

## NEWS CAPSULE

### Traffickers held

TEZPUR, Aug 10: Sonitpur police today nabbed two human traffickers – Rafique Borai and Rita Borai of Barak Tea Estate – from the Rangamati railway junction and rescued three minor girls from their grip.

Correspondent

### NEET exam

NEW DELHI, Aug 10: The Supreme Court today asked the CBSE to ensure that NEET would have identical question papers in English, Hindi as well as in vernacular languages for the National Eligibility cum-Entrance Test (NEET). – PTI

### Pollution control

NEW DELHI, Aug 10: In a bid to curb pollution, the Supreme Court today issued a slew of directions including that insurance companies will not renew insurance of a vehicle unless the owner provides pollution under control (PUC) certificate. – PTI

### Terror suspects

NEW DELHI, Aug 10: Ahead of the Independence Day, two men with suspected links to al-Qaeda – Syed Mohd. Zishan Ali and Raja-ul-Ahmed – were arrested here in two separate cases, the police said today. – PTI

### Sharad Yadav

PATNA, Aug 10: On his first trip to Bihar since the end of the Grand Alliance, senior Congress leader Sharad Yadav today said the disintegration of the grouping has broken the trust of 11 crore people of the state and he is "hurt" by it. – PTI

The Assam Tribune on Internet  
<http://www.assamtribune.com> &  
<http://paper.assamtribune.com>

### HORIZON

- Toilet trails
  - Zeba Z Ahsan
  - Top cops!
  - Ria Chakraborty
  - Lost words
  - Sumisra Borah
  - Life's little markers
  - B Choudhury
  - Standing ovation
  - Prodyot P Sarkar
  - Patience, please!
  - Ananya Barua
  - Rejuvenating Gangtok
  - Abhilash Bora
- Plus all other regular features

## Only 2 declared foreigners pushed back to Bangla since 2013

R DUTTA CHAUDHURI

GUWAHATI, Aug 10: The process of detection of foreigners from Assam has not shown any improvement even after nearly 32 years of signing of the Assam Accord and in fact, the process slowed down drastically after a new system of deportation was introduced in 2013.

The records available with the State Government point to the sorry state of affairs as only two persons declared as foreigners by the Foreigners Tribunals could be pushed

back during the period from March, 2013 to May this year, which turned the entire process of detection and deportation into a farce. However, during the same period, 67 convict-

ed foreigners could be pushed back. Official sources admitted before the *Assam Tribune* that the process of pushing back foreigners slowed down drastically after the new system of deportation came into effect.

system also had some other problems as there were instances when persons declared as foreigners were forcibly pushed back without any official records of formally handing them over to the Bangladesh autho-

rities and they could re-enter India by taking advantage of the porous international border.

To deal with the problem, a new

system was introduced in 2013, but

that is a lengthy process and the process of pushing back foreigners slowed down even further. Giving details of the new system, sources revealed that under the present system, whenever a person is declared as an illegal migrant from Bangladesh, the Border Police Organisation writes to the State Government with the details of the person along with his or her original address in Bangladesh. The State Government, in turn, writes to the Government of India and the Ministry of External Affairs informs the details to the Bangladesh High Commission in India. The Bangladesh High Commission informs its Government, which verifies the original addresses of the persons sought to be deported and only after receiving

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### Deportation slowing down under new system



A football replica being installed at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium, which is hosting some matches of the FIFA Under-17 World Cup in October, in Guwahati on Thursday. – UB Photos

## Panama papers being probed: Jaitley

NEW DELHI, Aug 10: Answering questions over the fate of Panama papers, the government today said every account named in the leak is being probed but made it clear that nobody would be punished here without a proper process, unlike Pakistan where Nawaz Sharif was removed as Prime Minister.

"Nobody has ever taken more action than this government on foreign account details which have come," Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said in the Rajya Sabha while replying to a debate on Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill which was passed by the House later.

Referring to the Panama papers leak, the Finance Minister said "every account" in it is being investigated.

### Cash-for-query Charges to be framed against 11 former MPs

NEW DELHI, Aug 10: A court here today ordered framing of charges against 11 former MPs in connection with the 2005 cash-for-query case. Police have charged 11 former MPs – Chhatrapal Singh Lodha, Anna Saheli MR Patel, Pradeep Gandhi, Suresh Chandel, Chandra Pratap Singh, Ram Sewak Singh, Manor Kumar Narendra Kumar Kushwaha, Lal Chandra Kol, YG Mahajan and Raja Ramopal – for allegedly taking money to ask questions in Parliament.

Special Judge Poonam Chaudhary said prima facie charges dealing with criminal conspiracy under the Indian Penal Code and under the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act were made out against the accused. – PTI

### Nationwide drive to protect elephant corridors, habitats

SIVASISH THAKUR

space for India's wild elephants and the importance of elephant corridors.

One of the biggest events planned around India's wild elephants, it will take place across multiple cities in India.

Talking to *The Assam Tribune*, actor-turned conserva-



tionist Dia Mirza, who is a founder member of WTI's Club Nature and working closely with Gaja Yatra, said that the campaign, apart from reaching out to multiple stakeholders, including those who live near elephant habitat,

(See page 4)

country on World Elephant Day on August 12.

Initiated by the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) in association with the Government of India's Project Elephant

and Partners, Gaja Yatra will be a 15-month awareness campaign on the shrinking

## Rs 100 cr allotted to study NE floods

### Centre bid to find permanent solution

SPL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, Aug 10: The Centre on Thursday said that Rs 100 crore has been earmarked to find a permanent solution to floods in the Northeastern region. Experts will help find a solution, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju said.

The Centre proposes to fund a permanent solution to floods in the Northeast including Assam, Rijiju said in the Lok Sabha this morning.

He was replying to a call attention motion on the problem of floods in various parts of the country. Rijiju rejected claims of the Opposition that the government has failed to respond to the "annual feature" of floods in time and that it gives little

financial assistance to states to combat the calamity.

The minister had last week ruled out the possibility of declaring the floods as a national

problem and on Tuesday de-

cated that it can best be

described as "a calamity of se-

vere nature".

The government has ad-

judged flood as a calamity of

"severe nature" in terms of

operational guidelines of 2015-

16 for constitution and adminis-

teration of the National Disas-

ter Response Fund (NDRF).

Rijiju said the Centre does

not discriminate and two insta-

ments of the state disaster re-

sponse fund have already been

given to the State.

The minister also rejected

suggestions that the govern-

ment's response to floods is

often delayed, saying the con-

sistent practice has been to en-

sure that rescue is followed by

relief and rehabilitation.

Introducing the discussion,

Gaurav Gogoi of the Congress

alleged that the government

was in deep slumber like the

mythological character "

Kumbhabhakari" and failed to take

quick action when a calamity

like floods hit various parts of

the country. He said as per a

revised formula, the financial

ability of the states has in-

creased in tackling floods. The

Centre has changed the fund-

ing pattern from 90:10 to 80:20

for Special Category States like

the Northeast states. Suddenly,

after the recommendations of

NITI Aayog, the funding pat-

tern has been changed. In 2016,

the Water Resources Ministry

issued a letter with the subject

(See page 4)

### JOCOSERIOUS



Till now he has announced the tentative date of expansion for his ministry, not the year!

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Urgent requirement for smart housewife for part time job. Salary upto 30,000. Location: Guwahati. Ph. 9127064930. SV/P/A3332/2

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Applications in standard form (as published in "The Assam Gazette Part-Ix) with biodata and attested copies of all testimonials are invited from candidates having HGC norms with NET/SLET/SET qualifications for filling up following sanctioned posts of Assistant Professors in the UGC pay scale of Rs. 15600/- 39100 + AGP Rs. 6000/- with other allowances. Candidates must have D degrees in accordance with the University Grants Commission (minimum standard and procedure for award of Ph.D. degree) Regulation - 2009 shall be exempted from the requirement of minimum eligibility condition of NET/ SLET/SET.

Applications accompanied by bank draft of Rs. 2000.00 (Rupees two thousand only)(Non-refundable) payable to Principal, Bahona College, Jorhat, through the College Office on or before the 25th August, 2017.

The age of candidate must not be more than 45 years on 01-01-2017 and it is relaxable up to 5 years for ST/SC candidates.

The candidate must submit Permanent Residential Certificate (PRC) and must know local language.

In service candidates must apply through proper channel with an NOC from concerned authority.

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**RADIOGRAPHER**

Required Qualified Radiographer, preferably female, having valid certificate from recognized institute, for a center having Mammography facility in Guwahati. apexmedical@gmail.com Contact: 98640-2624

Urgently required Commerce Graduate with knowledge of Tally, M.S. Excel, M.S. Office. Interested candidates may apply to Box No. 3342, Assam Tribune, Guwahati-3. SV/P/3342/2B

Urgently required Technicians & Electricians for the following positions in Guwahati: 1. Technicians for AC, Inverter, Kitchen, Chimneys, Refrigerator, etc. 2. General Electrician. Experience of atleast 5 years in the relevant posts. Candidates must possess 2-Wheeler. Qualification must possess ITT or equivalent. Certificate/Wiremen Course is desirable. Salary: Rs. 10,000/- 12,500/-+ incentives. Benefits include free Medical, PF, Insurance & Other allowances as per company norms. Walk in interview on August 11th, 12th & 13th, 2017. House No. 350, Near Zoo Tiniali, Mother Teresa Road, Gitanagar Guwahati-781024, Mobile: 88762990984. SV/P/A3333/1

**SITUATION VACANT**

Applications are invited for the post of Teacher (Hindi) in Assam Jyoti Bhawan, Nicanor Guwahati. Candidates will have to apply in AJB's own Application Form. No photocopies of any certificate are to be enclosed.

**Qualification:** (1) Graduate with major and M.A. in concerned (Hindi) subject (2) 55% marks in aggregate in HSLC, (2) M.Sc. in Mathematics. The applications which may be received at the office of the undersigned within twenty days from the date of publication of this advertisement, Sd/-Principal, CTE, Dhaukhakana, Ph. 874993884. SV/P/KP047/1

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Required Civil Engineer and Accountant. Minimum 3 years' Experience. Mail your resume at selectionview@gmail.com. SV/P/PA328/1

Required 1. Accountant, Sal: 10000/- 2. DTH. Installer, Delivery Boy Sal: 8000/- Fuel-Mobile. 3. Tele-cellar, Sal: 5000/- Send your CV to enterprisesibanu@gmail.com or contact: 002160805. SV/P/PA3329/1

Direct joining - Required Computer Operator. Age limit upto 42 years. Phone: 848699102.

The filled-in Application Form may be submitted in the office or sent to e-mail: jobsassamitiyabidyalay@gmail.com

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## Pak's 'Mother Teresa' Dr Ruth Pfau dies



KARACHI, Aug 10: Dr Ruth Pfau, a German doctor popularly known as Pakistan's 'Mother Teresa' for dedicating her life to eradicate leprosy in the country, died today at a private hospital in Karachi. She was 87.

She died after a prolonged age-related illness.

Dr Pfau first visited Pakistan in 1960 and was so touched by the plight of leprosy victims that she decided to stay forever in the country to treat them.

The nun founded the Marie Adelaide Leprosy Centre in Karachi in 1962 and later set up its branches in all provinces of Pakistan, including Gilgit-Baltistan, and treated over 50,000 families.

Due to her tireless efforts, the World Health Organisation in 1996 declared Pakistan one of the first countries in Asia to be free of leprosy.

She was born in 1929 in Germany and lived through the horrors of World War II.

Pfau joined the Society of Daughters of the Heart of Mary and was assigned to go to India

but landed in Karachi for a brief stay due to some visa problems.

Her interaction with leprosy patients in the port city motivated her to change the plan and stay for the rest of her life in Pakistan to help the patients.

She was 29 when she landed in Karachi for the first time. She was awarded the Hilal-e-Imtiaz

-Pakistan's second-highest civilian award - in 1979, the Hilal-e-Pakistan in 1989.

She was also awarded the Staedler Medal at the German consulate Karachi in 2013.

Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said "Pfau may have been born in Germany, but her heart was always in Pakistan".

"Dr Ruth came to Pakistan at the dawn of a young nation, looking to make lives better for those afflicted by disease, and in doing so, found herself a home," Abbasi said, praising her courage and services.

The funeral mass will be held on August 19 at St Patrick's Cathedral, and thereafter will be laid to rest in the Christian Cemetery (Gora Qabristan). - PTI

### CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT

#### MISSING



Phunuma Mazumdar originally from Ward No. 6, Rangia, is missing from IIT Guwahati Campus. She is 4 feet 8 inch and age of 27 years. Any information of her can be given to following Ph. No. 99570-9298, 98599-9332.

CD/Missing/KP050/1

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# INTERNATIONAL

## Russian plane creates buzz in Washington

WASHINGTON, Aug 10: A low-flying Russian airplane created a buzz in the nation's capital, but it turns out the surveillance flight over the Capitol, Pentagon and other sites was cleared by the US Government under a long-standing global treaty.

Yesterday's flight, which was filmed by The Associated Press, was permitted under the Open Skies Treaty.

Russia and the United States are signatories to the treaty, which allows unarmed observation flights over the entire territory of all 34 member nations. The flights are intended to foster transparency about military activity, re-

duce mistrust or misunderstandings and help monitor arms control and other agreements.

Dan Gaffney, a spokesman for the Pentagon, said he could not confirm the path of the plane in 2002, there have been more than 1,200 Open Skies flights. According to the Pentagon, the overflights are conducted by unarmed observation aircraft equipped with certain types of film and sensors that are certified under the treaty.

The flight will be monitored by the US Capitol Police command centre and other Federal Government agencies."

Since the treaty entered into force in 2002, there have been more than 1,200 Open Skies flights. According to the Pentagon, the overflights are conducted by unarmed observation aircraft equipped with certain types of film and sensors that are certified under the treaty.

The Pentagon said that before the flights, each State is given the flight plan of the mission and an escort team flies aboard the aircraft to make sure it complies with the treaty. Af-

ter each flight, the host nation gets a copy of any imagery taken by the observation aircraft.

Senior US intelligence and military officials have expressed concern that Russia is taking advantage of technological advances to violate the spirit of the treaty.

Steve Redemaker, former assistant secretary of State for the bureau of arms control and the bureau of international security and nonproliferation, told Congress in past hearings that Rus-

sia complies with the Open Skies Treaty but has adopted measures that are inconsistent with the spirit of the accord. —AP

### Nationwide drive to protect elephant ..

(Contd from page 1)  
relocation of a village in Karbi Anglong for restoring an important elephant corridor on the Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong landscape three years back, Mirza said that the campaign would strive to replicate the successful conservation model in areas needing similar intervention.

"We will engage with local communities and also assist them with livelihood options for freeing elephant corridors," she said.

In Assam and other parts of the North East, elephant habitats and corridors are shrinking drastically in the face of growing encroachment, tree-felling and commercial and industrial activities. This has also led to a spurt in man-elephant conflict that has been taking a large toll both on elephant and human lives.

"Corridors apart, the need to save elephant habitat has never been as urgent as it is today. The problem is worsened by the fact that many elephant habitats fall outside protected forests like national parks and wildlife sanctuaries, rendering those more vulnerable to encroachment and deforestation. We are for a better mechanism that can ensure protection to reserved forests

as well," Mirza, who started in several Bollywood blockbusters and was also a winner of Miss Asia Pacific Pageant.

Pointing out that the elephant had been a part of Indian culture, Mirza said that empowerment of communities living near elephant habitats could help mitigate the man-elephant conflict and protect elephant habitat.

"WTI has been working towards this for over a decade and a half through 'Right of Passage - National Elephant Corridor Project', and we want to take it to the next level with Gaja Yatra," she said.

Another crucial aspect, she

said, is that Gaja Yatra would be in the form of a national movement and also encompass people who were not necessarily into conservation.

"We want to bring every person into the fold of this campaign. The message that elephant habitat needs protection must spread into every nook and corner for effectiveness to follow," she said.

The Executive Engineer, Sanitaryware Division, PWD (RBD), Santiniketan, South Tripura, invited sealed percentage rate tender (s) against pre-specified charge sheet has been posted at her last known present address as well as at the office of Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager N F Railway, Alipurduar Junction, Alipurduar, Darjeeling, West Bengal hrs. (from 10.00 hrs. of 16-08-17 to 15.00 hrs. of 25-08-17). The application will be open on 28-08-17. All tenders and bid instruments are available at W.F. Railways website www.nfr.indianrailways.gov.in or from Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager Office, Alipurduar Junction, Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Alipurduar Jn.

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**SIGNAL AND TELECOM WORKS UNDER 5TH DIVISION**

E-Tender No. 53-D-2017-18 Date: 07-08-2017, E-Tender is invited by the undersigned for the following work. **1. Name of Work:** Construction of 8.37 km length of TBM Tunnel (with sleepers) in 1 X 12 (Xing & Switches) between Kharai - Dibruza (Kharai - Dibruza) 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 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271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 28

WEATHER  
GUWAHATI

**LOCAL FORECAST:**  
Mainly cloudy sky. One or two spells of rain / thundershower is very likely to occur.  
Maximum temperature is most likely to be 29°C on Friday.

**TEMPERATURE:**  
Max 29.8°C  
Min 26.0°C

## DC takes stock of I-Day preparations

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 10: Kamrun (Metro) Deputy Commissioner Dr M Angamuthi today visited the veterinary college ground at Khanapara and took stock of the arrangements for the forthcoming Independence Day function to be held there.

He also held a meeting with senior officials from the district administration, various line departments and the police.

## World Honey Day on Aug 19

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 10: The Directorate of Horticulture & Food Processing, Assam will celebrate World Honey Day on August 19 at the Monai Tamuli Barbarua Training Hall, Khanapara.

Agriculture Minister Atul Bora will inaugurate the programme at 10.30 am on that day.

KK Mittal, Additional Chief Secretary & Agricultural Production Commissioner and Amlan Baruah, Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Assam, Agriculture Department, will participate in the programme as guests of honour. Bee keepers from across the State will attend the programme.

There will be a technical session and an interaction session for the benefit of beekeepers during the event.

Coinciding with the occasion, a training session for beekeepers will also be organised at the Centre of Excellence for Off-season Vegetables, Khetri, on August 18.

## Induction training at IIE

CORRESPONDENT

JALUKBARI, Aug 10: The Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE) Guwahati and Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), Shillong, are jointly organising a 15-day induction training of National Youth Volunteer from August 9 to 23, on the IIE Guwahati campus.

Altogether 85 youth volunteers from 11 districts of Meghalaya are participating in the training.

The objective of the training is to train and create awareness about the programme and activities of NYKS and other departments as well as help volunteers to know themselves and develop their personalities in terms of leadership. They will be exposed to adventure and entrepreneurial environment with physical and mental exercises.

The trainees will also be provided with knowledge and understanding of the values of National Youth Volunteer and encouraged to connect with various nation building tasks, etc.

The training is scheduled with various sessions on National Youth Volunteer (NYV) schemes.

## RSS, Sangh Parivar trying to divide Assamese society: Gogoi

PRANJAL BHUYAN

imparting 'self-defence training', the State government is also making all efforts to facilitate 'right-wing ideology'.

"Naming colleges in Assam after Deendayal Upadhyaya is an insult to the people of Assam. There are so many

'Naming colleges in Assam after Deendayal Upadhyaya is an insult to the people of Assam. Is Upadhyaya bigger than any of our own famous personalities and icons of yesteryear? All this is just because he was the ideologue of RSS'

scholars and prominent personalities in our own history, from Srimanta Sankaradeva and Mahapurush Madhavdeva to Lakshminath Bezbarrah and BK Handique. Their contributions are being ignored, while Upadhyaya, who has even no connection with the State, is being promoted. Is Upadhyaya bigger than any of our own famous personalities and icons

of yesteryear? All this is just because he was the ideologue of RSS," Gogoi said.

He added that Upadhyaya has not been given such recognition even in his home state Uttar Pradesh, which is also ruled by BJP and where the saffron party had long been a major player.

"The State government is dancing to the tune and dictates of the Centre. It is a deliberate attempt to create divisiveness for the sake of political power," he said.

On being reminded that various Congress regimes, both at the Centre and in different states, have over the years named schools, colleges and other institutions and landmarks after members of the Nehru-Gandhi family, Gogoi said, "That is true. But during my 15 years as Chief Minister of Assam, most of the colleges, stadiums and other things were named after local icons. Our party has always respected local traditional sentiments."

Gogoi said the victory of Ahmed Patel in the Raiga Sabha polls from Gujarat will act as a morale booster for the Congress. "Patel won despite BJP's blatant use of government machinery, money and muscle power. They failed. It is a big morale booster for us and I am the happiest person today," he said.

They want to imbibe certain false ideas among the students and youths by attracting them to the Hindutva ideology from an early stage in life. Such practices will destroy the unity, amity and rich cultural and historical tradition of the Assamese society," he said.

Gogoi said that while outfits like RSS, Bagrang Dal and Durga Vahini are spreading their reach across the State, and even

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**MESSAGE FOR TODAY**

*The charity that hastens to proclaim its good deeds ceases to be charity, and is only pride and ostentation.*

— WILLIAM HUTTON

**The Assam Tribune****Amend AFSPA**

Even as the demand for repeal of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) currently in place in Jammu & Kashmir and some parts of the North-east gets louder, the stand of the Assam Government on the matter seems perplexing. The Centre has been unwilling to extend the AFSPA in Assam beyond August 31 in view of the improvement in the situation *vis-a-vis* militancy. It is, therefore, up to the State Government to take a call on its extension. Given that militancy has subsided considerably in Assam, there can be no ground for any further extension of the Act in the State. Regrettably, the State Government has been dithering on the issue and resorting even to double-speak. On the one hand, it is asserting that law and order in Assam has been normal for years and on the other, it is unwilling to let go of AFSPA. In fact, even after the Centre had intimated the State Government about its stand on the issue, the latter has been pressing for its extension. It also exposes the State Government to be lacking confidence in its own police forces even when things are quite normal.

On the larger issue of amendment or repeal of the AFSPA, things have not moved for decades despite growing public resentment over the abuse of this contentious piece of legislation, especially in J&K and the north-eastern State of Manipur. The perennial stumbling block in this regard has been the Defence Ministry's strong opposition to have any changes in the Act – let alone repealing it. But the moot point here should be whether the AFSPA is a genuine threat to human rights, and if it is so, the Act needs to be amended accordingly to prevent misuse irrespective of the Defence Ministry's opposition. A look at the history of the AFSPA in the trouble-torn regions makes it clear that widespread excesses including killings of innocents have indeed happened and that makes a strong case for getting the Act amended at least. The argument of the AFSPA proponents that any dilution or withdrawal of the Act would seriously jeopardize the safety and credibility of the forces engaged in anti-insurgency operations in hostile environments does not cut much ice. The AFSPA can be termed a draconian piece of legislation widely being used as an instrument of state torture. The widespread opposition to the Act is understandable, as the AFSPA has a history of glaring misuse resulting in large-scale human rights abuse. It is undoubtedly the bounden duty of the Government to curb militancy and protect the lives and property of civilians but at the same time any attempt to ensure that by brazenly violating the fundamental rights of the people – to the extent of causing death of innocents – would amount to gross injustice and therefore untenable. The experience with the AFSPA for over five decades has shown it to be counter-productive, as abuses perpetrated under it tend to alienate the people from the Government and make them sympathetic towards militancy.

**Gujarat RS polls**

After weeks of suspense, the results of the polls to fill three upcoming Rajya Sabha vacancies from Gujarat are out. Despite all efforts by the BJP to ensure his defeat, veteran Congress leader Ahmed Patel was able to retain his Rajya Sabha seat from the State. Patel, who is the political secretary to Congress president Sonia Gandhi, secured 44 votes. Patel was contesting the Rajya Sabha polls for the fifth consecutive time from Gujarat and he has been an MP in the Upper House of Parliament since 1993. The BJP had made it a prestige issue that Patel is defeated. The events of the last few weeks resembled the days of the 1990s when Rajya Sabha polls in many States turned out to be messy affair with horse trading being the norm during those days. In the run-up to the Rajya Sabha polls in Gujarat this time, a number of Congress MLAs resigned from the party and relinquished their membership of the Legislative Assembly. That sounded the warning bells within the grand old party forcing the leadership to shift its Gujarat MLAs to Karnataka to prevent any 'poaching'. There were three vacancies from the State. The BJP was sure of winning two of the seats. However, it upset the ante by fielding Balwant Singh Rajput, one of the Congress MLAs who resigned and joined the BJP, as its third candidate. The BJP's national president Amit Shah and Union Minister Smriti Irani were also on the fray. Shah and Irani's victory were certain from the beginning. The nomination of Rajput by the BJP as its third candidate was intended to make things difficult for the Congress and personally for Patel also. Allegations and counter-allegations were hurled by the Congress and the BJP against one another. Even after polling was over, counting began many hours late after the Congress approached the Election Commission seeking rejection of the votes of two of its own MLAs for validating electoral rules.

The ultimate outcome is no doubt a setback for the BJP as it was desperate to see Patel lose. The saffron party has been in power in Gujarat consecutively for over two decades and it has already announced that its intention is to win at least 150 of the 182 seats in the Legislative Assembly polls slated to take place within the next few months. The Congress, fighting a rear-guard action across most of the country, will no doubt find some solace in the outcome of the Rajya Sabha polls from Gujarat. However, recent developments in the western State have not brought any glory to our democratic system. It was a sad spectacle to witness so much controversy about something as regular as the Rajya Sabha polls. It is indeed unfortunate that our political leaders and elected representatives could act in such a manner. Citizens of India deserve better than this kind of episodes.

# Sediment transport in Brahmaputra

**■ Dr JN Sarma**

**T**he Government of Assam has planned to dredge the Brahmaputra spending Rs 400 crore; therefore, understanding the nature of sediment transport in the Brahmaputra before starting dredging is desirable. As the second river in the world in terms of rate of sediment yield per square kilometre (km<sup>2</sup>), which is next to the Huang He river of China. Presently China has adequately controlled the sediment sources of the Huang He; hence the Brahmaputra has attained the first rank.

The rate of sediment yield per km<sup>2</sup> at different parts of the catchment of the Brahmaputra is quite irregular. As measured at Tse La Dzong in Tibet, the rate is about 150 tons per km<sup>2</sup>. But as the river crosses the Himalayas and reaches Pasighat of Arunachal Pradesh at the foothills, the rate increases to 10 folds, i.e., 1,495 tons per km<sup>2</sup>. It is evident that the river gathers sediments from soft rocks and landslides affected areas of the Himalayas. The Higher Himalaya Range contributes about 70% of the sediments of the Brahmaputra. At Bessomora (Majuli), the rate is 1,513 tons per km<sup>2</sup>. Here the further increase in the rate, as compared to Pasighat, is due to the contributions from the rivers Dibang and Lohit.

A considerable part of the sediment of the Brahmaputra is contributed by its tributaries. The

tributaries of north bank of the Brahmaputra originate in the Himalayas; hence the amount of sediment carried by these rivers is also high as compared to their south bank counterparts. For example, the sediment yield per km<sup>2</sup> of the basins of the Suhansiri and Jia Bherali are 2,500 and 4,700 tons respectively. On the other hand, this rate per km<sup>2</sup> for the south bank tributaries like the Burhi Dihing, Disang, Jangti, Dhangari and Konyri are respectively 700, 968, 1020, 482 and 832 tons.

The data on water discharge and sediment load of the Brahmaputra are classified documents and thus public access is not to the same. The sediment loads are measured as both suspended load and bed load. The published data reveal that on an average the Brahmaputra transported 402 million tons of suspended sediment annually during 1955 to 1979 at Pandu. According to the Water and Power Consultancy Services (India) Limited, the average annual sediment yield for the period from 1978 to 1991 was 527 million tons at Pancharanta. During the rainy season, May through October, the river transports 95% of annual suspended load at Pandu at an average daily rate of 2.12 million metric

tons. This is an enormous amount; if trucks of 15 ton capacity are used to carry this load, the total number of trucks required for this purpose will be 1,41,333. Although suspended sediment is measured at a few stations on the Brahmaputra, no convincing attempt has been made to measure its bed load because of various complexities. Prof DC Goswami estimated the bed load using several empirical equations and concluded that the bed

sediments into the river?

Moreover, so far there is no data on the Brahmaputra in Assam to know how sediments move along its bed (bottom). A classic field study on this aspect was carried out by Prof JM Coleman (1969) on the Jamuna (Brahmaputra) of Bangladesh. He found that the river bed moves as waves of sand, called bedforms, similar to sand dunes of deserts. The results of his study can be summarized as follows:

"The wave heights of the bedforms range from few inches to over 45 feet. Four types of bedforms can be identified – ripples, mega ripples, dunes and sandwaves. Ripples are small features but mega ripples can attain a height of 3 feet and move over 750 feet per day. Dunes range in wave height from 5 to 25 feet and are most common during peak flood. The rate of their movement ranged from 10 to 370 feet per day. The sand waves are the largest bedforms, height ranging from 25 to 50 feet. They develop during the peak flood and the falling stage. The rate of movement is in order of 100-1500 feet per day."

Further, the might of the Brahmaputra in Bangladesh is much lower than that of Assam as the slope of the river is more in Assam (0.27 to 0.094 m/km) than that of Bangladesh (0.079 m/km). Therefore, it is not unlikely that the bedforms can attain a height of more than 50 feet (16 m approx.) on the bed of the Brahmaputra in Assam. Hence, the channel dredged out during dry months is likely to be filled by at least up to 16 m in the next rainy season. In that case dredging will have to be carried out annually as a continuous process.

The main purpose of dredging of the Brahmaputra is to prevent the high flows from inundating both of its banks resulting in floods. But the valley of Assam has been created from the sediments deposited by the floods of the Brahmaputra and its tributaries. During the last two million years, it has deposited 200-1000 m thick sediments only by flooding and lateral channel migration. Natural floods have several benefits besides increasing soil fertility. But artificial heavy floods have been created in Assam either due to breaching of embankments or sudden release of impounded water from dams for dam safety purpose. Such floods deposit enormous sterile sands, which are called 'crevasses-splays'.

Curiously, dredging appears to be a solution for drainage congestion and flood, but for achieving fruitful result, a proper planning and detailed study on the basic aspects of this project is highly desirable.

Hence, a critical analysis of the data on both sediment input and dredging depth together with dimensions of the bedforms is necessary before starting this mega project.

## Reviewing TeachR: survival of the fittest TEIs

**■ Nilima Bhagabati**

**T**is very well professed by the Kothari Commission (1964-66) that the nation's destiny is built in the classroom. Teachers create manpower for every sector of human activity and this implies the importance of teacher preparation in the teacher education institutions (TEIs).

Transformational strategies in redesigning teacher education made by NCTE Regulation, 2014 were implemented but the effect is yet to be seen. The TEIs in the country are yet to implement fully the regulations and violations are still seen in the appointment of faculties, principals, insufficient faculty members, and negligence in teaching method papers, poor quality of internship and the institutions managing absenteeism of teacher trainees.

Lately, the chairperson of the NCTE has adopted new measures to assess and accredit TEIs in the country. In this context, the assessment and accreditation framework for the TEIs was framed (in draft version), titled TeachR, which was already informed through the NCTE website, and open sessions were conducted in various cities in the country to appraise the new assessment and accreditation process and to receive feedback from the

teacher educators and academicians.

As per the TeachR draft version, the NCTE is to work with the Quality Council of India, an autonomous agency under the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Government of India in context to A&A. The chairperson of the QCI is nominated by the Prime Minister of India. This new strategy of A&A, if implemented, will control the commercial growth of the TEIs and coax the institutions to work hard with honesty and sincerity for survival. As stated in TeachR, the average quality teaching is a key determinant of the learning outcomes, which is very low in the country, and the current regulatory framework for the TEIs does not provide academic excellence. The third pillar to assess the knowledge acquired by the teacher trainees through standardized proctored tests is to be administered to a valid sample of the TEIs. This test is supposed to find out the attitude, skill and knowledge of the teacher trainees. The last pillar to assess the knowledge acquired by the teacher trainees through standardized proctored tests is to be administered to a valid sample of the TEIs. This test is supposed to find out the attitude, skill and knowledge of the teacher trainees. The third pillar is the effective teaching-learning practices exercised by the TEIs. The assessment in this aspect is to be done through peer review and AV recordings of classroom transaction made by the teacher educators carrying 30 marks. The last pillar to assess the knowledge acquired by the teacher trainees through standardized proctored tests is to be administered to a valid sample of the TEIs. This test is supposed to find out the attitude, skill and knowledge of the teacher trainees. The last pillar to assess the knowledge acquired by the teacher trainees through standardized proctored tests is to be administered to a valid sample of the TEIs. This test is supposed to find out the attitude, skill and knowledge of the teacher trainees.

The new draft framework for assessment and accreditation with a 100-point scale rests on four pillars – physical assets, academic assets, teacher and learning quality, and learning outcome. The first pillar to assess the optimum infrastructural facilities and availability of assets is

allotted 10 marks. For assessment of academic assets, the compatibility of the curriculum, quality academic support to student-trainees by teacher educators using various resources, quality of the faculty and the research output. Further, the quality survey is to be made during the internship period carrying 20 marks.

The third pillar is the effective teaching-learning practices exercised by the TEIs. The assessment in this aspect is to be done through peer review and AV recordings of classroom transaction made by the teacher educators carrying 30 marks. The last pillar to assess the knowledge acquired by the teacher trainees through standardized proctored tests is to be administered to a valid sample of the TEIs. This test is supposed to find out the attitude, skill and knowledge of the teacher trainees. The last pillar to assess the knowledge acquired by the teacher trainees through standardized proctored tests is to be administered to a valid sample of the TEIs. This test is supposed to find out the attitude, skill and knowledge of the teacher trainees. The last pillar to assess the knowledge acquired by the teacher trainees through standardized proctored tests is to be administered to a valid sample of the TEIs. This test is supposed to find out the attitude, skill and knowledge of the teacher trainees.

The Quality Council of India will train and certify the assessors to be pre-approved by the NCTE. On the basis of the assessment, the TEIs are to be categorized into four ranks – A, B, C and D. The TEIs accredited A' are to be labeled excellent fulfilling all criteria; these TEIs are to be the ones failing to fulfill all criteria and to be closed down.

The prime outcome of this new A&A strategies will close the chapter of commercialization and dishonesty practised by most of the TEIs.

Coming to the first pillar of A&A, it

receiving benefits in starting new works, intake capacity, etc., will be considered as model TEIs.

The 'B' category is to be awarded to the TEIs fulfilling the land, building, faculty and faculty qualification and obtaining both the bench mark scores for each section and in the aggregate. Category 'C' is for those TEIs which have fulfilled land, building, faculty and faculty qualifications but score poorly for aggregate score in all four sections or fail to receive minimum score in each section. The TEIs which fall in this rank are to be given a chance by the NCTE to resubmit revised SEF within 12 months effective from the date of notification. 'D' category TEIs are to be the ones failing to fulfill all criteria and to be closed down.

The prime outcome of this new A&A strategies will close the chapter of commercialization and dishonesty practised by most of the TEIs. Coming to the first pillar of A&A, it would be a welcome step on the part of the NCTE to permit inadequate physical infrastructure to be completed particularly in backward or hilly areas within the stipulated period. The second and third pillars are most welcome as academic assets and effective teaching-learning processes play an important role in assessing the quality of an institution.

Coming to the last pillar, confu-

sion exists regarding the application of the procured online test to be administered to a statistically valid sample of student-teachers from each TEI.

The question is whether the internal faculty would select the sample. If so the purpose will not be served. It has come to notice that a small percentage of teacher educators are not e-literate, not to speak of rural areas but in urban areas too. The procured online tests in this context will not be feasible. The NCTE needs reviewing. Before the implementation of the new A&A method by the NCTE, all teacher education institutes in the country need to go through a complete orientation.

While submitting the affidavit as a mandatory requirement, mention is made regarding the submission of Aadhaar number by the principals of the TEIs. In case of Assam, Aadhaar is yet to be issued which needs to be addressed.

For transforming teacher education and to adopt strict measures of A&A within a time-bound period, the NCTE has no doubt taken a positive step. In the words of former President of India APJ Abdul Kalam Azad, "If you are a teacher in whatever capacity, you have a very special role to play, because more than anybody else, it is you who are shaping the future generation."

## Election Commission's stand commendable

**Letters to the EDITOR**

how the BJP raised the stakes too high in a routine Rajya Sabha election, because they thought that it's a golden chance to 'defeat' the Congress president Sonia Gandhi through the defeat of Ahmed Patel. On the contrary, the BJP suffered a huge embarrassment, particularly when Patel won the most difficult election in his life. Yours etc., BIDYUT KUMAR CHATTERJEE, Faridabad.

**APSC answer keys**

Sir – It is with reference to the letters by Uditra Borah and Tarun Asom (AT, August 6) on the APSC answer keys to the CCE Prelims exam conducted on July 2, 2017. Here, I agree with them and further like to make some suggestions to the APSC. Being such a reputed establishment, we do not expect the APSC to make silly mistakes in the answer keys and again asking the candidates to correct those mistakes. The candidates have worked hard and dedicated time to prepare for this prestigious exam and they must not suffer for the Commission's casual mistakes. What the APSC is doing is commendable but not at the cost of the candidates' hard work and the time they had put for this exam. I would like to request the APSC not to make such mistakes in future, and as of now, provide grace marks for the mistakes. Yours etc., Dr SK CHOWDHURY, Dispur.

**Lack of initiative**

Sir – Soon after the present State Government came to power in May, 2016, it was confronted with severe flood and the consequent extensive devastation. The flood victims then were willing to be cooperative with whatever relief arrangements were made as the Government was new in the office. The current flood is the second one in successive years and the Government was expected to come forward in terms of completing flood protection works in the following dry season and prompt distribution of relief materials at the victims' locations which would have minimized casualties, which reportedly exceeded 80 including a good number of deaths by electrocution. The citizens will hope that the Government will take very strong action for the criminal negligence of the Electricity Board, fix responsibility and provide due compensation. The pre-election promise of transparency and good governance had enthused the masses.

**ATO service**

Sir – Diphudhar town in Goalpara district is also a place of daily and weekly markets filled with traders and customers. Most of them come to these markets from other districts and States to buy banana, pineapple, dry fish and cattle. It is to be noted here that Darangiri and Diphudhar are two famous markets in Asia for banana and pineapple trade. There are only two ATM booths in the town, one operated by the State Bank of India and the other, United Bank of India. Regrettably, they are often found without cash or temporarily out of service thereby failing to render adequate service to those who want to withdraw the cash from the ATMs or make other transactions. Failing to withdraw cash from the ATMs people, mostly traders, go to the four bank branches at Diphudhar. But the banks are overcrowded, especially on Monday which is the weekly market day, with long serpentine queues in every counter resulting in harassment

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



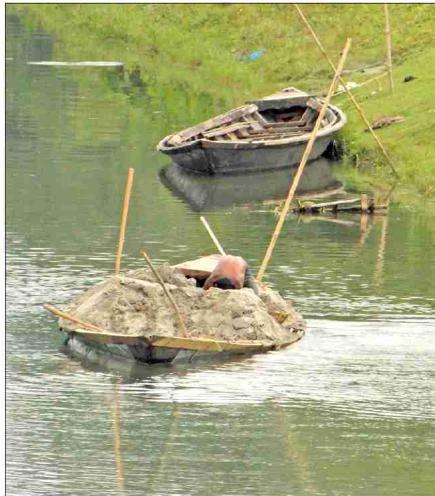
Home Guard association stages rail blockade  
CORRESPONDENT

BONGAIGAON, Aug 10: Members of All Assam Trained Home Guard Association staged a two-hour rail blockade at New Bongaigaon Railway level crossing here on Wednesday demanding fulfilment of their various demands.

However, the blockade failed to cause much impact on train movements as heavy security was deployed since morning at the blockade site to keep main railway tracks free from picketers so that Rajdhani Express and other long-route trains could pass without any hindrance.

The association also sent a memorandum to Prime Minister Narendra Modi citing its demands like pension, job regularisation, on-duty death benefits, equal facilities like those for police personnel and maternity leave for women jansans, etc.

However, the association has threatened to intensify its protest in the future if its demands were not fulfilled soon.



A man ferrying sand from Palla river, in Baksa on Wednesday. – UB Photos

## Employee of Tezpur Meteorological Observatory awarded

CORRESPONDENT

TEZPUR, Aug 10: The Earth Systems Science Organisation (ESSO) operating as an executive arm to implement policies and programmes of the Ministry of Earth Science (MoES) has given the Best Employee Award of Multi Tasking Staff of Tezpur Meteorological Observatory (MO) to Aditya Kumar Das this year.

He received the award from Ministry of Earth Sciences' Earth System Science Organisation (ESSO), Government of India in New Delhi-based Vigyan Bhawan during the foundation day of the

'Birdman' of Lakhimpur passes away



CORRESPONDENT

NORTH LAKHIMPUR, Aug 10: Bahram Gogoi, also locally known as 'birdman' of Lakhimpur, passed away on Tuesday night here in a private home following a brief illness. He was 81.

Gogoi single-handedly protected the Satzan wetland, famed for its aquatic life and migratory birds, on the right hand bank of Rangamati river in Palumora area, five kilometres west of North Lakhimpur. The wetland, famed for its winged visitors during the winter, had been under serious threat due to illegal activities, Gogoi, who lived just on the bank of the wetland on the Pahumara-Kimti Road, kept a strict vigil against poaching, fishing and sand mining on the wetland.

Gogoi was also an active worker of the Assam Movement in the past and was the district convener of Village Defence Party. His death has been widely mourned in Lakhimpur. Gogoi was cremated on the bank of Rangamati river near his residence on Wednesday morning.

College student held for sending threatening messages to PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

JORHAT, Aug 10: Majuli police recently arrested a college student, identified as Manojan Baruah (19), on charges of sending threatening messages to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, State Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and State Health, Education and Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma through a Facebook account.

Majuli SP Vaibhav Nimbalkar told this Correspondent that Baruah, who was arrested from Bongaon area, had posted the message on the Facebook under the name of Majuli SP Vaibhav Nimbalkar. He said this Correspondent that Baruah, who was arrested from Bongaon area, had posted the message on the Facebook under the name of Majuli SP Vaibhav Nimbalkar.

## Flood relief materials distributed in Golaghat

CORRESPONDENT

DERGAON, Aug 10: The National Service Scheme (NSS) unit of Golaghat Commerce College distributed flood relief materials among the flood-affected people of Dohingman, Tengn Alichiga and Duwaram areas under Samapathy Revenue Circle of Golaghat district recently.

The unit distributed clothes and necessary food items like rice, cereals, mustered oil, salt, biscuits and ORS covering 165 families of those areas. The programme was led by the programme officer of the NSS unit, Manash Pratim Sambar, an assistant professor of the college. The teachers of the college and businessmen of Golaghat area also contributed for this noble deed.

**MCom classes:** The Golaghat Commerce College, one of the pioneer institutions of commerce education in Assam, has started Master of Commerce (MCom) course under Dibrugarh University in regular mode from this academic session.

Irregularities in scheme: The irregularities in selection of the beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) have been alleged by different organisations and individuals of the area here.

According to the allegation, the list of beneficiaries under PMUY has been made on the basis of the economic census in 2011. The list of BPL households is taken from the list. However, irregularities are seen in the list of Dergaon Muniyary Board as well as Dergaon Revenue Circle which included the names of the women of financially sound families. The list also has names of such women who are either government employees or wives of government officials.

On the other hand, a section of the population, including the rural areas are demanding Rs 1200 in the name of the connection and Rs 600 in the name of cylinder. Though the connection is free of cost and the price of the refilled cylinder only to be paid by the beneficiaries, but they paid the amount to the mediator due to ignorance.

## Dumpers ferrying river boulders seized

CORRESPONDENT

BAIHATA CHARIALI, Aug 10: A team of Forest Department officials led by Rabha Baishya, Ranger of Sila Range forest office, Aminigaon recently seized two dumpers carrying illegal river boulders from Bihata Chariali.

The dumpers (AS 01 GC 5825 and AS 01 FC 9359) were carrying river boulders from Udalguri to Guwahati without proper challan via Mangaldai and Dumunichawali.

The people of the area alleged that a section of illegal businessmen have been supplying sand and gravel illegally to different parts of the North Kamrup area almost every day ferried by some dump-

ers without number plates which can also turn out to be danger for passersby as those illegal dumpers always run in high speed on busy roads.

According to the locals, the area is not included under any forest range office for which the corrupt business men have been able to continue their illegal business through the routes.

**Distribution of LPG connections:** Jayanta Malla Barua, State BJP leader, recently inaugurated the distribution programme of LPG connections under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Scheme at Bezeria under Juhukuri LAC.

In a meeting held at Borongshar Mouza Public auditorium here on the occasion, Barua said that the BJP-led government has been working for the uplift of the poor

section of the nation and the scheme would benefit a large number of women of the State under BPL category.

Participating in the meeting, Binod Seshan, Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup (Rural) and officials of IOCL spoke also about the scheme. While Nabadeep Kaitla, vice-chairman of the State Tourism Department, thanking the government for this beneficial scheme announced for the women, said that number of beneficiaries would be increased after the completion of first list of beneficiaries.

In the meeting, Chandana Baniya Mahtani, member of Bezeria zilla parishad committee; Anil Deka, president of Bezeria Mandal BJP; staff of Tinapan Gas Agency and presidents of gaon panchayats of the locality were present.

## Over 60 pc of kids in Dhubri, South Salmara-Mankachar have worms

CORRESPONDENT

DHUBRI, Aug 10: Lakhs of children in Dhubri and South Salmara-Mankachar districts are suffering from worm infection, which as per an estimate by the National Health Mission is to cross the 60 per cent barrier.

While addressing a press conference, the Additional Chief Medical Officer, Nabin

Bhuyan, said that the situation of the districts when it comes to worm infection of the children between the ages of 1 to 19 years is very grim. Worm infection is the main reason behind the high rate of anaemia, malnourishment, impaired mental and irregular physical development cases in the districts, he added.

"In many cases, it leads to some of the serious threats to children's health, education and productivity," Bhuyan said, adding that the infected children cannot concentrate on their studies and they find difficulties in various day-to-day activities.

Meanwhile, the NHM is observing National Deworming Day on Thursday and aims to cover 6,98,860 children under 19 years of age. It was

also informed that the children under age five would be fed with medicines by visiting door-to-door anganwadi workers while trained teachers will feed the rest of the children in the schools. The medical officials will also cover the students of private schools. The officials said that those children who do not go to schools will also be covered under the programme.



Farmers staging a protest in support of various demands, in Golaghat on Wednesday. – UB Photos

## National Handloom Day observed at Sajei-Dagaon

ANN Service

GORESWAR, Aug 10: National Handloom Day was observed at Sajei-Dagaon here on August 7 under the aegis of Bihuya-Jajikona Block Level Cluster under NHDP Kamrup, at Swaraj Gramin Lokseva Parishad in association with the Gangabill Hasta Tat and Bastra Silpa Samabhy Samabhy Samiti Ltd.

On the occasion, a daylong programme was organised which was conducted by resource persons from various government departments.

Altogether, 200 weavers from 12 gram panchayats under Bihuya-Jajikona Block participated in the programme.

Jajikona Development Block, by lighting a lamp. The importance of observing the day was explained by Arbinda Deka, secretary of Gangabill Hasta Tat and Bastra Silpa Samabhy Samiti Ltd.

On the occasion, a daylong programme was organised which was conducted by resource persons from various government departments. Altogether, 200 weavers from 12 gram panchayats under Bihuya-Jajikona Block participated in the programme.

## Importance of introducing theatre in education underlined

CORRESPONDENT

MANGALDHAL, Aug 10: "Theatre is not only a popular media of recreation. It equally plays an important role in education. In our real life, we all are good actors. We do acting knowingly or unknowingly to serve our entertainment purposes in life. But we don't want either to accept or bother about it. This is why theatre can help us with knowledge of the art of living," observed Pabitra Rabha, a Bollywood actor, an NSD alumnus and a prominent theatre activist.

He was talking to this correspondent on the sideline of a children theatre workshop, which ended here recently. Rabha, director of *Dapon-the Mirror*, said, "It is not important for all the participants of the camp to become theatre artists. They may choose different professions, but this workshop will help them to know themselves, their parents, society, school, teachers well. We not only work with the children, we also try to involve their par-

ents during the workshop."

The workshop titled 'Manu Briksha' was a part of the series of similar activities across the State. Earlier, the workshop was inaugurated by Guruvijay Das, Mangaldal MLA, in presence of a host of prominent cultural activists of the State, including playwright Dr Dhrubajit Saharia, classical artiste Pradyut Mishra, national award recipient actress Rupasika Haloi and Director of Brilliant Academy Krittik Choudhury, among others.

due to the help of EDCs, there has been an improvement of relationship between Forest Department and local communities of the area. Around three to five years back, there was a big communication gap between the people of Kaziranga and Forest Department, especially after the notification of Project Tiger in Kaziranga.

Ananda Gogoi, president of Sepenkukhura Eco Development Committee in Kaziranga, said, "Our EDC has extended all kinds of help to the needy unemployed people, especially women, in setting up their tailoring business by purchasing sewing machines from the EDC fund. Simultaneously, we helped the local youths to start piggy and dairy farming and now they are earning good incomes." Under the EDC, a fund of Rs 5 lakh was released for the construction of a Naam Ghar at Sepenkukhura and more than 70 per cent work was completed, he added.

## Three wards of Doomdooma under floodwater

DOOMDOOMA, Aug 10:

Due to heavy and continuous rainfall for last 48 hours in various parts of Tinsukia district and its neighbouring Arunachal Pradesh, water levels of almost all the rivers in the district have touched the danger mark.

The floodwaters of Doomdooma river inundated several areas of ward number 1, 8 and 10 of Doomdooma town affecting several families. As many as 21 families living in the low-lying areas of ward number 8 were shifted to a relief camp set up by the administration at Ram Mohan Pithsala School. SDRF personnel are engaged in rescue operation.

Circle Officer of Doomdooma Revenue Circle, Pankaj Kumar Nagbonia, has been monitoring the flood situation of the area. Deputy Commissioner of Tinsukia, Oninam Charan Kumar Singh on Wednesday visited the affected areas to take stock of the flood situation. Local MLA Durga Blumij also visited the affected areas on Wednesday. – Correspondent

## One held for extortion bid

RAHA, Aug 10: Acting on a tip off, Raha police arrested one person for trying to extort Rs 8 lakh from one Kanak Nath of Sanoholti village under Raha revenue circle recently.

According to police, the arrested Pranjal Deka had a nexus with Tiwa insurgency group, Tiwa Liberation Army (TLA) and came to Raha on an extortion drive at the instance of their leader Bidyut Amseng. – Correspondent

## Debate contest

DIRUGARH, Aug 10: Dr Radhakrishnan School of Arts, Commerce and Science is organising an All Assam prize money debate competition on August 12 at Amolapatty Natya Mandir here.

The topic for the competition, which is open for participants from higher secondary level to post graduate level, is 'Dearth of sincerity and honesty in media is the main cause of social anarchy of present Assam'. – Staff Correspondent

**Monk manhandled**

TINSUKIA, Aug 10: Irate people from Jagun and Margherita today manhandled the monk of a Buddhist temple situated at Borgolai under Margherita PS on alleged rape charges. They later handed him over to the police. — Correspondent

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**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

NIT No: ITTG/ENGG/17/NIT/32 Dated 18-07-2017

Tenders are invited from manufacturer or their authorised dealer for the work "Supply, Installation, Testing and commissioning of Duct able Package Air Conditioner for IGI and IO2 at CORE-I of Academic Complex in ITG campus. Detailed tender documents shall be available for issue/downloading from : 11-07-2017 to 21-08-2017. Tender documents may be downloaded from the Institute website.

Further Details are available in the institute's website [www.iitg.ernet.in](http://www.iitg.ernet.in)

Dean, (IPM)

**ASSAM ELECTRICITY GRID CORPORATION LIMITED****SPECIAL RECRUITMENT DRIVE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWD)**

Applications are invited from persons with Disability for filling up of the following vacant sanctioned posts of AEGCL under the Special Recruitment Drive for Persons with Disabilities (PWD)

Sl No	Name of the Vacant Posts	No of Posts	Reserved for PWD candidates
1	AAO	2	Hearing Impaired Locomotor / Cerebral Palsy
2	LDA-cum-Typist	3	Hearing Impaired Locomotor / Cerebral Palsy
3	Peon	2	Hearing Impaired

The details can be downloaded from the AEGCL website: [www.aegcl.co.in](http://www.aegcl.co.in) Sd/- General Manager (HR) IC AEGCL, Bijilee Bhawan, Guwahati-01 EA2017/51

**CINEMA PROGRAMME**

<b>SILVER SCREEN</b> Bij Nagar, Opp. ICICI Bank (Digital Projection System) 2000 sq ft ground sound system and LuXurious puash back seats with 3D screen & car parking	<b>VANDANA</b> (WITH DIGITAL PROJECTION) At 11.00 am & 2.00 pm NABAB (Bengali) Shrikhan Khan, Subhasis Ganguly, Amit Hasan etc.
<b>GALLERIA CINEMA</b> 5th Floor, Pather Dihuri, Boro Building, G.S. Road, Guwahati-781008 (2 Curved Screens, Dolby CP 750 Seating capacity 300, 2000 sq ft ground sound system and LuXurious puash back seats with 3D screen & car parking)	<b>JAD BIJU</b> 11.00 am & 2.00 pm TOILET EX PREM KATHA (Hindi) Ticket Rates: Rs. 100/-, Rs. 150/- TOILET EX PREM KATHA (Hindi) Ticket Rates: Rs. 100/-, Rs. 150/- Follow us on Facebook

<b>INDEX MALL CINCHAT</b> ABS MALL, CAR ALI JORHAT (Two Screens)	<b>APRSA CINEMA</b> (Arcorion Multiplex Ambience)
(11th Aug to 13th Screen 2017) At 11.00 am & 2.00 pm 4.05pm, 5.05pm, 7.10pm & 8.00pm	(Rs. 80, 100, 150 & 250) At 11.00 am & 2.00, 5.00 & 8.00 pm TOILET EX PREM KATHA (Hindi) Stg: Akshay Kumar, Bhumi Pednekar etc "Entertainment is the best medicine"

<b>JAB HARRY MET SEJAL</b> (Hindi) For booking: <a href="http://www.bookmyshow.com">www.bookmyshow.com</a> Or 9884017771	<b>ANURADHA'S BOX OFFICE</b> FEAST (Reserve Seats) Ticket Rates: Rs. 100/-, Rs. 150/- Bookmyshow: www.bookmyshow.com www.paytm.com
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<b>FUN CINEMA MANGALDAI</b> 2nd Floor Sunmista Shopping Complex L-N-B Road, Mangaldai With Silver Screen Multiplex Ambience, Luxurious Puash back Seats with 3D screen & car parking	<b>TOILET EX PREM KATHA (Hindi)</b> Ticket Rates: Rs. 100/-, Rs. 150/- Online Booking: <a href="http://www.bookmyshow.com">www.bookmyshow.com</a> For any query please call: 03731-222722
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<b>AMBICA CINE PALACE</b> Digital Picture & Dolby Sound Centra Air Conditioned & Push back seats With Silver Screen & car parking	<b>TOILET EX PREM KATHA (Hindi)</b> Stg: Akshay Kumar etc "Entertainment is the best medicine"
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<b>GALLERIA CINEMA</b> Bij Nagar, 1st Floor, Guwahati 11th Aug to 17th Aug 2017	<b>TOILET EX PREM KATHA (Hindi)</b> Ticket Rates: Rs. 100/-, Rs. 150/- Online Booking: <a href="http://www.bookmyshow.com">www.bookmyshow.com</a> For any query please call: 03731-222722
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<b>GALLERIA CINEMA</b> Dibrugarh, Junction Road 11th Aug to 17th Aug 2017	<b>TOILET EX PREM KATHA (Hindi)</b> Ticket Rates: Rs. 100/-, Rs. 150/- Online Booking: <a href="http://www.bookmyshow.com">www.bookmyshow.com</a> For any query please call: 03731-222722
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<b>GALLERIA CINEMA</b> Dibrugarh, Junction Road Screen-1	<b>TOILET EX PREM KATHA (Hindi)</b> Ticket Rates: Rs. 100/-, Rs. 150/- Online Booking: <a href="http://www.bookmyshow.com">www.bookmyshow.com</a> For any query please call: 03731-222722
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<b>GALLERIA CINEMA</b> Dibrugarh, Junction Road Screen-2	<b>TOILET EX PREM KATHA (Hindi)</b> Ticket Rates: Rs. 100/-, Rs. 150/- Online Booking: <a href="http://www.bookmyshow.com">www.bookmyshow.com</a> For any query please call: 03731-222722
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<b>GALLERIA CINEMA</b> Dibrugarh, Junction Road Screen-3	<b>TOILET EX PREM KATHA (Hindi)</b> Ticket Rates: Rs. 100/-, Rs. 150/- Online Booking: <a href="http://www.bookmyshow.com">www.bookmyshow.com</a> For any query please call: 03731-222722
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<b>GALLERIA CINEMA</b> Dibrugarh, Junction Road Screen-4	<b>TOILET EX PREM KATHA (Hindi)</b> Ticket Rates: Rs. 100/-, Rs. 150/- Online Booking: <a href="http://www.bookmyshow.com">www.bookmyshow.com</a> For any query please call: 03731-222722
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<b>GALLERIA CINEMA</b> Dibrugarh, Junction Road Screen-5	<b>TOILET EX PREM KATHA (Hindi)</b> Ticket Rates: Rs. 100/-, Rs. 150/- Online Booking: <a href="http://www.bookmyshow.com">www.bookmyshow.com</a> For any query please call: 03731-222722
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<b>GALLERIA CINEMA</b> Dibrugarh, Junction Road Screen-6	<b>TOILET EX PREM KATHA (Hindi)</b> Ticket Rates: Rs. 100/-, Rs. 150/- Online Booking: <a href="http://www.bookmyshow.com">www.bookmyshow.com</a> For any query please call: 03731-222722
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<b>GALLERIA CINEMA</b> Dibrugarh, Junction Road Screen-7	<b>TOILET EX PREM KATHA (Hindi)</b> Ticket Rates: Rs. 100/-, Rs. 150/- Online Booking: <a href="http://www.bookmyshow.com">www.bookmyshow.com</a> For any query please call: 03731-222722
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<b>GALLERIA CINEMA</b> Dibrugarh, Junction Road Screen-8	<b>TOILET EX PREM KATHA (Hindi)</b> Ticket Rates: Rs. 100/-, Rs. 150/- Online Booking: <a href="http://www.bookmyshow.com">www.bookmyshow.com</a> For any query please call: 03731-222722
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<b>GALLERIA CINEMA</b> Dibrugarh, Junction Road Screen-9	<b>TOILET EX PREM KATHA (Hindi)</b> Ticket Rates: Rs. 100/-, Rs. 150/- Online Booking: <a href="http://www.bookmyshow.com">www.bookmyshow.com</a> For any query please call: 03731-222722
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<b>GALLERIA CINEMA</b> Dibrugarh, Junction Road Screen-10	<b>TOILET EX PREM KATHA (Hindi)</b> Ticket Rates: Rs. 100/-, Rs. 150/- Online Booking: <a href="http://www.bookmyshow.com">www.bookmyshow.com</a> For any query please call: 03731-222722
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**Fresh flood threat in Tinsukia****CORRESPONDENT**

TINSUKIA, Aug 10: Incase rain fall for the last several days here as well as in the neighbouring areas of Arunachal Pradesh has led to a sudden rise in the water level of the Brahmaputra, Dibrugarh and Dihing rivers in several parts of the district. The elevated water level of Na Dehing poses a threat to the Dirak Sumoni Bund, putting life and property in a vast area between Dirak and Natun Gaon, Gujan and Dighalatang in Doomsoma have been inundated. The dis-

trict administration has alerted all government departments to keep a strict vigil and be ready to tackle any eventuality. Many low-lying areas like the Dihing Saikhowa National Park, Natun Gaon, Gujan and Dighalatang in Doomsoma have been inundated. The dis-

trict administration has sent foodstocks comprising rice, dal, salt and mustard oil to nearly 225 people of Dirak Sumoni area reeling under the flood. SDRF personnel have also been kept on standby at Kakopathar.

The floodwaters of Doomsoma river which submerged Ward No. 8 of Doomsoma town, have received and inmates of the relief camp left for their homes today.

**ASSAM POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LTD.**

**Tender No. 05 of 2017-18 of LTPS**  
The General Manager, LTPS, APGCL, Maibella-785689, Assam; invites tenders in two bid system for the work—“Supply, Installation and Commissioning of CCTV Surveillance System at LTPS, APGCL, Maibella and 01 year Annual Maintenance Contract (AMO) of the Surveillance System”.

Last date of receipt of tender paper : Up to 16.00 hrs of 12/09/2017.

Tender Opening Dates :

1. Technical bid : AT 16.30 hrs on 12/09/2017.

2. Price Bid : AT 16.00 hrs on 19/09/2017.

For further details, please visit APGCL website: [www.apgcl.org](http://www.apgcl.org).

Sd/-,  
General Manager,  
LTPS, APGCL, Maibella

CAS/2017/53

LSA/2017/51

**ASSAM POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LTD.****NOTICE**

It is for general information to all consumers of Jalukbari Electrical Sub-division that in Pursuit for providing uninterrupted power supply during Independence Day Celebration 2017 a program is being organized for maintenance of the 33 KV Jalukbari feeder on 12-08-2017. The inconvenience so caused is highly regretted.

**Details of Shut Down:**

Sl. No.	Date of shutdown	Time of shutdown	Feeder under shutdown	Area to be effected
1.	12/08/17	5.30 AM to 7.30 AM	33 KV Jalukbari feeder	Jalukbari, Sundarbari, Kaliabadi, Maligaon Chaili, Maligaon Baripara, Adabari, Timili, Sadiqpur, Gargao, Kalashpur, Bidyaganj, Satmilia, Ananta Nagar, Pandu, Nathbasi, Pandu Bazar, Joymonthi Nagar, Sanakar Nagar, AEC, Gauhati University and other area related with the feeder.

Assistant General Manager,  
Guwahati Electrical Division (W)  
APDCL, Aminagaon, Kamrup (R)

LSA/2017/51

SA/2017/51

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**POSSESSION NOTICE**

Whereas the Authorised Officer/s of Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited, under Seizure/Confiscation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 12(1) of the said Act, by virtue of the power contained in section 12(1) of the said Act, following the borrowings(s) / Legal Heir(s) and Legal Representative(s) to pay the amounts mentioned against their respective names together with interest thereon at the applicable rates as mentioned in the said notices, within 60 days of the date of issue of the said notices etc., the said amounts etc. shall be liable to be recovered by the said Authorised Officer/s of Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited.

With reference to the above, the said amounts etc. due to the said Authorised Officer/s of Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited, shall be liable to be recovered by the said Authorised Officer/s of Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited, in accordance with the provisions of section 13(1) of the said Act, in respect of time


**WEATHER  
NORTHEAST**

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

**Warnings:** Heavy to very heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at a few places at isolated places on August 11 and heavy rain is very likely to occur at isolated places on August 12 over Arunachal Pradesh. Heavy to very heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at isolated places on August 13 and 14 over Assam, Meghalaya.

**Heavy rain:** Heavy to very heavy rain is very likely to occur at isolated places on August 11 and heavy rain is very likely to occur at isolated places on August 12 over Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura.

**Temperatures:**

	Max (°C)	Min (°C)
Dibrugarh	26.5	24
Tezpur	28.8	25.3
Silchar	30.5	24.6
Dibruli	28.8	26.4
Johnpur	28.3	25.5
Naharlagun	28.2	25.5
Shillong	20.9	16.3
Imphal	28.2	21.8
Itanagar	26.5	22.4
Aizawl	27.6	11.3
Aizawl	31.2	25.8
Kohima	26.8	18.9
Passighat	25.0	23.2
Cherrapunjee	21.2	17.8

**CPI (M) office set afire in Tripura**

AGARTALA, Aug 10: A CPI-M party office was set on fire and four party supporters were injured at Khamlungwng allegedly by activists of Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT), police said today.

Police said, when IPFT activists set bikes on fire, it engulfed the area and the party office caught fire from the burning bikes yesterday. Four CPI-M activists were also injured. Police recovered 15 burnt bikes from the scene.

Meanwhile, CPI-M State party secretary Bijan Dhar claimed that seven activists of CPI-M were injured in the incident and 25-27 bikes were burnt during IPFT's activities.

He alleged that when the leaders and activists gathered in the party office following a party meeting in a nearby hall, the IPFT activists attacked the party office... PTI

**Mizoram de-empalns 2 pvt hospitals**

AIZAWL, Aug 10: Mizoram Government today de-empalned two private hospitals in Aizawl after the hospitals refused to entertain patients enrolled under Rashtriya Swastha Bima Yojana (RSBY).

According to a notification, Lalrabinlana Panai, Commissioner and Secretary for Health and Family Welfare department, Aizawl Hospital and Research Centre at Khatia and Care Hospital at Dawpui have refused to entertain patients enrolled under RSBY, meant for BPL families.

The governing body meeting of Mizoram State Health Care Society chaired by Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla had on July 11, contended that for the hospital's empowerment under the State Government, implementation of the RSBY should be one of the criteria.

Health and Family Welfare department therefore has revoked empalnment/recognition of the two private hospitals from medical reimbursement of Mizoram Government servants... the notification issued today... Correspondent

**Ultras arrested**

IMPHAL, Aug 10: Assam Rifles troops have caught four militants of NSCN (K) with arms and ammunition from Jiri Lankharia area in Jiribam district of Manipur, police said today.

One bomb, ammunition and two magazines were seized from them yesterday, they said. In another incident, police commandos apprehended a cadre of Zelangrong United Front (ZUF) on Tuesday during regular frisking at Bishnupur Chimgokon in Bishnupur district. PTI

**NORTH EAST**

# Khandu appeals people of Tripura to join hands with BJP

**CORRESPONDENT**

ITANAGAR, Aug 10: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has appealed to the people of Tripura to join hands with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP to make India free from corruption and ensure 'ache din' for the common people.

He was addressing a largely attended BJP Rally held at Moraха on Wednesday. He further said that BJP

gives performing, transparent and accountable government to all. It is for these principles and ideologies of the BJP that the party has dominance in maximum States in the country, he said.

He said the previous Congress-led UPA Government did not do anything meaningful for North East despite Dr Manmohan Singh being the Prime Minister and elected from the region. But after the Modi Government came to power, the rally as beginning of the movement for "Communist free Tripura."

in economy, he claimed.

He expressed optimism that this time BJP would come to power in Tripura, as tribals of the State seemed to be the worst sufferers in the Leftist rule and not getting proper healthcare facility, purified drinking water and sustainable sources of income due to anti-national policies of the Communist Government.

"Nowhere bothers whether the Chief Minister walks on the streets or uses expensive

cars or stays in a hut or a multi-story building, people want employment and best opportunities of livelihood, education, health-care, communication and most modern facilities. BJP can assure the overall governance and service in Tripura once it comes to power," Khandu asserted.

BJP Tripura State president Biplob Kumar Debnath presided the rally as beginning of the movement for "Communist free Tripura."

SSA teachers' body demands release of salaries

**CORRESPONDENT**

TURA, Aug 10: All Garo Hills SSA School Teachers' Association (AGHSSSTA) has demanded release of pending salaries of the teachers that have remained unpaid for the last three months.

In a release issued AGHSSSTA said that despite repeated pleas, the salaries of the teachers are still unpaid causing severe hardships for the family members of the teachers.

"We came to know from reliable sources that the funds for the payment of salaries for the SSA teachers and for the payment of eight month arrears are now kept in the State civil account. The State Government should have transferred the amount to the account of the Education Department," stated the release.

## National Deworming Day observed

AIZAWL, Aug 10: National Deworming Day was observed in Mizoram's capital Aizawl and all the other seven district headquarters today with Alabendzola distributed to all the students and children in Anganwadi centres.

State Health Minister Lal Thanzara said that 96 per cent of students took Alabendzola in February 2017, the last round of deworming being undertaken since last year.

National Deworming Day has been observed to ensure eradication of anaemia among children aged between one to 19 years. A recent study conducted by National Centre for Disease Control found that soil transmitted helminth prevalence among the children in the State was 51 per cent. PTI

Guy addresses golden jubilee of Kohima College

KOHIMA, Aug 10: Nagaland Governor PB Acharya on Wednesday called upon educational institutions to emphasize on skill development on survey and construction of academic education.

Academic knowledge is required but in the present competitive world skill development and education has to go side by side in order to build up proficiency among the younger generation, Acharya said while addressing the golden jubilee celebration of Kohima College here, which was founded in 1967 and taken over by the State Government in February 2006. PTI



Manipur police personnel guiding citizens from Myanmar to follow Indian traffic rules at the Indo-Myanmar friendship bridge at Moreh, in Manipur on Thursday. — Correspondent

## Manipur CM addresses ASEAN conference

**NEWMAI NEWS**

IMPHAL, Aug 10: Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh said that Manipur "shares close affinity in terms of culture, customs and food habits" with the ASEAN region, according to a press release from CM's Secretariat.

Singh informed that India's North East had witnessed an 25th anniversary celebration of ASEAN-India Dialogue Partnership at Vientiane in Laos PDR on Monday.

The celebration was jointly organised by ASEAN India Business Council (AIBC), Laos PDR Chapter, Indian Embassy, Laos PDR and Laos National Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

There has been a strong emphasis on enhancing India's road and maritime connectivity with its eastern neighbours. Some of the key projects include the India-Myanmar-Thailand tripartite highway.

Thawlla said that the convergence ceremony would be formally held at Sisian town, the district headquarters of Mizoram's Sisian district soon.

which connects Moreh in Manipur with Mae Sot in western Thailand through Mandai Laung in Myanmar, and Kaladan multi-modal transport project, which aims to connect Kolkata with Sittwe Port in Myanmar, Singh said.

The Manipur CM pointed out that there are huge untapped potentials to develop and expand the air connectivity eastward from Imphal in particular and the North East in general to the ASEAN region.

The CM further said that the North East offers unlimited tourism opportunities, rare flora and fauna, natural scenic beauty, performing arts, cuisine and handicrafts.

As part of the initiative to cater to the aspiration of the

youth of the region, the two

countries need to encourage greater participation of the youth by exploring mechanism to facilitate exchanges in areas of culture, sports, traditional art and education, he added.

The Manipur Chief Minister was accompanied by Parliamentary Secretary (Tourism) Dr S Ranjan, Parliamentary Secretary (Home) L Susindro, Advisor to CM Rajen and Personal Secretary to CM S Rajen during his visit to the ASEAN region.

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**CAPSULE****RBI dividend**

MUMBAI, Aug 10: The Reserve Bank has hiked its dividend payout to the government to Rs 30,659 crore for the fiscal ended June 2017, which analysts attributed to increased printing cost of new currency notes post demonetisation, among other reasons. Last fiscal, the Reserve Bank transferred Rs 63,679 crore as dividend to the government. "The Reserve Bank's Central Board at its meeting held today approved the transfer of surplus to the Government of India amounting to Rs 30,59 billion (Rs 30,659 crore) for the year ended June 30, 2017," the central bank said in a statement. -PTI

**SpiceJet net up**

NEW DELHI, Aug 10: SpiceJet today reported nearly 16 per cent jump in consolidated net profit at Rs 172.67 crore for three months ended June 30, staying in the black for the 10 straight quarter. The no-frills airline had a net profit of Rs 149.03 crore in the same period a year ago. -PTI

**MyJio app**

NEW DELHI, Aug 10: Mobile application suite MyJio app of Reliance Jio has become the second most downloaded Indian application on the Android platform by registering over 100 million downloads, as per a company official. "MyJio has crossed 100 million downloads on Google Play and is the second Indian mobile application to cross 100 million download mark...," a source at Reliance Jio who did not wished to be named, told PTI.

**Jet Airways offer**

MUMBAI, Aug 10: Private carrier Jet Airways has lowered its business class base fares for both domestic and international travel by 20 per cent, while the economy class travel has also become cheaper by 30 per cent under a discounted sale scheme. The special discount regulatory fare sales, which commences from mid-August today is to mark India's 70th Independence Day. Jet Airways said in a release. -PTI

**BSNL special plan**

MUMBAI, Aug 10: Come August 15, mobile customers of state-owned BSNL will be able to use services at discounted rates availed through special recharge in their home circle even on roaming. "... It is now decided to allow the benefit of voice or SMS special tariff voucher (STV) and combo vouchers on national roaming during the occasion of 71st Independence Day on a pan-India basis with effect from 15 August, 2017, in the area where BSNL operates," the public sector firm said in a statement today. -PTI

**BHEL net rises**

NEW DELHI, Aug 10: State-run power equipment maker BHEL has posted a 3.92 per cent jump in standalone net profit to Rs 80.82 crore for the quarter ended June 30, 2017. The company had reported a standalone net profit of Rs 77.77 crore for the quarter ended June 30, 2016. BHEL said in a BSE filing today. -PTI

**Indian Overseas Bank**

NEW DELHI, Aug 10: State-owned Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) today announced a partial write-off of its losses to Rs 499.09 crore in the first quarter ended June as provisions for bad assets were reduced. There was a loss to the tune of Rs 1,450.50 crore during the corresponding April-June quarter of fiscal ended March 2017. -PTI

**Bajaj Allianz GI**

MUMBAI, Aug 10: Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, the private general insurer, has launched 'DriveSmart Lite', a free value-added service for all private car policyholders. Through an app-based solution whenever a car owners can record the trips to get details of the kilometres travelled, fuel economy, and other non-hardware related information, specific to make and model of their car. -PTI

# House okays Bill for action against loan defaulters

NEW DELHI, Aug 10: The Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill empowering the Reserve Bank of India to direct lenders to act against big defaulters was accorded parliamentary approval today with the Rajya Sabha adopting the measure and Finance Minister Arun Jaitley underlining the urgency of resolving the banks' bad loans issue as it was affecting their capacity to support growth.

The Bill, which amends the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, will replace the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2017, that enabled the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) earlier in the matter.

Repeating to the debate on the Bill, Jaitley said non-performing assets (NPAs), or bad loans of state-run banks added up to over Rs 8 lakh crore.

"You ask what is the urgency... if it's already too late," Jaitley said replying to the debate in the Rajya Sabha on the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill which allows the Central Bank to authorise the RBI to direct banks to initiate recovery proceedings against

loan defaulters.

"The delay in resolution of NPA (non-performing assets) is impacting the capacity of banks to lend to support growth and lend to small investors," the Finance Minis-

ter said.

"Besides, these NPAs have been piling up. The interest is increasing so the bad debts are increasing," he said in response to a member's query on the urgency of bringing in the legislation that will replace an ordinance.

"The banks will slowly start realising the money, compa-

nies will continue to function, the jobs at the company will be saved... that's why the urgency..." he added.

NPAs of banks have risen to over Rs 8-lakh crore and the RBI is now being given power to refer these cases to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board.

Loans turn into NPAs 90

days after the debtor loses the ability to service the loan by way of interest payments or by repayment of the principal amount.

Under the Bill, the Central Government may authorise the RBI to issue directions to any banking company to initiate insolvency in respect of a default under the provision of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code. - IANS



Chandra Mohan Patowary, State Minister of Industries & Commerce, delivering his speech at the World Biofuel Day function, organised by the Union Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, at Kalakshetra in Guwahati on Thursday. -UB Photos

## Flouting of norms led to higher REC, PFC bad loans: CAG

NEW DELHI, Aug 10: Government auditor CAG today slammed state-owned REC and PFC for not following internal guidelines and RBI rules in sanctioning loans to independent power producers that led to surge in bad loans.

"REC and PFC did not conduct appropriate due diligence during credit appraisal and in the process assumed higher risks on the loan accounts," the controller and auditor general said in its report tabled in Parliament.

It noted that both the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) and the Power Finance Corporation (PFC) deviated from their internal guidelines and also did not conform to the Reserve Bank of India guidelines in this regard.

The auditor took note of many projects where the promoter had poor experience of not being able to complete within schedule.

The REC and the PFC disbursed loans of Rs 47,706.88 crore to independent power producers (IPPs) during 2013-14 and 2015-16, which were audited by the CAG.

During the same period, non-performing assets (NPAs) went up to 13.90 per cent from 2.32 per cent in the case of REC and 19.86 per cent from 4.28 per cent at PFC.

In the sample selected for

audit, nine projects had to be restructured multiple times, which increased interest by Rs 13,312.78 crore in six loan cases and resulted in NPAs of Rs 3,038.44 crore in three accounts.

The CAG observed that both entities estimated a higher tariff at the time of appraisal of loan proposals, which resulted in sanction of loans of Rs 8,682 crore in six cases.

In all these cases, the levelised generation cost was higher than the actual levelised tariff, and thus the viability of the project was doubtful, ab initio, it added.

The official auditor further observed that the pre-disbursements conditions were relaxed by REC and PFC from time to time. -PTI

SAT stays trading curbs on JKumar, Prakash Industries

MUMBAI, Aug 10: The Securities Appellate Tribunal today stayed trading restrictions imposed on JKumar Infraprojects and Prakash Industries, which are among the 331 suspected shell companies identified by the government, saying SEBI passed the order without carrying out any probe.

SEBI, on August 7, asked stock exchanges to restrict trading in shares of 331 suspected shell companies, some of which have investments by several well-known domestic and foreign investors.

The move came after the watchdog received the list of such companies from the Corporate Affairs Ministry and many of the 331 firms are under the scanner of the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) and the Income Tax Department.

Kumar Infraprojects and Prakash Industries had moved the SAT against the SEBI directions.

Following their appeals, the SAT has stayed the trading restrictions imposed on the two companies and these should resume normal trading from tomorrow.

"In the facts of these two appeals, we are prima facie of the opinion that the impugned communication issued by SEBI on the basis that the appellants are suspected shell companies deserves to be stayed," the tribunal said in a 11-page order. -PTI

## Maruti revamps True Value

MUMBAI, Aug 10: The country's largest passenger vehicles maker, Maruti Suzuki, today announced a complete revamp of its 16-year-old pre-owned car unit, True Value, and said it plans to set up 150 independent dealerships of the vertical by March next year.

Overall, the company intends to open 300 dealerships of the pre-owned cars in the next two- to three-year period, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd's (MSIL) Senior Executive Director, Sales and Marketing, RS Kalsi, said here today after the relaunch.

The idea for giving altogether a new look to the used car

business is to enhance the modernisation and encourage the two-wheeler owners to switch to four-wheeler.

True Value was first launched by MSIL in 2001.

These outlets will be digital-

150 dealerships to be set up by March next

ly integrated through a portal so that customers can access details of all cars available at True Value outlets nationwide.

"In the first phase, we are planning to set up 150 dealerships this year and we will ramp it up to 300 dealers in the next two to three years," Kalsi said.

In the sample selected for

## Corporate culture now a key boardroom agenda in India: Report

NEW DELHI, Aug 10: Corporate culture is gaining prominence with 80 per cent of the Indian companies saying it is a key item on their board agendas and they have established internal controls in this regard, says a survey.

According to a Grant Thornton global survey of 2,500 businesses in 36 economies, 85 per cent (71 per cent globally) of boards in India are establishing internal controls that address culture and employee behaviour.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India, in its

guidelines on board evaluation, has recommended that boards set a corporate culture and values which should be followed by the company.

"...What's undeniable is that around the world, the issue of corporate culture is gaining increasing regulatory attention as a foundation of good governance. As a result, the issue has arguably never been as high up the business agenda as it is today," Grant Thornton India LLP Partner - India Leadership Team, Harish HV, said.

The survey report - Cor-

**GST regime**

MSME Ministry seeks exemption for khadi

NEW DELHI, Aug 10: The MSME Ministry has asked its Finance counterpart to consider exemption of khadi sector from GST or ensure a seamless flow of input tax credit for khadi institutions to claim it, the government said in Parliament today.

At present only khadi

products in the sector are

exempted, while other khadi

products attract a 5 per cent

goods and services (GST) levy.

The entire khadi

industries sector has enjoyed

the benefit of tax exemption

even in pre-independence era.

"With the exemption to the

SSI sector being drastically

reduced from the existing Rs 150

lakh to Rs 20 lakh, the exemp-

tion cover enjoyed by many of

the khadi institutions has

now mandated to obtain regis-

tration under GST and also pay

GST on various khadi products

which is 5 per cent," Minister

of State for MSME Shri Giriraj Singh said in a written re-

ply in Rajya Sabha.

The minister informed that

the products of the village indus-

tries sector were taxed at zero

to 14.30 per cent before the GST

while post-GST, the same prod-

ucts attract 12-28 per cent tax.

"Ministry of MSME has ap-

proached Ministry of Finance

to consider the sector for ex-

emption from GST or to en-

sure a seamless flow of input

tax credit in order for khadi

institutions to claim input tax

credit," Singh said. -PTI

## Tata Motors, Skoda call off partnership plan

NEW DELHI, Aug 10: Tata Motors and Volkswagen group brand Skoda today said they have decided not to pursue a proposed long-term partnership due to feasibility issues, just over four months after they had entered into the agreement.

The companies said a joint technical feasibility study has found that strategic benefits for both parties are below the desired levels. They, however, said that following intensive and constructive discussions of the last few months, they are not ruling out possible future alliance.

"We have evaluated the technical feasibility and degree of syn-

ergies for the envisioned part-

nership. We have concluded that

the strategic benefits for both

parties are below the threshold

levels," Tata Motors CEO and

Managing Director Guenter

Buschek said in a statement.

He, however, said: "We re-

main positive of exploring fu-

ture opportunities with the

Volkswagen group."

In a separate statement, Skoda Auto said: "...Neither the technical nor the economic syn-

ergies are achievable to the ex-

tent desired by both parties. As

a result, a planned strategic al-

liance will no longer be pursued

for the time being..." -PTI

**No.NEC/IR/493/Diary2018/2017****North Eastern Council****Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region****Government of India****Short Tender Notice for Designing and Printing of NEC Diary 2018**

Sealed tenders are invited from printers with ISO 9001: 2015 Certificate for designing and printing of NEC Diary 2018. The tender documents are uploaded in the NEC website [www.necouncil.gov.in](http://www.necouncil.gov.in). Tender Form may be filled up and sent along with Earnest Money/Tender Fee as mentioned in the documents. The job is required to be done as per the specifications, terms & conditions mentioned in the tender documents. Interested printers may submit the tender in sealed covers to the Director, Information & PR, North Eastern Council Secretariat, Nonogram Hills, Shillong - 793003 by 3:00 PM on 15.09.2017. The Technical Bids will be opened at 3:30 PM on the same day and Financial Bids of the bidders selected in the process will be opened thereafter. The successful bidder will be selected on Cost-cum-Quality basis.

davp 1104/11/0017/1718

**PROTECTION OF PLANT VARIETIES AND FARMERS' RIGHTS AUTHORITY**

Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, S-2, A-Block, NASC Complex, DPS Marg, Opp. Topdara Village

New Delhi - 110 017

Advertisement No. PPV&FRA/DR/25-01/2017

Application are invited from retired Govt. Officials/Scientists from SAUs, ICAR Institutes and Other Govt. agencies for appointment on outsourced basis to the posts of Deputy Registrar at each of the Branch Offices of Authority namely Guwahati, Ptampur, Pune and Shivamogga with the following qualifications namely:-

**Qualification:** Masters Degree in Agriculture with specialization in Plant Breeding and Genetics/Genetics/ Agricultural Botany/Seed Science and Technology or Forestry/Horticulture with specialization in Plant Breeding and Genetics

**Desirable:** Ph.D with research experience in Seed Development Programme/Intellectual Property Rights and Plant Varietal Improvement activities/Tree Improvement

The initial appointment on outsourced basis will be for 6 Months, which may be extended based on performance. The consolidated remuneration would be Rs. 40,000/- P.M.

The application form is available in the official website [www.plantauthority.gov.in](http://www.plantauthority.gov.in). Duly filled in application forms along with self certified testimonials shall be sent to Dr.Ravi Prakash, Registrar, PPV&FRA Authority, S-2, A-Block, NASC Complex, DPS Marg, New Delhi-110012 within 15 days from the publication of the advertisement.

Ravi Prakash  
Registrar

**CENTRAL SELECTION BOARD****BODOLAND TERRITORIAL COUNCIL ::::::::::::::: KOKRAJHAR****RESULT**

Dated Kokrajhar the 10th August 2017.

The candidates bearing following Roll Numbers have been qualified in the Written Test for the post of Agriculture Extension Assistant (AEA) under Agriculture Department for which Written Test was held on 30.04.2017 and the candidates who appeared for written test for the post of Jr. Inspector/Auditor under Handloom & Textile Department for which Written Test was held on 30.07.2017 against the Advertisement No. CSB/BTC-48/2017 Dated 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016 and CSB/BTC-1/2017/29 Dated 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017 conducted by the Central Selection Board respectively.

A. Agriculture Department, Post- Agriculture Extension Assistant (AEA).

Roll Nos. AEA

0036 0068 0074 0084 0099 0282 0294 0339 0369 0382

0425 0436 0494 0612 0664 0667 0668 0692 0726 0872

0673 0899 0909 0913 0915 0955 0961 1088 1262 1397

1403 1410 1425 1539 1640 1671 1678 1686 1727 1761

1600 1822 1859 1874 1889 1901 1903 1904 1906 1907

1909 1909 1910 1911 1913 1917 1920 1921 1922 1923

1924 1929 1930 1933 1935 1936 1937 1940 1941 1942

1944 1945 1946 1949 1950 1951 1954 1955 1956 1957

1958 1959 1963 1968 1972 1977 1980 2004 2008 2011

2012 2013 2014 2016 2017 2018 2025 2032 2037 2038

2056 2059 2104 2208 2252 2261 2273 2645 2654 2660

2666 2761 2810 2907 2943 3001 3090 3101 3243 3244

3249 3274 3367 3521 3523 3643 3662 3672 3767 3909

3939 3941 4286 4388 4458 4621 4683 4686 4899 5052

5077 5161 5182 5209 5210 5215 5221 5278 5279 5365

5405 5411 5473 5479 5594 5642 5692 5762 5768 5884

6102 6105 6116 6159 6250 6326 6434 6646 6665 6683

6709 6792 6826 6830 6834 6902 6904 6963 6970 7063

7124 7231 7233 7266 7326 7419 7426 7536 7801 7827

7859 7931 7942 7985 8067 8073 8289 8435 8447 8538

8627 8720 8795 8972 9053 9108 9109 9120.

B. Handloom & Textiles Department, Post- Jr. Inspector/ Auditor(Cooperative)

Roll Nos. Ji

02

**Common exam for judicial officers**

NEW DELHI, Aug 10: The Supreme Court will soon examine a proposal for having "singular examination" under a centralised selection mechanism for senior judicial officers, to fill up vacancies in subordinate judiciary, which stands at over 20 per cent of the sanctioned strength. -PTI

**Notice Inviting Quotations**

Sealed quotation are invited from registered farms for hiring of vehicles. Last date of submission of quotation is up-to 2.00 P.M. of 28/08/2017. Interested bidders may contact our website [www.astec.gov.in](http://www.astec.gov.in) for contact.

Smt.  
Director  
ASTE Council  
Biganj Bhawan  
G.S. Road, Guwahati - 5

Janasanyog/1065/17

No.CPRD/Computer/72/2017/3 Dated 08-08-17

**Notice Inviting Tender**

Sealed tenders affixing non-refundable Court Fee Stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight and paise twenty five) only are invited from interested Government Agency or Public Sector Undertaking or well established registered firms for the appointment of a team for Appraisal of the existing computer and other related peripherals of the Office of the Commissioner, Panchayat & Rural Development Department, Assam.

Detailed Bid Document along with terms and conditions may be obtained from the Office of the Commissioner, Panchayat & Rural Development Department Assam, Panjabari, Juripar, Guwahati-37 on cash payment of Rs. 20.00 on working days upto 2 PM of 22nd August 2017. The bid document can be downloaded from the website [www.rural.assam.gov.in](http://www.rural.assam.gov.in). The downloaded bid document shall only be provided the bidder submits the amount of Rs. 20/-as cost of bid document in the form of demand draft in favour of Commissioner, Panchayat & Rural Development Assam, Panjabari, Juripar, Guwahati-37 along with the technical Bid. The Bid document will be received upto 2.30 PM of 22nd August 2017 and opened at 3 PM on the same day.

Sd/- Commissioner,  
Panchayat & Rural Development Assam

Janasanyog/2316/17

**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Mega Mission Society-Chief Minister**  
**Samagra Gramya Unnayan Yojana**  
(A Society of Govt. of Assam)  
Officers Training Institute, Veterinary  
Complex, G.S. Road,  
Khanapara, Guwahati 781022

**Short Notice Inviting Quotations**

CEO/MMS-CMSGUY/66/2017/3 10.08.2017  
Sealed quotations are invited from competent and interested registered companies/firms/Contractors for outsourcing of various services in Office of the Mega Mission Society-Chief Minister Samagra Gramya Unnayan Yojana, OTI building, Veterinary Campus, Khanapara, G.S. Road, Guwahati-781022. Complete details available at [www.mmscmsguy.assam.gov.in](http://www.mmscmsguy.assam.gov.in).

Sd/- CEO, MMS-CMSGUY

**EDUCATIONAL NOTICE**  
**ADMISSION FOR COMMUNITY SKILL DIPLOMA IN ENGINEERING**  
APPROVED BY AICTE & GOVT. OF ASSAM ON A PILOT BASIS  
(Skill and education together for multipoint pathways and multipoint entry exit opportunities)

Fresh applications are invited from the drop out students for certification Level-I courses in Bongaigaon Polytechnic under Central College Scheme as per programme stated below:-  
1. SECTOR: AUTOMOBILE (Specialization: Electrical Equipment & Maintenance)  
2. SECTOR: AUTOMOBILE (Specialization: Auto Electrical & Electronics)  
ENTRY REQUIREMENT: Minimum class IX standard.  
MINIMUM AGE: Minimum 14 years and no upper age limit.  
Last Date of Application: From 08.08.2017  
Last Date of accepting the form: 16.08.2017  
Date of Interview: 17.08.2017  
Date of Admission: 18.08.2017.

For Application Form & Details, Contact: Office of the Principal, Bongaigaon Polytechnic, Bongaigaon, Assam, Pin: 783390.  
Sd/- Principal  
Janasanyog/6338/17 Bongaigaon Polytechnic, Bongaigaon.

**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Mega Mission Society-Chief Minister**  
**Samagra Gramya Unnayan Yojana**  
(A Society of Govt. of Assam)  
Officers Training Institute, Veterinary Complex,  
G.S. Road,  
Khanapara, Guwahati 781022

**SHORT NOTICE INVITING QUOTATIONS**

CEO/MMS-CMSGUY/03/2017/6 11.08.2017  
Sealed quotations are invited from competent and interested registered companies/firms/Contractors for providing vehicles on hire basis in Office of the Mega Mission Society-Chief Minister Samagra Gramya Unnayan Yojana, OTI building, Veterinary campus, Khanapara, G.S.Road, Guwahati-781022. Complete details available at [www.mmscmsguy.assam.gov.in](http://www.mmscmsguy.assam.gov.in).

Sd/- CEO, MMS-CMSGUY

NIT-NIT-20H-WR/2017-16 Dated: 05/08/2017

**SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Sealed tender in prescribed form in triplicate copy/one carbon copy will be accepted to be submitted in P.W.D. form F-5H (as the case may be) affixing non-refundable court fee stamp of Rs.8.25 (Rupees eight & paise twenty five) only in each package are invited from Registered companies of Water Resources Department, Assam or the concerned departmental authority for the supply of various services. Contractors may also submit tenders with requisite amount of earnest money in the form of Fixed Deposit/Term Deposit from Nationalized Banks only, duly pledged to the Executive Engineer/ Director/Deputy Director/Engineer in Charge of the concerned department. The tender will be submitted in the office of the undersigned and will be opened on the same date at 2.30 P.M. 13.08.2017 on 17.08.2017. The tender documents will be available during the office hours upto 1.30 P.M. on 17.08.2017. The tender documents will be available through IPO duly pledged to the undersigned. If the day fixed for submission of tender falls on unscheduled holiday etc., the same will be rescheduled on the next working day.

Tenders if they desire so,  
Name of Scheme : Survey for Bongaigaon Express Highway on both bank Preliminary Survey  
Survey under the jurisdiction of Ordnance W.R. Division )  
Name of work : Preliminary survey works, Geodetic survey of an offshoot

In Single Package : Hydrographic survey to depict river bed profile, preparation of GI maps etc.  
Time of completion : One month (30 days) from the date of issue of work order.  
Expiry date : 21st (1% for 13.08.2017)  
Item of work : As per detailed N.I.T.  
The Detailed N.I.T. specification for works, package list etc. may be seen in the Office of the undersigned upto 1.30 P.M. of 17.08.2017.

Sd/- Executive Engineer  
Dhemaji W.R. Division  
Dhemaji

Janasanyog/2333/17

**'No plans to replace UGC, AICTE with single regulator'**

NEW DELHI, Aug 10: The Central government is not considering any merger of the UGC and the AICTE into a single higher education regulator at present, the Rajya Sabha was informed today.

"No such proposal is under consideration at present, to merge the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) into a single higher education regulator," Minister of State for HRD Mahendra Nath Pandey said in a written response in the Rajya Sabha.

The HRD Minister said in the response that the idea of establishing a single regulator for higher education is not new and various committees on higher education have earlier recommended a single body. -PTI

**Will enforce rules, seek MPs' cooperation to run RS: Naidu**

NEW DELHI, Aug 10: Vice President-elect M Venkaiah Naidu today expressed his disapproval of disruptions in Parliament and said he would enforce rules to run the Rajya Sabha but also seek cooperation from members.

A day before he is sworn in as the Vice President, Naidu said the government needs parliamentary approval to push legislation so it can implement the agenda for which it had received the people's mandate.

"Both Houses of Parliament have the responsibility to have legislators discuss them (government Bills). That is the duty of legislatures."

"If we do not allow the House to function, then how do you legislate? That is why I said earlier if a government proposes, opposition opposes, then let the House dispose either way," Naidu told PTI.

As Vice President, Naidu will be the Rajya Sabha Chairman and the government is hopeful that his presence will result in the House running more smoothly.

"We must be mature enough to conduct the proceedings of Parliament in a smooth and meaningful manner," said the 68-year-old leader and former Union minister. -PTI

The bench comprising Chief Justice JS Khehar and Justice DY Chandrachud took serious note of the objection raised by the counsel for Kerala-native Shafin Jahan that he was opposing the NIA's plea to pursue the investigation record of the case.

The bench said that it gathered the impression that "the petitioner (Jahan) does not desire the correct and independent view of the controversy" he brought before the court.

However, the bench allowed Jahan to respond to the plea of

the

the NIA seeking court's direction for Kerala Police to allow it to have access to the investigation records of the case.

"We want the whole picture. Why should anybody doubt the NIA. Are you doubtful the NIA," the bench observed.

Earlier in the day, the NIA had moved the apex court seeking a direction that it be allowed to have access to the police records relating to the investigation into the case.

Jahan, who had married a Hindu woman in last December, had moved the apex court after the Kerala High Court annulled his marriage saying that it was an insult to independence of women in the country. The woman, a Hindu, had converted to Islam and later married Jahan.

It was alleged that the woman was recruited by Islamic State's mission in Syria and Jahan was only a stooge. He was quoted as saying. -PTI

and by the culture ministry.

The Commission directs the Archaeological Survey of India to share those copies with the appellant at additional cost for the cost of copying, before August 30, 2017," he said.

The CIC was pulled into the debate after an applicant, BPSK Ayyangar, approached the ASI through an RTI application asking whether the monument in Agra was the Taj Mahal or "Tejo Mahalaya".

"Many people starting that Taj Mahal is not Taj Mahal and it is Tejo Mahalaya: that this was not constructed by Shah-

and the concerned competent authority and Commission cannot give directions to excavate or open the hidden or closed rooms in Taj Mahal," he said.

Oak had written a book "Taj Mahal: The True Story", arguing that Taj Mahal was originally a Shiva Temple built by a Rajput King which was adopted by Shahjahan, he noted.

"Oak claiming himself to be a historian not only wrote a book but also approached Supreme Court to depict the provenance of the Taj Mahal, and on the frequent claims based on historian PN Oak and advocate Yogesh Saxena's writings.

He noted that some cases in courts, including the Supreme Court, were dismissed while some were pending.

Acharyulu said the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), being a party in some cases, must be holding the counters (affidavits) filed on its behalf

jahan, but was gifted by Raja Man Singh; hence give the facts as per ASI reports-details with evidences," he added.

The ASI told him no such record was available on its part.

Among other records, Ayyangar also demanded "construction details" of the 17th century monument, including its hidden and closed rooms.

Acharyulu noted what he expected from his RTI application

granted among the RJD, JD(U) and the Congress.

There is no other example in independent India of two parties with such different ideologies joining hands barely 20 months after fighting each other in a poll, Yadav said in a statement which he reached Bihar on August 9. We will ask him to refrain from making statement which crosses limits."

Yadav seemed to be choosing his own path now, he said, claiming that it was not leaders from the JD(U) but Pradip Dasgupta who have arranged his programmes. -PTI

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A hammer and compass in hand, India's women geologists are literally rocking it. Notwithstanding the dangers of remote environments, encounters with wild animals, limited access to toilets and the occasional "detention" by Left-wing extremists in disturbed areas, these women of the

# Pathhar kankar wale

India's women geologists are rocking it, writes Sahana Ghosh

Geological Survey of India have evened out the odds to carve out success stories. Now standing tall at 40 per cent of total workforce at India's premier geological survey body, they do not hesitate to get their hands dirty.

A sense of humour also helps when a geologist has to get started on a dig: examine satellite and other data about the terrain, arrange transport, set up base camp, hire la-

bourers, inform police of your presence, know your danger zones (Moist or extremism-hit areas), break rocks, collect samples, analyse data. And all this (it could be a few months at a stretch) one is away from one's family and friends.

Riding on nearly two decades of experience, Kasturi Chakraborty, a petrologist, who has worked in South India and is now involved in projects in East Singhbhum in Jharkhand, believes the suspense of what's waiting for them in the terrain eggs them on to move past the challenges. "As a parent, one has to groom the child to understand and adapt to the fact that the parent will be away for weeks or even months on end," said Chakraborty, who has a nine-year-old daughter.

Debjani Raychaudhuri, who studies meteorites and has primarily worked in the interiors of Bihar, draws attention to the toilet conundrum. "As a lady, I feel Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Swachh Bharat is of absolute necessity. It's really tough sitting there for hours and waiting to go back to my camp and get a chance. In the interiors, there is nothing," she lamented.

Other problems are "tackleable".

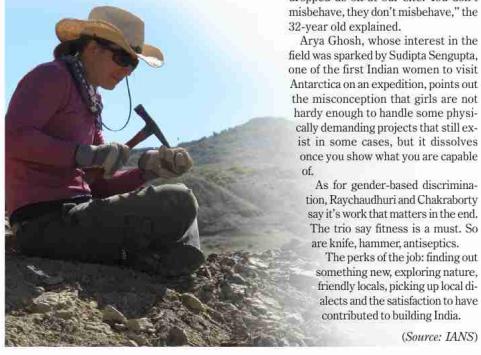
"Many officers, including myself, were detained by Maoists... they never harm you. They offered me cashews, raisins, etc. They know us as the 'pathhar kankar wale' (stones and rock people). After sunset, they dropped us off at our site. You don't misbehave, they don't misbehave," the 32-year-old explained.

Arya Ghosh, whose interest in the field was sparked by Sudipta Sengupta, one of the first Indian women to visit Antarctica on an expedition, points out the misconception that girls are not hardy enough to handle some physically demanding projects that still exist in some cases, but it dissolves once you show what you are capable of.

As for gender-based discrimination, Raychaudhuri and Chakraborty say it's work that matters in the end. The trio say fitness is a must. So are knife, hammer, antiseptics.

The perks of the job: finding out something new, exploring nature, friendly locals, picking up local dialects and the satisfaction to have contributed to building India.

(Source: IANS)



## Know your DAY

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Friday, Aug. 11, 2017:

This year you are able to define and express more of what you want. As a result, you might make some major changes in order to achieve your goals. If you are able to offer something that you want to go to teach or entertain, you are simple. You might meet a foreigner who helps you to grow and expand your mind. You will be exposed to another culture and/or different ways of doing things. If you are attached, the two of you could spend a lot of time discussing a long-desired trip. Just planning this trip together could open up your mental horizons. AHF's could affect your life more than ever though.

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

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)

You are able to find what you have in a while. You could be energized by strong feelings and your ability to create a new vision. Honor a fast change, and be willing to make a difference to someone who trusts you and your judgment. Tonight: Make a splash wherever you go.

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20)

A lot of focus is given to a project you are a part of, but usually you have time creating more of what you want. You are likely to change your mind early in the day and will opt to do some deep thinking. Tonight: Do a vanishing act.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)

You are not too much information. You could have difficulty working on many things revolving around work or with an authority figure who isn't being clear. Your friends could be in a chaotic mood and might share more with you than you would like to know. Tonight: Play your perfect night.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)

\*\*\*\* Catch out for more information. Know that you might not get the confirmation you desire. Whereas you are, others flock toward you. Your instincts serve you well. Avoid a tendency to go overboard. Tonight: Fun and games.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)

\*\*\*\* Letting go of spending so much time with a special person might not be received well by the other party. Once you sift out your prejudices and judgments, you will remember the feeling of how precious this person is to you. Tonight: Be willing to break your routine.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

\*\*\*\* One thing that could bring you pleasure is your thoughts. You might not have time to switch gears, as you want to root out what is going on with a key person. Your caring attitude opens doors and allows greater give-and-take. Take into your sixth sense. Tonight: In the limelight.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

\*\*\*\* You are able to come up to a new perspective and encourage feedback from others, especially if you trust them. You could become more carefree when dealing with loved ones. Many people will agree with you and come to a similar decision. Tonight: Say "yes" to an offer.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

\*\*\*\* You are able to be close to the surface. You might have trouble handing everything that has happened around you. Stay focused on one item at a time. Get into your routine and handle what you must. You will process your intense emotions soon. Tonight: Ever playful.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

\*\*\*\* You are able to be more and the slightly less react to a certain heaviness around you. Detach from what you do not enjoy, and honor a more playful side within yourself. A friend seems to bring out this childcare joyous side in you; thank a person. Tonight: Out and about.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

\*\*\*\* You could be quite serious, unless you are home in a situation where you feel comfortable. You might feel more playful as the workweek comes to an end. Your intuition helps you know when you can move forward with a difficult task. Tonight: At a favorite spot.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

\*\*\*\* You could speak out to a friend or neighbor with whom you would like to spend more time. This person will be delighted to hear from you. Catch up on news and/or schedule some time later in the day to visit him or her; you will be happier if you do. Tonight: Favorite spot, favorite people.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)

\*\*\*\* You are easily inspired by others, as long as they don't lecture you about the details. Your ability to create and embody great ideas emerges. The details seem less important to you than they do to others – just let them do their thing. Tonight: Out making an impression.

\*\*\*  
The day

The dragon-green, the luminous, the dark, the serpent-haunted sea.

— JAMES ELROY FLECKER

bourers, inform police of your presence, know your danger zones (Moist or extremism-hit areas), break rocks, collect samples, analyse data. And all this (it could be a few months at a stretch) one is away from one's family and friends.

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### Kids

CN

13:00 India No. 21  
14:00 India No. 22  
15:00 India No. 21  
16:00 We Bare Bears  
17:00 Teletubbies  
17:30 Team Tians Go  
18:00 Robot No. 21  
18:30 Robot No. 21  
19:00 Billu Gamer  
20:30 Robot No. 21  
21:30 Robot No. 21  
22:00 Howdy Henry  
22:30 Best 10  
23:00 Super Potato Ballz

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# Federer, Nadal stroll in Montreal Masters openers

MONTREAL, Aug 10: A rejuvenated Roger Federer believes he is still reaping the benefits of his extended break from tennis after a comfortable opening victory at the ATP Montreal Masters where he gave his best start to a season since 2006.

The Swiss star, who celebrated his 36th birthday on Tuesday, swatted aside Canada's world number 116 Peter Polansky 6-2, 6-1 in just 53 minutes to book his place in the second round.

Federer was joined in the last 16 by top seed and old adversary Rafael Nadal, who made similarly short work of his opening assignment.

Nadal, who will dispose the absent Andy Murray as world number one if he reaches the semifinals in Montreal this week, routed Croatian youngster Borna Coric 6-1, 6-2.

Federer is riding high after a spectacular year which has netted him both the Australian Open and Wimbledon crowns.

On Wednesday's evidence, few

would bet against him adding the US Open to that haul after a masterful performance that left Polansky groping at shadows.

A one-sided win gave him a 32-2 start to the season, his best beginning to a campaign since 2006 when he began 38-2 and finished the year at world number one.

Federer attributed his renaissance to rediscovering full fitness after knee surgery in 2016 and taking a two-month break from the game earlier this year.

"I guess for me the key is that I'm actually healthy," Federer said.

"I knew that when I was healthy, I was going to be able to have chances to win slams again, to play against the best, beat the best."

"That's also why reasons why I'm still playing today. If I felt like I couldn't do all these things, it would not be enjoyable or I wouldn't be doing it any more."

"I think the belief was always there. The body always needed to be there, too. I think the break just rejuvenated

me... I came in refreshed. It was a different mindset."

Federer took control immediately against Polansky, holding his opening service game comfortably before quickly going 4-0 up in the second game.

A Polansky double fault gave Federer the break and the Swiss was soon 3-0 up after holding serve to love in the next game.

Polansky held his next two service games but never looked like breaking Federer's serve as the veteran moved into a 5-2 lead.

Federer then broke Polansky to take the first set, following a signature backhand with a forehand volley that left the 29-year-old Canadian scrambling.

Federer was soon in control in the second set, scoring an early break and holding twice to move 3-0 up before a further break made it 4-0.

Polansky earned a stay of execution after holding serve in the sixth game to make it 5-1, but Federer raced into

the next round with a comfortable hold, finishing with an emphatic overhead smash.

Federer will face Spain's David Ferrer in the third round. Ferrer upset 15th seed Jack Sock 7-6 (9/7), 3-6, 6-1.

Elsewhere on Wednesday, France's Gael Monfils saved four match points before digging deep to defeat Japanese fifth seed Kei Nishikori in an attritional three-set duel.

Monfils prevailed 6-7 (4/7), 7-5, 7-6 (8/6) to advance.

There was almost another French Houdini act in the evening session, when Richard Gasquet fought back from triple match point down to earn three match points in the final set of his duel with Germany's Alexander Zverev.

Fourth-seed Zverev however fought back brilliantly to claim victory in a tie-break, winning 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (7/3).

Zverev will face Australia's Nick Kyrgios in the last 16. Kyrgios swatted aside Victor Troicki 6-1, 6-2. - AFP



Rafael Nadal of Spain hits a return against Borna Coric of Croatia during day six of the Rogers Cup at the Uniprix Stadium in Montreal, on Wednesday.

## Venus battles into Toronto last 16, Muguruza through

TORONTO, Aug 10: Venus Williams was forced to draw on all of her vast experience before overcoming Czech youngster Katerina Siniakova to reach the last 16 of the WTA Toronto hard-court tournament on Wednesday.

The 37-year-old American ninth seed, who began playing on the professional circuit before 21-year-old Siniakova was even born in 1996, eventually prevailed 7-5, 7-5, 1hr 39mins.

It was a satisfying win for Williams, who struggled off the failure to convert a string of break points to raise her game when it mattered late in the second set.

Williams, who will be chasing her third US Open crown next month after reaching the Wimbledon and Australian Opens this year, said she had remained calm against Siniakova even when errors prevented her from taking a break.

At one stage Siniakova saved eight consecutive break points to ensure she always remained in touch. Williams eventually converted only four of 13 break points.

"She plays so well, so competitive," Williams said afterwards. "I had a few errors but I think the key is to keep going for it and hopefully you'll

get some in at some point."

"On those points she played some great tennis. And what can you do except go back and try again," Williams said of Siniakova's multiple break-point saves.

Williams will now face Elina Svitolina in the next round.

Wimbledon champion Garbine Muguruza advanced with a 7-5, 6-2 win over Belgium's Kirsten Flipkens.

Top seed Karolina Pliskova of the

Czech Republic meanwhile eased past Russia's Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 6-3, 6-3.

It was Pliskova's first match since she was installed as the current world number one and she confessed she had been nervous beforehand.

"I had a little bit of nerves before the match, but during the match I felt much better, especially at the end," Pliskova said.

"I played doubles yesterday to some

nerves went out a little bit yesterday, and I felt good today. I'm definitely happy that I'm through to the next round."

Two seeded Russian players were among those to make an early exit.

Svetlana Kuznetsova, seeded eighth, was the highest-profile casualty, tumbling out to Catherine Bellis of the United States 6-4, 7-5.

Pliskova, the fourth seed, was

soon packing as Australia's Ashleigh Barty, Barty, a 21-year-old Queenstown player who has also played professional Twenty20 cricket, won a gripping three-setter 6-3, 5-7, 6-4.

But there was better news for the Russian contingent as Ekaterina Makarova saved two match points and recovered from a set down to end seven-year-old Johanna Konta's challenge.

Konta, playing her first match since losing the final of the French Open last month, was beaten 5-7, 7-6 (7/4), 6-3.

Other seeds to fall by the wayside on Wednesday included Latvia's Anastasija Sevastova and Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia.

Fifth-seed Sevastova crashed 6-3, 6-4 to Japan's Naomi Osaka while Lucie Safarova accounted for 11th seed Cibulkova 6-2, 6-4. - AFP



Garbine Muguruza of Spain returns the ball to Kirsten Flipkens of Belgium during their second round match at the Rogers Cup in Toronto, on Wednesday.

## Juventus forward Dybala handed famous No. 10 jersey

TURIN, Aug 10: Juventus star Paulo Dybala will become the latest in a long line of legends to pull on the No. 10 jersey for the upcoming season.

The Italian champions announced the news on Wednesday night that the Argentine will swap the No. 21, worn by the likes of Zinedine Zidane and Andrea Pirlo, for football's most iconic number.

The number, donned by greats such as Alessandro Del Piero and Roberto Baggio, has been vacant since Paul Pogba departed for Manchester United last summer.

It is a move which underlines the Bianconeri's refusal to sell the 23-year-old, who has been linked with a move to Barcelona following the exit of Neymar.

It is clear that Juve plan on building the team around Dybala, who will be integral if

they are to finally end their wait for another Champions League trophy.

This will be the first time in his career that he pulls on the number that has become synonymous with compatriots like



## 180 million watched ICC Women's WC

DUBAI, Aug 10: An estimated 180 million people from across the world watched the recently-concluded ICC Women's World Cup in which the Indian team, led by Mithali Raj, ended runners-up after losing to England.

Mexico's current coach, Juan Carlos Osorio of Colombia, had said recently that he intended to take Marquez to next year's World Cup in Russia.

"We hope that Rafael is still fit for that challenge," he said.

Scandal struck on Wednesday however when the US Treasury accused Marquez of being a "front person" for a major drug trafficking ring. - AFP

South Africa and a huge increase in viewers in India, particularly in rural areas, since 2013, "he released stated.

In the United Kingdom, the final attracted most viewers for any televised cricket this summer. Similarly, there has been a 131 per cent increase in viewing hours in Australia.

A whopping 156 million people viewed the event in India, of which 80 million was rural reach and 126 million were for the final alone. India's fine performances contributed to a 500 per cent increase in viewing hours in the country.

According to an ICC media release, there was almost 300 per cent increase in viewing hours compared to the last edition in 2013.

"There was significant growth in audiences in all territories, but particularly impressive was an eight-fold increase in viewing hours in

## LA to get more oversight in 2028 agreement

### Former Barca star Marquez accused of cartel ties

LOS ANGELES, Aug 10: Los Angeles 2028 Olympic bid chiefs will give more oversight to city officials as they attempt to fine-tune details of their hastily revised plans to stage the Games, documents showed on Wednesday.

LA 2028, the City of Los Angeles and the United States Olympic Committee released a new memorandum of understanding for preparation for the 2028 Games in a bid to seek confirmation on Friday.

Los Angeles was granted the right to stage the 2028 Olympics after cutting a deal with Paris to step aside in the race for the 2024 Games. The move, which was encouraged by the International Olympic Committee, means that Los Angeles is required to tweak plans for the Olympics in order to receive final backing from the City Council.

The City Council had already given unanimous support to the LA 2024 bid and is expected to back 2028 at a meeting on Friday.

However, a city report released last week by the Office of the City Administrator's Office and Office of the Chief Legislative Analyst outlined risks in shifting to 2028.

"The additional four years add uncertainty concerning future economic and political conditions. Although such uncertainty exists with the 2024 Olympic Games which will occur in seven years, the four-year extension increases those uncertainties," the report said.

In addition to the lack of an independent analysis of a formal budget for 2028, another risk factor is that part of the 2024 deal included a \$250 million guarantee from California to cover possible cost overruns. - AFP



to the top flight of European football, leading to two Champions League titles with Barcelona.

"I have great memories of the Copa America. The first one I played in gave me the chance to

make myself known and to go to Europe," he said in 2015.

His first 11-year spell in Europe included a victory with Barcelona in the Champions League final against Arsenal in 2006. He returned briefly to

Atletico, where he still plays.

"Having Rafael Marquez on

the team is amazing," said Argentina defender Facundo Roncaglia.

"He is an open book to everyone. Anyone can ask him questions and learn from him constantly."

Marquez has captained Mexico in four World Cups.

Still potent despite injuries, he scored the winning goal in the 89th minute of a 2-1 World Cup qualifier victory over the United States last November.

Mexico's current coach, Juan Carlos Osorio of Colombia, had

said recently that he intended to take Marquez to next year's World Cup in Russia.

"We hope that Rafael is still fit for that challenge," he said.

Scandal struck on Wednesday

however when the US Treasury accused Marquez of being a "front person" for a major drug trafficking ring. - AFP

He further appealed, "Please

don't turn this into something

political, I just wanted to make a positive statement hoping to make a change. That's all."

Marquez has played seven Tests

for India and is yet to make his

ODI debut. - PTI

praised him for sharing his thoughts on the subject.

Bengal cricketer Manoj Tiwary,

replying to him, tweeted, "Well said ABHINAV!"

In his latest post this morning, the 27-year-old Mukund made it clear that his statement has nothing to do with Indian team.

"Guys please don't turn this into something else, it has absolutely no connection to anyone in the team. It is mainly targeted at people who have been posting abuses about colour and saying absolutely derogatory things about the tone of my skin. That's all I," he tweeted.

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ODI debut. - PTI

## Fair is not the only lovely or handsome: Mukund

NEW DELHI, Aug 10: Indian cricketer Abhinav Mukund has slammed racial abuse on social media, saying that he himself been at the receiving end of insults and ridicule for his skin tone.

In a statement posted on his Twitter page, Mukund, who featured in the first Test against Sri Lanka in the ongoing series and scored 81 in the second innings, expressed his disappointment at some of the messages sent to him targeting his skin tone.

The left-handed Tamil Nadu batsman, however, made it clear that his statement had nothing to do with any member of the Indian cricket team.

"I am writing today not to garner sympathy or attention but with the hope to change the mindset of people on an issue I feel strongly about. I have been travelling a lot within and outside our country since I was 15. Ever

since I was young, people's obsession with my skin colour has always been a mystery to me," his statement, posted last night, read.

"Anyone who follows cricket would understand the obvious. I have played and trained day in and day out in the sun and not even once have I regretted the fact that I have tanned or lost a couple of shades.

"It is simply because I love what I do and I have been able to achieve certain things only because I have spent hours outdoors. I come from Chennai probably one of the hottest places in the country and I have gladly spent most of my adult life in the cricket ground."

and shrugged it off because I had bigger goals! Affected young, I toughened up because this was never something that would pull me down.

Stay true, stay focused and be comfortable in your own skin," he concluded.

His statement evoked strong response from his fans, who

praised him for sharing his

thoughts on the subject.

Bengal cricketer Manoj Tiwary,

replying to him, tweeted, "Well

said ABHINAV!"

In his latest post this morning, the 27-year-old Mukund made it clear that his statement has nothing to do with Indian team.

"Guys please don't turn this into something else, it has absolutely no connection to anyone in the team. It is mainly targeted at people who have been posting abuses about colour and saying absolutely derogatory things about the tone of my skin. That's all I," he tweeted.

He further appealed, "Please

don't turn this into something

political, I just wanted to make a

positive statement hoping to make a

change. That's all."

Mukund has played seven Tests

for India and is yet to make his

ODI debut. - PTI

Further, the 27-year-old said that he has been subjected to this abuse for long and it has not ended.

"I have been subjected to a lot of name calling and I have laughed

experience ridicule

based on the colour of one's skin.

Obviously with the rise of social media, it has gone to

magnitude that I see people hurling abuses left, right and centre at something I have absolutely no control over!

"Fair is not the only lovely or

handsome guy!"

Stay true, stay focused and be

comfortable in your own skin," he concluded.

His statement evoked strong

response from his fans, who

## SU DO KU

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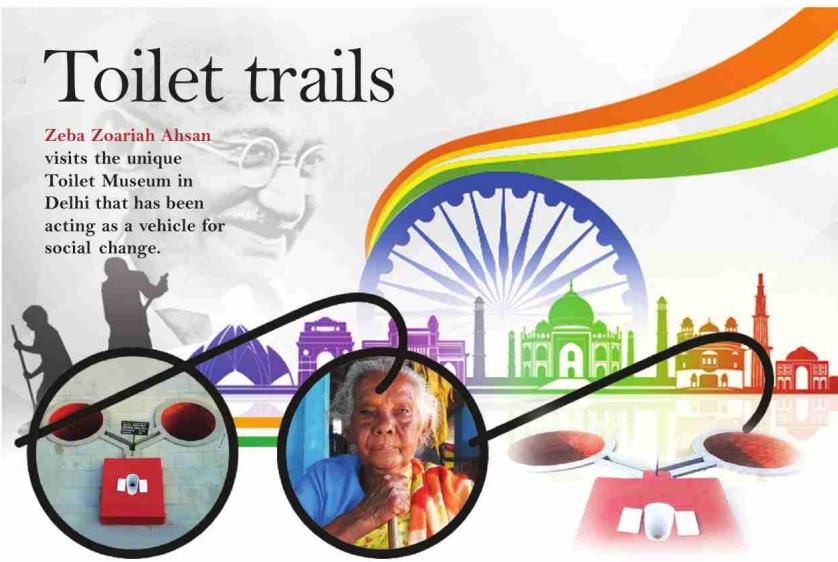
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## Toilet trails

Zeba Zoariah Ahsan visits the unique Toilet Museum in Delhi that has been acting as a vehicle for social change.



A country which has been successfully launching satellite missions and getting applauded the world over. A country that is known to have bullet trains built with unimaginable facilities. And yet she is struggling to build toilets and finding it even more difficult to convince people, especially in the rural areas, to build one. Using toilets is a basic right. Building and 'using' them is the first step towards making the country 'open defecation free (ODF)'. As of now there are only three Indian states – Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh and Kerala, which have been declared ODF states.

Recently, I got the opportunity to attend the third WASH (Water Sanitation and Hygiene) summer school programme organised by the Coca-Cola Department of Regional Water Studies, TERI University, New Delhi. It was a three-day programme with a dynamic group that included school students, postgraduates and PhD candidates, officials from the Irrigation Department and urban planners from Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Chandigarh, Kerala and nearby Delhi-NCR.

The second day of the programme was an exhilarating experience as it involved a site visit to one of the most unique organisations in the country – the Sulabh International Social Service Organisation located at Palam, Delhi. It was founded by Padma Bhushan awardee Dr Bindeshwar Pathak who has worked tirelessly in educating masses about sanitation. He has a Gandhian vision and his constructive programmes on restoration of human rights and dignity of scavengers is the mission of his life. The organisation has been deeply involved in educating the children of scavengers by imparting them with the right skills, thus paving the way for a wider social inclusion. Their upliftment has provided them with a great sense of security for the future. The Sulabh Public School has done an excellent job of empowering these children through various activities. The school imparts computer literacy classes along with Hindi and English stenography, cutting and tailoring, beauty care, dress designing, embroidery, etc. The best part is the active participation of the Sanitation Club of the school which is involved in educating girls about menstrual hygiene, as well as manufacturing their own sanitary napkins. The school has been successful in installing a sanitary napkin vending

machine as well as an incinerator to dispose of the used pads. It serves as a great source of inspiration as such facilities are available only in a select few schools across the country.

The best part about the entire day was the visit to the Toilet Museum located in the premises of the Sulabh organisation. It's very intriguing and holds the title of being the 'third weirdest museum' in the world. The museum artifacts are displayed chronologically to show the evolution of toilets, starting from the Indus Valley civilisation to the present-day space bio toilets. History says that great wars have been lost due to unhygienic toilet practices, which included open defecation on sand, resulting in spread of harmful diseases. There is a delightful tale about a British monarch's portable toilet, which took along while he was out hunting, lined with velvet as a safeguard against the chill and wind. The curator of the museum was very enthusiastic in explaining every detail about the various models of toilets being displayed. He mentioned that the idea behind this museum was that it would act as a vehicle of social change through sensitisation and awareness among the common man.

Outside the main museum there was a display of present-day cost-effective toilets. It even talks about the necessity of having child-friendly toilets at home, a thing not many of us were aware of until we saw the models. The organisation specifically educates the masses about the advantages of having a 'Sulabh' flush compost toilet, essentially a twin-pit system. Its implementation is necessary as it prevents water pollution, in turn reducing the chances of disease outbreak. The cheapest toilet that could be constructed in villages roughly amounts to Rs 2000 with five users and a two-year capacity pit.

The entire programme was very enlightening and provided the right platform to start a sanitation movement. The 105-year-old Kunwar Bai of Chhattisgarh was made the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan mascot last year who sold off her goats (around eight to ten of them) to build two toilets at her home, inspiring others in her village to do the same. It, therefore, boils down to just one question. If people like Kunwar Bai can build toilets despite so many tribulations, why can't others?

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## Lost words

Sumishra Borah



Our world is becoming compact with new technologies and ideas. People have turned out to be busier. Earlier time management was easier compared to today. People now compete with each other on social media. A monotonous life is exaggerated and made to look fancy. With new technologies, people are becoming restless and impatient. They don't wait for the right time; they simply use social media to convey what they feel. With the introduction of Facebook, Insta-

gram, WhatsApp, etc., people are becoming busier than before and hence facing a crisis of time. It's quite silly but that's what's happening.

People seem to be so busy now that even their writing styles have evolved, with words and texts getting shorter by the day. We are making new abbreviations that have no actual meaning. Life's so fast paced that now people find it difficult to type something in length. We are in such a hurry that we have no time to write a word completely. Then how can we

assume and expect our vocabulary to improve? No! Never! Most of the posts we see on Facebook these days are like a packet of chips – it's like buying a packet of air at Rs 20. Then there are people who post the most unnecessary things. This one time I came across a post with the caption "Sweat". Was that really necessary? We're becoming rather lazy and are giving up on the richness of language and writing. I personally find it so bad when someone writes RIP! Why can't one write Rest in Peace? Are we so busy that we cannot even spare four to five seconds to pay our respects to a departed soul?

People believe that these gadgets and applications are making us modern, but sadly it's only making us dull. Time, indeed, waits for none but it is our responsibility to use it effectively. We can't cut short important things just because it seems like we are saving some time by doing so. It is essential that we balance everything so that each thing gets its proper value. There are such short forms in the messaging world today that at times it feels as if we are reading some foreign language – OMG, LOL, ROFL, BRB, BTW, etc. These social apps have taught us so much that we can now assume someone's mood through their text replies. If a person replies to a chat with a "K" or a "hmm", then one must know that either he or she is bored, else he or she is occupied with work.

Adopting newness is always welcome and appreciated, but we should also keep in mind that it works out in a positive way. Hope we don't come across more short forms; else God might just shorten our lives thinking that He has given us too much time to live!

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## Top cops!

Ria Chakraborty

W e Indians excel at the art of praising, for various works in various sectors. Praise is the expression of respect and gratitude, also the expression of approval or admiration for someone or something. Praising a person motivates them and fuels their exceptional talents. Actors, singers, sportspersons and personalities related to the reel world are the most praised personas of our country. They are the most respected and popular public figures. The list of stars being praised every year increases and the number of awards as well. But August 15 and January 26 are the two days when the real heroes get replaced by the real-life heroes. Social networking sites get filled with posts praising the Indian Army. When we talk about our Army, Navy and Air Force, it fills us with pride. But then is the police force equally praised? If we surf through the search engines we will find that a very limited data is available on the police forces. And among all that is available on the internet about the police department, more than half of it is filled with negativity.

But are they always that bad? Let's think again. The heroic acts of Inspector Chitbul Pandey (Salman Khan in *Dabangg*), Inspector Babaji Singh (Ayaz Deogn in *Singham*) or SP Namrata Singh (Rekha in *Phool Bane Angarai*) are quite popular among people. Thakur Baldev Singh (Sanjeev Kapoor in *Shola*) fighting Gabbar attracted the attention of many. But only a handful of people remember the real-life heroes who have to actually fight many Gabbars day in and day out, without a director to control the scenes. While many of us cannot remain without internet connection for even a day, areas with no network coverage are their duty zones. Whenever we see the police, it fills us with dread or unease, rather than us feeling safe around them. The police force, infamous for its corrupt practices, has not been successful in securing the sympathy or love of the public. Despite that, some officers like Sanjita Parashar, one of the first women IPS officers from Assam, who successfully fought off some militants from Assam, managed to be in the headlines, grabbing the attention of many. In a country where under-the-table transactions and behind-the-door conversations are common, an honest police officer is a rarity. Here are a few examples of policemen who deserve to be talked about and be remembered for their valour.

During the November 26 terror attack on Mumbai, Ajmal Kasab, the prime accused, became the talk of the nation. But it was the police officers who fought these terrorists who must have been given all the attention. The Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad head Hemant Karkare, the Anti-Extortion Cell head Vijay Salaskar, the Additional Commissioner of Mumbai Police Ashok Kamte and ASI Tukaram Omble received special mention here.

The first woman to clear the police service exams from Assam was Yami Hazarika. Another IPS officer from Assam is D R Doley Barman of the 1986 IPS batch, who is now the Director of the North East Police Academy. We should be extremely proud that the Indian Government has announced that on the occasion of Independence Day, 24 Assam Police personnel will be rewarded for their brave and meritorious services. Additional director general of police LR Bishnoi, in charge of the trouble-prone Bodoland Territorial Area Districts (BTAD), will be awarded the President's Police Medal for distinguished service. The Police Gallantry Award will be conferred upon deputy superintendent of Dibrugarh Police, Pradip Saha; *halukdar* Dinesh Barman and armed branch constable Pawan Dohouta for showing their utmost bravery in gunning down a surrendered militant. Twenty others, including three from the State's fire service department, will be awarded the Police Medal for Meritorious Service as well.

Reality TV shows like *Savdhaan India*, *Crime Patrol* and *Police Files*, which are based on real life stories, have also made us realise how the police force solves so many unheard of crimes and saves so many lives. Therefore, we must have nothing but respect and admiration for these bravehearts. Thanks to them, our country is a much safer place to live in!

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## Prodyot Pran Saikia

**W**hat do we call a person who after taking a severe downfall either attains the previous height of success or does better in overcoming all dominant adversities? Such people are called resilient. Dictionaries have defined resilience as "the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties. The power or ability to return to the original form, position, etc., after being bent, compressed, or stretched." Research psychologists Masten and Reed have defined resilience as a class of phenomena characterised by patterns of positive adaptation in the context of significant adversity or risk. In other words, resilience is all about bouncing back when it seems impossible to do so.

Not every successful outcome from a heavy fall can be called resilience. According to positive psychologists, two major judgements are required to identify individuals as belonging to the resilient class. First, there should be the judgement that the individuals were doing okay or better than okay before the downside or fall. In respect to a set of expectations or behaviour. Second, there is a judgement that there had been extenuating circumstances that posed severe threats to a good outcome. A businessman with good reputation in the financial market suffers huge losses but he easily regains his financial position with support from family members or friends; this will not be an example of resilience as in his case there were no severe threats to his outcome as the necessary resources were readily available to him and were offered to him risk-free. Similarly, if a good student shows a major slump in his results owing to inadequate allocation of study time, but soon bounces back by giving more time to his studies; he will not be called resilient. On the other hand, if a student who has suffered severe physical or mental health related issues, threatening impairments, bounces back to register success, overcoming all impediments – that is an example of resilience. A sexually abused child, later in adulthood, leading a normal married life, overcoming the de-

bilitating traumas is also a case of resilience. Resilience is a learned competency that develops through continued combined efforts of the individual himself, his family, other significant relatives and the community. Resiliency is planted from childhood. A child can be expected to be resilient in later life if as a child he had developed his cognitive abilities, problem solving and attention skills had an easy temperament, had positive self-perceptions, had a sense of meaning in life, good self-regulation of emotional arousal and impulses, talents valued by self and the society, a good sense of humour, close relationship with caring adults, authoritative parents who are not only kind on warmth but also monitor their expectations, a positive family climate with low parental discords, an organised home environment, healthy ties with pro-social organisations like schools, clubs, high level of public safety, etc.

Hope and optimism plays a very significant role in resilience. Let us take the examples of Aman and Karan (names changed), two IT technocrats laid off by their respective firms. Both felt despondent. Aman told himself, "Hey, I am good. I have the required capabilities. It is only the economy that is going through a bad phase. Once the phase is over, I will get a good job," and he continued to look for a job with equal gusto. Karan, on the other hand, told himself, "I am really good for

Bouncing back

nothing and that is why I have been laid off. Had I been any good they would have retained me. I will never get a job again," and he went into depression. Hope is a positive competency that develops from childhood in a positive environment. One's reaction to adversities depends on the hope factor.

As schools remain the dominant cen-

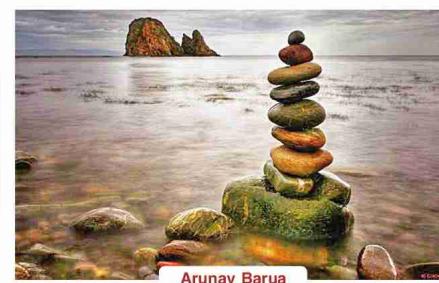
tres of learning for students they can help children learn resilience. Schools can promote positive social connections between staff and students, among students, and between schools and homes. Nurture positive qualities, such as empathy, optimism, or forgiveness, and give students a chance to use them. Notice and reinforce qualities that are key to resilience. Avoid focusing on failure or negative behaviours. Teach by example, which is an effective approach; train staff to develop the same qualities. Applying restorative justice techniques can help schools by giving students a structured opportunity to work difficulties out by encouraging reflection and empathy. Foster feelings of competence and self-efficacy. Teach them to set realistic, achievable goals, and also how to reach out for help when needed.

Schools where a majority of the pupils come from the low-income groups require teachers high in empathy and teaching skills. Low-income children can be harder to educate than children from more-comfortable backgrounds. Educators often struggle to motivate them, to calm them down, to connect with them. This doesn't mean they're impossible to teach; plenty of kids who grow up in poverty are thriving in the classroom. But, they require continued extra attention and constant motivation.

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Arunav Barua



Arunav Barua

In this country of impatient people, there are a few exceptions! To push home the point, where do most fights occur? Where do people wait, in general? The roads and in queues, is what my experience has shown me. They have no reasons for anger and aggression at these two meeting points of strangers, for they are usually strangers, but you notice the angry behaviour here. Surprisingly, the rules of every queue and every road are the same! For roads: you wait at traffic junctures, let faster vehicles overtake, obey rules and maintain decorum, for it is only through these pointers that you avoid accidents and calamities.

This seems simple in theory but in practice, it is not so. In reality, we all know that blaring horns, swerving bikes and cars, impatient and angry drivers, are a reality on our roads. This means that the impatience of the people who have been chosen to carry out a professional act, are on high-wire. For driving and riding are professional acts. When one is on the road, one has to act like a professional, for s/he has been chosen to carry out a task which would otherwise cause damage to life and property.

The second field where we show our 'impatience' is in queues. Be it for rations, be it for movie tickets or for admissions, this impatient bug has proved to be a reason for a lot of warfare and scuffles. Most people believe that they are somehow 'more' important because of their social clout, gang presence or any dimension where self-induced delusions of importance is the main reason for this phenomenon.

Showing aggression, putting down others through hurtful comments, using whatever power one believes they may have to belittle and insult others, especially women and children, was never tolerated, but here it is done with impudence. Maybe, it is a sign of impatience that is taking place everywhere. Let us call it that, for otherwise, we question our very core as human beings. When every interaction becomes an attempt to show superiority, real or imagined, there has to be some element of complexity in us. For one who 'lives' his or her life does not need to prove their superiority.

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## The strange island of Japan

Okinoshima was in the news as it received the UNESCO's World Heritage Site tag on July 9 last. And the reason for the tag is a little strange – it has banned women from entering and requires men to strip naked on arrival. Okinoshima is a small island, part of the city of Munakata, Fukuoka, Japan. It is considered sacred land by the locals. The island's population consists of a single employee of the shrine. The entire island is considered a shinto kami, a deity, and the island is off limits to women. The island covers area of 97 ha and has maximum elevation of 244 m. The shrine, named Okitsugu, is located at the southwestern portion of Okinoshima. It was established in the mid 17th-century. Prior to the shrine's establishment as a sacred natural site, the surrounding site served as a location for the worship of the kamis. The shrine has been maintained in relatively the same condition since the Showa period 1932, prior to which it had undergone repair and rebuilding several times. In 2009 the island was submitted for future inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List. It gained the status as a UNESCO World Heritage site on July 9, 2017. However, local residents had expressed their worry that the island's inclusion on the UNESCO list would cause an increase of tourism that would threaten its sacredness. Takayuki Ashizu, the chief priest at Munakata Taisha, said that regardless whether or not Okinoshima is added to the UNESCO cultural heritage list, they would not open it to the public because "people shouldn't visit out of curiosity".

The island requires male guests to strip naked on arrival as they are to undergo a purification ritual. Also, they are allowed to visit the island only on May 27 every year, and not on any other day. Okinoshima, steeped in Shinto religious tradition, takes ancient taboos seriously, including the controversial one that bars females from stepping foot on it. The male visitors can't take any souvenirs from the island with them when they leave – not even a blade of grass – and must never disclose details of their trip. The whole island is considered sacred ground. It is the priests who enforce the ban on women, although there isn't much known about why the ban exists. "There are varying explanations for the ban, but some say it is because menstruation would defile the site," wrote the *Japan Times*.

### THE ODD WORLD

Partha Pratim Hazarika

**A** leader among the giants in the not-so-recent past, BlackBerry Ltd hasn't seen much success despite putting some efforts in innovation. The last smartphone – DTEK60 – has been among the series of failed products produced by the now Chinese TCL-owned former Canadian company RIM (Research in Motion). Do you remember the BlackBerry Classic, the slider Android phablet Priv and the fabulous looking Z10?

The RIM, which primarily relied on its own BlackBerry OS, could never come out of the jolt it suffered at the hands of the Android and iOS platforms. Thereafter BlackBerry re-focused its business strategy and began to release Android-based smartphones, beginning with the BlackBerry Priv slider and then the BlackBerry DTEK50 and DTEK60. The fight for space continues with the latest launch of the KeyOne.

The KeyOne is a mix of vintage vibe with modern design lines, building on the foundation of a fantastic QWERTY keyboard that is touch-sensitive. Its 4.5-inch display (1620 x 1080 resolution) is intended for document editing, mails and instant messenger apps. While brightness is adequate, the crisp text makes for a comfortable reading experience.

One thing, however, that is disheartening to know is that the KeyOne runs on the Qualcomm Snapdragon

625 processor, the same chip that powers the likes of the cheap Chinese Xiaomi Redmi Note 4 (Rs 9,999 onwards) and Moto G5 Plus (Rs 15,999). Priced at Rs 39,990 online, one would have expected more power under the KeyOne's hood. However, while the global variants of the KeyOne have 3 GB RAM, the India-specific variant gets 4 GB RAM.

The 3.050 mAh battery lasts a day and a half with ease, taking pressure off during a heavy workload when you may not have the time to charge it. The KeyOne retains the same focus on security and BlackBerry has stripped away all the unnecessary Android features that we saw in the Priv. It has a 12-megapixel camera with Sony's IMX378 sensor, which should work well with photographs. Cameras have never been the forte of BlackBerry phones.

With KeyOne's 12MP primary camera with 6-elements lens, f/2.0 aperture, PDAF, high dynamic range (HDR), panorama, 1080p full HD video recording and SMP Wide Angle front facing camera, promise much.

The KeyOne has actually added the modern Android elements with the best of the BlackBerry phones of the past. If you love BlackBerry phones, you could certainly take a look at it. I am sure you won't be disappointed.

(devolnath@hotmail.com)

### The Black One

#### TECH TRENDS

Devol Kumar Nath

of/is composed of/is made up of seven people', right?" "Of course!"

"Then what about 'contain'?"

"Contain" is used in a similar sense. When something "contains" something else, it has that thing inside it or as part of it. We normally use it when we say what a box, bottle or a bag has inside it – "The box contained two pencils and a pen" or "An envelope containing hundred dollar bills". You may also say "The film contained a number of violent scenes", etc."

"See. Can we also use 'include' in the same sense?"

"Yes, we can. If something 'includes' another thing, it has it as one of its parts. For example, "The price includes GST". But remember,

"include" in this sense is not used in progressive tenses."

"Okay... You know, we have taken a holiday package which also includes a luxury river cruise."

"Wow, that's cool. You are going with your family?"

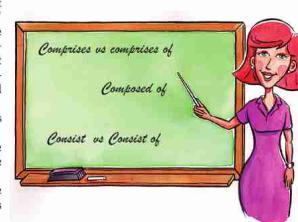
"No, we are a group which comprises of three people..."

"Comprises three people, not 'comprise of'"

"The following tongue twister is from Manas Neog, Dikhowmukh, Siwasagar: 'The thirty-three thieves thought that they thrilled the throne throughout Thursday.'

### MIND YOUR ENGLISH

Protim Sharma



**T**ell me, is it 'comprises' or 'comprised of'..."

"Most careful users of English consider the use of 'of' incorrect. So they would say 'The house comprises three bedrooms, two bathrooms, one kitchen and one living room' rather than 'The house consists of...'."

"I see... Why don't we simply say 'The house has three bedrooms, etc.'"

"Ha-ha, you are right. Well, anyway, 'comprise' is normally used in formal situations. Like 'comprise', we also have 'consist of', 'be composed of', etc., to refer to all the parts that something has in it."

"So we can use 'of' after 'consist' or 'be composed'?"

"Yes, of course we can. Take for example: 'The book consists of eight chapters and a brief introduction' and 'The committee is composed of both teachers and students'. Both these 'consist of' and 'be composed of' mean 'to be formed from the things or people mentioned'. And mind you, just as 'comprises of' is not advisable, so is 'is composed by/from'."

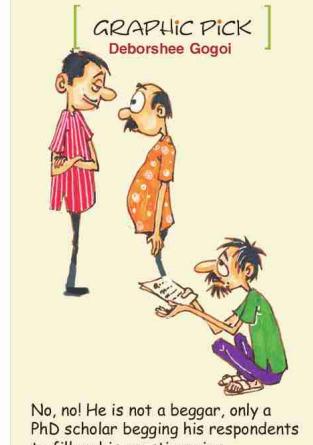
"Oh, so it is always 'is composed of'?"

"Yes... As also 'is made up of': 'The group is made up of seven people'."

"So we can say 'The group comprises/consists

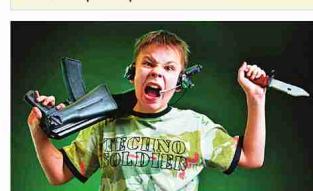
**(This column will carry everything odd around the world. Readers' contributions will be appreciated at partha.hazarika@assamtribune.com.)**

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



### GRAPHIC PICK

Deborshee Gogoi



### Violent video games can rot your brain

**P**laying violent 'shooter' video games can damage the brain and may even increase the risk of Alzheimer's disease, researchers have found.

Researchers at the University of Montreal got around 100 people to play a range of popular 'shooter' games such as *Call of Duty*, *Killzone* and *Borderlands 2* for a total of 90 hours. They also gave them copies of non-violent games from the Super Mario series.

By the end of the study, they found that people who habitually played action games had fewer neurons in their hippocampus, a key memory centre in the brain. However, those who played non-violent games ended the study with more essential gray matter in their brains.

In the new study, brain scans showed that people who regularly played action games had a measurable loss of hippocampus "gray matter" – nerve cell bodies – after 90 hours playing action games. But the same amount of time spent playing 3D Super Mario games increased grey matter in the hippocampus of all participants. The findings have been published in the journal *Molecular Psychiatry*. (Agencies)



Page 4

# HORIZON

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE  
GUWAHATI, FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 2017

## The perfect hostess - I

**I**t is a dinner party – important business associates have been invited for the evening. It is your anniversary celebration – your daughters and sons-in-law are coming over for a meal. You have sent the invites, planned the menu, laid the table meticulously and arranged the flowers. But have you been ignoring yourself while doing all this? Being the perfect hostess also requires you to be well turned out, both physically and emotionally. So, here's a check-list of what needs to be done:

- First of all, make sure you finish the day's chores a good one hour before the guests are due to arrive.
- Lie down for some time to relax. Cover your eyes with a cool eye-pad. Take a cold or hot shower, shampoo your hair and before you put on anything, put on a smile.
- Keep a smile on your face to get rid of the frown

### FASHIONABLY YOURS

Prasant Ghosh

lines. Thinking happy thoughts brings a smile to your face and relieves those frown lines between the eyes and the lines around the mouth. If you keep a smile on your face, those lines will magically disappear!

• Use eyeliner to give your eyes more definition. If you have trouble applying eyeliner, apply a dark eye shadow to the top of your eyelid with a fine brush.

• Applying eyeliner or smudging your eye shadow will add definition and strength. If you are over 50, try to avoid the shimmerly lip glosses.

• Go for regular facials. These can be at home or in a salon. An 80-year-old aunt of mine has been having facials for years and currently looks half her age.

• Exfoliate regularly. By exfoliating you are removing the dead layers of skin from your face and body to reveal the fresher younger looking skin.

• Keep your teeth clean. I am not just talking about brushing. Get a professional clean-up done to remove the buildup of caffeine and nicotine that can give you an older appearance.

• Drink plenty of water. This is an oldie but a goodie. Water flushes out the toxins and keeps the skin hydrated.

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

### WEST SIDE STORY

#### Amber sued for defamation

**AMBER** Rose is being sued for defamation by the mother of her ex-boyfriend Wiz Khalifa, stemming from a profanity-laced phone call the star made to her in June. Katie Wimbush-Polk claims Amber accused her of being an unfit grandmother and blamed her for the death of Wiz's sibling Dorian, who died in February from complications from lymphoma.

Amber, 33, allegedly made the angry phone call after being visited by California child welfare services on June 19, after Katie had made a report against her.

#### Bella in the saddle!

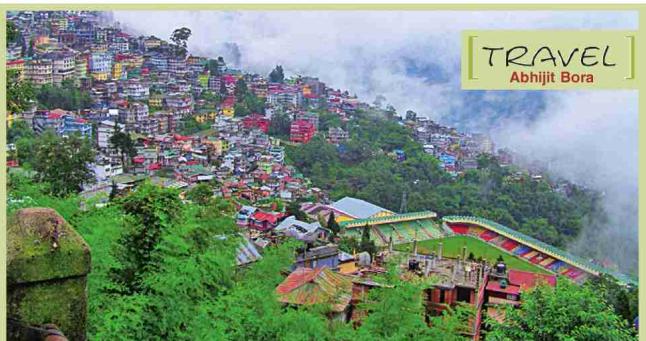
**BELLA** Hadid, who was forced to abandon her 2016 Olympic dream in dismay due to ongoing Lyme Disease problems, recently shared a video of herself going for a ride astride a mighty mare on social media. The 20-year-old wrote on Instagram, "Got to hack this beautiful baby girl today!!! My one and greatest passion will always be horses and now I am back! With my heart re-filled with love and so much happiness."

#### Calvin Harris highest paid DJ

**CALVIN** Harris ruled *Forbes'* annual list of electronic cash kings as he was named the highest paid DJ for the fifth consecutive year.

Harris, 33, brought in \$48.5 million between June 2016 and June 2017, outpacing fellow DJ Tiësto and newcomers The Chainsmokers. The Scottish beatmaker's earnings came from a combination of residencies in Las Vegas and festival performances as well as from producing pop hits.

AGENCIES



[TRAVEL]  
Abhijit Bora

## Rejuvenating Gangtok

**T**he journey through the outskirts of Siliguri and its jungles, and then through the winding road by the reverberating Teesta, up until Gangtok was highly exciting and memorable for the kids – one in mid-high school and the other in LKG. The clear weather and mildly warm temperature also added to the excitement of going on a holiday. It was in mid-June that we travelled to this tiny Himalayan Kingdom.

We arrived in Gangtok by around eight in the evening, and soon retired for the night, buried under heavy blankets.

The next day we booked a cab for local sightseeing. The first stop was at an establishment that organised 'hang gliding'.

Though our elder one was very insistent on it, we decided against it and went ahead to the Jhakri Falls, which was a few kilometres away.

It is a natural waterfall that has been developed very well, with amusement areas for children and facilities for donning Sikkimese costumes for pictures.

Our next destination was a flower show where exotic flowers in full bloom could be seen. We also visited the hill-top watch tower from where one can see almost a lion's share of the city.

On our way back to the hotel, we visited two old monasteries, highly re-

vered and visited by people of all faiths. The positive vibes that the chantings and the *kalacharas* emanated will forever remain an unforgettable memory.

Another destination was the big market for organic products of all kinds. We bought some items which taste much better than other varieties available in the market. This experience made us realise that the government as well as the people were seriously and systematically taking to organic farming and marketing over the last few years.

Besides this, cleanliness is a high point of this city. All areas of the city are clean with no hint of garbage visible at any place.

One interesting practice we noticed was that most of the vehicles invariably had the phone number of the owner/driver pasted on the front and back of the car. The hotel manager explained that because of shortage of space for parking vehicles and other complications, if anyone would like to ask the vehicle owner to move their car, this comes quite handy.

Enlightened about the good practice, I wondered if we can think of something similar for our towns and cities also,

even the erratic and irresponsible habits of parking and driving by many of us, yours faithfully included.

We decided to spend the afternoon and the evening at the MG Road Mall. It has shops on both sides with flower-stands in the middle, and benches for people to sit and laze around.

Our plan to visit Tsomgo Lake and Nathu La had to be aborted because of inclement weather. Hence, we decided to visit Hanuman Tok, Ganesh Tok, and the Botanical Garden-cut-Zoo.

The temples were beautifully built on the hills with judicious utilisation of the scarce area. The Red Panda was the high point of the visit to the botanical garden and zoo, especially for the kids, who had never seen one before.

One noticeable aspect was that most of the inmates were in good health, compared to the animals in a few other zoos we have visited in the recent past.

The best experience of the whole tour was the ropeway ride that we thoroughly enjoyed. It is about a kilometre-long ride right in the city, with cable cars traversing the distance and allowing one to soak in the beautiful scenario through the glass windows.

Gangtok is a nice place to visit all year round, though the ideal time is around October-November. A good number of hotels ranging from budget ones to high-end ones are available, though it is better to book in advance.

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**I** am a movie freak. So are you, and so is everyone else. Nothing feels better than having a tub of popcorn in hand, enjoying a 3D movie with your pals. Isn't it? Looking at the entrepreneurial perspective, the business of movie theatres/cinema halls is flourishing. Opening a movie theatre is a big venture (with a big risk) that requires a great deal of planning. Before you plunge into this type of project, make sure that you understand the steps involved:

• **Feasibility study:** A feasibility study will help you determine if your area can support a new theatre. If you live in a large city, it will help you determine if your business will overlap with other theatres in the area. If you live in a smaller town, it will help you figure out if a theatre would work in your city.

• **A business plan:** It includes information from the feasibility study that shows how lucrative your business can be. Financial projections, budget analysis and external economic forces should be in your business plan.

### MANAGEMENT MOVES

Saurav Somani

• **Fund sources:** You will typically need to show the business plan or project report to investors, banks or financial institutions so that you can obtain loans or subsidies.

• **Deal with a movie distributor:** A very crucial step – to procure access and rights to the movies that you will show in your theatre, you will have to lease them from a movie distributor. You can choose whether you want to show first-run or second-run movies at your theatre. The new releases cost considerably more than those that have been out for some time. You can also deal with online ticket-vending intermediaries like Book My Show, etc.

• **Location for your theatre:** In some cases, you can buy or lease an existing space and renovate it. Or you may need to construct a new theatre. Regardless of



what type of space you use for your theatre, it will typically take a large investment.

• **Trade license from your city:** You will also need to register your business name with the municipal authority.

• **Provisions at the theatre:** This will include setting up a food corner, contracting with a caterer or food supplier, procuring relevant facilities like popcorn machines, etc.

• **Promoting your theatre:** You may want to have a grand opening so that you can showcase the facilities and generate interest in your movie theatre. Consider offering an introductory special, such as a two-for-one ticket deal.

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

### jab Harry met Sejal

DIRECTOR: IMRIZ ALI

STARS: SHAH RUKH KHAN, ANUSHKA SHARMA

**H**arry is a tour guide who, despite his initial reservations, is virtually coerced to accompany Sejal, an Indian tourist who makes a last-minute decision to abort her flight to India and instead stay back and traverse various locations in Europe in search of her lost engagement ring.

Shah Rukh Khan is the tour guide who often finds the answer to his loneliness in alcohol and passing affairs.

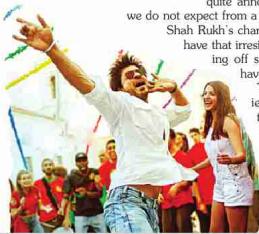
As Harry and Sejal (played by Anushka Sharma) go about their job (an unconvincing ring finding mission) in picturesque Europe, the duo develops an affinity towards each other, which somehow does not add up.

The affinity grows stronger and Sejal starts finding solace in Harry's arms, and the latter too develops a sense of over protectiveness for his client, giving the role of a tour guide a new and unconvincing dimension.

Worse, out of nowhere, Sejal wants Harry, the guide, to find her sensuous and appealing for no apparent reason. The quest for the lost ring is unnecessarily stretched and with no eventual twist to cover up the weak plot, the

### AT THE THEATRES

Sanjoy Ray



we do not expect from a director of the likes of Imtiaz Ali.

Shah Rukh's charm as the romantic lead does not have that irresistible feel and even if it had, pulling off such an ordinary storyline would have been a herculean task.

The only saving grace in the movie, however, is its music by Pritam despite the songs being ill-timed and irrelevant to the storyline, if at all there was one.

*Jab Harry Met Sejal* is certainly not what the audience was seeking from this star-studded line-up.

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