Aug 26: A two-year post-graduate (PG) course in Geography under Gauhati University was formally introduced at Morigaon College from this year. Mor-

gan College is the only college in central Assam now which has got the post-graduate course in Geography under Gauhati University.

An open meeting was held on the occasion on August 22 at Akhil Gobin Hall under the

presidency of Dr LK Borthakur, principal, Morigaon College. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Abani Kumar Bhagawati, Professor, GU, said that the new course in Geography at Morigaon College will be beneficial for the students of

Nagaon, Morigaon and Hojai. Prof Bhagawati emphasised on the need of the expansion of Geography education among the school and college students. Biswajit Sarma, director, College Development Council, GU also spoke on the occasion.

Govt's decision flayed

ANN Service

KALIJIHAWA, Aug 26: The public, senior citizens, educationalists, social workers etc., of Kalijaihawha have vehemently criticised the decision of the Education Department regarding establishment of 22 colleges in Assam in the name of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya. One college

in the name of that person is more than sufficient. Instead, the Department should come forward to establish colleges in the memory of great personalities like Assam like Lakshmi Nath Bezboruwa, PN Gohoinboru, SN Brahma, AR Dhekialphukan, SN Bordoli and others those who had a lot of contributions towards As-

sam. It will be a most significant and ideal step as it will inspire our future generations, they opined.

The people said that Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has announced in various public meetings frequently that the Government will always work for the progress and development of

the State as per the public's advice and suggestions. Public sentiment will never be hurt. Is he keeping to his commitment properly?

The senior citizens appealed to the Chief Minister to come forward for taking a proper initiative in the entire issue in public interest.

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Flood-relief distributed

STAFF REPORTER

etc., to over 300 families.

The city-based Theosophical Order Of Service (TOS), Assam & Arunachal Region led by its president JN Patowary and secretary H Kotoky attended a flood-relief camp at Manah Gaon Panchayat of Mayong Block under Mayong Circle in Morigaon district and distributed rice, bread, chira, biscuits, sugar, candles, etc., and a sizeable quantity of usable garments to about 260 flood-affected families of the surrounding villages.

A 25-member team of the club distributed rice, chira, mosquito nets, garments, soap, milk, packaged water, mustard oil, biscuits, candles, etc.

Guwahati, Aug 26: Lions Club of Guwahati Kamrup, Lions Club of Guwahati City and Lions Club of Guwahati Arpan distributed relief materials to the flood- hit people of Madanbari village near Jhargram Polbora in Morigaon on August 20.

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MATRIMONIAL

A reliable Matrimony Service 'Sandhani', (1) Guwahati (ALDC) (2) Adabari (Near Masiid) (3) Dibrugarh (Chiringsapari) (4) Jorhat (Unnayan Bhawan), 970107771 (Whatsapp), 8011630847, Web: www.sandhani.in (Sunday open)

Mat/GP/16457/1

'Sanjog Matrimony' North East most successful matrimony. Choose your dream-partner. Any Caste/ Age/ Community Govt./PSU/MNC/Businessman. Contact/Bride/ Groom-Assam & outsider of Assam/ India/ Abroad. Guwahati, Ulubari-@8361513087/ 9706306644, Mat/GP/A3777/1

GROOM WANTED

Assamese Nath, 30 yrs, 5'5", girl, working as Dental Surgeon for Assam Govt, serving in Upper Assam seeks for suitable match. Contact: 9435831877, Mat/GP/KP009/4

INVITED SUITABLE MATCH FOR OUR DAUGHTER MTECH/DIRECT CONTACT 986429671.

Mat/GP/1519/2

Bengali Kayastha girl age 33, 5'4", Debsurion, R.D.B.L good looking, father Engineer, retired GM, No caste bar. Direct : 9957037449, Mat/GP/A3431/4

Bengali/Kayastha/Sylheti/26/3/ Vrischik Rashi/Debaragon M.S. (Chemistry), S.T.EC/ Lecturer/ Govt. College (Contractual) father Retd. Govt. employee. Contact: 9436126212, Mat/GP/1603/2

Bengali, respectable Bairdya family, 38 yrs, 5'3", issues divorcee, BA, PG Dip, in Environmental Science, Computer Literate, Montessori trained, School Teacher in Upper Assam, Kanya Rashi Nargagon, Good looking/ complexion deserves well to do preferably upper cast grooms. Directly to whatsapp call number : 08135879728, Mat/GP/U224/2

34 yrs Assamese Boy working in FCI as a SI looking for a beautiful Girl. Contact: 9085058666, Mat/GP/A3834/1

34 yrs NRJ Boy, MBA and working as a consultant (UK), seeks a Girl for early marriage, 76700016333, Mat/GP/A3840/1

33 yrs Muslim Boy, working in Indian Railway, seeks a Girl for early marriage, 7670002622, Mat/GP/A3841/

37 yrs Assamese Boy, working in NRL as a Deputy Manager, looking for Girl for early marriage, 7670005577, Mat/GP/A3842/1

Assamese Boy, BA passed working in Central Govt, looking for a beautiful Girl, Contact: 7670005577, Mat/GP/A3843/1

32 yrs Brahmuni Boy, working in Public Health Dept, looking for an established & well educated Girl, 76700065577, Mat/GP/A3844/1

Bengali Boy 32 yrs, ITT (Delhi), working in Google USA, own residence in Guwahati, seeks a Girl for early marriage. Castel/ Location no. Bar. Contact: 7670002626, Mat/GP/A3845/1

Bengali Kayastha Boy 33 yrs, 5'8", ME, Mechanical Engineer at Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC), own resident in Guwahati, seeks a Girl for early marriage. Castel/ Location no. Bar. Contact: 7670002626, Mat/GP/A3846/1

Alliance invited for Kalita girl 29 yrs, fair & good looking, M.Sc (Mathematics) B.Ed, Subject Teacher DPS School, Contact: (M) 9854063196, Mat/GP/16401/1

Fair & good looking Assamese Hindu General Castle 30 yrs, Ph.D from JNU, Delhi, working Central Govt, Department in Delhi, Contact (M) 8011743756, Mat/GP/16402/1

Age 30, Mahanta, MBA, MNC, Delhi (2) 30, Kalita, BDS, service, (Delhi) (3) 30, Kalita, Engineer, MNC, Delhi (4) 30, Kalita, Engineer, MNC, Bangalore (5) 28, OBC, Engineer, MNC, Pune, Sandhani, 8011630847, Mat/GP/16465/1

Suitable match for an Assamese Brahmin girl 26 yrs., height 5'8", qualification BE, Ph. 8850392194/ 8850239789, Mat/GP/A3801/1

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MATRIMONIAL

Muslim issuesless divorcee 31, 5'4", very fair, good looking, B.Sc, MBA, seeks suitable match. Father Retd. Professor, Contact (M) 9854203706, Mat/GP/16403/1

Assamese Hindu General Castle 26, 5'4", slim, fair & pretty girl, MBA in Business Economics from Gauhati University, Contact (M) 8876361596, Mat/GP/16404/1

Fair & pretty Kalita girl 27, 5'4", B.Tech, working in CNC Bangalore, father Doctor, Guwahati residence. Contact (M) 9437707771, 8837349601, Mat/GP/KP409/1

Assamese Hindu General Castle 26, 5'4", slim, fair & pretty girl, MBA in Business Economics from Gauhati University, Contact (M) 8876361596, Mat/GP/16405/1

Muslim Assamee 27, fair & good looking, M.Sc, Clinical research working. Father Retd. Engineer. Seeks suitable match. (M) 8011743756, Mat/GP/16406/1

Issueless, divorcee, Assamese Hindu General Castle, 32, tall, fair, good looking, MA (Masscom) working Central PSU, Own Bar at Guwahati. (M) 9854203706, Mat/GP/16407/1

Muslim/ Assamee/ 30/ 5'4" B.A/ female employee (Direct parents no.) 9678771679, Mat/GP/A375/1

Beautiful/ Assamee/ 30/ 5'4" B.A/ female employee (Direct parents no.) 9678771679, Mat/GP/A377/1

Beautiful/ Assamee/ 26/ 5'4" B.E/ working at Nationalised Bank, # 705343833, Mat/BP/A375/2/1

Kalita/ Assamee/ 27/ 5'5" M.Tech & Pursuing Ph.D/ Assistant Professor in reputed College, # 986409793, Mat/BP/A377/2/1

Beautiful/ Assamee/ 26/ 5'4" B.Com, MBA, Service in Metro, Single child, 8011641568/ 970636644, Mat/GP/A377/3/1

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Beautiful/ Assamee/ 26/ 5'4" B.Com, MBA, Service in Metro, Single child, 8011641568/ 970636644, Mat/GP/A377/3/1

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT**LAND & PROPERTY**

1½ katha land + ground floor sale Sewali Path, Hatigow, Ph. No. 97063-77262, 98640-47640. L&P/KP250/1

REKNOWNED ESTABLISHED BUILDER LOOKING FOR LAND/PLOT MEASURING 1 BIGHA (ONE) OR MORE WITHIN METROPOLITAN AREA OF GUWAHATI CITY FOR CONSTRUCTION OF APARTMENTS GENUINE LAND OWNERS AND POSSESSORS CAN CONTACT THE ADVERTISER FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION #7896518043. L&P/KP254/3

One katha 10 lessa myadi land for sale at Panjabbar, Guwahati-37. Ph. 95776639077, 7002153796. L&P/PA655/2

Seven Kathas Ten Leches in Dhalbhumi, Guwahati between Gurukul Sanksrit School and Garchuk Vegetable Market. Contact No. 9435017004. L&P/PA590/1

Pent house and 3 BHK flats at Siryari, Gundhi, Basti, Chettriang, Panjabbar, Beliaghata. Vacant land at Beliaghata, Jaynagar, Basistha, Mathura Nagar, Tarun Nagar, Pub Samnia, Gog Call: 9580810313, 9864090109. Max Realtors. L&P/KP305/2

3 Katha Myadi land with G+1 building at Rangia Main Road for outright sale. Please contact: 7002468559. vrangia@gmail.com. L&P/KP245/2

Lands & flats for sale at VIP Road, Downtown, G. S. Road, Panjabbar, Lokhra, Palashbari, Industrial Area etc Visit: www.w44area.com/ 80116-12586. L&P/KP340/2

5 Bigha Myadi land for immediate sale at Nalapara near Behbari. No broker, only interested party may contact directly. Contact No. 94350-49008. L&P/KP1638/2

4 bigha (Myadi) at Sonapur Upper Tepecha (Tribal Belt) @ Rs. 22 lakhs per bigha/negotiable. # 88769-77386. L&P/PA381/8

Industrial Myadi land for sale in Chayagon 4 bigha 2 katha, only genuine buyers may contact R.B.G. Realtors. 8822606963. L&P/KP288/1

1½ K with G+2 building at Zoo Tinai (200 plot). Rs. 23.5 Cr. 2½ K 1st plot Zoo Rd. Rs. 5.75 Cr. L&P/PA1643/1

1 bigha myadi patta land for sale at Garchuk @ 48 lakhs per katha. Only genuine buyers may contact R.B.G. Realtors. 8822606963. L&P/KP384/1

Myadi patta land 1K 16L with RCC 3 storied provostion GF completed and 2nd floor wall never completed. Medical College & Hospital site Lilabari Airport main road prominently located is for sale at N.L. Lakhimpur Town. Bonafide party may contact 94045-98839. L&P/KP396/1

3 katha land at Kharghuli at post locality @ 65 kaths/Katha. Ph. No. 9851698492. L&P/PA1644/1

2 katha filled myadi land with boundary wall at Pamohi. 30 lakhs per katha. Contact: 881297251. L&P/KP397/1

COMMERCIAL SPACE

COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR OFFICE, BANK, ATM AT A.T. ROAD, GUWAHATI. PH. 9508387063. CS/PA/3654/8

RENT - 3201 SQ. FT NEAR ULUBARI CHARiali FOR BANK, CORPORATE OFFICE, MNC ETC. CONTACT: 8920476737. CS/PA/3349/8

Rent for commercial space, 1st floor, Boraj Arcade, near Guwahati Eye Clinic, opposite G.L. Publication & Ayurvedic G.S. Road, Ulubari, Ghy-7, Ph. +91 94351-13887, 91 96385-39249. CS/PA/430/3

MUSIC

Commercial Space of 3000 sq. ft area available for rent at 1st floor, above ICICI Bank, Uzbanbari. Contact: 9711967438, 9435146233. CS/2332/2

BEAUTICIAN

Required experience Beautician for Ladies beauty parlour at Bhaganghat Guwahati, Cont. No. 9864032709, 9864511311. Beautician/P/KP381/1

BEAUTY PARLOUR

Hair straightening 1899, Spa 499, 35% off at Facial, Colour, Hair. # 9401945956, 7002213274. Beauty Parlor/P/A3351/14

VASTU

Change your life by alternative astro, Tarot Reading and Tantra Healing. 70036-41606. Vastu/P/PA683/1

Fully furnished 6600 sq. ft @ 25/- for Office/Showerom/Instituto/Marriage Hall at Sonaphali, Ghy for rent. Ph. 8918104481, 8876509531. CS/P/1633/1

Ground floor Road facing 1400 sq. ft. Commercial Space available Bammimaidam. Ph. 9864083920, 7002254970. CS/P/KP41/3

OFFICE SPACE

Commercial Office, Showroom Space Available Rent starting from Rs. 19, Beltoha/Tinai/Main Road, Guwahati-781028. Contact: 8486353235, 7033578390. OS/P/1635/2

Office/Godown (500 sq.ft.) available at Ulubari near D.G.P. Office. Ph. 9435044957, 91612463281. OS/P/AS52/2

INTERIOR DESIGNING

Interior Forum Presents Complete interior design and Interior Designing Service that will transform your imagination into reality whether it is your bed room or your Kitchen, it is your living room or your office our expert designer will fix everything as per your need and budget. Kindly contact us at 9435057039 or visit our office for free consultation at Anil Plaza, Zoorad, Sonaphali, Ghy. 8876509482, 9132920287. CCTV/P/15786/8

SALES & PURCHASE

Gold & Sale/Purchase: Baby Gold and Silver Jewellery, Ulubari Mansion Ground floor, Lakshikha. You can sell your old gold ornaments. ID proof must. D/Aerobic/P/A3717/4

ACCOMMODATION

Child Psychology, Anger Management, Hypertension, Stress Management, Corporate Training session. Contact: 9859303710. Counselling/P/16495/8

WEBSITE

Web-Designing, Web-Hosting, Bulk SMS, Software solution provider. Assamlook.com. Ph. 9835002995, Website/P/16496/8

ASTROLOGY

World famous Babu Noorkhan, Business, Education, Family Dispute, Love will solve 100% guarantee. Paltanbazar, Guwahati. 9706262775. Astro/P/16497/4

Office Space 1st floor 3300 sqft. and GF 1500 sqft. at Christian Basti. Contact: 9706120251. OS/P/PA644/1

One 1500 sqft. furnished A/C and 2000 sqft. 3 A/C furnitures/Office at Zoo Road. (M) 9864061854. Astro/P/16498/4

MACHINERY & HARDWARE

BM Road Roller, Concrete Mixer Machine, Spot Mix, Monthly basis rent. Ph. 9435103261, 7002153796. M&P/PA656/1

BUS & TRUCK

Urgently sale a tip top condition School Bus with school line. Contact: 9864851138/7035871170. B&T/P/KP36/1

DEALERS & DISTRIBUTORS

Wanted Distributors for a Premium Packaged Drinking water brand in Assam and North East India. Call: 8327040099, 70051010981. D&D/P/351/1

INVERTER

All branded Inverters/ Battery on wholesale price. Availability. 98640-46703, Inverter/P/16379/3

TAILORING

Home Tutor for Guitar/Piano/Fute/Song/Sound/Engineering classes. Ph. No. 9706377262, 9864047640. Music/P/KP352/1

FRANCHISEE

Required experience Beautician for Ladies beauty parlour at Bhaganghat Guwahati, Cont. No. 9864032709, 9864511311. Beautician/P/KP381/1

CDRISTI EYE CLINIC

Raghar Tiniali, Guwahati. Ph. 0361-2527288. For regular consultation with Dr. Ratul Charan Deka Eye Surgeon. Contact: 9435104368. CD/P/Medical/P/643/1

NURSING

Dristi Provide Exp. Nurse for Baby/Nursing/Dldge Patient care/Bedroom. Ph. No. 9085483070, 9110116380. Nursing/P/KP321/1

REPAIRING & SERVICING

Coture, Fridge, AC, Micro Wave, Washing Machine, Water Filter etc. # 98640-73804. Rep & Servicing/P/A3704/3

GODOWN

Open plot available for Godown area 12000 sq. ft. Beltoha, Lalmati, Contact: 8486353235, 7035378390. Godown/P/KP390/7

We provide experience Nurse/Maid/ Cook for patient care & domestic help. Since: 2008. # 8135928586. Nursing/P/A379/4

Stridha Home Care Nursing for Stridha, bedridden, oldage, Ph. 7576915800, 7638037453, 9636826265. Nursing/P/KP316/2

CCTV

Best Deal! CCTV HD Camera @ 2000/- per installation & maintenance warranty Neophonia, 98643-66664, 9435043982. Godown/P/KP249/30

Godown available for rent 15000 sqft. at Beltoha, National Highway, Guwahati. Contact: 9435040555, 9136106266. Godown/P/A372/16

Renting/Leasing of godowns & Industrial shed anywhere @ Guwahati, Aminaga, Lokhra, Boragora, Jorabat, Aminaga, Changsri, Mirza, 9435406265. Godown/P/KP23/4

2500 to 9800 sq. ft Industrial shed/Warehouse Godown at Khamraha, Beltoha, Lokhra, Aminaga, Changsri, Mirza, 9435406265. Godown/P/KP249/30

Godown available for rent 15000 sqft. at Beltoha, National Highway, Guwahati. Contact: 9435040555, 9136106266. Godown/P/A372/16

2500 sq. feet warehouse for rent at 9th mile, Khamraha on NH37. Call: 9638603950. Godown/P/A219/2

2200 sq. ft. G/Floor Godown/Office for rent at Lalgaon, Guwahati-781034. Com : 94350471395. Godown/P/A336/4

A valid space holder want to sell one (1) 0.32 Bore Czech Pistol. Only valid License holder contact: 88120-59856. S&P/P/A370/2

Sell your any gold items to us for cash needs. Zoo Road, Ph. 9435049720. S&P/P/KP23/4

Paper Dust Machine, Paper Roll Office table, Stand fan, Wooden Almirah. Contact : 91270-17128. S&P/P/16485/1

Minimum 6 rooms with attached bathrooms urgently required for private Guest House. Ph. 03120-71320. Accom/P/PA680/1

PACKERS & MOVERS

Wanted Road side commercial space 200-500 sqft. for ownership Guwahati. Ph. 9864056193, Acco/P/KP26/2

Admuhim Packers & Movers, Ao ISO:9001:2008, Household Goods, Cars, Local shifting M. 9418-69464, Local shifting M. 9418-22253 (All India). Packing & Transportation Household goods. P&M/P/PA60/30

Rhino Packers, Silvime, M. 98644-69464, Local shifting M. 9418-22253 (All India). Packing & Transportation Household goods. P&M/P/PA312/30

National Packers & Movers Estd. 1988. Reallocation of Local, Domestic, Household goods, Car, etc. since 1984. Contact: 9954200989, 9864069027. Visit: www.nppackers.com P&M/P/PA227/10

Shiftin' Shiftin' Shiftin' Local & Outside Household & Official goods, Sunsea Packers & Movers. Ph: 98540-66099, 702305986, P&M/P/PA35/10

Low charges for household goods. Packing, carrying, shifting. Standard Packers. 9838866754, 9885601061. P&M/P/PA62/1

Get loan against Gold Jewellery instantly. Interest rates starts from 12% p.m. minimum documentation. Call: IFL Fancy Bazar, Beltoha, 9900014273, 917432723. Loan/P/A334/10

LOAN

HNS Gold buying Company. Self Gold at Market price instant cash/Bank payment. Also available for free Gold purity checking. Call: 98766404307. Loan/P/A334/10

WAREHOUSE

WAREHOUSE/INDUSTRIAL SHED/MODERN GODOWN, AVAILABLE 18000 SQ.FT., TO 15000 SQ.FT. AT GAURIPUR, AMINGAON, # 9864741396, 9435041918. Warehouse/P/13493/30

COOK

Urgently required for Multi-cuisine Restaurant in Guwahati. (1) Cooks (Indian/Chinese/Tandoori) (2) Kitchen Helpers (3) Security Guard. Contact: 8638251815 for details. Cook/P/PA66/8

SHIFTING/ SHIFTIN'

Shiftin' Shiftin' Shiftin' Local & Outside Household & Official goods, Sunsea Packers & Movers. Ph: 98540-66099, 702305986, P&M/P/PA62/1

Low charges for household goods. Packing, carrying, shifting. Standard Packers. 9838866754, 9885601061. P&M/P/PA62/1

TENDER NOTICE

Selected quotation from reputed firms of IT for installation of Wi-Fi connectivity at a cost of Rs. 50,000/- (Fifty thousand only) are invited to send the undersigned within 7 (Seven) days from the date of publication of this advertisement.

PRINCIPAL SUREN DAS COLLEGE

Hajo, Kamrup Moble: 9753977887 surenddascollege@gmail.com

CID/TN/GP001/1**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have sworn an affidavit before the Notary Public Kamrup (M) on 18th August 2017, stating that Hasmia Montaj Ahmed W/Abu Sufian and Hasmia Ahmed is mine and same person.

CD/TN/PA306/10**CID/TN/PA306/10**

CAPSULE**oil fund raising**

NEW DELHI, Aug 26: State-run Oil India Ltd (OIL) will seek shareholders' approval to raise Rs 7,000 crore through bonds. The company has proposed a special resolution at its annual general meeting on September 23, 2017, for raising up to Rs 7000 crore, OIL said in a filing to the BSE. OIL intends to use the amount through issue of redeemable non-convertible debentures/bonds on private placement basis from domestic as well as international markets in one or more tranches, the filing said. - PTI

'i Create' for Maruti Swift

NEW DELHI, Aug 26: Automobile major Maruti Suzuki on Friday introduced the 'i Create' personalisation concept for its hatchback Swift. According to the passenger car-maker, the tool allows the customers to personalise their vehicle using the 'i Create' configurator available online as well as in the dealership. "After the success of 'i Create' on Vitara Brezza, we are introducing it on Swift, which will empower the young and dynamic customers to create their own impression on their Swift," RS. Kalsi, Senior Executive Director (Marketing & Sales), MSIL said in a statement. - PTI

Vodafone-itel tie-up

NEW DELHI, Aug 26: Telecom operator Vodafone has joined hands with mobile company iel to offer a free talktime scheme for new customers of the latter's feature phones. Under the deal, customers of iel feature phones priced between Rs 800 and Rs 2,000 will get free talktime of Rs 50 for 18 months on an annual recharge of Rs 100 every month. The offer will be available for both new and existing Vodafone subscribers on new iel feature phones, Vodafone said in a release. - PTI

SpiceJet AGM

NEW DELHI, Aug 26: SpiceJet on Friday said it will hold its annual general meeting on August 30 before getting two more months' time from the government to conduct the AGM. In a regulatory filing, the carrier said it has obtained an extension of two months for conducting the AGM from the Registrar of Companies (NCT of Delhi & Haryana). - PTI

DigiPoS machines

GUWAHATI, Aug 26: DigiPoS Ltd has become the first bank in India to launch DigiPoS, a Point of Sale (PoS) machine that offers a complete suite of digital payment options. DigiPoS will offer customers various digital payment options, such as UPI, Bharat QR, SMS Pay and PayZapp, in addition to the facility to pay through debit/credit cards. In the coming months, HDFC Bank will convert its entire network of over 4 lakh PoS machines into DigiPoS without any investment by the merchants, a press release said.

Lohia Group donates Rs 10 lakh to CM's Relief Fund

BUSINESS REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 26: In a benevolent gesture of helping rehabilitate the State flood victims, the Lohia Group of Industries on Friday donated Rs 10 lakh to the Assam Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

Kalash Ch Lohia, Chairman, and Ba-jrang Lohia and Rahul Lohia of the Lohia Group of Industries handed over the cheque for the sum amount to Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal at Chief Minister's Office at the State Secretariat, Dispur here, a press release said.

Founded by Kalash Chandra Lohia, the Lohia Group of Industries is an Assam-based diversified group having twelve different entities under the umbrella. Its business interests range from construction materials (cement, alloys, steel), paper stationery, retail to education. The main group companies are Topcem Cement, Suraksha Cement, Subham Planners, ACC Brikkolite, Solum group of retail outlets, Delhi Public School, Gorkuch, Guwahati, etc., the release added.



Jagadish Bhuyan, Chairman of Assam Petrochemicals Ltd and other representatives handing over a cheque for Rs 15 lakh as contribution towards Chief Minister's Relief Fund to Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal at Brahmaputra State Guest House in Guwahati on Saturday. - UB Photos

New norms for solar power bidding to boost transparency'

NEW DELHI, Aug 26: The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) today said its guidelines for tariff-based bidding for procuring solar power would reduce risk, enhance transparency and increase affordability.

The MNRE had issued the new guidelines for tariff-based competitive bidding process on August 3.

The guidelines have been issued under the provisions of Section 63 of the Electricity Act, 2003 for long-term procurement from grid-connected Solar PV Power Projects of 5 MW and above, through competitive bidding.

"New guidelines for tariff-based competitive bidding process will reduce risk, enhance transparency and increase affordability of solar power," the ministry said in a statement.

Besides, it said, the move will help protect consumer interests through affordable power.

It will also provide standardisation and uniformity in processes and risk-sharing framework between various stakeholders involved in the solar PV power procurement, it said.

This will also help reduce off-take risk and encourage investments, enhance bankability of projects and improve profitability for the investors, it added.

Some of the salient features of the new norms include generation compensation for offtake constraints for reducing offtake risks.

The norms, the risk of generator's revenue getting blocked due to delayed payment/non-payment by the procurers has been addressed through provision of Payment Security Mechanism through instruments like Letter of Credit (LoC), Payment Security Credit and State Guarantee. - PTI

New guidelines for tariff-based competitive bidding process will reduce risk, enhance transparency and increase affordability of solar power

been kept at 25 years. Moreover, unilateral termination or amendment of PPA is not allowed, the statement said.

The guidelines also streamline the provision for project preparedness to expedite and facilitate the setting up of projects. Further, they provide for termination compensation to increase bankability of projects by securing the investment by the generator and the lenders against any arbitrary termination of PPA.

Under the norms, the risk of generator's revenue getting blocked due to delayed payment/non-payment by the procurers has been addressed through provision of Payment Security Mechanism through instruments like Letter of Credit (LoC), Payment Security Credit and State Guarantee. - PTI



Noted Assamese film actress Zerifa Wahid at the Hettich Exclusive Showroom after its inauguration in Guwahati on Saturday. - UB Photos

Ready to help 50 mn SMBs adopt intelligent cloud'

GURUGRAM (Haryana), Aug 26: As over 50 million Small and Medium Businesses (SMBs) in India look to move to a secure cloud, Microsoft with its end-to-end offerings with new-age capabilities – is set to help them evolve and adopt an “intelli-

gent” cloud, says Microsoft India President Anant Maheshwari.

Maheshwari, who believes that almost every company will eventually become a software one at some point of time with the fourth industrial revolution, an “intelligent” cloud will chart their digital journey.

“I am not going to debate that number. Whether it is 45 or 55 million, I don't think the strategies will change in terms of what you do to move on to cloud,” Maheshwari told IANS during a freewheeling chat at Microsoft's office here. - IANS



study summarises that it is upwards of 50 million. I am not going to debate that number. Whether it is 45 or 55 million, I don't think the strategies will change in terms of what you do to move on to cloud,” Maheshwari told IANS during a freewheeling chat at Microsoft's office here. - IANS

Govt sets up task force on artificial intelligence

NEW DELHI, Aug 26: The Union Commerce Ministry has formed a task force to explore the possibilities of putting artificial intelligence (AI) to use in hastening domestic economic transformation, an official said on Friday.

“Commerce Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who has constituted a task force on artificial intelligence (AI) for India's economic transformation, said that with rapid development in the fields of information technology and hardware, the world is about to witness a fourth industrial revolution.” A Commerce Ministry statement said here.

“Driven by power of big data, high comput-

ing capacity, artificial intelligence and analytics, Industry 4.0 aims to digitise the manufacturing sector,” the statement quoted her as saying.

The 18-member task force will comprise experts, academics, researchers and industry leaders, and will explore possibilities to leverage artificial intelligence for development across various fields, it added.

V Kamakoti from IIT-Madras will be the chairman of the task force, whose members include Anuj Kapuria from High Tech Robotics Systems Ltd, Anurag Agarwal from CSIR, GH Rao from HCL Technologies and Aloke Mukherjee from DRDO. - IANS

Economic transformation**Builders for more clarity on GST**

KOLKATA, Aug 26: Builders continue to face teething hurdles in the new GST regime and a representation is likely to be sent to the GST Council to seek for greater clarity.

“We welcome the new tax system. We have been experiencing some teething problems in the transition period. Amongst various issues that are disturbing the industry, the compliance for submitting GST returns is one,” Builders Association of India (East) chairman Subrata Das said here today.

He said construction com-

panies and contractors have several site offices and they need to transfer their machinery from one site to another and according to the GST law, transfer of machinery from one State to another will attract I-GST and it will impact

the cash flow.

“It is expected we will submit a comprehensive representation to the GST Council and States finance ministers by the end of next week after compiling the feedbacks from all the centres,” Das said. - PTI

Tata Motors working on alternative plans for Nano: COO

KOLKATA, Aug 26: Leading automobile manufacturer Tata Motors is now working on alternative plans for its small car Nano whose sales have fallen making its production an unlikely proposition, an official of the company said.

Asked about the future of Nano, Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Tata Motors Satish Borwankar said, “Going forward, alternative plans for Nano are being considered. For instance, the electric version of the car. The production of Nano is not a viable proposition.”

But he clarified that the company would not phase out Nano as there were sentimental reasons attached to it and the shareholders also wanted its production to continue. The official said that efforts would be made to make production of the small car viable.

After the company abandoned the Singur plant, Tata Motors shifted the production facility to Sanand in Gujarat.

“Around 1000 Nano cars are being sold every month at the moment,” he said. - PTI

CANCELLATION / SHORT TERMINATION OF TRAIN SERVICES

Due to unprecedented flood situation in Bihar, West Bengal and Assam causing extensive damage to the railway tracks, the following cancellations/short terminations are planned. This is in continuation of the notifications issued earlier.

(A) CANCELLATION: (1) 12042 New Jalpaiguri - Howrah Shatabdi express will remain cancelled on 26-08-2017, 29-08-2017, 30-08-2017 & 31-08-2017. (2) 12235 Dibrugarh-New Delhi Shatabdi express will remain cancelled on 26-08-2017, 29-08-2017, 30-08-2017 & 31-08-2017. (3) 12423 Dibrugarh-Town-New Delhi Rajdhani express will remain cancelled on 28-08-2017, 29-08-2017 & 30-08-2017. (4)

20143 Dibrugarh-Town-New Delhi Rajdhani express will remain cancelled on 28-08-2017, 29-08-2017 & 30-08-2017. (5) 12424 Dibrugarh-Town-New Delhi Rajdhani express will remain cancelled on 28-08-2017, 29-08-2017 & 30-08-2017. (6) 12346 Guwahati-Hooghly Saratighat express will remain cancelled on 28-08-2017, 29-08-2017, 30-08-2017 & 31-08-2017. (7) 12347 Dibrugarh-Silvassa Intercity express will remain cancelled on 28-08-2017, 29-08-2017 & 30-08-2017. (8) 12378 New Alipurduar-Sealdah Padatik express will remain cancelled on 28-08-2017, 29-08-2017 & 30-08-2017. (9) 12401 New Alipurduar-Kamakhya express will remain cancelled on 28-08-2017, 29-08-2017 & 30-08-2017. (10) 12501 Guwahati-New Delhi Poorvoorpoor Sampark Kranti express will remain cancelled on 28-08-2017, 29-08-2017 & 30-08-2017. (11) 12502 Guwahati-New Delhi Poorvoorpoor Sampark Kranti express will remain cancelled on 28-08-2017, 29-08-2017 & 30-08-2017. (12) 12505 Dibrugarh-Darjeeling Mail will remain cancelled on 28-08-2017, 29-08-2017 & 30-08-2017. (13) 12506 Dibrugarh-Silvassa Intercity express will remain cancelled on 28-08-2017, 29-08-2017 & 30-08-2017. (14) 12514 Guwahati-Scunderkund express will remain cancelled on 28-08-2017, 29-08-2017 & 30-08-2017. (15) 12516 Guwahati-Thivapuriexpress will remain cancelled on 28-08-2017, 29-08-2017 & 30-08-2017. (16) 12517 Guwahati-Ranaghat express will remain cancelled on 28-08-2017, 29-08-2017 & 30-08-2017. (17) 12520 Guwahati-Lokmanya Tilak Terminus express will remain cancelled on 28-08-2017, 29-08-2017 & 30-08-2017. (18) 12525 New Jalpaiguri-Hooghly express will remain cancelled on 28-08-2017, 29-08-2017 & 30-08-2017. (19) 12526 Dibrugarh-Silvassa Intercity express will remain cancelled on 28-08-2017, 29-08-2017 & 30-08-2017. (20) 12525 Guwahati-Kamakhya express will remain cancelled on 28-08-2017, 29-08-2017 & 30-08-2017. 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(101) 23191 Silchar-New Delhi Pravasi Kantarpur Kranti express will remain cancelled on 28-08-2017, 29-0

'Dera chief being treated as ordinary prisoner'

CHANDIGARH, Aug 26: No special treatment was being extended to Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh, who has been kept in Rohtak's Sunaria jail after his conviction in a rape case. Haryana DGP (Jails) KF Singh said today.

Four officials were on duty near his barrack in the jail to monitor his activities, the official said, a day after the self-styled godman was convicted of rape by a special CBI court in Panchkula.

"No special treatment is being given to him. He is being treated like any other ordinary prisoner. An ordinary prisoner sleeps on the floor and he too, is doing the same," Singh said today.

Every prisoner can give the names of any five persons he wants to meet. Gurmeet would be given the same facility like any other inmate, he said.

Jail officials will comply with whatever directions are given by the court after the quantum of sentence was pronounced on Monday, he added. Keeping a high-profile prisoner secure inside the jail is no doubt a challenge, he said in response to a question.

"That is why inside the jail we have made arrangements to ensure that no other prisoner harms him for any reason. Outside jail, we have already requested the local administration to secure the area and make adequate security arrangements."

Paramilitary forces have been deployed in strength outside the Sunaria jail as part of foot-of-security measures. Rohtak Deputy Commissioner Atul Kumar said today that their endeavour is to ensure that Rohtak district and the Sunaria jail remain secure. — PTI

Rajnath reviews Haryana security situation

NEW DELHI, Aug 26: Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh chaired a high-level meeting today to review the security situation in the country, particularly Haryana, and was told that the situation was under control, officials said.

A special CBI court in Panchkula yesterday convicted Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh of rape, triggering widespread violence that claimed at least 32 lives.

Emerging from the high-level meeting, Union Home Secretary Rajiv Mehrishi said the Director General of Haryana Police had assured the Central Government that the situation was under control now.

"Haryana, Punjab and Delhi have not seen many incidents today. Panchkula and Sirsa had a situation yesterday, but now the situation has normalised," he told reporters.

Asked whether the Haryana Government had failed to control the situation, Mehrishi said, "In an ongoing situation we cannot blame anyone." Home Ministry officials said Mehrishi and Intelligence Bureau chief Rajiv Jain gave detailed presentations about the situation in Haryana, Punjab, Chandigarh, Delhi, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and the chiefs of paramilitary personnel were also present at the meeting.

The Home Minister was apprised of the steps taken to

maintain law and order and reported in Haryana would be kept in control," the statement said.

Curfew has been imposed in several places in Haryana and Punjab, while prohibitory orders have been imposed in nine districts of Uttar Pradesh, all but two districts of Delhi and one district in Rajasthan following massive violence, an official said.

Apart from Haryana, there were reports of sporadic violence in Delhi yesterday in Punjab, Delhi and Rajasthan where police have taken precautionary measures to foil any attempt to disturb peace.

The situation in Haryana was assessed to present to be under control, though it is being carefully monitored. The Home Minister took note of the assurance of the DGP, Haryana that the law-and-order situation

in Haryana would be kept in control," the statement said.

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Security for complainants in Dera chief case sought

NEW DELHI, Aug 26: The All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA) has demanded that security be provided to the two original complainants in the case against the Dera Sacha Sauda chief, who was convicted by a CBI court.

The AIDWA, in a press statement, said, that in the wake of the widespread violence in Punjab and Haryana, the two women should be given adequate security.

"Both the Centre and the Haryana Government have failed miserably in anticipating the violence and in maintaining law and order. The AIDWA appeals to all for immediate restoration of peace," the statement said.

Congratulating the two women, the AIDWA, the women's wing of the CPI(M), said that they had bravely stood all pressures, threats and intimidation" which were used to dissuade them from continuing with their struggle.

"The AIDWA has been consistently supporting the victims in their 15-year-long harrowing ordeal. AIDWA demands that the Government must give full protection to the victims," the statement said.

Alleging that political parties were in collusion with the Dera chief, the AIDWA said that it was "political patronage" that allowed the self-styled godman to violate laws. "It is condemnable that various political parties for electoral gains have protected the Dera chief and have deliberately delayed the women's quest for justice," it said.

"It is a matter of record that Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself had showered praise on the Dera chief to get the votes of his supporters. It is precisely this type of political patronage that has encouraged various so-called gurus to brazenly violate the law of the land with impunity," it added. — PTI

Naidu condemns Dera violence

AMARAVATI, Aug 26: Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu today condemned as "unacceptable," the large-scale violence in Punjab and Haryana triggered by the conviction of Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh in a rape case.

He also said "some people" indicted violence in the name of religion, language or region and the challenge was to rid the country of discrimination and inequalities.

Naidu was speaking at a civic reception hosted by the Andhra Pradesh Government here this afternoon. — PTI

NO.RLA-147/2017/18	FORM 'D' NOTICE Under Section 6(1) of the Assam Land Requisition and Acquisition Act, 1964 (A.L.A. Case No. 229/13).	Dated : 21.7.2017
It is hereby notified that in pursuance of Section 6(1) of the Assam Land (Requisition and Acquisition) Act, 1964 (Assam Act XV of 1964), the Governor of Assam is pleased to decide the acquisition with effect from the date of publication of this notice of the land requisitioned under Section 3(1) of the said Act as per schedule below, measuring as area 106-02K-17 La/Ottibates in Mousa/Pargana - Sissi, Village- Sill Asomia in the Dhemaji district of Assam.		
SCHEDULE		
District: Dhemaji, Mousa/Pargana: Sissiborgao, Boundaries of the land:- Village: Sill Asomia (File No. DLA. 6/2013)		
A.P. No. No. 144, 259, 260, 261, 266, 162, 264, 267, 268, 269, 270		
Area: 106-02K-17Ls		
BOUNDARY		
Block - "B" North: Day No. 158 East: Day No. 167 South: Day No. 47 West: Day No. 47		
Block - "C" North: Day No. 235 East: Day No. 167 South: Day No. 161 West: Day No. 161		
Block - "D" North: Day No. 235 East: Day No. 167 South: Day No. 161 West: Day No. 161		
Total Area: 106-02K-17 (Ten) Bigha-03 Rupi (Katha-17) (Seventeen) Laca of land.		
Sd/- District Collector & Deputy Commissioner, Dhemaji		
Sd/- Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Assam Revenue (LR) Department Janasanyog/C/3001/7		

NO.RLA-150/2017/19	FORM 'D' NOTICE Under Section 6(1) of the Assam Land Requisition and Acquisition Act, 1964 (A.L.A. Case No. 229/2012).	Dated : 21.7.2017
It is hereby notified that in pursuance of Section 6(1) of the Assam Land (Requisition and Acquisition) Act, 1964 (Assam Act XV of 1964), the Governor of Assam is pleased to decide the acquisition with effect from the date of publication of this notice of the land requisitioned under Section 3(1) of the said Act as per schedule below, measuring as area 498-04K-05 Leasa/Ottibates in Mousa/Pargana - Sissi, Village- Bhagaban Borgorai in the Dhemaji district of Assam.		
SCHEDULE OF LAND		
District: Dhemaji, Mousa/Pargana: Sissiborgao, Boundaries of the land:- Village: Bhagaban Borgorai (File No. DLA.02/2012)		
P.P. No. 1 (Gramabasi) A.P. No. 5.87.8.9, 19 & 11		
Day No. 2 (Kha), 201, 2 (Gal), 188 (Kh), 199 (Kh), 201 (Kh), 202 (Kh), 198 (Kh), 199 (Kh), 200 (Kh), 201 (Kh), 202 (Kh), 203 (Kh), 185 (Kh), 191 (Kh), 192 (Kh), 193 (Kh), 194 (Kh), 195 (Kh), 196 (Kh), 197 (Kh), 198 (Kh), 199 (Kh), 190 (Kh), 189 (Kh), 188 (Kh), 187 (Kh)		
Area: 498-04K-05 (One) Leasa		
Boundaries of the land:- Block - "B" North: Day No. 235 East: Day No. 167 South: Day No. 161 West: Day No. 161		
Block - "C" North: Day No. 235 East: Day No. 167 South: Day No. 161 West: Day No. 161		
Block - "D" North: Day No. 235 East: Day No. 167 South: Day No. 161 West: Day No. 161		
Total Area: 498-04K-05 (One) Leasa of land.		
Sd/- District Collector & Deputy Commissioner, Dhemaji		
Sd/- Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Assam Revenue (LR) Department Janasanyog/C/2997/17		

Sedition cases filed against Dera supporters

CHANDIGARH, Aug 26: A day after 32 people died and hundreds injured in violence following the conviction of Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh, the Haryana Government claimed today that peace had been restored throughout the State.

Meanwhile, two cases of sedition have been registered against the Dera chief's followers, Haryana Chief Secretary DS Dhesi said and added that one child and three women were among the 28 persons who died in Panchkula yesterday.

"Peace is prevailing throughout the State and no incident has occurred anywhere after 6.30 pm yesterday," Dhesi told a press conference here.

These also said that proper security arrangements had been made for Monday, when the quantum of Singh's sentence will be announced by the CBI court.

Addressing the violence following the delivery of the verdict against the Dera chief in Panchkula yesterday did not include any local resident, he said.

Dhesi also said that casualties during the violence following the delivery of the verdict against the Dera chief in Panchkula yesterday did not include any local resident.

Haryana law officer sacked

CHANDIGARH, Aug 26: The Haryana Government today sacked Haryana's Deputy Advocate General (DAG) for "accompeting" Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh after the Dera Sacha Sauda chief's conviction in a rape case. The State Government terminated the services of DAG Gurdas Salwara on recommendations of Haryana's Advocate General Baldev Raj Mahajan.

"It is found that yesterday the DAG accompanied the baba," Mahajan said. He added the DAG was a government servant and was not allowed to practise such things.

The action from the AG office came in the wake of a video clip purportedly showing the DAG in lawyer's robes carrying a suitcase of the Dera head after his conviction by a CBI court in Panchkula yesterday. — PTI

"In all, 28 persons including 24 men, three women and one child, were killed during the violence in Panchkula, whereas three persons were killed in Sirsa. As many as 250 persons were injured, including 50 police personnel. Of them, 101 persons have been referred to hospitals outside Panchkula for treatment whereas 31 have been discharged," he said.

As many as 524 persons have been arrested under eight different FIRs registered against the Dera chief's followers, Haryana Chief Secretary DS Dhesi said and added that one child and three women were among the 28 persons who died in Panchkula yesterday.

"Peace is prevailing throughout the State and no incident has occurred anywhere after 6.30 pm yesterday," Dhesi told a press conference here.

These also said that proper security arrangements had been made for Monday, when the quantum of Singh's sentence will be announced by the CBI court.

Dhesi also said that casualties during the violence following the delivery of the verdict against the Dera chief in Panchkula yesterday did not include any local resident.

No immediate plan to enter Dera HQ: Army

manding (GOC), 33 Armoured Division, Rajpal Punia said in a media briefing.

His remarks came after Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Ran Niwas today said that a search of all "congregation centres" of Dera Sacha Sauda in Haryana has been ordered.

Punia said that there is a high level of coordination among the police, paramilitary and Army personnel on the ground and there is no plan so far to enter the Dera headquarters.

"There is no plan so far to enter the Dera headquarters. We are focusing on maintenance of law and order presently," General Officer Com-

EDUCATIONAL NOTICE

COUNSELING FOR SELECTION OF CANDIDATES FOR ADMISSION INTO 1ST YEAR MBBS/BDS COURSES IN THE MEDICAL COLLEGES OF ASSAM AND R.D.C., GUWAHATI: SESSION 2017

Reference:- Order dated 25/08/2017 passed by the Hon'ble Gauhati High Court, Guwahati in WP(C) No. 4058/2017 and WP(C) No. 4174/2017 and related cases.

In reference to the above and in cancellation of all earlier counseling and admission process and notifications in respect of admission into MBBS/BDS courses in the Medical Colleges of Assam and RDC, Guwahati for the session 2017, the following is notified:-

This is for general information to all the candidates who applied for admission into the 1st year MBBS/BDS courses in the Medical Colleges of Assam / RDC, Guwahati and those who qualified in the NEET (UG), 2017 and are, enlisted in Assam State merit list that a counseling shall be held on 28th August, 2017 as per list and schedule below. the candidates are to appear before the selection board for selection and spot admission provisionally subject to the fulfillment of the prescribed eligibility criteria as per MBBS/BDS Admission Rule, 2015 of the Medical Colleges & RDC, Guwahati. Candidates admitted earlier should bring proof of admission (Money receipt of admission fees). However, the candidates appearing the counseling for the first time shall have to bring the original documents i.e. Mark sheet of 10+2 (Sc) examination, Pass Certificates, PRC, Caste Certificate, Age proof certificate, Score card of NEET, 2017, etc. along with a set of photocopies of all these documents.

Candidates are requested to go through the "Medical Colleges of Assam and Regional Dental College, Guwahati (Regulation of Admission in the 1st year MBBS/BDS courses) Rules 2015" as per above mentioned court orders. The said rules as well as breakup of seats will be available in office website: www.dmeassam.gov.in

The candidates within the first 3 (Three) positions in the Higher Secondary (Science) Examination, 2017 of Assam Higher Secondary Education Council securing not less than 50% marks in NEET UG, 2017 are eligible for appearing in the counseling for admission.

Date of Counseling. - 28th August, 2017.

Time of Counseling:- 10.00 am

Venue of Counseling:- Directorate of Medical Education, Assam, Sixmile, Khanapara, Ghy-22

Categorise wise candidates called for counseling from Assam State merit list of NEET UG, 2017 are shown below:

- (A) Position Holders in HSSLC (Science) Examination, 2017 from AHSEC.
- (B) Person with disability (Dibyang) (PH) quota:-All candidates who have applied under this category and who have qualified NEET (UG)-2017.
- (C) All candidates according to merit Rank from 1 to 500 as General merit.
- (D) OBC/MOBC category upto Rank 920.
- (E) ST/PH category upto Rank 2500.
- (F) ST/H category upto Rank 5700.
- (G) SCHEDULE CASTE category upto Rank 1250.
- (H) FREEDOM FIGHTERS QUOTA upto Rank 1150.
- (I) CHAR AREA QUOTA upto Rank 500.
- (J) EX-SERVICEMEN & SERVING DEFENCE PERSONAL QUOTA upto Rank 800.
- (K) All Candidates of MARTYRS QUOTA who obtained qualifying Marks in NEET (UG)-2017.
- (L) All Candidates of MORAN COMMUNITY who obtained qualifying Marks in NEET (UG)-2017.
- (M) All Candidates of MOTAK COMMUNITY who obtained qualifying Marks in NEET (UG)-2017.
- (N) All Candidates of NOKHRI COMMUNITY who obtained qualifying Marks in NEET (UG)-2017.
- (O) All Candidates of TGL/Ex-TGL CATEOTORY upto Rank 3045.

Sd/- Prof. (Dr.) A. K. Barman,

Director of Medical Education, Assam

Janasanyog/C/3008/17



Dance to beat the age clock!

Dancing to your favourite beats may reverse the signs of ageing, says a study

Want to stay young for long? A daily bout of physical exercise, especially dancing, can help reverse the signs of ageing in the brain as well as delay the onset of age-related diseases like Alzheimer's, according to a study.

It is known that physical exercise has the beneficial effect of slowing down or even counteracting age-related decline in mental and physical capacity.

However, the new study demonstrated that dancing has the most profound anti-ageing effect on the brain in the elderly.

It also helps increase balance as well as improve sensorimotor, visual and vestibular information – the three involved sensory systems.

While "physical activity is one of the lifestyle factors that can counteract several risk factors and slowing down age-related decline, I think dancing is a powerful tool to set new challenges for body and mind, especially in older age", said lead author Kathrin Rehfeld, from the German Centre for Neurodegenerative Diseases, Germany.

Balancing is an important everyday function, crucial for social mobility. Impaired balance often results in falls, which constitute a major health risk factor with consequences both on mobility and even mortality) as well as healthcare costs.

The study, published in the journal *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*, the team recruited elderly volunteers, with an average age of 68, who were assigned either an eighteen-month weekly course of learning dance routines or endurance and flexibility training.

The traditional fitness training programme conducted mainly repetitive exercises such as cycling or Nordic walking but the dance group were challenged with different genres such as jazz, square, Latin-American and line dance.

The results showed that both groups showed an increase in the hippocampus – region of the brain prone to age-related decline and is affected by diseases like Alzheimer's.

But "it was only dancing that led to noticeable behavioural changes in terms of improved balance", Rehfeld said. – IANS

Kids	Entertainment	Movies
<p>13:00 Kretschu 17:00 Happy! 10! 16:00 Pihu No. 21 20:30 Krasava 21:00 The Powerpuff Girls 21:30 Soccer Show 22:00 Penny Brown 22:30 Dragon Ball Z 14:00 Rez Rez Festival... 15:30 Chhota Bheem</p>	<p>14:00 Reign 22:00 House of Cards 14:00 The Kapil Sharma Show 20:00 The Drama Company 21:00 The Kapil Sharma Show 22:00 D.I.D. 23:00 Crime Patrol - Satark 14:00 LifeOK 22:00 SVF 14:00 SVF 22:00 Sandeep India 23:00 Chandrika Prema Ya... 22:00 Sandeep India</p>	<p>13:00 The Conjuring 2 15:00 XXX: Return of Xander Cage 19:15 The Legend of Tarzan 21:00 The Conjuring 2 22:00 1000 Birds</p>
<p>16:30 Rez Rez 1 20:30 Krasava 21:00 The Powerpuff Girls 21:30 Soccer Show 22:00 Penny Brown 22:30 Dragon Ball Z 14:00 Rez Rez Festival... 15:30 Chhota Bheem</p>	<p>13:00 India's Best Judo 16:30 Sa Re Ga Ma Pa LT... 17:00 Mahabali 20:00 Superhero 21:00 Fear Factor Khatron Ke... 22:00 Dev 23:00 Fear Factor Khatron Ke...</p>	<p>14:00 Star Movies 21:00 Titanic 14:00 Star Movies 21:00 Star Movies 22:00 Star Movies</p>
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N Korea fires missiles into Sea of Japan



SEOUL, Aug 26: North Korea launched at least three short-range ballistic missiles that landed in the Sea of Japan, South Korean and the US military said on Saturday.

The missiles were launched from the eastern province of Kangwon at 6.49 am and travelled roughly 250 km before plunging into the sea, according to South Korea's

joint chiefs of staff, Efe reported.

The US Pacific Command confirmed the launches, adding that "the first and third missiles failed in flight", while the second "appears to have blown up almost immediately".

The statements added that the launches "did not pose a threat to North America" or Guam.

The launch comes as the US and

South Korean armies are conducting annual joint military drills known as "Ulchi Freedom Guardian" in South Korea, which began on Monday.

It was not immediately clear whether the missiles were short or long range. South Korea's presidential office has convened a meeting of its National Security Council to discuss this matter.

This launch is the first since a nocturnal test was carried out on July 28, in which an intercontinental ballistic missile was fired into the Sea of Japan, provoking a new round of UN sanctions and rebukes from the international community.

North Korea responded by threatening to bomb the waters surrounding the US territory of Guam, which led to one of the most serious escalations in hostile rhetoric between Washington and Pyongyang in recent years. –IANS

US urges Myanmar to avoid reprisals after attacks kill 89

YANGON, Aug 26: An attack by ethnic Rohingya militants in western Myanmar left 12 security personnel and 77 Rohingya Muslims dead in a dramatic escalation of communal violence that has plagued the region, as the US urged authorities to avoid a response that would inflame the tensions.

The office of the country's leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, said yesterday that military and border police responded to the attacks by launching "clearance operations."

Police fought off groups of as many as 100 Rohingya attackers armed with guns, machetes and homemade grenades. The captured weapons were shown in pictures posted online by the government.

A witness in Maungdaw township in Rakhine state, contacted by phone, said soldiers entered her village at about 10 am yesterday, burned homes and property, and shot dead at least 10 people.

The witness, who asked to be identified by her nickname, Emmar, because of fear of retribution, said villagers fled in many directions but mostly to a nearby mountain range. She said gunshots and explosions could be heard and smoke could still



be seen Friday evening.

A militant group, the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army, or ARSA, took responsibility for the Thursday night attacks of more than 25 locations, saying they were in defense of Rohingya communities that had been brutalized by government forces. It issued its statement on Twitter on an account deemed legitimate by advocates of Rohingya rights.

Suu Kyi called the attacks "a calculated attempt to undermine the efforts of those seeking to build peace and harmony in Rakhine state."

State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said in Washington that as security forces act to prevent

further violence and bring the perpetrators to justice, they should respect the rule of law and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms.

She said the attacks underscored the importance of the government implementing recommendations of a commission chaired by former UN chief Kofi Annan, which published its final report on Thursday recommending that the government act quickly to improve economic development and social justice in Rakhine state to resolve violence between Buddhists and the Rohingya.

Suu Kyi's office said on its Facebook page that the attacks were intended to coincide with the release of Annan's report. – AP

Man attacks cop outside Buckingham Palace, terror probe launched

LONDON, Aug 26: A 26-year-old sword-wielding man attacked and wounded three police officers outside Buckingham Palace in London before being arrested, prompting Scotland Yard to launch a terror investigation.

The man initially held on suspicion of grievous bodily harm (GBH) and assault on police has now been arrested under the UK's Terrorism Act 2000, the Metropolitan Police said.

"A car deliberately drove at a police van and stopped in front of it in a restricted area on Constitution Hill near Buckingham Palace. The officers, who were unarmed police constables and from Westminster borough, got out of the van and approached the car, a blue Toyota Prius," the police said.

"As they challenged the driver, who was the only occupant in the car, he reached for what we now know to be a four-foot sword

which was in the front passenger foot well," said.

During a struggle, three officers sustained minor injuries. The man, who repeatedly shouted Allah Akbar, was incapacitated with tear gas.

Two of the officers were taken by ambulance to hospital with minor cuts and discharged a short time later. The third officer did not require hospital treatment.

The suspect was taken to a London hospital for treatment of minor injuries and has now been taken to a central London police station for questioning.

"No members of the public at the scene are believed had any interaction with the arrested man. There are no other reported injuries," the Met Police said. Queen Elizabeth II and other members of the royal family were not in Buckingham Palace at the time.

The 91-year-old monarch is at

Balmoral Castle in Scotland and other senior members of the royal family are also away during the summer holiday season in the UK.

A Palace spokesperson said the summer opening hours and tours of the Queen's London Residence will go ahead on schedule, adding that it will be "business as usual".

Commander Dean Haydon, the head of the Met's Counter Terrorism Command said, "Officers from the Counter Terrorism Command are now investigating and searches are being carried out in the Luton area today.

"We believe the man was acting alone and we are not looking for other suspects at this stage. While we cannot speculate on what the man was intending to do - this will be determined during the course of the investigation - it is only right that we investigate this as a terrorist incident at this time," he said. – PTI



An Israeli soldier reacts during clashes with Palestinian protesters following a protest against the nearby Jewish settlement of Qadomem, in the West Bank village of Kofr Qadom near Nablus, on Friday. – UNI



Smoke rises during clashes between joint troops of Iraqi army and Shi'ite Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) against ISIS militants in Tal Afar, Iraq on Saturday. – UNI

Iraq retakes Tal Afar citadel from ISIS

BAGHDAD, Aug 26: Iraqi forces have driven the ISIS from central Tal Afar and its historic citadel, they said today, placing them on the verge of fully recapturing one of the last IS strongholds in the country.

The advance, just days into an assault on the strategic town, comes six weeks after Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi declared victory over the jihadists in second city Mosul, where the jihadist group declared its "caliphate" in 2014.

"Units of the Counter-Terrorism Service liberated the Citadel and Basatin districts and raised the Iraqi flag on top of the citadel," operation commander General Abdulamir Yarallah said in a statement.

The CTS and federal police units

had also seized three northern districts and the Al-Ruba neighbourhood west of the citadel, a day after taking the district of Al-Talas to the south.

Clashes were ongoing on the northern outskirts and Iraqi forces were dealing with final pockets of jihadis inside the city. Yarallah said.

Government troops and units of the Hashid al-Shaabi paramilitary coalition, backed by a US-led coalition against IS, launched the assault on Sunday after weeks of coalition and Iraqi air strikes. Tal Afar sits on a strategic route between ISIS-controlled territories in Syria and Mosul, 70 kilometres further east.

Progress there has been far more rapid than in Mosul, Iraq's second city, which fell to Iraqi forces in July

after a grueling nine-month battle. Officials have said they hope to announce victory in Tal Afar by Eid al-Adha, the Muslim holiday set to start in Iraq on September 2.

Most of Tal Afar's 200,000 residents, the majority of them Shiite Turkmen whose beliefs are anathema to the Sunni hardliners of ISIS, fled as the jihadis arrived.

Pro-government forces faced an obstacle course of roads blocked with earth embankments and strategically-parked trucks, as well as sniper fire and mortar shelling.

Troops also said they discovered a network of underground tunnels used by the jihadis to launch attacks behind lines of already conquered territory, or to escape. – AFP



Local immigrants rights organizations gather to protest in Phoenix, Arizona, US on Friday, after former Arizona sheriff Joe Arpaio was pardoned by US President Trump. – UNI

Venezuela war games in 'warning to Trump'

CARACAS, Aug 26: Venezuela kicks off two days of military drills today in response to US President Donald Trump's threat of military action and newly announced sanctions on the crisis-stricken nation.

Trump warned on August 11 that the United States was mulling a range of options against Venezuela, "including a possible military option if necessary."

His Vice President Mike Pence laid down the threat, insisting that Washington was prioritising a diplomatic solution and economic sanctions.

National security advisor HR

McMaster followed suit, saying "no military actions are anticipated in the near future."

But tension only surged again when the White House made good on the sanctions threat on Friday, unveiling its first-ever sanctions to target Venezuela as a whole, rather than just Maduro and his inner circle.

The measures ban trade in new bonds issued by the Venezuelan government or its cash-cow oil company, PDVSA.

That could choke off access to New York debt markets and substantially raise the likelihood of

Venezuela being forced into default. Venezuela called the measures the "worst aggression" yet.

"We will protect our people and the people of the republic, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, are going to stand up," said Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza.

Trump's threat of military force has bolstered Maduro's oft-repeated claim that Washington is plotting to topple him and wants to grab control of Venezuela's oil—the largest proven reserves in the world.

Maduro is under international pressure over his handling of an economic and political crisis.

The socialist president is resisting opposition calls for early elections to replace him.

The center-right-led opposition and international powers including the US say he is turning Venezuela into a dictatorship.

Maduro's opponents accuse military police and pro-Maduro militia of beating and killing anti-government protesters.

Protest clashes have left 125 people dead so far this year, according to prosecutors.

Maduro says the violence and the economic crisis are a US-backed conspiracy. – AFP

New augmented reality system to guide plastic surgery



consideration in plastic surgery.

Initial experience in eight cases suggests that augmented reality (AR) could be a useful guide to planning, performing and evaluating the results of facial reconstruction and other procedures, they said.

Augmented reality is a technology that combines computer-generated images on a screen with a real object or scene. "We sought to develop a sophis-

ticated yet simple and modifiable AR technique for use during plastic and reconstructive surgery," said Kaichi Ueda and Daisuke Mitsumori from Osaka Medical College.

Researchers used a high-definition digital camera to capture 3D image of the facial surface and computed tomography scans to obtain digital information on the underlying facial bones for each patient.

These digital data were then manipulated to create 3D simulations of the ideal final results.

For example, in a patient with a fractured cheekbone, the reconstruction was simulated by obtaining and reversing an image of the opposite, uninjured bone. – PTI

India eye series win, Sri Lanka seek revival

PALLEKELE, Aug 26: India will fancy their chances of wrapping up the five-match series when they lock horns with a beleaguered Sri Lanka in the third One-day International here tomorrow.

The visitors have a 2-0 lead in the series and can wrap up the contest with another win here before leaving for the last leg of the tour in Colombo.

India recovered from a precarious 131 for seven to record only their second win at the Pallekele International Cricket ground.

The men in Blue haven't played much ODI cricket here, and Thursday's match was only their second at this venue, having played previously in 2012. It does reflect on their hundred percent record here, and the short two-day gap between the second and third ODIs will help them take the winning momentum forward.

The big question is if skipper Virat Kohli will continue with his bold approach when it comes to team strategy, if not

team selection.

Ahead of the second ODI, he had outlined the need to give ample opportunity to the youngsters in the side, particularly the bowlers. As such, it is only to be expected that Axar Patel and Yuzvendra Chahal will continue to be front-line spinners then.

However, the complication in the 231-run chase in the second ODI occurred due to a shuffle in the batting order. After a great start, Kohli sent in KL Rahul and Kedar Jadhav ahead at number 3 and 4 respectively. The mini-experiment failed spectacularly, mostly because they couldn't read Akila Dananjay's googlies properly.

Jadhav's impulsive shot making during a three-ball stay also didn't go unnoticed.

Again then, it is a wonder if Kohli will experiment again tomorrow. The Indian skipper might just revert to the original batting order and close out the series before ring-

ing any changes in the last two ODIs in Colombo. In doing so though, he will be departing from his claims of 'making unpredictable changes despite facing defeat'.

All said and done, India's collapse on Thursday has brought this additional (but welcome) interesting twist to the equation here.

There is also the toss factor. Kohli won his fifth consecutive toss on this tour, and

TEAMS (FROM)

India: Virat Kohli (capt), Shikhar Dhawan, Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul, Manish Pandey, Ajinkya Rahane, Kedar Jadhav, MS Dhoni (wk), Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Jasprit Bumrah, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Shardul Thakur.

Sri Lanka: Chamara Kapugedara (capt), Dinesh Chandimal, Lahiru Thirimanne, Angelo Mathews, Niroshon Dickwella (wk), Danushka Gunathilaka, Kusal Mendis, Chamara Kapugedara, Milinda Siriwardena, Malinda Pushpakumara, Akila Dananjaya, Lakshman Sandakan, Thisara Perera, Wanindu Hasaranga, Lasith Malinga, Dushmantha Chameera, Vishwa Fernando, Upul Tharanga (fifth ODI).

MATCH START AT 2.30 PM

As concerns changes to the playing combination, Hardik Pandya is in focus. In the lead-up to the second ODI, the all-rounder wore a light strap on his left knee, though the team management assured his full fitness. Later in the game, he will pull up with issues on the same left leg.

While it appeared to be a calf problem for him, due to which he left the field on three occasions, again the team management outlined this as a cramp issue and not a major worry.

Pandya's availability for the third ODI then remains a question mark at best. Even if cramped yet fully fit, will he be given the extended limited-overs' schedule India have until December? If not, then Kuldeep Yadav or Shardul Thakur could come into the reckoning as the fifth bowler, unluckily again for Manish Panday as India will need someone to bowl Pandya's 10 overs.

While India could yet field an unchanged combination, there are bound to be fur-

ther changes for the Sri Lankan playing XI. Upul Tharanga has been handed a two-match suspension for slow over-rate for the second test since the Champions Trophy in June, and he will sit out the next two ODIs.

It could be a blessing in disguise as the skipper was suffering from a poor run of form, and the attacking Dinesh Chandimal, included in the Lankan squad, is expected to slot into Tharanga's no.4 spot.

Surprisingly enough, the Test skipper will not be leading Sri Lanka here or in Colombo whilst Tharanga sits on the sidelines.

Instead, Chamara Kapugedara will do the honours as he was given the responsibility of being the vice-captain in the first two matches. There will also be an additional change as Lahiru Thirimanne is expected to open with Niroshon Dickwella, after Danushka Gunathilaka injured his shoulder whilst fielding in the second ODI. – PTI

'Rooney's decision to leave United understandable'

MANCHESTER, Aug 26: Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho said Wayne Rooney left the club for Everton as he wanted to play again for his boyhood team and be closer to his family.

"He told me the night before, and I am ready to tell him I agree or not, do it or don't do it. I just listen to his reasons and understand his reasons."

"He did it for Everton, for his family, so I have no complaints," Mourinho was quoted as saying by ESPNFC on Friday.

Rooney is England and United's all-time top scorer. For Everton, the 31-year-old has found the lack of the net twice in two games forcing national team manager Gareth Southgate to recall him into the squad for the World Cup qualifiers. But Rooney decided to call it a day. – IANS

Sociedad thump Villarreal 3-0; Betis edge Celta 2-1

SAN SEBASTIAN (Spain), Aug 26: Spanish club Real Sociedad dominated visiting Villarreal 3-0 in a duel of Europa League competitors.

Willian Jose started the scoring for Sociedad in the 24th minute, converting a Mikkel Damsgaard corner. The home side went up 2-0 nine minutes later as a goal by Xabi Prieto playing his 500th match for the club.

The third goal came in the final minute of half-final regulation, as Villarreal were caught napping by Arizt with a quick free kick from his own half that released Juanmi Jimenez to chip the ball over keeper Andre Fernandez, who was injured on the play.

Villarreal showed more ambition in the second half, but their execution was poor and Sociedad's lead was never really in danger.

In Sevilla, Celta took a 1-0 lead in the 10th minute on a strike by summer acquisition Maxi Gomez. Sergio Leon equalized for Betis in the 31st minute and Zouhair Fedad delivered the winning goal for the hosts with 13 minutes left in regulation. – IANS

Federer, Nadal in same half of US Open; Sharapova starts against Halep

NEW YORK, Aug 26: Spanish top seed Rafael Nadal and Swiss third seed Roger Federer are in the same half of the US Open men's singles draw – released Friday – and could meet in the semifinals. On the other hand, Russian Maria Sharapova, playing her first major tennis tournament since returning from a doping suspension, will square off in the first round against Romanian second seed Simona Halep.

A match-up between Nadal and Federer – arch-rivals, all-time greats and winners of the first three Grand Slam events of 2017 – would be their first-ever meeting at Flushing Meadows, reports Efe.

Nadal leads their career head-to-head 23-14 but Federer has won their last four matches, three of which were played on hard court this season: in the

Australian Open final, the Indian Wells round of 16 and the Miami Open final.

Nadal will take on Serbia's Dusan Lajovic in the first round, while seventh-seeded Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov, fresh off capturing his first-ever ATP World Tour Masters 1000 title in Cincinnati, looms as a possible quarterfinal opponent.

Federer, meanwhile, has a tricky draw that begins

blockbuster round-of-16 contest. Second-seed Andy Murray of Scotland, who has been

and French No. 16 seed Lucas Pouille the biggest threats on paper.

and could face Russia eighth seed Svetlana Kuznetsova in the quarterfinals and Ukrainian fourth seed Elina Svitolina in the semifinals.

But the big story is in the bottom section, where the second seed Halep has been drawn in the first round against Sharapova, a five-time Grand Slam champion who is playing her first major tournament since returning earlier this year from a 15-month doping suspension.

Sharapova received a wild card into the main draw from the United States Tennis Association (USTA).

Spanish third seed and reigning Wimbledon champion Garbine Muguruza is in the same quarter of the draw with American ninth seed Venus Williams and Danish fifth seed Carolina Wozniacki. – IANS

Khan fears for McGregor in Mayweather bout

LAS VEGAS, Aug 26: British boxer Amir Khan fears Conor McGregor could suffer serious injury as the Irishman prepares to face Floyd Mayweather here today.

Former light-welterweight world champion Khan told the MMA television show yesterday he believed mixed martial arts star McGregor could be hurt in what he expects will be a one-sided meeting with Mayweather in Las Vegas.

McGregor has never fought in a professional boxing contest and is a huge underdog again-

ing Mayweather, a 49-0 fighter regarded as one of the best boxers in history.

"It's like a tennis player trying to play badminton," Khan said.

"So he (McGregor) should

not show too much balls in this fight. If he starts getting a heavy step out man," he added.

"He needs to think about him-
self in this fight, because if he gets seriously injured, he might not ever be the same fighter or he might not even fight again."

Khan's fears reflect wider misgivings by some in the boxing

community who believe Saturday's money-spinning superfight should never have been sanctioned on safety grounds.

The head of the Association of Ringside Physicians, Larry Lovre-
cic, is among those who believe Nevada should not have granted a licence to the fight.

"We were very surprised this bout was even sanctioned and was going to be permitted to carry on," Lovre-
cic said.

"The thing I really fear, truly fear, is that somebody's going to get really hurt."

The Nevada State Athletic Commission, which sanctioned the fight, has a financial interest in the fight going ahead, earning a slice of the gross ticket receipts.

With the bout expected to bring in more than \$60 million at the gate, the commission could earn as much as \$1.2 million.

But Bob Bennett, the executive director of the commission, hit back at suggestions of a conflict of interest.

"As a regulator, I take of-
fense to the fact that we're ap-
proving this fight for fiduciary
reasons," Bennett said.

"That's totally unfair, and it's
simply not true." – AFP

West Indies 19-1 against England's 258 on close of first day

LEEDS, Aug 26: West Indies were 19 for one in reply to England's first-innings 258, a deficit of 239 runs, at stumps on the first day of the second Test at Headingley last night.

Kraigg Brathwaite was 13 not out and nightwatchman Devendra Bishoo one not out.

Earlier, England all-round-
er Ben Stokes made exactly 100 and captain Joe Root, who won the toss, was 59 as he led his country for the first time on his Yorkshire home ground.

Both batsmen, however, were dropped in the slips on single figures.

All-rounder Stokes was dropped for a second time on 98 when his chance was shelled at mid-on. Those three misses, which equalled to 142 runs, took the edge off an improved West Indies bowling effort.

Recalled fast bowler Shan-
non Gabriel took four wickets for 51 runs in 17 overs and new-ball partner Kemar Roach four for 71 in 19.5.

England lead the three-
match series 1-0 after an in-
nings and 209-run victory in the
inaugural day/night Test in Britain completed inside three days at Edgbaston last week.

Both the second Test at Headingley and the series finale at Lord's are taking place during standard hours with a conventional red ball.

SCORECARD

England 1st Innings: A Cook c & b Hope; G Gabriel 11, M Root c & b Broad; J Bairstow c & b Root; J Root c & b Broad; B Bishop 59, J Root b Holder 8, B Stokes c Downich b Gabriel 2, M All c Chase b Roach 22, C Woakes c

Dowrich b Roach 23, S Broad b Gabriel 6, J Bairstow c & b Broad; Ex-
ton 45, wk 402 11 Total 258. Fall of wicks-
ets: 1-19, 2-26, 3-37, 4-71, 5-140,
6-152, 7-220, 8-258, 9-259, 10-258.

West Indies 1st Innings: K Brathwaite 13, R Poole 13, P Cowdrey 10, J Douglas 10, not out. Extras: 1. Total 1 wkt, 12 overs 19. Fall of wicks-
ets: 1-11, Bowling: Anderson 6-3-5-1; Broad 5-1-12-0; Woakes 1-0-2-0. – AFP



England batsman Ben Stokes raises his bat after completing his century against West Indies on the opening day of the 2nd Test at Leeds, on Friday.

SU DO KU

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

Solution of last problem

1	2	7	9	8	3	5	6
6	9	7	5	4	2	1	7
2	6	8	8	3	0	7	4
9	8	4	2	7	1	5	6
7	3	1	6	5	4	9	2
5	4	9	8	3	7	2	1
2	7	6	5	3	8	0	9
3	2	0	1	6	4	9	8

CM unveils U-17 WC winner's trophy

SPORTS REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 26: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal in a brief function at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium, Sarusajai here today unveiled the FIFA U-17 World Cup Winner's Trophy.

He also launched the host city logo of Guwahati for the upcoming FIFA U-17 World Cup.

Guwahati will host Group E along with three other matches, including a semifinal of the championship which will be held in six cities from October 6 to 28.

The host city logo blends the components and sentiments relevant to the people of Guwahati.

The glittering Trophy will be kept at the Judges Field for a Mission XI Million festival tomorrow morning, and for public viewing from 11 am onwards.

Speaking on the occasion Chief Minister Sonowal said, "Hosting the FIFA U-17 World Cup is a big occasion for the entire North-eastern region,



Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, in presence of Sports Minister Naba Kumar Doley launching Guwahati's Host City Logo of FIFA U-17 World Cup in Guwahati, on Saturday. — UB Photos

especially for the youngsters who can witness world class footballers live".

"I am extremely happy to unveil the Winner's Trophy because this FIFA champion will inspire the young guns of this region to play football at a higher level."

Interacting with the media

Udit completes double crown



Double crown winners Sanjana Sirimalla (left) of Telangana and Udit Gogoi of Assam.

JORHAT, Aug 26: Udit Gogoi, who was hospitalised last night due to illness caused by a burning heat, came from the hospital bed to play the singles final of the AITA-National Series Tennis Championship that concluded here today at the Jorhat Tennis Club.

In the first set, against Maanav V Jain of Karnataka, Udit was fighting more against his temperature than his opponent and went down 6-7 (2).

But the spirited Assam boy made a brilliant comeback and

outplayed the opponent in next two sets convincingly with a scoreline of 6-0, 6-0 showing great mental strength.

With this doubles title, Udit completed the double crown having won the titles double yesterday.

The Jorhat Tennis Club handed over Udit Gogoi a cash award of Rs 25,000 for his achievement.

In the closing function the prizes were distributed by AITA treasurer and president of the AATA Raktim Saikia.

Amit was the first to take the ring and shrugged off a slow start to edge past Italian Federico Serra in a split verdict.

The 21-year-old from Haryana, competing in the biggest tournament of his career, was rather sluggish in the opening round, allowing his rival easy shots.

However, he shook off the slumber in the second and third round with some well-placed hooks and straight.

In fact, Amit managed to out-pace his rival quite well in the closing three minutes, which perhaps tilted the scales in his favour.

"This is my first year in the senior circuit and so far it has turned out to be quite well. I am happy with the results I am getting," Amit, whose biggest achievement so far has been the Asian bronze medal he won earlier this year, told PTI after his bout.

His ascent to the senior level has been rather meteoric, considering that he never figured prominently in Indian boxing's youth circuit. — PTI

Dortmund forward Dembele joins FC Barcelona

MADRID, Aug 26: French forward Ousmane Dembele will be FC Barcelona's new footballer this season after the Catalan club and Borussia Dortmund reached an agreement, the Spanish La Liga giants have announced.

According to a FC Barcelona statement on Friday, the deal with the German Bundesliga side included a transfer fee of 105 million euros (\$124.7 million) plus add-ons upto 42 million euros (\$50 million) in pursuit of the French forward, reports Xinhua news agency.

The 20-year-old Dembele will arrive on Sunday to undergo a medical on Monday, to sign his five-year contract and to be officially presented, the club said, adding that his buy out clause is set at 400 million euros (\$477.25 million). — IANS

Seminar on sports journalism held

CORRESPONDENT

MANGALDAI, Aug 26: The newly formed Darrang district unit of the Assam Sports Journalist Association in collaboration with the State Level Advisory Committee for Students and Youth Welfare, Govt of Assam today organised a seminar on the topic: Sports journalism as a medium for skill development for human resources in Assam, here at the Youth Club auditorium today.

Sports journalists and photojournalists of the State like Subodh Malla Baruah, Pabitra Gogoi, Bidyut Kalita, Anupam Nath and Mrinal Bora, while addressing the seminar as resource persons explained about the vast potentiality to develop once career in the field of sports journalism, sports photo journalism and other relevant fields. An interesting presentation on sports photog-

raphy was also carried out by Anupam Nath in connection with the seminar.

Earlier, Darrang Deputy Commissioner, Ashok Kr Barman in presence of Rajib Prakash Baruah, State Coordinator for Disaster Management, Govt of Assam inaugurated the seminar.

Former national level player of Kabaddi player and athlete, now international level masters athlete Kunjalata Boro and former sports and photo journalist and presently Chairman Mangaldoi Municipal Board Pratap Bordoli were felicitated on the occasion. Winners of the sports news reporting contest, which was held before the seminar were presented certificates and prizes after the seminar which was anchored by Ganesh Dutta, secretary of the Darrang unit of the State sports journalist body.

Assam powerlifters for C'wealth meet

GUWAHATI, Aug 26: Four powerlifters from Assam have been included in the Indian team which will participate in the Commonwealth Powerlifting Championship to be held in South Africa from September 10 to 17.

The selected powerlifters have to attend a conditioning camp which will be organised in Mumbai from September 5 to 8, stated a release. The selected players are Minu Gogoi, Minati Dihingia, Moumuni Boni, Arananchala Gogoi.

Chamata boys in NSA Trophy semifinals

THU, Aug 26: Chamata Anchali Krira Sangha stepped in the semifinals of NSA Trophy Football Championship defeating South Eastern Railways, Jharkhand 3-2 in a quarter final match being played at the Gurdon HS School playground, Nalbari today. The competition is organised by the Nalbari Sports Association.

Convenor
Pabindra Nath Sarma & Kunjabala Devi
Memorial Award Committee
Tribune Buildings, Guwahati-781003

py to launch the Guwahati Host City Logo. The State Government has been very supportive for hosting the World Cup. The Chief Minister in particular extended his full support in all aspects which helped the LOC in going ahead."

The Trophy Experience began last week when the silverware awarded to the former winners was brought to New Delhi. An estimated 2.5 lakh people witnessed it last weekend at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium and India Gate. Guwahati is the second host city to welcome the Winner's Trophy.

Cepi further revealed that the tickets of the semifinal match scheduled to be held here are almost sold out.

Sports Minister Naba Kumar Doley, member secretary of the SLAC Lakhya Konwar, Sports Commissioner Ashotosh Agnihotri were also present on the occasion.

Fighting Saina crashes out of World Championship

GLASGOW, Aug 26: Saina Nehwal today settled for a bronze medal as her impressive run at the World Championship came to an end after a heart-breaking loss against Rio Olympics bronze medalist Nozomi Okuhara of Japan in the women's singles semi-final.

Saina, who had won a silver medal two years ago at New Delhi. An estimated 2.5 lakh people witnessed it last weekend at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium and India Gate. Guwahati is the second host city to welcome the Winner's Trophy.

Cepi further revealed that the tickets of the semifinal match scheduled to be held here are almost sold out.

Sports Minister Naba Kumar Doley, member secretary of the SLAC Lakhya Konwar, Sports Commissioner Ashotosh Agnihotri were also present on the occasion.

down-the-line smashes and cross-court angled returns, sandwiched by deceptive drops. A pumped up Saina returned everything thrown at her and came up with the perfect clears to close out the rallies.

The Indian tried to put her rival out of position with her deceptive returns and it helped as she led 9-3 in the opening game, before entering the interval at 11-5 when Okuhara could not return her angled smash and come back.

Okuhara's fast-paced game did not yield much result early on as Saina fortified her defence and continued to dominate the rallies to lead 17-10. Okuhara lost a video referral next as Saina led 21-17, 21-21. With the lead 18-10, the Japanese displayed good net game to win the point but Saina's small deception took a toll on her rival.

Another electrifying rally ended with Okuhara finding the net as Saina reached eight game points. The Indian then unleashed a body smash to close out the opening game.

After the change of sides, Saina failed to reach for a couple of forecourt returns, helping Okuhara opened up a 4-0 lead early on. The Japanese extended the advantage to 8-4 but she had a few wide strokes and Saina exploited the opportunity to unleash her trademark cross court after the opening game.

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2 WOMEN PLUS

Sabrina Iqbal Sircar defends female sexuality.

3 MY SPACE

Namrata Nath dwells on the enigma of time.

4 ALL THINGS CONSIDERED

Mitra Phukan talks about laughable somnolence.

The Assam Tribune Sunday



Leicester's preserved past

SRUTIMALA DUARA finds meaning in the value put on history.

Every time I go to Leicester, England, I walk along the narrow lanes past the Guildhall, wondering how such an old building has been preserved. It is one of the best preserved timber-framed halls in the country – dating back 600 years.

Located in the old walled city, on a street now known as Guildhall Lane, it was used first as the meeting place for the Guild of Corpus Christi and then, later, for the more formal Corporation of Leicester. The hall was used for many purposes, including council meetings, feasts, as a court-room, and for theatrical performances. It was also used as a home for a priest who prayed for the souls of Guild members in the nearby St. Martin's Church and his small room looks as if he's still occupying it. The ground floor has torture instruments and cells where prisoners were kept. Quite a creepy area. Leicester's first police force had its station in the Guildhall, from 1836. Hence, those police cells are on the ground floor.

In 2014, during one of my visits to the Guildhall, I found posters, newspaper clippings and writings with illustrations displayed on one wall of the cell. They exhibited the news of those eras, criminals caught and tortured. The Guildhall is reputedly Leicester's most haunted building too. Because of its reported hauntings, it

has appeared on various TV programmes, including on the television show *Most Haunted*.

In another one of my visits, I viewed very old books displayed in two of its upper rooms. The books in the collection included the *New Testament* in Greek from the 15th century. The Guildhall also housed the third oldest public library in England, established in 1632.

It is said that William Shakespeare visited the Guildhall and first came across the tale of King Lear at the Guildhall and this inspired him to write his own play *King Lear*. Though there is no actual evidence to support this, the legend of King Lear is associated with Leicester.

When the building was becoming increasingly dilapidated, by the 1920s, there were plans to demolish it. But,

Around the CITY

- Leicester is the house of football club Leicester City.
- The two most well-known shopping malls are Highcross Leicester and Haymarket Shopping Centre.
- The Golden Mile on Belgrave Road has authentic Indian restaurants, saree shops and jewellery.
- The City Gallery is one of the region's leading contemporary art galleries.



India House is 87 this year! Its imposing presence in the heart of London for the best part of a century is testimony to a rich and abiding relationship between Britain and India, two great nations representing two great cultures. India House is a monument to the harmony of the East and West. The building, in the words of the then High Commissioner Sir Atul Chatterjee, was designed to "express its Indian purpose and architecture".

Opposite India House is Aldwych Theatre, below it is King's College, across the road are Houghton Street and the London School of Economics, with which generations of Indians have had close intellectual links. On one side of India House is the Strand, with its theatres, restaurants and department stores. The other leads to Fleet Street, Chancery Lane and the Inns of Court, where many an Indian luminary trained for the Bar and the Courts of Law. Next to India House is the imposing Bush House, BBC Headquarters, now housing the BBC World Service and a bit beyond is the Melbourne House, the Australian High Commission in London. Other important Commonwealth diplomatic premises of South Africa, Canada, Zimbabwe, Kenya and Malaysia are not far from India House.

The Indian Commission grew out of the Montague-Chelmsford Constitutional Reforms of 1919, with their promise of responsible government for India. Its first premises were four buildings rented at Grosvenor Gardens in Victoria, but these were deemed inadequate and a new building – to be called India House, was to be constructed on vacant land with grants voted by the Indian legisla-



Indian presence

RINI KAKATI presents the unique history of India House.

ture. Sir Atul Chatterjee, the then Indian High Commissioner made a strong proposal for the India House to have its own premises, which got the royal approval, and work started on the site in 1927.

It was on July 8, 1930, that His Majesty King George V, accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Mary, formally declared India House open. The King hoped India House would foster brotherhood between the people of India and Britain – "that

wider sympathy for which I pleaded many years ago and plead again today," Word was made flesh in the fullness of time.

Visiting India with a British parliamentary delegation, Reginald Sorensen (later Lord Sorenson) spoke of his desire to see Britain and India as friends, but said there could be no friendship save on the basis of mutual respect. From both the British and Indian points of view, "it must be accepted that British rule must end". And end, it did.

"At the stroke of the midnight hour," on August 15, 1947, proclaimed Jawaharlal Nehru, the country's first Prime Minister. "India would fulfil her 'Tryst with Destiny', as she acknowledged to 'life and freedom'."

Free India's first High Commissioner to the United Kingdom was V. K. Krishna Menon (August 1947 – June 1952). Today, India House is truly an Indian institution. Its walls and spaces, once so bare of a living Indian presence, are now a gallery of oils and marble of Mother India's greatest offspring.

Almost 1.5 million people of Indian origin live in Britain today. Their cultural values contribute significantly towards making Britain the vibrant, dynamic society that it is today. They are a vital bond between countries. The Declaration continued: The cultural influence of the UK, not least through the use of English, has added to the richness of Indian culture, and Indian writers have enriched English literature.

India House lives on to be an evidence in stone and wood and in spirit also of the partnership between the Raj and 'Swaraj': the United Kingdom and India.

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UP CLOSE

Mrinmoy Bhuyan

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The joker within

TAPAN DAS challenges his versatility yet again.

Tapan Das, the versatile actor-director has fine-tuned a drama titled *Nata Samrat*, written by promising playwright Hillol Kumar Pathak for Rajashree Theatre this year. He plays a joker in it. "We often mistake a joker to be just silly," said Tapan Das. "In fact, this funny guy with amusing make-up tells us the real story down the line. Somewhere, sometime, every man is just a joker inside."

It was a hot and humid evening. At the top floor of the playwright's building in Guwahati, the veteran actor was critical about life's philosophies as his reminiscences took him back to a scene of the play *Puru* written by Arun Sarma in the late '90s, in which he, as the lead character, was finally forced to take shelter inside a cage, originally meant for a lion in a circus party. The ring master (father 'the mistress'), his wife in the story, played by Simi Das of Tezpur, took the upper hand and controlled him with her magical whip. "It was one of the most difficult roles I ever acted in," said Tapan Das, sipping his second cup of green tea. "Perhaps we failed to portray it skillfully," he lamented. "People didn't accept it, otherwise it was a great piece. Stage performances need an acrobatic synchronisation to be received by the audience in front." Though the production was not a successful one, it still meant a lot to him. Acting has been his passion, rather than a profession. He has accepted life as it has come to him, never thinking about earning a penny from it. "But life is bounded by circumstances, just like the 'hero' in the circus party, who once enjoyed a royal status, is reduced to being caged in a helpless situation," he added.

Tapan Das doesn't act only for its own sake. The stage turns to a real life ground as he delivers. "People say I am a born actor. I don't know," he says, referring to his childhood interest in horror stories, a part of his life people know little about. In the late '70s, he used to write stories with frightening and shocking characters in *Bishnoi* – the oldest Assamese mystery magazine, to draw readers' attention. It's not surprising that he's included in the elite list of writers for writing some of the most fascinating stories in the post-Independence era. Tapan Das prefers the ghostly tales of M.R. James, the English writer who redefined ghost stories of the last century by abandoning many of the formal Gothic clichés of his predecessors and using more realistic, contemporary settings. However, he's not ready to accept that he's influenced by Saurbh Kumar Chalha. "I read him much later," he clarifies.

"Which form of acting would you pick, if allowed to choose one – plays or cinema?" I ask. An ever smiling Tapan Das took no time to answer. "The third, which is radio. I enjoy doing radio because of its conducive environment," he explains.

The man who has thrilled the audience for so long has left behind an adventurous life behind. An engineering student during the early '80s, Tapan Das preferred taking a shooting call for a film, rather than appearing in the final examinations for graduation, and he never returned to his classroom in Jalgukuri.

"Do you have any regrets about that?"

"No, I never did. I have

crafted my path in my own way. I don't want to be forced."

He was invited to Mumbai

Doordarshan for anchoring with

Girish Karnad and Naseeruddin

Shah in the early '90s. He igno-

red that too. "I was selected

for an audition in Guwahati for a

Bengali film by Biplab Jana

from Kolkata in 1989. But

there was a strike at the air-

port on the day I was

scheduled to fly to Kolka-

ta for shooting," Tapan

Das recalls. "After that,

it never happened."

"Do you still feel sad about that?" I want-

ed to ask, but I re-

strained myself as I

looked at him and

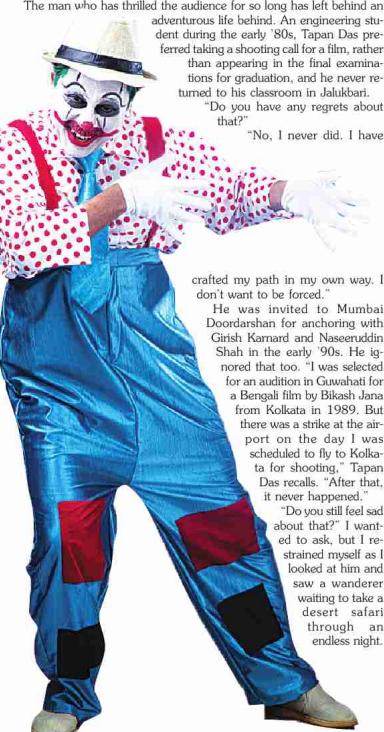
saw a wanderer

waiting to take a

desert safari

through an

endless night.



WOMEN PLUS
Sabrina Iqbal Sircar
Iqbal.sabrina@gmail.com

The movie *Lipstick Under my Burkha* was a jolt to the Indian society. It all started with the Censor Board calling it 'lady-oriented'; all right, lady-oriented is it, so what's the problem exactly?

Well, let me try to elaborate what the problem is/was exactly. The problem was that the movie is about women, and women's sexuality, about women's libido; and yes, I guess I have already raised many eyebrows by using those words, but yes, that is exactly where the problem was!

Well, the good news is that this is not a new issue. Societies all over the world largely have had a problem with explicit female sexuality. As the theoretical explanations by scholars like Merriam-Substance, overt female sexuality is perceived as a threat. Why as a threat, because female sexuality is powerful, and anything which is powerful or a potential source of power is always attempted to be tamed. That is what has led us to the ruins of the conservative societies. Women and their bodies have always had urges, but what we have seen and learnt is that they are always at the receiving end. Men dominate when it comes to carnal pleasures, women apparently hardly have 'urges' of their own. That is why, when we finally have a movie which celebrates the way women choose to use their bodies, of course, it had to draw criticism! Because the movie attempts to change the norms by which our societies have existed over the ages and which the pseudo-conservative societies have strived so hard to create, deviating from the traditions of *Kamasutra* and the Ajanta and Ellora. It upsets the balance of power between the sexes, by bringing female sexuality to the forefront!

A spirited defence of female sexuality.


The question which we need to ask the people who have problems with the movie is: aren't women human?

The movie has brilliantly captured the different dilemmas of women's lives; of women at different ages. Every age greets us with a new issue we have to tackle. How, when young, we are monitored for behaviour and dressing, taught to guard the family and especially the father's honour; how, in the 20s, experimenting with one's sexuality and choices is something which is unimaginable and draws shame; how, after marriage, even something as intimate as love-making can be-

come a power-play, asserting superiority over the wife and, of course, how after 50, women often lose their very name and are reduced to being an 'aunty' or 'grandma', and urges? What urges?

We are steadily moving towards more open societies, but are we really open societies? When we cannot even see the reality as reality, how do we call ourselves progressive? Why can we not accept female sexuality as it is?

We need to take account of people as people. Equal people. Men and women as equals, in body and in mind.

The more we make claims to progressive societies, the more we need to be open and more accepting: 'calling-a-girl-old-at-30, while-men-become-better-with-age-mentality' is not going to get us there. Do you see on television how all the '30-plus' creams and treatments are for the women, while we still have Shah Rukh and Salman romancing heroines half their ages in the movies, because of course, men don't age! C'mon!

The point is, we just need to acknowledge women and their bodies as they are. Female sexuality is a reality. From menstruation to libido. And we as a society need to be more welcoming of people with their realities. Because the fact is, the reality does not cease to exist, even if we refuse to acknowledge it or overlook it. We just need to look over our inhibitions, and get rid of our pseudo-shame, and pseudo-culture which will help us in creating a generation of young people who treat all people, men or women or transgenders as people, as whole people, in their whole beings, and their beautiful sexualities. So let's not get inhibited by the red lipstick, go on, put it dark and bright on your lips!

FASHION
Chole Hanson
Affair in black


The little black dress can be styled in different ways.

When it comes to wardrobe staples, there's nothing classier, sexier, and more versatile than a little black dress. The LBD – a style essential introduced by Coco Chanel in the 1920s – can go a very long way. It can be transformed seamlessly time and time again – from the office to a party, from casual to dressy in various different styles – with the addition or removal of the right accessories and complementary clothing. Check out these fashion tips to wear this timeless dress so that you stand out from the crowd:

- First of all, whether you are going to wear your little black dress for brunch with friends, office meetings, girls' nights out, or your next hot date, although you can don the exact same dress for all different occasions, you probably still need to pick the right dress for the right occasion. A little black dress can have spaghetti straps or short or long sleeves. It can be a sheath dress, bodycon, fit and flare, or shift dress, and obviously not all little black dresses are equal. Depending on the fabric, designer, detail and price, some dresses have more style and suitability than others.

LBD for daywear parties, lunches, and events, for example, should be more tailored and dressier in a good-quality material than casual LBD, while evening wear LBD for parties usually features luxe details and glamorous fabrics.

By pairing the dress with the right accent pieces, a little black dress can appear differently from one style to another. Grab your military coat to sport that military style or add a biker jacket and ankle booties to transform the dress into a chic rockstar look. Flat gladiator boots add a little touch of boho, while sneakers create a sportier and more casual outfit. Satin or lace give a romantic and feminine touch to the entire look, while jersey appears more casual. Just have fun by mixing and matching some wardrobe items into the dress.

Don't forget to keep everything in balance.

Put a simple – but highly effective – pop of color to your little black dress by adding striking neon accessories like shoes, bag, or outerwear. Or, try a metallic gold or silver pop of colour to create that sparkling, luxe statement. Let your accessories do the talking when you wear a statement jewellery piece with a little black dress. If you're in the possession of statement necklaces and brooches, use the dark backdrop to let the piece strike its best. If you wear a big statement necklace, be sure to keep other accessories to a minimum to let the necklace take centre stage. Or, you may as well add an embellished detachable collar to any of the high-neck or cowl neck dresses you own. Wear a belt to create an hourglass figure.

Choose the right shoes with your little black dress. Sometimes, you can just glam up your little black dress without piling on accessories. Dressing up or dressing down the little black dress with shoes is a significant part of the look because the shoes can provide contrasting colour or style to the dress. Classic evening shoes will go well with dressy black dress for a cocktail party.

Dressy ballerina flats look great to create that girly look, ankle boots for a bolder statement, or sandals for a relaxed, summery style.

Finally, depending on the season, you can style your little black dress any way you want!

Remember, a little black dress can easily be taken from day to evening, from casual to dressy, from classic to edgy, with some simple changes in how it is accessorised.

RELATIONSHIP
Annie Fox

You know your child is an adolescent when she or he:

- Gives you attitude over stuff that's never been an issue before.
- Refuses to do what you ask.
- Agrees to do it and then (un)wittingly "forgets".
- Denies they ever agreed to anything.
- Says "You don't get it!" at least twice a day, etc.

Experts tell parents of teens, "Don't take their words or behaviour personally." Stellar advice. Realistic? Not so much. We want a hug. They want to break up. Try not taking that personally.

So, what are your options? You could either keep fighting to get them to change or change yourself and give teens space to become more human.

Here are some ways you can improve parent-teen relationships, starting today:

Remember that you are the parent

Your job is to prepare your child to become an independent, fully-functioning adult. Being a clear-sight-

Calm anchor

Some ways to improve parent-teen relationship.


ed, compassionate mentor is way more important than being your teen's friend. What they need is your moral leadership.

Remain calm in the winds of change

Nothing gets resolved when you're too stressed to think. If you can't

respond rationally to something your teen did, take a break until you can.

Talk less and listen more

Just like us fully-formed humans, teens want to be listened to with respect. Always be a "safe" and available person for your child to talk to. That doesn't mean you have to accept or agree with everything, but letting your teen talk openly (without interrupting), gives them a chance to hear their own ideas played out loud. It also provides a window into their problem-solving strengths and limitations. You can use that to help them.

Respect boundaries

It's often a challenge for parents to grant their teens increasingly more privacy and autonomy. But in order to develop good judgment, they need lots of opportunities to make mistakes and learn from them. Encourage their learning.

They're always watching

You want your child to be trustworthy, responsible, honest, resilient and good-hearted. Make sure you're modelling those values in your own life. And while you're at it, talk about the walk as you're walking.

Last, but not the least, use humour. Humour is a great de-stressor. Remember, no one stays a tear (or the parent of one) forever!

Easy oil cookies
Ingredients:

- Flour 2 cups
- Baking powder ½ tsp
- Sunflower oil ¾ to 1 cup
- Icing sugar 1 cup
- Cardamom powder ¼ tsp
- Almonds, roasted ¼ cup

Method:

Preheat oven to 180°C. Line a baking tray with parchment paper.

Crush the almonds with a rolling pin and set aside.

Sift together the flour, cardamom powder, baking powder and icing sugar.

Gradually add the oil, a little at a time, and mix until just combined and forms a ball when pressed together.

Add the crushed almonds and mix them in with your hands.



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.

Mutton shami kabab
Ingredients:

- Mutton cubes, boneless 500 gms
- Onions (medium), chopped 2
- Ginger paste, dry 1 tsp
- Garlic paste 1 tsp
- Water 2 ½ cups
- Bengal gram lentils (*channa dal*) ½ cup
- Black cardamoms 5
- Green cardamoms 3
- Black cumin seeds 1 tsp
- Cinnamon sticks 2
- Red chillies, dry 2
- Green coriander, chopped 2 tbsp
- Mint, chopped 1 tsp
- Green chillies, chopped 1 tsp
- Egg, lightly beaten 1
- Salt to taste
- Lemon juice 1 tsp or to taste
- Sugar ¼ tsp or to taste
- Vegetable oil for frying

Method:

Wash and soak the lentils in cold water for two hours. Drain the lentils and put them aside.

In a deep pot or pressure pan, add the meat, onion, ginger paste, mint, lentils, black cardamoms, green cardamoms, black cumin seeds, cinnamon sticks, dry red chillies, salt and water. Bring the mixture to a boil. Lower heat and continue to cook until all the water has evaporated and the meat is tender.

Remove from heat. Discard the whole spices and set the meat and lentil mixture aside to cool.

Tip the meat and lentil mixture into a food processor and grind into a smooth paste.

Add the egg, green chillies, coriander, mint, sugar and lime juice to the meat mixture and mix well. Refrigerate for an hour.

Wet your hands and divide the mixture into about 20 portions and shape each of them into patties.

Heat a few tablespoons of oil in a frying pan over medium heat.

Fry the patties in batches, until golden-brown.

Serve hot with lime wedges, onion rings and green chutney.



FICTION

Jyotsnita B. Goswami
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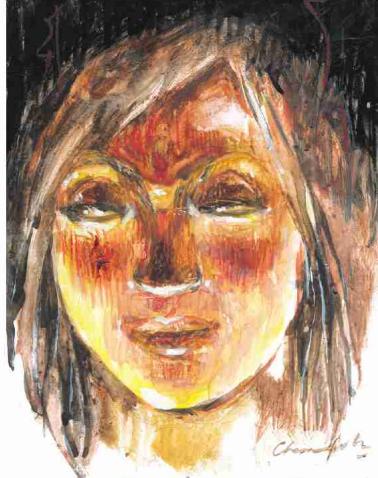
The heavy early morning shower tried its best to stir so many different emotions, but my mind decided otherwise. Fixed to its sole objective, which was to catch the school bus and reach school on time, ignoring all the inviting puddles, I finally stood under the protruding roof of a closed shop, to wait for the bus to arrive. I observed my co-shelter seeker, owner of two dark, wrinkled hands, adorned with a bunch of red bangles. She had her home exhibited there, tied in a piece of rag. It contained three distorted Bisleri water bottles, a blanket, a broken red plastic mug, a few more rags clumsily folded and a smaller rag bag. Her hands were busy taking out something from that and putting it back, trying to make her home neater. I looked up at the pouring sky. It was relentless. A small question crept in, "Are you up there?" I felt more uncomfortable irritated because of the rain now. I wanted an escape, to run away from that finding of her red bangles. At a distance, I saw, tearing through the curtain of raindrops, my rescuer: the yellow school bus.

As soon as I lodged my heaviness on an empty seat, responding to the morning greetings from the colleagues and the students, I fished out my phone from among the notebooks and files clumsy stashed in my handbag. First thing first, I checked for the WhatsApp notifications from the school's official group. Nothing very important except the notification for the 'Joy of Giving Week' to be started from October 2, commemorating Mahatma Gandhi.

"Hey, Ravina, have you brought anything to donate?" I made a casual enquiry.

"You need not run so ahead of time dear, we still have a month to collect all the discarded things and get the joy out of this fair charity," came the tart reply from Ravina, the Social Studies teacher sitting in front of me.

Scrolling down the messages, my mind started playing with her phrase 'fake charity'. How true it was! There was an abundance of fake charities everywhere; a lady feeding the beggars at a roadside eatery as her astrologer told her to feed the needy for five consecutive Tuesdays; a flashy car stopping in the middle of the road to offer slices of



Light in the darkness

bread to the big cows resting on the road divider.

"Why do I harbour such beleaguered thoughts?" I cursed. Life is beautiful, I told myself and I wanted with all my heart to repose and look forward to a fruitful day at school.

"Am I suffering from some psychological disorder?" I wondered. Why could I not be happy with the things around me? I felt guilty of the clean house I lived in, the hygienic morsel I ate, the laughter I shared with my family. "Am I really sick... in my heart or brain?"

My phone buzzed, I checked, it was a friend, Manjari's call.

"Hello!"
"Hello, Rani, I am so happy. Please come over to our house today. I have great news to share."

"What's it?"

"I'll show you when you come..."

As usual, my feet carried me mechanically around the school with the ringing of the bell. I am so grateful to these young minds for letting me teach them, occupying my time with their doubts and assurances that there was hope.

The drive back home was heavy with sighs of relief, relief from the day's timetable... with hope to come back fresh the next day. My bag was a little light, with fewer notebooks. This time, I opened *The Times Of India* app on my phone. Narendra Modi asked the cov vigilantes to be wary of their atrocities on the minority community; RJD sought dredged criminal politician Shahbuddin's bail, etc. And my finger stiffened when I saw "Five-

year-old raped for two hours". How cruel life could be!

When the bus stopped at my gate the bus was almost empty. "Madam, ghar aa gaya." Parvez's voice brought me back to life.

I saw my little darling running down the steps to greet me. She was more interested in the chocolates that I got from the students at school. I gave her a tight hug to dispel my insecurity.

In the evening, draped in a blue saree, I looked presentable outwardly. I caught my daughter's hand tightly as I walked to Manjari's house.

Manjari was beaming when she saw us. Her husband, a police officer, had recently transferred to this city. The childless couple soon became our good friends as they fell in love with my children. They pampered them old the extreme.

"God has answered all my prayers," she said. She was too excited. As I entered the house I saw streamers and balloons hanging from here and there.

"Is it your birthday or anniversary?"

"No, no, come inside."

She pulled us straight to their bedroom.

"What? How come?" I was surprised to see a six-seven-month-old baby in bed. "Who is it?"

Manjari, "Soh... she will wake up. Come we will talk in the drawing room."

I was happy to see a baby in their house.

She started, "Two weeks back in that Ram Loka Maishan, this baby girl was found by some locals and a case was registered. She was taken to the hospital and a health check-up was done. She has a problem. Her left hand is not there from elbow downward. So, probably, the child was abandoned in this way. Or maybe the parents cannot afford to raise a child like that. Whatever the reason was, the child was left to meet her destiny. For the last few days we were struggling with the formalities of adopting her and today all the paper work has been completed and the child is mine now. Can you believe it?"

Her eyes twinkled with tears filled to the brim.

I, too, cried in happiness with her. We talked on and on regarding child care, what arrangements she would require. We even decided that having come of age, she would join our school. Optimism flowed in, breaking all dykes of negativity my mind had been dwelling upon. I was somewhere wrong about charity being only fake.

On surrogacy



sisted Reproductive Technology procedures as well as the Assisted Reproductive Technique (ART) Clinics and provide for protection of surrogate mothers and commissioning parents as well as legal rights of the child born through surrogacy. They provide certain pre-requisites for the commissioning parents before opting for surrogacy, as well as for the surrogate mother who will be carrying the surrogate child. Guidelines prohibit sex-selective surrogacy, and require birth certificate to have the names of commissioning parents only, one of the commissioning

parents to be a donor, a life insurance cover for the surrogate mother and the right to privacy of the surrogate mother and donor, among other things. Under the guidelines of the ICMR, various Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) Clinics have been established which can assist the commissioning parents with all the procedures for having a surrogate child.

As a general consideration, a child born through surrogacy must be adopted by the genetic (biological) parents/commissioning parents, payments to surrogate mothers should cover all genuine expenses associated with pregnancy, responsibility of finding a surrogate mother, through advertisement or otherwise, should rest with the commissioning parent couple, or a semen bank. A relative, a known person, as well as a person unknown to the couple may act as a surrogate mother for the couple, who should not be over 45 years of age and must be ensured by ART Clinic that the woman satisfies all testable criteria to go through a successful full-term pregnancy.

People Speak

Sunday Reading invites all readers to speak out on vital issues that touch their lives. Our next topic is – "Why do so few candidates from Assam clear the Civil Services?" Send in your views on the topic along with your name, address and passport size coloured photograph – latest by September 5, addressed to: **People Speak, Sunday Reading**, The Assam Tribune, Chandmari, Guwahati-781003 or e-mail us at sundayreading@assamttribune.com

Today's topic

What purpose do beauty pageants serve?

Beauty pageants have their own role in the society, despite being their fair share of naysayers. In my years of overseeing the industry, I have seen beauty pageants change the lives of young women from different parts of the country. People misunderstand beauty pageants as a platform which only rewards external beauty, but these are actually a platform for much more. Young people get to showcase their other talents, such as music, dance, acting, designing, choreography, etc., through the platform of a beauty pageant. Today, many famous beauty pageant contestants are not only making strides in modelling, but have also made their mark in acting, music, fashion designing, aviation, social work, dance, entrepreneurship, etc. Ask any of them on whether their few days at the pageant helped them to establish where they are right now, and you are more often than not likely to get a nod of assent.

Medha Sakti,
Founder and president,
Northeast India Fashion and Design Council,
Chairwoman of Miss Luit Beauty Pageant.

Beauty pageants, in my view, serve no purpose. Girls are turned into show-pieces, and everyone is happy to watch them cat-walking on the ramp. But no one remembers the winners after the show. The models win prizes and sponsors, but it's a short-term gain. The whole business is to lure beautiful women to the glamour world, where only a few may survive. It's a culture of the West, which has infiltrated our society without much productive purpose.

Dr. P. Chakravarty,
Silchar.

If channelised in a positive direction, beauty pageants can transform a simple, young lady into a self-confident, aware and smart human being through all the sessions – right from her entry into the competitive platform to her sessions of interviews and answering challenging questions. If lucky enough to reach the top levels, she would definitely become a changed person – smiling with joy and walking on the ramp with professionalism.

Indeed, beauty pageants can inspire a lady to win over difficulties and bottlenecks in life and move ahead with the substance of womanhood, which, in my opinion, is essentially progressive!

Jayanee Topadar,
Dhemaji.

Beauty pageants do have a purpose in today's world. It is an excellent platform for displaying all sorts of talents of women which enable them to fulfil their dreams. Beauty pageants enhance them to acquire leadership skills, ability to speak in public, courage to face interviews and confidence which help them to live a healthy and better life in the future. It boosts the self-esteem of the young contestants. They develop self-assurance early in their lives. It paves a smoother transition to become a strong woman. It not only has a purpose of showcasing beautiful people, but also has been effective as fund-raisers for helping special and underprivileged children of the society. Generally, winners of some of the big events serve as ambassadors for a greater cause of the society.

Rabin Prasad Kalita,
Azara.

Beauty pageants are an epitome of beauty, intellect, confidence and pride of their represented nations. Their service to the society can be manifold, depending on what the participant chooses to carry forward after the contest gets over. These platforms are, indeed, doors to various social enterprises. In today's society, however, the scenario of motivational speeches, the zeal to change the world remain confined to the stage and become a mere recorded YouTube video or news bulletin. Somewhere, they get lost in the glitter of their fame and miss the real purpose of the commitment that they pledged to serve the society.

Dr. Mousumi Goswami,
Rukmingaon, Guwahati.

LEGAL EASE

Ankit Todi

E-mail your questions to:
legalaid@assamttribune.com

■ My wife and I have not been able to have a child of our own since the last seven years of our marriage. As we tried some medical options and failed, we are now willing to have a child by surrogacy. Do we need to have any legal compliance for it?

— Jyotirmoy

Ans.: Surrogacy is permissible in India and is legal under the Guidelines for Surrogacy laid down by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in 2002. Although this does not have any legislative backing of the government, however, till date the guidelines make commercial surrogacy a legal practice in India. As of now, only the Surrogacy Contract between the commissioning parent and surrogate mother and the Assisted Reproductive Technique (ART) guidelines by the ICMR shall have to be complied with. The ICMR's guidelines regulate the As-

MY SPACE

Namrata Nath

namrata.nath@rediffmail.com

I want to talk about time today. Yes, time – the only thing that matters, the only thing that remains, the only eternal thing, the only thing that means anything in this meaningless world.

Just like the bad times, people have good times too and both these times pass. Life is not static; it never has been and it never will be. In the end, it doesn't even matter what we are doing, who we are with, or what we think about anyone or anything or ourselves. The only thing that matters is how we spend our time. How we made the most of the bad times and savoured the good times and survived the time in between.

If I talk about the significance and meaning of time alone, I will write a miniature epic and that will definitely be time-consuming.

The King Of Thieves



We lose our friends and people who matter to us. We lose the moments we share with them, we lose the smiles and the tears and the frowns.

we also lose ourselves over time. Just a few days back, my mother was reminiscing how I used to talk in broken syllables as a child, how I asked her the silliest of questions and how she used to satiate my thirst with equally silly answers. Just then I realised. I never got the opportunity to have a rendezvous with the 'little' me. I never came to know that girl. In all this rush, that little girl got lost and it's sad that even when I am trying this, with each word I am losing a part of myself. As I grow, I know more than before and learn new things. I lose a little part of myself – the me who knew less; I lose a person I know I'll never meet again. I am losing myself with each passing second and there's no way to preserve the person from even a moment ago.

I've always been the person who wants to remember everything. I want to remember each and every moment of my life, good or bad, because everything builds me in its own way. It makes me the person I am today and more importantly, it's my way of remembering me.

I really have no regrets. I have witnessed terrible times and great times. I don't want to change the bad part or extend the good part of my story because if I did that then I'll be a different person and as a matter of fact, I am really in love with the person I am today. I am not perfect. I have flaws and time has taught me to have the courage to admit that I have them. I commit mistakes and time has taught me to say 'sorry'. Sometimes, I judge people but time has taught me to forgive other's mistakes like my own.

So the thief that stole me from myself gave me something much more priceless – it taught me to be a human being – not flawless but having the ability to improve.

In the end, we will lose everything; even ourselves to time but that's the price we have to pay to grow up. To learn new things we must forget what we already know and to make new friends we must lose a few of the old ones. That we will lose everything in the storm is certain but it is important that we survive the storm. We will never make it in one piece, we will change but the fact that we make it is important.

It is fire, this time, and we are iron. We are being melted and beaten and reshaped; of course, it hurts. But fear not, my friends, because whoever heard of a sword born in Nature? Heroes are never born. They are made.

And what will become of us? That, my dear friend, only time will tell.

Dozy audiences

As September finally comes around, and the heat and humidity mellow down to more manageable levels, it seems that our towns and cities and even the little areas are all bursting with all kinds of frenetic activity. Now that the energy-sapping weather has given way to gentler temperatures, people are no longer content to merely drag themselves around to simply survive, and get on with only the unavoidable tasks of life. And if, as many have been, one is affected by the high floods of the monsoons, then survival itself becomes a back-breaking task. And it takes months, years, to try and pick up the pieces. It is often a Sisyphean task, for before one can get back to a normal life, there is another flood.

But now, with the coming of a milder, calmer season, there is energy in our veins, there are smiles on our faces as the sunlight takes on the brightness we associate with this time of festivities and merrymaking. There is something about the better weather that makes us forget our sorrows, at least for a while, and take solace in rituals and festivities. At last people, men and women both, can dress up without having to take the sizzling temperatures and pouring rains into consideration as the wedding season arrives with a bang.

But it's not all fun and games only. Oh no, of course not. For we are Serious People, don't forget, and we need to keep the levels of our intellectual discussions humming if we are to progress. And so all our halls and auditoriums are booked for weeks ahead, as deep discussions and solemn parleys get underway.

The thing about many of these discourses is that they tend to go on. And on. And on. True, it's all very interesting, and much can be learned from them. But it does seem that people seem to lose track of time when they find themselves positioned before a mic.

repositories of knowledge. No doubt their minds are full of extremely valuable ideas. But it's a sad fact of life that few of them are good orators. Their speeches, while full of heavyweight intellectual ideas, are voiced in a tone that is little more, unfortunately, than a drone. There is very little voice modulation. Nor are these speech-

ALL THINGS CONSIDERED

Mitra Phukan



The thing about many of these discourses is that they tend to go on. And on. And on. True, it's all very interesting, and much can be learned from them. But it does seem that people seem to lose track of time when they find themselves positioned before a mic.

es "audience friendly", or viewer friendly in any way. There are no changes of mood, there is no tonal inflection, and hardly any pause between sentences, or even paragraphs.

Can the audience be blamed, therefore, for falling asleep?

In any case, the seats of our better auditoriums are these days very comfortably upholstered, and ergonomically designed. The hum of the air-conditioners adds to the soporific effect of the droning voice.

And then the sound systems are so good, too, these days. In these days of carefully calibrated sound, gone are the days when those terrifying "coooo" sounds would have the audience leaping up in fright.

Today, it's all like a lullaby, gently putting people to sleep.

Some people who are habitual meeting-attenders can go off to la-la-land very swiftly. For them, it's like a Pavlovian reaction, honed over scores, hundreds of meetings attended over the decades. From

the very first introductory speech of the Master of Ceremonies, these people can nod off to the land of dreams. Others may take a little more time, but eventually, many get there. No wonder at the end of it all, they can yawn, and stretch, and remark with satisfaction, "What a wonderful meeting that was!"

Here it must be remarked that for some reason, this is a male-dominated activity. Have you ever seen a woman, no matter what her age, or how frail she is, falling off to sleep like that? No, it has never happened. She may fidget, she may fiddle with her cellphone, she may chat and gossip with her neighbour, but she never goes off to sleep at a meeting. This, come to think of it, is indeed intriguing. And a serious study on this must be made, to find out Why Men Go To Sleep At Meetings But Women Do Not. Perhaps the study can be linked to those others which are being made on the subject of Why Men Urinate in Public But Women Do Not. Perhaps a gene will be discovered which will show that the same men do both.

Among the dedicated sleepers, there are those who snore, and those who do not. The snorers can sometimes disrupt proceedings greatly with their high decibel outpourings. It becomes, then, the duty of the neighbour to shake the snorer awake, though he usually nods off again. Of course things don't get this bad if the snorer is accompanied by his wife, who can be relied upon to pinch him awake when the snorer starts.

From the vantage point of the dais, these sleepers all present a fascinating sight. Unfortunately, it is still not considered polite for a panelist sitting on the dais to take pictures of the snoring audience. Still, it would be wonderful if this could be done. The slumped-over posture, the slack jaw, the ever increasing size of the open mouth, the drool that sometimes dribbles out from the sleeper...these are all fascinating to watch.

All Things Considered, the best thing of all is when a person sitting on the dais falls asleep as somebody else goes into his lengthy speech. This is not a rare phenomenon at all. It then becomes the duty of the MC to come up behind him and gently, and politely, whisper in his ear, "Saar! Wake up!"

These are the wonderful entertainments that fill lives with joy, are they not?

Mitra Phukan is a novelist, short story writer, translator and trained Shastriya Sangit vocalist.

FORECAST

AUGUST 28 – SEPTEMBER 3, 2017

ARIES

(MAR 21– APR 19) Start the ball rolling soon. Put your energy and discipline to good work, hone your skills and put a marketing strategy in place that will help secure a brighter future.

TAURUS

(APR 20– MAY 20) Your acute insight will encourage you to make strategic alterations to the way you do things and the direction you choose to take. Follow through with your plans.

GEMINI

(MAY 21– JUN 20) Enjoy family time or time spent with your lover. Fixing up your place or making serious plans that alter the way you live are favoured.

CANCER

(JUN 21– JUL 20) Stick close to home this week. Use your imagination and clear a space to forge ahead with a project that promotes creative development. Avoid loud, excessive individuals.

LEO

(AUG 22– SEP 21) Go where the action is this week. Your presence will be felt and make a difference to the outcome of any decision that concerns you. Your passionate input will lead to victory.

VIRGO

(SEP 22– OCT 21) Read between the lines this week. Someone will withhold information or choose to lead you astray. Don't dismiss your intuition when dealing with relationship issues.

LIBRA

(OCT 22– NOV 21) Participate in events that will bring you satisfaction. Helping others will lead to beneficial connections. Someone will lean on or put emotional pressure on you.

SCORPIO

(NOV 22– DEC 21) Judge and you will be judged. Take a step back and rethink how you want to react to others before you let your temper take over. Choose love and peace over discord and hatred.

SAGITTARIUS

(DEC 22– JAN 21) Aim high this period, and you will bring about positive change. Your ability to turn your ideas into something tangible will earn you respect as well as benefits.

CAPRICORN

(JAN 22– FEB 21) Put all your ducks in a row this week and you will feel confident moving forward. Patience and prudence will be your tickets to success. Avoid overconfidence.

AQUARIUS

(FEB 22– MAR 21) Share your concerns, instead of trying to go it alone or waiting until you are upset. If you are feeling limited, tired or rundown, take some time out and rejuvenate.

PISCES

(MAR 22– APR 21) Make sure you fully understand what's being asked of you. A work-related matter is best dealt with honesty. Choose your words wisely, and don't commit to anything you don't agree with.

NEWSMAKERS

Compiled by: Bidisha Singh

The judiciary

The Indian judiciary is the true hero of this month. With three back-to-back verdicts that prove that Indian democracy is still in good hands, the judges of the Supreme Court and the special CBI court at Panchkula deserve special commendation. Despite severe political and public pressure, they banned 'triple talaq', upheld the Right to Privacy as a Fundamental Right and convicted the rape-accused Gurmeet Ram Rahim, the latter leading to mayhem in Haryana and Punjab.

Nitin Kumar

It has been long since we saw such political drama and when Nitin Kumar jumped horses mid-way through his Chief-Ministership in Bihar, he left everyone in complete shock. Some approved of his move, while many others called him an opportunist. All said and done, BJP managed to capture another major stronghold in Indian politics, leading to an even weaker opposition at the centre.

Roopa D. Moudgil

Karnataka DIG Moudgil managed to stir up the hornet's nest when she alleged that preferential treatment was being given to AIADMK's V.K. Sasikala in prison, amid allegations of payment of Rs. two crore to an official for it. Of course, as a result of this daring expose, the upright lady soon got transferred to the department of traffic and road safety. Although a probe has been ordered, there is little one can expect in a State that's reeling under heavy corruption.

Varnika Kundu

Young DJ Varnika got the country behind her with a Facebook post about how she was chased through the roads of Chandigarh by two young men, one the son of BJP leader Subhash Barolia. Soon the post was picked up by social media and news groups and the police had to step in and do a real probe, despite political pressure. She was lucky that there was ample CCTV footage to back her case.

"He's jealous of my old boyfriends, teddy bears I used to sleep with, and any dog I ever kissed on the mouth."

"I'm uploading my kisses to the cloud, so you can download one whenever you're feeling romantic!"

"There are more muscles in the mouth and tongue than any other body part... so kissing is as good as going to the gym!"

"Black in school. I was quite an athlete and a ladies' man. I got my virginity in tonsil hockey!"

5 THINGS/ Something new

"Our last resort will be fresh content"

Popular playwright RAJDWEEP talks about the five changes that he would like to see in the mobile theatre industry.

1 Write stories, not gimmicks

I expect new content, new ideas that mobile theatre should adopt. It has been a long time since mobile theatres have been dealing with the same kind of topics, same kind of melodrama. We have to walk out from this zone and look for new content. I want to recall the plays of phenomenal playwrights like Mahendra Borthakar, Dr. Bhabendra Nath Saikia, Hemanta Dutta, Munir Barus, etc., who had given this industry new dimension. How long will people buy tickets to watch the same kind of plywood-made cars, ships and what not? People are not going to tolerate this for long. Our last resort will be fresh content, fresh thoughts and fresh stories.

2 Lobby system should be demolished

The lobby system that's prevailing in this industry should be demolished. They never allow a newcomer to prove himself/ herself. Often the works of new playwrights are sabotaged. The problem with any industry is: nobody wants to break the monotony. But change is inevitable.

3 Producers must have a common platform

I want producers of various mobile theatre troops to have

a common platform to discuss their strategies. There has to be unity among the producers, then only can they take steps collectively. There is a unique called the Bharatmanir Theatre Producers Association. But having an association does not mean that everybody is united.

4 Other artistes must also get good remuneration

True theatre artistes who almost spend their entire life in theatre, never get paid well. As producers have to pay a big amount to the celebrity artiste, he curtails the remuneration of other artistes. Celebrity or glamour artistes should get what they deserve. But at the same time, the other artistes – the technicians, dancers, set designers, musicians, should also get good remuneration.

5 I am not happy about 'Banner Plays'

Lastly, I am not quite happy with the concept of 'Second Night Play' or 'Banner Play'. In this concept, despite having three plays, every troupe selects one play as their main play, i.e., the banner play. Now the producer would invest his entire promotional budget on this particular play. Some producers say it's a business policy. But what about the other two plays. And who is to decide which play is the best among the three plays and how.

(As told to Bidisha Singh)

SCREENSHOTS

Shoma A. Chatterji

Do not ever mistake Saurabh Shukla as any other Bollywood comedian. He is one of the finest actors in Bollywood and his National Award for his performance in the lower court judge in *Jolly LLB* is just a drop in the ocean. *Baffi*, a Hindi play directed and written by Saurabh Shukla in which he also plays one of the key roles, is being staged very successfully across the country. Excerpts from an interview with the prolific actor:

Tell us a little about the play *Baffi*.

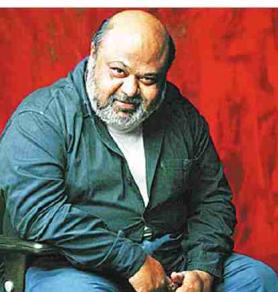
It is based on a short story by Ranjeet Kapoor. I bought it to make a film but when I got a call from Bhangaram to stage a play, I felt it could be turned into a play. It is very unusual play produced by Ashvin Gidwani. *Baffi* is a thriller that covers the events of a cold, snowy night in a village in Kashmir. I play Dr. Siddhant Kaul, who comes to the aid of two desperate parents of an ailing child.

Since it is set in a small and deserted village in Kashmir Valley, would you call it a political play?

The story was not written with the agenda of Kashmiri's politics. But I believe that a story is never free from the politics of the land it is set in. At many levels, the beliefs of the doctor and the Kashmiri couple never meet on common ground. This brings out the larger theme of 'what is truth and what is illusion', something one need not travel to Kashmir to learn. We are faced with this question in our daily lives too.

As an actor and writer on stage and on screen, what differences do you find in these media?

For me, a play and a film is the same as far as the writing of it goes. A film is written three times – once during the scripting, once during the



Lending weight!

production and once when it is being edited on paper and later on film. For me, theatre demands the same industry and focus. So far as acting on stage goes, for me, the writer stopped the moment I decided the story was good enough to go on stage. I then had to think like a director, how to amalgamate various elements like set design and lighting and visually translate the script. But in theatre, actors play a huge role in interpreting the larger picture, serving as a micro-view to the subject.

Why do theatre when an actor already has a good demand in cinema which is more visible, powerful and paying?

I never had to give up on a good film role because of my preoccupation with theatre. So when actors say that they do not do theatre because it might mean giving up on a meaty film role, they are wrong. For films, I agree that we are all busy actors and I am one of them. Most of it comes from the passion we have for our work. We must also earn from acting. But as actors, theatre allows us

to grow, to develop and not to get stuck in the groove with similar roles in uninteresting films.

Has commercial cinema changed in recent times?

Yes, of course it has. You have mainstream films which have wonderful stories and span multiple genres. Films like *Paan Singh Tomar*, *Jolly LLB*, *Neerja* and *Dangal* are all mainstream films made on big budgets with big stars. But their storylines, treatment and strategy do not fall within the 'mainstream' as we know it. This is a quality that theatre has already grown with.

Appearance-wise, you do not fit into the scheme of a film star. So, what was your biggest challenge?

When I started, my biggest fight was that the industry should not consider me as a fat man on whom they can laugh. Thankfully, they have not reduced me to perform comedy. They have given me all kinds of roles. People do not take me because I am of certain weight. They take me because I lend a certain weight to the story.

– Trans World Features (TWF)

